



## CHAPTER-6

### URBAN FORESTRY IN CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh is a modern city and forestry in Chandigarh is different from traditional practices of Forestry in many ways. Urban forestry is an integral part of city planning and development. Urban forestry advocates the role of trees as a critical part of urban infrastructure. 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:

- Wildlife Sanctuary Area
- City Reserved & Unclassed Forests Areas.

The objectives of management of Forests in Sanctuary area are to conserve the Soil & Moisture in the Catchment of Sukhna Lake and to improve the Wildlife habitat inside Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS).

The objectives of management of Reserved & Unclassed Forests of Chandigarh are to maintain and improve 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 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.

*Minimizing pollution is the best solution to save the environment.*



*City Forest near I.T. Park, UT, Chandigarh*

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 :-

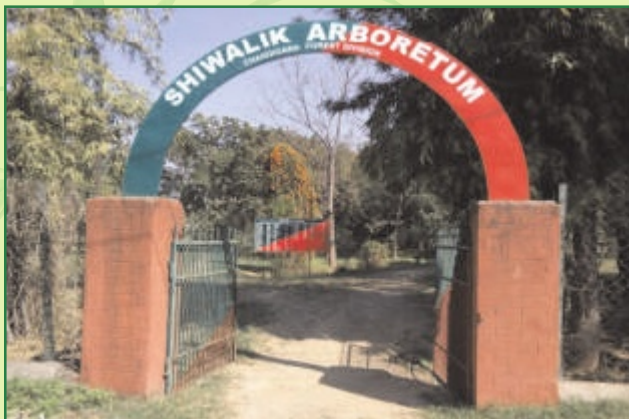
- Nature Trail
- Rain Shelters
- Sitting Benches
- Meditation Huts
- Interpretative signage's.

## **2. SHIVALIK ARBORETUM**

The Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT 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.

*Reduce pollution and prevent the environment from becoming poisonous.*





*Shivalik Arboretum near Transport Chowk  
on Madhya Marg, Chandigarh*



*Butterfly Park, Sector 26, UT, Chandigarh*

### **3 BUTTERFLY PARK**

The Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh has developed a Butterfly Park in Sector-26, Chandigarh. This park spreads over an area of 7 Acres. The objective of this Butterfly Park is to establish a center for Conservation, Education & Recreation which will be helpful in understanding better butterflies the 'Valuable Bioresources'.

The endeavor of Forest Department is to develop a park full of host & nectar plants so as to make the habitat congenial for different species of butterflies. Further, to ensure food availability a variety of flowering plants have also been planted.

#### **Facilities Available in Butterfly Park:**

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

### **4. PEACOCK PARK**

The Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh 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.



*Peacock Park: a Paradise for our National Bird  
at Sector-39, Chandigarh*

*Pollution is an enemy to a healthy environment.*



## 5) 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, Chandigarh.

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*

## 6. Botanical Garden

Chandigarh Administration has established a Botanical Garden near village Sarangpur. The Sprawling an area of 176 acres of verdant terrain, Chandigarh Botanical Garden with



*Botanical Garden near village Sarangpur*

14 different sections is one of the largest Botanical Garden of the country and is home to over 200 species of plants. The Chandigarh Botanical Garden was inaugurated by H.E. Gen. (Retd.) S.F. Rodrigues, Governor of Punjab & Administrator, UT, Chandigarh on 2nd January, 2007.

### Fourteen different sections in Botanical Garden:-

1. Medicinal Plants Section
2. Bambusetum
3. Ficus grove.
4. Arboretum
5. Ornamental Section
6. Pinetum
7. Palmatum
8. Sacred groves
9. Cactus & Succulent section
10. Aquatic Plants section
11. Japanese garden
12. Rare Plants section
13. Tropical rain forests section
14. Bulbous garden

*Tree plantation is best option to achieve healthy environment.*