HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN BENGALURU?

With a population of 12 million (unofficial estimate: 8.4 million as per 2011 census) and an area of 709 sq.km, the city of Bengaluru has only 19.31 sq.km dedicated towards Open Spaces like Parks and Playgrounds. This translates to 2.2 sq.m of open space per person, which is significantly short of the recommended 10-12 sq.m by the URDPFI (Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation*) guidelines set by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), India.

Open spaces like parks and playgrounds are a critical necessity in urban areas. Besides their environmental significance, they provide much needed recreational spaces for everyone in the city.

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Parks & Playgrounds Score of Bengaluru | 2017

DOES BENGALURU HAVE ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS?

The total budget for Parks and Playgrounds allocated in budget 2017-18 (Rs. Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Allocated (Rs. Crores)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>94.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>165.31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: This guidelines also stipulate that facilities such as parking, public toilet, fencing, lawns etc. should be available in parks and playgrounds.

The parks and playgrounds survey had the following questions:
- Are there security and light fixture facilities?
- Are there clean public toilets and drinking water facilities?
- Are there timings put up on signboards?
- Are there walking tracks, seating arrangement and playing facilities?
WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN BENGALURU?

Improving the quality of parks and playgrounds is a crucial step towards ensuring that parks and playgrounds stay green and sustainable.

1,115 PARKS

Score : 10
Parks

Score : 9
Parks

Score : 5-8
Parks

Score : less than 5
Parks

192 PLAYGROUNDS

Score : 8
Playgrounds

Score : 7
Playgrounds

Score : 4-6
Playgrounds

Score : less than 3
Playgrounds

HOW CAN BBMP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS?

- Provide Drinking Water Facilities
- Public Toilet Access
- Removal of garbage/debris
- Installation of garbage bins to prevent littering
- Providing adequate lighting for safety and use in the evenings

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The list of parks and playgrounds was obtained from the BBMP. All the locations were geocoded* on the map and duplicates were eliminated. A total of 1,115 parks, 192 playgrounds were surveyed. The survey consisted of 10 questions for Playgrounds and 10 questions for Parks. It was undertaken by a survey team, who were trained and provided a special mobile app developed to capture the survey data. Data from each survey was validated with help of geo-tagged pictures and surveys were repeated in case of discrepancies. The entire survey was undertaken over a two month period and analysis and reporting concluded in January 2017.

* Geocoding is the process of converting addresses into geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) which can be used to place markers on a map.
What is the quality of parks and playgrounds in Bengaluru?

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Recommended Open Space Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Available Open Space</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 sq.m/person</td>
<td>2.2 sq.m/person</td>
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SURVEY QUESTIONS

The parks and playgrounds survey had the following questions:

- Are there security and light fixture facilities?
- Are there clean public toilets and drinking water facilities?
- Are there timings put up on signboards?
- Are there walking tracks, seating arrangement and playing facilities?
- Are there security and light fixture facilities?

BBMP BUDGET ALLOCATION: FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

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Source: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Budgets 2016-17 & 2017-18

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Bengaluru has a population of 8.4 million* (current unofficial estimates are about 12 million) and is serviced by 2698 public toilet seats or 473 public toilet complexes across the city. The National Guidelines set by the Swachh Bharath Mission (SBM) for Public Toilets that cater to a floating population of 500,000 in cities, prescribes 1 toilet seat per 100 men and 2 per 100 women. Bengaluru falls short by almost 1100 Public Toilet complexes.

For a city to have a good Quality of Life, public toilets need to specifically cater to the requirements of both residents and the floating population in places such as markets, bus stations, tourist places and other public areas with high pedestrian traffic.

The IChangeMyCity survey in Bengaluru found that in wards with high pedestrian traffic streets and markets, BBMP has done an excellent job in ensuring that toilets are easily available; however in nearly 10 wards with 11 major bus depots, there are no public toilets at all.

* Assumption 1 toilet complex contains 3 male and 3 female toilet seats.
With a floating population of 5 lakh, Bengaluru falls short of almost 1100 toilet complexes. The absence of functional flushes in the toilet complexes will result in unhygienic conditions and is a health hazard. Only 10% of male and 6% of female toilets have functional flushes. This also extends to the absence of dustbins in most toilets.

What is the accessibility of Public Toilets in Bengaluru?

- SBM guidelines indicate that Bengaluru requires about 1 toilet complex per 7 km street length.
- However, at a city level, currently there is only 1 toilet complex per 24 km.
- 43 inner wards meet or exceed this benchmark - the best performing ward is Sudhama Nagar ward having 28 toilet complexes, followed by Dharamaraya Swamy Temple ward with 22 toilet complexes.
- Almost 85% of the existing toilet complexes are located in inner wards, leaving outer wards with inadequate number of complexes.
- Surprisingly, in spite of this higher concentration in inner wards, of the 64 wards that do not have a single public toilet within their limits, 42 wards are inner wards, which are densely populated and account for 61% of the total population.

Are the Public Toilets clean enough?

- In terms of quality, 3 toilet complexes (2 privately maintained and 1 maintained by BBMP) scored 10.
- Pattabhiram Nagar
- Bharathi Nagar
- Attiguppe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage toilets</th>
<th>Adequate lighting</th>
<th>Functional flushes</th>
<th>Washbasins</th>
<th>Clean floors</th>
<th>Dustbins</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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**Ways by which the BBMP can improve the Quality and Accessibility of Public Toilets?**

- **PPP Agreement (Score):** 7.4
- **BBMP Maintained (Score):** 5.9

148 public toilets are maintained by BBMP, and 76 public toilets are privately maintained. Our survey indicates that overall public toilets maintained through a PPP agreement provide better quality of infrastructure over those maintained by BBMP directly under the SBM guidelines.

- **Mandate the 370 petrol stations to make toilets accessible to public (similar to existing National Highway mandate). This will bring down the cost of building new toilets by 5.5 Cr.**

- **Build toilets in existing parks and playgrounds where adequate land is available.**

- **The BBMP could also consider the installation of portable Public Toilets in strategic locations.**

**Is there enough money being spent on Public Toilets?**

In the last financial year, BBMP spent over 5 Cr. on public toilets of which 60% went towards building new toilets and 40% went towards maintaining existing toilets (60% of this expenditure was in inner wards.)

However, in order to meet SBM guidelines, BBMP needs to invest an additional 51 Cr. in construction of new toilets. The good news is that in the 2017-18 budget, BBMP has planned to build 1000 Public Toilets at 51 Cr.

This year for the Construction of New Public Toilets, BBMP had raised Job Codes worth Rs. 3.83 Crores. 80 Tenders were floated by BBMP for Public Toilets related development works (repair and renovation of public toilets) for Rs. 9.2 Crores. According to the BBMP Bill Register, Rs. 7.71 Crores amount was paid to contractors for Public Toilets related development works.

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*BBMP Bill register dated Sept 30th 2017*
Fun Facts

Sudhama Nagar ward has
28 toilet complexes:
One toilet complex per km

2 Female toilets that scored a 10:
One in Pattabhiram Nagar (Ward No: 168) and
Another in Subramanya Nagar (Ward No: 66)

3 Male toilets that scored a 10:
One each in Cottonpete (Ward No: 120),
Bharati Nagar (Ward No: 91) and
Attiguppe (Ward No:132)

About the survey

The list of Public Toilets was obtained from the BBMP. All
the locations were geocoded on the map and duplicates
were eliminated. A total of 473 toilet complexes were
physically surveyed. The survey consisted of 10 questions
for male and female public toilets. Data from each survey
was validated with the help of geo-tagged pictures and
surveys were repeated in case of discrepancies. The entire
survey was undertaken over a 2 month period and
concluded in January 2017. The Public Toilets were scored
objectively on a scale of 10.

List of survey questions

» Is the toilet open?
» Are there separate Male and Female toilets?
» Are the pots unclogged (are they clean)?
» Do all cubicles have functional latches?
» Is there a nameboard that reads Public Toilet?
» Are light fixtures available inside the toilet?
» Is there running water in the washbasin taps?
» Is the toilet floor clean?
» Are light fixtures available at the entrance?
» Are all flushes in the toilets functional?

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* As per the list of public toilets available on BBMP website
* As per 2011 census