



**Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus
their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu
Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal,
South Africa.**

By

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DECLARATION

I, Mhlalisi Gavu Mndzebele, declare that the work presented in this dissertation is my original work and has not been submitted to the University of KwaZulu-Natal or any other university for the purposes of obtaining an academic qualification, whether by myself or any other party.

Signature

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my dearest mother Beatrice Zandile Themba Nxumalo and to my nieces and nephews.

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ACRONYMS

CBD	:	Central Business District
CSDS	:	Conservation Subdivisions
CSIR	:	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DMOSS	:	Durban Metropolitan Open Space System
EEMP	:	eThekwini Environmental Services Management Plan
SAPS	:	South African Police Service
SDF	:	Spatial Development Framework
SDA	:	South Durban Area
ITRUMP	:	Inner City Thekwini Regeneration and Urban Management Programme
IDP	:	Integrated Development Plan
NEMA:	:	National Environmental Management Act
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organisations

Abstract

Urban open spaces play a critical role in cities by means of providing spaces for recreational, health and leisure activities. This thesis highlights that there is unmistakable evidence of economic, social and environmental benefits of urban open spaces in cities. The design and planning are the contrivances that help to provide usable and liveable spaces that encourage users to choose to spend time in them. There are diverse activities that do not signify the intentional use of urban open spaces. This dissertation evaluates the current and purpose use of urban open spaces at Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park, Durban, South Africa. The study was investigated through interviews with relevant stakeholders and direct observations. The dissertation reveals an understanding of how urban open spaces are used internationally and then makes a shift on how they are used locally. As a result of poor management and enforcement, it was discovered that urban open spaces are currently dominated by informal activities. This study provides a number of recommendations on how best and effectively urban open spaces can be utilised, which includes incorporating urban open spaces within the municipal's strategic goals and ensuring they correspond to economic needs.

Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Introduction

Urban open spaces provide vibrancy in cities. According to De Ridder, et al. (2004), the appreciating of urban environments has increased recently, particularly with respect to the benefits (function) of such environments to the residents. Increased responsiveness has been devoted and invested in available open spaces in cities as they play an imperative role in improving and enhancing people's quality of life thus making cities liveable and sustainable (Chiesura, 2004; Sutton, 2008 Konijnendijk, et al., 2013). Less attention has been paid in the user's perspective with regard to urban open spaces. More attention is paid to the purposes and benefits that open spaces offer, while it is essential to pay attention to how they are used.

Hayward and Weitzer (1984, p. 244) maintain that open spaces were initially created to offer tranquillity and outdoor leisure environments for urban residents. There have also been opposing perceptions regarding this perspective. Studies clearly revealed that some users sense vulnerability and exposure to criminality in urban open spaces (Hayward and Weitzer, 1984; Chiesura, 2004). The increase of negative attitudes towards open spaces has resulted in this study to examine the factors or contributors leading to the current use of such spaces.

According to Mohammadi (2015), urban open spaces find their significance in people's activities and presence more than the physical role, thus they are essential for generating social relations among people. Unfortunately, many questions continually arise concerning urban open spaces in cities, with people repeatedly claiming they are unsafe and not accessible. It thus raises questions about the current use of open spaces in cities.

The prime objective of the study is to examine the current use of urban open spaces and find out if they are embracing their purpose use. This dissertation embarked on a comparative study between Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park in Durban, South Africa.

1.2. Problem Statement

The difficulty of having a huge population migrating to city zones is that the struggle concerning the natural environment and people's needs is increased within a restricted and partial geographic space as often delimited by city administrative boundaries (Sutton, 2008). According to Sutton (2008), this is a general challenge taking place in all city open spaces. The increase of literature on the benefits of open spaces has made it even more prominent for researchers to examine current challenges occurring in these spaces.

The eThekweni Municipality has an attractive variation of public open spaces including natural areas and parks. However, there are gaps in maintenance and urban management, which are evident in observations and perceptions of grime and crime prevailing and dominant in public open spaces in the city (Child-Friendly City Campaign (CFCC) Durban, August 2010). This shows that open spaces are faced by diverse challenges that provoked the researcher to study the purpose use of city open spaces. Even though the image of the city is being tarnished by informalities and challenges, people still have a right to be in the city.

The right of all people to the city is not simply commercial activities, but also as a communal, social and free space which is protected in the World Charter and expounded by the international social drive actors at the social forum of the World Urban Forum in October 2004. The commission demands that unbiased use of open space in cities must be grounded on the principles of social justice and sustainability (UN-Habitat, 2005). eThekweni Municipality's urban open spaces do not only face challenges of cleanliness, but open spaces such as the Francis Farewell Square and Botanic Gardens are unsafe and lack activities (Cloete and Yusuf, 2018). Naidoo (2017) notes that the public open space at Albert Park lacks security, easy accessibility and there are no controlling measures in place. Naidoo (2017) further argues that proper planning must be implemented to restore its original use. Mutuma (2010) notes that migration inflows in Durban occurred in the inner city at Albert Park, leaving a stream of building decay, crime and general uncleanness. According to the former mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Nxumalo (2014) the purpose of establishing a multi-disciplinary approach is to address predicaments of drugs, crime, uncleanness and vagrancy, which are tarnishing the image of the city, and the focus areas are Albert Park and other inner parts of the city. These problems therefore distort and contrast the principles and values of social justice and sustainability. The common challenges experienced in urban open spaces in the inner city of Durban resulted in this study to examine the current and purposed use of these spaces. For the

sake of this research two case studies were used, specifically Albert Park, in comparison with Gugu Dlamini Park.

1.3. Broad Objective

The broad objective of the study is to examine and assess the extent of the use of urban open spaces in Durban's inner city, focussing on factors leading to the current use, and eventually formulating recommendations on how urban spaces can be best utilised in South African cities.

1.3.1. Specific Objectives

- Compare and contrast the current use and purpose use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Examine how the urban open spaces were used in the past 15 years at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Examine factors which lead to changing the use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Provide recommendations on how best to use urban open spaces of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park.

1.4. The Main Research Question and the Subsidiary Questions

(a) Main Research Question

What are the dynamics leading to the change in the use of urban open spaces?

(b) Sub-research questions

- What is the current use and purposed use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park?
- How were urban open spaces used in the past 15 years at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park?
- What are the factors leading to the current use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park?
- What are the recommendations that can influence the urban open spaces to be best used at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini?

1.5. Rationale for the Study

The justification to pursue this study was motivated by the evidence in observations and discernments of uncleanliness and crime prevailing in public spaces in the city of Durban. Many informalities are taking place in urban open spaces, which then provoked the study to scrutinise the purpose use of open space in cities. Despite legislation, policies and byways put in place by municipalities, open spaces still encounter diverse challenges. These challenges are affecting the city image, accessibility and user's rights to spaces and the city. The aim of the study is to examine and scrutinise the current use in spaces with the objective of formulating

recommendations on how best city open spaces can be used. The importance of the study is to highlight and emphasise the need for having unique urban open spaces which encourage zero danger tolerance levels for users.

1.6. Methodology

Melville and Goddard's (2001, p.1) research is defined as not just a procedure for gathering information, "it is about responding to unanswered questions or creating that which does not currently exist". In essence, a research methodology is a defined structure for unravelling a problem that comprises specific tasks, phases, tools and methods for the collection of data (Kothari, 2002). The aim of the research methodology is to provide the work plan for the study. This section outlines the methods which the researcher used to obtain and analyse data to examine the use of urban open spaces using a case study at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, Durban. This section starts by outlining the methodology, analysing sources of data, data collection methods, sampling procedure and concludes by highlighting some of the challenges encountered in the field.

1.6.1. Qualitative Study

Qualitative research is mainly interpretative in its analysis of data and is largely purposive in the collection of data (Flick, 2009). Various methods were used to collect data. It should be emphasised that the use of several methods and techniques provided the platform for validating information obtained. Open-ended interviews with an eThekweni municipality official from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture and the users of the parks were used. The researcher was able to use direct observation to examine the current use of both urban open spaces, namely Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park.

1.6.2. Data Sources and Collection

In response to examining current and purpose use of urban open spaces, data was collected from two sources. The first source of data was collected from secondary data sources and then the second source from primary data sources. These methods are discussed below.

(i) Primary Data Sources

Primary data relates to material that contains raw, direct evidence or an eye-witness account of a topic or event under investigation, explained Patton and Cochran (2002). This type of data was obtained from officials in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture at the eThekweni Municipality. The information was also obtained from case study areas by interviewing users of urban open spaces and by observation. A lecturer in the Department of

Town and Regional Planning from the University of KwaZulu-Natal was interviewed. Mapping is another technique that was used to obtain data. The collection of primary data was obtained by using three key techniques: observations, interviews and mapping. These three techniques are discussed below.

(a) Direct Observation

The study used direct observations to gather data that responded to the objectives and research questions. The researcher was able to get information about different activities taking place at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. The importance of this approach is that it provided accurate information as the researcher watched events as they unfolded in both urban open spaces.

(b) Structured Open-ended Interviews

The benefit and advantage of structured open-ended interviews is the use of open-ended questions, which provides participants with the opportunity to answer in their own comfortable manner, rather than compelling them to select from static answers (Kitchin and Tate, 2000). Furthermore, this style of interview is greatly controlled by the interviewer and interviewee's responses which are guarded to classifications delivered by the interviewer (Kitchin and Tate, 2000). A sample size of 40 key participants out of a population of 595 000 were selected. The eThekweni municipality in the Department of Parks, Recreational and Culture was involved in addressing some of the questions prepared by the researcher since both open spaces are located within the municipal's jurisdiction.

(c) Mapping

Mapping is the process of creating a visual representation of knowledge (University of Guelph, 2012). The researcher used GIS to create maps of the study area. Some maps were attained from eThekweni Municipality, which helped to locate the urban open spaces in the inner city and informed the researcher about land uses and zoning of adjacent areas.

(i) Sampling Method

Sampling is defined as a practice or procedure to choose an appropriate sample, or to epitomise a population with the tenacity for determining the features of the entire population (Webster, 1985). Gardner (1978) describes a sample method as captivating a representative selection of the well-defined population through the use of data collected as research information.

Given that the study is qualitative in nature, the majority of evidence was obtained by key participant interviews with authorities who held first-hand information of the study areas.

Information gathered through interviews was undertaken with individuals mostly found in both urban open spaces. This study engaged a convenience sampling method to identify key participants. Convenience sampling (also identified as accidental sampling) is a form of non-probability sampling where participants of the target population adhere to positive and practical standards, such as geographical proximity, availability, accessibility at a given time, or willingness to partake were incorporated for the purpose of the study (Alkassim, 2016). Thirty-eight people out of a population of 595 000 were interviewed because different perspectives and experiences of urban open spaces use were needed to formulate informed arguments and recommendations. Through purposive sampling, two more professional participants were selected. Forty participants were therefore involved in this study.

Justification of the small sample size for the study was decided after interviews with the first ten users of the urban open space at Gugu Dlamini Park started to provide similar information, but the researcher continued to interview nine more which then equalled 19 users at Gugu Dlamini Park. It then made a precedent for the researcher to also interview 19 users of the urban open space at Albert Park. After ten interviews with users of the space at Albert Park, the researcher realised that they were providing similar responses, but for the sake of strengthening the study, the researcher interviewed nine more participants. The point where the researcher decided to stop the interviews because of repetition is referred to as saturation (Lincoln and Guba,1985; Sandelowski,1995; Morse,1994,2007).

(ii) Secondary Data Sources

According to Church (2001), secondary data is information that has not been composed or explored by those who are examining it. Such sources comprise policies, academic books, legislation, journal articles, internet sources, government papers, media reports, documents, weekly articles and focus group deliberations (Creswell, 2009). Walliman (2011) proposes that a major aspect of employing secondary data is assessing the quality of the evidence or opinions given. Information from secondary sources is given both historically and present-day data when examining urban open spaces. It further provided information about the background of the eThekweni Municipality, land-uses, different zones and its relationship with urban open spaces.

1.7. Problems Encountered with Fieldwork

(i) Funds and Safety

The significant limitation experienced by the researcher was financially constrained. The researcher needed to visit both urban open spaces on different days which therefore required

money for transport and stationery. During the visitation for observation and interviews with users of these urban open spaces, the researcher was intimidated by homeless people who occupied the space and from time to time approached him for money. It was a challenge for the researcher to capture pictures because of vagrants who seemed to be waiting for an opportunity to rob vulnerable users of the spaces. The study was limited, as the researcher could not visit the urban open spaces at night due to safety reasons. The element of night observations was therefore compromised.

(ii) Unavailability of Key Participants

The researcher had initially proposed to interview two officials from eThekweni Municipality but due to unforeseen circumstances, only one official was interviewed, but this did not compromise the integrity of the study. Some users of both city open spaces were unwilling to participate and the researcher had to respect their decision since they were not compelled to participate.

Irrespective of the challenges discussed above, the study was successful because informed information was successfully collected from all participants who voluntarily participated in the study.

1.8. Structure of the Dissertation

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter introduces the study project and describes the problems. It further motivates why the research needed to be conducted. The driving forces of the research are also given in this chapter and these are indicated as key research questions. The research methodology for the study is also included in this chapter. The chapter concludes by outlining the dissertation structure.

Chapter 2: Conceptual Framework

Urban open spaces are an imperative element for the city. The chapter, therefore, provides a general idea of the evolving of urban open spaces by using different theories that govern the concept. This chapter also offers an overview of the development and utilitarian approaches in relation to open spaces.

Chapter 3: Literature Review

This chapter reviews literature around the world with regard to urban open spaces. It starts with international case studies with a special focus on Australia in Sydney and then shifts to South Africa in Johannesburg. The two case studies give a different perspective on how urban open spaces are utilised in a developed country compared to a developing country. It was discovered that urban open spaces are guided by different legislations.

Chapter 4: Case Studies

This chapter describes the study area. It shows the location of the study areas, physical analysis, history, zoning and land-uses adjacent to the study areas. It gives the population and economic status of the area.

Chapter 5: Research Findings

This chapter deals with the study findings that were based on research questions. On the basis of the analysis, the information is interpreted and used to draw a conclusion from the research findings.

Chapter 6: Recommendations and Conclusion

This chapter provides a summary of the research findings grounded on the objectives and key questions of the study. Recommendations were founded upon the research findings.

1.9 Summary

This section is an introduction and background of the study. The chapter underpins the aim of the study in that it shares the main research objectives and questions, followed by the used research methodology. The rationale and limitations of the study were also discussed in this chapter. The chapter further provides an outline of all the chapters that constitute this dissertation.

Chapter 2

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

2.1. Introduction

This section involves numerous theoretical and conceptual frameworks to unravel the view of urban open spaces and formulate the lenses through which city open spaces can be understood. In comprehensive terms, theoretical components discussed in this section focused on the ideas of urban power relations. In particular, the following theories were covered: Contemporary Urban Design Theory, Modernism and Collaborative Planning Theory. The Conceptual Framework strives to recognise the different concepts that enlighten the phenomenon formed from the Theoretical Framework.

Urban open space

The understanding of the concept of urban open space is important because the study is centred on it. There is a range of expressions for and classifications of open space, which relate to the way they are used and regarded. The most common terms used to describe public open space are *green space*, *urban park*, *open space* or *open areas* and *public space*. There are different types of open space, namely; soft and hard open spaces. This study focuses on soft open spaces and other mutual concepts are defined. Soft open spaces are unbuilt, or open spaces within a settlement, with a mainly vegetated or porous surface (CSIR, 2000).

The word green space is well-defined generally by the European Commission as purely a linkage of green features, that is a physical infrastructure providing a role in city micro-climate water organisation, in the city micro-climate and in biodiversity (Atwell, 2005). This description perceives green space in its modest usage, acknowledging its ecologically advantageous role, but not offering other services that green space delivers, such as economic, social, health services or emotional.

Numerous explanations of open space are limited and do not apprehend all essential components. For example, a common explanation of open space can be established in Amit-Cohen and Maruani (2007), where it is described as being subject to a natural environment that involves biotic and abiotic features. In contrast to a built environment, open space usually has a small level of contribution that has not reformed its natural state and remains to allow the life of the ecosystem (Amit-Cohen and Maruami, 2007). Nevertheless, there are vital dissimilarities

concerning the wide explanation of ‘city open space’ and ‘open space’. For instance, Bengston (2004) uses the word ‘open space’ to signify all-natural resource parks, comprising of timberland and countryside, wetlands and wildlife environment as well as attractive sites and leisure spaces (Bengston, 2004). According to the Durban Metropolitan (2004), city open spaces are those that are lawfully zoned and socially produced spaces and areas in the city centre that are established for municipal use, comprising sports arenas, town courts, parks, etc. The eThekweni Municipality (2002) further states that urban open spaces are formally constructed zones that are established for communal use. They consist of street reserves, servitudes for features such as dams and electricity conduction lines.

For the aim of this research, the following definition incorporates these descriptions and argues that urban open space remains:

A natural scenery zone that can be whether privately or publicly possessed, and that is for all motives, mostly undeveloped in the city edge. It must offer open space facilities and contain customarily well-defined ‘green’ areas as well as less customarily well-defined ‘perspective’ spaces (Sutton,2008).

Diverse definitions of the concept ‘urban open space’ correlates to the way it is currently and purposely used.

Placemaking

Placemaking is a newly developing concept in the past decade but dates back to studies written by Jacobs (1961). Placemaking is a planning procedure that purposes to produce not only effective urban open spaces but a system of spaces that are utilised on a daily basis by the public and specifically, the ordinary (The Project for Public Spaces, 2011). This is attained by enlightening the health, physical space and commercial prospects of spaces as well as the community while planning spaces that are attractive to the municipal (The Project for Public Spaces, 2011). Wyckoff (2014) describes placemaking as another way of improving the quality of numerous spaces in a neighbourhood, and by extension, the region and community in which those places are located as well.

When considering the factors of an effective urban open space, placemaking considers four key principles: sociability, comfort and image, linkages and access, and activities and uses. The principles of placemaking are depicted in Figure 2.1. below. Regarding ‘sociability’, open spaces ought to allow for ethnic, traditional and land-use multiplicity. These spaces ought to

be safe during the day to evening. When considering the principle ‘activities and uses’, spaces must allow for a diversity of activities and uses, thereby attracting many users. The principle of placemaking, ‘image and comfort’ leads itself to the concept of the image of the city by Lynch (1960) where the purpose is to establish unique and attractive spaces. This is further discussed and elaborated in the following sub-section titled ‘‘Imageability’’. The last principle of placemaking ‘‘linkages and access’’ states that public spaces ought to be accessible to the public, by private vehicle, public transportation or by foot (The Project for Public Spaces, 2011).



Figure 2.1: Principles of Placemaking

Source: Google (2019)

The principles of placemaking are correlated to the values and philosophies for a sustainable urban open space. Reiter (2004) notes that coherence, co-existence and contextuality are deliberated as the principles for a sustainable urban open space. According to Reiter (2004), contextuality correlates to the user-friendliness and accessibility of urban open spaces while

co-existence relates to the warmth, activities and uses within these spaces. Also, coherence correlates to the image and comfort of the urban open space and thus relates to the notion of the image of the city (Lynch, 1960). Moreover, placemaking principles revolve around health, social, environmental and economic factors that are closely related (Gedikli, 2004).

Imageability

According to Kumar (2016), imageability is perceived as an integration of an observer's filtered perceptual input of correlated meaning and purpose of continuous interacting process grounded on organisation, selection, distinctions, and authorisation and relations suggested by the environment. The city is a mixture of the highest connections of the built mass (form), open spaces and their spatial organisation (lay-out) in a geographic zone to attain a holistic environment and pattern, generally built on socio-economic conditions and the lifestyle of the people, character and nature of activities and the available materials and technologies, which therefore shapes the overall form and thus image and uniqueness of the place (Pipralia, 2016).

Imageability is related to placemaking and creating a sense of place. It portrays an essential role in building distinctive urban open spaces. Through city design and the building of a sense of place and a city image, there will be an improved quality of reactive surroundings and comprehensible cities (Sparks and Chapman, 1996). According to Flemming (2007), the municipal jurisdiction is strengthened through city design fundamentals such as lighting, public facilities, street furniture, wall painting, infrastructure and artwork placed in these open spaces.

The image of a space plays a crucial part in the user's perspective. Lund (2010) declares that the reminiscences of urban open spaces bring the user or public back to the space. Urban open spaces should, therefore, build reminiscences through distinctive characteristics separating the space from other spaces in the city (Lund, 2010). For example, the user must be able to have preference between two or more open spaces in a city due to his or her image. The use and image of urban open spaces are closely related. Sparks and Chapman (1996) note that spatial qualities and visuals are required to design open spaces that become sustainable. Rubenstein (1997) notes that design elements such as paving, signage, art, fountains, sculptures, street furniture and general public services be designed into characteristics of imageability and city form. Landscaping such as tree gates, fountains, art, sculptures, and plants enhance the imageability and sense of a place.

Lighting plays a crucial measure in the safety of an urban open space. The presence of more lighting means more visibility, giving users of urban open spaces an atmosphere of security.

During the day, shade to escape the heat of the sun, gives users another sense of comfort (Sparks and Chapman, 1996). Image or imageability is an important factor when planning and designing sustainable urban open spaces. By creating sustainable urban open spaces by means of urban design, sense of place and city image, cities can create a better quality of places (Sparks and Chapman, 1996).

Right to the City

The study was born out of one of the challenges discussed in the problem statement, which is vagrancy and safety in urban open spaces. It is a challenge because there are particular expectations and standards to control open spaces. If it is a challenge to have homeless people in urban open spaces, where should they go? According to Lefebvre (1996) then, “the right to the city is like a cry and a demand...a transmuted and transformed right to city life”. Informal activities in urban open spaces are a cry and indirect demand for urban politicians to embrace the new current phenomena even though they are against city standards and policies.

Henri Lefebvre’s view of the “right to the city” demands ending the exclusion between social classes that are decorated in the urban spatial order (Lefebvre, 1996). While the line between the freedom to enjoy and use neighbourhood space, and the point at which such enjoyment trespasses on the enjoyment and rights of others, serious focus is needed to settle and manage planning and development (Chaskin and Joseph, 2010). Community dynamics around behaviour norms, social control, and the use of space produced by bringing together people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds in certain settings (Chaskin and Joseph, 2010). It is a contradiction to the new social movement theory, which stresses that in order to be transformative, a social movement requests sustained cooperative identity, with reasonably well-defined boundaries (Dian and Porta, 2006). In order to incorporate groups into social setting contexts, the well-defined boundaries should be removed and the collective identity should be attenuated.

The right to the city is intended to advance the welfare of the entire community and primarily persons who occupy it (Lefebvre, 1996). This, therefore, gives freedom to city occupants to be liberal but it again disadvantages other users, because there are no limits and extents that are listed and discussed from Lefebvre’s perspective. Appropriation embraces the right of dwellers to tangibly access, inhabit and use city space, and so this perception has been the crucial emphasis of individuals who support the right of people to be actually present in the space in the city (Isin and Wood, 1999; Capron, 2002; Mitchell and Staeheli, 2002). Nevertheless,

Lefebvre visualises appropriation to have an extensive and more physical significance. Not only is appropriation the right to inhabit existing-produced city space, it is likewise the right to produce city space so that it meets the desires and necessities of occupants. The challenges taking place in urban open spaces and other spaces in cities are a cry for alternative approaches, whether from a design, participation or delivering of projects to make everything relevant since planning is local.

2.2. Contemporary Urban Design Theory

Urban design has developed and advanced with human development and civilization over thousands of centuries (Wall and Waterman, 2010). The philosophies and ideologies governing urban design theory have been moulded and formed by the environment, people, economy and government. The use of contemporary urban design theory in the study aims to conclude with the economic, social, political and environmental catalysts for the origins of its principles and also mainly how it informs and is applicable to the study.

Urban Design

Urbanised areas and cities are the outcome of the practice of development. City zones can be titled and termed as physical expressions of human ecology (Waldheim, 2006). The creation of these physical expressions of progress and civilization is perceived nowadays as urban design. According to Watson (2000), city design is known and well-defined as the skill of creating towns and cities. Nowadays, the purpose and determination of city design is to advance the societal relations within built-up spaces, but sustaining economic and ecological needs. McHarg (1992) explained that it improves and enhances the value of city life. In contrast, urban design throughout history was used to:

- Compensate for loss of nature
- Economic growth
- Demonstrate man's power over nature and fellow man

2.2.1. Background of Contemporary Urban Design Theory

The modern urban design theory subsists at a crossroads of urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture (Moughtin, 2003). It works as a creative, collective procedure among various disciplines and results in three-dimensional space and urban forms, improving the life of the city and its citizens (Wall and Waterman, 2010). This theory is concerned with how places work and look. It came into practice as a result of many urban issues, mainly

urbanisation, social issues, economic, ecological problems and urban design policies that exacerbated all the above-mentioned issues.

According to Wall and Waterman (2010), contemporary urban design theory came into implementation to shape cities and urban spaces to:

- Alleviate the damaging effects of urbanisation.
- Satisfy ecological needs.
- Stimulate economic growth.
- Reassure social activities within the city fabric.

Having discussed the background of contemporary urban design theory, the discussion will look at its principles. The principles are taken from several articles on architecture and landscape but mainly from *“The Urban Design Compendium”* (Walton, 2000) and *“Responsive Environments”* (Bentley, 1985). The below table describes and labels the principles of contemporary urban design theory. The table is taken from *“The Urban Design Compendium”* (Walton, 2000).

Table 2.1: Design Principles

Crucial aspects of urban design	Principles of urban design	Design and theory principles	Responsive Environments	Principles of good design
Places for people	Value of the communal dominion	Make spaces	Health	Establish an atmosphere where everybody can access and profit from a variety of opportunities offered.
	Sense of place			
Enrich the existing	Character	Shape attractively	Pictorial appropriateness	Be joined into present city system, nature, and built environment
Make connections	Ease movements	Permit movement sensibly and legibly	Permeability	Be joined into current city form, nature and built environment
	Legibility		Legibility	Address links between locations and people by making an allowance for the necessities of the public to access employments and key amenities

Work with the landscape		Plan utilising ordinary harmonics		Cogitate direct and indirect influences of natural environments
Combine uses and form	Diversity	Create social contact	Variety	Consider direct and indirect impacts on natural environments
Manage the investment		Appropriate land value		
Design change for	Adaptability			Produce an environment where everybody can contact and benefit from the full variety of prospects offered.

Source: Walton (2000)

a) Places for People

Gehl (2011) notes that good urban open spaces encourage social interactions. Urban spaces must have a sense of belonging, safety, vibrancy and varieties of use. The area must be easily accessible to all members of society. This principle advocates that in order for urban open spaces to be effective, they must have a sense of security and be easily accessible.

b) Enrich the Existing

According to Jacobs (1993) city spaces must counterpart one another's powers and decrease weaknesses. Jacobs (1993) further argues that city spaces need to respond and react to their adjacent environments and create a reciprocal relationship between the areas.

c) Connect to the Surrounding Urban Fabric

Urban spaces must be reachable and linked to the adjacent transport system and traffic paths (Rodrigue, 2007). The spaces must function with adjoining passage roads. Nevertheless, space must not only be tangibly or physically exposed, but likewise visually exposed, accessible and linked from adjacent land uses (Wall and Waterman, 2010). It must be easy to use an urban open space and then move on to the next land use, for example, access to nearby rail stations and malls (Wall and Waterman, 2010).

d) Work the Landscape

According to McHarg (1992) city open spaces work with the landscape, ecology, form, natural functions and climate. This maintains the attractiveness of the scenery of the space and reduces energy input and the degree of disruption caused to the space.

e) Mixed-use

Urban spaces maximise the spaces by drawing many racial groups, both societal classes and age groups. The end outcome is the maximisation of the usage of city open spaces on a daily basis (Jacobs, 1993). Open spaces encourage multi-cultural interactions and the use thereof by individuals and groups.

f) Management

According to Jacobs (1993) urban spaces must be economically practical, sustainable and preserved to endure the accomplishment and success of the space. There are usually different legislations and bylaws in place to regulate urban open spaces and other activities in the municipal's jurisdiction. In Chapter three municipal legislation and bylaws are discussed.

g) Design for Change

Urban spaces ought to be reactive to alterations in the city fabric in order to function and be utilised. A huge measure of versatility is encouraged for the adjustment of use/aim of the space in the future (Waterman and Wall, 2010). As cities evolve, many land uses change, and city open spaces must therefore be designed in a manner adaptive to the current dynamics of cities.

2.2.2. Contemporary Urban Design Theory and Urban Open Spaces

Ferraro (2013) asserts that contemporary urban design theory acknowledges the previous mistakes that were made by past urban planners who assumed the needs of cities. This theory informed the study because it encourages the creation of urban spaces for multi-cultural groups which then also acknowledge the need for participation. It is a theory that strongly and critically focuses on the design of urban open spaces which then provokes many questions about whether Albert Park (case study) was even planned to be accessed and used by the current city population. According to Renee (1998), the principles of contemporary urban design theory ought to be applied to the development and planning procedures for the establishment of public open spaces as it is an area considered and characterised by multi-cultural communities and diversity, and in the setting of Gugu Dlamini Park, this dissertation confirmed that such principles had been applied.

Renee (1998) states that in the ancient planning of public open spaces, was more top-down and autocratic, founded on a technical rationale for the shared good of an identical public. Through the arrival and emergence of contemporary planning practices this viewpoint and philosophy is reversed, and planning from the bottom-up that deliberates the shared and collective good for a multiplicity of cultures, is encouraged and advocated. The planning of public open spaces

in the Durban municipal area should, therefore, embrace the principles and values of collaborative planning in order to work towards a more applicable and supportable system of use for urban open spaces.

2.3. Collaborative Planning Theory

There are many definitions for collaborative planning. According to Anshell (2008) collaborative planning is gathering multiple stakeholders in a mutual environment for compromise decision-making, while Gray (2000) states that it is a principle that leads to outcomes by satisfying all participants involved. A relevant definition of city planning is provided by Habermas (1984), who argues that it is understood as a collaborative procedure that has the prospective to establish relations and dialogue that will generate new cultural formations through collaboration rather than through the technical procedures of design, analysis and control.

Collaborative planning is a power paradigm of stakeholders. To have a successful engagement with a community, it is the responsibility of the city planner to transfer power to them (Renee, 1998). The provision of adequate information is a form of transferring power in order for them to make informed decisions. According to Gaffatin (2007) collaborative planners should not only guide but should also use their expert knowledge to enforce their convincing power. The planners have a role to value the interests of the people involved more specifically and identify levels of influence and efforts taken to accommodate the interest of each group (Gaffatin, 2007).

The theory claims that through the collaborative process of including stakeholders and by following certain guidelines, it guarantees that involvement in town planning is equal, fair and empowering. This knowledge is concluded from the point that the procedure of collaboration involves primarily public society-grounded assemblies that can act to lay weight on the government to act more conscientiously and responsibly; and that collaboration can offer a learning environment and can serve to construct societal capital within communities (Watson, 2011). This theory, according to Sager (2001), encourages using communication to help the different interests in the process to understand each other. The arrival of collaborative planning, according to Pellizzoni (2003), advanced during the 1980s. It was primarily established as a reaction to the failure of technocratic planning that was built in scientific analysis and independent expertise and scientific. It developed through the notion of open participation in planning (Bond, 2011). The collaborative planning theory encourages bringing together crucial

participants to address challenging problems in order to formulate new answers (Margerum, 2002). This transmits to advocating for an inclusive involvement process in project development and design (Margerum, 2002). Collaborative planning is now officially assumed as a perfect development model in watershed planning, land use planning, controlled rule-making and city planning in Canada, the United States (Gunton, 2010).

Margerum (2002) explains that the collaborative planning theory is highlighted by principles that include public participation and involvement, creating a common problem definition or communal tasks, assisting and facilitating the collaborative process and lastly, organising the collaborative process in relation to agendas, ground rules and engaging the participants.

2.3.1. Collaborative Planning and Urban Open Spaces

Looking at the relevancy of the study, the collaborative planning theory informs the concept of designing city open spaces. The research was born out of the perception of the use of city open spaces and the challenges they face; where current challenges show that there was no involvement of the users when these spaces were designed. Before any concept is introduced in cities, stakeholders or beneficiaries of the concept must be involved and not informed. The theory of collaborative planning emphasises that there must be consensus before delivering any project to people (Nekwaya, 2007).

Having discussed the contemporary urban design theory and collaborative theory, it is essential to discuss theories that influenced the designing of space using a logical and rational approach. This discussion will briefly touch on the modernism theory and how the theory was applicable in the planning and use of space.

2.4. Modernism and Urban Historical Structure

The idea of modernisation represents the philosophical and logical remnants of the European age of enlightenment (Duminy, 2007). In Europe, it advanced as a mechanism that was anticipated to determine in the middle of the industrialised selfish intentions of accumulation and the inadequately organised making space that was developing in the form of cities (Saff, 2004). Serious indicators that characterised the industrial city included physical dilapidation and the general distresses that the employed class suffered (Preston, 1996).

The essential philosophies of modernist planners were also to be attained by a spatial model. In development spheres, this spatial model entailed the making of splendid strategies and plans (in the method of blueprints) that were anticipated to lead development (Preston, 1996). It is in these strategies that awareness and well-designed zoning ideas were voiced. These were

intended to lead spatial developments. These strategies and plans showed significance, seriousness and rigid self-rule in the towns that were to arise.

The modernist movement in city organisation was grounded on utility, for example, with worries of technology and efficiency (CSIR, 2005). This intended that city life structures remained categorised into various groups of activity, for example, toil areas, residential, leisure and entertainment movements. In many zones, modernism models instigated spatial separation founded on these activities (CSIR, 2005).

As soon as logical systematic methods of development were banished by new development philosophies, the conviction was that the societal revolution was the solution to the difficulties and harms of the urban zones (Watson, 2002). The next approaches of planning controlled the developmental model landscape, for example, communicative planning theory (Watson, 2002); radical planning, advocacy planning and participatory planning (Todes, 2011). These planning theories started as an outcome of planning actions that led to the marginalisation and displacement of the underprivileged in urban areas; gender differences increased criminality in strategic and well-organised communities and the opinion that these design concepts were understood to be endorsing only the benefits of the better-off residents (Todes, 2011).

However, design development concentrated merely on normative planning by the close of the 1970's and the following tactics of planning were actually used (Hudson, 1979):

- A. Collaborative planning: is centred on consensus building and place-making among all participants involved (Harrison, 2006). The collaborative viewpoint understands the city and developer as intermediary between various participants in the planning procedure (Fainstein, 2000).
- B. Just Town approach: is founded on spatial justice in the urban, it focuses on making an urban appearance that is established on collaboration and centralisation of government influences (Fainstein, 2000).
- C. Radical activism is grounded on relations of societal philosophies in order to achieve instant outcomes and it condemns the part of the government in the making of societal difficulties (Hudson, 1979).
- D. Incremental planning advocates that planning is done over discussions among policy-making groups and it is built on knowledge and sensitivity of the planner (Hudson, 1979). Incremental academics depend on renewal of ancient commercial models (Fainstein, 2000).

- E. Transactive planning encourages public consultation and the improvement of their objectives and benefits. It results in common learning and understanding while progressing the objective of the public (Hudson, 1979). However, an advocacy planner contests using lawful strategies for societal justice while encouraging the interests of minority groups.

Nevertheless, some people trust that modernisation failed the unindustrialised or emerging domain which has its irreplaceable structures that are dissimilar from the American and European settings that were the central influencers of modernisation planning theories (Watson, 2002). Modernisation plans were fragile in economic and social investigation of traits that form metropolises (Harris, 1983). Planning urban open spaces using foreign approaches will always result in diverse challenges because they become irrelevant to the local context.

2.4.1. Modernism and Urban Open Spaces

The postmodernism theory can be assumed as a response against the philosophies, concepts and values of modernism, as well as a depiction of the period that followed modernism's governance and control in social theory and exercise in the initial and middle eras of the twentieth period (Berg, 1993). According to Renee (1998), Durban's open spaces were based on green conservationism and standardised rules in the late 1970s with modernism as the dominant philosophy based on scientific reasoning and rationality. To present and current recognition of complexity, the dynamic nature of urban processes was embraced by postmodernism.

Renee (1998) argues that the influences of rational decision-making which were adopted in the 1970s still remain influential today. Practically, modernism is still the approach that is utilised to deliver projects. Urban open spaces are created with no influence of postmodernism but rationally which is modernism. According to Beauregard (1989), in reality, modernist planning is incompatible with spatial problematic, and the modern movement has lost credibility due to physical degradation, urbanisation, chaos and many miseries caused in cities. However, practitioners still cleave to modernist customs and traditions in an attempt to implement their master plans. This has resulted in this study, to examine the utilisation of urban open spaces and how people also relate with space regardless of the fact that they are the result of modernist planning.

2.5. Approaches to Viewing Open Space

There are two identified approaches to observing open space, for each with explanation of the diversity of roles that open space affords. They are the development and utilitarian approaches.

2.5.1. Development Approach

The development approach perceives open spaces by means of alternatives for impending expansion. The approach is related to economic approach, where monetary benefits developments are valued and it is an approach most often considered by public entrepreneurs and developers (Amit-Cohen and Maruani, 2007). According to Babbit (2005), developers preserve open areas to intensify the property worth of the surrounding environment by improving the visual appeal of adjacent property. Even though conservation of open areas may be initiated in a development approach to strengthen property price, it is frequently the instance that commercial gains of developing open areas exceed these concerns (Amit-Cohen and Maruani, 2007).

Nevertheless, development is naturally irremediable and can decrease in value over time. In contrast, continually conserved open space is a non-depreciating asset with accumulative gains after a while (Kritilla and Fisher, 1975). Regrettably, the development approach disagrees with this long-term interpretation. Schmidt (2008) notes that even though there has been imperfect attainment in green pricing, there is a natural struggle in trying to place a fee on environmental amenities such as habitat protection or biodiversity, and hence what is measurable, such as development will practically constantly win.

2.5.2. Utilitarian Approach

Schmidt (2008) notes that the utilitarian approach prioritises open space completely looking at the services and benefits that it offers for public use. It perceives open spaces as amenity suppliers and stresses the necessity to preserve a simple level of open space in order to continue providing these services and benefits (Amit-Cohen and Maruani, 2007).

Public open spaces empower environmental functions with many indirect and direct benefits, such as flood protection and micro-climate guideline, which should assist as an explanation for conservation. Nevertheless, while it is hard to allocate value to open space services and benefits, it can be debated that since people cannot live deprived of them, the total value of open space and ecosystem benefits are unlimited or infinite (Fausold and Lilieholm, 1999).

The problem arises in this approach where only those spaces that are freely recognised as having human function are conserved, which reflects that spaces with other forms of functions

and values are overlooked. For instance, if the open space use that is valued is health or a recreational function and is sport-focused, then other vital services such as ecological and ecosystem uses, would be lost (Fausold and Lilieholm, 1999).

2.6. Summary

This section involved numerous theoretical and conceptual frameworks to untangle the view of city open spaces and formulate the lenses through which city open spaces can be understood. It showed the idea of urban power, particularly in the use of the modernism theory which can be viewed as an apartheid tool. In the post-modernism age, contemporary planning was initiated because there was a shared involvement of people and powers.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

3.1 Introduction

The determination of this section is to review the literature around the topic by several scholars regarding the use, benefits and access to urban open spaces. This is done by examining international practices (specifically Australia and Kenya) before shifting the focus to South Africa.

3.2. Benefits of Urban Open Spaces

In the last decade there has been less publication on the profits and benefits of open spaces in the South African writing or journal of regional planning. As a result of shortage in exploration on this subject does not signify that there are none concerns nor challenges; reasonably it depicts the absence of concern in public open space resolutions throughout this preceding period.

Globally although, numerous information has been recorded and transcribed about the various use and gains that urban open space development and planning offer in urban areas. This welfare and benefit can be arranged according to the next classes:

- A. Planning Advantages
- B. Economic Advantages
- C. Social Advantages
- D. Ecological

(Nijkamp & Baycan-Levent, 2009)

Some authors have categorised these benefits in a rather different way, but this does not eliminate the point that such benefits are real (Flores, et al., 1998).

Table 3:1. Benefits of Open Spaces

Social Benefits	Physical Planning Benefits	Ecological Benefits
Enrichment of property value	Protection of water quality	Environment for vegetation and creatures
Recreational opportunities	Flood control	Ecosystem community representativeness
Public interconnection	Variation of temperature	Storing of nutrients
Beautiful enrichment	Elimination of air contamination	Increased biodiversity
Foundation of information & Knowledge	Reduction of erosion	Shelter for endangered and threatened species

The following chart characterises the diverse forms of benefits and use which will be deliberated in this study. The hypothesis is that if all benefits are discussed and premeditated, it will be at ease to assume the purposed use of city open spaces according to the three central benefits mentioned above, for example, social, economic and ecological benefits add up to the planning benefits.

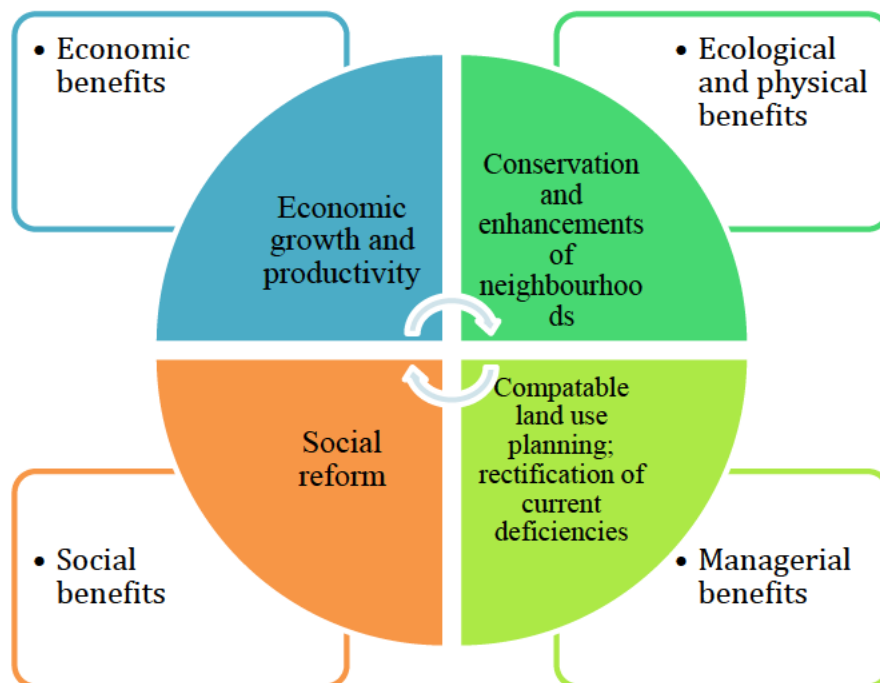


Figure 3.1: Summary of Urban Open Space Benefits

Source (Mashalaba, 2013)

3.2.1. Social Benefits of Urban Open Space

The societal profits and benefits of open spaces comprise the rewards that communal open space possess for societies. These qualities improve societal characteristics of human life in metropolises and consist of the following:

- A. Health
- B. Environmental justice and equity
- C. Liveability
- D. Places for social integration

3.2.1.1. Health Benefits

According to Lee (2008), public open spaces encompass characteristics that offer relaxation, anxiety liberation and mental fitness and all these can be regarded as health benefits. Ulrich (1999) recognised that the planning community identified health benefits which are connected to urban open spaces but it certainly does not impact urban planning (Beer, 2003). Nevertheless, what planners need to realise is that there are some benefits that have the potential to be improved when they are combined with further planning purposes (Beer, 2003). For instance, designers may perhaps improve the likelihood of people using an open space by ensuring that city open spaces are accessible. How society relates and communicates to the city open space cannot be controlled by a planner, but accepting that there is an aspect that needs to be well thought through is significant to city planning (Mashalaba, 2013).

Although it is not the aim of this research to discover the relationship concerning public health and active lifestyle, it is essential for urban developers to realise that the prospects that communal open space offers, can nurture an active lifestyle for the public. A journal termed “*A Walk in the Park*” indicates that an effortlessly reachable and well-designed open space can benefit obese UK peoples (Written, 2008). Research from a health viewpoint confirms that easy accessibility to a beautiful and big open space upsurges the usage (by walking) of city open spaces (Giles-Corti, 2005). Conflicting to this discovery nonetheless is that, in Hiscock, Pearce, Blakely and New Zealand, it is proved that there is no sufficient proof that submits linking access to an open space and physical activity (Written, 2008).

3.2.1.2. Environmental Justice and Equity

Ferris (2001) assumed that the use of city open spaces is strictly connected to ecology, environmental equity and justice. Public open spaces improve societal and environmental

justice by generating equivalent prospects to numerous individuals and hence offering a space of liberty and attachment (Cabe Space, 2005). Urban open spaces provide a platform for expressing justice and equity for different individuals and groups.

3.2.1.3. Urban Liveability

Cabe Space (2005) mentions that the renewal and revival of open space is similarly represented as the word 'liveability', it entails the enhancement of value of life in a community. City liveability can be shown by the suggestion of activities within public open spaces which contains the company of families, but they are quick to leave if the environments are poor. This is mainly accurate in research that was conducted in Belgium, in that way, as far back as the late 1980s, there had remained an outmigration of households with teenagers from city centres towards out-of-town zones because of the poor value of city life in the city centres (Van Herzele and Wiedemann, 2003).

Urban liveability can likewise be shown through environmental factors, contained in the unobtrusiveness of a neighbourhood, healthy air and visually attractive city open spaces in a walkable distance (Van Herzele and Wiedemann, 2003). In research done in 1998 by Tratsaert, it was established that in Leuven the shortage of open city spaces remained the key motive for society to abandon the city, and the people moving were regarding the city green zone and quiet neighbourhood on the borders of the city (Van Herzele and Wiedemann, 2003).

3.2.1.4. Places for Social Integration

Some have encouraged public open spaces as a tool and vehicle of social integration, such as in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz, which is intended to rectify the wounds of the dividing line that was enforced on the city for years (Sorkin, 1992). In the context of South Africa, during the apartheid era, the use of urban open spaces was restricted to a few because the blacks were not even allowed to be in urban areas (Béni-Gbaffou, 2018).

3.2.2. Economic Benefits

The economic significance and worth of urban open spaces denotes direct benefits (compensating for recreation amenities); unforeseen benefits (spill-over benefits from health; absence of criminality and commercial opportunities); and finally figurative worth (sense of place) (Cabe Space, 2005).

- A. It improves the economic impact of recreation; festivals and leisure, which may attract people into the space and hence improve local tourism.

- B. Attract an economically dynamic labour force and trade, thereby encouraging private investments.
- C. City open spaces express communities by cultivating a neighbourhood sense of belonging and identity.
- D. They improve local property values.

3.2.2.1. The Impact of Public Open Spaces on Property Values

It appears to be a common agreement among scholars that city open spaces improve assets significance (Molly and Owusu-Edusei, 2001; Poudyal, 2009; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2010). Nevertheless, this agreement still needs to be verified as it distresses cities and emerging nations that do not have a solid assets economy subject and controlled by the underprivileged in the city (Mashalaba, 2013).

Although, because of a common covenant on the worth of city open space subsists, it is essential for city developers to examine the kind of city open spaces which will be of a food use to the diverse kinds of societies and neighbourhoods (Voicu and Been, 2008). For instance, a maintained public garden (as a kind of city open space) will possess an encouraging and progressive influence on the assets values of an inferior neighbourhood (Voicu and Been, 2008).

It is also important to be aware of the setting or background of the region and the influence municipal green spaces hold on values across the diverse categories of physical structures. Research conducted in Scotland, Aberdeen presented that there is a variance in the way in which assets values reacted to the nearness of city open spaces, for example, the value of high density buildings would upsurge with closeness to city open space, however, it was untrue for other categories of housing (Dehring, 2006).

According to Shively (2009), city open spaces hold an encouraging influence on property but there are two causes that can reduce the financial worth of the property. The prominent cause is non-maintenance of open spaces and also decline of revenue from prospective property development when buildable plot is conserved as open space.

3.2.2.2. Economic Efficiency

In order to create economic value from urban open spaces requires native authorities to make stern decisions. By delivering merits in small quantity and that will be appreciated, local rulers

take the opportunity and turn societal worth of communal space into commercial usage (Cabe Space, 2005).

The following signifies characteristics that hold an influence on the economic benefits of open spaces (Cabe Space, 2005):

- A. There is a constructive link concerning the park dimension and its zone of effect in relation to development prices.
- B. Fenced open spaces have a minor influence as equated to squares that are optically appealing and are linked to road systems.
- C. Height of structures and the impact of design and lay-out planning: obstructed vistas could initiate a lesser value influence of open spaces except there are views that enrich vista openness.

3.2.3. Urban Open Space Management

Mashalaba (2013) notes that similar to some other land use, city open spaces require land management policy for them to be suitable within the built environment. There exists conservational initiatives for urban open spaces. These ingenuities vary from plan, legislature, and planning standards that rule a city's assets. In countries like Sweden, there is a movement to privatise and commercialise city open spaces through housing firms (Lindgrey, 2008). In Chapter three of this study some of the legislation for managing urban open spaces are discussed.

3.2.3.1. Land Use Zoning

Management comes in diverse forms, which comprise site management and also include planned land use management (Mashalaba, 2013). Strategic environmental assessment and physical planning retain a manner of categorising zones that require protection and preservation. Conway (2006) does not consider common land use guidelines to be effective in keeping the links of passages to open spaces. Conway (2006) established her valuation on the below three categories of land use guidelines:

- A. Water and wetland buffers
- B. Densification of land uses or cluster zoning
- C. Down-zoning

Zoning laws have an important influence on the manner city open spaces are coordinated, used and established (Tang and Wong, 2008). If the zoning bylaws are unclear in the manner they

describe city open spaces, there is destined to be misperception in the way in which development plans are permitted. For instance, a study led by Nicol and Blake (2000) discovered that local experts have a habit of giving greater green worth in sport fields and parks than to other places of advanced biomass which might not appreciate the rank of official city open space, for instance, vacant land. They commend that city open spaces must likewise be categorised in relations of their type of land cover and biotic qualities.

Significant reflections in the design and planning of linkages of soft open space are: (a) quantity, (b) location (how much space there should be relative and complementary to other land uses), (c) connection (how singular spaces should connect with each other), and (d) vegetation (the nature of surfaces, and the balance between “pristine” and “artificial” landscapes) (CSIR, 2002).

3.2.4. Ecological Benefits of Urban Open Space

As stated by Mashalaba (2013), the ecological welfare of open spaces are those roles of spaces that enhance the environment and maintain natural resources which remain essential to withstand the lives of all existing plants and human life.

3.2.4.1. Conservation

Conservation subdivisions (CSDs) are a strategy that tries to reserve the entire, buildable areas of parcel as public open space for people (Arendt, 1996). In a conservation sub-division, preferably, 50 to 70 per cent of the land that is buildable is set apart as uncluttered space by assembling households on the established lots of land. The idea is to group households together to benefit from the open space while sustaining city biodiversity (Hostetler and Drakeb, 2008). The communal profits of conservation sub-divisions consist of the following:

- A. Lessening of demand for community open spaces (Carter, 2009)
- B. Preserving of habitats and biodiversity
- C. Protection of river ecosystems and storm-water management

3.3. An International Experience on Urban Open Spaces

The aim of this section is to establish the extent of how urban open spaces are used and perceived internationally. The discussion has focused on a developed and developing country. Australia was used as a developed country and the focus was on Sydney, and for a developing country, Kenya was used, with Nairobi as a location of the case study. The shift finally focused on the South African experience.

3.3.1. Urban Open Space in Hype Park-Australia

Urban open spaces cover a huge portion of Australian cities. For instance, a study of Ballarat, Victoria found that 13 percent of the city was zoned as a conservational and recreational park, and a total of 28 per cent of the city was covered in trees with a further 24 per cent of the city shielded in grassland (Kendal, 2012). This shows that the city prioritises the use of urban open spaces.

Hyde Park is located on the eastern outskirts of the central business district of Sydney in Australia. Hyde Park was originally used as an open area for recreation and sports during the first colony. The space was given numerous names such as ‘The Common’, the ‘Exercising Ground’, the ‘Cricket Ground’ and the ‘Race Course’, until in 13 October 1810 when Governor Macquarie officially divided the zone after the area and called the space ‘Hyde Park’, after the infamous London Hyde Park (City of Sydney Website, 2008).



Map 3.1: Hyde Park lay-out

Source: Google maps 2019

The growth of Hyde Park over the past 80 years has produced the distinctive and unique space appreciated today with over 600 trees including 122 fig trees along the central avenue of the park and an extensive group of fauna species and flora (City of Sydney website). The only remnants of the original Hyde Park is the vast chess set that features along the western side of the park (City of Sydney website, 2008).



Image 3.1 Fig trees, various landscaping chess set

Source: Truong 2008

3.3.1.1. The Use of Hyde Park

According to Truong (2008), Hyde Park is actually one of the most unique spaces found in Sydney city and it is mostly visited because of its horticulture. Its visual beauty brings a truly distinct character that is remarkable and stands out amongst Sydney city's countless open spaces (Johnson, L., Interview on 19 September 2008). Jan Gehl regards Hyde Park as the green lung of the city (Gehl, 2007, p. 83). An oasis for peace and tranquillity alongside the eastern border of the city. Its function and role as a space is similar to that of Central Park in New York and Hyde Park of London (Truong, 2008). In short, Hyde Park can be considered as a landmark in Sydney because of its location and the visitors that continually utilise it. The urban open space is also used and presumed as a space of peace (Truong, 2008).



Image 3.2 Hyde Park lay-out - highlighting entrances

Source: PPS 2006 pp. 4

Image 3.2. depicts the park having numerous entries that are all visibly defined with solid legible definitions. These entry points offer a grand character that calls users into the succulent display of greenery. Truong (2008) notes that the granite walls that border the east, west and south borders clearly mark where the park begins and finishes. Entrances connect to railway stations and streets, increasing pedestrian opportunities for embarking at the park, with the

streets harnessing perfect views to the entrances, building good permeability (Truong, 2008). Hyde Park shows that in order to have effective urban open spaces, it is essential that accessibility is prioritised for easy movement and use.

A range of users are engrossed and attracted to Hyde Park extending from workers and local residents to international tourists (Truong, 2008). Many are attracted to Hyde Park because of its sheer loveliness and tranquillity in a busy city and Hyde Park frequently acts as a thoroughfare for people, with a lot of people using the space to escape the pollution and the noise of the city (PPS, 2006). According to Truong (2008) it is the same reason countless people use the space as a place for socialising, relaxation, exercising, eating lunch, etc. Truong (2008) notes that bench seats and passive seating opportunities are present throughout the park permitting users to sit down to appreciate the scenery and great views of Sydney's vista. The existence of street furniture in the park provides an opportunity for users to comfortably enjoy the space. The space also acts as a barrier to noise and pollution.



Image 3.3. Various artworks at Hyde Park

Source: Truong 2008

Image 3.3. shows the unique character of Hyde Park; a large number of public artworks, ranging from small memorial stones to large decorations and large water features, are displayed. The collective artworks embrace numerous meanings with the majority in memory of World War One. Some of the history of Sydney and these artworks are not only visually exciting, but they also act as important points for users to identify and interact with Hyde Park as a space. They consist of the Lake of Reflections, ANZAC War Memorial, Archibald fountain and the Egyptian furnished obelisk (Truong, 2008). The artworks in urban open spaces attract users to utilise the spaces and also reflect on the history behind them. This shows that the existence of historical artwork in urban open spaces attracts users to have an educative experience.

Even though there is a lack of passive surveillance from adjoining edges, the park does not have safety and security issues due to the high number of users throughout the day (Truong, 2008). This, therefore, brings relief to the users of this urban open space since they can enjoy the space without thinking about their safety. It is essential to also discuss the legislative framework that guides and monitors urban open spaces (urban green area) in Australian cities.

3.3.2. Legislation and Urban Open Space –Australia

Urban open spaces are special areas that are protected by certain legislative frameworks. According to the Director of National Parks (DNP) (2015), the Australian Government leases permits and licenses in agreement with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) and the related management plan for the reserve urban open spaces (parks).

Protecting the natural environment increases awareness of the relations between health, physical activity and access to open space; and the growing demand for safety, quality and access to recreational facilities (NSW Government 2010b, p. 21). The importance of protecting open spaces is to bring awareness about the vital role they play in promoting health and physical activity for city users.

The Sydney Environmental Plan 2012 makes provision in agreement with the appropriate customary conservation development tool under section 33A of the Act. The specific purposes of this plan are below:

- To guard and to improve the enjoyment of the natural environment of the City of Sydney, its harbour location and its leisure zones.
- To encourage ecologically sustainable development.
- To protect the environmental tradition of the City of Sydney.
- To develop the amenity and value of life of local people.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999

The Act is Australia's key domestic legislature for the protection of the environment. The objectives of the EPBC Act (Section 3(1)) are:

- To promote the conservation of biodiversity.
- To deliver for the conservation and protection of culture.
- To be responsible for the security of the atmosphere, exclusively those characteristics of the atmosphere that are matters of domestic ecological importance.

- To encourage environmentally supportable growth by economically maintainable use of natural resources and preservation.

Australian Environmental Legislation

Environmental legislation discourages any activities that negatively affect the environment. There are permits that are issued for any activity on the environment. Below is the discussion of the protected areas.

Protected Areas

Protected areas are subject to more strict protection than is provided by common environmental protection legislation. Usually you have to get a permit or approval to conduct scientific activity in protected zones.

There are many types of environmentally protected areas in Australia, including but not limited to:

- biosphere reserves
- Ramsar sites
- national parks, managed by the Commonwealth, states, territories and local governments
- nature reserves and regional parks
- marine parks
- World Heritage-listed areas
- state conservation areas

The above-mentioned aims show that sustainability and conservations are not only prioritised from national level but also from the municipal level as the city of Sydney also protects instruments that conserve biodiversity.

(i) Lesson learned

The eThekwini municipality can learn from Hyde Park in Australia. The urban open space is well-designed and offers easy access to users. It is essential to provide entrances to such spaces from more than one direction so that users can exit to other essential adjacent land uses. The urban open space at Hyde Park also offers artwork, where users are not only attracted by the green nature of the space but also the sculptures that are within the space. The urban open space offers street furniture which brings comfort for users of the park. The eThekwini Municipality can learn that street furniture completes the satisfaction of users since they are not limited to

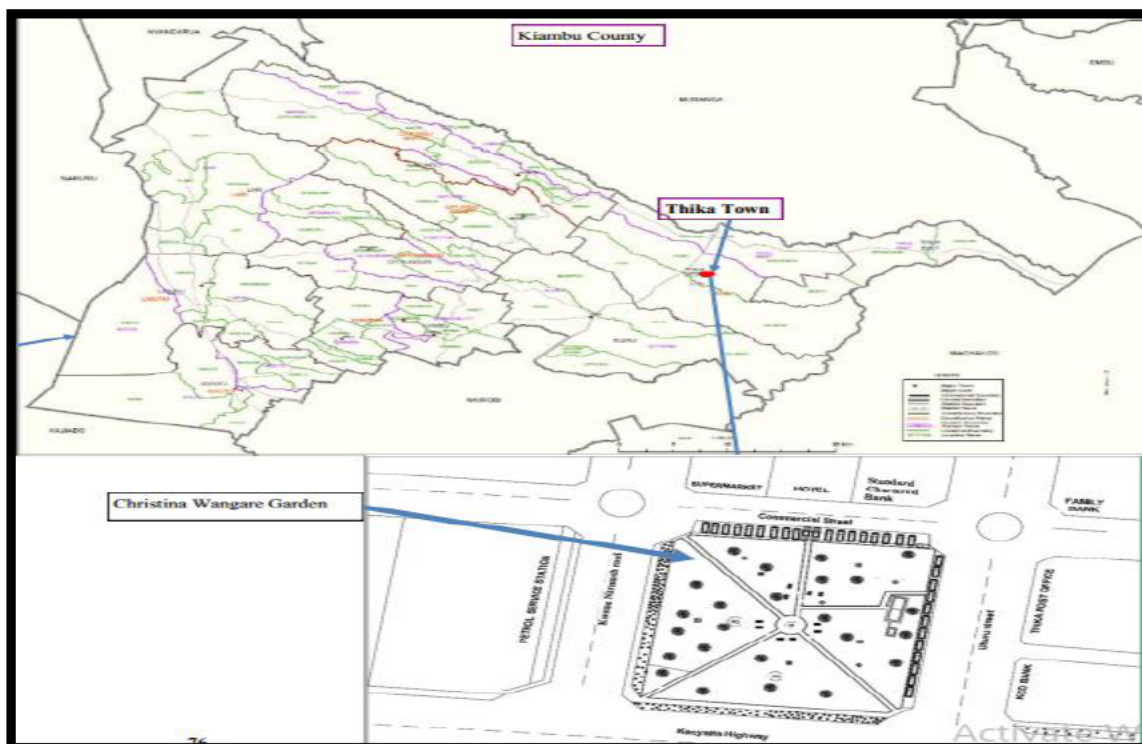
walking only, but they are able to sit and meditate. It is also imperative to articulate how city open spaces are used in developing countries. Christina Wangari Garden in Kenya was made a case study.

3.4. Urban Open Space in Christina Wangari Garden-Kenya

Christina Wangari Garden was originally known as the Coronation garden. It is a historic site, which is in the heart of Thika Town (Njambi, 2014). The garden was named after a prominent woman freedom fighter, Wangari who was involved in the fight for the country's liberation. It is a public site and no fee is charged to use the garden. The garden was designated as a public open space in 1942 by colonial management when the populace of the town was merely 10 000 persons (Njambi, 2014).

According to Njambi (2014), the Coronation Garden was changed to Christina Wangari Garden in 1963 after liberation owing to the parts of colonisation. Its management and uses have evolved over time; initially, it was a neglected, undeveloped open space that was primarily used by street families (Njambi, 2014). As time passed, under the management of the municipal council, presently the sub-country, massive development, an improvement in the garden have been experienced and witnessed (Njambi, 2014).

Christina Wangari Garden is situated in the Central Business District in the middle of Kwame Nkrumah Road, Kenyatta Highway, Correctional Street, and Uhuru Street, opposite the Thika sub-county main offices. The map below depicts the location of the case study from a local perspective.



Map 3.2. Wangari Garden

Source: Njambi, (2014)

3.4.1. The Use of Christina Wangari Garden

Government institutions (such as ministry of lands), commercial activities such as hotels, learning institutions, financial institutions, small-scale businesses, and offices among others, surround the garden. The existence of all these land use activities increases the demand for use of the Christina Wangari Garden. According to Njambi (2014), the users of the park are students, business people and customers shopping or visiting different offices. The average number of urban open space visitors per day is 654 persons with Sunday recording the highest number of visitors (Njambi, 2014).

Since the urban open space is located along a busy area of the CBD, it is mostly used for relaxation by users from adjacent land uses. According to Njambi (2014), the use of the park is limited to relaxation due to different challenges. The park suffers from diverse challenges such as high numbers of users than the carrying capacity of the urban open space, inadequate attention in preservation and maintaining of the space, lack of security, inadequate facilities, lack of facilities for some groups of people such as children, adults and the physically challenged. Map 3.3. provides a summary of the challenges and problems in the urban open space

3.4.2.2. Environmental Management and Coordination Act CAP (No. 8 of 1999)

The Act offers the establishment of a suitably recognised legal structure for the supervision of environmental matters. It aims to encourage a clean, harmless and healthy atmosphere. Section 7 of the Act affords the establishment of the national environmental management and coordination authority (NEMA). Section 58 of this Act states that all development plans that are expected to have a negative influence on the environment are to undergo an environmental impact assessment before commencement. This Act shows the essential need for protecting green spaces in Kenya which also includes urban open spaces in the country.

3.4.2.3. Local Legislations (Thika Sub-Country Bylaws)

The Environmental Department manages public parks in Thika Sub-Country. According to the bylaws, littering in parks and elsewhere in the town is strictly prohibited. Regardless of having this bylaw, the Sub-Country of Thika has not provided trash containers for the Christina Wangari Garden (Njambi, 2014). This shows a clear disconnection between the bylaws and the Sub-Country to facilitate such a requirement. The bylaw further restricts nail painting and saloon activities in parks. According to Njambi (2014), during weekends when there is low supervision, a lot of these types of activities are evident in the garden.

3.4.2.4. Planning Policies of Public Park in Thika

There are several policies that affect the use of public parks in Thika town which include: National Urban Development Policy, Vision 2030, Physical Planning Handbook 2008, Thika Strategic Plan and Nairobi Metro 2030 Plan.

Physical Planning Handbook 2008: It gives the planning condition for public parks in the urban area. This planning policy precisely clarifies the land budgeting for public parks as 1-2 hectares of land for every 10 000 people. It further gives facilities required for an urban open space. This policy suffers diverse setbacks since it does not explain the planning requirement for different parks hierarchy from neighbourhood to metropolitan level, as well as the office mandated to manage urban open spaces is not familiar with this document, therefore its requirements are not well implemented (Njambi, 2014).

National Urban Development Policy: This planning policy states the land conditions for recreational land use for urban open spaces but there is silence when it comes to the requirements for an explanation for different parks and sporting facilities such as stadiums.

Nairobi Metro 2030 Plan and Vision 2030: These two policies propose the revitalisation of urban open spaces in Kenya and use a sustainable approach in utilisation and management. These policy strategies and guidelines borrow a lot from international policies such as The Brundtland Report on sustainability and Millennium Development Goals on sustainable development (Njambi,2014). Both policies were adopted in order to improve the sustainability of urban open spaces.

(i) Lesson learned

The eThekweni Municipality can learn a few things from the Christina Wangari Garden's urban open space even though there are more challenges in the space. The urban open space is well populated with adequate trees that provide shade for users. The majority of the areas of the space possess vegetation that is well maintained. As stated there are more challenges than benefits in the space. The urban open space fails to carry the demand of city users which then results in overcrowding. The space is poorly designed when compared with Hyde Park in Australia. Christina Wangari Garden lacks adequate open areas in the park, and also limits access to physically challenged people. There are no facilities such as benches, fountains and shelters. Some entrances to the urban open space are blocked by vehicles as shown in Map 3.3. The urban open space lacks a sense of beauty and attraction. The discussion will now focus locally in South Africa.

3.5. Urban Open Spaces in South Africa

The state in South Africa today is a mixture of speedy urbanisation and inequalities due to apartheid. The informal settlements and townships are unhygienic and severely lacking in recreational facilities and public open space. There is an imbalance in the establishment of open spaces, particularly for active recreation. The central urban area and recognised residential zones are well placed and well managed. The providing of open spaces has been in terms of convenient standards based on 'horticulture tradition' rather than an attained balance between environmental sustainability and user-need. The establishment of public open space in townships and informal areas was generally leftover space not appropriate for development or 'recreational and sports field' facility standards with slight concern for the biophysical setting or the needs of the user community. Furthermost open spaces have either been squatted on or have declined into littered useless wastelands (Hindson, et al., 1995; IPS, 1997).

South Africa has a designated system that influences how spaces are used which is called a MOSS. It is essential to discuss it since this study focuses on the current and purposed use of urban open spaces.

3.5.1. Metropolitan Open Space Systems

The Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS) is fundamentally the logical classification of open spaces and zones in the urban environment. It is outlined in the South African Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework (2000), as an interconnected and controlling system of open space, that helps relations concerning economic, social and environmental activities, improving both human settlements and ecological developments. A MOSS entails private and public spaces, precisely undeveloped ordinary spaces, developed spaces, undisturbed natural spaces, disturbed and unspoiled environmental green areas. Some of the objectives of MOSS plans is that the ultimate open space system is the outcome of a planning procedure that is publicly motivated, serving and aiding the public (JMOSS, 2002). The establishment of a MOSS indicates that open space is appreciated and respected in its identifiable right and is well-planned and integrated into the city setting.

An important characteristic of a MOSS is possessing a functional and operative green area system. Open space systems are well-described structures of diverse categories of open space that act as a rational whole (Corday, 2006). They frequently contain passages or greenways that link various surroundings and open zones, so that places are connected other than inaccessible (Cook, 1991).

Urban open spaces are confronted with different challenges as it was discovered from Hyde Park in Australia, it is fundamental for the study to also deliberate on challenges in the South African context.

3.5.2. Current Challenges of Urban Open Spaces in South Africa

According to the South African Cities Network (2016), the current reality suggests that green infrastructure and urban green spaces are often sacrificed and neglected. Urban developments are often prioritised because of the monetary value reflected in property rates, profits from developments, high taxes and increased market price for land (Cilliers, et al., 2015). In contrast, green open spaces are professed to have little or no monetary value (Cilliers and Timmermans, 2014), and are only considered a visual quality, and not a necessity. According to Mchunu (2016), a growth of informality is taking place, particularly in Durban municipal areas. He further states that open spaces are misused by the Shembe church which acts contrary to what

they intended or against their zoning designations. The existing lack of communal unity between residents and users of the inner-city (Simone, 2004) has destabilised the level of social control within urban public parks which results in allowing unlawful activities such as muggings and drug-dealing to occur in many instances within these spaces.

Pillay and Pahlad (2014) explicitly indicate that numerous recreational parks and preserved spaces in the South Durban Area (SDA) remain under-utilised or not used at all by citizens because of lack of maintenance. Numerous discoveries also support claims that local people progressively perceive open spaces in residential zones as insecure and unsafe (Jim & Chen, 2006; Perry, 2008; Omoleke, 2012; Sreetheran and van den Bosch, 2014). Accessibility, social and environmental issues are some of the challenges for proper use of public parks. However, the challenges of accessibility to public parks, mostly in residential areas of cities are least explored (Honiball, 2016).

The challenges encountered in city open spaces indirectly motivate the importance of the state to prioritise planning such spaces.

3.5.3. Importance of Planning for Urban Open Spaces

Statistics South Africa projected a mid-year population of 52, 98 million persons in South Africa by 2013, significantly more than the projected mid-year population of 50, 59 million people in 2011. Many people are shifting from country side regions to municipal zones resulting in an escalation in urbanisation. Quick urbanisation, which signifies the rising quantity of persons in the city space can initiate great force and pressure on the city environment (Pacione, 2005). Furthermore, it places challenges for service delivery from the government, threats to ecological and health concerns and exacerbates criminality (Nevhutanda, 2007). The problem is clearly that there is a growing population with insufficient space. As an effect of quick urbanisation, the land set apart for the use of open spaces is being used to construct and deliver family units for the increasing populace resulting in the value of life in the city setting not being taken into account.

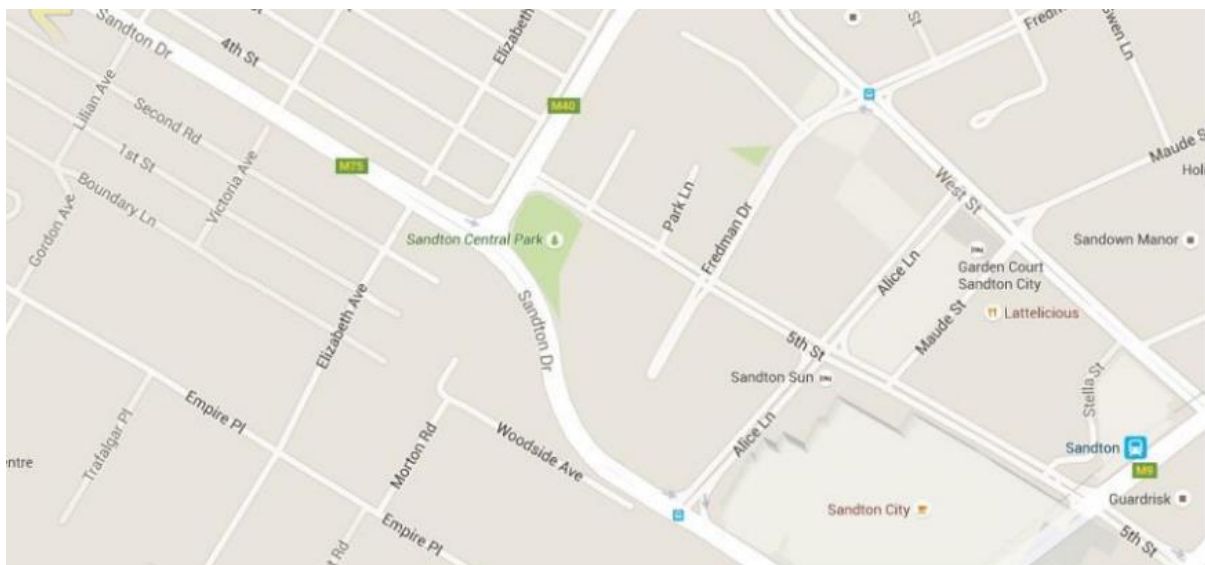
Fast and continuous development also impacts park accessibility and propinquity destructively. Accessibility hold two principles: a spatial component (reflecting the distribution of the activities) and a temporal element (proximity between two points or the travel time) (Pasaogullari and Doratli, 2004). It is essential that when local municipalities design parks that both these characteristics of accessibility are considered in order to ensure that all people have adequate access to parks nearby (Pasaogullari and Doratli 2004). The use of urban open spaces

is encouraged by easy access and less travelling time and this is expounded more in Chapter five of this study.

The key challenge with many of the present green spaces is the absence of amenities and preservation by metropolises, resulting in the space having an unappealing, unattractive and uninviting feeling (Parker, 2014). Hence it is isessential to plan for urban open spaces in reaction to pressures of urbanisation.

Sandton Central Park in Johannesburg will be used as a case study, which is in South Africa. This gives a perspective about the local experience of city open spaces.

3.5.4. Sandton Central Park



Map 3.4: Sandton Central Park

Source: Google maps 2019

The Sandton CBD is located within Region E of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. The Sandton node can be considered as the financial area of South Africa as well as a mixed-use node offering a variety of guesthouses, hotels, employment opportunities, transportation networks and shopping centres. The Sandton node is encouraged and strengthened by the existence of head offices of larger companies in South Africa such as Rand Merchant Bank, Standard Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation and the South African Breweries (City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, 2010).

The Sandton Central Park, as shown in Map 1 is situated at the intersection of two mobility roads. Furthermore, Sandton City, a node in the area is found up the road from the site along 5th Street. Sandton Central Park moreover, is accessible to the public due to the bus network

and Gautrain Station by the Sandton CBD up 5th Avenue at the intersection on Rivonia Road (City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, 2010).

3.5.5. The Use of Sandton Central Park

The discussion on how Sandton Central Park is used will be deliberated under three factors, namely; economic, social and environmental factors.

(a) Economic Factors

The park is appropriate in terms of its linkages and accessibility but does not accommodate any economic opportunities to the point that the urban open space does not offer a varied range of activities and uses (Shelton, 2016). Economic activities may include a place of refreshment and a jungle gym for children.

According to Shelton (2016), Sandton Central Park is situated on each of its Sub Areas within the Region E of the Johannesburg Spatial Development Framework and in terms of contextuality, the park is well located in the Sandton CBD in terms of transport by which incorporation of the park with the rest of the Sandton CBD is possible. The park nevertheless does not have parking amenities and facilities. Therefore, the Sandton Central Park is accessible to public transportation users and pedestrians but not private car users. This can be regarded as a negative element of the park, to provide accessibility but no parking lot for users of the park.

(b) Social Factors

Shelton (2016) notes that Sandton Central Park does not provide an extensive choice of activities and uses, and only offers an elementary use to the public by providing access to a well-designed outdoor area. As an outcome, the park only delivers social benefits in terms of recreational space. Shelton (2016) states that since access is uncontrolled, the space cannot be guaranteed to be secure and safe. When there is no form of surveillance in urban open spaces, users are likely not to visit the space (Elizalde, 1997).



Image 3:4 Seating Area and Pathways

Source: Shelton (2016)

As indicated in Images 3.4, there is an abundance of spaces with seating and shade for public use and there are pathways throughout the park, which are user-friendly and maintained Shelton (2016). A large area of the park provides an opportunity for events over week-ends and at night and the park further offers an opportunity for market days, due to the accessible shade that is offered by the trees (Shelton, 2016). This positively indicates that the urban open space is not limited to daytime use but extends an invitation to be used even at night.

(c) Environmental Factors



Image 3.5: Poor Public Display Sign

Source: Shelton (2016)

As indicated in Image 3.5. there is poor signage, identity and lack of sense of place that makes the public unaware of the park, even though the park offers an arguably beautiful place in terms of trees, flowers and rolling hills (Shelton, 2016). The lack of signs in Sandton Central Park makes it hard for users to identify the park. According to Hughes (2002) signs offer a significant tool for enhancing visitor knowledge.

There is a recommendation that space offers more design interventions such as signage and lighting to make the space more welcoming, seating furniture, artwork and sculptures (Shelton, 2016). Artwork and sculptures are important features for urban open spaces as was also discovered in Hyde Park in Australia.

To have a comprehensive picture of urban open spaces in South Africa, the relevant legislative frameworks will be discussed.

3.5.6. Legislative Framework and Urban Open Spaces in South Africa

Some of the recent environmental acts and policies that impact the way open spaces are used and premeditated comprises of the Constitution of South Africa, National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Environment Conservation Act (ECA) and the Local Agenda 21

(LA 21). On hand are municipal bylaws at municipal level which also influence how urban open spaces are utilised.

3.5.6. The Republic of South Africa Constitution 1996

The South African constitution was legislated in 1996 with the purpose of strengthening the post-apartheid models. Beginning from a conservational perspective, South Africa's constitution relies rather heavily on the subjects of ecological protection and rights. Chapter 2, Section 24 best clarifies this and records that:

Everybody has the right-

- a) to an atmosphere that is not unsafe to their health and
- b) to have the environment safe, for the use of current and future generations, through rational law-making and other methods that
 - i. stop contamination and environmental deficit;
 - ii. encourage preservation
 - iii. protected environmentally maintainable growth and use of natural wealth while encouraging acceptable social and economic growth (Republic of South Africa, 1996).

The movement of environmental rights embedded in the constitution and in town aims, marks in better attention on conservational concerns. For open spaces, these conservational rights may perhaps communicate the necessities of persons to have a metropolitan atmosphere that embraces open space.

3.5.6.2. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 1998

The Act originated in 1998 with the purpose of warranting that environmental management be incorporated within cities and in order to deliver supportive environmental control between legislative bodies and organizations (Republic of South Africa, 1998a).

The principles of NEMA state that:

“environmental controlling should be incorporated, recognising that all fundamentals of the atmosphere are interconnected and related, and it must explain the effects of choices on all parts of the environment and all persons in the environment by following the selection of the greatest feasible environmental choice” (Republic of South Africa, 1998a: NEMA 2 [4b]).

and that :

“environmental managing requires to put the public and their essentials at the forefront of its worry, and attend their psychological, developmental, cultural and societal benefits equitably” (Republic of South Africa, 1998a: NEMA 2 [2a]).

The National Environmental Management Act proclaims that sensitive environments necessitate particular planning and management attention, specifically when there are great levels of people usage and development forces (Republic of South Africa, 1998a: NEMA 2(4r). NEMA is essential for open space usage because it reaffirms the necessity to protect ecologically sensitive and valuable areas.

Since the study is based in Kwazulu-Natal in the city of Durban, it is therefore imperative that the bylaws of parks and recreation are discussed.

3.5.6.3.eThekwini Municipality: Municipal Parks and Recreational Grounds Bylaw 2015

An introduction of a certain bylaw is meant to control, monitor and guide the use. The Municipal Council of the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality, permitted according to section 156 read with section 11 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000), made the Bylaw of Municipal Parks and Recreational Grounds (2015).

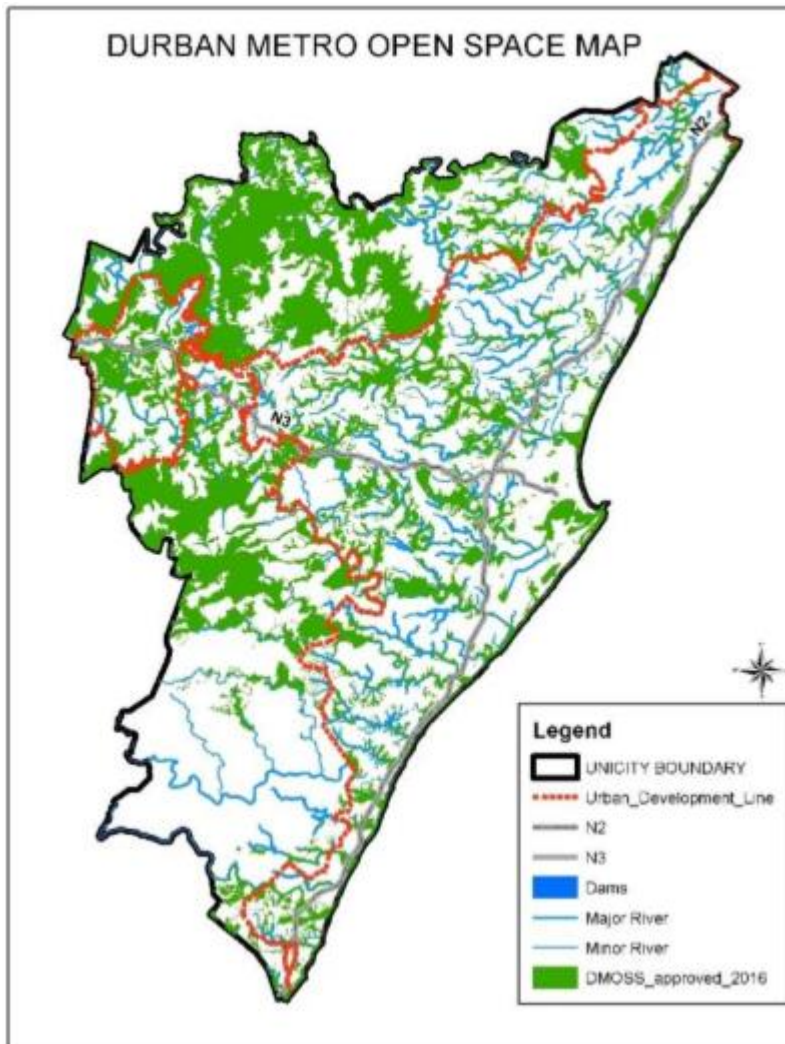
The Bylaw has several objectives that aid in regulating urban open spaces by city users, which are listed below;

- a) Guard and reserve open spaces for the benefit of the municipality;
- b) Control suitable use and satisfaction of squares by public community;
- c) Standardise the fees arranged for the reservation of squares for private occasions and gatherings; and
- d) Offer for matters related thereto.

According to the Parks and Recreational Grounds Bylaw (2015), city-users are allowed to access urban open spaces but there are certain terms and conditions that they need to follow. Users of urban open spaces are required to notice and conform with all the communications demonstrated at any zone of the park, comprising entrance thereto and conforming to any legal order given to him or her by a permitted official.

3.5.6.4. Durban Metropolitan Open Space System

D'MOSS is shorthand for the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System; this was previously recognised as the eThekweni Environmental Services Management Plan or EESMP. The Durban Metropolitan Open Space System, presently 94 000 hectares in size, is a spatial layer of inter-relating open spaces in public, private and traditional authority ownership that seek to protect the ecosystem services and biodiversity of Durban for future generations (eThekweni Municipality, 2011).



Map 3.5: Durban Metro Open Spaces

Source: SDF 2017/18

Importance of DMOSS

Apart from the protection of open spaces and biodiversity, according to eThekweni Municipality (2011), D'MOSS delivers a multiplicity of services to residents of Durban, including the creation of soil, erosion control, climate regulation, water supply and regulation, raw materials for craftsmanship and construction, cultural and recreational opportunities, pollination, food manufacture, nutrient cycling and waste treatment.

Starting from a weather alteration viewpoint, the biodiversity that is sheltered within D'MOSS plays an essential part. For example, amplified flood occasions can be toned down by making sure that floodplains and wetlands are secured and where obligatory improved. Forecast increased heats can also be lessened by D'MOSS, as vegetated zones support with cooling (eThekwini Municipality, 2011).

(i) Lesson learned

The eThekwini Municipality can learn from Sandton Central Park (Johannesburg) in South Africa. The urban open space is well located in the Sandton CBD in terms of transport by which incorporation of the park with the rest of the Sandton CBD is possible. The park nevertheless does not have parking amenities and facilities. It is important for open spaces to have facilities other than providing visual features for users. There are poor signage, identity and lack of sense of place that makes the public unaware of the park. eThekwini Municipality must take into consideration the presence of signs that identifies city open spaces so that they are easily seen by users.

3.6. Summary

This chapter gave an indication of the literature surrounding urban open spaces, current and purposed use of open spaces. It more importantly began to identify the benefits of urban open space. The literature indicated four categories of urban open space benefits, namely; economic advantages, social advantages, planning advantages and ecological benefits (Maruani and Amit-Cohen, 2007; Baycan-Levent and Nijkamp, 2009). The chapter outlined the relationship between accessibility and linkages in urban open spaces. Essentially, the legislations that guide and monitor open spaces were outlined from an international and local perspective. According to Hindson (1995), urban open spaces are created out of tradition and used for beauty rather than environmental sustainability. This argument, therefore, concludes that attitudes towards urban open spaces from international and local viewpoints are different, which then leaves room to examine the use of urban open spaces in Durban, at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.

Chapter 4

Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park

4.1. Introduction

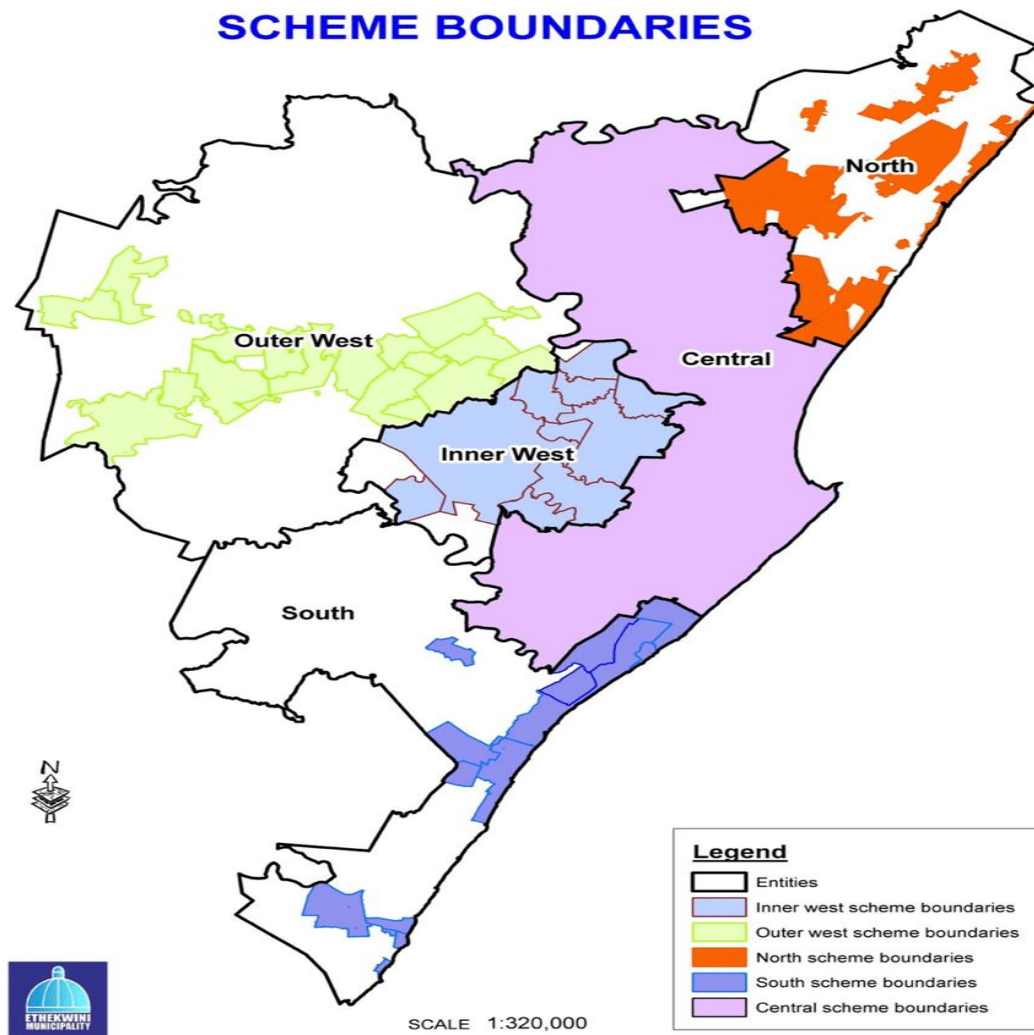
The objective of this section is to provide the historical setting of the two case study areas and their locality within the eThekweni Municipality. The case study areas involved are Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. This chapter will also discuss each area's characteristics where the case studies are located. Both of the focus study areas fall under the Central eThekweni Municipality Town Planning Scheme.

4.2. The eThekweni Municipality

The eThekweni Municipality is found in the state of Kwazulu-Natal on the east coast of South Africa. As recorded in Statistics South Africa (2011), the Durban Municipal space covers over an area of about 2 297 km² and has a population of 3 442 361 million people. Statistics South Africa (2011) further states that from 2001 to 2011, the population developed by 1.08 per cent as paralleled to the 2.34 per cent progression between 1996 and 2001. It is the economic hub of the KwaZulu-Natal Province. In 2005 the local gross product produced by the city amounted to R135 billion and in nationwide terms provided 10 per cent of South Africa's economic output (eThekweni, 2006).

Durban is found in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany global biodiversity hotspot, regarded as such because of its great intensities of habitat loss and bush endemism (Mittermeier, 2004). Durban comprises of urban, rural and peri-urban environments, with almost two-thirds of the metropolitan area being rural or semi-rural, where huge amounts of native dwellers are poor and openly dependent on environmental amenities for their simple necessities (Roberts and O'Donoghue, 2013; Sutherland, et al., 2014).

This study focuses on the inner city of Durban with the aim of examining the current use and purpose use of open spaces. Map 4.1. shows the eThekweni Municipality according to the scheme boundaries.



Map 4.1: eThekweni Municipality
 Source: eThekweni Planning Scheme

4.2.1. Legislative Framework

There are diverse environmental policies and documents that influence and regulate the use of city open spaces in the eThekweni Municipality. For the benefit of this study the Integrated Development Plan, Spatial Development Framework and Town Planning Scheme will be discussed.

4.2.1.1. Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

According to StepSA (2010) “the IDP is a management tool for developmental local governments to align scarce resources to established policy objectives, priorities actions, guarantee integration with other spheres and provide the basis for engagement with communities”. It becomes a consultative process with communities regarding issues and

challenges that they face. As a strategic document, it spells out the municipality's strategic plan of action for five years.

Relevant to the conservation of natural resources in eThekweni. According to eThekweni Municipality's IDP (2019/20), the Durban Metropolitan Open Space (D'MOSS) was latterly restructured, grounded on the Systematic Conservation Assessment. D'MOSS is a well-ordered advanced layer and categorises those conservation service resources that necessitate controlling and guarding (eThekweni Municipality, 2011). These resources include grasslands, rivers, wetlands, plantations and coastal zones (eThekweni Municipality, 2011). For the sake of this study, the focus is on grasslands which include open spaces. The D'MOSS execution approach aims to realise and guarantee such spaces are managed and protected.

4.2.1.2. Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

The Municipal Systems Act (No. 32 of 2000) states that the IDP must have a Spatial Development Framework (SDF), which should include elementary strategies for a land use controlling system that applies to the entire city. In essence, an SDF is a plan or a map which proposes the appropriate location and form of physical development and savings to promote desired outcomes. The SDF is a legal obligatory section of the IDP and therefore, it needs to be detailed and precise in cases where it wants to prevent or enforce certain types of land uses.

According to the eThekweni Municipality's SDF (2018/19), many of the natural resources within the Central Spatial Region are under danger from the endless pressures and development progression. Neglecting ecological systems reduces opportunities for building a structure of open space which provides essential environmental services and goods to the inhabitants of Durban. Both case studies of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park are located in the Central Spatial Region where natural resources are under threat. As recorded in the IDP, it is again expounded on the SDF, the significance of D'MOSS is protecting and managing sensitive areas in Durban.

According to the SDF (2018, 19), should anyone request to advance their property, if the property is found in the D'MOSS layer, an analysis of the site to be advanced will be instigated to assess the prospective environmental effect of the proposed development. This assessment will be fundamental in terms of town planning schemes but possible also in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998, (NEMA, Act No.107 of 1998).

4.2.1.3. Durban Town Planning Scheme

Town planning schemes are tools utilised by metropolises to manage and guide current and new development with reference to plans, visions and guidelines of the Spatial Development Framework and Integrated Development Plan in the significance of the overall community, to encourage maintainable growth and quality of life (KwaZulu-Natal Land Use Management System, 2004).

The Central Scheme of Durban provides details about the sensitivity of green lands in municipal areas. These areas are demarcated by a green hatched pattern (eThekweni SDF, 2018/19). The Durban Metropolitan Open Space System guided zone is a layer in the town planning document and is implementable by the ecological planning and climate protection department (Central Town Scheme, 2019). As stated in the Central Town Scheme (2019), no individual shall, in a D'MOSS guided area, as well explained in Section 2, advance to some extent land, or dig or eliminate some natural plants from, or construct any building of any kind, carry out any labour upon such location short of having first attained the permission from the Ecological Planning and Climate Protection Department.

4.3. Albert Park



Map 4.2: Albert Park

Source: Google Maps (2019)

The study area is located within the Durban CBD and currently operates as a recreational park to the broader Albert Park area within its immediate vicinity. Albert Park received its name from the adjacent large public park which is the case study. The Albert Park area is mainly

residential in character and comprises of medium and high-rise apartments and slightly formal and informal businesses along the pavements (Bouillon, 2000).

According to Mutuma (2010), the recreational area at Albert Park was previously used as a cricket field and for cycling. The neighbourhood has changed dramatically over the years having been transformed from being that of a desired, city-based, white neighbourhood in the 1970s to later being unattractive during the 1980s. It later appeared as an attractive location for Indian, Black and Coloured professionals because of its reasonable ideal location and rentals. The current poor visual appeal of the area can be said to also contribute to the negative perspective that Albert Park presents. The attention of the study is on the public open space at Albert Park and how it is used.

4.3.1. The Socio-economic Profile of Ward 32

The Local Area Plan (2016) shows that Ward 32 which comprises of Albert Park area has a total population of 16 462. According to Census (2011), the majority are blacks. There are other races found in the region and are summarised in Table 4.1. below. The choice of including the socio-economic profile for the study area was motivated by the researcher’s interest to have a vivid picture of users of the urban open space at Albert Park.

Table 4.1. Racial Composition in Ward 32

POPULATION GROUP	
BLACK	13 151
INDIAN	2 601
WHITE	428
COLOURED	672
OTHER	272

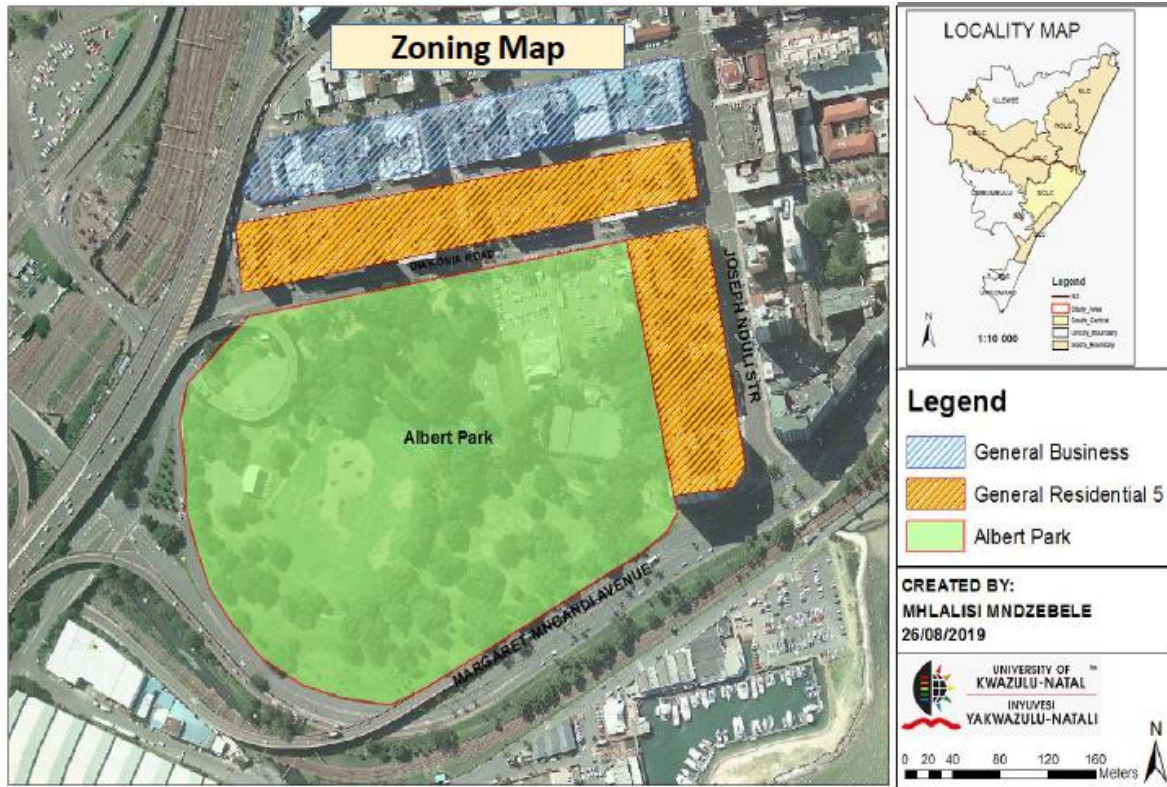
Table 4.2. Employment Status in Ward 32

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
EMPLOYED	8 182
UNEMPLOYED	2 456
DISCOURAGED	573
NOT ACTIVE	7 179
EMPLOYMENT N/A	3 735

Source: Census (2011)

Table 4.2. depicts the status of employment in Ward 32. A high number of the population is employed, even though there is a huge number depicting those who are not economically active. The socio-economic profile focused only on the racial composition and employment status because the prime focus of the study is the recreational area at Albert Park.

4.3.2. Zoning of Albert Park



Map 4:3. Zoning Map

Source: Author (2019)

Map 4.3. shows that the dominant zoning adjacent to the study area is residential. General Residential 5 consists of largely medium to high-density residential flats. Whereas the zoning of commercial activity is found on the ground floor and nearby the General Residential 5 buildings. Table 4.3. indicates the primary use of zoning adjacent to the study area and the precluded land uses.

Table 4.3. Zoning Table adapted from eThekweni Central Town Scheme

Use Zone	Symbol on map	Primary (Purpose Use)	Special Consent	Precluded
<i>General Business</i>	Dark Blue with Hatch	Business premises(excluding those referred to in column 4), Accommodation, Dwelling Houses, Residential Building, Shop, Fast Food Outlet, Place of Assembly, Licenced Hotel, Place of Amusement, Industrial Building, Crèche, Social Hall	Bar, Action Sports, Adult Premises, Bottle Store, Casino, Bath House, Funeral Parlour, Massage Parlour, Tavern, Shelter, Parking Garage, Place of Worship, Spray Painting, Work House, other uses not under column 3 and 5	Noxious Industrial Building, Brothel and other uses not under column 3 and 4.
<i>General Residential 5</i>	Light Brown with Hatch	Domestic staff, Dwelling House, Accommodation, Residential Building, Fast Food Outlet, Hotel, Institution	Place of Worship, Place of Instruction, Parking Garage, Crèche, Social Hall, Action Sports Bar, Bottle Store, Night Club, Casino,	Bath House, Adult Premises, Brothel, Funeral Parlour, Tavern, Work House, Shelter, Massage Parlour

Source: Author (2019)

4.3.3. Land Uses surrounding Albert Park

There are several land uses that have been identified along Diakonia Avenue which includes, the Albert Park recreational area, Durban YMCA Non-Profit Centre for classes and services, commercial activities, residential apartments, Durban Musical School, coordinating board, Floyds Pharmacy, Diakonia Council of Churches, Diakonia Centre and supermarket. There is

a mixed number of numerous land uses found within the surrounding area of Diakonia Avenue, each sharing its own unique features. Engen garage, Trinity Church, a post office and a few banks along Joseph Nduli Street. There is a land use of the Metro Police within the Albert Park recreational area.

4.4. Gugu Dlamini Park



Map 4.4: Gugu Dlamini Park

Source: Google Maps (2019)

Gugu Dlamini Park is an open space in central Durban. Map 4.4. shows that the park is located behind the Workshop Mall. The open space (previously Central Park) was termed on Global Aids Day in 2000, in honor of Gugu Dlamini for breaking the quietness on Aids in the country. She is the woman who was heartlessly assassinated for revealing her HIV positive status at a period when HIV and AIDS was blanketed in ignorance (DUT, 2013).

4.4.1. The Socio-economic Profile of Gugu Dlamini Park

Gugu Dlamini Park is found under Ward 28 of the eThekweni Municipality. Census (2011) indicates that the ward has a total population of 23 170. Below is Table 4.4. depicting racial composition.

Table 4.4. Racial Composition in Ward 28

POPULATION GROUP	
BLACK	16 762
COLOURED	799
INDIAN	3 921
WHITE	1 215
OTHER	472

Source: Census (2011)

As reported in the Census (2011), the dominating racial group in Ward 28 are black people followed by the Indian group. There is also a high number of White people even though they are of a minority when compared with Black people.

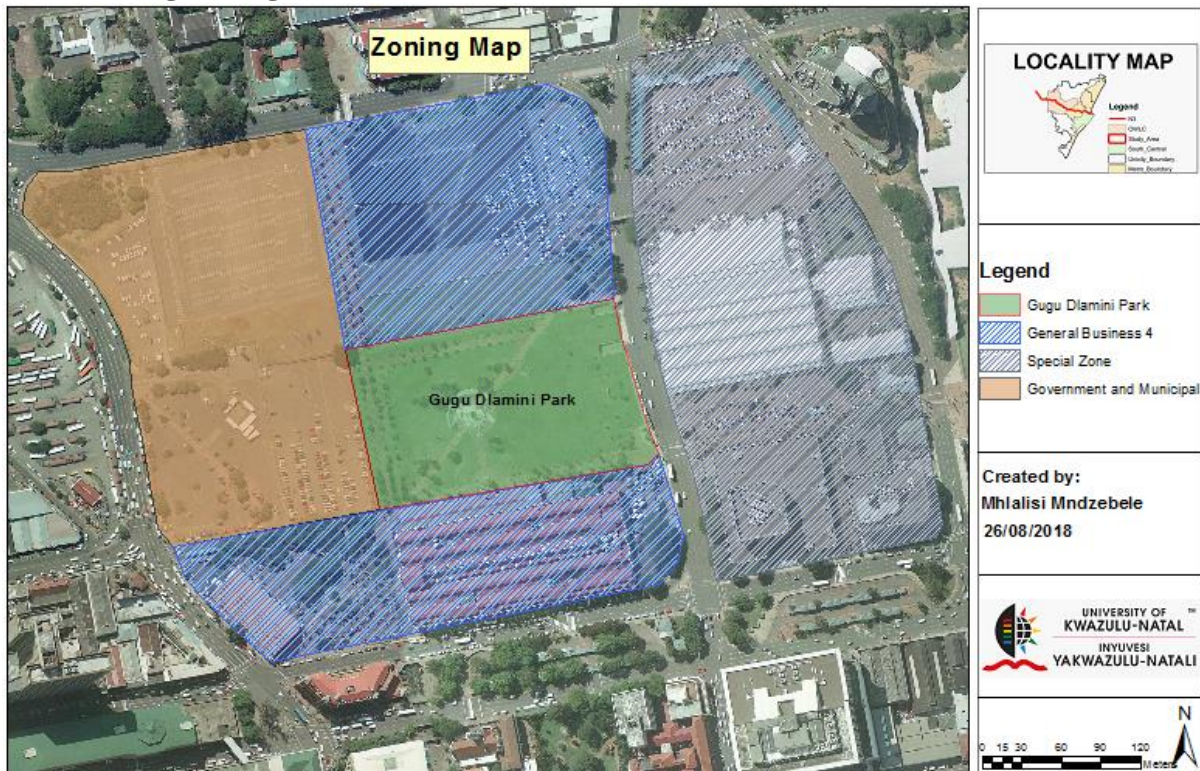
Table 4.5. Employment Status in Ward 28

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
EMPLOYED	9 364
UNEMPLOYED	2 165
DISCOURAGED	292
NOT ACTIVE	6 910
EMPLOYMENT N/A	4 440

Census: (2011)

According to the Census (2011), 9 364 of the population are employed while there is also a high percentage of an unemployed group, which is 2 165. Table 4.5. again shows that 6 910 of the population is not active.

4.4.2. Zoning of Gugu Dlamini Park



Map 4:5. Zoning Map
Source: Author (2019)

Map 4.5. depicts the study area (Gugu Dlamini Park) and the nearby zonings. The General Business 4, Special Zone and Municipal/Government are the zoning areas surrounding Gugu Dlamini Park. They characterise the area. Table 4.6. shows the use under each particular zone and the precluded uses.

Table 4.6. Zoning Table adapted from eThekweni Central Town Scheme

Use Zone	Symb ol on map	Primary (Purpose Use)	Special Consent	Precluded
<i>General Business 4</i>	Blue with Hatch	Sports Bar, Adult Places, Skills Studio, Gambling Garage, Lodging House, Protected Zone, Playschool, Exhibition Space, Scholastic	Base Telecommunicat ions Transmission Station, Car Wash, Burial Parlour, Lawn Garden Centre,	Agricultural Doings, Agricultural Plot, Landing field, Seashore Amenity Facility, Constructors Plot, Graveyard/Cremator ium, Cottage

		Institution, Escort Agency, Demonstration Area, Flats, Marketplace, Fuelling Station, Beauty Clinic, Fitness Workshop, Guesthouse, Service Facility, Open Space, Restaurants, Shop	Car Garage, Car Factory, Funeral home, Place of Communal Reverence, Accommodation, Special Building, Transportation Workshop	Development, Straight Access Provision Centre, Apartment House, Manufacturing – Extractive, Industry, Moveable Home Park & Camping Ground, Various Unit Development, Nature Reserve, Reprocessing Centre, Development School, Waste Dumping, Controlled Building, Retirement Area, Horse-riding, Scrap Plot, Lorry Stop, Zoological Orchard
<i>Special Zone</i>	Light Blue with Hatch	Motor Wash, Fuelling Station, Motor Garage, Parkade	Bed and breakfast, Association, Park & Sleep outdoors, Multi-Unit Development, Office, Place of Worship, Private Open Space, Open Space	Motor Test Centre, Gallery, Environment Reserve, Night-time Club, Office – Medical, Pet Training Parlour, Residence of Public Performing,

				Reprocessing Place, Restructuring School, Waste Dumping, Controlled Building
<i>Government and Municipal</i>		Parkade, Fine art and Abilities Workshop, Graveyard/Crematorium, Preservation Zone, Convention Centre, Correctional Structure, Direct Access Service Centre, Dwelling House, Scholastic Establishment, Flea Market, Funeral Parlour, Plot Nursery, Government / Metropolitan, Association, Landfill, Market, Funeral home, Motor Test Centre	Base Communications Transmission Station, Natural surroundings Reserve, Open Entertaining, Place of Worship, Reserved Open Space, Re-utilising Place, Old Age Home, Transportation Workshop	Industry – Extractive Industry, Common Industry, Light Industry, Harmful Industry, Truck Shop, Scrap Yard, Waste Dumping

Source: Author (2019)

4.4.3. Land Uses surrounding Gugu Dlamini Park

There is the Workshop Centre which entails diverse land uses because it is a mall. Outside the mall, there are informal traders and Virgin Active. The nature of the area is associated with human interaction.

4.5 Summary

This chapter introduced the case studies of the research, which are Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. The socio-economic profiles were outlined from the ward's perspective for both case studies. It gave the spatial location of the adjacent land uses to the study areas. In the outline, it was noted that Albert Park has dramatically changed over the years, from being a White neighbourhood in the 1970s to later being unattractive during the 1980s and being taken over by Blacks. On the other hand, Gugu Dlamini Park was formerly known as Central Park. It was changed to honour Gugu Dlamini who was cruelly slayed for revealing her HIV/AIDS status publicly. Both study areas are acknowledged by the eThekweni Municipality as Public Open Spaces.

As indicated in the SDF and IDP, many of the natural resources within the Central Spatial Region are under threat from the unceasing pressures and development growth. It was also discovered in Chapter 1 of the dissertation that both case study areas are currently facing numerous challenges. The following chapter provides the findings that were attained by the researcher of this study.

Chapter 5

Study Findings

5.1. Introduction

This section presents data collected in the field pertaining urban open spaces. The data was collected from the users of urban open spaces and from the municipal authorities responsible for controlling and monitoring city open spaces in eThekweni. The interviews from users of both urban open spaces deliberated their perspectives and what recommendations they had for these spaces. The interviews were structured around the issues that were advocated as essential by the literature and covered the participants' concerns and opinions regarding the social function, physical quality, safety, maintenance, activities and accessibility of the urban open space. Conversations were overall short, condensed and lasted between 15 and 25 minutes. Most interviews were voice-recorded. The researcher spent a few hours on different days observing the use of both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, with this observation, examining the current use of the urban open spaces. The spaces were visited both during the week and on week-ends. This chapter also evaluates the principles of urban open spaces that were discussed in Chapter two.

The presentation of data is done in a comparative approach throughout this chapter since the research focused on two case studies. The findings are analysed and presented within the perspective of some of the research objectives of this study and information is presented in a thematic manner since it is a qualitative study. It should also be noted that information from the municipal officials is presented in relevant themes. There was an additional participant from academia and his perspective is incorporated in this analysis. Photos and graphs are used to present and analyse information.

5.1.1. Presentation of Findings

The analysis of the current and purpose use of urban open spaces at Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park is presented below. The following findings present the information gathered from users of both urban open spaces, academia, researcher's observations and key eThekweni Municipality officials. Direct quotes from participants will be indicated in italics throughout the analysis.

The research findings were based on the following objectives:

- Compare and contrast the purposed use and current use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Examine the factors which led to the change of use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Examine how the urban open spaces were used over the past 15 years at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.
- Provide recommendations on how best to use urban open spaces like Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park.

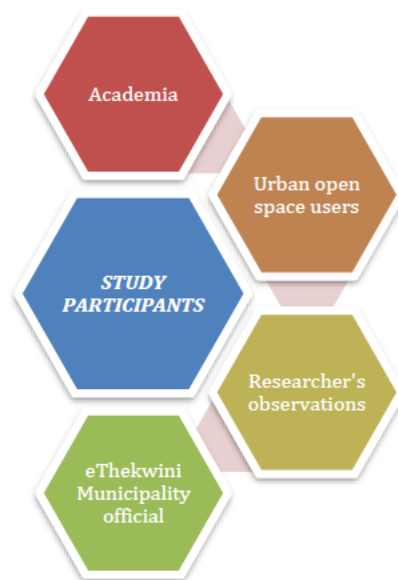


Figure 5.1. Study Participants

Source: Author (2019)

5.1.2. Overview Responses from Users of Urban Open Spaces

The common consensus of the interviews was that urban open spaces are spaces that are used by the public for interaction and recreational purposes. One participant at Gugu Dlamini Park said that urban open spaces should cater to a wide range of activities and thereby allow a range of users in urban open spaces. This can be achieved in terms of design elements and urban furniture or facilities which will be discussed later. The participant's contributions were accompanied by the researcher's observations. The researcher spent a total of 15 days visiting Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park. There were mornings, afternoons and late afternoon visits. The researcher utilised a checklist tool in order to capture all possible activities.

5.2. Physical Characteristics

This section on physical characteristics is fully outlined by the researcher's observations of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. The two urban open spaces are predominately soft with large green areas. Even though there is a balance between hard and soft open space at Gugu Dlamini Park, it still possesses more hard space as compared to Albert Park's recreational area, which only offers green space with spoiled pathways. The hard open space at Gugu Dlamini Park comes in the form of pathways, which makes the park easily accessible from different directions by users. At Albert Park there are few demarcations for pathways; where users of the park make their own alternative movements, which then result in the green areas being damaged. The connectivity, ease of movement and legibility at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park will be discussed under the theme of "principle evaluation". These principles focus on the physical characteristics of both urban open spaces.

5.2.1. Demographic Characteristics of Urban Open Space Users

Figure 5.2. represents the demographic characteristic of the respondents. A total number of 38 participants for both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park were interviewed based on the questionnaires. Of the 38 participants, 61 percent were female users. Even though most participants from both urban open spaces were women, the majority of the park users at any given time, during both week-ends and week days were males. The highest number of women was observed at Albert Park on Sunday since there was a church activity/service taking place. Males dominated Gugu Dlamini Park even on Sundays. It was difficult to get the exact number of all users of both urban open spaces, given the design of the parks, which made it hard to penetrate all areas because of safety reasons.

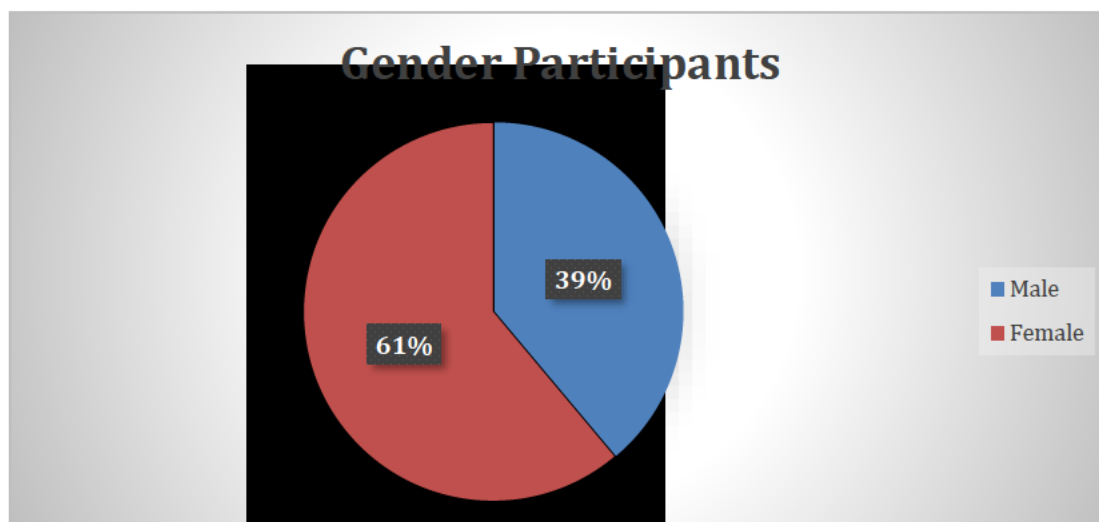


Figure 5.2. Gender Respondents

Source: Author (2019)

5.3. The Current Use of the Urban Open Space

One of the objectives of this research is to examine the current and purpose use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. From the end user's perspectives, the eThekweni Municipality official, academia as well the researcher's observations, urban open spaces are used differently from each other. The discussions below under informal and formal activity themes provide the current and purpose use of both spaces. The use of the words, 'informal and formal activities', were decided after the interview with the eThekweni Municipality official who regarded formal activities as those with permits while informal activities are those prohibited by the municipality.

5.3.1. Findings from the eThekweni Municipality Official

The initial objective of the researcher was to interview two municipal officials working closely with Durban Open spaces but due to unforeseen limitations, only one official provided input to the study.

Purpose Use of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park

According to the municipal official, the nature of Albert Park is predominantly zoned for residential. It is an area that is also full of life with many other land uses that are utilised by residents. The recreational area at Albert Park was therefore provided to offer residents a space to connect with nature and activities. The municipal official further stated that residents are able to walk to the park since it is closer to their residential areas. As also argued by Gehl (2011) good urban open spaces must be easily accessible, which correlates with the municipal official's explanation of Albert Park being effortlessly accessible by its users. At Gugu Dlamini Park the official stated that the urban open space was designed because of the mall at the Workshop Centre. She elaborated that it is a busy area; therefore, it is imperative that the users of the mall and nearby land uses are able to have an area that offers a space for nature. In Chapter 3 of this dissertation, under the section of land use zoning, it emphasises the importance of compatibility and connectivity, which agrees with the contribution of the municipal official in terms of how urban open spaces must be designed in a way that is efficient. The intention of providing both Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park to city users was to provide them with greenery and relaxation areas.

Current Use of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park

Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park are unique spaces that form part of the city of Durban. *“The use of both urban open spaces has not changed in the past 15 years but instead, there is an increase of activities especially at Albert Park”*. Albert Park offers numerous activities. According to the municipal official all activities in the urban open space are allowed by the issuing of permits. Often activities that require permits include weddings, political campaigns, church services, Muslims fast, etc. Umembeso which is a Zulu traditional ceremony is one activity that has become prominent in the past 15 years at Albert Park. These activities show the level of diversity in the city and how the municipality is embracing diverse ethnic groups and multi-culturalism. The urban open space also offers activities for users such as an outdoor, basketball, play area for children, chess area and a soccer field. These activities do not require permits. The urban open space offers a rich environmental role as the space is dominated by indigenous trees which the official said some users are able to enquire for knowledge purposes. It was also discovered through literature that the environmental roles are expounded to ecological enrichment such as cleaning and returning rainwater to the ground and reducing inner-city temperatures (Kellet & Girling, 2005). Environmental roles are therefore not only limited to green features of urban open spaces.

At Gugu Dlamini Park the urban open space is not designed for play area activities because of the zoning nature of the area. According to the municipal official the urban open space is for relaxation and entertainment. There are also permits required for performance activities even though many people overlook this requirement. The open space is mostly used for relaxation. According to the municipal official all forms of trading taking place at Gugu Dlamini Park are illegal and the eThekweni Municipality prohibits them. The Town Planning Scheme is another municipal document, which discourages activities or land uses that are not complementary (see Chapter four of this study).

Urban Open Space Management

The eThekweni Municipality is fully responsible for managing both urban open spaces of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park. Figure 5.3. provides the segment of management for urban open spaces.



Figure 5.3: Urban Open Space Management

Source: Author (2019)

- Permits:** The Durban Central Town Planning Scheme is strict and prohibits activities that have the potential of destroying D'MOSS areas. D'MOSS areas means any zone defined on the map by the overprinting of a green marked design. According to the municipal official all activities at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park can officially occur after users have lodged an application for approval with the municipality. This ensures that both urban open spaces become user-friendly and no user is affected by a certain activity. She further stated that the only activities at Albert park such as basketball, garden watching, children's play areas and walking are exempted from permits but any form of group gathering will require a permit from the municipality. The municipal official remarked that:

“Gugu Dlamini Park requires users to get permits for their activities because the only exempted activities are walking and sitting in the urban open space”. Chapter three of the eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaw (2015) states that the municipality may refuse to grant a permit or permission for a function or private event or even cancel any approval, if an authorised official questions on rational grounds, that the occasion or gathering applied for is either prohibited or is possibly to end in public disruption.

- Maintenance:** Arvanitidis (2008) notes that good maintenance is a crucial element of high-quality urban open spaces. This is because urban open spaces can change in appearance quite soon after their establishment and can quickly show signs of dereliction and decay if appropriate maintenance systems are not enforced. The municipal official said that the eThekweni Municipality is fully accountable for the upkeep of both Gugu Dlamini and Albert Park. The municipal official remarked that:

“There are dustbins that are found in the spaces and there is a team that also cleans the parks during the week.” The official further said that the urban open spaces are well maintained as they are always clean and attractive. Chapter four of the eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaw (2015) states that a person visiting an urban open space must not throw or deposit any rubbish, paper or anything else anywhere other than in a container supplied by the municipality. Good maintenance does not afford aesthetic value only but also enhances the repeat use of urban open spaces.

- **Security:** Perceived safety is a vital aspect that may discourage many potential visitors from enjoying and using available urban open spaces (Dogrusoy, 2017). The use of public open spaces must be well incorporated with safety by city authorities. The municipal official remarked that:

“Safety is a big issue for both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. We have deployed two securities at Albert Park that provide 24-hour surveillance but still, things are bad.” As stated by the municipal official above, safety in both urban open spaces is a problem. She stated that regardless of the security provided by the municipality at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, users of both urban open spaces are harassed and robbed by homeless people. The municipal official stated that these challenges have left the spaces as unsafe areas. The municipal official said that it is difficult to manage safety at Gugu Dlamini Park because the open space does not have a demarcated fence. The level of safety will be discussed further under the findings of the researcher’s observations and interviews with the space users.

- **Daily activities:** Urban open spaces become alive and vibrant because of the activities that these spaces offer or provide. The municipal official remarked that:

“It is not simple to manage daily activities in both Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park but there are measures put in place which make it easy for users to enjoy themselves. There are signage in designated areas in both spaces that communicate about each zone in the spaces, at Albert Park, there is a signage that communicates about the children's area, chess game area, and etc. The municipality also has signage that prohibits some activities and this is communicated through the signage and securities at Albert Park.” According to the municipal official the management of daily activities are controlled by signage and also security. Daily activities are controlled by time. The municipal official stated that at Albert Park, the urban open spaces operates from six

am to six pm while at Gugu Dlamini Park, the urban open space is operational for 24 hours.

The findings from the municipality official provided insight regarding the purpose and current use of the two urban open spaces. She further spoke about the role that the municipality plays in managing urban open spaces, specifically at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.

5.3.1.1. Findings from Urban Open Space Users and Researcher’s Observations

This section provides the experiences and input from the users of the space at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. Their contributions give a clear view of the current and purpose use of both urban open spaces.

Occupation of Urban Open Space Users

The study established the occupation of the users of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. Four categories of occupation were noted and included; employed, unemployed, students and others. Others included jobless (searching for jobs), and taxi conductors among others.

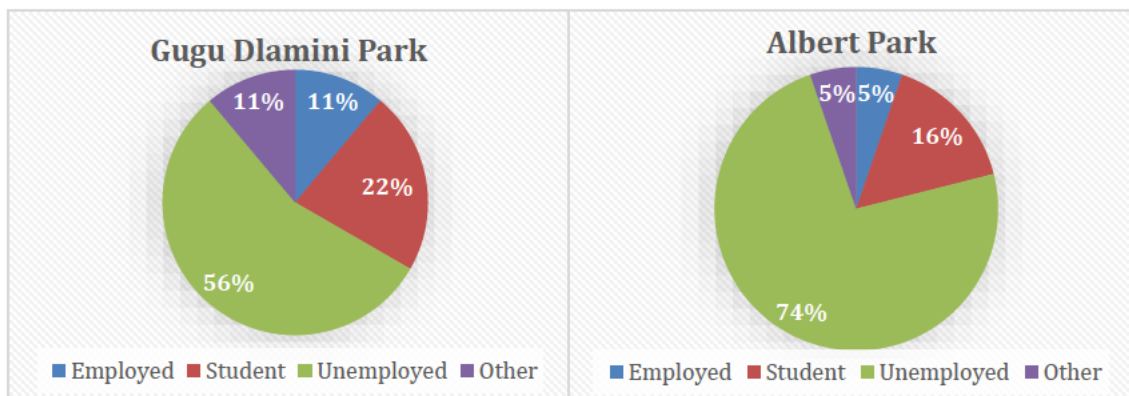


Figure 5.4. Occupants of Urban Open Space Users

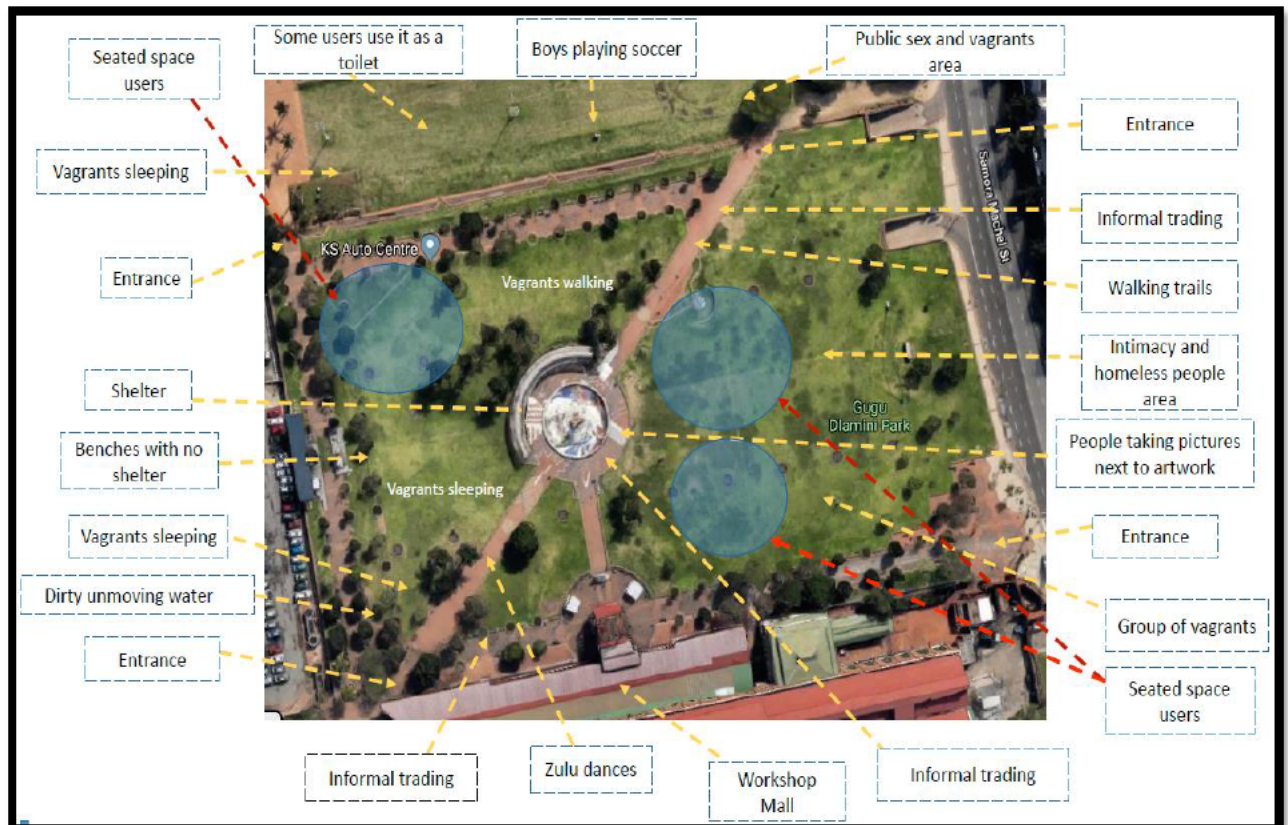
Source: Author (2019)

Most of the visitors who constituted more than half of the visitors were unemployed. 56 percent of the visitors who were interviewed at Gugu Dlamini Park were unemployed, and 74 percent for Albert Park. Students are the second highest visitors for both urban open spaces. Easy access and close proximity to learning institutions is the reason both urban open spaces are currently used by a high number of students.

After the interview with the municipal official and engaging with the eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaws (2015), it became clear to distinguish between informal and formal activities that currently occur at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.

Informal Activities

Any activity that is not approved by the municipality and is against the bylaws can be regarded as an informal activity. Map 5.1. below depicts current activities at Gugu Dlamini Park.



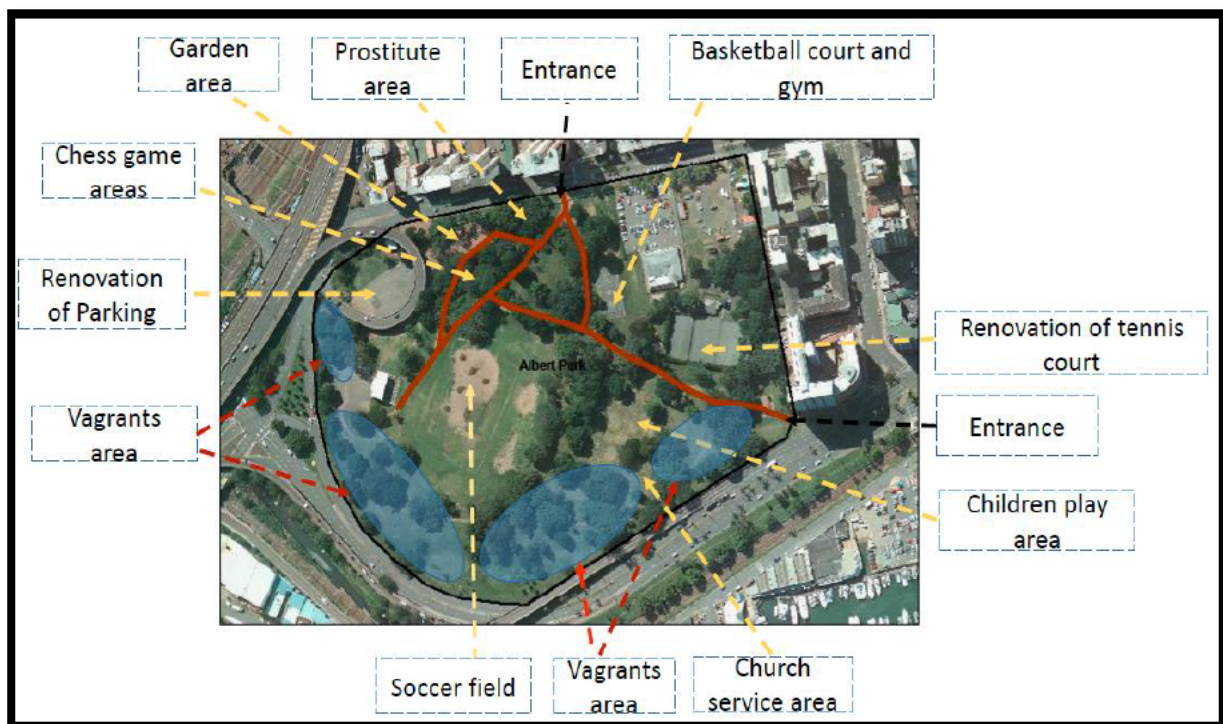
Map 5.1: Gugu Dlamini Park Activities

Source: Author: 2019

There are diverse activities taking place at Gugu Dlamini Park. Map 5.1. depicts a beautiful, attractive urban open space but the level of informality taking place has resulted in complaints from many users of the space. Current activities include people selling tangible goods such as belts, watches, Tupperware and insurance. Others visit the space to sell insurance and sim cards. Research has determined that green spaces offer not only passive and active recreation, but also include numerous of socio-economic activities (Wood, 2003). Socio-economic activities such as trading takes place at Gugu Dlamini Park. None of the participants complained about the informal trading by people moving with trolleys, even though their activities were illegal, because they do not have approval from the municipality to sell. One participant said such activities do not affect them, but only when they are forced to buy the goods.

About 40 per cent of the participants complained about the groups of boys who were consuming alcohol and making a noise. A study conducted in the City of Tshwane, South Africa revealed that users of urban open spaces are discouraged by excessive noise and abuse of alcohol (Landman, 2015). According to the eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaws (2015), alcohol is not allowed in the urban open space unless it is consumed in designated areas, which unfortunately are not present at Gugu Dlamini Park. During the researcher’s direct observations, several individuals were observed consuming beverages but there was no intimidation or disturbance to other users of the open space.

About 22 per cent of the participants complained about the urban open space not offering toilets because this has resulted in individuals turning the park into a toilet. As depicted in Map 5.1. there is a certain area to the west of the urban open space that is utilised as a toilet. 80 per cent of the participants complained about homeless people. One participant said that they do not fully enjoy the park, as they have to vigilantly guard their belongings. Entertainment is another activity that is prominent at Gugu Dlamini Park, according to some of the participants; they enjoy the sight-seeing of people dancing and singing. Through observations by the researcher, cultural dances seem to occur more often (see image 5.2.). It provides an appreciation by tourists as it symbolises the Zulu people’s culture.



Map 5.2: Albert Park Activities

Source: Author: 2019

Map 5.2. above shows the activities occurring at Albert Park. The researcher observed a group of young men drinking and playing loud music from cars. It disturbed the users of the open space especially young women because they were whistled at while enjoying the recreation area. As stated in Chapter 2 (10) of eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaws (2015), any individual who conduct himself/herself in a way, which is disorganised, unsystematic, inappropriate or troublesome to other individuals visiting the urban open space, may be prohibited or removed from the park. Both urban open spaces, regardless of the fact that they are located in different places in the city and surrounded by different land uses, share a similarity of having users consuming alcohol now and then. This is a trend that was observed by the researcher. Homeless people occupy both urban open spaces. The high level of vagrants intimidates and keeps users of the urban open spaces uneasy. Some of the vagrants use the urban open spaces as a sleeping area as shown in image 5.1. even though it is against the municipal bylaws. The eThekweni Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaws (2015), Chapter 4 (21, q), states that an individual visiting the urban open space may not sleep over or camp in the park.



Image 5.1: Homeless people found using the park to sleep

Author: 2019

At Albert Park there are no informal traders or any sort of commercial activity as compared to Gugu Dlamini Park. The location of both urban open spaces plays a role in influencing the current use of activities in these spaces. According to Wilbur (2002) park attributes like location and safety influences the use of public parks. All the activities discussed above are

regarded as informal because they are initiated from an individual's convenience without authority from the eThekweni Municipality.



Image 5.2: Dance Activity at Gugu Dlamini Park

Source: Author 2019

Formal Activities

The study wanted to capture the main purpose use of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park through the user's visitation to these spaces.

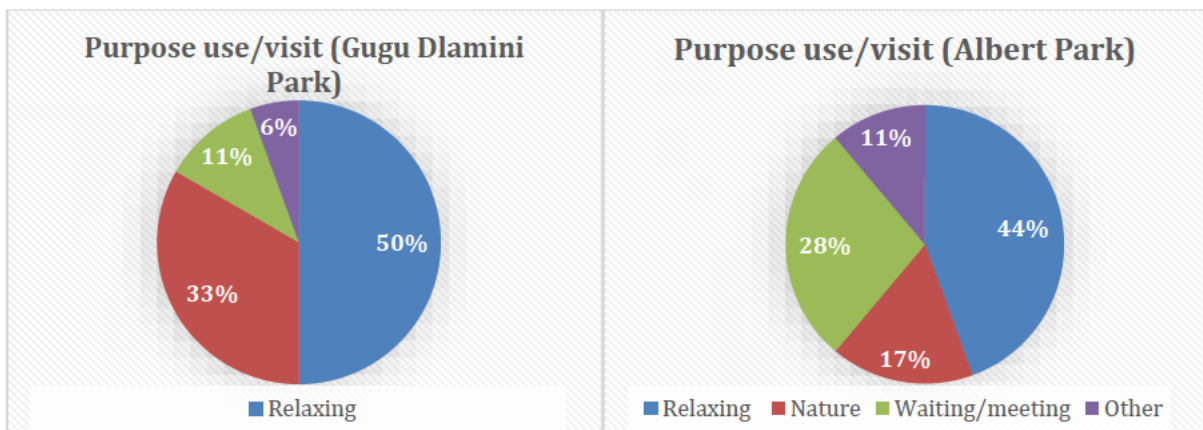


Figure 5.5: Purpose Use

Source: Author 2019

Fifty per cent of the participants at Gugu Dlamini Park and 44 per cent at Albert Park respectively visit the urban open spaces to relax after a busy time moving around the city. Their contribution is that urban open spaces are for relaxing and social interaction. Urban parks have

been advocated to enable societal unity by generating space for communal relations (Maas, et al., 2009). Gugu Dlamini Park is located in the entral Business District, and there are colleges close to the park. Two participants who are students expressed their views about the purpose use of the open space. Relevant to them, it is a place for destressing after a few hectic hours of class attendance.

One respondent from Albert Park stated that the purpose use of urban open spaces is to offer an opportunity of connecting with nature since it was her prime motive for visiting the space. Such a perspective emphasises the high level of importance for the municipality to provide more green areas than hard open spaces. At Gugu Dlamini Park, 28 per cent of the participants used the urban open space to wait or meet someone. This is also supported by Holland (2007) who states that public open spaces allow people to meet on supposedly neutral ground in unplanned and planned ways, to network and interact with others within the environment of the whole community.

The majority (60%) of the park visits lasted between 3 – 5 hours, 15 per cent stayed for more than 5 hours per visit at Albert Park while it was difficult to determine the visit duration at Gugu Dlamini Park, because of the multiple trails connected to adjacent land uses.

The researcher visited Albert Park on a Sunday afternoon and there were different activities taking place. The security guard alluded that the municipality legally allowed the activities by permits. There was a soccer game and a church service occurring concurrently (see image 5.8.). The issuing of permits by the municipality indicates that there are certain activities that are precluded from taking place in urban open spaces. The use of permits shows the determination by eThekweni Municipality to bring order and user-friendly urban open spaces for users. It is also said that the Australian government leases permits to regulate urban open space activities and further uses them as a mechanism to preserve and protect the environment (Director of National Parks (DNP) 2015).

The activities discussed above were considered formal because they do not infringe upon the South African Constitution, municipal policies and bylaws of eThekweni. It is essential for the study to discuss the factors contributing to the current use of both Gugu Dlamini and Albert Park.

5.3.1.2. Factors leading to Current Use

There are certain factors that influence the current use of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park. These factors were obtained by interviewing the participants and by the researcher's

observations. In Chapter 1, the second objective is to examine the factors leading to the current use of both urban open spaces;

- **Vagrancy:** According to one of the participants at Albert Park, the vagrancy that takes place in the park is influenced by easy accessibility. Because there are two gates as indicated in Map 5.2., homeless people access the park through the damaged fence. According to the municipal official, vagrants deliberately damaged the fence, in order to have easy access. Their presence in the urban open space brings fear and intimidation to users. Participants at Gugu Dlamini Park stated that the lack of security in the urban open space is worsening the use of the space by homeless people, as they ask them for money and use the space as a sleeping area.
- **Informal trading:** No trading takes place at Albert Park other than the adjacent commercial land uses. Different individuals selling tangible items such as perfume, watches and belts dominate Gugu Dlamini Park. There are also those selling food using trolleys (See Map 5.1. and Image 5.3.). The problem of the eThekweni Municipality not regularly monitoring and providing enforcement for such activities influences these factors leading to the current use of informal trading in the urban open space.

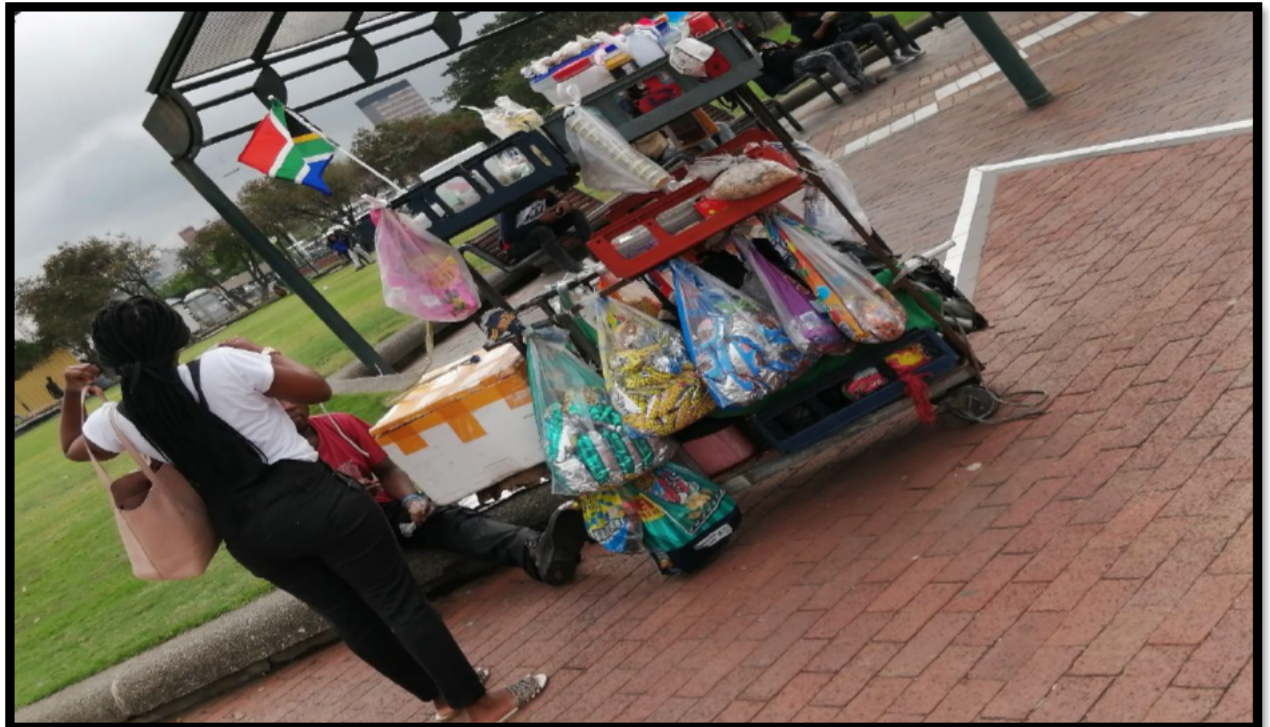


Image 5.3: Informal Trading at Gugu Dlamini Park

Source: Author 2019

- **Recreational purposes:** According to 50 per cent of the participants at Gugu Dlamini Park and 44 per cent at Albert Park, they visit the urban open space for leisure. The majority stated that easy access to the park without any particular restrictions influences their use of the urban open space. One participant said that Gugu Dlamini Park does not require any fee for use and this has therefore encouraged her to visit more often for leisure.

The factors above leading to the current use of both urban open spaces are easy access to the parks and lack of securing and monitoring from the municipality. The discussion below arises from the academia's perspective regarding the use of urban open spaces.

5.3.1.3. Findings from Academia's Perspective

In an interview for this research, a Town and Regional Planning lecturer spoke about the purpose use, role, design and challenges that are faced by urban open spaces and users.

Purpose Use/Role

The lecturer remarked that:

“Town planning consists of different land uses and urban open spaces are one component that provides unique use and refreshing atmosphere for cities. They offer a space of interactions, social cohesion and winding up”. According to the lecturer, in keeping with the study, urban open spaces are for meeting up with friends and viewing nature. There is a close relationship between the lecturer's views and broad discoveries from previous research into the use of urban open spaces globally. For example, in the United Kingdom (Seaman, et al., 2010; Irvine, 2013), the Netherlands (Chiesura, 2004), Denmark (Schipperijn, 2009), Iran (Abkar, et al., 2010). Going for a walk, viewing nature, having a break, taking children to play, meeting families, exercise and a fresh atmosphere are all explanations that are threaded through these studies as purposes of use of urban open spaces.

Design

The lecturer remarked that:

“Designing of urban open spaces involves distance and time taken from one land use to another and planners must design spaces that are easily accessible by city residents”. The perspectives of the lecturer can be complemented by the researcher's observations. For example, the distance from Gugu Dlamini Park to the Workshop Mall is a practical model on how urban open spaces must be incorporated with adjacent land uses. It takes less than 2 minutes at a distance of 500 m walking from the mall to the urban open space.

Challenges

The lecturer remarked that:

“Town planners are mostly accountable to the end-user product. There is a lack of participation during the design of urban open spaces and therefore they result in activities of misconduct. Another challenge is that urban open spaces are not relevant in terms of design and location”. The challenges raised by the lecturer during the interview are applicable and relevant to the study. At Albert Park the design of the urban open space encourages insolation. In Map 5.2. areas are indicated that are used by homeless people. During the researcher’s observations the areas dominated by vagrants lack facilities that can make the space come alive. The challenges that were raised were accompanied by a solution from the lecturer. He emphasised the importance of participation when designing urban open spaces in order to make them relevant. In order to develop a healthy community and liveable city, planning for parks is an important matter (Saffuan, Ariffin and Amin 2013). Hence, Marafa and Shing (2006) proposed that authorities and practitioners should pledge and initiate more unrestricted participative opportunities because park users are the major stakeholders and could ensure the achievement of urban parks. In the context of the eThekweni Municipality it means that city citizens must be involved in the compilation of the Integrated Development Plan. The problems in terms of design of the urban open spaces shows the practicality of the modernisation theory which was discussed in Chapter two of this report. Duminy (2007) discusses the negatives of the modernisation theory which emphasises rational and no participation of affected and relevant stakeholders. From the argument above, one can therefore say it is essential to understand users’ expectations and needs when designing urban open spaces. According to Francis (2003) users’ needs are categorised into four categories namely; passive engagement, comfort, active engagement and relaxation.

Based on secondary data sources (especially park-design handbook/manual), the following criteria in Table 5.1. were developed to facilitate the researcher’s observations on facilities available at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.

Table 5.1. Overview of Facilities at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park

Urban Open Space Design-Features/Facilities (Albert Park)	Yes/No	Gugu Dlamini Park	Yes/No
Presence of Toilets	Yes	Presence of Toilets	No
Presence of entrance	Yes	Presence of entrance (not applicable, open space not fenced)	Not Applicable
Presence of seating areas	Yes	Presence of seating areas	Yes
Presence of rubbish bins	No	Presence of rubbish bins	Yes
Presence of fountain	No	Presence of fountain	No
Presence of lighting along paths	No	Presence of lighting along paths	Yes
Presence of signage and maps	Yes	Presence of signage and maps	Yes
Presence of artwork	No	Presence of artwork	Yes
Presence of policing	Yes	Presence of policing	Yes
Landscape design (trees, grasses)	Yes	Landscape design (trees, grasses)	Yes
Presence of sheltered areas in case of hostile weathers (rain and winds)	No	Presence of sheltered areas in case of hostile weathers (rain and winds)	No
Maintenance	Yes	Maintenance	
Presence of Parking	Yes	Presence of Parking	No
Presence of play equipment for children	Yes	Presence of play equipment for children	No
Presence of recreational facilities	Yes	Presence of recreational facilities	No
Presence of walking trails	Yes	Presence of walking trails	Yes

5.4. Facilities in the Urban Open Spaces

This section will discuss the features or facilities found at Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park. These features encourage the potential satisfaction of urban open space users and provide another angle on how the spaces are currently used. Park facilities also depict a picture of efficiency.

5.4.1. Presence of Rubbish Bins

The rubbish bins are purposefully distributed at Gugu Dlamini Park. They are placed along the pathways of the open space (See Image 5.4.). The rubbish bins barely contain any trash, which signifies regular emptying and disposal. The rubbish bins are helping users of the park to avoid littering by dumping everything into the bins provided in the open space. Littering in the park was generally low but during weekends there was more litter when compared with week days. This shows that the maintenance staff during weekends are minimised.

Albert Park does not have bins as compared to Gugu Dlamini Park but during the researcher's visit to the space, there was a maintenance staff member cleaning the leaves and other dirt. One of the participants from Albert Park complained that the park is not well maintained and that the unavailability of bins makes it difficult for them to dispose of rubbish. Lack of rubbish bins is a negative indicator because the role of urban open spaces is encouraging comfort and health (Villanueva, et al., 2015).



Image 5:4 Rubbish Bins at Gugu Dlamini Park

Source: Author (2019)

5.4.2. Presence of Play Equipment for Children



Image 5:5: Play equipment for Children at Albert Park

Source: Author (2019)

Image 5.5. shows the designated playground for children at Albert Park. The playground has a 7-piece play equipment set designed for children of 12 years of age and under. The equipment allows the children to play in groups and individually. The play equipment is not in good condition. The presence of the play equipment offers children the opportunity to be adventurous in a safe environment.

Gugu Dlamini Park does not offer play equipment for children. During the researcher's visits children were seen climbing the artwork of the prominent HIV/AIDS ribbon located in the middle of the urban open space (see Image 5.17.). This, therefore, showed that there is a need to provide an area and equipment for children in order for them to feel a sense of belonging. Urban open spaces must encourage the presence of children.

5.4.3. Presence of Recreational Facilities

There are three types of sports facilities provided for urban open space users at Albert Park, namely; the soccer field, gym and basketball court. They all focus on users to be physically active (Image 5.6. and 5.7.). The provision of the recreational facilities shows that the open space is not only used for green purposes only but also for maintaining the physical health of the users. During direct observation males were mostly seen to be using the facilities. According to one participant, who is a security guard in the park, he stated that during the week the sports field is booked for training and then on week-ends for soccer games. During the researcher's visitations it was noted that men frequently used the gym and basketball court during week days and on week-ends. At Gugu Dlamini Park there is no presence of recreational facilities but there were a few young men who were observed being involved in outdoor training on the edge of the open space. One participant at Gugu Dlamini Park said there is a need for recreational facilities for adults.



Image 5.6: Gym Area at Albert Park



Image 5.7: Basketball Court at Albert Park

Source: Author (2019)



Image 5.8: Soccer Field at Albert Park

Source: Author 2019

5.4.4. Presence of Walking Trails

A number of walkways are provided at Gugu Dlamini Park. Users often use the green grass as a pathway, which has resulted in damaging the green areas in the open space. The presence of the walking trails helps users to easily move from one area to another (see image 5.9.). At Albert Park, there are concrete walkways even though they are not adequately provided (see image 5.10.). According to Dinget (2011), walking in parks is principally reflected as leisure walking. Nonetheless it could also be reflected as utilitarian walking, if the key inspiration is to reach an endpoint within the park, such as an area in which an activity can be performed. The provision and presence of walking trails makes the use of the urban open spaces operative for users.

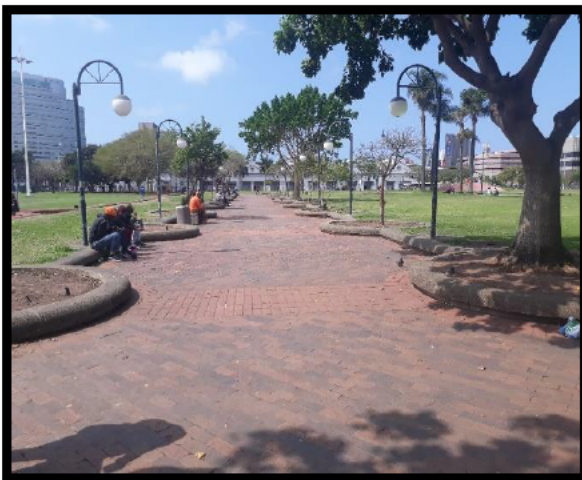


Image 5.9: Paved Walkway at Gugu Dlamini Park

Source: Author 2019



Image 5.10: Paved walkway at Albert Park

5.4.5. Presence of Policing



Image 5.11: Metropolitan Police Service at Albert Park

Source: Author (2019)

Several security guards are deployed at Gugu Dlamini Park. Their presence in the urban open space is significant but they are unable to stop the level of misconduct taking place as also alluded by the official from the municipality during the interview. Some participants complained that the security guards do not frequently make rounds, which therefore makes it difficult to monitor crime in the open space and leads to users feeling unsafe. Njambi (2014) in his study discovered that lack of security in urban open spaces results in users' reluctance to visit them more often.

At Albert Park during direct observation only two security guards were found in the open space. From the researcher's observation the open space is unsafe because other areas are not monitored. Image 5.11. depicts the police station on the boundary of Albert Park. According to one participant, the Metropolitan Police Services ensure that police officers provide additional surveillance to enhance safety in the park, but this contradicted the words of the municipal official who said the presence of the police station does not stop nor reduce criminality in the open space. The design of a park can have a direct effect on people's discernments of safety and their willingness to use a space (Deasy, 1985, 128). Some areas of the urban open space at Albert Park are perceived to be unsafe because of the design and physical structure of the park, which promotes isolation. According to the security guard, almost the whole boundary of the open space is unsafe because it has become an area for homeless people (see Map 5.2.).

The majority of the urban open space users at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini complained about the issue of poor safety. Figure 5.6. provides a clear picture of the user’s perceptions of safety. Out of the 38 participants in both urban open spaces, 30 of them perceived the spaces to be unsafe.

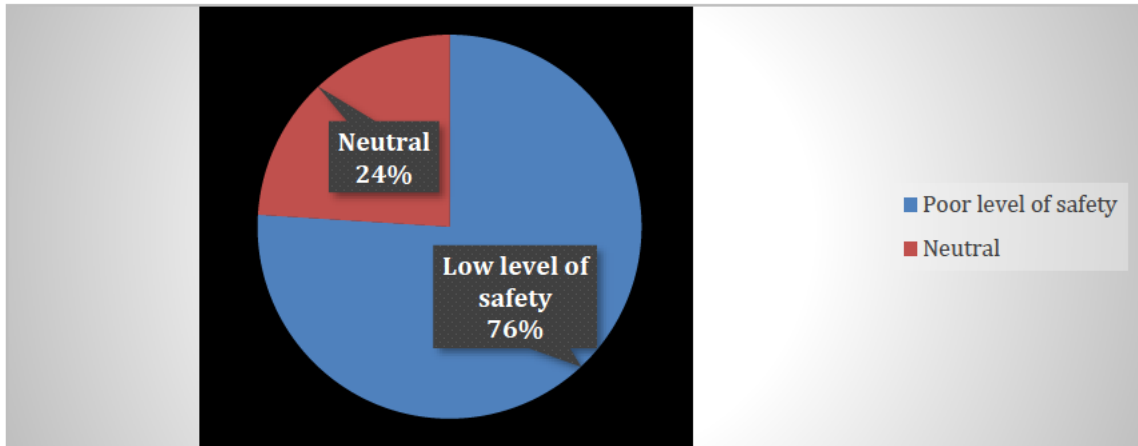


Figure 5.6: Level of Safety

Source: Author: 2019

5.4.6. Landscape Design

At Gugu Dlamini Park the landscape design includes mature and large trees, young and small trees. The trees are spread all over the park in clusters and some of the trees are used as delineators to buffer the urban open space from boundary walkways (see image 5.12.). The design makes the urban open space smart and enhances it, so that users appreciate the benefits of green features. Some of the sections of the urban open space are clustered with trees whereas other sections are left open to the sky.

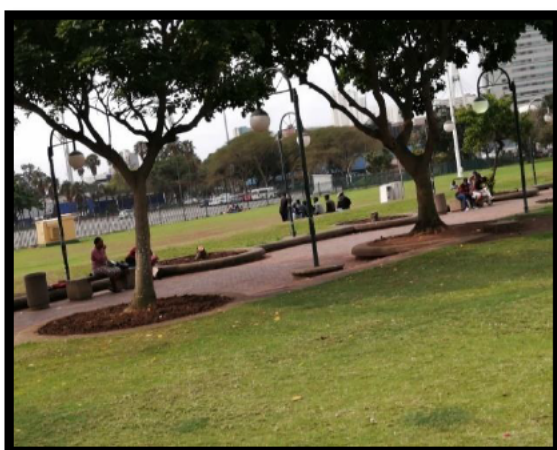


Image 5.12: Tree Features at Albert Park Source Author (2019) Image 5.13: Flower Garden at Albert Park

The Albert Park landscape design offers mature trees and a section for a garden with flowers. According to the municipal official, users of the space are able to enjoy and learn about

indigenous trees. The benches under the trees help users to enjoy the shade and green environment. In Image 5.13. there are flowers that one participant said offers a sense of horticulture for the urban open space and gives them an opportunity to take pictures. During direct observation users were seen enjoying the section with the garden of flowers. This provided another different perspective use of the urban open space.

5.4.7. Presence of Parking



Image 5.14: Parking at Albert Park

Source: Author 2019

A designated area for parking is available at Albert Park but during the researcher's visit it was under renovation (see image 5.14.). Outside the urban open space, there is a parking lot, which can be used. Most of the interviewed participants did not need to travel to the park since they lived adjacent to the urban open space; they, therefore, walked to access the park. Gugu Dlamini Park does not offer a parking place for urban open space users but there is sufficient space close to the park, which is also used by the Workshop Shopping Centre Mall and city users.

5.4.8. Presence of Lighting

There is a high presence of lighting along the paths at Gugu Dlamini Park. Most big cities are embracing the life of sleepless cities; therefore, the provision of lights in the urban open space encourages users to even utilise the park after daylight. One participant complained that at night, the urban open space becomes a place for homeless people and that there is zero security. She further said that it is not even safe to pass through it. The researcher also avoided making night-time visits for direct observations due to the high level of unsafety. The study, therefore,

suffers limitations with regard to night use findings and observation. At Albert Park there are lights that are offered on the soccer field, children’s play area and other parts of the space but according to the municipal official, the urban open space does not operate at night.

5.4.9. Presence of Signage and Maps

Several signage is provided by the eThekweni Municipality at Gugu Dlamini Park. Image 5.15A helps the public to identify the park and other surrounding land uses. It also provides the name of the urban open space namely, Gugu Dlamini Park and further provides the background for the name. Image 5.11B provides guidance and cautions the users of the open space. As they continue using the urban open space, according to image 5.11B, eThekweni Municipality is not accountable for any theft or accident affecting the users. There was no presence of signage regarding restrictions. Seventy per cent of the participants said that the open space was easily accessible since there are no restrictions or signage discouraging them from entering.



Image 5.15A: Direction Signage at Gugu Dlamini Park Image 5.15B Caution Signage

Source: Author (2019)



Image 5.16: Signage at Albert Park

Source: Author (2019)

The presence of signage at Albert Park was meant to control the use of the open space. Image 5.16. shows the prohibited activities as one enters the open space. It is unfortunate that during observations most of the prohibited activities were taking place. This is in agreement with one participant who said that the urban open space is for everything and is not restricted to anything because it is a space where people can express themselves. On the other hand public sex in the space is prohibited by municipal bylaws but prostitution is another activity that was observed by the researcher. The signage depicted in image 5.16. is written in IsiZulu and the other part translated into English is damaged. This, therefore, limits communication to users of the urban open space who do not understand IsiZulu. Signage has symbolic functions for describing the sensitivities and image of an area (Ben Rafael, et al., 2006). It is therefore imperative that the urban open space offers clear signage for its users.

5.4.10. Presence of Artwork



Image 5.17: Sculpture at Gugu Dlamini Park



Source: Author (2019)




According to Reid (2004), sculptures are regarded as a part of urban furniture that has been considered part of a closed space. The key purpose of sculptures is to create a sense of identity and place and bring a special spirit to the space. In Gugu Dlamini Park there is an HIV/AIDS symbol, which signifies a sentimental value to many people in Durban. One respondent stated that the symbol reminds them that the urban open space must be a place of freedom of expression without fear. Image 5.17. depicts the sculpture that attracts many users from a distance. It is located in the centre of the urban open space and benches for users, to sit in front of the sculpture, are provided. The background of the sculpture is written on several signage boards found within the park. During the researcher's visits, many users were observed taking pictures next to the sculpture which then signified its significance in the space. At Albert Park there is no presence of artwork or sculptures.

5.5. Challenges faced in Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park

Table 5.2. below provides a summary of the challenges that were noted by the researcher during observations and from urban open space users' contributions. The challenges constrain users from the optimal use of the spaces.

Table 5.2: Summary of Challenges

Facilities and use	Notable challenges by users of spaces and researcher’s observations
Seats/Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate benches at Albert Park as was noted by users of the urban open space. • Benches are centrally distributed at Gugu Dlamini Park and other areas of the space are neglected.
Open green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering at Albert Park due to lack of trash containers. • Presence of bare land at Gugu Dlamini Park on the green areas. 
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 % of the participants at Gugu Dlamini Park complained that they are required to walk to the mall to use bathrooms. • At Albert Park, toilets are always locked if not blocked or not working at all.
Smoking Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no designated areas for smoking for both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. These spaces are also used by children who possibly can get sick.
Flower Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the flowers at Albert Park is not appropriate, it’s not evenly distributed. • Poorly maintained and not properly weeded. 
Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged fence at Albert Park which leads to easy access from vagrants.

	
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During all the researcher's visitations at Gugu Dlamini Park, there was damp on the open space. 
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park are unsafe. • Out of the 38 participants in both urban open spaces, 30 of them perceived the spaces to be unsafe (76.%).
Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 % of the participants at Gugu Dlamini Park complained about lake of shelter during hot and rainy days. 
Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park are unable to provide any form of water to space users, either tap or fountain water.

Source: Author 2019

The discussion below presents the shortfalls of the eThekwini Municipality.

5.6. Shortfalls of the eThekwini Municipality

The analysis that this report has provided so far shows that there is a gap between the literature and implementation at eThekwini Municipality. In Chapter four of this study, the objectives of Municipal Parks and Recreational Bylaws 2015 were stated, and they are in contrast to what is taking place in the eThekwini urban open spaces, specifically at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. According to the Municipal Parks and Recreational Grounds By-law 2015, eThekwini

protects and preserves parks for the benefit of the public and further states that it regulates the proper use and enjoyment of parks by members of the public.

The presence of homeless people harassing users of both urban open spaces shows a big gap of lack of management from the eThekweni Municipality. The lack of management has resulted in both urban open spaces regarded as an unsafe atmosphere for users.

According to eThekweni Municipality (2011), D'MOSS delivers a multiplicity of services to the inhabitants of Durban, including cultural and recreational opportunities. The researcher's observations and findings from the users of both Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park indicates that there is a gap when eThekweni Municipality is providing recreational opportunities, because of the lack of facilities and maintenance provided.

5.7. Principles Evaluation

In Chapter two of this study principles of urban open spaces were discussed. After observations by the researcher, it is imperative to examine the extent of how these principles were present at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, because they influenced how both urban open spaces are currently used and the responsiveness of eThekweni Municipality.

- 1. Legibility:** Building legibility in urban open spaces is significant to define the boundaries of a space with good focal points and clear accented entrances. Users need to be able to detect where space begins and ends to judge their position in a city and space. Clearly legible and permeable entrances attract users to open spaces particularly within high and dense cities such as Durban. At Gugu Dlamini Park there are entrances from multiple routes, which therefore make it easy for users to access the city open space. On the south area of the open space, a clear (edge) boundary demarcates the end of the urban open space. At Albert Park the principle of legibility is limited because of the unclear entrances to the urban open space. There are only two gates with signage far away from the entrance point. It is difficult for the public to locate the urban open space as compared to Gugu Dlamini Park. Albert Park possesses clear boundaries as there is a fence that surrounds the urban open space.
- 2. Diversity and Accessibility:** In today's society, particularly in Durban where different demographics of people reside, it is essential that urban open spaces provide available access and cater to the inherent needs of diverse cultures. Providing access to users of all ages and physical qualities is important. According to the researcher's observations,

both Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park neglected to design for persons with a disability. This is an involuntary exclusion for such a group of people. Accessibility for children at Albert Park is easy because of the designated areas for them to play. Therefore, the principle of accessibility at Albert Park embraces children to use the urban open space. It is essential for spaces to be non-definitive in excluding future growth or expansions in diversity meaning. “Public spaces require a cultural argument, but one that is neither too explicit nor literal, leaving space for this accrual of meaning.” (Gallacher, 2005, pp.53). It was difficult for the researcher to determine the diverse cultures using both spaces but the overview group utilising Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park were black people, which included Indians.

3. **Sense of Place/Places for People:** The formation of urban open spaces is needed to create functional and meaningful spaces for people. A sense of place for people can include qualities such as connection and meaning with a place. One participant at Gugu Dlamini stated that the urban open space provided an arena to connect with other people and nature. He further stated that the significant of the space was for individuals to be free to honor Gugu Dlamini who was killed for disclosing her HIV/AIDS status publicly. According to the researcher’s direct observations at Albert Park, the urban open space does not embrace the principles of a sense of place or place for people. It is an open space that provokes fear in users because of the high presence of vagrancy.
4. **Ease of Movement:** open spaces demand obtainable ease of access and suitable connections to its surroundings to entice users. This is derived from the human approach whereby people are more likely to use space or locations when they are easily accessible. The extent or degree of movement within urban open spaces is reliant upon how well connected the open space is, when compared to surrounding districts and to the city as a whole. According to Corbett (2004) this can therefore be regarded as crucial open space success. The principle of ease of movement at Gugu Dlamini Park is feasible because the urban open space is well connected to streets and surrounding land uses. According to the researcher’s observations, the ease of movement allows users to easily access the urban open space and this is evident as seen in the high number of users during the day. At Albert Park there is a barrier to connectivity and there are no clear visual and key views to the urban open space. Spaces that are easily seen from the street by passers-by are more likely to be used than those that are visually obscured (Corbett, 2004, pp.82).

5.8. Summary

To conclude this chapter, the results obtained from the eThekweni Municipal Official, the researcher's observation, questionnaire survey, academia, and photographs indicate that Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park are not well-utilised urban open spaces. This chapter further alluded that current use of the spaces is contrary to the municipal bylaws , which therefore showed that the purpose use is limited due to the informalities that currently take place in the urban open spaces.

The use of two case studies has assisted in this analysis by showing that CBD urban open spaces are used differently from city spaces located in a residential neighbourhood. Chapter 6 will provide key findings and recommendations on how best these spaces can be effectively and positively used.

Chapter 6

Summary of Findings, Recommendations and Conclusions

6.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the findings from the information presented in Chapter 5. It is divided into two sections. The first section looks at the summary of findings. The second section wraps up the whole dissertation with recommendations on how urban open spaces can be best used in South African cities, but with a closer look at Durban and touching on the use of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park, Durban.

6.2. Summary of Findings

The aim of the study was to provide a clear understanding of the relationship between the current and purpose use of the urban open spaces of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park. Four key objectives and research questions were identified to guide the study towards a better understanding of the current and purpose use of both urban open spaces. The open spaces are located in different areas in the city of Durban, which means their users responded differently from each other. Gugu Dlamini Park is located in the busy area of the CBD with a mall adjacent to it, while the park at Albert Park is located in a predominately residential area.

Land uses and locations of spaces influence the use. Albert Park is surrounded by a residential area and educational institutions, therefore the majority of the users of the space are students and unemployed individuals (see figure 5.4.). The current use of both urban open spaces shared many similarities. A number of findings can be drawn from the results previously outlined. Firstly, the prominent and disturbing current use was that of homeless people occupying both spaces and leaving fear in users of the spaces. A second key finding revealed that the main factor leading to the current use was because of the lack of security in the spaces. Seventy-six per cent of the participants perceived both urban open spaces to be unsafe.

Thirdly, by means of the researcher's observations, it was discovered that there is no effective maintenance in both urban open spaces. Albert Park has broken signage and a damaged fence which are important elements of the space, while Gugu Dlamini Park becomes untidy during week-ends because of littering. At Gugu Dlamini Park, the urban open space is currently used as an area for diverse activities such as alcohol, public sex, informal trading and unauthorised

entertainment and the factor leading to these uses was discovered to be the easy access to the open space.

Fourthly, urban open spaces are supposed to be inclusive and friendly to all groups of people. It was discovered that the design of entrance trails to both spaces does not support wheelchairs of the physically challenged. Gungor (2016), in the process of proposing and designing a public model, states that it is necessary to design the co-habitated physical environment by equally considering the needs of all its dwellers. Physically challenged people are equally deserving to use urban open spaces.

Another key finding is that the urban open spaces are not correctly managed which then results in a wrong user pattern. Important facilities like toilets are not provided, which resulted in users of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park utilising these spaces as a zone for disposal. Finally, during rainy and hot days, it was discovered by participants and observations made by the researcher that both urban open spaces lack shelter.

6.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher would like to outline a set of recommendations going forward, that are directed at the planning authorities to improve the liveability of urban open spaces in Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. Safety is a big problem for both urban open spaces and therefore it is essential that the municipality improves in this area.

Safety

- In order to have safe and friendly open spaces, the municipality needs to increase the number of security guards. For example, at Albert Park, the open space is too large to be monitored by two people. The municipality needs to collaborate with both Metro and SAPS for a clean-up campaign now and then. This will improve and reduce the number of vagrants. The visibility of local police may assist with urban open space users feeling secure while utilising the park.
- Institutions such as rehab facilities, homeless shelters, the private sector and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that deal with social development issues could be brought in as an intermediary to help vagrants occupying the urban open spaces to be integrated well within the community.

Maintenance is a vital component that can determine a repeat visit from a user. It is essential that the eThekweni Municipality respond promptly to damaged facilities as discovered at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park.

Maintenance

- In order to have healthy and clean open spaces, dustbins must be strategically placed around both urban open spaces. They must be reachable and visible to users. Responsive strategies to damaged facilities are needed such as monitoring the spaces on a daily basis in order to identify new challenges.
- Establish an independent organisation that has accessibility to the resources of local government to maintain, clean and manage urban open spaces but will still be supported by City Parks. This may contribute to a strong identification of roles and accountabilities in the development of new urban open spaces and the maintenance of existing urban open spaces. This organization will further address and manage the problem of vagrants in the urban open spaces and will work hand in hand in creating the initial design of new urban open spaces.

The urban open spaces are currently confronted by activities such as public sex, alcohol, informal trading and unauthorised entertainment. The park bylaws strongly prohibit these activities.

Signage

- The municipality must provide clear signage at the entrances of urban open spaces, listing all activities that are prohibited. The signage must be also strategically placed in areas more likely to attract such activities. There must be fines listed to discourage users from engaging in these activities. In parks, maps, educational signs, bulletin boards and even directional signs are required because they make amenities such as benches, cafes and restrooms more accessible.

The study discovered that there are no adequate shelters in both urban open spaces. Gugu Dlamini Park has one structure that provides shelter, while Albert Park is compensated by the large amount of trees during hot days.

Shelters (urban open spaces considering local climate)

- There must be a balance in the provision of trees and shelters. The design of urban open spaces plays a big role in how shelters can be placed around the spaces. Shelters must be placed close to areas in the urban open space that offer activities.
- Ensure the walkways are shaded using trees.
- Ensure that the urban open spaces are well shaded during midday especially seating areas.
- Modify the lay-out of the urban open spaces to enhance the thermal comfort.

The increase of informalities occurring in the urban open spaces shows that users are not exposed to the significance thereof. It is essential that these spaces are conserved and protected by users more so than by eThekweni Municipality Authorities.

Education

- The municipality must provide clean-up programmes and workshops for the youth, since both urban open spaces are located in areas where there are educational institutions. The municipality must extend an invitation to the colleges to encourage the essence of open spaces and how they need to be preserved.

According to the researcher's observations, there is a need to re-design both urban open spaces to be inclusive of physically challenged individuals and also attraction.

Guarantee Good Quality Design

- Ensure the design of urban open space delivers respectable imageability, attachment, human scale, clearness and involvement. This will require architects and town planners to work together with other relevant stakeholders such as the *Association for the Physically Challenged* in order to provide inclusive spaces.
- Ensure visual and physical access.

Gugu Dlamini Park already possesses artwork which is an advantage for the municipality to capitalise on by providing more knowledge about the provided sculpture. This can attract tourists and economically boost our city. The artwork at Gugu Dlamini Park offers silent lessons about HIV/AIDS and tolerance among people.

Artwork

- Deliver municipal art that reproduces societal and national values. Artwork beautifies spaces and encourages repeat visits. The sculpture symbolizing HIV/AIDS at Gugu Dlamini Park is a great first step. Many users of the park were observed taking pictures and resting next to the sculpture (See image 5.17).

The urban open spaces experience a lot of informal trading, which is a cry from users of the city since they have a right to the city. There are no forms of shops in the urban open space at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, but only unpermitted trading, therefore, economic needs must be incorporated.

Ensure Urban Open Spaces correspond to Economic Needs

- Ensure delivery of good quality drink and food services in urban open spaces.
- Encourage the use of mobile shops in designated areas in urban open spaces.
- Offer permits for informal traders.

Incorporate Urban Open Spaces with Municipal Strategic Goals

- The Inner Thekwini Regeneration and Urban Management Programme developed six key objectives to accomplish inner-city development and one of these objectives is improving security and safety (Jali, 2017). As the municipality plans for safety, it must fully incorporate and prioritise providing security for surrounding land uses for urban open spaces. If adjacent land uses to city open spaces have good surveillance, urban open spaces are most likely to benefit.

Chapter 3 of this study articulated the environmental benefits of urban open spaces which included nature conservation and promoted biodiversity. The last recommendation, therefore, encourages the eThekwini Municipality to promote the purpose use of the city open spaces through encouraging environmental benefits.

Urban Open Spaces must provide Environmental Benefits

- Urban open spaces must be designed in such a way that they promote ecological and environmental benefits such as guidelines for pollution control, nature conservation, flood control and urban climate. They must be able to reduce urban heat and increase property values.

6.3.1. Future Research

Durban is perceived as a multi-cultural area but from the researcher’s findings, only black people utilised the urban open spaces even though according to Chapter four, in Tables 4.1. and 4.4. of this study, different races were depicted to be occupying areas adjacent to both urban open spaces. The future research study will focus on factors that discourage the inclusivity of users of urban open spaces in the inner city.

6.4. Research Objectives and Aims

In Chapter 1, the following objectives were outlined. These objectives have been arranged in Table 6.1. to specify in which chapter each of the objectives has been dealt with.

Table 6.1: Research Objectives alongside the Chapters responding to the Objective

<u>Research Objective</u>	<u>Corresponding Chapter</u>
Compare and contrast the purposed use and current use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park	Numerous topics related to urban open spaces and the purposed use of them were discussed in Chapter 3, the Literature Review. The current use was partially discussed in Chapter 3 and then fully articulated in Chapter 5, the Study Findings.
Examine how the urban open spaces were used in the past 15 years at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park	In Chapter 5, through the study participants, the eThekweni Municipal Official and users of the urban open spaces. They contributed to how both spaces were used in the past 15 years.
Examine the factors which leads to change of the use of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park	In Chapter 5, through the researcher’s observations and users of the urban open spaces, the dynamics that contribute to the current use of the urban open spaces were identified.
Provide recommendations on how best to use urban open spaces of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park	In Chapter 5, during the discussion of findings, there were recommendations that were also discussed. Chapter 6 provided all the recommendations on how best to use

	urban open spaces of Gugu Dlamini Park and Albert Park.
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6.5. Conclusion

It is easy to determine the purpose use of urban open spaces through constitutions, bylaws, policies, acts and any other authorised documents, but the most important indicators that need to be embraced are factors influencing the current use. This study indicated that there are a lot of informalities currently taking place in both urban open spaces, making it imperative therefore to critically find a holistic approach that will help to encourage healthy, friendly, safe and welcoming urban open spaces in eThekweni and South Africa.

This study has attempted to outline the challenges that are currently taking place in urban open spaces. The objective was to come up with recommendations on how best these spaces can be used. It is clear that urban open spaces are essential for the city and its users, and therefore, not only town planners and the eThekweni Municipality should be responsible in making sure they are usable. If this aspect of responsibility is neglected by city residents, we will most likely continue to have and experience the same challenges in the city's open spaces. Cities' open spaces are an element that brings a refreshed atmosphere in cities, making it imperative that they are well-monitored, maintained and regulated for users.

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Annexure:1 Ethical Clearance



31 October 2019

Mr Mhlalisi Gavu Mndzebele [215054639]
School Of Built Env & Dev Stud
Howard College

Dear Mr Mndzebele,

Protocol reference number: HSSREC/D0000577/2019

Project title: Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South-Africa.

Full Approval – Expedited Application

This letter serves to notify you that your application received on 07 October 2019 in connection with the above, was reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) and the protocol has been granted **FULL APPROVAL**.

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. **PLEASE NOTE:** Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

This approval is valid for one year from 31 October 2019.

To ensure uninterrupted approval of this study beyond the approval expiry date, a progress report must be submitted to the Research Office on the appropriate form 2 - 3 months before the expiry date. A close-out report to be submitted when study is finished.

Yours sincerely,


Professor Ornana Goo
University Dean of Research

/dd

Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee
Dr Rosemary Sibanda (Chair)
UKZN Research Ethics Office Westville Campus, Govan Mbeki Building
Postal Address: Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000
Website: <http://research.ukzn.ac.za/Research-Ethics/>

Funding Colleges:  Edgewood  Howard College  Medical School  Pietermaritzburg  Westville

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Annexure:2 Gatekeeper's letter



For attention:
Chair of Ethics Committee
University of KwaZulu Natal
School of Built Environment and Development Studies
College of Humanities
Howard Campus
1 October 2019

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MS MINDZEBELE, STUDENT NO. 215054639 - GRANTING PERMISSION TO USE ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY AS A CASE STUDY

Please be informed that eThekweni Municipality's Parks Leisure and Cemeteries (PLC) Unit and eThekweni Municipal Academy (EMA), have considered a request from Mhlalisi Gavu Mindzebele to use eThekweni Municipality as a research study site as part of the requirements for his Masters in Town and Regional Planning (MTRP) focusing on Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purposed Use : A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South-Africa.

We wish to inform you of the acceptance of his request and hereby assure him of our utmost co-operation towards achieving his academic goals; the outcome which we believe will help our municipality improve its service delivery. The student is reminded of the ethical considerations at all times when undertaking this research. In return, we stipulate as conditional that the student, accompanied by his academic supervisor presents the results and recommendations of this study to the relevant unit/s on completion of his research study. The forum will be facilitated by MILE and Mr Zungu must contact the MILE Office on 031 3224513 or by mail, colin.cilliers@durban.gov.za to confirm a date for this presentation.

Wishing Mr Mindzebele all the best in his research.

[Redacted Signature]

Mr S. Mkhwanazi
Dep. Head: Parks, Leisure & Cemeteries
eThekweni Municipality

[Redacted Signature]

Head: eThekweni Municipal Academy
eThekweni Municipality

I, Mhlalisi Gavu Mindzebele hereby accept as conditional that I will comply fully as per the conditions stipulated above.

Signed: .. [Redacted] Date: 07/10/2019

Annexure: 3 Information Sheet

UKZN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (HSSREC)

APPLICATION FOR ETHICS APPROVAL

For research with human participants

INFORMED CONSENT RESOURCE TEMPLATE

Study Title: Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Introduction:

The student **Mhlalisi Mndzebele** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Howard College) is asking for their participation to the study. The Research is titled “**Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**”.

The aim of this research study is to examine the factors that are leading to the change of urban open spaces using the case studies at Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park. Furthermore, to make the research more substantial and valid, the researcher will interview 40 participants following an interview schedule and will also do observations which will assist in achieving the aims of this study. Thirty-eight participants from both spaces will be interviewed, eighteen participants from Gugu Dlamini Park and the other eighteen from Albert Park. Two key participants from eThekweni Municipality in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. I am here requesting that you participate in this research study in order to help highlight the challenges that are currently facing urban open spaces in order to come up with recommendations on how best our spaces can be used and improved.

What is involved in the study: Face to face interviews will be conducted. If you agree to participate, we hope that the information that will be obtained will be used to improve

Annexure: 4 Declaration of Consent

DECLARATION OF CONSENT

I have been informed about the study entitled (Evaluating the Current Use of Urban Open Spaces Versus their Purpose Use: A Case Study of Albert Park and Gugu Dlamini Park, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) by (Mr Mhlalisi Mudzebele)

I understand the purpose and procedures of the study

Yes	No

I have been given an opportunity to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction.

Yes	No

I declare that my participation in this study is voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time.

Yes	No

I have been informed about any available compensation or medical treatment if injury occurs to me as a result of study.

Yes	No

If I have any further questions/concerns or queries related to the study, I understand that I may contact the researcher at (0797013556).

If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researcher, then I may contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION
Research Office, Westville Campus
Govan Mbeki Building
Private Bag X 54001
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