

SINGAPORE

Five spots at Tampines Central to be developed into community spaces

A one-year study by the Housing and Development Board (HDB) showed that residents who frequently use amenities in their precincts registered a stronger sense of belonging.

By [Eileen Poh](#), Channel NewsAsia

POSTED: 22 May 2015 12:50 **UPDATED:** 23 May 2015 00:52

SINGAPORE: Five spots at Tampines Central will be developed into community spaces for uses such as gardening and display of art murals designed by residents.

For instance, the void deck at Blk 839 will be converted into a "Learning Link", with a reading and "kopi" corner. Art murals or works created by residents will be displayed at the "Art Link", located between blocks 830 and 831, while a space at the void deck of Blk 855 is set aside for community gardening.

Part of the Art Link has been completed and the Housing and Development Board said the rest of the spaces will be ready in the third quarter of this year. The HDB also said it will assess the impact of these community spaces on bonding, and explore how these ideas can be implemented in other HDB estates.

The announcement was made at the launch of HDB Community Week on Friday (May 22), following a one-year study by the HDB last year with the NUS Centre of Sustainable Asian Cities and Sociology Department (Faculty of Arts and Social Science).

The study found that HDB precincts offer opportunities for neighbours to meet, through facilities such as linkways, playgrounds and fitness corners, and that residents who frequently use amenities in their precincts registered a stronger sense of belonging.

"There is much to celebrate, when you have a strong community of fellow residents, when you have good neighbours who are your friends, and when you have strong memories of your HDB town. The rewards are plentiful," said National Development Minister Khaw Boon Wan at the launch of the HDB Community Week 2015.

"This is why HDB gather residents to involve them in the design and planning of their neighbours, and to co-create meaningful community projects. This way, residents will develop a greater sense of ownership of their HDB town, and play a more active role in their community," he added.

More than 1,000 residents and stakeholders gave their feedback for the project in Tampines.

- CNA/ct