



A garbage truck struggling to manoeuvre between cars parked on both sides of the small road. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

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THE Bukit Sungai Puteh Forest Reserve that stretches from Hulu Langat to Cheras has been gaining popularity among hikers in the Klang Valley.

However, indiscriminate parking by hikers makes life difficult for Taman Wangsa Cheras residents, especially those living along Jalan Wangsa 1/6.

Despite constant reminders, the hikers continue to park in front of their houses and at road bends.

Taman Wangsa Cheras Rukun Tetangga chairman Tan Bee Khin said many of them could not care less when told about their haphazard parking.

"They are rude and have even told us to move out from the neighbourhood if we are unhappy," she said.

Tan added that a garbage truck recently could not enter the narrow road because of badly parked vehicles there.

The truck even grazed a car parked at the kerb and could not collect rubbish from two rows of houses.

"We ended up with rubbish piled outside our house for more than four days.

"The monkeys from the forest messed up the garbage even further and there was a stench in the area for days," she added.

Tan said people should not even enter Bukit Sungai Puteh as it was gazetted as a forest reserve.

Under Section 47 (1) of the National Forestry Act 1984, only authorised persons can enter a closed forest.

The residents said signboards informing the public of this were put up but they were no longer there.

A senior citizen, who only want-

'Forest reserve should be off limits'

Haphazard parking among issues irking Jalan Wangsa 1/6 residents

ed to be known as Ah Mei, said the hikers should be more considerate to those living there.

She pointed out that the hikers could park further down the road near an open field.

"Since they are here for a hike, why can't they park a little further away and walk up?"

Residents also complained that outsiders have been plucking fruits and taking plants from outside their homes as well as from a common garden.

Initially, residents thought monkeys were the culprits until they witnessed several hikers doing it.

When questioned, the hikers said they did not know they were prohibited from entering the forest reserve.

Most said they were there following recommendations from friends and fellow hiking enthusiasts.

A man, who declined to be named, said he and his wife were unaware of any restrictions.

"We had no idea and several people enter from Awana Cheras. We prefer this route," he said.

He noted that Bukit Sungai Puteh was not as strenuous as other hills, especially the Apek Hill trail, making it suitable for beginners.

"We hope the place will remain open as it provides families an



Residents say people are hiking inside the forest reserve without permission.

opportunity to take part in a healthy activity," he said.

Selangor Forestry Department director Dr Mohd Puat Dahalan confirmed that the forest reserve was off limits to public and that the access was from residential areas.

He said the trails led to the Hulu Langat Forest Reserve belonging to the Federal Government.

"We can only take action against

those who trespassed on our land," he said, adding that the Bukit Sungai Puteh Forest Reserve was on state land.

Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) public relations head Kamarul Izlan Sulaiman said they were looking for a win-win solution.

"We will work with the Forestry Department and see how we can best resolve this issue," he added.



Trekkers enjoy the trail that many say is easy for beginners. However, their indiscriminate parking has made life difficult for residents in Jalan Wangsa 1/6.



A view of the road where hikers' cars are parked haphazardly near houses.