

How to make an open space your own

Civic body makes adoption of plots easier

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IF YOU want to 'adopt' your neighbourhood garden plot, the civic body is making things easy.

Not only has the procedure been simplified, but, for the first time, a deputy municipal commissioner (DMC) will be exclusively responsible for the city's open spaces.

Vikram Pawar, who became DMC (Gardens) in October, is visiting gardens, checking and updating their status. A list of gardens up for adoption will be available to citizens, along with application forms and booklets explaining the procedure at Pawar's office at Byculla Zoo.

"We are devising a form to be filled by interested groups and submitted to the DMC. Decisions will be taken after scrutiny," said R.A. Rajeev, head of the Gardens Department. "The DMC will be the one in charge of existing gardens," he added.

Citizen's groups are happy with the streamlining. "We will know exactly from whom and where to trace the applications," said Vinay Somani of Karmayog.

Neera Punj of Citispace said: "People can look through the list and see the required criteria." She added that a security deposit of Rs 25,000 might not be affordable for some.



ADOPT A PLOT

WHO

Citizens' groups, NGOs, housing societies, educational institutions

HOW LONG

5 years (renewable)

WHICH PLOTS

Gardens, grounds of any size

WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED

Financial, legal credentials