

Metro may spare T. Nagar parks

Relief for residents as CMRL is making changes to design

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T. Nagar residents can heave a sigh of relief as two major parks – Natesan and Panagal – which were to be completely taken over for building underground stations, may be left largely as they are.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), two stations in the area, which fall in the stretch between Light House to Poonamallee, will be built entirely underground and hence only the entry/exit will be constructed above, at ground level. “Earlier, during the design stage, we planned to take over these two parks; but now, we have been making changes in the design and are trying our best to ensure these two spaces are saved as much as possible. So, as of now, only two entry/exit points on either side of the road will be built in both these locations. During the construction stage alone, we may need



CMRL officials say the parks in T. Nagar will be occupied during construction and restored later. ■ FILE PHOTO

some space in both these parks, which will be restored after work gets completed,” an official said.

Chennai Metro will pull down a little over 2,000 trees for building the phase II project that criss-crosses 119 km of the city with 128 stations.

Several T. Nagar residents said they do not want to lose out on the green spaces. V.S. Jayaraman of T. Nagar Residents Welfare Association said, “In the last 25 years that I have been living here, I have seen most of the green

space going with growing commercialisation. Now, we certainly don’t want to lose out on these two parks too.”

Chennai Metro said that for every tree that is pulled down, they planted 12 saplings. But residents say these should be done in the same area where trees are felled.

Chennai Metro Rail said that they had planted 70,633 compensation plantations in and around Chennai at a ratio of 1:27 for the 2,617 trees felled during Phase 1 and Phase 1 Extension.