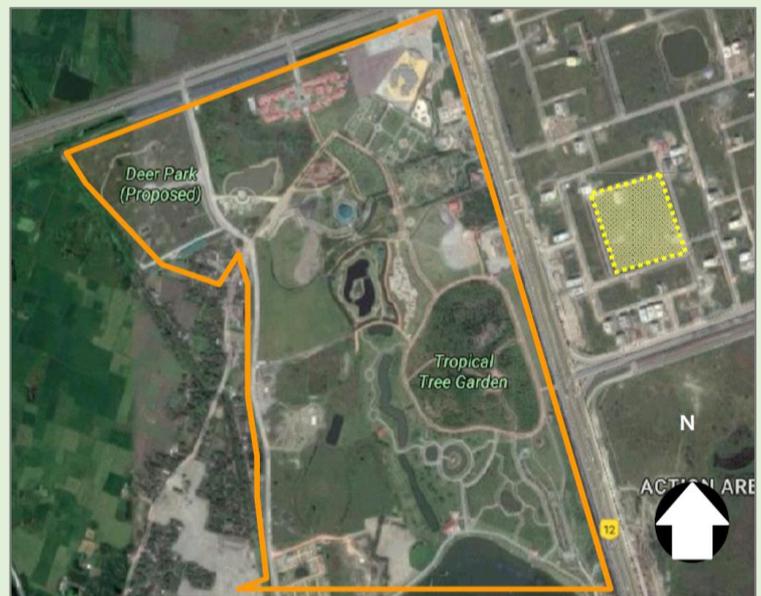


Smart Sensory Park in New Town Action Area I

A smart city is incomplete without being inclusive, and an inclusive smart city prioritizes its people. Innovative technology applications can ensure that smart cities are inclusive and friendly, especially towards vulnerable population groups, such as the elderly (who often have limited mobility), people with disabilities, and children. As a smart city committed to enhancing liveability for all its citizens, New Town Kolkata too envisages to make the township an inclusive one by introducing several features, keeping in mind the vulnerable population groups.

One such feature that New Town plans to introduce is a Smart Sensory Park on a 2.5 acre of land in Action Area II. Located a block away from Biswa Bangla Sarani, opposite Eco Park, the Sensory Park is conceptualized as a part of the green recreational belt of the township and is envisioned to be for children, including differently abled ones. Thus, Smart Sensory Park, is New Town's significant statement about the society's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and a child's as well as adult's right to play.



Satellite image of the location selected for Sensory Park

The Park Blueprint



The visitor circulation within the park will be designed in a way such that it offers surprise discoveries for children at every turn, with play areas on the periphery of the park.

The key highlight of the park, which is sensory experience, is planned to begin with a series of interlocked hexagonal galleries, with two vestibules, and merging into a break-out zone, featuring a 'garden bridge' and ending the journey on a food court and an event amphitheatre.

The 'garden bridge' is envisioned to be an SPA bridge connecting the two land masses on either side of an irregular-shaped waterbody within the park. This feature will add to the surprise discovery process for kids, thus enhancing the visitor experience as well as augmenting the park's beauty.

Key Features of the Smart Sensory Park

- Physical outdoor spaces aimed at improving motor, language, social, and even language skills of the visiting kids:
 - Sandpit and fossil dig area
 - Playhive and driftwood climb
 - Boulder scramble
 - Balloon forest
 - Jungle Camp site
 - Water and Sand pit
 - Slide valleys and swing



Entrance to the Sensory Park, as visualized by architect



Sandpit and fossil dig area as visualized by architect



Balloon forest as visualized by architect

- Semi-outdoor sensory galleries with interactive and information-based experience treated with sympathetic texture, installation sculptures, and thematic consoles.
- Smart Sensors, such as motion detector LED sensors, motion detectors, rumble strips at path nodes, automatic sliding door sensors, sensor aids for easy navigation, file reader access control system
- Barrier-free elements, such as wheelchair station, digital companion, Braille plaque, navigation signs, no angular corners, rumble street on path, public address system, skid-free floor, easy ramps
- Gift shop and food court
- Waiting gazebos at the centre
- Audio visual explanation right at the entrance



Sensory gallery area as visualized by architect

Key Benefits of the initiative

- The physical outdoor spaces are aimed at improving motor, language, social, and even language skills of the visiting kids
- The park's barrier-free design, with provision for wheel station and movement, Braille plaque, etc., makes it easy for the differently abled people to explore and enjoy the park
- Audio visual elements add to the smart feature of the park, making for easy comprehension of the park's features.

Conclusion

As mentioned right at the outset, a smart city is incomplete without being inclusive. Therefore, New Town Kolkata, as a smart city, is pledged to improve the quality of life for all its citizens, including senior citizens and those differently abled, thus striking a note of inclusiveness within its smart features. Therefore, the upcoming Smart Sensory Park, with all its features and innovative components, is a robust testimony to the township's commitment towards inclusion, and becoming a stellar model of an inclusive smart city.