

- Ecological park / Ecological restoration

## La Mesa Ecopark: Reopen for memorable experiences

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La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City offers a tranquil escape for visitors of all ages. Known for its lush greenery, the park has become a favorite destination for families, friends, and nature enthusiasts seeking a respite from urban life.

Visitors can enjoy leisurely walks along scenic trails, relax under the shade of trees, and partake in activities like birdwatching. The park's attractions, including the Butterfly Haven, Orchid-arium, and Eco Museum, provide educational opportunities for visitors to learn about nature and environmental conservation in a peaceful setting.

Following its temporary closure earlier this year, La Mesa Ecopark reopened on June 29 under new management by Manila Water Foundation in partnership with the Metropolitan Water-works and Sewerage System (MWSS).

This collaboration signified a fresh start for the park, promising continued stewardship and preserving this beloved natural haven for generations to come.

The La Mesa Ecopark is now under the management and stewardship of Manila Water Founda-tion.

A highlight of the reopening ceremony is signing the memorandum of agreement among the principal institutional partners for the rehabilitation, operations, maintenance, and adminis-tration of the La Mesa Ecopark and the unveiling of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 development plans. The improvement of the La Mesa Ecopark is set to be completed in 2025.

Through the agreement, the partners commit to safeguarding and enhancing La Mesa Eco-park's ecological value and promoting a culture of environmental awareness and responsible water use.

The MOA also outlines a comprehensive La Mesa Development Plan, which includes restoring La Mesa Ecopark's existing structures, improving amenities for public enjoyment, and introdu-cing innovative features such as solar panels and a dedicated biodiversity center.

The Phase 1 rehabilitation of the La Mesa Ecopark is through the generous sponsorship of its institutional partner, Bloomberry Cultural Foundation Inc., the social development arm of Sol-

aire Resort & Casino, and in partnership with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)., Renowned architect and urban planner Paulo Alcazaren leads the master development plan that respects the resident wildlife at the La Mesa Ecopark.

The Phase 1 rehabilitation features spaces for environmental learning and leisure activities, including picnic spots and teambuilding areas. Families and groups can relax at the viewing deck pavilion and the food park. Eco-tours can be arranged to include an experience at the La Mesa Ecopark Museum, which will open soon.

La Mesa Ecopark team activities include wall climbing, rappelling, paintball games, and archery tag which may be incorporated as a team-building activity.

For Phases 2 and 3, new amenities for groups and families await visitors of the La Mesa Ecopark. An environmental canopy or boardwalk, a beautifully landscaped flower hill, an amphitheater, and a revamped lagoon perfect for fishing will create memories with loved ones and friends.

Future amenities for relaxation include a butterfly garden, a children's playground, eco-lodging for overnight stays and spaces for outdoor cooking. Adventure seekers can enjoy biking and hiking trails, and a campsite to be rehabilitated by the **Quezon City Government**.

La Mesa Ecopark is open from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday and is closed on Mondays for regular maintenance work.