

WATER BODIES IN BHARUCH CITY

Introduction and preamble

Bharuch was known as a 'Bhrugukutch' with reference of its existence in the 'Purans' in the ancient India. The town is located on the north bank of river Narmada and on N.H.No. 8 between Vadodara and Surat and main Western railway line.

Bhrugukutch was also an important harbour on western coast of India, and was connected with other continents with marine trade. That means that Bharuch has its own ancient trade culture.

Oil exploration on the west side sea connected areas and development of the industries and ports on the Dahej sea coast in the gulf of Khambhat @ 50 km west has put this district on the world trade platform.

The development of industries in the surrounding 30 km at Ankleshwar, panoli, Zagadia, Vilayat, Dahej and Bharuch town outskirts has given a lifeline to the old town.

Due to the industrialization there is growth in the population, residential and commercial buildings, roads, power consumption, vehicles, increase in water demand and drainage problems.

The construction of dam on 100 km the upstream of Narmada River from Bharuch has caused the salinity of water in the river reaching up to Bharuch in summers. The ground water level has depleted and is hard (salty) water.

Thus, the industrialization and construction of the dam has brought in more people to suffer in air pollution without good quality water and scorching heat.

With the increase in the average age of citizen, the number of children below the age of 10 years and the aged (senior citizens) above the age of 65 years has increased. This group needs recreational and peace without disturbance for healthy growth and feeling of contented life. Natural attractions like trees, birds, water and clean air can be seen in two-dimension (on TV) only.

The urbanization has increased rainwater run off and thus the ground water recharging is not maintained. Old water ponds have been filled in with hutment or polluted with sewage waters.

At present Bharuch towns have only four small gardens for children play and three ponds, which are shallow and contaminated.

The three ponds are:

1. Mataria Talav.
2. Ratan Talav.
3. Son Talavdi.

The revival and development of water bodies;

- Will hold storm water and avoid water logging in unwanted areas.
- Will store water for recharging the ground waters by seepage.
- Will provide good water for domestic use at shallow depths.
- Will provide fresh air and cool atmosphere.
- Will attract local and seasonal birds in the plantation.

In view of the providing good environment for the children to play, the youth for exercise, the middle aged for jogging and the senior citizens for peaceful gathering the water bodies are proposed to be revived and developed.

The development of Mataria pond is dealt in details while the other two ponds are small and the work involved is comparatively less.

Beautification and development of Mataria pond of Bharuch.

The social entertainment with recreational centre can be viewed at various places of district location like at Zadeshwar (8 km), Madhi (Kabirvad) (16 km) while Mataria talav is in the town limits.

Mataria talav, is easily approachable with a walking distance. Surrounding is developed with housing societies and commercial complexes etc. which has a great potential to develop as a re creational centre.

The pond is situated on the link road (third main entry road) of the town and the catchments area of the pond is on the east side up to the railway line of @ 2 sq. km area. There is a natural drain for incoming water from catchment on east side

and it is possible to make an overflow structure on the west side to downstream water way.

The size of the pond is over 680 m in length from east to west and 330 m in length from north to south.

The other two ponds viz., Ratan Talav and Son Talavadi require different work approach and estimates but in general the features and the basic motto of development is common.

General features of planning:

1. Provide thick plantation growth along the periphery with long lasting tall trees and create a barrier from the surrounding habitat. The plantation is suggested in @ 6 m width in north and south face while @ 15 m on east and west faces.
2. Provide a light traffic road cum jogging track along the tree plantation having @ 4.5 m width.
3. Make lawn gardens with decorative shrubs, flowering plants, hedges, garden benches in @ 9.0 m width along the water body of the pond.
4. The waters are enclosed by heavy wall all around which can be @ 1.0 m high and 0.6 m thick at top.
5. A boating jetty is also envisaged in Mataria talav.
6. The main gate with security guards and ticket collection for the visit and parking at the gates is planned.
7. Four fountains in the pond and small water fall structures in rock along the ends with lighting decorations are envisaged in the planning.
8. The area is lightened with decorative posts and high masts at corners.
9. The whole area is proposed to be fenced with 1.8 m high barbed wire fence on outer side of high trees to prevent encroachment and other nuisance.
10. Bharuch Nagar Palika will maintain the centre with quality and with skilled staff.
11. No sewage outlet shall be allowed in the main inlet drain and the pond.
12. Two bores are envisaged for recouping waters during summer when the water level may go down.
13. The water levels shall be maintained from 3 to 5 m depths.

The idea behind the development is based somewhat in accordance to Sursagar (Vadoadara), Kankariya (Ahmedbad), Ranjitsagar (Jamanagar) or Husainsagar (Hyderabad) Lakes.

An imaginative photograph of the development is enclosed with the architectural drawing of the pond.

Estimate Value

(a)	Earth work for pond and drains.	Rs. 50.00 lac.
(b)	Bund wall around waters	Rs. 200.00 lac
(c)	Gate, fencing and offices and parking	Rs. 30.00 lac.
(d)	Roads, pavements and curbing etc.	Rs. 46.00 lac.
(e)	Fountains and falls etc.	Rs. 25.00 lac.
(f)	Boating facilities	Rs. 20.00 lac.
(g)	Electrification and lighting	Rs. 25.00 lac.
(h)	Plantation and horticulture	Rs. 20.00 lac.
(i)	Children play equipments, benches, pumps, bore wells etc.	Rs. 10.00 lac.
	Total of Mataria	Rs. 426.00 lac.
	The estimated cost of development of other two ponds	Rs. 74.00 lac.
	Grand total	Rs. 500.00 lac.