

# Shenoy Nagar park to be restored by this year end

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**Chennai:** Nearly a decade after it was shut, and trees axed to make way for metro rail construction, Thiruvika park at Shenoy Nagar will be restored by the end of this year.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is looking to ready the underground passenger amenities centre under the park in a year's time, senior official said.

"In another one year, the passenger amenities centre should be ready. But by this year end, we should be able to ready the park," said a metro rail official. "Construction was stopped in between due to a court case. It is going on in full swing now," the official added.

Metro rail officials said they have so far planted more than 1200 saplings (Miyawaki method) at the four corners of the park. It includes around 45 varieties of indigenous species.

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The passengers amenities centre spanning approximately 4.2 lakh sqft, is expected to have parking space for nearly 600 cars and 1,000 bikes, apart from shopping area and restaurants.

"The parking space will be open for commuters to the station, visitors at the park as well as others," an official said.

The park was closed in 2011 for the construction of Shenoy Nagar underground metro station. Out of the total 328 trees at the park, 138 were axed and 20

were transplanted. CMRL said they will plant 10 saplings for each tree taken down.

Shenoy Nagar metro station, one of the largest stations in the city with a length of 355m and a crossover for trains, was opened in 2018. When residents expected that the 8.8acre Thiruvika park, which served as the only lung space for the locality for decades, will be restored and opened, CMRL decided to build a two-level underground passenger amenities centre.