



A bird's-eye view of Baijiacun Forest Park in Jinshan District. — Jiang Xiaowei

Shanghai unveils plan to build 50 woodlands parks by 2025



Baijiacun Forest Park is children-friendly, with many facilities. — Jiang Xiaowei

Hu Min

Shanghai will build 50 parks in woodlands by 2025 as it looks to meet residents' demand for green ecological space to spend their leisure time, the city's greenery authorities announced this week.

Shanghai has been developing forests to improve the local ecological environment and by the end of last year, the city's forest coverage had hit 18.51 percent.

To enable residents to enjoy more ecological space, Shanghai has renovated some of these lands and improved supporting facilities, such as benches, rest stations, parking spaces, public toilets and fitness facilities, to make them accessible, officials revealed.

The city had developed 62 woodlands into leisure spaces between 2021 and 2022 and 15 out of 64 scheduled

this year had been converted so far, according to the Shanghai Greenery and Public Sanitation Bureau.

"These forests are not the same as urban parks but they are ideal places for people to get close to nature, observe wildlife and take a stroll. They will enrich residents' leisure life," said Xu Zhiping, director of the bureau's forestry department.

Baijiacun Forest Park in Zhangyan Town of suburban Jinshan District, catering to people's leisure demand, has already opened to the public. It features a variety of plants, including some foliage.

The park boasts the Yulan Lake in the center with the first phase covering 1,131 mu (75.4 hectares).

"In the past, the trees were high and dense, preventing people from walking through," said Wang Yunxin, an official with the Zhangyan Town Urban

Construction Center.

"An upgrade was done in 2021, making it accessible to the public, and we have introduced many new varieties of plants such as cherry blossoms and maples with brilliant colors to enrich the landscape."

The forest also has dawn redwoods, camphors and sweet-scented osmanthus, some nearly 20 years old.

"We have built a playground for children, a pavilion and benches with lighting and surveillance cameras to ensure safety," Wang noted.

A leisure forest near Qingxi Country Park in Qingpu District in 2021.

Designed based on the concepts of a watertown forest and a wildlife paradise, and embellished with new landscapes, the suburban forest enables visitors to take in a symphony of chirping insects, croaking frogs, and twittering birds.