

# Shenoy Nagar park to be ready by September, says CMRL

U.Tejonmayam@timesgroup.com

**Chennai:** From jogging tracks to tennis courts, yoga area and an open air theatre, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) promises to restore Thiru Vi Ka Park in Shenoy Nagar to its old glory and with additional facilities for residents by September 2021, more than a decade after it was shut for metro rail construction.

CMRL is constructing an underground commuter amenities centre below the park, which is likely to be ready in a few months. The 8.8 acre park, one of the largest parks in the city that served as the only lung space for Shenoy Nagar residents,

was shut in 2011 after several trees were axed for the construction of an underground metro station.

"It will be a thematic park. By September, it will be 100% ready. Visitors will have all facilities from tennis courts, walking tracks and yoga and meditation area, besides a restored green cover," a metro rail official said.

The park has been divided into various zones catering to different age groups, with facilities like children's playground, public gathering space, open air theatre, basketball and badminton courts, yoga and meditation space and jogging tracks, among others. Wall art, mu-



C Suresh Kumar

**RECREATION SPACE:** The park will include facilities like a playground, public space, open theatre, basketball and badminton courts

erals and landscape elements at various zones are also being planned. "Facilities which were present at the park earlier like fountain,

jogging track, children play area and others will be restored with new features," an official said.

The underground com-

muter amenities centre, coming up on a two lakh sqft space below the park, will have a parking area that can accommodate nearly 400 four-wheelers. Officials said they have planned some retail space for shops in the area as well. "The parking lot will be open for both metro rail commuters, visitors to the park as well as others," an official said.

In early 2020, more than 1,200 saplings were planted in the Miyawaki method in four corners of the park, including 45 varieties of indigenous species. Out of 328 trees in the park, CMRL axed 138 trees and transplanted 20 of them after the park was

closed in 2011 for the construction of Shenoy Nagar metro station. CMRL then said it will plant 10 saplings for each tree taken down.

In 2018, when Shenoy Nagar station was opened, residents expected the park to open soon but later approached the court after CMRL decided to build the underground commuter amenities centre. The high court dismissed the plea and directed CMRL to ensure that it plants 5,200 trees in the area to make up for the loss of green cover. Later, the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal moved against the order of the Madras high court.