

To
The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru - 560001

We, the undersigned organisations and citizens, strongly oppose the Karnataka Cabinet's decision to allow portions of parks and gardens to be used for infrastructure projects.

Parks are not vacant land. They are essential public infrastructure that provide climate regulation, rainwater management, biodiversity, public health, recreation and spaces for social interaction and everyday wellbeing. [Research](#) proves that urban green spaces in Bengaluru are, on average, 2.23°C cooler than their surroundings, with their cooling effect extending up to 347 metres beyond their boundaries.

Access to this infrastructure is already unequal. [IIHS research](#) shows that nearly 28% of Bengaluru's wards have either no park or only one park. Further reduction of public green space will deepen this deficit, particularly for communities that rely most on accessible public spaces.

We recognise the need for essential infrastructure in Bengaluru. However, infrastructure development must not come at the cost of existing ecological and social infrastructure. The environmental, health, social and wellbeing costs of losing public green space must be considered alongside the financial and developmental value of proposed projects.

We therefore call on the Government of Karnataka to:

1. Withdraw the proposed amendment to the Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975, that would allow portions of parks and gardens to be alienated for infrastructure projects.
2. Protect existing parks and gardens from diversion, conversion, fragmentation or construction for non-park and ecological uses.
3. Ensure that all infrastructure projects first explore alternatives that do not involve the use of existing parks or green spaces.
4. Mandate transparent public consultation before any proposal that affects public green space is considered.
5. Require comprehensive environmental, social, health and wellbeing assessments for any proposal that may affect existing parks.
6. Recognise parks and urban green spaces as essential infrastructure within urban planning and development frameworks, with their ecological and social value protected alongside other public infrastructure.

Bengaluru needs more accessible public and ecological infrastructure, not less. Green space is infrastructure. It must be protected as a public asset and a common.

Signed,
Citizens and Citizen Groups of Bangalore