

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & WILDLIFE

Govt. of NCT of Delhi

INFORMATION BROCHURE

Till 1987, the Department of Forests & Wildlife was part of 'Development Department' whence upon it was carved out to create a separate Department of Environment & Forests. The bifurcation was necessitated to cater to the need of a greener surrounding and cleaner environment to the otherwise ever increasing concrete fabric of skyscrapers of Delhi mushrooming to accommodate the burgeoning populace.

Since then, the Department has been relentlessly working towards providing an aesthetically soothing green and urbane look to GNCTD while also acquiring government waste lands, uncultivated surplus land of Gaon Sabhas and new village lands for increasing the green cover of Delhi. The declaration of 25 Urban Green Areas as Protected Forests in 1980, 4845.58 acres as Asola Bhatti Wild Life Sanctuary in 1986 & 1991 and 7784 Ha of Ridge Area as Reserved Forest in 1996 in the past, has had a spiraling effect on increasing the forest cover of GNCTD. In addition, annual greening program of Delhi contributed a great deal in increasing the green cover of Delhi. As a result the green cover of Delhi increased from 6% in 1999 to 20% in 2011. Despite competing demands on forest land for new widening of roads, flyover constructions and DMRC diversions, the area under green cover has been maintained almost equal to 20%. This is directly attributable to the untiring efforts of the department in raising tall plantations along road sides, studiously enforcing 10 times planting of each tree cut by steadfastly implementing Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, continuous persistence for reserving double the area of forest being diverted under FC Act, 1980 and obviously, consistently insisting on creation of Green Belts along new roads.

Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994

The Department of Forests & Wild life, GNCTD has regulatory control for implementation of 'Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 which prohibits felling or pruning/ head backing of trees. The forest department does not get the trees felled or pruned/ head backed directly but only accords permission for the same to the owner of land on which the concerned tree is standing after due inspection/ investigation. The actual pruning or head backing of the concerned tree/ trees is got done by Deputy Director (Horti.) of the MCD/ NDMC/DDA (whoever is the land owning agency) of the concerned area or by the property owner himself/herself.

For obtaining permission for felling or pruning/ headbacking of trees, guidelines are in place for information to all and ease of Public/ Govt. agencies towards achieving their desired objective which are available on the department website "www.delhi.gov.in."

Felling or Pruning/headbacking of Trees

If Individuals/ General Public/ Society /RWAs is desirous that any tree inside his house/premises is posing problems to him or the public and needs to be felled or pruned/ head backed, then he may apply for the same in 'Form B' along with photographs and number of tree/ trees in question to the DCF of his area for the permission. After inspection, the permission or otherwise is communicated to him/ her within 30 days as per merit of the case.

If the tree/trees for which felling or pruning/ head backing is required is standing on Govt. land/ roads/ Parks/ govt. property in front of the house/ shop/ private property of an individual and is posing problem to him, he has to simply write for felling or pruning of such tree to the Deputy Director (Horti.) of the MCD/ NDMC/ DDA/ PWD/ CPWD (whoever is the land owning agency) with photographs of such tree/trees. It should not be applied directly to concerned DCF since 'Form B' has to be signed and submitted by



concerned Dy. Director (Horti) of the land owning agency. After inspection, the permission or otherwise is communicated within 30 days of receipt of such completed application/ Form B to the concerned Dy. Director (Horti), as per merit of the case.

If a tree is standing on **govt. land but leaning on private land/ building** and is considered dangerous and likely to cause damage to life and property, it should be informed immediately with photograph by the concerned aggrieved person. Permission is granted for its felling or pruning/ head backing within 48 hours of inspection, as per merit of the case. In case permission/ any intimation to the contrary is not received within this time, the person can go ahead and fell or prune/ head back the dangerous/leaning tree and intimate the concerned Tree Officer (DCF) within 24 hours of such felling or pruning/ head backing.

Jurisdiction

There are three (3) Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCFs) who are designated as Tree Officers to look after the cases of tree felling or pruning/ head backing and accord permissions for the same, after inspections, as per merit of the case. Their respective jurisdictions in Delhi are shown in table below.

Tree Office	Office	Districts
DCF North	Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi-07	North Delhi, North East Delhi, East Delhi
DCF South	Shooting Range, Tughlakabad	Central Delhi, New Delhi, South Delhi
DCF West	Mandir Lane, Birla Mandir, Delhi-60	North West Delhi, West Delhi, South West Delhi

Tree Helpline

A Green Tree Help Line is operating at 1800118600 to take complaints of tree offences and forward to respective Tree Officers (DCFs) to enable them to take timely punitive action which can act as a deterrent for offenders against future tree crimes/ offences.

Wild Life Offences/ Nuisances

In case a wild life offence is noticed by someone, he/ she may directly call/ SMS concerned DCF having jurisdiction over the place of occurrence who are also designated as Wild Life Wardens. A call can also be made at Tree Helpline and leave the details for eventual forwarding to the concerned person. He/ she may also call/ SMS Chief Wild Life Warden and intimate.

For wild animals in distress or those creating public nuisance, although as of now, the department does not have a dedicated branch/ cell to deal with such cases but on intimation the department can inform an NGO dealing with such issues to take care as far as possible.

City Forests

To provide value for their money to its denizens, 30 number of City Forests have been created all over Delhi. These areas not only provide a cleaner environment to the nearby residents but also enhance the recreational and aesthetic value of the surroundings. These places are especially preferred by senior citizens and ladies who can enjoy their morning/ evening strolls in lush green environs without the bother of speeding traffic honking behind them or having to breathe obnoxious pollutants.

Garhi Mandu Forest Area

An area of 894 acres in North-east district of Delhi of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been developed by the department for extending forest coverage in the metro city. It includes adjacent wetlands and has a floral diversity of 65 species including 27 tree and 38 herbs & shrub species and faunal diversity of 148 species which include 07 species of mammals, 67 species of terrestrial birds, 53 wetland birds and 21 species of butterflies. Such biological richness is to be seen to be believed.



Delhi Ridge Areas

Contrary to the popular belief the department of Forest & Wildlife does not have the sole management rights over the Ridge Areas of Delhi. Although they are being managed by a number of Civic Agencies, the department had often been singularly construed the sole custodian of Ridge land and for allotments/ encroachments made therein. This often led to confusions over enforcement of evictions, filing of affidavits in various courts, diversion of ridge lands for bio-diversity parks etc. With a view to streamline this perplexity and sort out the impasse, the department, in 2011, has

constituted a 'Special Task Force' to verify all Khasra numbers with those mentioned in the notification with geo-spatial data and upload it on Satellite map to assess the changing scenario on real time basis for effective monitoring.

***Note:** In some places total ridge area has been stated to be 7777 ha. since 7 ha. of Nanakpura South Ridge has been added later.

SN	Ridge	Area (Ha) Approx.	Managing Agencies
1.	Northern Ridge	87	DDA, MCD & Forest Department
2.	Central Ridge (Dhaura Kuan)	864	DDA, MCD, NDMC, CPWD, Army & Forest Dept.
3.	South Central Ridge (Vasant Kunj)	626	DDA
4.	Nanakpura South Central	7	DDA
5.	Southern Ridge	6200	Forest, DDA & Sports Authority of India
Total		7784	



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Asola Bhatti Wild Life Sanctuary

The Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, an emerald in the crown of India's capital lies at the southern edge of the city of Delhi, at Asola near Tughlaqabad. It acts as the green lung to the city and its suburbs. In 1986, it was carved from three villages, occupying a part of the southern ridge. In 1991, another notification declared Bhatti as a Wildlife Sanctuary thus making Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary (4845.58 acres) a single unit as we see now.

The declaration as Sanctuary and the resultant protection has made the area rich in floral and faunal diversity. During winter the area is also visited by various migratory birds.

Nature Trails

Nature trails of 1-4 kms. have been created in the Sanctuary to provide firsthand experience of wilderness to the participants and help understand Nature at its best.

Season

The best season to visit this place is from October to February.

CEC, BNHS

In collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society the Department has established a Conservation Education Centre at Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in 2005. The Centre imparts education in nature and wildlife conservation to the school children & citizens of Delhi.

Since its advent, it has been actively involved in imparting conservation education among

the masses. The main activities include day visits, AV shows, celebration of eco-days, green birthdays, birding events, nature camps and nature walks etc.

Eco Task Force

Since Oct, 2000 the Department has undertaken rehabilitation of degraded and abandoned Mines of Bhatti through 132 Infantry Battalion (TA) ECO Rajput (Eco Task Force). The concerted efforts have resulted in successful restoration of barren mined out areas and reclamation by indigenous vegetation.



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Printed by: Perfect Advertising

