## <u>Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day</u> 2025

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) announced today (April 2) that the AFCD and Friends of the Country Parks will hold the Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day on two Sundays in April and May. The public are welcome to take part in the activities.

The Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day will be held at the following locations according to the schedule below:

April 27 Pak Sha Wan Peninsula, Ma On Shan Country Park
May 4 Wong Nai Tun Irrigation Reservoir, Tai Lam Country Park

The public should enrol at the registration point on-site from 9am to 10.30am on the event day. Pre-registration is not required. The AFCD will provide seedlings and planting tools. Due to site constraints and limited availability of seedlings, all seedlings will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. If all seedlings are given out, participants are welcome to join the hiking activity.

An AFCD spokesman said, "The event aims to promote messages related to caring for nature and tree preservation via public engagement activities. AFCD staff and volunteers will share information on the seedlings and promote hiking etiquette to enhance participants' awareness of nature conservation."

The spokesman reminded the public to choose a suitable planting location and hiking route according to their physical strength and hiking experience. After tree planting, participants may continue hiking along the recommended route or take the same route back. The AFCD encourages members of the public to go hiking with their friends or family and to help conserve the countryside by practising hiking etiquette, such as bringing along reusable water bottles and towels, and "Take Your Litter Home".

Seedlings for the tree planting activities were raised in the Tai Tong Nursery of the AFCD in Yuen Long. The department has been planting local species in country parks to enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of country parks in recent years. About 230 000 tree seedlings were planted in country parks last year by AFCD staff and various organisations.

Details of the activities and the latest information are available on the Nature in Touch website (<a href="www.natureintouch.gov.hk">www.natureintouch.gov.hk</a>) or the Hong Kong Country Parks Facebook page (<a href="www.facebook.com/hongkongcountryparks">www.facebook.com/hongkongcountryparks</a>). For enquiries about the Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day, please call 1823 or email <a href="mature@afcd.gov.hk">nature@afcd.gov.hk</a>.