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Class: 5E

Topic: Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my view on the issue of the significance of country parks and the avenues to conserve them. Flipping through the newspapers, we can acknowledge that Hongkongers are unconcerned about our extraordinary nature. Thanks to the dearth of awareness of conserving the natural environment, almost 100 hillside blazes have occurred lately. I firmly believe that the countryside is undoubtedly vital for Hong Kong and there should be some concrete methods of protecting it.

To commence with, there is no exaggeration that country parks can conserve the nature in Hong Kong. There is a multitude of local species of birds and trees in the territory. If their habitats are not retained properly, their life will be put at risk as they no longer have a suitable settlement with abundant resources. It is unsurmountable for some rare species to survive in such unfavourable conditions, let alone the reproduction of those animals. Needless to say, sustainable biodiversity and balanced ecosystems lie in the integrity of country parks which provide a wealth of habitats and resources to animals. Being infamous for attracting an inordinate importance to economic development, Hong Kong has an insufficient number of country parks with nature conservation. If our country parks are damaged, there will be some irreversible effects that we can never get back for the country parks and the precious nature. Consequently, Hong Kong will become a 'concrete jungle'. With this in mind, our country parks are virtually diminished in preserving nature in Hong Kong.

Aside from that, country parks are the key to enhancing citizens' physical and psychological health. Arguably, they act as the 'green lungs' of our city, improving the devastating air quality in the territory. Getting rid of a sedentary lifestyle, we can also exercise in country parks such as hiking, going for leisurely walks, running and so forth. Country parks are thus conducive to the promotion of a salutary lifestyle. Mentally, stress can be relieved by taking respite in country parks. We can not only take photos of the picturesque landscape, but also spend quality time with our beloved family and friends. We can leave the dull and fast-paced life to embrace wholesome green lands. Contrary to the indulgence in drinking or playing mobile games, visiting country parks can definitely revive one's mental health. In essence, we can relax our frame of mind instead of escaping from the reality. As a corollary, country parks are pivotal to

improving Hongkongers' physical and mental health.

Considering the fact that country parks are indispensable for Hong Kong, what should be done to conserve them?

Doubtlessly, we should take up the accountability in a bid to protect the country parks in Hong Kong. To illustrate, we can attend talks and exhibitions organized by different green groups so as to gain a deeper insight about country parks in Hong Kong. Self-discipline and self-regulation are equally crucial to save our country parks. For example, we should clear all our trash, put out incense sticks and paper offerings. Despite the fact that these reminders are clichéd, rarely do we follow them. Only if we do our bit, subsequent to visiting the country parks, can it stay forever without human destruction. Shouldn't we liberally cherish this treasure? The answer is obvious. Thus, bearing our responsibility is key to reserving country parks in our territory.

In a nutshell, country parks have far-reaching benefits to our health and Hong Kong's nature conservation. We all have a part to play in safeguarding them with an unremitting endeavour. Taking up responsibility is the most primitive and influential way to achieve this. It is sincerely hoped that country parks in Hong Kong can be retained after all.

Yours faithfully,

*Chris Wong*

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