

Bengaluru design for a better & liveable city

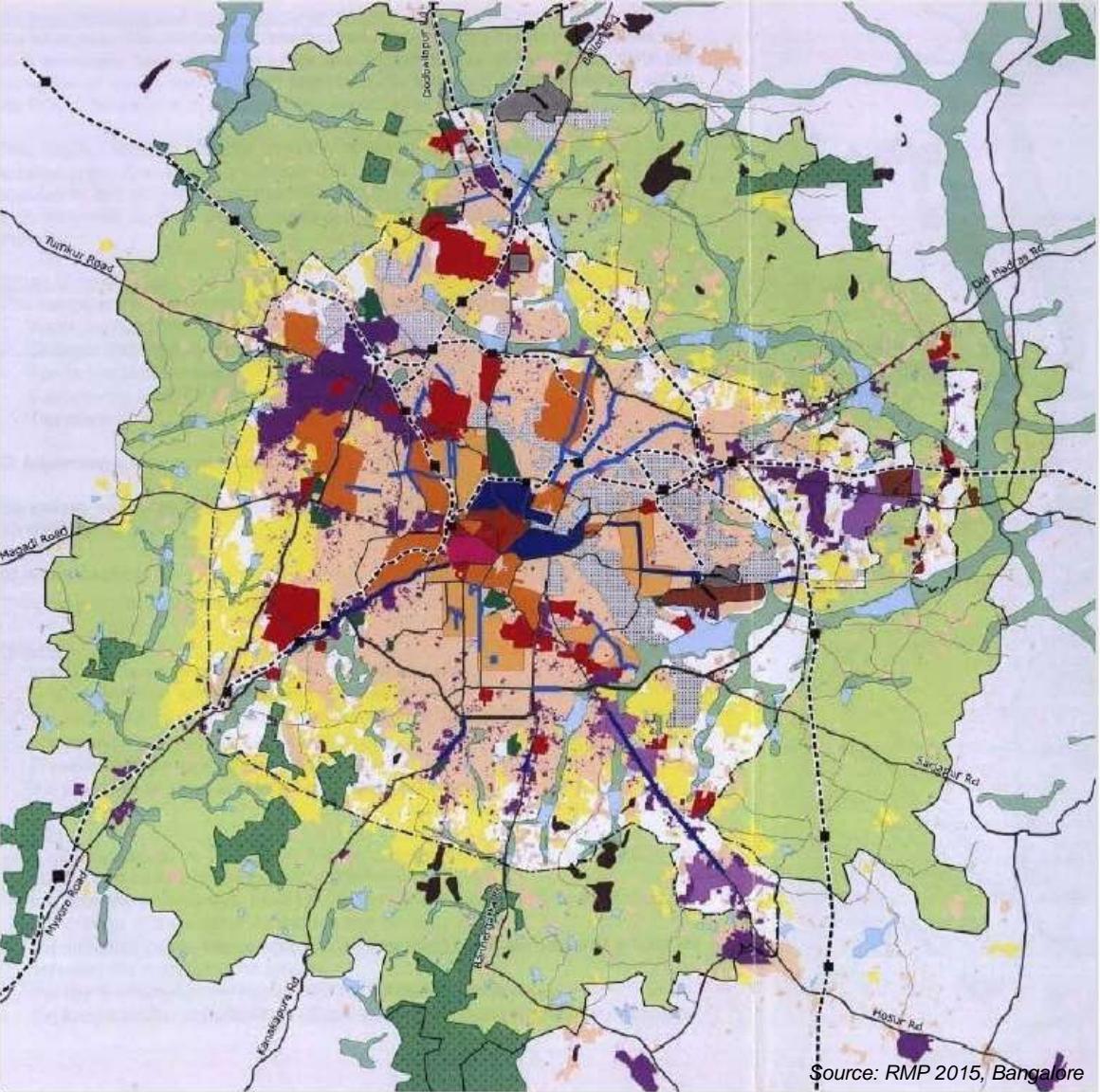


Bangalore, with its wonderful climate, for which, none of us can take credit, has two major challenges- congestion (especially vehicular) and water (both the supply of and dispersal). Drinking water from Kaveri is lifted over 3000 ft and pumped into Bangalore every day. Vehicular traffic is supposedly growing at 8% per year for which it would be absurd to widen roads by the same amount as a response.



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Bangalore/article2321347.ece>

Vehicular traffic is supposedly growing at 8% per year for which it would be absurd to widen roads by the same amount as a response. Many of these challenges are interlinked and require investigations that reveal an uncommon ground beyond statistics and open out possibilities for restructuring public space. Both physical as well as social.



Controlling Public Space MASTER PLAN / Policy / Government Order

Master plans as tools, and short term solutions such as underpasses, flyovers and road widening cannot address such challenges at a micro-level as they are about governance and control, rather than exploration and imagination.

Kasturba Road

Row of Ashoka Trees



The Old Police Station building will be affected



An old & large Ficus tree



Large Mango tree cut



Row of Champa Trees

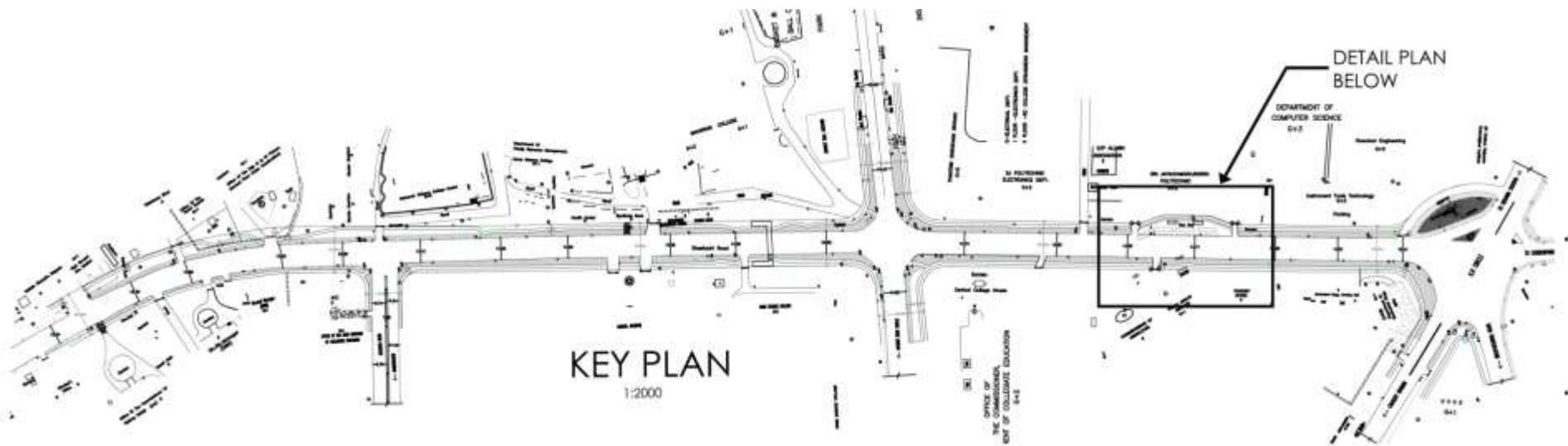


Large Peepal trees



An old Raintree



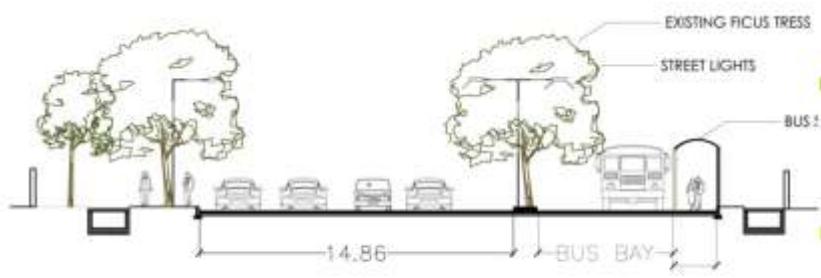


AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SHESHADRI ROAD
indicating the dense canopy formed by the multiple avenue trees



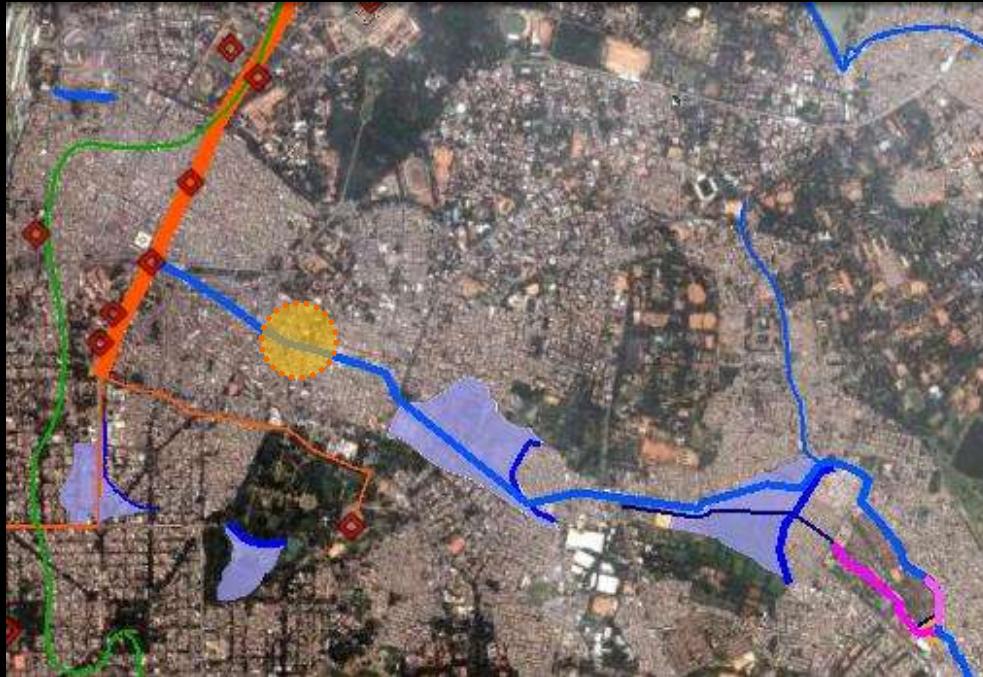
TYPICAL ROAD PLAN

with proposed walkway, cycle path and bus bays shown [scale 1:200]



TYPICAL ROAD SECTION

with proposed walkway, cycle path and bus bays shown [scale 1:200]



Our investigations so far reveal the changing nature of “public” that overlays a complex terrain that is not just geographically but also historically and anthropologically driven. While the p2p line presents a narrative supported by many heritage buildings, the nullah line represents our historic water system. These narratives can be revived, reshaped, designed with a fresh context to become the much needed infrastructure as well as places for people.



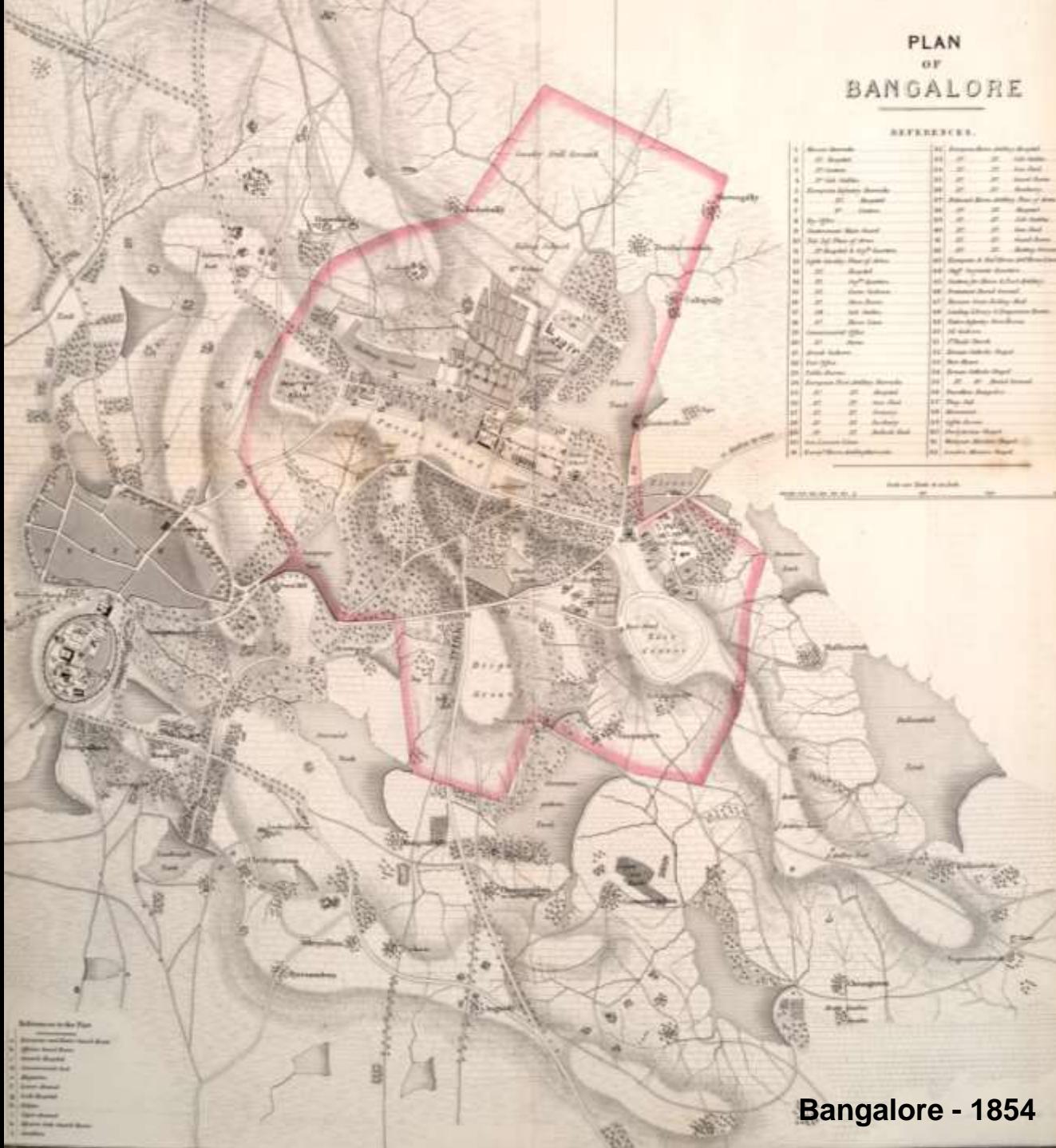
**Cycle tracks/
Pedestrian network**

Sewage treatment



These solutions fail to engage with the complexity inherent in the dynamics of the city particularly in the public spaces that include our streets and commons- such as the tanks, parks, nullahs and residual open spaces.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Bangalore/article2590968.ece>



Bangalore - 1854

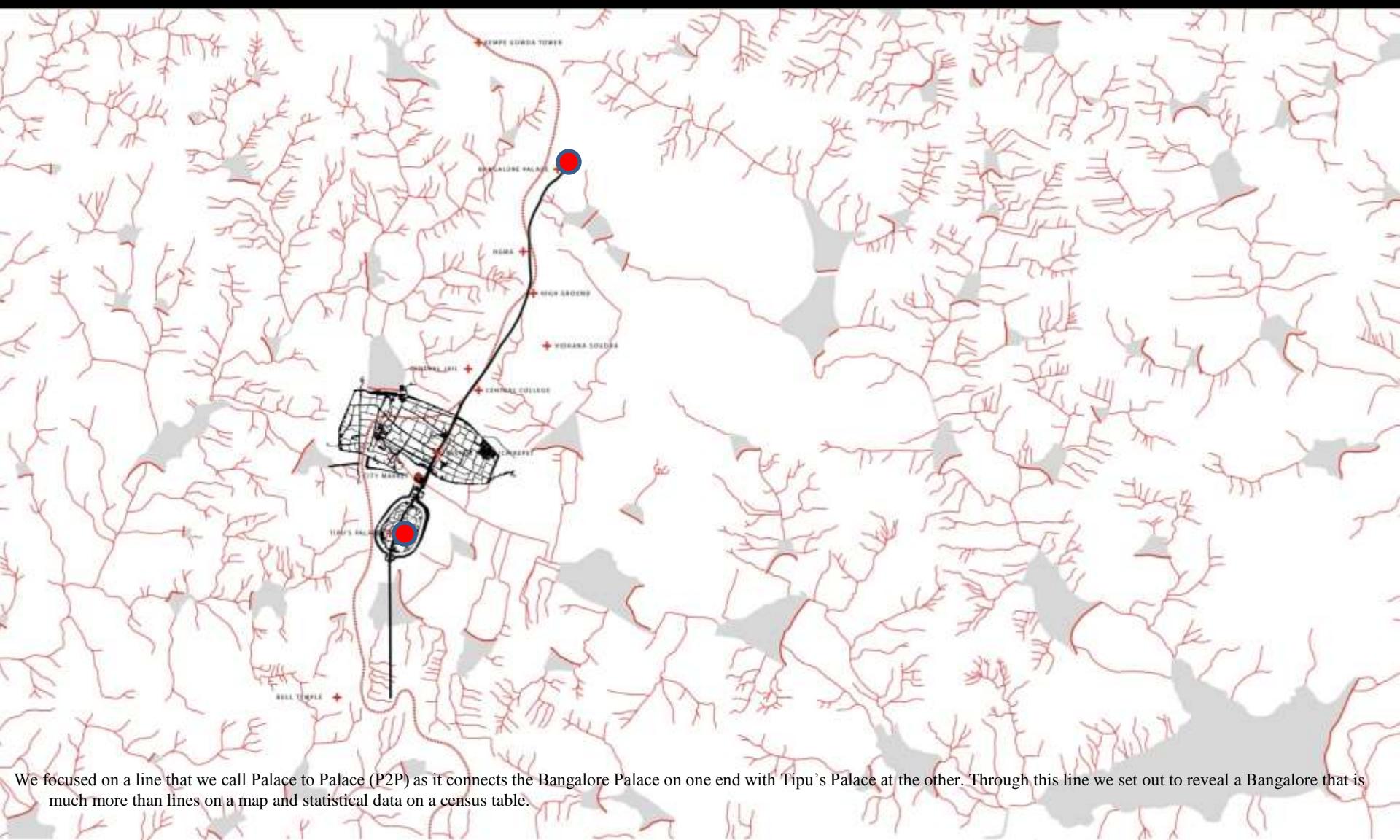


Bommanahalli - 2005

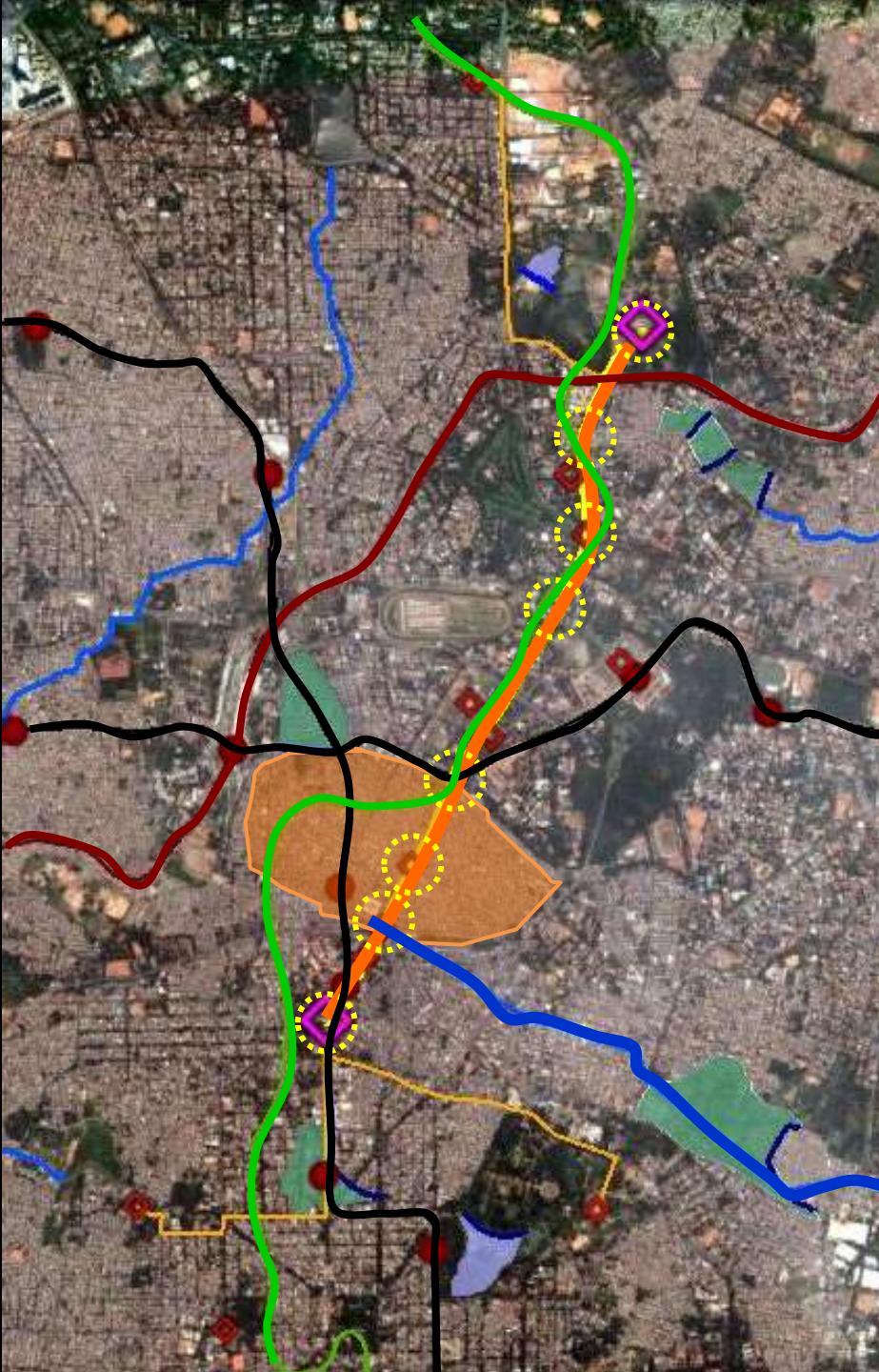
We started with examining this terrain and the narratives linked to this terrain. The emerging narratives revealed that in some instances the terrain supported historic developments. While in others it was overruled by developmental decisions.

Source: <http://bangalore.citizenmatters.in/articles/view/546-bommanahalli-floods>

Revealing public space Palace to Palace



We focused on a line that we call Palace to Palace (P2P) as it connects the Bangalore Palace on one end with Tipu's Palace at the other. Through this line we set out to reveal a Bangalore that is much more than lines on a map and statistical data on a census table.

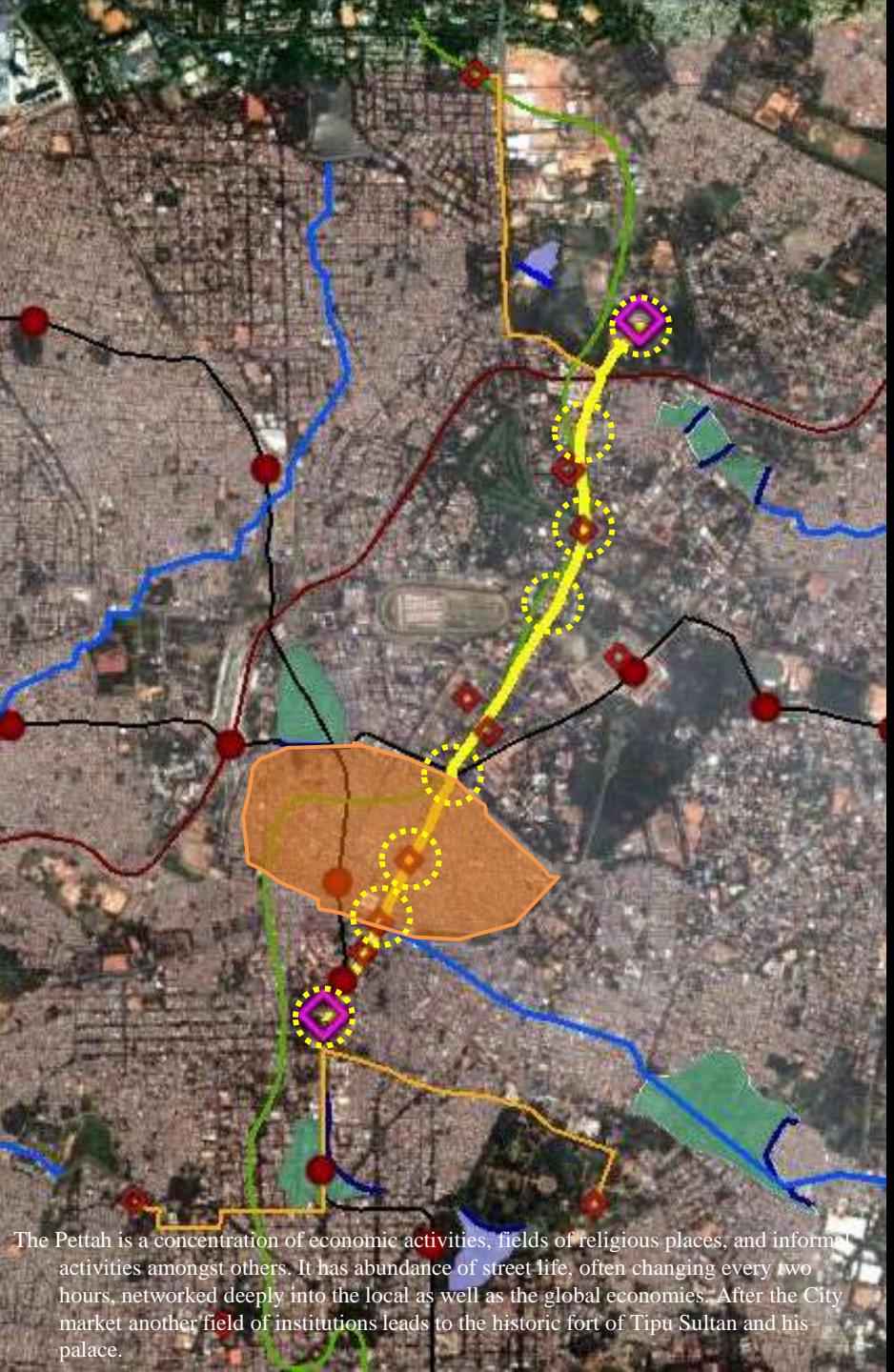


The P2P line traverses many fields, technologies, economies and histories. It gathers varied social, political and ecological stories through time and space. Over time, this line has thickened with numerous enterprises and interventions. Networks and connections.



Source: <http://rajivd.blogspot.com/>

For example, our walk along the palace to palace line reveals the contrasting patterns of development, fields of activities, and nature of civic and public spaces. Starting at the Bangalore Palace, once a seat of power, now an object in a landscape; the line traverses the historic building that now houses NGMA, and the High Point, followed by a field of institutions.



The Pettah is a concentration of economic activities, fields of religious places, and informal activities amongst others. It has abundance of street life, often changing every two hours, networked deeply into the local as well as the global economies. After the City market another field of institutions leads to the historic fort of Tipu Sultan and his palace.

Revealing public space the Nullah

begins as a moment on the Palace to Palace line
and extends across as another line



One such moment on this line is a nullah that runs from City Market on Avenue Road to Bellandur Tank in Koramangala. Although many tanks of this particular system have disappeared over time, the nullah's continued existence over the centuries reinforces the importance of water systems on this terrain. In fact, these tanks that were constructed thousands of years back are misconstrued to be lakes.

Image © 2012 DigitalGlobe

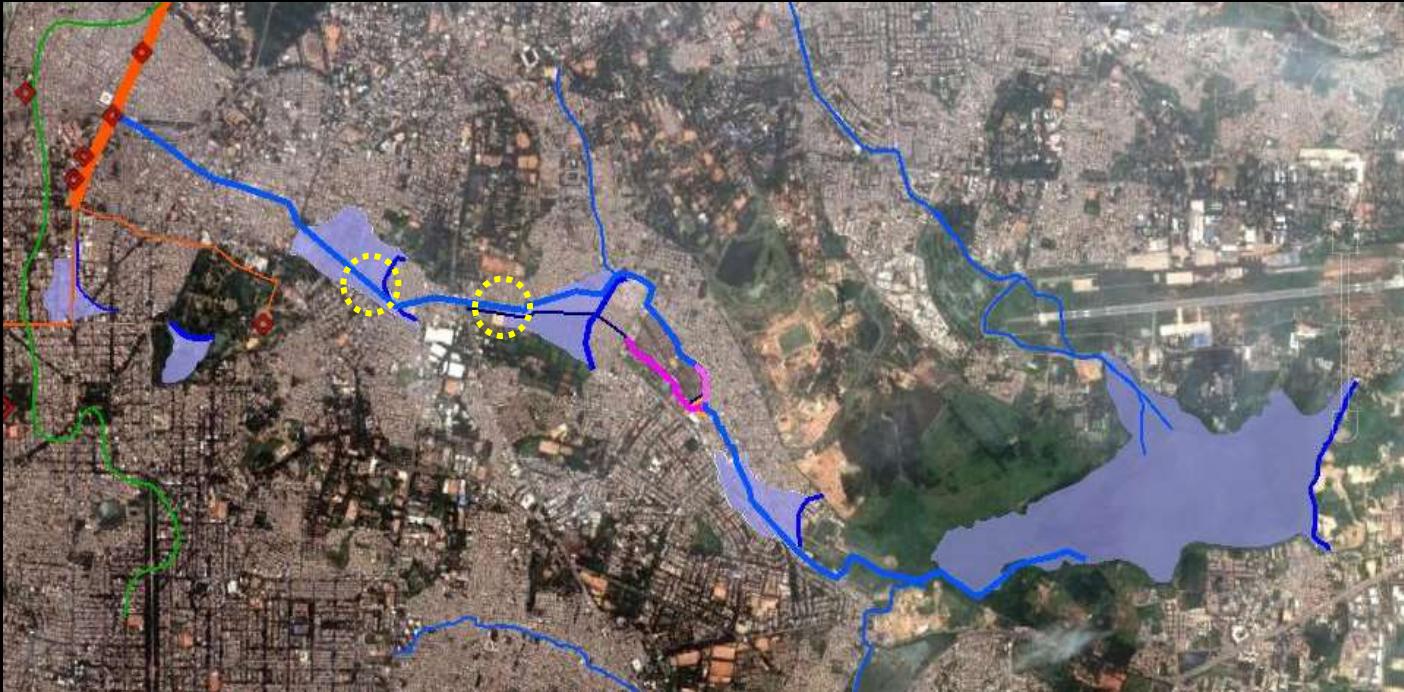
Google earth



The Avenue Rd- Bellandur nullah has become city's backyard carrying storm water as well as sewage. Shockingly, often mixed and overflowing. The system of tanks and nullahs once supported agricultural activity by setting out an ingenious and dense network of collecting rainwater. Today, the nullah is the backdrop for various activities such as storage of goods, tethering of animals, parking, garbage collection nodes, as well as work yards.

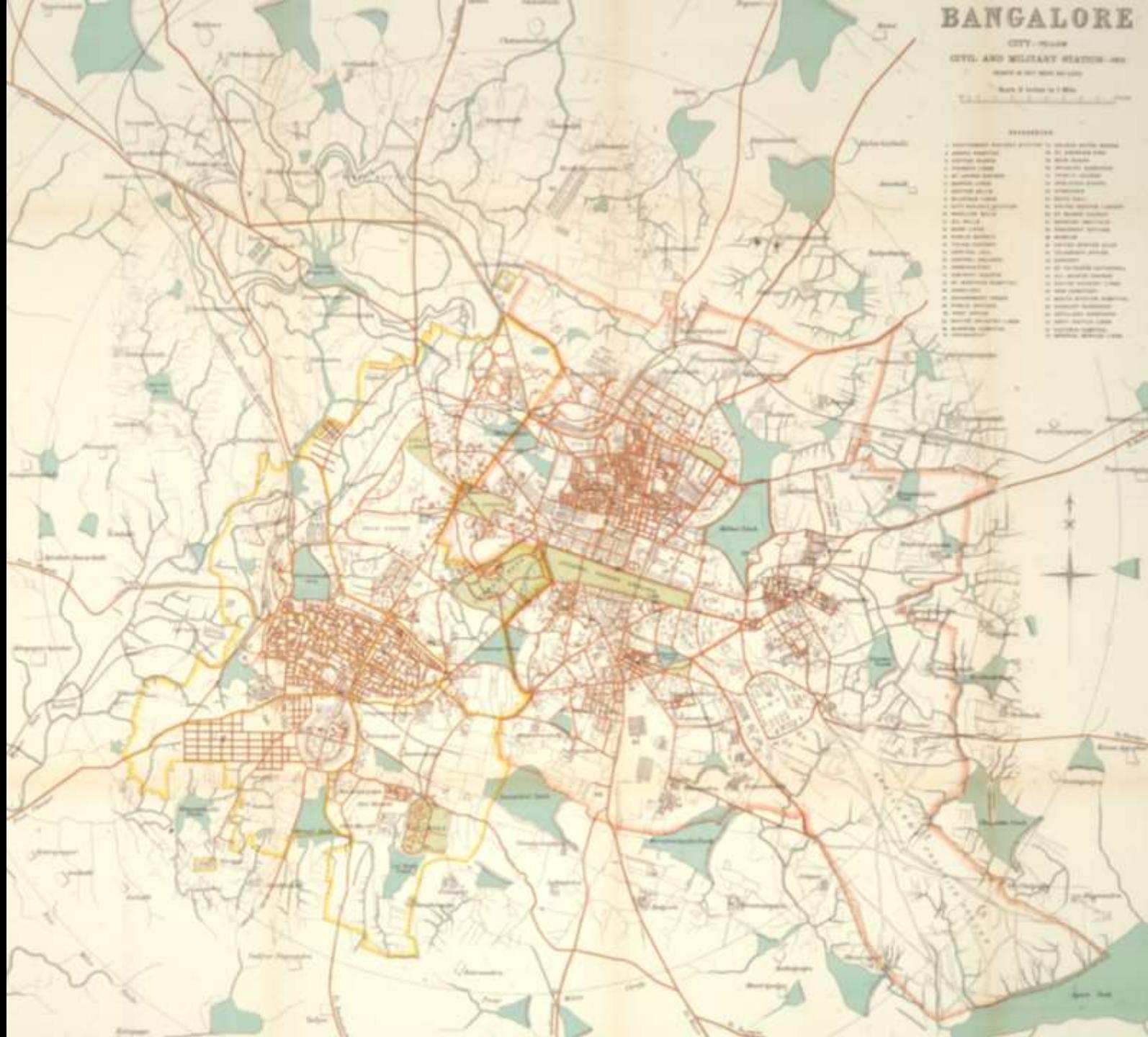


The character of the nullah changes as one moves along paths on one side, both sides, no access in places. Sometimes buildings and pathways bridge over it. In places, it was encroached upon by decking which led to flooding. Some of these encroachments have been removed.



Along with water's journey is also the journey of varied religious and socio economic endeavors. Greenery, utilities as electric poles, wires, toilets, cluster alongside. Trees, flora and fauna survive alongside filth, garbage, sewage and other kinds of waste.





There are many “lines” that traverse, and many “moments” that punctuate our landscape, each embedded into networks that enrich the narratives of people and public space. They are waiting to be explored, revealed and re-imagined.

Reimagining the possibilities



... as Public Space

... as Infrastructure

A ‘ground-up’ investigation such as this effort, conducted through the study of historic and geographic terrain, supported by walking and the photo-works, reveal rich potentials for reshaping the city. It represents opportunities for re-imagining our public spaces in away that will mitigate many of our on-going challenges.

... as Social Space



Re-imaging

Public Space
through design ...?

