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# Bengaluru's Jakkur lake turns wasteland; redesign begins

By [Bharath Joshi](#), ET Bureau | Jul 18, 2016, 09.48 AM IST

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BENGALURU: The much-celebrated 'constructed wetland' model at the [Jakkur lake](#), which was showcased as the way forward to rejuvenate other lakes, has gone wrong. Water experts have gone back to the drawing board to redesign the model.

The man-made wetland was introduced in the lake following its rejuvenation about five years ago. It was part of an integrated wetlands ecosystem comprising a [sewage treatment plant](#) (STP) with a 10-million-litre-per-day capacity and a wetland with nutrient-absorbing plants. Water treated by the STP flowed into the wetland where it was purified further.

The model was hailed for keeping the lake at the prime of its ecological health.

However, researchers from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have found water quality to be worsening with higher levels of nutrients -nitrates, phosphates and ammonia -and increased levels of biochemical oxygen. Also, the water is turning greenish due to algae.

Reason: The constructed wetland is not working efficiently.

"It's not only receiving water from the STP but also from an adjoining stormwater drain carrying sewage. So treatment efficiency of the wetland has gone," said Priyanka Jamwal, fellow at the ATREE Centre for Environment and Development.

Raw sewage from Yelahanka, Allalasanra and Kogilu is entering the lake through the wetlands. On top of this, researchers said the wetland has not been maintained properly .

"The wetland is overloaded due to which nitrate and phosphate levels have gone up," said [TV Ramachandra](#), a professor at [IISc Centre for Ecological Sciences](#) who was instrumental in rejuvenating the Jakkur lake.

The 160-acre lake was constructed about 200 years ago to meet water needs of the Jakkur village.

Experts are working out a new wetland model. "A layered or multi-tier wetland is something everybody agrees upon. We're trying to calculate load, retention and rate of water flow. A design proposal should be ready in a month's time," said Annapurna S Kamath of Jala Poshan, a citizen group that adopted the lake in 2014. The BBMP has earmarked Rs 3 crore for this, she said. "We've asked the civic body to come up with a wetland maintenance document."

The BWSSB will upgrade the existing STP to treat 15 MLD of waste water. "With this, redesigning the wetland is inevitable. It's senseless to bring sewage all the way up to the lake instead of treating it at the source," Ramachandra fumed.











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




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


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