

# IN URBAN CENTERS -

- •Parks and green areas are a part of ancient culture.
- •Well-maintained Green areas contribute to better environment.
- •People grow plants wherever possible; a part of their homes and living environment.

This paper highlights the planning and management of parks, zoological gardens, avenue trees, water bodies and quasi forests that play a vital role in the city. And their regeneration in the city of Mysore

### **STUDY AREA-**

#### **Mysore City grew -**

- as headquarters of administration,
- as an educational center.
- a saga of tremendous growth

The city has a salubrious climate. (834 millimeters rainfall in a year).

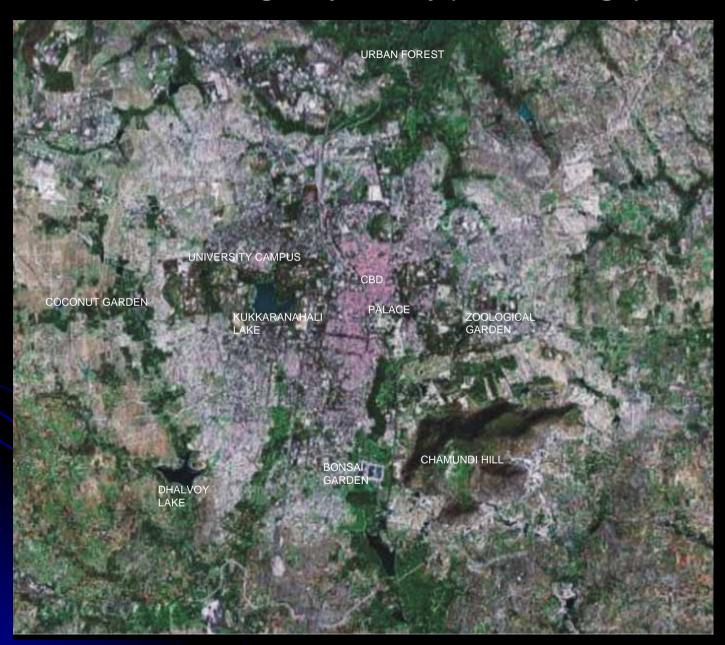
Part of dry deciduous forest (natural vegetation) regions

An Indian city of palaces and gardens and one of the finest in the country.

Population of 0.653 million as per the 2001 census.

It attracts large number of tourists.

#### A satellite image - Mysore city (Source: Google)



### SEVERAL ADVANTAGES AND STRENGTHS-

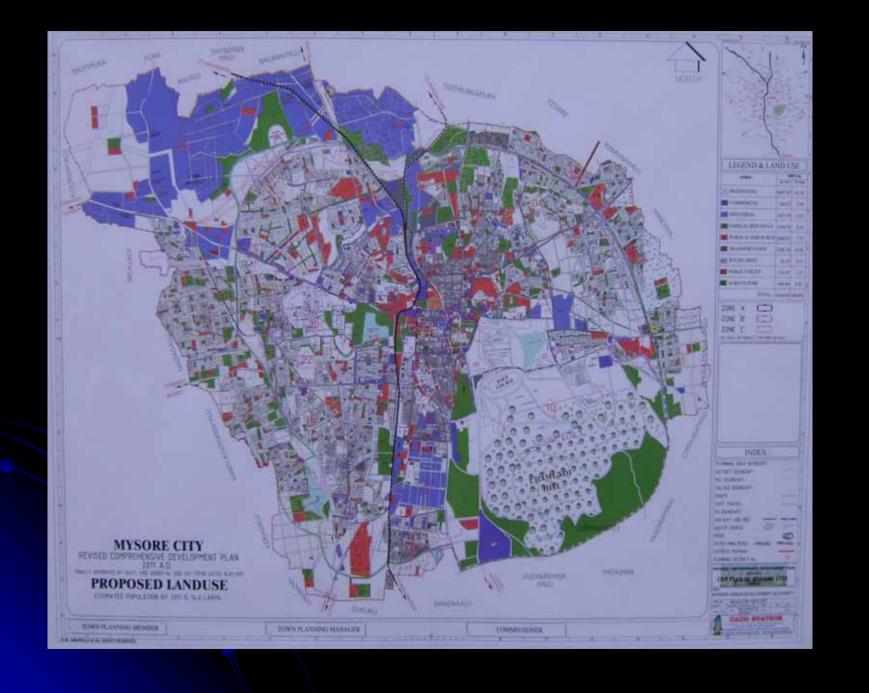
- An ideal location for information technology industries
- A centre for manufacturing industry
- Moderate climate
- Proximity to Bangalore (the Silicon Valley of India)
- Availability of housing, education, potable water, healthcare facilities, good quality life and moderate cost of living
- Ideal place for investment.

## **PROBLEMS** -

Rapid urbanization and unplanned growth are causing decay and deterioration of green areas.

Municipal resources are inadequate to maintain and develop greenery.

# CITY'S GROWTH AND LAND USE -



### Mysore: growth of population-1901-2001

Year	Population	Variation	%
1901	68,111	- 5,937	- 8.00
1911	71,306	3,195	4.69
1921	83,951	12,645	17.73
1931	107,142	23,191	27.62
1941	150,540	43,398	40.51
1951	244,323	93,883	62.30
1961	253,865	9,542	3.90
1971	335,685	81,820	40.10
1981	479,081	143,396	40.00
1991	653,345	174,264	36.30
2001	785,800	132,455	20.30

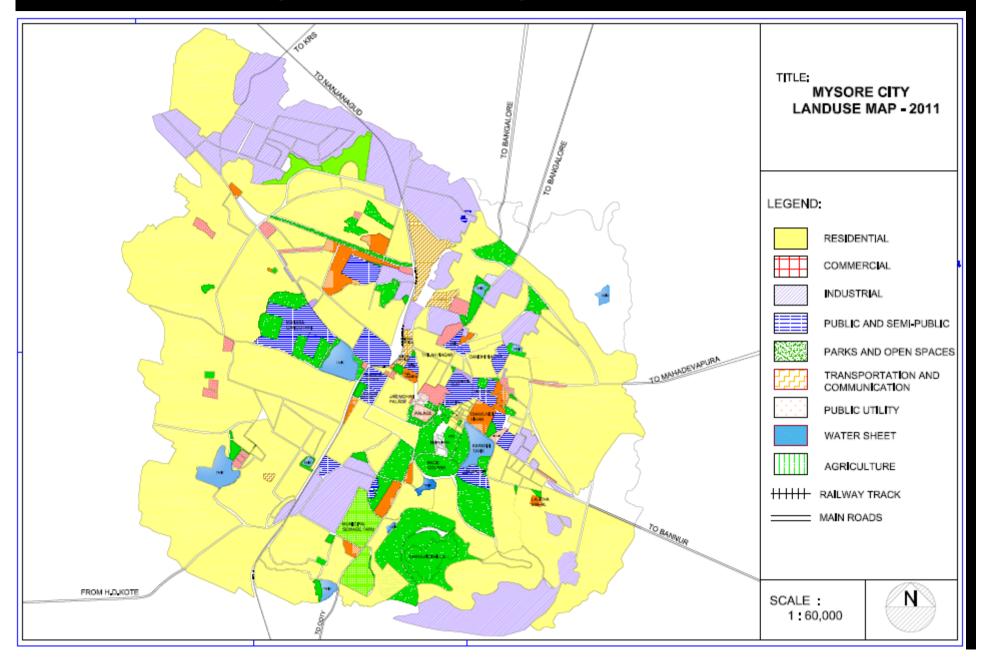
# Land Use in Mysore -1995

Sl. No.	Land Use	Area in Hectare	% of Developed Area
1	Residential	3075.30	40.40
2	Commercial	182.23	2.41
3	Industrial	1021.01	13.40
5	Public/ Govt. Offices	856.45	11.32
6	Parks and Open Spaces	415.77	5.49
7	Traffic and Transportation	1530.73	20.22
8	Water Bodies	182.68	2.41
9	Public Utility	37.26	0.49
10	Agricultural purposes	285.34	3.73
	Total Area	7568.77	100.00

### The proposed land use analysis for 2011 ad

Sl. No.	Land Use	Area in Hectare	% Developed Area
1	Residential	6097.87	43.45
2	Commercial	344,07	2.45
3	Industrial	1855.05	13.22
5	Public and Semi-public Areas	1180.78	8.41
6	Parks and Open Spaces + Nehru Loka (Chamundi Hill)	1055.05 1634.82	<b>7.52</b> -
7	Traffic and Transportation	2380.56	16.96
8	Water Bodies	178.95	1.27
9	Public Utility	43.35	0.31
10	Agricultural purposes	898.99	6.41
	Total Area	15,669.49	100.00

#### **Proposed land use map - 2011**



#### **SCENARIO OF GREEN AREAS IN MYSORE -**

The green and wide natural valleys run through the various parts of the city

- The valley starting from the Kukkarahalli Lake traverses more than 10 kms in the southern direction while the valley downstream of Doddakere and Karanji cover the *Elethota* up to Dalvay Lake in the north-south direction.
- In the north the valley starts from Kyatamaranahalli Lake and reaches Kesare in northern direction.
- On the east Chamundi hill and its associated ecosystem offer yet another green belt.

## PARKS -

- A considerable portion of Mysore consists of parks, gardens and sylvan avenues.
- 316 big and small parks (adequate area is covered by parks and gardens
- 9 sq. kms of the urban local body and another 8 sq. kms is by urban forestry).
- Many parks in the city with 4 to 5 hectares of area except Chaluvamba park.

# CHELUVAMBA PARK -

- Well maintained and attracts a large number of visitors.
- The entire park area gets illuminated and a number of seasonal flowering plants are grown.
- A small green house featuring various indoor plant species.

# CURZON PARK –

- Spread over 2.5 hectares of land.
- Famous for its Dasara festival Flower Show.
- A Japanese style arch bridge has been constructed over the huge drain here.
- Illuminated artificial waterfall and small water fountains
- This park has separate walkways for casual strollers and joggers.

# SCIENCE PARK -

- It is indeed a novel idea to indulge and induce enthusiasm in science, and is set in the midst of nature, spread over more than one hectare.
- Situated in the premises of Regional Institute of Education
- This park has 24 scientific models and no entry fee.

# PARKS FOR THE BLIND -

The city has a park specially for the visually impaired persons

This half hectare land has another specialty.

Most of the plants are medicinal.

The theme of this park is 'touch, feel and understand'.

The <u>background music</u> includes croaking of frogs, chirping of birds and sound of trees swaying in the breeze, which help the blind to visualize nature.

### **HERITAGE PARKS** -

Mysore is known as a heritage city. But when we think of heritage, we just think of old buildings. But we have numerous parks in the city that are just as old as these heritage buildings.

### **HERBAL PARK -**

Unique herbal parks have been developed; specialize in medicinal plants and trees.

# **AVENUE PLANTATIONS -**

Found along major roadsides in the city

The residential extensions, apart from avenue trees, coconut trees are prominent within the residential slots.

It provides a canopy and thereby increasing the proportion of greenery and reducing heat island effects.

# **BONSAI GARDEN -**

In Mysore, a Bonsai Garden called *Kishkindha Vana* is located within the Sri Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashram on Nanjangud road just 3 kms from the City Centre.

The garden is well maintained and produces various varieties of medicinal herbs, fruits and flowers throughout the year.

## Bonsai Garden - Sri Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashram



## **INSTITUTIONAL GREENS** -

Mysore is known for many institutional and public buildings

Particular mention may be made of the University of Mysore –

- about 300 hectares including the Kukkarahalli tank
- well maintained orchards, gardens and woodlands.
- large open space for parks, gardens and sports.

Zoological garden (biggest in south India) -

#### Institutional Green – District Rural Local Body Office (Zilla Panchayat Office)



### Infosys – I.T. Park



#### Institutional Green – District Rural Local Body Office (Zilla Panchayat Office)



### Institutional Green – Telecom Office in T.K. Layout



## Institutional Green – Regional Institute of Education



# Institutional Green – Regional Institute of Education



### Institutional Green - Central Food Technological Research Institute



### Avenue Trees - Front view of District Commissioners' Office



### **URBAN FORESTRY** -

The objective of cultivation and management of trees for their actual and potential contribution to the physical, social and economic well being of the urban community.

Maintenance and development of urban forestry resources requires the understanding and cooperation of electricity, water supply, sewage, telephone and public works departments.

#### Urban Forestry – by the side of Youth Hostel premises



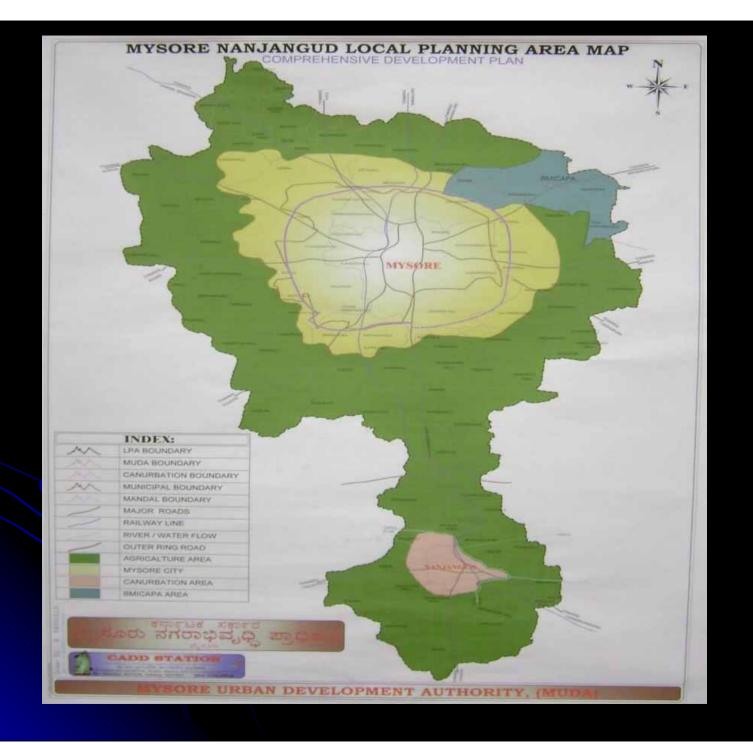
# GREEN BELT -

The purpose of providing open space, recreational opportunities and other amenities including prevention of environmental degradation.

The MUDA has <u>reserved 356 sq. kms as Green Belt</u> between the conurbation and the LPA boundary with a view to provide better climatic conditions.

Cooperation necessary from all the departments and agencies concerned to prevent encroachment of land in the Green belt.

Large scale tree planting, provision of recreational facilities and other public and semi-public uses are intended in the green belt.



# FOR THOSE WHO LOVE NATURE -

World famous Brindavan Gardens just 15 km from the city.

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary 18 km away from Mysore on the River Cauvery.

## LAKES AND ITS SURROUNDING REGIONS -

At present, there are <u>about 5 major and 20 smaller</u> water bodies greatly contributing to ecological wholesomeness.

Contribute to ground water recharge, support livelihood in respect of fishing and grazing, and supply the water needs of wild birds and animals.

Lakes in and around the city are virtual jewels.

# **KUKKARAHALLI LAKE -**

It has a catchments area of more than 175 hectares.

The water body spreads **over 104 hectares** and has a depth of eight meters.

The Asian Development Bank granted a financial support for **de-silting** of the Kukkarahalli Lake, **fencing** around its boundary, laying of the path for **walkers**, creation of a **flower garden** etc.

## Birds Habitat in the island within the Kukkarahalli Lake



## A part of Kukkanahalli Lake - Jogger Track



## **KARANJI LAKE -**

42 hectares, located near the foot of Chamundi Hills and next to the Mysore Zoo is very popular for tourists.

The Karanji Lake now includes an aviary for chirping birds, generating cheerfulness among visitors.

The birds are within handshaking distance

**Boating** facilities are provided.

A **butterfly park** is attached and a walk in the **aviary** which has nearly 65 species of birds

The high **observation tower** gives a grand view of greenery stretching all around

Plans are afoot to restore the major lakes of Mysore under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Lingambudhi, Karanji, Kukkarahalli, Basavanakatte, Bogadi, Devanoor, Hebbal, Kyatamaranahalli, Gobli, Nachanahallipalya, Uttanahalli, Dalvoy, Kamanakere, Marulawadi and Bommenahalli

These lakes have been short-listed for restoration.

#### **THEME PARK** - Chamundi Hill

Chamundi Hill is a unique landmark of Mysore City

A rich heritage sites with religious, tourism and ecological importance.

Catchments of the surrounding more than ten lakes –

Karanji Lake, Dalvoy Lake, Gobli Lake, Uttanahalli Lake,

Parasiahna Lake, Devikere, Hirekere, Goralkatte,

Kunthikola etc.

**Rich biodiversity** with 450 plant species of which about 50 types of medicinal plants, 145 species of birds and 60 types of butterflies.

## View of Kukkarahalli Lake – back drop of Chamundi Hill



#### BENEFITS OF LAKES/TANKS and GREEN AREAS -

- help in checking floods
- recharging ground water
- maintaining the ground water table
- act as sediment traps
- prevent clogging of natural valleys and
- reduce erosion by regulating run off.
- support a wide variety of flora and fauna including several species of migratory birds add aesthetic value to the city

# CONSERVATION OF GREEN AREAS THROUGH AGENCIES

Individuals, institutions, industrialists, businessmen, major hoteliers and various NGOs, along with the City Corporation and other officials should work together over the issue of handing over the maintenance responsibilities of major parks and green areas in the city.

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF GREENERY-

The MCC has proposes to develop parks in phases.

To spend Rs. 17.5 millions to develop over 60 parks in the first phase.

Different agencies and organizations are now planning to rejuvenate and maintain over 200 parks.

Lakes have been developed and conservation of water in lakes through de-silting and restoring water flow inlets has been undertaken; and nature lovers will not only enjoy the scenic beauty of the lakes, but also will be delighted with the nature manifest in park

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The existence of Green Areas is crucial to the environment of Mysore and is beneficial to the microclimate of the city.

The parks serve as outdoor recreational areas

Parks to protect and preserve the beauty of the city and retain its character.

The flowering trees should be planted suitably all along the roads in the city.

The Horticulture Department is the best institution to maintain public parks as it has the knowledge, expertise and manpower.

Protecting the natural valleys and topographical drainways to facilitate the filling up of lakes during monsoon.

Some of the areas in the urban pockets i.e., within the conurbation limits are quite fertile and contain high yielding coconut groves. They should be maintained as agricultural zones.

The long pending proposal for Nehruloka -Theme Park at the foot of the Chamundi hills should be taken up soon.

