

NGOs pitch in to save Thirutheri lake

It has been handed over to local body

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Thirutheri lake, near Singaperumal Koil, which hitherto remained a waste dumping yard and is a soft target for encroachments of various kinds, has got a fresh lease of life thanks to the initiatives taken by a non-governmental organisation with financial assistance from an industrial house and approval by the Revenue Department.

This lake, situated alongside the Grand Southern Trunk Road, was all set to disappear from the public view due to the growth on its bed, garbage being strewn around, and the encroachments around it.

The local NGO, We Care Social Service Society (WCSSS), which primarily concentrated its service in HIV AIDS eradication, turned its attention towards environmental issues following the deluge in 2015 during the monsoon. Its initiative was immediately welcomed by a Rane Group unit under its corporate social responsibility scheme and by the rev-



Saplings being planted on the bund of Thirutheri lake.

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enue authorities who have embarked on the 'kudi maramathu' project to desilt and strengthen water bodies. The NGO swung into action and removed the 'seemai karuvelam' trees (*Prosopis juliflora*) from the bed and strengthened the bund using the sand scooped from the bed.

Saplings were also planted along the bund to prevent sand erosion during monsoon, said the founder-secretary, WCSSS, Francis Porsingula. The WCSSS had handed over the rejuvenated lake to the local body for maintenance on Tuesday.