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Plans for park upgrading works

GREEN EFFORT: The National Landscape Department is getting public feedback on Bukit Kiara park project

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THE National Landscape Department (NLD) is gathering public feedback on the proposed upgrading project at the Bukit Kiara park.

During a meet-the-people session last week, an NLD spokesman, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the project was expected to commence next year.

The upgrade includes providing more benches, installing signages, building a management office and improving cycling and jogging trails.

"We also plan to plant more rain-forest and fruit tree saplings. Since 2010, we have planted more than 20,000 saplings, including *meranti* and *cengal*.

"According to Forest Research Institute Malaysia, there was a slight drop in the forest temper-

ature, which is a good news," said the spokesman.

He also had received complaints on the barbed-wire fencing around the park.

"The fencing could be harmful to animals but this is the only way to stop illegal rubber tappers from entering the area."

There were mixed reactions from visitors to the proposed upgrading works.

A park visitor, who wished to be known only as Sally, said she preferred the park the way it was.

She said the flora and fauna of the park would be affected if the authorities went ahead with the project.

"Bukit Kiara park is one of the few remaining green lungs in Kuala Lumpur. If they carry out construction works, it will only damage the

ecosystem and cause air pollution."

Friends of Bukit Kiara committee member Jeremy Tho said the project was a step in the right direction.

"Trees need care in the early stages and the authorities must keep an eye on the sapplings.

"But I'm against fencing as it would harm the animals."

Tho urged the government to gazette the 190ha park, which had been delayed despite a Cabinet directive issued a few years ago.

For details, visit www.kp-kt.gov.my/jln.



The upgrade will include providing more benches and installing signages. File pic