

## Instructions

1. For the audit, visit the lakes and observe the state
2. Refer to the audit checklist below to guide you. Note/document the different parameters
3. Take photos to cover all aspects. Upload photos in this same folder. Mention the caption and the photographer name in the file name. E.g. Chikka-Ambalipura-bund-MeeraK.jpg

## Lakes in scope:

1. Sowl Kere

## Team details

Name	Email id	Phone
Shalini Susheel		
Rashmi Hari		

# Information collected

## Lake : SOWL KERE

Lake Area (in sq.km): 0.258999 sq km. ( 64 acres)

Jurisdiction: Varthur, as per the recent jurisdiction

## Context

*Sowl kere is located in between ORR and Sarjapur road and is right behind the Eco World Commercial office spaces. Downstream to Kaikondarahalli lake, it flows out to join Varthur lake, crossing the ORR near Ecospace and flooding the area, during heavy downpours.*

*Despite being surrounded on all sides by urban human settlements, it is a very dense biodiversity hotspot for resident and migratory avian life.*

## Current status of the lake

### Audit observations

Reference:  Master list of lake-assets p2.jpeg - courtesy: Nagesh Aras

	Ecological zone	
1.	Interceptor channel	yes
2.	Sluice gate at inlet and outlet	no
3.	Silt trap	yes
4.	Debris trap	no
5.	STP	Yes, 2:
6.	Wetland	Not constructed yet,internal bunds present
7.	Stabilization pond	no
8.	Lake body	yes
9.	Aerators (diffusers, pedaler, fountains)	no
10.	Bund	yes
11.	Rock lining of the bank	partly
12.	Islands	Yes one
13.	Weirs	Yes 4 inlets and 1 exit weir
14.	Borewells	2
15.	Jackwells	no

### Map

<Add link to maps / images - Map of the lake, inlet, outlet, catchment areas>

This is part of the Parappana Agrahara series and is the very last lake in the chain, before flowing out to the Varthur lake, meandering around in Bellandur area. The


catchment areas are upstream and are densely populated, without any BWSSB sewerage network: as they have been developed in haste since 2005 onwards.

The notorious flooding that takes place at Eco Space on ORR, is very unfairly attributed to this lake.

<What does satellite data tell you over the years ?

### Saul Kere in 2002

- Map shows the presence of two outlets (White Line) downstream of the Saul Kere through the command area.
- Yellow arrows represent the water flow direction.
- 1. **Waste weir Outlet** – North west corner of the Lake
- 2. **Sluice Gate Outlet** – From the north side of the Lake (center of the Lake Bund)
- These Kaluves were measured on Google earth to be approx 29 feet wide (as wide as Primary Kaluve or Raja Kaluve)



Google Earth Image - 09/2002

Bellandur Lake

29 Feet wide

Saul Kere

Kaikondrahalli Lake

### Saul Kere in 2022

- Currently, in 2022, the Waste weir (Kodi) outlet and drain is functioning (marked in Green)
- The Sluice gate outlet (marked in white) is absent.
- The yellow Arrows represent the flow direction of the drains.



Google Earth Image - 02/2022

Bellandur

Saul Kere

Kaikondrahalli

The command area has been heavily built on, and the outlet channels of the lake have been blocked, altered in direction and size , as can be seen from the two pics above,

This is specifically pertinent at the Eco Space junction....resulting in surrounding and upstream flooding.

## Development updates

### News mentions

<Check and add news articles from news sites pertaining to the Lake being in the news should be enough. Flooding related articles for Mahadevapura is one example. Also look for questions Raised in the Assembly/council>

- <https://citizenmatters.in/soul-kere-project-will-affect-biodiversity/#:~:text=Pressure%20for%20desilting%20an>
- <https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/cover-story/utilizing-excess-rainwater-to-recharge-bangalores-lakes/articleshow/109654780.cms>
- <https://citizenmatters.in/bengaluru-lakes-dry-even-in-monsoon-reasons-rainfall-sewage-siltation-borewells-solutions/>
- <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/bengaluru/wipro-springs-into-action-begins-razing-encroachments-1146580.html>
- [https://www.reddit.com/r/bangalore/comments/11q2l0p/anyone\\_aware\\_what\\_is\\_going\\_on\\_in\\_saul\\_kere\\_lake/?rdt=42948](https://www.reddit.com/r/bangalore/comments/11q2l0p/anyone_aware_what_is_going_on_in_saul_kere_lake/?rdt=42948)

### Project / Budget / Expenditure record

<Mention, dates, links, docs>

Source: BBMP Work Bill Data from 2020

Note: Sowlkere work orders that have been issued since Dec-2021

We have not been able to find specific amounts allocated to these projects

1. Maintenance budget for lake: BBMP
  - BBMP work orders worth **Rs 53.8L** have been issued for the Maintenance of **Sowlkere, Doddakannahalli Lake, and Kaikondrahalli Lake**
  - overall work orders for **Improvements/Maintenance** involving **Sowlkere** and other surrounding nearby lakes amount to **Rs 17Cr**
  - Work orders for **development** involving **Sowlkere**, and Chinnappanahalli, Panathur, Bhoganahalli, Hoodi Gaddanakeri, Varanasi, Gunjur palya lakes amount to **Rs 6.2L**
2. Deepening of the lake
3. 01 MLD STP by BBMP : in addition to the 100 KLD eco friendly STP already there

4. Widening of the inlet SWD to mitigate flooding upstream to saul kere
5. BWSSB UGD network to run along 3 bunds + locating an additional STP within the lake area
6. Pilot BWSSB initiative of channeling Terrace Rainwater harvesting to lake of surrounding commercial spaces: to reduce inflow into SWD and flooding in surrounding areas

## Community

### Stakeholder Representation

<Key challenges faced by different groups, if they have a larger presence in this Lake.>

1. Absence of MOU between volunteer Citizen groups and BBMP Lakes dept: For the past 4 years, our hands and feet have been tied without MOUs being renewed, we have not been able to contribute to the upkeep of the lake, repairs required ( as CSR led specific projects) and the lives it supports around it.
2. The lake, at present, is entirely filled with raw sewage and covered with dense hyacinth growth.  
  
There have been numerous instances of fish kills. The fishermanAnd the presence of resident and migratory birds has suffered a steep dip.
3. The diversion drain running around the periphery of the lake does not have sufficient capacity to carry the current increased volumes of sewage.
4. Encroachments around the lake fence in the Buffer Zone: these have not been addressed by the concerned govt agencies, in spite of numerous inspections initiated by the Citizen groups.

### Citizen Demands

<First hand knowledge and media reports>

1. Need MOUs renewal with Citizen Groups to protect the lake
2. Buffer zones around the lakes to be declared as "sacrosanct areas"
3. Clear encroachments in buffer zones urgently
4. 110 villages UGD/ STP project to be completed in lake buffer zone, as directed by KTCDA. (ideally should be located on civic amenities govt land only)
5. Regarding the extensive flooding in the areas surrounding Sowl kere, the topography is heavily paved and needs additional channels to carry the rainwater out of the area... instead of funneling it into Sowl kere.

## **Community Support**

<About local lake volunteers, trust etc and CSR support if any>

Mapsas Trust, a volunteer neighbourhood citizen group, has been spearheading the caring of Sowl kere, for the last 11 years.

The commercial communities around Sowl Kere are more than willing to contribute to the upkeep and nurturing of the lake. Due to the absence of the MOU, we have had to turn away a number of CSR proposals in the past 4 years.

With Sowl kere being a hotspot for birds, a keen community of bird watchers frequent the lake and keep a watch on the ongoing in the lake.