

CHAPTER 18

RECREATION & CIVIC AMENITIES

Recreational and civic amenities are facilities provided for common people by the government and Municipal Corporation. These amenities are the cultural elements of a community with which residents and visitors engage. It enhances our quality of life. It also promotes life-long learning and social exchange, regional economic development etc. Examples of recreational and civic amenities

include community halls, theatres, museums, sports ground, parks, reading rooms, libraries, cremation and burial grounds, fuel station, police stations, post offices, telephone exchanges and fire stations etc.

This chapter deals with the recreational and civic facilities provided in Kannur Corporation area, their present status, potentials and problems etc.

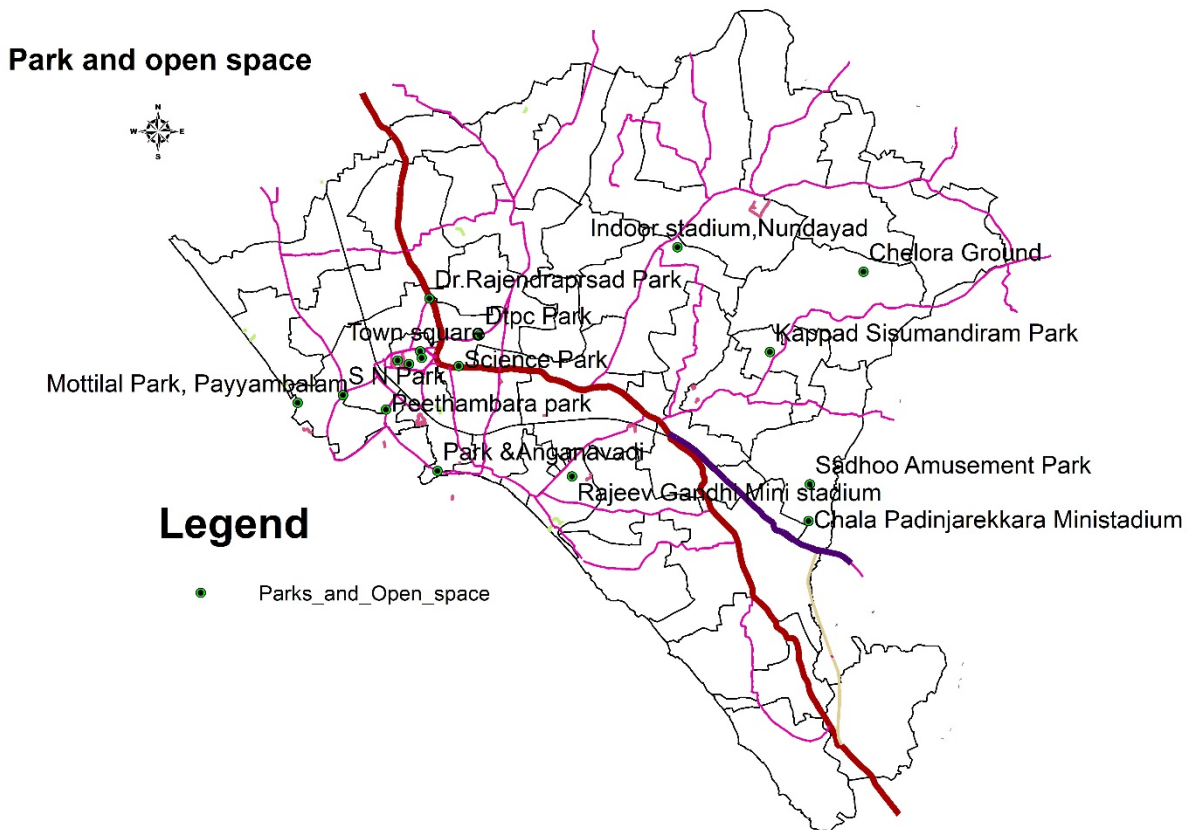


Figure.18.1 Location of various parks and open spaces in the Corporation area

18.1 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The existing recreational facilities in Kannur Municipal Corporation area include parks, play grounds, stadiums, auditoriums, cinema theatres, community TV centres, reading rooms, open air theatres, indoor stadiums, cultural centres, museums, swimming pools, arts & sports clubs etc.

18.1.1 PARKS

The Figure.18.1 shows the location of various parks and open spaces in the city. The figure indicates that the recreational centres are scattered in the study area. But the major recreational facilities are mainly concentrated in the town area. The details of some major recreational centres are given below.

• Payyambalam Park

The Payyambalam Park having scenic beauty is located near Payyambalam Beach on west side with backwater on the right side and Payyambalam burial ground towards north. It is located in Payyambalam ward. The infrastructure facilities in the park are very poor. The maintenance of such a beautiful park is not done properly. The playing equipment, open stage as well as the seating facilities like benches are in dilapidated condition. Many shrubs and thorns growing near the benches make disturbance to the visitors. The

absence of lawns make it child unfriendly too. The entry fee to the park is Rs. 10. If maintained properly, it would be a wonderful place for the kids to spend the evenings.



Payyambalam Park

• Dr.Rajendra Prasad Park

It is a triangular shaped park having an area of 0.32 acres located along Ancham Peedika-Kolathuvayal and Pamban Madhavan road. As a proposal by AMRUT scheme, the park was renovated.

• S.N. Park

S.N Park is the landmark of Kannur Corporation area. It is a triangular shaped land having an area of 0.89 acres located where Kannur-Azheekode road and Kannur-Payyambalam road meet. The existing park has a statue of Sree Narayana Guru at the centre and a cafeteria.

Rejuvenation of SN Park was also completed as a proposal by AMRUT scheme.

• **Palakkad Swami Mutt Park**

It is located along Kakkad road and is very near to the core area of the planning area. The park was opened recently by DTPC, Kannur. New playing equipment with good infrastructure facilities are available there.

• **Kappad Sishu Mandiram Park**

Kappad Sishu Mandiram Park is a newly constructed park near Kappad Sishu Mandiram. It is having playing equipment with garden, lawns etc.

• **Science Park**

Science Park is the park located at the heart of Kannur city to promote and spread scientific knowledge. This park is best for school study tour especially for upper primary school students and it provides practical aspect of various scientific theories of Physics, Chemistry, Biology etc.

• **Anakkulam Park**

The Anakkulam Park was a proposal by AMRUT Scheme. It is surrounded by Anakkulam pond and is located in South Bazar ward. It is very near to NH 66 and is surrounded by residential area and Holy family catholic church on the south.

18.1.2 OPEN SPACES

Presently there are two mini stadiums in the Corporation area under public sector.

• **Jawahar Municipal Stadium**

Jawahar Municipal Stadium is located in Thayatheru ward. It is mainly used for football matches. Mass events are conducted in this ground. It is the oldest yet biggest ground in Kannur. Even though it is poorly maintained, it has good ground, pavilion having a capacity of about 30,000 people for football matches. Kannur Railway Station and old bus stand are very close to the stadium.



JawaharMunicipal Stadium

• **Indoor Stadium**

It is a very good Indoor stadium in terms of the infrastructure facilities. It has a very good parking facility. International expos are conducted here. Good boxing arena, wrestling pit, multi gym, basketball court, badminton court etc. are there with a

well arranged gallery. This full air conditioned stadium can be used as the venue for marriages, great conferences etc. Indoor stadium is located in Mundayad ward and is easily accessible from Kannur International Airport, Mattannur. This stadium has to be maintained properly.

• Police Maidan

Police Maidan is also located in Thayatheru ward which is very close to Jawahar Stadium. It is a fairly large ground where police parades take place in Kannur District. It is the main ground for Republic day parade of Kannur District. Apart from parades, football coaching, matches and exhibitions are also conducted here. During Independence Day, the flag hoisting on behalf of district collector and other officials takes place in Police Maidan. Accessibility to the maidan is also very easy as the Kannur Railway station and old bus stand are very near to it.

• Rajiv Gandhi Mini Stadium

Rajiv Gandhi Mini Stadium, Marakkarkandy is located in Padanna ward. Since it is recently renovated, the mini stadium is having good infrastructure facilities.

• Cannanore District Badminton Indoor Court

It is located near Ashirvad Hospital, Thavakkara. It is a good place for badminton lovers.

• Town square

Town square is located in Thayatheru ward. It is one of the best gathering places in Kannur. Trees, lawns and benches to sit and relax are there. An open stage as well as a park is located near to it. Many cultural events take place here. It is a good open space to spend time especially in the evenings with family.

• Collectorate Maidanam

Collectorate Maidanam is located very close to Town square. There is an open stage located in it. It is also a major venue for so many cultural events in Kannur. It is also located in Thayatheru ward.



Town Square

Table.18.1 Details of Theatres in the Corporation area

Sl. No	Name	Location	No. of Screens
1	Kavitha	S N Park road	1
2	Savitha film city	Padannapalam	3
3	PVS film city	Talap	2
4	NS Theatre	Caltex Junction	1

• ChalaPadinjarekkara Mini Stadium

It is located in Attadappa ward. At present, it is in dilapidated condition.

18.1.3 CINEMA THEATRE

At present, there are four cinema theatres with 7 screens in the Corporation area. All these theatres are located on the northern half of the planning area. The details of cinema theatres are shown in Table.18.1.

The condition of NS Theatre is very pathetic because of its poor infrastructure facilities as well as cleanliness. Proper maintenance of the theatre is needed because it is located near Caltex junction which is the main accessible location when compared to others.

18.1.4 PONDS

Anakulam, Chettyarkulam, Valiyakulam, Kannoorkara pond are

important ponds in the Corporation area. Among these, Anakkulam pond, which was a major source of water in the planning area till a few years back is recently renovated and opened to the public. It can be now used as an evening hangout place for the people. Also, there is a small area of land available adjacent to the pond which can be used for further development as park.



Anakkulam

Earlier, Chettiarkulam, an old pond in the planning area was also renovated and beautified which attracted a large number of visitors.

18.1.5 SWIMMING POOLS

Sports Council Swimming Pool is an important swimming pool in the Corporation area which was built at Kakkad as a part of the SMILE (Sports Minister's Infrastructural Leap towards Excellence) project under the National Games Secretariat. It is located in Kakkad North ward. It is not in use now.

18.1.6 ASSEMBLY HALLS

Rubco Auditorium and Dinesh Auditorium are the major assembly halls in the Corporation area having improved infrastructure facilities as well as capacity. District Co-operative Bank has an auditorium of its own in the Head office building.

18.1.7 SPORTS AND ARTS TRAINING CENTERS

Other types of recreational facilities are sports and arts training centres. The details of sports and arts training centres in the Corporation area are given in Table.18.2 and Table.18.3 respectively. Sports coaching centres provide practice for various sports items like Cricket, Football, Tennis, Basketball, Table tennis, Badminton and Swimming.

Table.18.2 Details of sports training centres in the Corporation area

Sl. No.	Name of Centre	Items
1	GVHSS, Kannur	Cricket, Foot ball, Tennis, Basket ball, Table tennis, Badminton
2	Kannur Spirited Youth Club	Foot ball
3	The Club City Centre	Swimming
4	Okinawan Karate Do & Sports Centre	Karate
5	Samurai Martial Arts Academy	Karate
6	MGS Kalari	Kalarippayattu

Table.18.3 Details of arts training centres in the Corporation area

Sl. No.	Name of Centre	Items
1	SangeethaKalakshetra School of Dance and Music	Classical dance, Keralanadanam, Folk dance, cinematic dance, Karnatic Music, Instrument music (Karnatic/Western), Drawing (Pencil drawing & Painting)
2	AarabhiKalakshethra	Classical dance
3	Kalagurukulam Music and Dance Academy	Classical dance, Western dance, Instrument music, Ryhm (Chenda, Edakka, Mridangam, Tabal), Karnatic Music, Light Music & Karaoke practice, Kathakali, OttanThullal, Mimicri, Mono Act Practice, Abacus, Karate & Zumba
4	SwathiThirunalKalaken dram	Classical dance and Music
5	Kalanjali School of Dance	Classical dance, Keralanadanam and Folk dance
6	GVHSS, Kannur	Painting, Drawing, Dance, Music

Classes for martial arts like Karate and Kalarippayattu are also available in the planning area. Classes in Classical dance, western music, instrumental music, drawing and painting are also available.

Among these libraries, 5 are public libraries.

18.1.8 LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS

The location of libraries in the Corporation area shown in Figure.18.2 indicates that most of the libraries are concentrated in the Kannur zone.



Jawaharlal Nehru Public Library

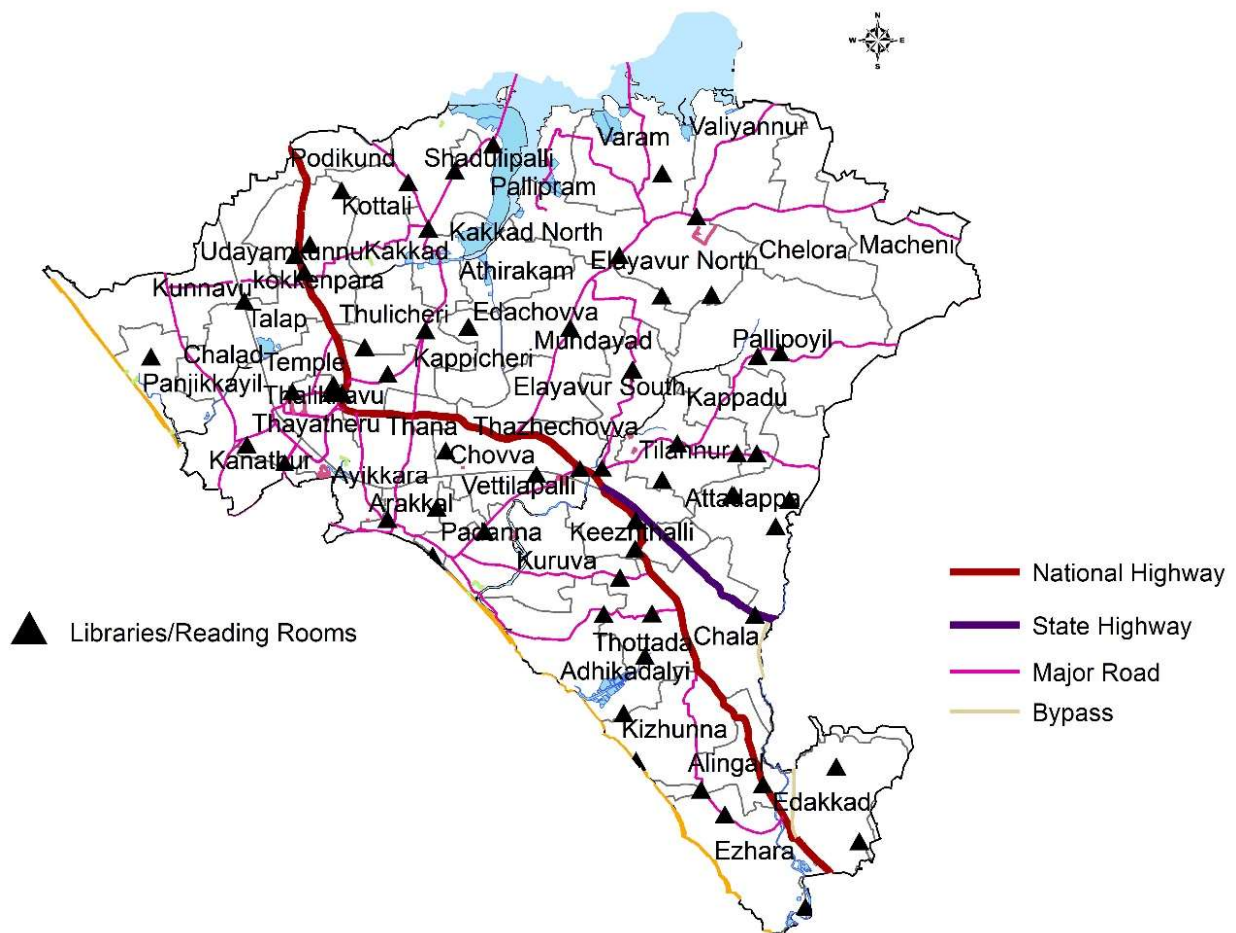


Figure.18.2 Location of libraries in the Corporation area

18.2 CIVIC AMENITIES

The facilities that are provided by the Government and local bodies for common people are called civic amenities and it includes water supply, electricity, roads, bridges, flyovers, public toilets, garbage disposal, crematorium and burial ground, railways, roadways etc. The location of different civic amenities in the Municipal Corporation area is shown in Figure.18.3.

18.2.1 POLICE STATION AND FIRE STATION

In the planning area, Town Police Station, IG Office, SP Office, Traffic Police Station, Police Control Room and Kannur City Police Station are located in the town wards. The Fire station is located in the Cantonment area.



Figure.18.3 Location of civic amenities in the Corporation area

18.2.2 POST OFFICES AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

The Head Post Office is located in Thayatheru ward in Civil Station Compound. Other post offices are scattered in the planning area but are concentrated in town the wards mostly. The Parcel Office is located in Thalikkavu ward. The telephone exchanges within the town is located at Elayavur zone and Kannur zone; very close to the town centre.

18.2.3 BURIAL GROUNDS AND CREMATORIUM

At present, 15 public crematoriums or burial grounds are there in the planning area among which only three are under government ownership. Payyambalam, Keezhuthalli and Malikaparambu are the government owned burial grounds. Community based burial grounds are also included which are in private ownership.

18.2.4 COMFORT STATIONS

Public comfort stations are located near Stadium ground, Collectorate Compound, Town square. Only E-Toilet is provided in the Collectorate compound. Toilet provided near Town square is only for ladies. Even though public toilets are there in Bus stands, they are not clean and hygienic.

18.2.5 OIL AND GAS FILLING STATIONS

In Kannur Corporation area, there are about 10 petrol pumps and one electric charging station.

18.2.6 PUBLIC OFFICES

Civil Station, Taluk Office, Municipal Corporation Office buildings are located in the town centre. In those compounds, many government offices are working.

18.3 ON GOING PROJECTS

Under AMRUT Scheme, new parks are implemented like Chelora Park, Kappad Sishu Mandiram Park, Anakkulam Park, Avera Gama Mandiram Park and development of new Payyambalam Park.

18.4 POTENTIALS AND PROBLEMS

Parks and green spaces are treasured assets and are often central to the lives of their communities. They provide opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise, but are also fundamental to community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing. Kannur severely lacks in developed recreational facilities such as city parks, established sports facilities, and playground etc. The available parks and playgrounds are not properly maintained so that they need proper maintenance.

As per AMRUT Guidelines, the 15% of total Area has to be developed as the Green Spaces. Several parks are considered for development under AMRUT scheme and most of those works are completed. The remaining Parks and open spaces also should be redeveloped as green spaces by means of making it nature as well as people friendly.

The water body near Thottada beach is very calm having scenic beauty. It can be developed for recreational purpose by conserving the neighbouring areas. The vast extent of Kanambuzha can also be converted for recreational purposes.

At present, there is only one open air theatre which is in the Town Square and one open stage is there in Collectorate Maidan. The open stage in the Payymbalam Park can be renovated so that it can be used for cultural events especially in the evenings. The condition of NS Theatre is very pathetic because of its poor infrastructure facilities as well as cleanliness. It can be improved by providing better infrastructure.

The major parts of the Corporation area needed to be facilitated with comfort stations. There are no art

galleries and Town halls in the planning area under government ownership. Chalad Mohanan Memorial Art Gallery which is the only one art gallery is incorporated with Govt. TTI for Men.

18.5 INFERENCE

As per AMRUT guidelines, the parks and open spaces should be developed as green space. At present, there is only one open air theatre which is in the Town Square and one open stage is there in Collectorate Maidan. The open stage in the Payymbalam Park can be renovated so that it can be used for any cultural events especially in the evenings.

A Green Buffer can be proposed along the River and other Water bodies of the Corporation area which make space for children, old age people and differently abled citizens. The available open spaces may be utilized for the development of parks. A provision for the construction of one park for at least each three wards is suitable in the Corporation area. The existing facilities of the available parks needed to be improved further. More women friendly comfort stations and E-Toilets should be implemented.