



# The Urban Revamp

## Design Challenge Brief

October 2021 - Jan 2022

Image credits: ITDP

Organised by:



sensinglocal

Partners:



# Premise

*Public spaces act as hubs for activities through interaction points, resting spaces, play areas; they offer breathing lungs to the city by offering space for biodiversity for mutual benefit to all; they offer an opportunity in the improvement of the quality of life and the image of the city; and offer opportunities for cultural activities and historical preservation.<sup>1</sup>*

A common scenario experienced by rapidly urbanising Indian cities today is that, **irrespective of their geographical location, level of development and state of economic stability, the quality of life in the public realm is extremely poor.** In addition, the dominant planning and architectural ideologies of the past gave priority and shifted their focus to individual buildings, while ignoring and giving low priority to public spaces and pedestrian movement. The result of these two factors has been that the role a city was/is supposed to play, i.e. to provide a healthy lifestyle and livelihood to its urban dwellers and visitors, is being compromised by the day, or by the second in India's context.<sup>2</sup>

The public spaces and the public realm in Bengaluru weren't planned, designed and created from scratch either. They were an outcome of ad hoc and personality-oriented ideologies and visions (for example, the network of lakes or the large parks like Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh or the neighbourhood parks, etc.). **However, one of the most prominent of the public spaces in Bengaluru is the street that connects these public spaces.** It is where most of the human activities happen, and they are the most under designed spaces where the pedestrian is always vulnerable.

1. K.Nanda (2019), Does the provision of well-designed public spaces lead to positive city development in India? The University of Edinburgh, pg.3

2. Gehl, J. (2010), Cities for people. Washington, DC: Island Press.







***This begs the question:***

***What makes great public spaces and how can we realise them in our cities?***



Two approaches help answer this question: placemaking and place-keeping.

**Place-making** is the transformation of public spaces to create active neighbourhoods that are inclusive, vibrant, and liveable. It strongly relies on community participation to reimagine and reinvent public spaces with a focus on aspects such as access, connections, activities, image, comfort, and social interaction. Placemaking activities range from public space design, tactical urban interventions to activation events that strengthen the connection between people and place.

**Place-keeping** is an idea that has emerged as a counter and sometimes even as a complementary idea to Place-making. It emphasises the preservation of the culture, economy, activities, and people that are already part of the place. It asserts that public spaces already harbour many uses and users and therefore do not need to be “made” anew, but rather, have to be “kept” well. Place-keeping fosters the active care and maintenance of the place and its social fabric through not just infrastructure and public space improvements, but also through social programs, governance, funding and evaluation.

# 2 Opportunity



In March this year, the **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** announced that it would create **1000 kilometres of walkable footpaths** in the city, resulting in the improvement of at least 5 kilometres in each ward.<sup>3</sup> In order to leverage this, several of the city's ward committees have initiated the identification of their priority network that they would like to see transformed. **The unique opportunity through this has been to push the boundaries beyond basic infrastructural change and reimagine public spaces along this network that transforms the public realm at the neighbourhood scale.**

3. "BBMP: Prime focus on zonal decentralisation as BBMP presents Rs 9,287.81 crore budget", Indian Express, 27 March 2021,

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/prime-focus-on-zonal-decentralisation-as-bbmp-presents-rs-9287-81-crore-budget-7248149/>

# 3 Challenge

This design challenge has been conceived by Young Leader for Active Citizenship (YLAC), Sensing Local and Janaagraha and is being conducted in partnership with Doddanekundi Rising and Banaswadi Rising. We invite proposals to reimagine two typical neighbourhood scale public spaces in two wards of Bengaluru - Doddanekundi (ward 85) and Banaswadi (ward 27).

The site in **Doddanekundi** builds on the idea of place-keeping where the aim is to strengthen the cultural grain of an 'urban village'<sup>4</sup> amidst a rapidly urbanising fabric, through designing a shared public space that can be used by two disparate groups of residents in the neighbourhood (the locals and the migrants).

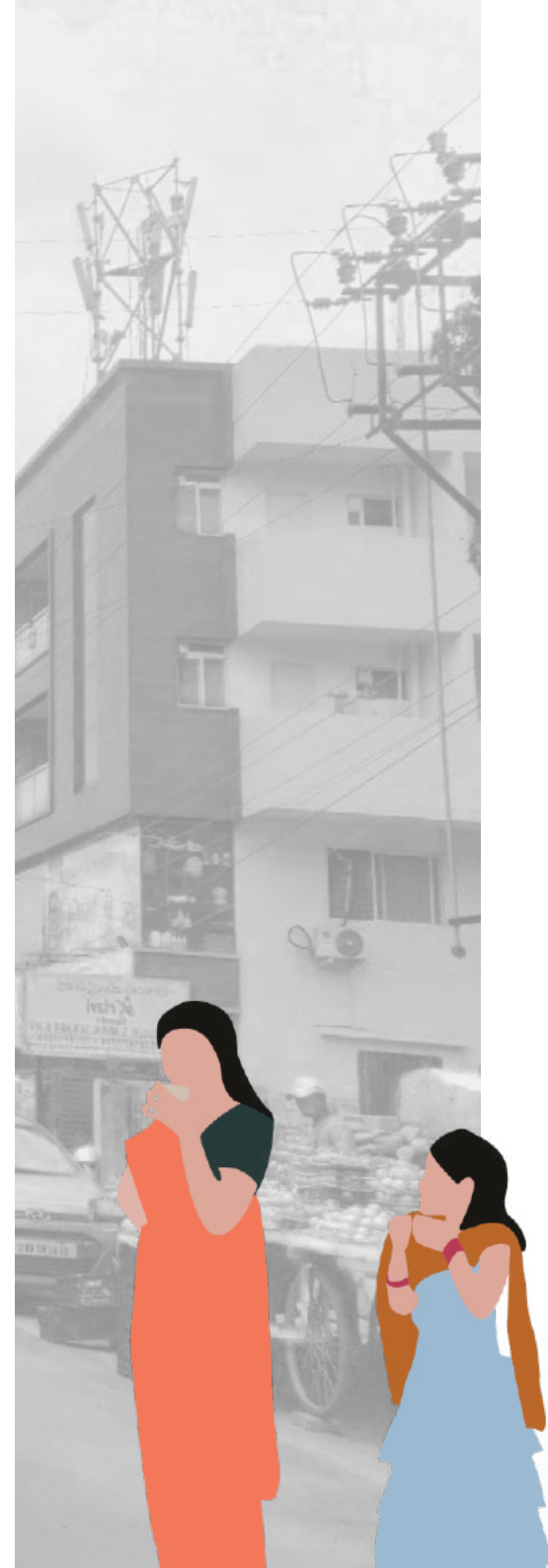
And the other site in **Banaswadi** builds on the idea of place-making where the aim is to revamp a long defunct buffer space on either side of a rajakaluve<sup>5</sup> - an 'urban void'<sup>6</sup>, and design it to become more functional and usable by the residents of a neighbourhood.

In order to ensure that the design proposals are inclusive and take into account the on-ground needs, **participants will be required to attend a participatory visioning workshop with residents of both neighbourhoods and use the insights from the workshop to inform their proposals.**

4. 'Urban village' refers to a pattern wherein the city engulfs indigenous, formerly rural villages. These villages continue to exist within the city, where it is then common to find complex mosaics of high rise apartments with software engineers next to rural huts with livestock (Narain, V.; Nischal, S, 2007). The dichotomous approach of the urban vs. rural classification breaks down in such contexts.

5. 'Rajakaluves' are man-made streams or storm water drains that connect lakes to each other and form a crucial part of Bengaluru's hydrological system.

6. 'Urban voids' are undesirable urban areas that are in need of redesign, anti-space, making no positive contribution to the surroundings or users. They are ill-defined, without measurable boundaries and fail to connect elements in a coherent way. However, these spots offer huge opportunities for urban redevelopment, creative refill, adaptive reuse and potential discovery. (Trancik, 1986:p.12)



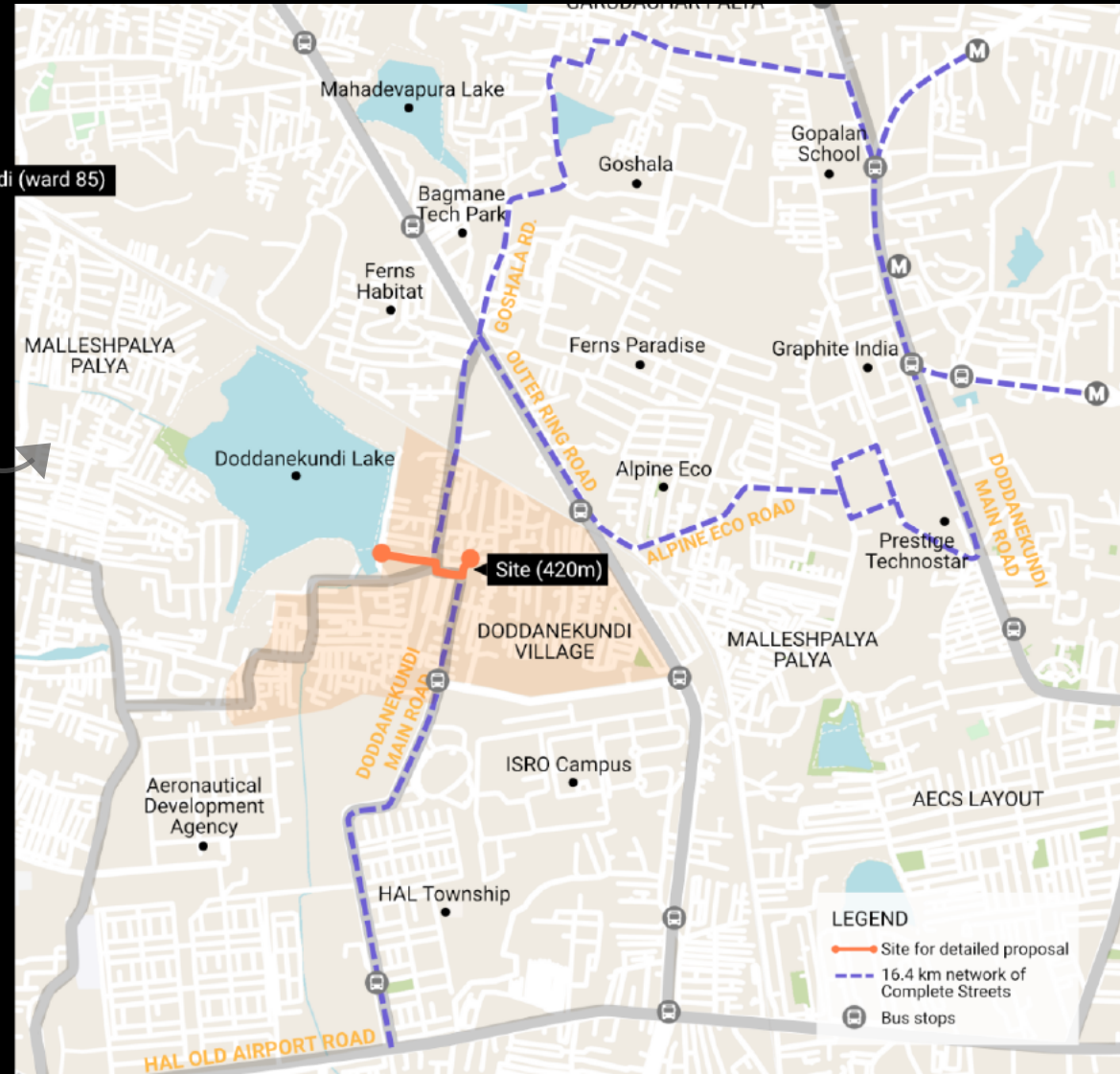
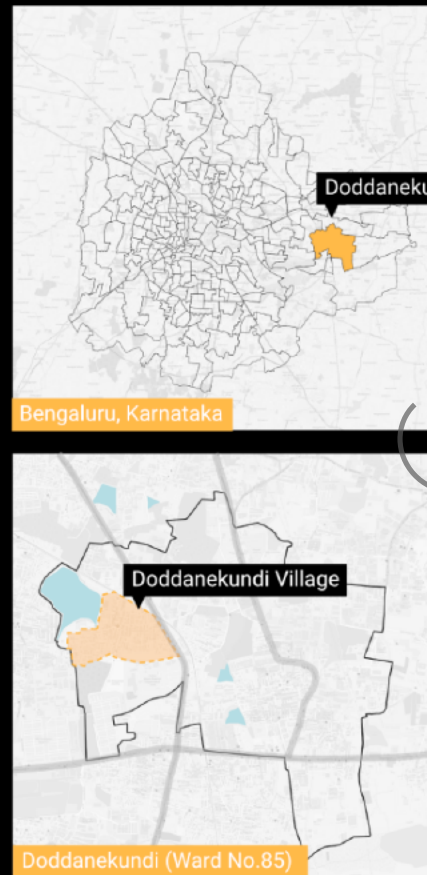


# 4 Location and Site Conditions

## Site 1: Urban Village | Doddanekundi Village

The selected site is a 420m active public realm that is a part of a larger proposed 16.4km 'complete street' network that aids walking, cycling and access to public transport in Doddanekundi ([www.suma-doddanekundi.in](http://www.suma-doddanekundi.in)). It forms the main street of Doddanekundi Village that connects the neighbourhood's key landmarks that are frequented by different groups of people.

Doddanekundi Village, our first site, is an Urban Village located in **Doddanekundi (ward 85)**. This ward is located in the Mahadevapura Zone to the east of Bengaluru and has an area of 12.12 sq.km. and a population of 63,083<sup>7</sup>. At present, about 65% of the ward is residential; 25% is Industrial; and 10% is public spaces. Doddanekundi Village is one of the key residential neighbourhoods in the Ward that abuts the Outer Ring Road and is surrounded by industrial areas and IT Parks including Doddanekundi Industrial Area and Bagmane Tech Park.







1 Doddanekundi Lake



2 Road going towards Doddanekundi Lake



3 Doddanekundi Main Road



4 Doddanekundi Village Square

### Site location

Doddanekundi Main Road,  
Doddanekundi Village

### Length of road

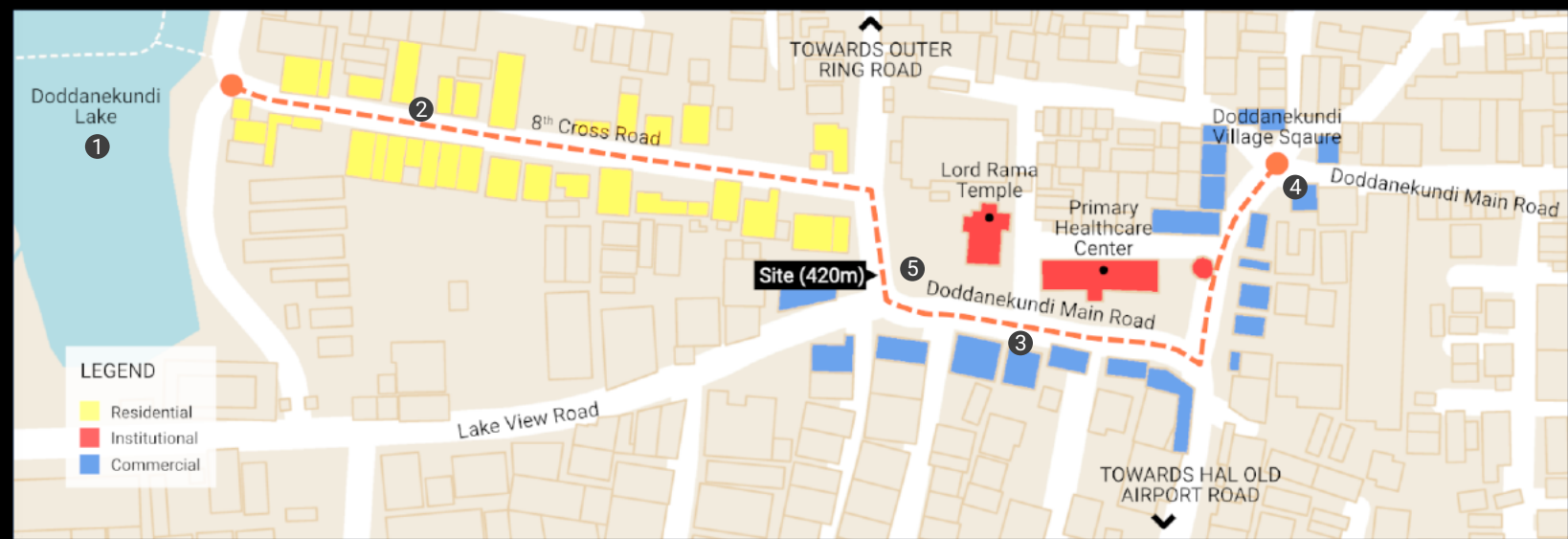
420 m

### Key land uses

Residential, Commercial  
(shops, vendors), Lake,  
Public and Semi-public  
(temples, primary health  
care center)

### Key landmarks

Doddanekundi Lake, Lord  
Rama Temple, Primary  
Health Care Center,  
Doddanekundi Village  
Square







**Doddanekundi Lake Entrance:** Doddanekundi Lake, which is Bengaluru's third largest lake, is of ecological and cultural significance to the village but has become overrun with weeds and sewage and is in urgent need of rejuvenation. The Challenge site includes the Entrance to the Doddanekundi Lake, which is currently accessible by a bridge that cuts across a Rajakaluve.



**Lord Rama Temple:** The Lord Rama Temple is a major hub during the "Ooru Habba" or the village festival, which is held annually during RamNavami to honour local deities. The village is adorned with flowers, colourful fabrics, lights and banners during the 11- days festival. The Rama Temple also attracts devotees all year long.



**The "Village Square":** Formerly, this wide junction was a bus depot, but currently, it has haphazard vehicular movement and parking. During the Ooru Habba, shops, games and entertainment stalls are set up at the square as part of the "Jaathre" or fair. Notably, a 13<sup>th</sup> Century inscription stone was found in Doddanekundi and has the potential to be housed here.<sup>8</sup>



**The Commercial Spine:** The entire length of the Doddanekundi Main Road brims with commercial activities. Shops, cafes, darshinis and vendors selling all kinds of food, household goods, hardware and other essential items line the street and frequently occupy the footpath.

## Brief:

For this site, we invite proposals that use the principles of **place-keeping** to design interventions along the main street of Doddanekundi Village in a way that negotiates between contrasting groups of residents in the neighbourhood – the long-term residents who continue to preserve the culture of the place and the IT Sector employees who have contributed to its economy.

The design intervention must accommodate diverse spatial, social and cultural needs and enhance spaces for existing activities such as commercial enterprises (shops, vendors), cultural activities (Ooru Habba or village festival), transportation (vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, public transport) and also build coherence, connectivity and activation of key nodes along the route including the Doddanekundi Lake, the Lord Rama Temple and the Doddanekundi Village Square.

8. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2021/aug/05/13th-century-inscription-stone-lies-neglected-on-doddanekundi-roadside-2340345.html>

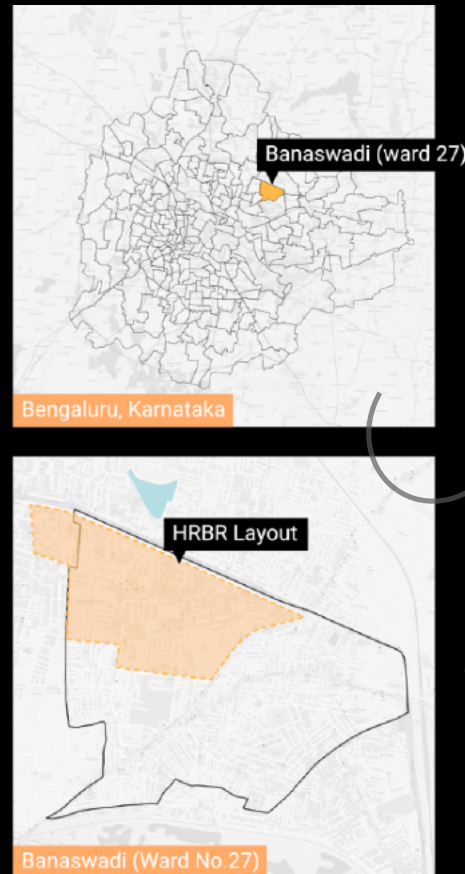


# 4b Location and Site Conditions

## Site 2: Urban Void | 8<sup>th</sup> Main, HRBR Layout, Banaswadi

The site for the design challenge is a **410m stretch** (inclusive of both sides) along two streets of length 900m each that run on either side of the Banaswadi Raja Kaluve. These quiet, shaded avenues are key green spaces that draw joggers, walkers, cyclists and children from surrounding neighbourhoods. These streets also integrate into a **5 kilometer network** that is being identified as a priority route for BBMP's initiative to implement infrastructure that improves walkability.

The second site is an Urban Void located along a Rajakaluve in **Banaswadi (ward 27)**. This ward is located in BBMP's Bangalore East Zone and has an area of 3.4 sq.km. and a population of 51,268<sup>9</sup>. At present, about 49% of the ward is residential; 10% is commercial and; 4% is parks; and 4% is public/semi-public landuse. The ward has prominent educational institutions such as CMR College, and several commercial spines that have supermarkets, large restaurants, darshinis, and hardware stores. The Banaswadi Main Road is also a major traffic route that cuts across the neighbourhood and connects to the Outer Ring Road.



9. As per Census 2011





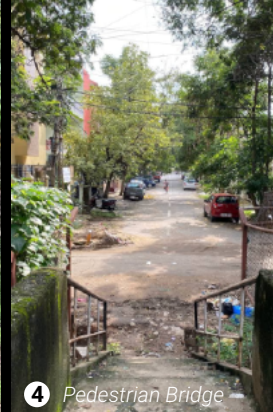
1 8th Main - West Road



2 Rajakaluve



3 Pedestrian Bridge



4 Pedestrian Bridge



5 8th Main - East Road

### Site location

8th Main HRBR Layout,  
Banaswadi

### Length of road

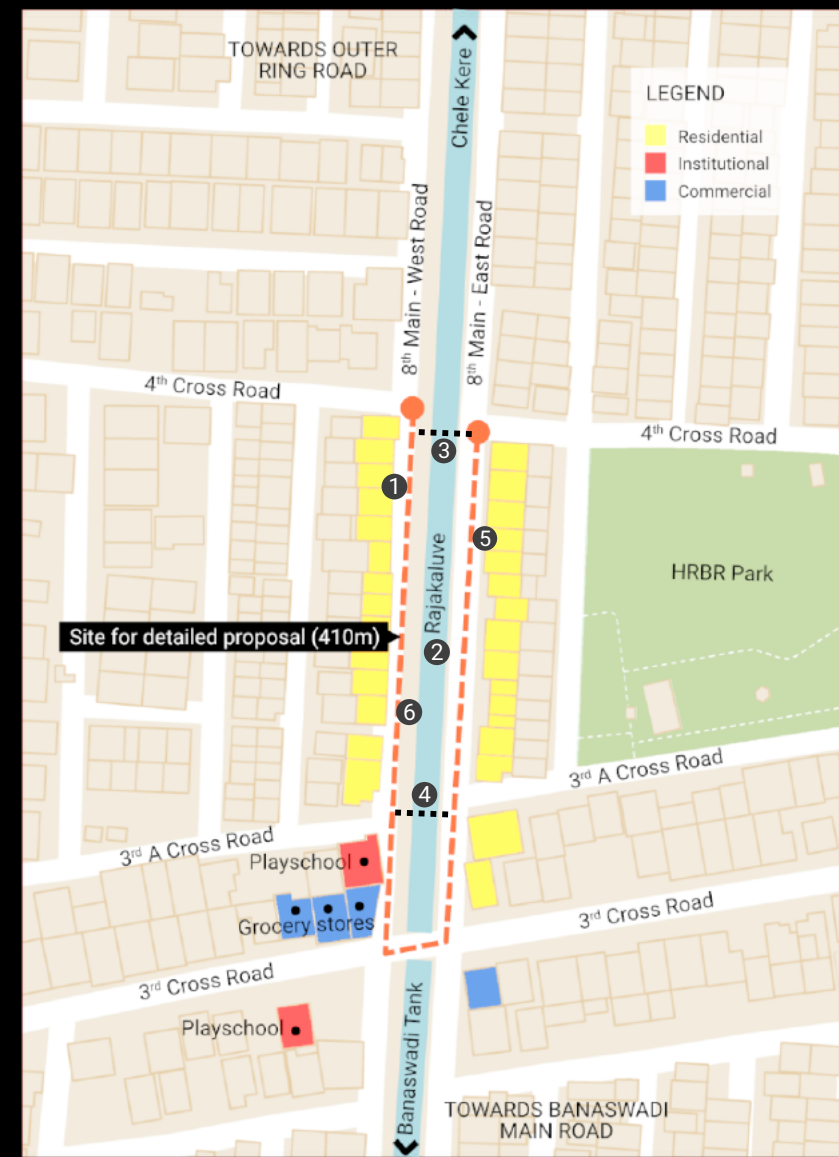
1800m schematic masterplan  
410m detailed proposal

### Key land uses

Residential, Rajakaluve,  
Playschools

### Current users

Walkers, joggers, cyclists,  
neighbourhood residents,  
children, playschool children,  
car and bike showroom test  
drivers





## Brief:

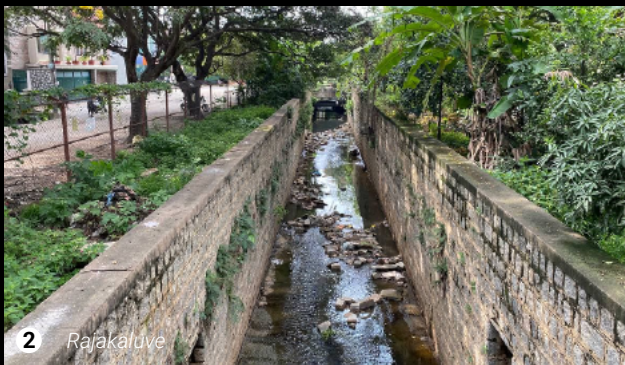
We invite proposals that use the principles of **place-making** to reimagine the street on either side of the Rajakaluve by reclaiming the green buffer areas adjoining it, as well as parts of the road in order to accommodate diverse activities that make it inclusive, vibrant, and livable. Participants must propose a schematic masterplan 1800m loop of streets along the Rajakaluve and provide detailed designs for the 410m indicated.

Design proposals must encourage neighbourhood-residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to use and activate this space for a range of activities including but not limited to rest, recreation, play, and cultural activities.

The proposal must also illustrate possible pathways towards reclaiming Rajakaluves across Bangalore as part of the public commons while also creating strategies to conserve it.



**The Raja Kaluve:** This concreted storm water drain that runs dry through most parts of the year connects the Chele Kere to the now-defunct Banaswadi Tank. A 2-meter-wide buffer zone adjacent to the canal, which is currently fenced off and defunct but can be reclaimed to create publicly accessible activity zones.



**Pedestrian bridges:** These are spaced at regular intervals along the Raja Kaluve and allow pedestrians to cross to either side. They form key connections that are frequently used by pedestrians but currently have poor streetlighting, no universal accessibility and garbage dumping.



**The growing green buffer:** The tree-lined street we see today is a result of twenty years of effort during which residents have planted a variety of trees including fruit trees. Given the lack of green spaces in surrounding neighbourhoods, this road attracts adults and children from a large area who come here to walk, jog, cycle and play.



# 5 Submission Requirements



- Submissions must be legibly composed on **2 landscape - oriented A1 sheets (59.4 cm height & 84.1 cm width)** and must include an analysis of the site, detailed site master plan, concept sections, 3D views, etc. Any technique of the team's choice – sketches, diagrams, 3D visualizations, physical model photos, CAD drawings, text, walkthroughs/ videos, etc. – is acceptable to convey their ideas.
- **A 500-word (maximum word limit) summary text in english**, explaining the project idea and concept, must be included along with the A1 sheets.
- The submissions should not have any identifying markings on them and should only have the registration number given to the team.
- The submission has to be uploaded to the drive link which will be shared with the participants upon registration. The file has to be in the **High-resolution PDF format** (suitable for printing) with the registration number as the file name with the panels being titled **<Registration No>\_Panels** and the writeup as **<Registration No>\_Writeup**. Both A1 sheets must be combined into one PDF file.
- **Cover image / thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px** or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.

# 8 Teams & Registration

The competition is open to both professionals and students from the field of architecture, urban design, public space design, spatial planning and other allied fields. The entry can be submitted as a team of individuals or as a firm/office. **At least one member of the team should be residing in Bengaluru or be able to commute to Bengaluru for the public engagement events** (visioning workshop and presentation to the community, if shortlisted).

Interested teams can register through the sign up link by **Nov 21st 2021 11:59 pm**. Post registration the teams will be assigned a registration number and will **receive access to the additional materials including submission format (in PSD, Ai, Indd), Site images, KML file of site features, High Resolution Site Map and CAD file of the site**. Teams can choose to submit one entry each for both sites. Teams wishing to submit entries for both sites must register separately for each site.

[Registration link for the competition](#)



# 7 Calendar

21<sup>st</sup> November

27<sup>th</sup> November  
& 4<sup>th</sup> December

23<sup>rd</sup> December

3<sup>rd</sup> January

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
January

Mid-January

Jan 2022  
onwards

## Registration Closes

### Collaborative Visioning Workshops

The visioning workshop will enable the participants to interact with the local community to understand the problems on the ground as well as to incorporate the community's vision of their neighbourhood into their proposal. *Dates: Dodannekundi (27th Nov); Banaswadi (4th Dec)*

### Submission of entries

### Announcement of shortlisted entries

Selection of participants whose proposals would be presented to the communities.

### Presentation to the community and jurors

The second public engagement event is structured to allow the shortlisted participants to present their designs to the community and jurors who will vote for the best entries.

### Announcement of Winners

The winners will be selected based on the public feedback and evaluation of a jury of experts.

### Detailing of the proposal for budgeting

The winners of the challenge will be mentored by Janaagraha and Sensing Local in order to detail out the proposal for budgeting. They will also be supported to make a pitch to the BBMP and the Ward Committees.

# 8 Awards

The winners of the challenge will be selected based on the community and on the review of a jury of experts in the field. The winning proposals for each site will be given a prize money and will be supported by the organising team to make a pitch to the BBMP and the Ward Committees for budget allocation and implementation. All the shortlisted proposals would be receiving a special certificate.

Prize money will be awarded to the top two ideas for each site:

**First Prize: Rs. 30,000**  
**Second Prize: Rs. 20,000**