CMRL begins restoration of May Day Park, Lone Square

Both Facilities To Be Opened In A Month

Chennai: Metro rail is taking another leap in beautifying the city's green spaces which it had taken over for construction almost a decade ago. And they are not being restored as they were, there is a plan to have more facilities for commuters in the space.

Three months after the final leg of metro network began operations, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has begun restoring two of the three parks, which were under its control. Lone Square at Broadway and May Day Park in Chintadripet, which were shut for metro rail construction, are being restored. According to CMRL, both facilities will be opened by the end of this month. However, restoration of Thiru Vi Ka Park in Shenny Nagar, one of the largest parks in the city, is yet to be completed.

Residents and shopkeepers said abattoirs came up around the periphery of the park, which was the only green space in the crowded neighbourhood, after CMRL took over for construction. Many said there was no park nearby for people to visit before opening.

Lone Square Park has reopened after a year and a half. Located on the congested Pedestrian Road opposite the Medavakkam High Court, the park, with around 15 trees along its periphery, has been a rather convenient spot for storing construction material, as it is located between High Court metro and Mambakkam metro stations. Many parked their vehicles even those who come to the high court visit the park, said Kannan, a regularchanger.

Residents and shopkeepers said said abattoirs came up around the periphery of the park, which was the only green space in the crowded neighbourhood. After CMRL took over for construction, the park became a dumping ground for construction material, as it is located between High Court metro and Mambakkam metro stations. Many parked their vehicles even when they visited the park, said Kannan, a regular passerby.

Restoration work at May Day Park, one of the oldest in the city, is also under way. While a small area of the park is open, the other portion is being restored for the residents of one of the city's oldest localities. CMRL allowed restoration work to start after the construction contract was completed in mid-2019. According to a Chennai city council member, the 7.8-acre park was to be restored and opened after the Chennai Metro Rail Corporation (CMRL) was formed. However, Thiru Vi Ka Park may not be opened any time soon, since CMRL is busy building an underground parking facility under the construction contract. The work has to be completed by mid-2022. According to the Chennai Musheer Nagar residents, the 8-acre park was to be restored and opened after the Chennai Metro Rail Corporation (CMRL) was formed. However, Thiru Vi Ka Park may not be opened on time, since CMRL is busy building an underground parking facility under the construction contract. The work has to be completed by mid-2022.