



GREENING CHANDIGARH ACTION PLAN 2015-2016 Chandigarh Administration

CHAPTER-VI URBAN FORESTRY IN CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh is a Modern City & therefore the Forestry in Chandigarh is different from traditional practices of Forestry in many ways. There is no direct dependency of people on Forest for their livelihood. From management point of view, the Forests in Chandigarh may be categorized in two types: the Wildlife Sanctuary Area & City Reserved & Unclassed Forests Areas. The objective of management of Forests in Sanctuary area is Conservation of Soil & Moisture in the Catchment of Sukhna Lake on one hand & at the same time improving the Habitat from Wildlife point of view on the other.

The Reserved & Unclassed Forests of Chandigarh are managed from the point of view of maintaining as well as improving the greenery in the city, providing Ex-Situ Plant Research Areas and providing various recreational avenues to the citizens, such as Botanical Garden, Butterfly Park, City Forests, Shivalik Arboretum, Peacock Park, Nature Trails etc.

1. CITY FOREST NEAR IT PARK:

A city Park has been established near Rajiv Gandhi Information & Technology Park. The total area of this city forest is 12.35 Acre. This and other areas, a total of 125 Acres of Manimajra village, was acquired by the erstwhile Punjab Government prior to 1966 for establishing Brick kilns for preparation of bricks required for the development work.

After creation of Chandigarh as per Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 this area was transferred to Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Administration closed the brick kilns, in late 1980's, and area was kept as land bank to be used in lieu of Forest Land diverted for Non-Forestry purposes. Possession of 12.35 Acre of area near IT Park was handed over to the Forest Department during the year 2000-01 in lieu of diversion of forest land elsewhere in the city.

When Forest Department took possession of this 12.35 Acre of land, it was a barren land, as the top soil was used for a longer period for preparation of bricks. It was a challenging and cumbersome task endowed to the Forest Department to create a green belt in this 12.35 Acre barren area. Forest Department took this challenge with high spirit and motivation to reclaim the waste land by raising the plantation in this land where top soil was left with no nutrients. Extra efforts were put by the officials and variety of plants suitable to this area and situation were planted during 2000-01 & onwards.

As a result of dedicated and sincere endeavor of the forest officials once a barren land, is now a Green Belt. More than 40 Species are growing in this area. This city forest is a paradise for morning & evening walkers & storehouse of fresh oxygen & relaxing place for the I.T. professionals.

- **Facilities available in City Forest are :-**
 - Nature Trail
 - Rain Shelters
 - Sitting Benches
 - Meditation Huts
 - Interpretative signage's.

"Our Earth Our Future Just Save It!"



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City Forest near I.T. Park, Chandigarh

2. SHIVALIK ARBORETUM:

Forest Department Chandigarh has established an Arboretum near Transport Chowk, Sector-26 Chandigarh. Total area of Shivalik Arboretum is 11 Acres. After taking over the area in 1993-94, the Forest Department took up the challenging task of converting this barren land full with industrial waste into a green belt, with high spirit and motivation. Today this Shivalik Arboretum is full of prominent species found in Shivalik region and the citizen can enjoy their presence while walking along the nature trail.



Shivalik Arboretum near Transport Chowk on Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.

3 BUTTERFLY PARK:

The Department has developed a Butterfly Park in Sector-26, Chandigarh. This park spreads over 7 Acres of land. The objective of this Butterfly Park is to establish a center for Conservation of Butterflies, Education, Recreation & to provide information about the valuable Bioresource.

The endeavor of the department is to develop a park full of host & nectar plants so as to make the habitat congenial to butterflies. Apart from this following works have been carried out in the Butterfly Park:

1. Landscaping
2. Nature Trail for the visitors
3. Butterfly conservatory
4. Interpretive Boards depicting details of Butterflies
5. Sinages

4. PEACOCK PARK:

Department has developed a 5.7 Acre green area in Sector-39 as Peacock Park. This area is full of vegetation & a potential habitat for Pea fowls. The area has been fenced from all sides to provide a secluded place for resting of our National Bird. Adequate arrangement has been made for provision of water for the Pea Fowls inside the Park in the form of artificial ponds.

NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTER

With an aim to educate the citizen & visitors of Chandigarh about the importance of nature & natural resources in general & the biodiversity of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary in particular, a Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) has been set up at Regulator End of Sukhna Lake.

"The earth is our home. It's time for us to do the little things for the earth. Save water, save energy."



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The NIC provides a common place to the visitors to know about the Importance of Wetland Ecosystems, Flora & Fauna of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary & other necessary tourist

information on City Beautiful. The NIC was inaugurated on 20th December 2013 by Sh.K.K.Sharma, IAS, Adviser to Administrator, UT Chandigarh.



Nature Interpretation Center at Regulator End, Sukhna Lake



Nature Interpretation Center at Regulator End, Sukhna Lake

"Tiger Tiger burning bright, will not let you fade out of sight, that is my promise and for you we will fight."