

City grows green lungs on 89 acres of woodland

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Bhubaneswar: Want to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and lose yourself in the blissful abode of nature? Well, you got a place now with chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday unveiling Bhubaneswar's biggest park, an urban forest called Ananda Bana.

Developed over a whopping area of about 89.05 acres of land, Ananda Bana, literally meaning forest of happiness, is located at K3A in Kalinga Nagar on the capital's outskirts and is poised to become the green lungs of the city.

The park is divided into two parts and is connected with a foot overbridge. The first part of the park is comprised of 61.68 acres while the second of 27.37 acres. It features 550 metres of rock trails and 32,750 square feet of water bodies that provides habitats for aquatic species. Ananda Bana has a range of facilities such as walking, cycling, soil, rock, water body and grass mound trails among others. It has also got 12,000 Miyawaki plantations, which is done utilising the Japanese Miyawaki technique to preserve biodiversity.

The Miyawaki technique, named after a Japanese botanist, Akira Miyawaki, is a most effective way of jump starting the creation of a forest or woodland.

The park also offers 1,000 metres of soil trails that aims to connect people with the earth in its raw form while the bicycle trail of 3,830 metres inside the park is a delight for those who love to pedal.

Ananda Bana also offers a range of amenities to its visitors, including vehicle parking space, benches for relaxation, gazebos, rain shelters, children's play area, public facilities and kiosks serving healthy food. The site also got a café where one can sit, relax and hang out with friends.

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