



A beautiful view of the Kempegowda Park, one of the many maintained by the Bangalore City Corporation.

Clean, green city drive by BCC

From Jeevan Chinnappa

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If one comes across beautiful parks and niches maintained by the Bangalore City Corporation (BCC), he is sure to agree that Bangalore is indeed a Garden City. The fragrance from the lush green gardens, which are in full bloom, is an enthralling experience.

A team of presspersons, who were conducted around a select few of the most beautiful parks in the City on Wednesday, found the gardens in excellent form. The attractive Balsam plants undulating in the gentle, cool breeze, varieties of marigold flowers waltzing gracefully were a sight to watch. The gardens also could boast of a host of vivid colourful varieties such as the Shilsha, Blue Silvia, Chrysanthemum, Zonia, Dahlia and so on.

The Byrasandra Park in Jayanagar, Library Park in Vijayanagar, Kempambudhi Park in Kempe Gowda Nagar and Bigle Rock Park (Now T. R. Shambanna Park) are full of natural beauty. The BCC maintains 225 parks in the City and more than a dozen of them will be chosen every year for awards by the Department of Horticulture. The nurseries of the BCC at

Bommanahally, Jayanagar and Chiklalbagh have varieties of plant species and ornamental pots.

The BCC's Horticultural Department, which takes care of the gardens in the City, has done a commendable job in preserving the parks. Their exemplary work is reflected in the kind of maintenance that is being undertaken to preserve the flowering plant species with available resources. In spite of constraints including shortage of staff to maintain the gardens and meagre resources, it has been doing a good job.

In the Mahatma Gandhi Park on M. G. Road, the fountains no longer work. An official of the BCC says that the task of reviving all the fountains in the parks and traffic circles was with the BWSSB earlier. But, as of now, no action has been taken by the BWSSB and the fountains have remained dry. Dr. Ravindra, BCC Administrator, who accompanied the presspersons says that some way will be found to rejuvenate the fountains and make them soar again. Water scarcity has been cited as one of the main reasons for this. Water shortage also has hindered the process of converting open empty spaces in parks into lawns.

He says there are over 100 vacancies for the

posts of gardeners. Suitable action will be initiated soon to get over this. Future slogan of the BCC will be "Clean City-Green City" and a drive to plant saplings in the City has already begun. He sought the cooperation of the resident welfare associations and individuals to keep the city, parks in particular, in good shape.

Under the "Clean City-Green City" programme, he says various roads, intersections and boulevards will be identified and appropriate saplings planted to enhance the greenery of the City. Landscaping will be an additional attraction, he adds. The concept of inculcating greenery by involving school children and finding sponsors to beautify the City by allowing them to maintain garden niches are at the top of the agenda, he asserts.

The BCC maintains in all, 225 parks, 81 Circles and nine boulevards in the City. But, out of the 33 fountains installed at different places, only four of them are functioning. It could be a great relief for a Bangalorean, who is always under threat of pollution, if the all fountains are made to soar again and gardens kept in fine shape as before.