

# ArchSD to remove Old and Valuable Tree in Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

A spokesman for the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) said today (August 30) that an Old and Valuable Tree (OVT) infected with Brown Root Rot Disease (BRRD) in the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens will be removed on September 6 (Friday).

The concerned tree, a *Parkia javanica* around 23 metres tall, is listed on the Register of OVTs (registration number ARCHSD CW/28).

The tree was confirmed to be infected with BRRD in July 2023. Since then, the ArchSD has been, in accordance with the guidelines of the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Development Bureau, strengthening maintenance works and conducting regular inspections to closely monitor the tree's health and structural condition. Mitigation measures have been taken, including crown cleaning and the application of fungicide. In spite of the ArchSD's maintenance efforts over the past year, the condition of the tree continued to deteriorate, as indicated by obvious signs of wood decay at the trunk base and roots, sparse crown density and severe withered branches. After assessment, it was confirmed that BRRD has caused irrecoverable damages to the tree. Due to the leaning of the tree, the ArchSD has installed cables to stabilise the trunk for the time being.

The OVT is located on a slope at the southern end of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, adjacent to a pedestrian path and the carriageway of Garden Road. For the safety of pedestrians and vehicles, the ArchSD has proposed to remove the tree. The Urban Forestry Advisory Panel has been consulted on the proposal through the TMO, and the Central and Western District Council has been informed.

Appropriate ornamental plants will be replanted at the location concerned after the removal of the tree.