



The Huangpu River waterfront greenway has become a popular getaway for residents and tourists. — Photos by Jiang Xiaowei

Greenways are paths for leisure and exercise amidst trees, flowers, water and other natural resources. They include paths in gardens and forests, as well as along rivers and roads.

Shanghai began drafting its greenway blueprint in 2015. By 2025, a 100-kilometer greenway will be created along the Outer Ring Road.

The variety of plant species adds a splash of color to the city's landscape and brightens up people's lives. The goal is to create an "ecological city in gardens," surrounded by forests and featuring blue skies, lucid waters and green spaces, the bureau said.

The city's forest coverage will amount to 23 percent by 2035.

In Shanghai, parks and greenways are varied in designs, catering to all types of leisure demands for residents.

Jinxiu Cultural Park, which opened last year, has become

a popular getaway for nearby residents. It covers 25 hectares and features a 1.6-kilometer greenway lined with goldenrain trees, soapberry and plane trees.

It comprises two separate tracks for jogging and walking.

"In the early morning and at night, there are many residents here, jogging or simply taking a stroll," said a sanitation worker, surnamed Pan.

Zhang Yu, a shutterbug in Pudong, discovered that he had more and more spots to take photographs near his home.

"These parks and greenlands all have different features, which have all sparked my inspiration," he said. "There are too many options, which are sometimes a 'sweet burden' for those with selective phobia."

On sunny or cloudy days, retiree Qian Wei, who lives in Xinzhuang Town in Minhang District, takes a walk in the morning along the Dianpu

River greenway. When he is tired, he rests on the benches or chats with friends.

Now in his 70s, Qian has grown up in the area.

"Significant changes have taken place. The tracks used to be nothing but concrete," Qian recalled. "In recent years, the sludge from the river has been cleared, and a large number of plants have been planted. There are many residents, including young people, who bring their children here."

Along Huangpu River and Suzhou Creek, a number of greenways in Huangpu, Hongkou and Xuhui districts and the Pudong New Area have mushroomed, injecting new vitality into the area.

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The colorful landscape near the Waibaidu Bridge attracts photographers and visitors as locals go about doing exercises

or simply immersing themselves in a little oasis of urban tranquility.

The greenway's bricks are decorated with colorful glass and the mosaic style, which has an old Shanghai flavor.

The Zhengqing Road greenway in Xinjiangwan Town in Yangpu District used to be a place filled with trash, and weeds were taller than average human beings.

But after renovation, it looks completely different, attracting many birds. Plants with vibrant foliage, such as red maples, were planted, and slopes on the greenway have been smoothed to make it more friendly for elderly residents and children.

A greenway along the Outer Ring Road in Changning District features about 150 varieties of plants, almost equal to a botanical garden. Hydrangea, iris, gaillardia and vervain are in full bloom. There is even a Chinese rose wall.

Some representative greenways in Shanghai:

Huangpu River greenway

Basic information: Known as the "No. 1 municipal greenway," it has walking, jogging and cycling tracks. Seven theme parks line the path.

Location: Along Huangpu River between Yangpu Bridge and Xupu Bridge

Jinxiu Culture Park greenway

Basic information: The 1.6km greenway is lined with goldenrain trees, soapberry and plane trees. The greenway comprises two separate tracks for jogging and walking.

Location: 2599 Gaoke Road W.

Changning Outer Ring

Road ecological greenway

Basic information: It features about 150 varieties of plants, such as hydrangea, iris, gaillardia and vervain, which are in full bloom during different seasons. It also has a Chinese rose wall.

Location: 153 Kele Road (near Xianxia Road W.)

Suzhou Creek greenway in Putuo District

Basic information: The 6km greenway adds a splash of color to Suzhou Creek. It features a variety of floral plants such as cherry blossoms, magnolia and crape myrtle, presenting a unique view.

Location: There are different sections. One is near Bandao Huayuan residential complex, and one between Wuning Road and Caoyang Road. The rest one is between Baocheng Bridge and Wuning Road Bridge.