

Forest plan on 1,000 acres, 3 times biodiversity park size

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TO BE DEVELOPED ON ARAVALI LAND



Gurgaon: The government is all set to develop a city forest in 1,000 acres of land in Aravalis near Sector 76. The forest department, according to officials, is also planning to build waterbodies, arboretum, recreation centre, medicinal plant garden and a bamboo park surrounded by nature trails in the forest. The area will be fenced and a mass plantation drive will be carried out to increase the green cover. "The city forest will be developed in the hills and foothills in villages Sakatpur, Gairatpur Bas and Sikohpur. The mass plantation drive will take place from August 9," said Rao Narbir, the state forest minister. The plantation drive, he said, will be carried out as part of Jal Shakti Abhiyan. According to officials, the new city forest will be bigger than Aravali Biodiversity Park, which is spread across 300 acres, and a 7-km-long trail along Wazirabad Bundh. The department will encourage plantation of native tree species in the forest and only treated water will be used there. Kavi Yadav, a resident of Sector 76, said, "Developing this area as a city forest will help our children know better about the Aravalis. Also, diverting stormwater to this area will help prevent flooding and recharge the groundwater." The project is a joint effort of the district administration, forest department and private companies. The authorities plan to allot these areas to companies interested in tree plantation and maintenance drives for at least four years. These companies will plant around 2,500 trees and other plants in the forest

A large part of the 1,000-acre land is protected under the Section 4 & 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA).

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