

Headline	City to get greener with more trees		
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City to get greener with more trees

SHADIER DOWNTOWN: City Hall to plant various trees along the second route of the heritage trail project

NURADZIMMAH DAIM

MORE trees will be planted in the city centre along the second route of the heritage trail project. The heritage trail project undertaken by City Hall highlights KL's pre-war architecture.

Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said some of the trees were in bad shape and have to be replaced.

"Some of the trees, including Angsana and Raintrees are either sick or deformed, and a public safety concern. We are removing eight

of them. Previously, the practice was to plant trees and leave them to grow by themselves.

"We are now moving towards better tree maintenance and we will not wait until they are mature before we check on them," said Phesal during a walkabout to check on the progress of the project yesterday.

He said forest trees would be planted along the 1.5km route which includes Jalan Melaka, Jalan Gereja and Jalan Raja Chulan towards the

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Heritage trail project to be ready in August

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Bukit Nanas Forestry Information Centre.

"We are taking into consideration comments and suggestions made by non-governmental organisations such as the Free Tree Society and the public. These include the types of trees to be planted, pedestrian facilities for the disabled, public safety and landscaping."

He said a memorandum of understanding on training and consultation services for tree maintenance in the city would be signed with Forest Research Institute Malaysia next month.

Phesal said the RM4.5 million heritage trail project was expected to be completed in August. He said the project, which included the upgrading of pedestrian walkways, installation of benches and sidewalk story boards was also an effort to prepare KL for Visit Malaysia

Year 2014.

The trail is divided into three zones — Warisan Melayu (from Jalan Melaka), Urban Park (around Muzium Telekom) and Forest Reserve (Bukit Nanas).

Landscape consultant Landskap Integrasi principal Nurulhuda Hayati Ibrahim said there were 140 trees along the route.

"We are looking at diversifying the types of trees and planting more local species such as Kerai, Pelong Lilin and Kayu Arang. As the minimum width for walkways is 1.5m, areas with more space will probably have an island of several trees like Jalan Gereja.

"Trees that can be rehabilitated will be moved to City Hall's nursery and be replaced by new ones. There will be about 240 trees along the route when the project is completed."

The two other heritage trails are in Brickfields and Dataran Merdeka.

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*Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib (second from right) on a **walkabout along the heritage trail** with NGO representatives.*



Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib examining a tree along the heritage trail. Pix by Mohd Fadli Hamzah