



## **Haridwar to get its first city forest along Ganga**

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Haridwar: The Uttarakhand forest department has decided to develop a city forest in Haridwar at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore within two years. The department has already identified eight hectares of land along the Ganga in the Kankhal area of the holy town for the purpose. According to the plan, the forest will have a seven-kilometre-long track for joggers, a park for kids, and a herbal medicine garden, among others.

For the past few months, the forest department has been conducting a massive plantation drive in the area.

Elaborating on the department's plans for the city forest, Neeraj Sharma, divisional forest officer, Haridwar division, told TOI, "It will be the first such project in Haridwar. The city forest will spread awareness regarding the Ganga eco-system and the biodiversity of the region among locals and tourists. The tender process for the fencing of the identified land has been completed and construction work will start soon."

He added, "The location of the city forest has been chosen strategically. It will not take much time for the locals to reach here and the forest will also be easily accessible to the tourists using the Haridwar-Delhi highway."

Entry to the city forest will be free of charge, according to the official.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/haridwar-to-get-its-first-city-forest-along-ganga/articleshow/85015086.cms>