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## TOWARDS A GREENER SOCIETY: REJUVENATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OF THANJAVUR

### Project Highlights

- Increased green cover and enhanced the aesthetics of the neighborhood park
- Improved the overall condition of the park which facilitated an increase in the footfall and its usability by local residents
- Improved the lighting facilities in the park region thus imbuing the sense of security among the local residents

### Background

Neighborhood parks are considered as the lifeline of a locality as they yield numerous benefits and co-benefits. A park with an area of 1282 sq. km is situated in the west side of Thanjavur city in Tamil Nadu. The park is one of the prominent facilities of the area and is divided in three segments housing a children park with compound wall, which is in a dilapidated condition and cannot be used. The other segments are mainly used for informal parking of four wheelers, trucks and buses and thus, inhibit effective utilization of the facility by local residents. This triggered the local residents and municipal corporation to devise a project to rejuvenate the neighborhood park.



**Thanjavur,**  
Tamil Nadu

2019

*(Not to scale)*

### Project Objectives

- I. To improve the facilities in the park
- II. To develop the park in such a way that residents can spend their leisure

### Key Stakeholders

Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation; Near-by residents of the area

### Approach

The initiative aimed to redevelop and improve the overall aesthetic value of the neighborhood park in one of the localities of Thanjavur. An integrated approach involving pre-assessment as well as redevelopment was undertaken in order to improve the condition of the park. The key activities included:

- Assessment of the existing condition of the park in order to identify the requisites for improving the quality of the park
- Stakeholder consultations: Extensive involvement of the local residents in order to identify the facilities that need to be provided in the park
- Development of a comprehensive plan of action incorporating all the aspects identified through pre-assessment as well as residents consultations
- Development of financial plan and proposal for the project and implementation of the proposed plan through active participation of municipal corporation and local residents

## Financial Structure of the initiative

- Cost of the project is Rs.1.30 Crore
- This is service oriented and no revenue is expected

## Achievements



### Benefits

- Increased green cover leading to improvement in the overall aesthetics and quality of environment
- Increased the accessibility to various play equipment for the children of the locality, thus increasing the attractiveness of the parks
- Enhancement in the park infrastructure, i.e., park furniture, water fountains etc.
- Improvement in the lighting facilities in and around the park

### Co-benefits

- The practice of dumping garbage has been avoided, thus reducing the environmental and human health impacts
- The encroached portion of land has been reclaimed
- The enhancement of the quality of parks has increased the probability of indulging in physical activities and hence provide immense health benefits
- Improvement in the overall air quality of the locality

## Success Factors

- Active participation of local residents for improving the conditions of the park
- Increased usage of the park facilities by local residents and children
- Intensive mass awareness and involvement with municipal corporations and other local level government agencies

### Limitations

Size and location of the park, i.e., small surface area and vicinity to the road side hinder the expansion and optimum usage of the park to gain the intended benefits

## Future Prospects

Effective utilization of the improved green area facilities at local levels will meet the expectations of all the residents including senior citizens and children which will pave way for large scale transformations of these neighborhood parks in the city.

Source: Case received from the city

