

POLICY BRIEF

January, 2024

PRIORITIZING RECREATION IN PATHANAMTHITTA TOWN'S PLANNING

ROSHIN K MATHEW

Drawing attention to the town's dearth of outdoor recreational spaces and addressing it through planning in order to realise multifarious benefits.



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Title

Prioritizing Recreation In Pathanamthitta Town's Planning

Key Words

Outdoor recreation; Sports; Leisure; Pathanamthitta town; Kerala; Geriatric; Parks; Urban planning.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Key Findings	7
Recommendations	9
Conclusion	14
Abbreviations	15
References	15



Town Overview¹- I

Area: 23.5 km²

Location: Pathanamthitta, Kerala, IN

Wards: 32

Urban Type: Municipality

Tier: 3 (RBI classification)

Population: 37,538

Population Density: 1,597/km²

Population Growth Rate (2001-11): -1.24

¹ As per Census, 2011.

² It does so under the 7th goal target of the 11th goal: "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons, and PwDs."

Executive Summary

In response to the evolving needs of Pathanamthitta Town, this policy document underscores actionable recommendations for prioritizing **recreation** in the town's planning. Emphasizing four key pillars, the brief aims to revitalize the town and build a resilient community through public interventions. These are-

- ✓ **Improving Health and Fitness**
- ✓ **Enhancing Quality of Life**
- ✓ **Promoting Community Engagements**
- ✓ **Boosting Tourism and Economy**

With the help of stakeholder interactions, a public survey, and literature studies, the issue was investigated, and recommendations were created geared towards immediate implementation. Here, recreational spaces are taken in a broad gamut to include open gyms, museums, parks, and stadiums that offer spaces for fitness, culture, leisure, and sports-related activities, respectively. The significance of such public spaces has also been recognized by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of 2015, under goal 11- 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'.² By prioritizing recreation and integrating comprehensive measures, the aim is to create a vibrant, sustainable, and safe community that embraces Pathanamthitta's rich heritage and future aspirations. This brief is intended for use by citizens, planners, bureaucrats, and policymakers.

INTRODUCTION

Pathanamthitta town, is the administrative headquarters of Pathanamthitta district and one of four urban local bodies (ULBs) there. Located in southern Kerala, the quaint town enjoys a tropical climate and has consistently featured among the top cities in India with the cleanest air quality. Despite the abundant greenery surrounding it, the town lacks facilities for residents to unwind and recharge. Children lack adequate spaces where they can play and interact with each other, while the lack of similar spaces tailored for adults is also concerning. This glaring dearth of public recreational spaces for all age groups hinders a leisure culture among inhabitants and can affect their health, productivity, well-being, and even socio-economic prospects. For instance, studies have indicated that urban green spaces are linked to reduced mortality rates (Rojas-Rueda et al., 2019), increased physical activity (Sallis et al., 2012), improved mental health (Barton and Pretty, 2010), like stress reduction (Ward Thompson et al., 2012), increased community attachments (Gallup, 2010), and lastly, overall well-being (Reyes-Riveros et al., 2021).

As per the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines, the town's area under recreation is about three times smaller than the desired requirement, or 3.8% when ideally it should be 12–14% of the total area (PTLSGDP, 2023). A case in point is the Subala Park at Melevettipuram, which was envisaged three decades ago. Encompassing an auditorium, a park, and other facilities like boating, the project has been haphazardly implemented, with the park component being far from satisfactory, and is now undergoing a painstakingly slow renovation that began in 2018.³ Also, attached to the town hall and located within a busy and noise-ridden spot, a children's park of about 350 sq. m. area is present, which is insufficient to cater to the municipality's total child population, of which 0-6 year-olds are 3,400 (2011 census). In the same way, public platforms like open-air theatres and auditoriums for entertainment are absent, hindering socio-cultural engagements in the town. Due to these shortages, the public often resorts to commercial spaces like theaters, restaurants, and bakeries for leisure and relaxation purposes.

Similarly, the town lacks state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, which is among the reasons for Pathanamthitta district's underperformance in sports-related events.⁴ Fitness enthusiasts and sportspersons have long been demanding a round-the-clock, quality space to practice.⁵ The town has a municipal stadium which is also utilized for

³ Madhyamam Online. 2023. "നിർമ്മാണം മുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് വർഷങ്ങൾ; കാടുകയറി സുബല പാർക്ക്" [Construction has been stalled for years; Subala Park through the forest]. *Madhyamam*, April 13. <https://www.madhyamam.com/kerala/local-news/pathanamthitta/subala-park-construction-has-been-stalled-for-years-1149748>.

⁴ Kerala State School Sports & Games. 2022-23. "Leading District for Overall Championship," https://sports.kite.kerala.gov.in/2022/site/index.php/result/resultsite_athletics/gold_cup/; Manorama Online. 2023. "സംസ്ഥാന സ്കൂൾ കായികമേള: നില മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്താൻ പത്തനംതിട്ട ജില്ല" [State School Sports Festival: Pathanamthitta district to improve standards]. *Manorama*, October 17. <https://www.manoramaonline.com/district-news/pathanamthitta/2023/10/17/pathanamthitta-state-school-sports-meets.html>.

⁵ Manorama Online. 2022. "പന്തൂരുളേണ്ട മൈതാനത്ത് ഉയരുന്നത് കുറ്റൻ പന്തൽ; പ്രതിഷേധം" [A huge pandal rises on the field where the ball is to be played; protest]. *Manorama*, May 11. <https://www.manoramanews.com/nattuvarttha/central/2022/05/11/pathanamthitta-stadium.html>.

hosting public events like fairs, college fests and political gatherings. This overdependence creates considerable maintenance issues and limits use for sports-related activities.



Figure 1: The [municipal stadium](#) is prone to waterlogging and lacks turfed ground, and synthetic tracks.



Figure 2: Plot of a proposed 40,000 sq. ft. [indoor stadium](#) worth 16 crores, whose foundation stone was laid in 2017, lies covered in undergrowth.

Notably, 19.65% of the municipality's population is elderly (ages 60 and above), while only 12.6% is the Kerala state average and 18% is the district's (Census, 2011). This high geriatric presence is only likely to grow further as data suggests that the age groups preceding them are substantial and the fertility rate is declining at 1.3. Similarly, the town is part of the district with a high prevalence of multimorbidity, especially diabetes and hypertension at advanced ages (C. Rohini et al., 2020). To engage this often-overlooked group and combat lifestyle diseases, it is imperative to engage residents through active planning, which includes creating decent pedestrian pathways and geriatric-friendly parks (Pineo et al., 2018). The town has a long way to go in this regard.

Interventions for increasing physical activity, along with green prescriptions,⁶ can reduce the health expenditures of citizens and, subsequently, government healthcare spending (Bird, et al., 2014). Although small, the recently inaugurated open gym called 'Malayorarani,' at the municipal stadium is a step in the right direction. Similarly, a ring road beautification project, initiated by the state government, is also underway to provide

Methodology & Limitations

Research for the brief was conducted using primary and secondary sources. The former included participant observations, stakeholder interactions, and a survey. As the investigator was a native of the region, participant and site observations were conducted smoothly. Stakeholder interactions were held using semi-structured interviews with bureaucrats and Pathanamthitta district residents. The bureaucrats primarily comprised those from the district town planning department and the municipal office. The survey was conducted online using a bilingual google form. With the help of social media platforms, 100 respondents took part in the study. The non-probability sampling method was used to select them, using a mix of convenience, voluntary response, and snowball sampling. Secondary research comprised the analysis of news articles, and a literature review of relevant recreational themes and town-related studies.

Limitations of the study include the limited scope of stakeholder interactions and the range of survey respondents, as they might not capture the perspectives of all relevant groups. Also, the reliance on secondary sources may introduce biases inherent in media coverage or existing literature.

⁶ A green prescription is a nature-based medical treatment that aims to enhance patients' physical and mental health by exposing them to natural surroundings.

landscaping, footpaths, and public amenities like toilets, pocket parks, and shops for pedestrians,⁷ whose needs currently are largely unmet.

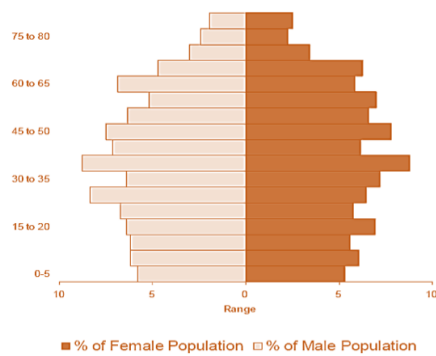


Figure 3: Age-Sex Pyramid indicating increasing geriatric presence (PTLSGDP, 2023).

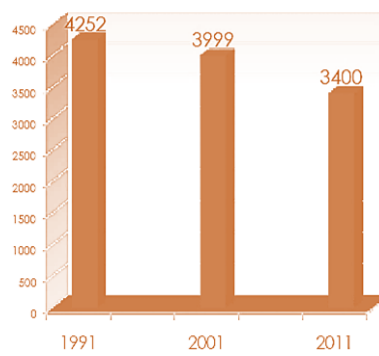


Figure 4: Child Population (0-6 years) indicating decreasing trend (PTLSGDP, 2023).



Figure 5: Open gym 'Malayorarani', at the municipal stadium.⁸

Despite Pathanamthitta town being the **administrative headquarters** of the district, it is devoid of any major leisure spaces to enjoy or cultural spaces like museums to commemorate the district's rich history. Pathanamthitta district has a significant inflow of pilgrims from all over the country, of around [30 million annually](#), primarily due to the presence of the Sabarimala temple, earning itself the sobriquet '**Pilgrim Capital of Kerala**'. This arrival has been largely untapped by the town. On the contrary, the tourist footfalls into the district are dismal with domestic and international tourists making up almost [4 lakh](#) in 2022, which is less than 2% of the total tourists visiting Kerala and becomes a lost opportunity for revenue generation (Somarajan, 2022). To counter this, quality recreational spots including open and green ones must be developed, as they are known to help attract tourists (Chaudhry et al., 2010).

As the town is situated at a lower elevation and surrounded by hills, it becomes an easy target for floods, as was witnessed during the 2018 floods in Kerala. Several areas of the region were submerged, endangering lives and damaging property. In this regard, the role of open recreational spaces, especially within densely populated regions, cannot be understated, as they act as natural sponges,⁹ slowing down the adverse effects of such catastrophes.

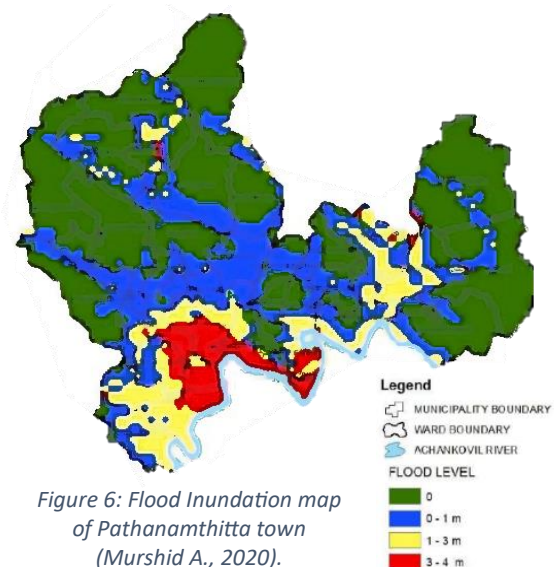


Figure 6: Flood Inundation map of Pathanamthitta town (Murshid A., 2020).

⁷ The Hindu. 2023. "Plan to develop model road in Pathanamthitta town." January 29. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/plan-to-develop-model-road-in-pathanamthitta-town/article66447059.ece>.

⁸ Image captured from author's site visit.

⁹ Gautham, Komal. 2022. "Chennai to get 47 'sponge parks' to solve street flooding issue." TOI, December 14. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/chennai-to-get-47-sponge-parks-to-solve-street-flooding-issue/articleshow/96210795.cms>.

KEY FINDINGS

A public survey was conducted online with **100** respondents participating in it. Some findings from the survey are presented in 3 parts below-

a. General Recreation

General recreational preferences and perceptions are analysed here.

- ☞ Close to 80 of the 100 participants felt the town did not offer adequate recreational spaces.
- ☞ 56 participants felt that the most enjoyable recreational activity was picnicking while 53 agreed on watching live entertainment, and 51 enjoyed walking and jogging.
- ☞ Of the recreational spaces, 72 of the 100 participants relished parks the most, followed by 49 agreeing on open-air theatres, and 36 on libraries.
- ☞ 82 participants felt the most common motivation for outdoor recreation was to enjoy nature, following which 73 concurred for stress relief and relaxation and 63 for socializing with friends and family.
- ☞ 86 participants felt the biggest obstacle to outdoor recreation was the lack of suitable options in the town, followed by 38 agreeing on the lack of transportation and 35 on safety concerns.

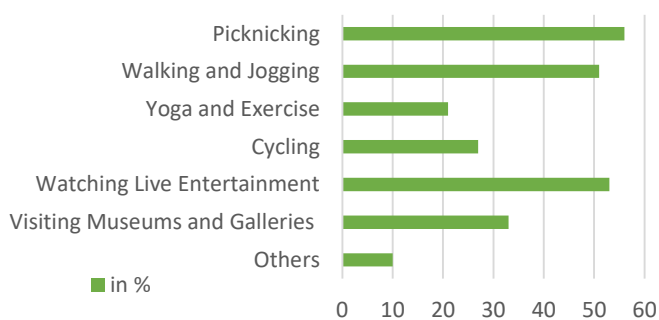


Figure 7: Outdoor activities most enjoyed.

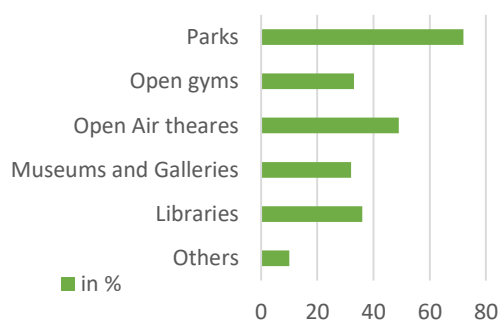


Figure 8: Recreational spaces most enjoyed.

Quotes

“The town lacks an active nightlife, due to which women lack the security and safety to venture out at night.”

“Subala park must be opened urgently.”

“There is no infrastructure for a tourist at the district headquarters.”

“Pathanamthitta must improve in sports. We lack good indoor and outdoor stadiums, and a pool facility.”

“We need a good park without any eye teasers and an open stage for performances.”

“Small kiosks and street vendors should be encouraged but strictly coordinated along the ring road.”

“We friends discuss this often, about the lack of spaces to spend our evenings relaxing. The only option is the stadium, where you will find us frequently.”

- **Survey Respondents**

“There are plenty of plans, but they don’t materialize for several reasons, of which limited funds are the main.”

- **Asst. Town Planner (Pta)**



Figure 9: Motivations for outdoor recreation.

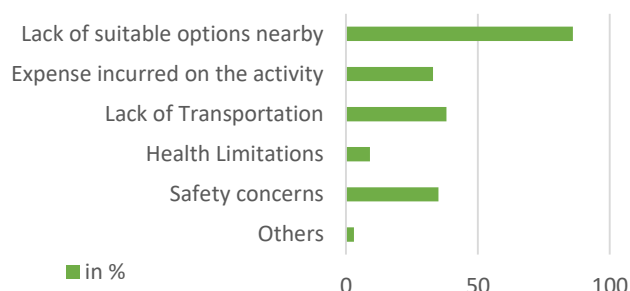


Figure 10: Obstacles to outdoor recreation.

b. Sports-related

Sports-related preferences are analysed here.

- ☞ Of the sports activities, 63 participants agreed that the town must prioritize football, followed by 55 for badminton and 52 for cricket and indoor sports like chess and table tennis.
- ☞ Due to the limited quality of sports facilities in the town, several users have gone on to access paid private ones, while others rely on nearby stadiums at Pala, Pramadam, and Kodumon.

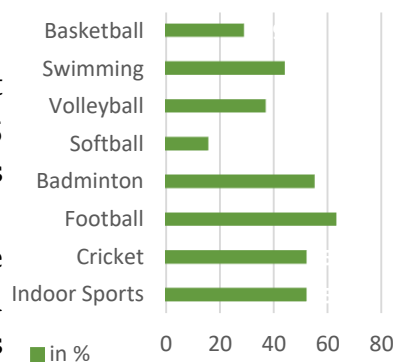


Figure 11: Sports activities that the town must prioritize.

c. Town Aspirations

Recreational aspirations for the town are analysed here.

- ☞ 77 of the 100 participants felt the government must prioritize Chuttipara's development, while 74 concurred on the ring road beautification project, followed by 69 for sports stadium modernization, as well as the creation of recreational facilities adjoining the bus stand.
- ☞ Due to the limited recreational choices and safety concerns, especially at night, women wound-up spending time at bakeries and restaurants, while men spent leisure time at stadiums and playgrounds. Also, respondents by and large had a pessimistic view of progress, showcasing a trust deficit with the bureaucracy.
- ☞ An overwhelming suggestion was to open Subala park. Also, information regarding tourist spots and how to get there was widely sought. Others included a modern park and walking and jogging spots around the town.

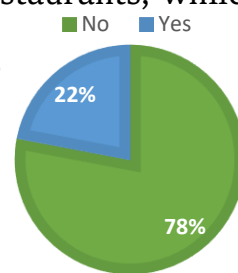


Figure 12: Survey Result on whether Pathanamthitta town offers adequate Recreational Spaces.

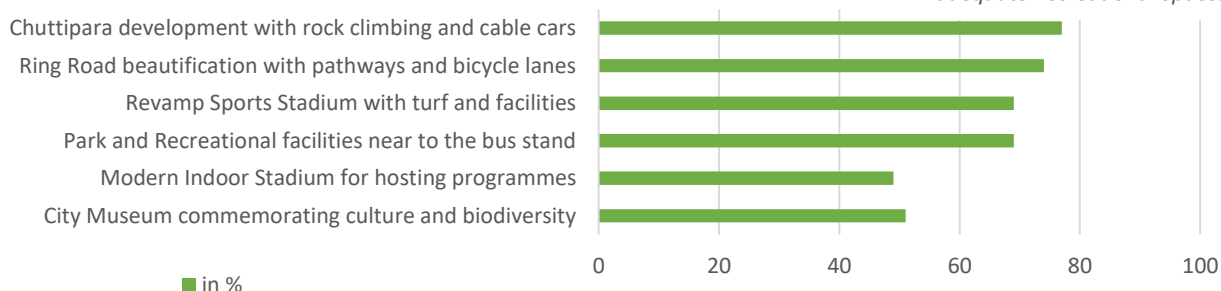


Figure 13: Recreational initiatives that the government must prioritize.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some recommendations for expanding recreational spaces in the town are-

A. **Infrastructural**

1. *Parks and Green Spaces*
2. *Open Gyms and Walkways*
3. *Sports Facilities*
4. *Cultural Centres*

B. **Implementational**

1. *Government Schemes*
2. *Land Availability*
3. *Funding*

A. **Infrastructural**

1. **Parks and Green Spaces |**

A park for all ages is pivotal to cater to the town's recreational needs. One that is centrally located and has ample space to cater to adults, the geriatric, children, and PwDs would be ideal. Security and safety measures must be ensured which can also facilitate in promoting an active nightlife. The town possesses a children's playground, situated at one of the busiest spots there. This could be transferred to a quieter area, or be supplemented with an additional park. Revamping Subala park and setting up boating facilities must also be a priority.

Proximity to green spaces and its size are important factors that determine a park's success. For instance, studies have indicated a strong positive correlation between park proximity and active recreational participation (Kaczynski and Henderson, 2007), including that of young girls (Cohen et al., 2006) and the elderly (Mowen et al., 2007). Also, a large, quality park is more successful in attracting adults than several small, average ones or even pocket parks (Sugiyama et al., 2010; Francis et al., 2012). Similarly, integrating, kids' playgrounds, and sports courts with the parks can raise interactions among different age groups, increase physical activities, and reduce perceived security threats related to isolated green spaces (Shores and West, 2008; Godbey, 2009).

Chuttipara hill Development

The town is endowed with a scenic hill; Chuttipara, right at its center. It stands at an elevation of ~142m above sea level and offers excellent vantage points for overlooking the town. Despite this, it has been underdeveloped, although plans for a 40m high Ayyappan statue, along with beautification works, are in the pipeline.¹⁰ Due to its wide popularity, even among survey respondents, it has the potential to be further developed as a long-term BOT project with cable cars, stalls, cafes, and leisure activities like rock climbing, taking the nearby Jatayu rock as inspiration.

"Chuttipara is a great spot for leisure, tourism and to enjoy a steady breeze in the evenings by residents. Several plans have been discussed, like cable cars, but few have progressed."

– Former Municipal Member



¹⁰ Hiran, U. 2023. "Chuttipara all set to get facelift." *The Hindu*, February 04. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/chuttipara-all-set-to-get-facelift/article66471179.ece>.

2. Open Gyms and Walkways |

As the town prepares itself for its geriatric population, the adoption of open gyms and pedestrian pathways can be a crucial strategy to increase their fitness levels and public participation. Such gyms must be placed at a walkable distance, preferably 15 minutes or 300-500 m away, within high-density residential areas, and equipped with geriatric-friendly designs such as ramps, signage, non-slip floors, shaded benches, well-lit pathways, and so on. It is also noticed that users of open gyms with fewer spectators were more comfortable working out due to a reduced fear of judgement.¹¹ For it to succeed, creating a culture of fitness initially among the populace may be a crucial strategy. For this, the town can arrange timely transportation and tie-up with NCCs or other non-profit organizations to prepare and guide exercise routines.

150 mins/ week

As per WHO (2020) recommendations, an adult requires a minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity per week to stay healthy.



Walking trails and cycling lanes are also successful measures, and the proposed Kodumon plantation-Nedumpara hill station cycling trail (Somarajan, 2022) would bode well in this regard. The upcoming ring road beautification project in the town can also go a long way in building healthy habits like walking and jogging among inhabitants, and may be further developed with bicycle lanes, open gyms, pocket parks and a designated space for street vendors.

3. Sports Facilities |

The municipality can construct facilities for badminton and football, for which the survey revealed considerable interest. The current stadium may be upgraded by making it weatherproof and providing turf, synthetic tracks, and basic amenities. Similarly, an adjoining indoor space to cater to sports like table tennis, badminton, and basketball would be optimal. The municipality can charge a nominal usage fee to make the facility a self-sustaining economic model.

4. Cultural Centres |

Being the administrative capital, the town lacks any significant cultural or historical spaces within its precincts. The cultural and eco-tourism sites around the town attract significant footfalls which is expected to rise with the upcoming Sabarimala airport (~35 km away) and the proposed Sabari rail network. Innovative attractions may be formed to pull some of that traffic into the town.

¹¹ BBC. 2019. "The cities designing playgrounds for the elderly." <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20191028-the-cities-designing-playgrounds-for-the-elderly>.

Pathanamthitta's lush biodiversity and history could attract travellers, culture enthusiasts, and even NRIs¹² who would like to know more about their native land. Some suggestions in this regard are-

- An engaging community space at its center like an open-air theatre (OAT) or indoor auditorium for hosting programs would be befitting. This would also reduce public dependence on the municipal sports stadium.
- A city museum commemorating the history, culture and biodiversity of the district would do wonders for the town. This could also be a simple gallery that expounds on notable personalities, freedom fighters, cultural practices, royal history and patronages of the district.
- Tourist circuit packages, entertainment, and accommodation facilities could be created to encourage visitors, tourists, and pilgrims to explore the town. These can be potential revenue streams that the municipality can capitalize on. For instance, higher pedestrian numbers generate higher revenue for businesses, increasing economic activity in the region.
- An information facilitation centre in the town could be beneficial for town visitors, pilgrims and the locals, who are unaware of notable places to visit there. This information desk can help market and publicize Pathanamthitta better and promote the proposed general museum in the same vicinity. The need for such an information centre was also highlighted among survey respondents and during stakeholder interactions. Once built, the isolated DTPC centre at Kozhencherry, which is 12 km away, can be shifted here.



Figure 14: The tourist facilitation centre at Kozhencherry, 12 kms from the town.

B. Implementational

1. Government Schemes |

Several government schemes may be availed for implementing recreation-based projects that can involve departments like tourism, sports, housing, forest, cultural, roads and also health. Some such schemes are-

- | | |
|--|---|
| • <i>Nagar Van Yojana</i> : City parks creation. | • <i>PRASHAD Scheme</i> : Pilgrimage tourism. |
| • <i>National Mission for a Green India (GIM)</i> : Tree cover increase. | • <i>Vayojana Park Program</i> : Parks for the elderly. |
| • <i>AMRUT Scheme</i> : Green spaces and Parks creation. | • <i>Museum Grant Scheme</i> : Setting-up museums. |
| • <i>Khelo India Scheme</i> : Playfield development. | • <i>MPLADS & MLASDF</i> : MP and MLA funds for development projects. |

¹² NRIs make up a significant proportion of the district's population, of about 7%, more than 50% of whom migrate to Gulf countries (PTLSGDP, 2023).

- *Building Grants, including Studio Theatres Scheme: Cultural spaces' creation.*
- *Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY): Parks for the elderly.*
- *MGNREGS: Asset creation.*
- *[Urban Infrastructure Development Fund \(UIDF\)](#): Low-cost Loans.*
- *Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Tourism promotion.*

Similarly, several models for implementation may be explored. For instance, the Kariavattom sports hub in Thiruvananthapuram is a successful PPP model built in association with the Kerala government using a DBOT (Design, Build, Operate and Transfer) format. Bhubaneswar's B-Active project is also an inspiring one due to its steadfast executions and positive outcomes, wherein the city develops public open spaces prioritising playgrounds, parks, open gyms, and so on.¹³

2. Land Availability |

Availing land is a major hurdle for such projects. Although Pathanamthitta town has a little over 10% of its land under wet lands, several plots lie vacant due to the relatively moderate population density of the municipality. Some locational suggestions are as follows-

- Jogging and walking pathways along the ring road and on the road (QRS side) from Azhoor junction to Kaysons fuels.
- *Possible Park sites:* The land on the road behind the government hospital (currently a garbage dump), the land between the Malayala Manorama office and Muthoot hospital, the land opposite to the QRS outlet, the one opposite the Malabar gold showroom and lastly the land around the municipal bus stand may be considered.
- *Possible Auditorium sites:* The Sabarimala pilgrim shelter area (behind SP office) and the vacant court complex land at Vettipuram are options.
- *Ward Priority:* As per the given figures and data, parks and open gyms may be prioritised in wards on the basis of-

- Geriatric Presence:** 14 wards in the town have high geriatric presence (above 20%), of which ward nos. 11, 15, 27 and 29 have the highest proportion (above 25%) (Prasad et al., 2020).

Town Overview¹⁴- II

Total Area- 5798.7 acre

Land Distribution-

Wet lands: 11%

Dry lands: 82%

Purampokku lands: 6%



Educational Institutions-

*Schools (public and private):
Over 50 (LP, UP, HS, SS, HSS
& VHSE)*

Vocational institutes: 3

Colleges: 1

Housing-

Residential houses: 12129

*Non-Residential houses:
2184*

¹³ Mishra, Sandip. 2023. "B-Active: A BDA Initiative to Revive City's Playgrounds." *TOI*, November 26. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/b-active-a-bda-initiative-to-revive-citys-playgrounds/articleshow/105000606.cms>; Smart Cities Council (2019), "Bhubaneswar's B-Active Project to Improve Public Open Spaces," <https://www.smartcitiescouncil.com/article/bhubaneswars-b-active-project-improve-public-open-spaces>.

¹⁴ As per [DES, 2011](#).

b. Population Density: Chuttippara East (7205 pp sq. km) and Pattamkulam (6187 pp sq. km) have the highest population densities in the town, while 1/3rd of the total population is concentrated in 8 wards of nos. 9, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 31 (PTLSGDP, 2023).

c. Flood Incidence: While 11 wards were mostly affected by flooding, highest flood levels were reported at Valamchuzhy, Azhoor West, Kallarakadavu, College ward, Azhoor and Town ward (red zone) (Murshid A., 2020).

- Other possibilities for land include spaces lying vacant, unused or underused like infill areas, donated lands, abandoned structures, unauthorised car parking areas, waste dumps, under the flyover and dried-up water bodies.

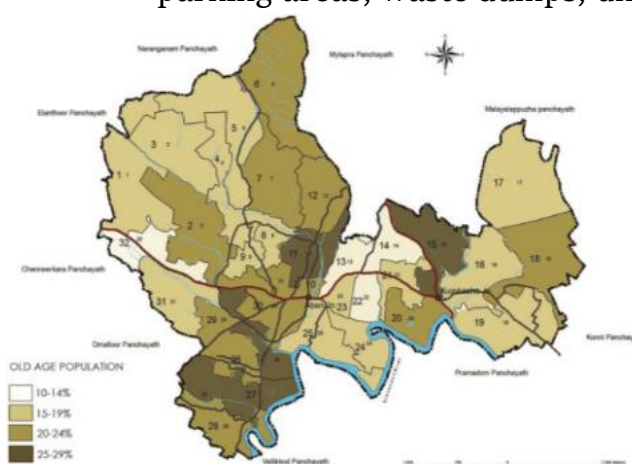


Figure 15: Map showing Ward-wise proportion of Geriatric population in the town (Prasad et al., 2020).

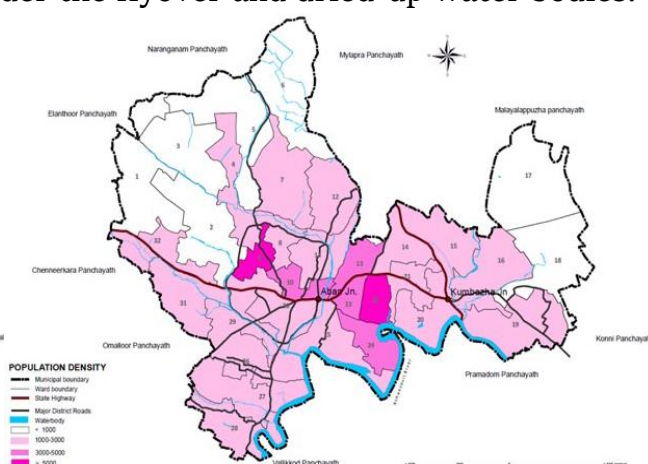


Figure 16: Map showing Ward-wise Population density in the town (PTLSGDP, 2023).

3. Funding |

To raise funds for such recreational projects, the cash-strapped municipality can borrow from the bond market through tax-free municipal bonds or even green bonds. This could also be done through pooled financing by grouping with smaller urban local bodies (ULBs) that have similar plans in order to improve overall creditworthiness. Community investment schemes that target the sizeable NRI and NORKA populations may also be envisaged. Pilgrim taxes, land leases and optimizing user charges from EV charging, waste management, advertisements and parking are other options. The city could also benefit long-term from tourism and job growth in the manufacturing and service industries by investing in branding initiatives that highlight it as Kerala's pilgrim capital along with its natural and cultural diversity.

Why Credit Rating?

In order to access the market for debt financing, ULBs need to maintain a balanced or surplus budget. This is not the case for most bodies which results in insufficient credit ratings. Ways to improve them are-

- ✓ Increasing own-revenue creation.
- ✓ Performing uniform accounting practices.
- ✓ Fiscal management.
- ✓ External audits.



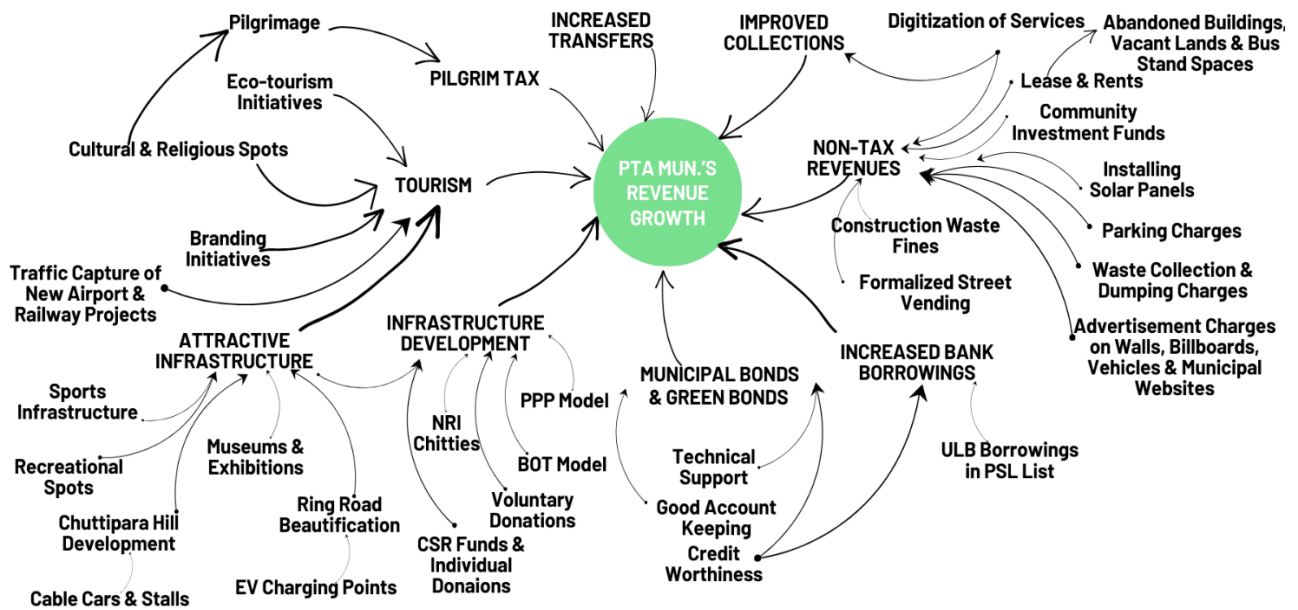


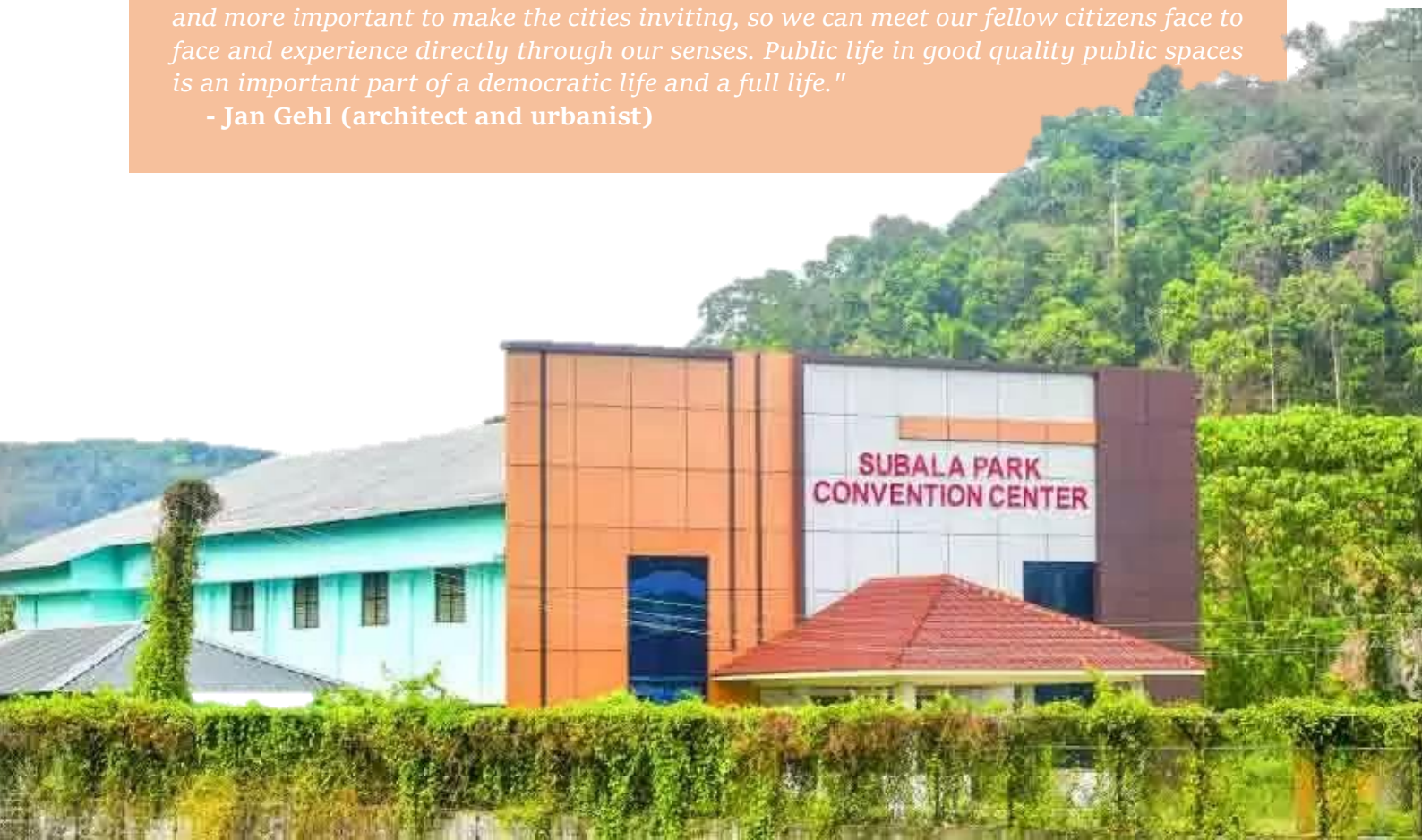
Figure 17: Loop Diagram on Improving Pathanamthitta Town Municipality's Revenue.

CONCLUSION

While there is a lot of interest today in smart cities, smaller towns like Pathanamthitta get overlooked in the development process. More than land, funds, or capacity, a will to foster the development of the city is crucial. With citizen participation, the government's support, and political cooperation, a lot can be achieved to make Pathanamthitta town a memorable one to live in and visit.

"In a Society becoming steadily more privatized with private homes, cars, computers, offices and shopping centers, the public component of our lives is disappearing. It is more and more important to make the cities inviting, so we can meet our fellow citizens face to face and experience directly through our senses. Public life in good quality public spaces is an important part of a democratic life and a full life."

- Jan Gehl (architect and urbanist)



ABBREVIATIONS

AMRUT	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation	NORKA	Non-Resident Keralites Affairs
BOT	Build Operate Transfer	NRIs	Non-Resident Indians
DTPC	District Tourism Promotion Council	PPP	Public Private Partnership
EV	Electric Vehicle	PRASHAD	Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive
HS	High Schools	PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
HSS	Higher Secondary Schools	RBI	Reserve Bank of India
IN	India	SS	Senior Secondary
LP	Lower Primary	ULBs	Urban Local Bodies
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	UP	Upper Primary
MLASDF	Members of Legislative Assembly Special Development Fund	VHSE	Vocational Higher Secondary Education
MPLADS	Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	WHO	World Health Organization
NCCs	National Cadet Corps		

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