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Forest in the city

THOUGH I've been to the Forest Research Institute Malaysia in Kepong, Selangor, many times, I only recently discovered that it has a nice waterfall and shallow stream that's perfect for family picnics.

During the recent Chinese New Year holiday, I brought my family there. From the car park, it is very easy to walk to the river and find a suitably shady picnic spot. For more privacy, you can climb further up; there are concrete walkways to take you there but it's quite a climb!

For this drawing of nature, I used watercolours and compressed charcoal on paper. The morning light passing through the tree canopy offers a nice combination of light and shade.

I love places like this simply because there is excellent composition everywhere you look. I started with compressed charcoal to get the main structure of my composition and later washed it over with watercolour to capture the atmosphere of the place and moment.

