South Delhi Municipal Corporation has come out with a detailed plan to irrigate over 700 neighbourhood parks using water from sewer treatment plants by the end of this year. The move comes after NGT’s direction to civic bodies last month to maintain public parks, falling within 5km of an STP, with treated water rather than groundwater.

The NGT-appointed Yamuna Pollution Monitoring Committee also directed civic agencies to submit action plans on how they will achieve this. An SDMC official said the department has proposed at least five new STPs this year, in addition to those under pipeline for past year or two. These included three new STPs at Jangpura Extension, Nizamuddin West and Siddhartha Extension by April end. Each of them will generate average 1 lakh litre of treated water every day. These STPs will irrigate 80 neighbourhood parks spread over an area of 40 acres.

For irrigation of the recently-inaugurated Wonders of the World Park at Sarai Kale Khan, SDMC has proposed to establish a STP plant at a vacant land near the park, said an official.

“The process for laying pipelines from these plants to neighbourhood parks has already been completed. After they become fully operational, we will shut down all tube wells currently being used to supply water in these parks,” the official from SDMC’s horticulture department said.

Currently, half of the city’s parks have borewells but most of them are non-functional because of the depleting ground water level.

In November 2018, SDMC had signed a deal with Hotel Hyatt Regency to supply treated water in 10 neighbouring parks in November. Prior to this, in 2016, SDMC had signed similar contracts with Select Citywalk and Jaypee Vasant Continental at Vasant Kunj.

Besides, work on laying supply lines from four DJB’s STPs at Keshopur, Vasant Kunj, Okhla and Pappan Kala is expected to be completed by the year end. “Through these four STPs, we will supply water to 626 parks and shut 153 tube wells. Though correspondence started on these projects in 2016, we got funds sanctioned in phases and a lot of time was consumed in finalising the proposal with DJB,” said the official.