

PWD TREE PARK – KOTTURPURAM – ADYAR RIVER BANK

Nizhal is happy to be associated with PWD, Government of Tamil Nadu on this project. Its plan envisages the planting and raising of a variety of trees and shrubs in the five acre river bank land made ready by PWD as a part of their effort to beautify the Adyar river bank.

Principal Objectives

Some of the objectives of the project are to:

- Increase biodiversity of flora and fauna
- Provide enjoyable experience for citizens and walkers
- Use it as a Tree Learning Centre especially for children and students
- Provide a good habitat for birds and butterflies
- Make the river bank a useful and aesthetically pleasing eco-landmark in Chennai
- Promote citizen involvement in the sustainable maintenance of parks

Trees to be Planted

The species to be planted are:

(A) TDEF Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs natural to the Chennai coast known as tropical evergreen forest trees that are becoming scarce.

There are over 100 tree species and 150 shrub species in the Tamil Nadu Coastal Forests most of which are not seen in the Chennai area. Many of these plants are fruit bearing and a valuable source of food for birds. The regeneration of these trees would be a source of great interest and learning for the citizens.

(B) Indigenous and Naturalised Trees of Chennai

Chennai is home to a large number (at least 70-100) of beautiful flowering and foliage avenue trees in different parts of the City. There are also a few special trees in public and private institutions. Nizhal envisages planting and raising at least one tree in each of these species in the park to help identify their usefulness in urban planning and development and build up awareness and interest of the citizens for these trees.

Sourcing of Saplings

Most of the tree saplings can be sourced from Auroville Nurseries and other local nurseries around Chennai. The species of trees initially to be planted in the park are enclosed. Raising of other species will be taken up with the advice and assistance of Experts.

Mechanism for Development and Maintenance

Nizhal assisted by a group of committed citizens of Kotturpuram will carry out and monitor the raising of the plants for a period of six months. An effective citizen mechanism for sensitive development of the tree park to meet the objectives mentioned earlier and its sustained running and maintenance will be in place thereafter. For this purpose it is proposed to constitute a Trust or a Joint Citizen-Corporate-Government Committee.

TREE SAPLINGS TO BE PLANTED INITIALLY

A. TROPICAL, DRY, EVERGREEN FOREST SPECIES (TDEF)

NURIPUNGAM – *Aglaia elaeagnoides*

Small evergreen tree with white perfumed flowers – with edible fruits for birds

AZHINGIL – *Alangium salvifolium*

Small deciduous with purplish red edible fruits

NEER ADAMBAI – *Barringtonia acutangala*

Medium evergreen ornamental tree with pink flowers

KARUNGALI – *Diospyros ebenum*

Medium evergreen tree with scented white flowers with ornamental leaves

VEERA MARAM – *Drypetes sepiaria*

Small evergreen tree with pubescent shoots – edible fruits eaten by birds

KUHAMATHI – *Lepisanthes tetraphylla*

Medium sized semi-evergreen tree with yellow pubescent inflorescence

KATTU KARUVEPPILAI – *Murraya paniculata*

Small evergreen tree with scented flowers and red berries

KOTUKAPILLI – *Pithecellobium dulce*

Medium evergreen fast growing tree

PALKATHIYA KORUNTHI – *Polyalthia suberosa*

Small evergreen tree with pubescent branches

VENNANDAI – *Pterospermium caescens*

Medium tree with white flowers

PONKORANDI – *Salacia chiensis*

Small semi-evergreen tree with pink flowers

SURIYAKADA – *Suregada augustifolia*

Small evergreen tree with shiny leaves

NAVAL - *Syzium cumini*

Large evergreen tree purplish black berries

NAZUVAI – *Trycalysia sphaerocarpa*

Small evergreen tree

WALSURA – *Walsura trifoliata*

Medium evergreen tree with shining foliage

B. INDIGENOUS AND NATURALISED TREES

MANDARAI – Bauhinia purpurea

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Medium semi-evergreen with rosy purple fragrant flowers

PUNNAI – Calophyllum inophyllum

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Medium to small tree with shiny leaves and white fragrant flowers

ATHI – Ficus racemosa

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Large deciduous tree with big reddish edible figs

POO MARUTHU – Lagerstromea speciosa

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Medium to small deciduous tree with large beautiful purple/mauve flowers

MALAI VEMBU – Melia azadarach

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Medium deciduous neem like leaves and small lilac coloured flowers

MAGIZHAM – Mimusops elengi

மகிழம்

Large evergreen tree with small white scented flowers