

'Forest inn' to come up near Vellaikal dumpyard in 3 yrs

Oct 30, 2023, 08.38 AM IST

Madurai: In an effort to check the increasing air pollution in the city, Madurai corporation has selected 30 acres of land around Vellaikal dumpyard to be developed as Forest Inn, a mix of miyawaki forest and urban forest, in the next three years.

The project would be taken up under the Green Madurai initiative announced in the corporation budget 2023-24. Mayor Indrani Ponvasanth told TOI that in the first phase, 10 acres will be developed as miyawaki forest in the first year and in the second phase, the remaining 20 acres will be developed as urban forest with native trees of the region with the help of forest department.

"As the civic body is struggling to water the plants in the parks and the roundabouts in the city, water for the proposed forest Inn will be easily taken from treated water from the Vellaikal sewage water treatment plant," said the mayor.

Asked about funding and maintenance of the forest inn, the mayor said, "We have saplings for miyawaki forest from the forest department. Maintenance and fencing arrangements will be done by CSR partners of the project. In the second phase, we may allot funds in the next year's budget."

The forest inn project will also help fulfil the target of Green Madurai initiative to plant 50,000 trees in city limits, she added.

A month ago, the corporation had sent a proposal of Rs 16 crore under Green Madurai to revamp 26 parks and increase green cover in the city limits. Also, under Nagar Van Yojana, the city is set to get two new urban forests in

the periphery at a total cost of about Rs 1.13 crore. A total of 15 acres of land has been allocated at Kodimangalam B block near Nagamalaipudukottai.

Another 10 acres of land has been chosen near Vilangudi by the forest department and the city corporation.

We also published the following articles recently

Leopard spotted near E-City, forest staff keep guard
A leopard was spotted on CCTV cameras in AECS Layout, Singasandra, Kudlu Gate in southeast Bengaluru. Forest department officials have been deployed to search and monitor the area. The leopard was chased by a group of dogs and has not been seen since. Authorities are advising caution but say there is no need to panic. This is not the first time a leopard has been spotted in the Bengaluru area.104809072

Odisha: Once poachers, they now help forest department nab hunters
Former notorious poachers, Satyaban Sahu and Raghupati Dharua, have turned informers to help the forest department combat poaching in the Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary in India. They provide information on snares and poachers entering the forest, aiding in the prevention of wildlife crimes. Satyaban now works as a gatekeeper while Raghupati uses his carpentry skills to assist the department. Both men want to shed their poacher image for the sake of their children and the next generation. Satyaban has abandoned hunting and earns a monthly income through ecotourism activities.104793530

Tusker tramples forest department worker to death in Kolhapur village
A forest department worker was killed by an elephant in Ghatkarwadi, India, while trying to chase the animal away from the village. The incident occurred when the worker and his colleagues were following the elephant's footprints. The elephant unexpectedly emerged from the bushes, grabbed the worker with its trunk, and threw him to the ground. The rest of the team fled the scene, leaving the worker behind. This is the first human fatality due to an elephant attack in the area. The village residents have been requesting the forest department to address the issue of increasing human-animal conflicts.104790526