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West Bengaluru gets its first tree park

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Western Bengaluru got its first tree park as Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated one at Machohalli, off Magadi Road. This tree park has come up on an area of 94 acres. The works on renovating this tree park was on for the last few years.

It was delayed due to the outbreak of covid and the forest department is planning to open this tree park to the public soon. Ananya R, a resident of Sunkadakatte said, "As kids, we have grown up hearing that there are two major lung spaces in the city -- Cubbon Park or Lalbagh. However, not everyone can go to these places every day. Now, we can look forward to spending quality time at this tree park."

Inaugurating the tree park, Bommai said, the state budget has an exclusive Ecological Budget of Rs100 crore for the first time. "It would be used to offset the ecological deficit or loss that is happening. The Forest Department has been instructed to formulate an action plan to implement the plan to offset the ecological deficit on an annual basis. An annual outlay of Rs 100 cr would be provided for the purpose,"he said, asking the department to increase the forest cover in the state from the present 21 to 30%.

The CM instructed the Forest Department officials to chalk out a special programme to create green cover around Bengaluru through afforestation and developing more tree parks.

The next tree park is likely to be inaugurated at JB Kaval. However, the greens have stepped up pressure against converting the JB Kaval forest into a tree park. Despite opposition, the Horticulture Department is getting ready to develop the park in JB Kaval. Jarakabande Kaval is one of the remaining very limited reserve forests in the city and is the only lung space near the city in Bengaluru North.