



SABARMATI RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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SABARMATI RIVER and AHMEDABAD

- The River Sabarmati flows from north to south splitting Ahmedabad into almost two equal parts.
- For many years, it has served as a water source and provided almost no formal recreational space for the city.
- As the city has grown, the Sabarmati river had been abused and neglected and with the increased pollution was posing a major health and environmental hazard to the city.
- The slums on the riverbank were disastrously flooded and prone to lack basic infrastructure services.
- The River became back of the City and inaccessible to the public

SABARMATI RIVER and AHMEDABAD

- As a source for drinking water
- As a place for recreation
 - As a place to gather
 - Place for the poor to build their hutments
 - Place for washing and drying clothes

Abuse of the River

Due to increase in urban pressures, carrying capacity of existing sewage system falling short and its diversion into storm water system releasing sewage into the River.

- Illegal sewage connections in the storm water drains
- Abuse of the River Sabarmati became a place to dump garbage
- Storm water drains spewed untreated sewage into the river
- Open defecation from the nearby human settlements spread over the entire length.
- Discharge of industrial effluent through some SWDs.
- Illegal construction/encroachment of huts/slum on the river bed.
- Encroachments reduced the river's flood carrying capacity
- The river was inaccessible to the public

SABARMATI RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

KPMG (Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler), one of the world's top advisory firms has included Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in '100 Most Innovative Projects' in the field of urban regeneration(2012) that make cities live as well as sustainable. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) Received Hudco National Award 2012 for innovative infrastructure development for the riverfront project. The project consists both banks of the Sabarmati for a 10.5 km stretch, creating approximately 202 hectares of reclaimed land. There is a water management system for minimizing flooding and clean up the river with new sewage treatment infrastructure.

The Sabarmati River Front Development Corporation Limited (SRFDCL) was established in 1997 for the development of the riverfront in the city. (1)SRFDCL reached out to a number of NGOs and citizen groups for planning and implementation. The process of implementation was done by build, maintain, operate and transfer. SRFDCL appointed Independent Third Parties to supervise the private sector contractors who were selected on fixed time and rate. The fund for the project is to set out different sources that are equity capital, loan funds and proceeds from land sale.

Riverfront Land Use :

The proposed development is of mixed land use that includes commercial, recreational and residential developments within both sides of the river bank from Gandhi Bridge to Sardar Bridge.

Development in different sectors:

The major component of the project concludes embankment and reclamation works, construction of roads and installation of infrastructures such as water, sewer network, storm water drainage, etc., resettlement and rehabilitation work, construction of promenades and gardens and maintenance of public spaces.

Rehabilitation of slum dwellers:

There were around 12,000 hutments on both sides of the river bank that cover nearly 20% of the critical project area. More than 10,000 families are allotted with houses for resettlement, and 9,078 odd families have already been shifted. Each house is of 26.77 sq m carpet area. Commonly the relocation of a slum is provided on the outskirts of the city, but in this case, it is located near to the prime location of the city.

Guzari bazar:

It is an age-old Sunday market, where 40% of traders were women and half of them describe themselves as Dalits. It was unhygienic and also there is a risk of flood in monsoon. Now, it is spread over 20,00 sq m and 1,600 vendors can do their business on 788 pucca platforms and 783 laris.

Dhobi ghat:

Around 172 Dhobis were using both the banks of the river for washing activities. On the eastern bank of the river near Vana Hama is constructed as those ghats spread over approx. 9,400 sq.m area has utility area of about 600 sq m.

There are seven blocks in modern Dhobi Ghat, and each block has 24 units with well-developed water supply and drainage system with a water meter for inlet watering.

Event area:

Earlier the dry river had wood to host events like circus and cricket etc. However, a mega city like Ahmedabad requires a proper event management and grand facilitation. So that in an area spread between Sardar Bridge and Ellis Bridge on the west bank has been designed for hosting events such as the Kite Festival, the Marathon, the Cyclothon and Garth Kalyan Mela are organized.

Urban forestry:

Between Vasna Barrage and Ambedkar Bridge, the unique afforestation project is situated over 1 lakh sq.mt area. The natural forestry is being developed with different plant species from Gujarat, including certain very rare species

Sewage system:

To intercept the sewer running into the river and divert it to the treatment plants, the interceptor sewer system was constructed. Earlier the sewage from 36 drainage points directly falls into the river that makes the water dirty, mosquito ridden and unhealthy environment. Now, there is an extreme change in the environment around the river because all sewage goes to a pumping station for transformation it to river quality

Promenade:

A key feature of this project is a two-level, continuous walk on both sides of river bank built just above the water level for pedestrians and cyclists. So there will be no private ownership of the river bank and the whole stretch is open for every citizen.

Public garden / flower garden :

For parks and garden space 27% of project land is developed. There are three gardens. Garden of 60000 sq.mt between Sabhash Bridge and Dadhichi Bridge; Garden of 25000 sq.mt at Usmanpura between Gandhi Bridge and Nehru Bridge on West bank and Flower garden of 40000 sq m near the event area on the west bank of the river

Water recreation:

Various water sports are provided in the project on both sides of the river. Boating facilities are available on both side of the river bank in different places. For the future plan, there will be a zip line. Amphibian bus, Sabarmati Darshan through ferry and adventure water sports

Project Benefits and Impacts

It is made possible to retain surface water in the river all year round and also utilized for boat rides etc.

The water recharges the ground strata extensively with storage of 12.5 million cubic meter river water.

Interceptor sewers and sewage diversion network has diverted more than 250MLD sewage from the river and eliminated the pollutants.

Diaphragm walls in the bed of the river have protected from scour and stopped erosion of the river banks.

Retaining walls along both banks has made 202 Ha. land available for further development for the city and also contributed to flood protection.

The embankments on either side of the river has provided wide walkways, many other facilities and green space for the public with extensive tree plantation.

10000 slum dwellers residing on the riverbed have been rehabilitated and resettled in very good PAKKA houses. Many of River users of River like washer men and unorganized vendors are now provided with well organized facilities.

Easy access to the river water through Ghats, Stairs/Ramps.

Key Learning from the Project

- The abused river can be brought back;
- To the city by utilizing the resources of the river itself
- To convert the abandoned land of riverbed and nuisance at the centre of the City into;
- people's attraction
- tourist destination
- to create infrastructural and recreational facilities
- to transform the city more livable with environmental improvement and inclusive development.