

# Race Course to house urban forest soon

TNN | Jul 28, 2019, 04.48 AM IST

Coimbatore: A green cover would soon come up in the heart of the city at Race Course, where the Government Arts College students have planted 144 saplings.

The saplings have been planted on a 2.5 cents land on the campus of the office of the deputy director of health services. “A total of 35 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from the college cleaned the area, prepared the patch and planted the saplings in the Miyawaki method,” said K Vasanthi, captain of the NCC 4 Tamil Nadu Battalion, Government Arts College.

Vasanthi said the space was uneven and they had to level that. “The whole process took 15 days, after which we planted 144 saplings of indigenous trees such as gooseberry, pungam, neem, bamboo, kodukapuli, illupai and nochi.”

She said the drive was part of the Swachh Bharat Summer Internship. The objective was to reclaim the greenery and biodiversity of the space, which had been used as a parking lot for four-wheelers, she said. “We finished the work on July 21. Now, birds have started visiting the place.”

Vasanthi said the Rotary club of Cosmopolitan had helped them fence the area to prevent people from parking their vehicles there.

Miyawaki method involves planting of saplings close to each other so that they grow faster and form a dense forest. “However, there is still no awareness on this method among the city people. When we planted the saplings, onlookers started saying we shouldn’t plant them so close,” Vasanthi said.

She said NCC cadets at the college have identified another patch of land nearby to plant a Miyawaki forest, if allowed.

