

**ASSESSING THE ADEQUACY AND
APPROPRIATENESS OF
RECREATIONAL SPACES AND
FACILITIES FOR ADOLESCENTS IN
CHATSWORTH**

By

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Chapter 1: Research Framework

1.1. Introduction

“Recreation is the enrichment of living by enabling individuals to find outlets for self-expression and thereby to develop their inherent potential and achieve desired satisfaction.” (The Athletes Institution and American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 1965: 2)

Recreation is an activity that improves one’s mind and body in a way that creates pleasure. This can include adventure, fellowship, and enjoyment of beauty, which expresses human happiness. Recreation programs allow people to develop their interests and skills thus making use of their leisure constructively. This improves their physical and mental health, safety, good citizenship, confidence and character development.

Recreation is very diverse in nature and scope. Recreation is a kind of experience rather than a set of activities. However, recreation does involve some form of activity, which is undertaken because someone wants to do it without economic incentive as a motivating force. This emphasises a fundamental prerequisite of willingness on the part of the participant. These experiences occur in programs at schools and colleges as well as other recreational agencies. There are an array of recreational activities such as sports and games, music, dance, arts and crafts, drama, social activities, nature and outing activities and hobbies. The vast range of recreation programs allows people of all ages, backgrounds and interests to participate in a variety of activities with the help of the various experts in the respective fields, thus ensuring maximum enjoyment and benefits. The recreational activity appeals to the individual, families, clubs and informal groups. Activities can occur both indoors and outdoors, near to participant’s residence and more distant places and all year round or seasonally. Recreation has become a vital part of human existence. (The Athletes Institution and American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation: 1965).

Recreation forms an important aspect of the adolescent’s life. Many adolescents spend their time in school and out of school. The school does provide some form of recreational activities such as programs involving sport but it is not sufficiently

equipped to deal with the adolescents needs which leaves them on their own. These adolescents are not equipped with making the decisions as to what recreational facilities are appropriate and adequate for them. When an adolescent is out with their peers decisions are often made based on their peers and the amount of money they have. These two aspects are very influential. It is therefore up to the adult and the responsible parties to protect the youth from tragic events such as the Throb incident. This incident occurred in March 2000, where teenagers were crammed into a Chatsworth Nightclub. This tragedy took the lives of 13 teenagers as young as 11 years old. It was found that the doors and exit points had been inadequate. This made the community of Chatsworth realize that recreational facilities are not always appropriately designed or serviced, which created a disaster especially in times of need.

Recreational planning is a process that relates the leisure time of people to space. Recreational planning blends the knowledge and techniques of environmental design and social services to develop alternatives for using leisure time, space, energy, and money to accommodate human needs. Recreation planning focuses on public parks, leisure services and open spaces. These are vital aspects of urban form and function. If leisure services and spaces are well designed, properly located, adequately maintained and serves the needs of the intended users it can improve the quality of urban life and environment. Planning and design-processes provide a rational basis for community action to improve the quality and quantity of leisure opportunities in cities. Demand and supply determine existing and potential leisure opportunities. The provision of leisure opportunities is provided both by the public and private sectors.

Planning is a continuous and incremental process, which develops the guidelines for urban development. Recreation planning is a systematic way of anticipating, causing, preventing or monitoring change related to the provision of public and private leisure opportunities. Thus, recreational-planning is a continuous process of change in response to new social values, life-style patterns, technology and the availability of resources. The planning process should therefore be evolutionary, objective, pluralistic, realistic and humanistic. These factors determine good

recreational plans and planning. Planning is a vital component in the provision of recreational opportunities.

This dissertation is primarily concerned with tackling the issue of appropriateness and adequacy of recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth. This study will answer three vital components: what are the existing recreational facilities and spaces, and what are the needs and the safety of adolescents in these recreational facilities and spaces. It will also look at the appropriateness of recreational planning standards. These are important aspects as we are faced with a society that is constantly modifying and changing itself. Adolescents of yesteryear were very different and their needs were different to the adolescents of today. For example adolescents of yesteryear were very keen to participate in sports, today there are limited number of adolescents interested in playing sports. Today adolescents are mesmerized by the technological age of computers. They are interested in cyber space, video games and chat programs. Adolescents of today are also more aware of their surroundings, needs and rights. Adolescents are the future and there needs have to be taken into consideration. This dissertation will thus look at the solutions to some of the challenges that planners face in catering for contemporary adolescents needs.

1.2 Research Topic and Problem

The topic of this dissertation is **“Assessing the adequacy and appropriateness of recreational spaces and facilities for adolescents in Chatsworth**

My motivation for choosing this topic was due to the lack of adequate and available recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth. A major consequence of the lack of adequate facilities was the Throb incident, which left thirteen children dead and many more injured. This incident shook the whole community. This incident allowed me to tackle the issue of inappropriate and inadequate recreational facilities and spaces for the adolescents in Chatsworth. This was a major motivation for choosing the topic, as a planner I could possibly even in a small way bring about change to the community. Thus creating an environment that is safe instead of lowering the morale of the community and creates a safe haven for adolescents to engage in extra curricula activities.

This is an interesting topic because there is ample opportunity to give my ideas as well as look at the international experience and derive ideas to create recreational facilities and spaces that are adequate and appropriate for adolescents. Adolescents are the future and require facilities such as community centers where there is interaction with people of their own age as well as informed professionals that can help them by facilitating the provision of such facilities. Recreational spaces and facilities can also be places where skills are learnt that will help them be confident and enhance their potential for employment, scholarships, bursaries etc.

Research Problem

Presently, there are not enough adequate recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth. This has created a problem as the adolescents have resorted to options such as nightclubs, which are not adequately equipped, idol behavior and vandalism. There is a high population of adolescents living in Chatsworth and during the school holidays and weekends they are left to unsupervised entertainment, which create a host of problems such as safety. With the lack of inappropriate and unsafe facilities and spaces it has resulted in consequences that are fatal, i.e. the Throb incident. Adolescents do not have many options to choose from in Chatsworth, as there are a limited number of community centers, internet cafes and shopping malls that do not have adequate facilities to encourage the positive traits of adolescents.

Thus the research questions: **Are recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth adequate and appropriate?**

Also of relevance are the following sub-questions:

1. What are the existing recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth?
 - 1.1 How many are there in Chatsworth?
 - 1.2 What are the recreational facilities and spaces?
2. Are there enough to meet the current needs of adolescents?
 - 2.1 In terms of numbers
 - 2.2 In terms of types
3. Are these recreational spaces and facilities safe for the adolescents?
4. Are the current planning standards appropriate?

Hypothesis

The recreational demands of adolescents are not being properly met, as existing recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth are not adequate and appropriate.

1.3. Aim

The aim of this dissertation is the investigation of recreational spaces and facilities that will enable me to provide recommendations based on the needs and interests of adolescents. Provide adolescents with opportunities where their leisure time is effectively and efficiently being utilized. Adolescents are an important part of society and their needs and demands need to be met. Many of the issues that are currently facing adolescents is child abuse, sexual abuse, drugs and is often given precedence and the issue of adequate and appropriate recreational facilities and spaces is seen as secondary. While the other issues are very important it must be stated that most of adolescents spend their free time not at home but outside their home and school environment and therefore there is a need for the recreational facilities and spaces to be adequately housed to meet these requirements. At the end of my dissertation I hope to recommend criteria that can be used to assess future recreational needs. The most notable being the billion-dollar community center that is former President Nelson Mandela had announced during the tragic incident of Throb. It is to be situated in Mobeni. I will analyze this development as a proposal and whether it is appropriate and ideally located for the adolescents.

1.4. Adequacy and Appropriateness of Recreational Facilities

Adequacy and appropriateness are two vital components of recreational facilities and spaces. Adequacy is defined as having sufficient facilities and having the qualities required fulfilling the requirements of the person participating in recreation.

Appropriateness is defined as something that is suitable and fitting.

There are various factors that one has to consider when defining recreational facilities and spaces that are adequate for adolescents. Safety is an important aspect as the adolescents are the future of the country and we need to protect them. It is also important that there are a number of the same and different recreational facilities to cater for the needs of adolescents. In Chatsworth for example there is only one major shopping mall. Also there is a need to focus on the standards that planners are

adopting to meet the needs of adolescents. Carrying capacity is another aspect of recreational facilities and spaces. If facilities exceed the carrying capacity it can have dire consequences. This has been seen in the Throb incident where underage adolescents were crammed into a Chatsworth nightclub.

Appropriateness refers to facilities and spaces that are fitting and suitable.

Recreational facilities and spaces need to meet the needs of adolescents.

Recreational facilities and spaces have to be planned to take into consideration the current trends. Adolescents are constantly changing and modifying their choices, fashions and following the current trends which planners need to be aware of.

Recreational facilities and spaces have to be well located and the distances between the various recreational facilities and spaces need to be close to each other. Thus

^{ECONOMIC} accessibility is a key factor because adolescents do not have private motor vehicles and cannot travel long distances. There needs to be a good network system of public transport. Transport routes have to be easily and clearly defined. Affordability is also a key aspect as adolescents have limited finances to participate in recreational facilities. Recreational facilities and spaces need to be designed to accommodate the limited budget that adolescents have. Simply providing public parks is not enough.

1.5. Research Methodology

1.5.1. Case Study Area

Chatsworth was originally named after a country farm in England. It was farming land, which stretched from the Umlaas River in the south to the existing main railway line in the north. Chatsworth became filled with Indians from Merebank, Queensburgh, Isipingo and Clairwood. There were no schools in Chatsworth; the Welbedacht School was the first to come into existence in Chatsworth area in the late 1920's. By 1960 there were only four schools and by 1970 there were almost sixty schools serving a population of 300 000. The Indian community in Chatsworth was deprived of any recreational and normal facilities for settled people.

However, today this community has mobilized their own resources and soon temples, churches, mosques, community centers and businesses evolved all over Chatsworth. The Chatsworth Centre has become the most prominent, which is where the

adolescents of Chatsworth spend their leisure time. Chatsworth now has a population of over 400 000 people.

This area is made up of 14 wards with the town centre being surrounded by the wards of Arena Park, Montford and Croftdene. The Higginson Highway runs through Chatsworth and joins the N2. This is a fairly large community.

Refer to figure 1 on the next page. Figure 1 is the location map of Chatsworth in the Greater Durban Area.

1.5.2 Methodology

The aim of this research project was to determine whether recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth are adequate and appropriate. I have adopted a qualitative approach in my research project. This unstructured and flexible approach allows for a broader exploration of views and behavior patterns. My research project was based on interviews, questionnaires and focus groups. These have been very effective in answering the research question that has been posed.

Interviews

I have chosen to include interviews due to the openness of this technique. The interviews were in-depth and contained a broad range of questions that was relevant to my topic. These structured interviews allowed me to extract qualitative information, which was elicited from the interviews. Interviews were conducted from an array of disciplines, and included the following professionals and practitioners: (Refer to annexure A)

1. A social worker from the Social Welfare Department
2. A journalist from the local newspaper, "Rising Sun"
3. A educator from the local school
4. A pastor from the local church
5. A priest from the local temple
6. A police officer from the SAPS
7. The owner of the internet café
8. A planner from the EThekweni Metro

9. An urban designer from EThekweni Metro

10. An employer from Parks and Recreation Department EThekweni

I believe that these professionals who are experts in their respective fields can provide me with relevant information to the answers I required for my dissertation. For example the police officer helped me to answer questions on the crime awareness programs in Chatsworth as well as issues on safety for the adolescents. These interviews were done on a one to one basis and have been recorded. They lasted approximately 15 minutes, as these people are very busy. However, some of the professionals were willing to provide me with more information and exceeded the allocated time limit. These professionals provided me with answers to questions such as:

1. Are the recreational facilities and spaces safe?
2. Are the needs of adolescents currently being met?

However some professionals were better equipped to answer the questions than others especially the social worker and educator as they engage with the adolescents on a regular basis.

Questionnaires

The questionnaire was carried out in a random way in the area of Woodhurst, as it is my sample site. (Refer to annexure B) The age group that I focused on was between the ages of 13-19yrs. The aim is to determine what adolescents want i.e. their needs. It also aims to determine what they deem appropriate and adequate and how safe they feel in these recreational facilities that are currently available to them. There were 50 questionnaires that were handed out. I have tried to split the 50 questionnaires equally between male and female respondents, as this would have given me a fair assessment of the views along gender lines. However, this was one of the limitations that were encountered. It was not possible to achieve this. It was also not possible to have equal numbers for the various age groups. I hoped that there would be an equal proportion of male and female respondents as girls and boys may not share the same tastes or interests. The questionnaires were handed out after 3pm, as this was when adolescents had finished school. The weekends were not possible as they were usually out of their homes. The questionnaire had open-ended and closed-ended question. The reasoning behind this was adolescents

do not want to spend long periods of time answering questions or thinking about answers. The questions were designed so that it was simple and easy to understand. The questions were not phrased in a complex way.

Focus Groups

The focus group was the third method that had been adopted. (Refer to annexure C). There were three groups that had been chosen namely:

1. A school group
2. A church youth group
3. A temple group- A Divine Life Group

The school group was used, as it was a general consensus whereas the other two groups were part of religious organizations. I choose two religious groups to give me a varied response and allowed me greater scope of understanding adolescents from two different backgrounds.

The reason the focus group was used was due to its more open nature of discussion. These focused groups had a time limit of a minimum of half-hour and a maximum of one hour. While the questionnaire provided me with one-word answers, the focus group provided me with a greater flow of emotions as well as greater flexibility and freedom. There was approximately five in each group with ages ranging from 13-19yrs. However, this was not possible in the school focus group as the matriculates were writing trial exams. The ages in this focus group were between 13-16yrs. This however did provide me with a varied response. I was able to elicit the vital information that was required. These sessions were recorded however it was found that the adolescents were intimidated by the presence of a tape recorder. It had to therefore be switched off to create a safe environment.

Secondary Sources

The secondary sources are the literature review that provides the basis for the conceptual framework. These consist of various books focusing on the aspects of recreation, adolescents and safety. The literature review has also provided me with the information to determine what type of questions should be posed in the dissertation. There are graphic depictions of the various recreational facilities that will give the reader a clear indication of what the writer is trying to explain. This

dissertation will contain and maps to enhance important points. The town-planning scheme for the area of Chatsworth was examined in order to determine where the existing recreational facilities were located. Photographs and diagrams assisted in the spatial analysis of recreational spaces and facilities.

1.5.3. How it answered the sub-questions

The first questions answer the adequacy of recreational facilities and spaces by answering how many there are and what they are. It has been answered through observation and through cross-referencing with maps. The second questions focuses on the demand of the adolescents in terms of adequacy and appropriateness. This was done through the interviews, focus groups and questionnaires. The third focus on the safety aspect, if these are not appropriate what are the implications. This will be done through observation and interviews. The fourth question focus on the actually adequacy with dealing with the needs of the adolescents. This was done through observation, with focus groups and interviews.

1.6. Limitations to the study

There have been many obstacles when conducting this research project. The information required from the councilors has been very difficult to attain. It was difficult deciding which councilor to interview, as there were many councilors for the different wards in Chatsworth. Trying to get exact figures for the number of recreational facilities and spaces was also quite challenging. There were many adolescents that felt intimidated by the thought of answering a questionnaire.

1.7. Outline of the Study

The **first chapter** focuses on the basis of the dissertation, as it provides the reader with the topic, research question and what the hypothesis are. It also explains how this dissertation was carried out and what were the limitations were, if any that has occurred. It provides an understanding of the study area and the need for such a research project to be carried out.

The **second chapter** focuses on the key concepts that are relevant to the topic. It contains the main theories and debates, ideas and arguments that are relevant to the topic. It also contains the key bodies of literature both international and national. It

also contains case studies that are pertaining to the topic. It also contains some information on policy of recreation and sport in South Africa that is the role of national, provincial and local government.

The **third chapter** focuses on what I has been found and has all the relevant information that I require, including maps, town planning schemes, and data from the various sources. This has been presented in tabular form. The sources were professionals who I have interviewed, adolescents that answered the questionnaire and the three focus groups. It also includes some secondary sources such as maps, newspaper articles.

This **fourth chapter** analyses the data that was received through the questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. It will be cross-referenced against the findings, conceptual framework and answers the questions posed in chapter 1. There are newspaper articles that focus on the recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth and current problems that exist in recreational spaces and solutions that could be applied. It also contains photographs and maps to further enhance the issues that arise from the findings. This chapter sets out the criteria that are used to assess adequate and appropriate recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth.

This **final** contains the final comments and recommendations. The reason that I have added recommendations is to assess the current and future recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth. With the use of this recommendations I hope that the experts in their respective fields will follow and will at least try to make recreational facilities and spaces a place of joy rather than disaster, which was experienced at the Throb nightclub in Chatsworth. Criteria provide an analysis of recreational facilities. There is one project that is proposed for the Chatsworth area, that is a Nelson Mandela project, which will have a multimillion-rand youth centre that is to be established in Mobeni Heights, Chatsworth. This project is to cater for a variety of sporting and recreational activities and will include a library and video collection. This project will be analyzed as well as the policy and suggestions provided by the respondents.

Chapter 2: Conceptual Framework

2.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the secondary information that was required to derive an understanding of the research topic. The focus is on recreation as it is the basis for the research and the main participants, which are adolescents. Adolescents also are key components of this research project. There are many concepts that had to be understood to determine what adequate and appropriate recreational spaces and facilities are for adolescents. These were sense of place, safety, defensible spaces, needs of adolescents, planning standards and norms.

2.2. Recreation as an activity and its characteristics

2.2.1 Recreation

There have been many definitions, however each varies. Recreation is a difficult realm of human experience to define. It varies from individual to individual a lot and at different levels in human affairs, but also varies in form, content, nature and relationship as a social phenomenon through time, spaces and culture. Some theorists have defined recreation as:

and
influenced
by an
individual's
socio-cultural
background

"Any leisure time activity, which is pursued for its own sake, or what happens to a person as a result of recreational experience. It can utilise an outdoor public or private space." [Gold, 1980:29]

"Recreation covers, broadly, any pursuits taken up during leisure time other than those to which people are normally highly committed." [Lawson-Bovy, 1977:1]

"Recreation is viewed here as an activity or pursuit, which is voluntarily chosen by the participant within his/her leisure time, with the primary motivation of achieving personal pleasure and with a minimum of other hoped-for goals or compulsions surrounding it." [Kraus, 1964:3]

"Recreation is an activity which is not consciously performed for the sake of any reward beyond itself, to which we give ourselves in our leisure time, which offers man an opportunity for his mastery, or in which man engages because of inner desire and not because of outer compulsions. In short, recreation may be considered as any

form of leisure-time experience or activity in which the individual engages from choice because of the enjoyment and satisfaction which it brings directly to him."

[Anderson, 1961: 42-43]

These theorists have one phrase that is common to their definitions that is 'it's a leisure activity.' It is an activity that derives personal pleasure. It is important to understand that it is a ^{voluntary} decision. Recreation is essentially an experience where one derives some form of satisfaction while engaging in these activities.

Recreation is what happens to people as a direct result of activities or experiences. Recreation occurs through time but not at a particular point in time or space. Recreation is seen as an emotional condition independent of activity, leisure or social acceptance. Recreation provides people with a stronger self-image, achievement or satisfaction and can occur at different times and places. For the recreational experience to be effective it has to go beyond traditional public spaces and programs. This can include where the individual experiences freedom, diversity, self-expression, challenge or enrichment. (Gold: 1980)

There are various choices when deciding on the leisure activity to be carried out. There are things such as community obligation, trying to save money, considering the family and those involved in the physical recreation. There are a number of challenges in determining the type of recreation activity to participate. When the adolescents are considering what type of activity they will participate in, it is usually based on their pocket money, peers and sometimes their own personal choice. (Krause: 1964)

Recreation allows people to use leisure activity to advance themselves in a practical way. People have to participate and not merely look on while others participate. Participation is a vital component of recreation. Example, sitting in a stadium watching sports is not enough; rocking chair sitting before the radio and television is not enough. Participating in these activities as on-lookers is not enough. (Anderson: 1961)

Recreation is a movement that tries to get people to be more involved in activities and finding all sorts of facilities. The professionals involved in it now regard it as one of the service sciences. It is a service both in the private and public sector. Recreation was earlier developed to prevent juvenile delinquency and keep children off the streets. Recreation today serves all sorts of people in all sorts of activities. (Anderson: 1961)

Recreation has a broad range of characteristics. Some have already been mentioned. These characteristics are:

- ❖ Each person varies in their view of recreation, it may not occur in a given time and place;
- ❖ Recreation may not have a value in pursuit or it may be purposeful;
- ❖ Recreation may occur on a casual basis or it may be deeply satisfying throughout a lifetime;
- ❖ Recreation may occur passively or actively on a variety of levels;
- ❖ Recreation may occur on an individual basis or may include large groups of people;
- ❖ Recreation may occur socially thus serving the personal and social needs or it may create degrading, time wasting or even anti-social forms of activity

Recreational activities can be grouped into five broad categories namely:

- ❖ Those occurring in an around the home e.g. watching television, listening to radio, doing hobbies and gardening
- ❖ Activities with a high social content e.g. entertaining, eating out
- ❖ Cultural and artistic following e.g. theatres, concerts, art exhibitions
- ❖ Active participation in sports e.g. swimming, golf, tennis
- ❖ Informal outdoor activities e.g. picnicking, sightseeing

Recreation is an activity, a service movement to promote activities but it is also an organization and administration. In terms of organization it refers to the public facilities such as playgrounds, playfields, swimming pools etc. These facilities will have trained staff, instructors and leaders. These facilities can be provided also by the private sector such as churches, industries and welfare organizations. In recreation movement organized, administered and institutional recreation is all vital

components of modern life. It supplements and represents a community conscience in setting standards for commercial entertainment. Institutional recreation is the principal influence in defining leisure and the way it should be used. (Anderson: 1961)

Thus we can define recreation as creating a feeling of self-satisfaction. It grows from the esthetic experience. It is essentially setting a goal and achieving it. Recreation has been thought to have little to do with leisure as it can occur at any time. However, this has changed. Recreation as has been noted that it varies in people's choice. The various age groups differ in their choice of activity. While children between the ages 1-10 years enjoy the playground those between the ages 13-19 years enjoy cinemas, nightclubs etc. Adolescents view recreation in a different way as compared to adults or kindergarden children.

2.2.2 Who engages in the activity of recreation?

The focus for this study is the youth
The focus of participants in recreation for this research project is adolescents.

Recreation forms an important aspect of the adolescent's life. Much of the adolescents spend their time in school and out of school. The school does provide some form of recreational activities such as programs involving sport but it is not sufficiently equipped to deal with the adolescents needs which leaves them on their own. These adolescents are not equipped with making the decisions as to what recreational facilities and spaces are appropriate and adequate for them. It is thus vital that there is enough information that is available to adolescents to determine what is appropriate and adequate for them.

2.2.2.1 Adolescents

Youth it is important to youth
It is important to define what is actually meant by adolescents. It is a period between childhood and adulthood. Adolescents are also a stage in the individual's life when his/her attachment to the family is at its lowest point. This period of when the childhood and full adulthood is separated is called adolescence. This period in one's life can also be defined as a youth, teenager or young person. It is during this period that the adolescent drifts away, both physically and emotionally. The individual's involvement with the family is very weak. In some cultures this period may not exist, as some individuals may not go through this period rather move straight into

adulthood. The age group that my research will focus on will be specific years. (Doren et al: 1974)

Cyril Smith has suggested three perspectives on recreation for adolescents

- ❖ as a period of socialization during which the knowledge and attitudes appropriate to certain roles are internalized;
- ❖ as a period of various transitions in status and role;
- ❖ as **youth culture** having an autonomous influence which may conflict with adult values." (Doren et al, 1974: 27-28)

In the inner city, the sphere of family no longer exists
The period of socialization during which knowledge and attitudes appropriate to *same goes for* certain roles are internalized have two main agencies i.e. the family and other institutions e.g. school and voluntary organizations. The leisure activities that occur with a young person's family is based on various factors such as being in and out of full-time education or living with or apart from parents. However, adolescents have limitations to their leisure activities. Parents allow teenagers to choose their own friends but their pocket money determines what type of services they will consume. (Doren et al: 1974)

In deciding how to utilize their spare time young people are influenced strongly by their peers rather than the opinions of their parents. Even when participating in activities inside the home, such as watching television their choice is determined by individual choice rather than other family members. By twelve years old adolescents are more responsive to their peers. It is the standards set by their age groups on how to dress, what to do on weekends and what sort of music to listen to that they follow. The peer group is not the only source of leisure values but a focal point in the adolescent's leisure activities. Adolescents spend majority of their time outside the home. (Roberts: 1970)

Adolescents spend most of their time outside the home and have become the most important customers of many industries that market amusement and recreational services. Cinemas, dance halls and coffee bars depend on this age group for their custom. The commercial entertainment is very popular amongst adolescents and has
such as

increased the purchasing power of teenagers since the nineteen-thirties. (Roberts: 1970)

The transitional perspective on adolescent's focuses on small shifts in status and role, which help to explain juvenile behavior that appears uncertain and the adolescent, is unsure as to how to behave. There is often a progression from primary to secondary and then to university, which allows for different resources and greater freedom of movement. This perspective focuses on the actual changes in the pattern of life and leisure. (Doren et al: 1974)

The third perspective is based on ^{students} youth culture. This is where adolescents gather ^{live on their own} together without their adults to develop their own style of life. The boys that are part of the working class communities have produced the 'corner boy' culture. This phenomenon is now occurring in all classes in both boys and girls. With the media it has allowed for interaction of symbolic unity without physical association. This is actually a period when there is lack of family involvement. Their peers rather than parents often influence the adolescents. The adolescents are often keen to develop their own experience of leisure, one that is colorful and varied. (Doren et al: 1974)

The youth normally dispose their capital, freely and are not conservative
Adolescents spend large amounts of money upon achieving their leisure tastes and interests. Manufactures of clothing, music and other leisure commodities aim their goods at the target group of teenagers. This results in adolescents being able to develop their youth culture of taste and fashion. Adolescents have become trendsetters in fashion and tastes that are adopted by the older generations. Adolescents have financial resources, which allows them to broaden their range of interests and pastimes compared to those of the older generations. Adolescents often indulge in activities such as parties, dancing theatres, records and socializing. Adolescents want to develop new tastes and they are willing to experiment. Adolescents cannot be expected to share the same pastimes as older generations because it often lacks appeal. (Roberts: 1970)

Today adolescents are often left to be on their own as both parents are working more than they done in the past are resulting in far less supervision of the adolescents. As there is not much family interaction as there used to be most adolescents have more

time and this results in idle behavior, which results in adolescent crime or delinquent behavior...

2.2.2.2 Adolescent Crime *the activity of street corner groups & sheebers*

Adolescent crime usually involves most young people to be involved in some sort of behavior that is not legally sanctioned e.g. underage drinking, buying cigarettes or experimenting with "soft drugs." *so often leads to crime* *drugs* *smoking* Many of the adolescents get into trouble with the police however a minority of these adolescents will acquire a record at some point. Many adolescents are involved in crime, it also clear that there are different patterns of involvement.

There are those who do not get caught, those with transient contact with the police and those who offend on a regular basis. Theft is a common criminal offence that is characteristic of juvenile behavior. There is an imbalance between young women and men. Young women have a lower statistical level of criminal offences. Violence, burglary and drug offending have a higher incidence level among young men than between young women. The ratios tend to differ among the various types of crime with young women accounting less of serious crimes. (Rutter-Giller-Hagel: 1998)

Age trends tend to vary internationally and by year to year but the average age are usually between 17-18 years. However, the start of the criminal activity is usually between the ages of 14-15yrs. There has been evidence that show that there are differences between the sexes.

This is linked to a sense of place where there is common bond between specific places. As seen with the corner boy culture that they associated themselves with the street corner. This was due to their idleness, which was lacking some sort of structure for them to be part of.

2.3. Recreational Spaces

It is important that we understand the need of recreational spaces and facilities. It is based on the demand and supply model, which determines the how recreational spaces and facilities are supplied for. Demand and supply is key to participation and determining whether spaces and facilities are adequate and appropriate. Also it is

important that there is a clear understanding of the various approaches that determine recreation. Each one contributes to adequate and appropriate recreational spaces and facilities.

2.3.1. The Demand and Supply Model of Recreation in the provision of recreational spaces

This is a vital aspect of my dissertation as it the basis of my study. It is here that the demand and supply model for recreation will be used. This is a vital component to determining what the adolescent's demands are and how they are supplied. This is a vital aspect as this dissertation focuses on adequacy and appropriateness of recreational facilities for adolescents in Chatsworth. This is the most difficult to determine especially for youngsters as their attention shifts frequently.

Recreation has in recent times been seen as a human need. Harvey and Smith state that recreation is a basic need and criteria for social well being respectively. The theory on recreation is however lacking. Recreational needs are seen as a hierarchy. Farina notes that the end goal of recreation is self-actualization. Bradshaw classifies human needs as normative felt, expressed and comparative. This is more useful and realistic. Recreation is an important aspect of human activity and social and physical experience.

demands how an individual wants to use leisure time + whether there is a vehicle/infrastructure/facilities to accommodate
There are two aspects that have to be considered when looking at this model that is:

- ❖ The sociological phenomenon of leisure, how is the time spent engaging in leisure;
- ❖ The physical resources required for participating in recreational activity

The demand is based on how he/she decides to use their leisure time. The supply side is based on who supplies the recreation, is it public or private. (Appleton: 1974)

There are three types of demand, which condition the use, design, and the management of recreation. One needs to consider existing and future dimensions when designing and preparing recreation facilities.

1. Latent demand- this is discovering the true demand. It is thus inherent in the population but not reflected in the use of existing facilities. Participation occurs if there are **adequate** facilities, access and information. This translates into a

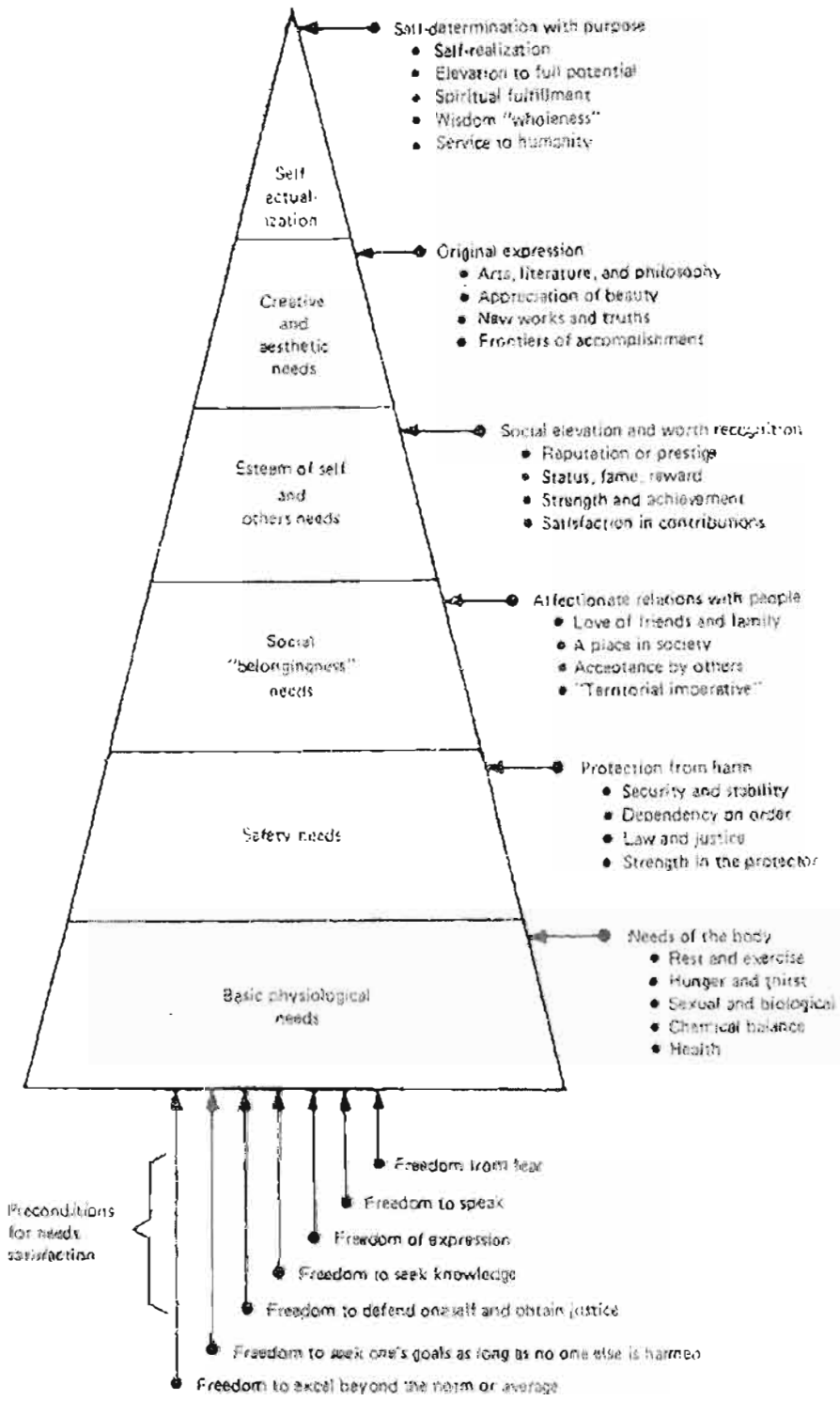
hierarchy of human needs. (Refer to figure 2.) Latent demand forms the argument that supply creates demand. This forms the argument that people will utilize facilities if provided for. The planner has to provide a diverse set of opportunities with the expectation of use.

2. Induced demand- this is created by the market and modern technology. Induced demand exploits latent demand and allows people to change their recreation patterns. Planning and management can also change recreation use patterns. These methods should be applied in estimating demand. The private sector also uses this method to induce demand. (Refer to figure 3.)
3. Expressed demand- this is the consumption and participation in terms of existing recreation opportunities. This focuses on what people do instead of what they like to do or can do. Expressed demand only indicates participation for opportunity and omits price, supply, access, and skill and user satisfaction with the recreation experience. (Gold: 1980)

In recreational demand patterns the following factors need to be considered in assessing:

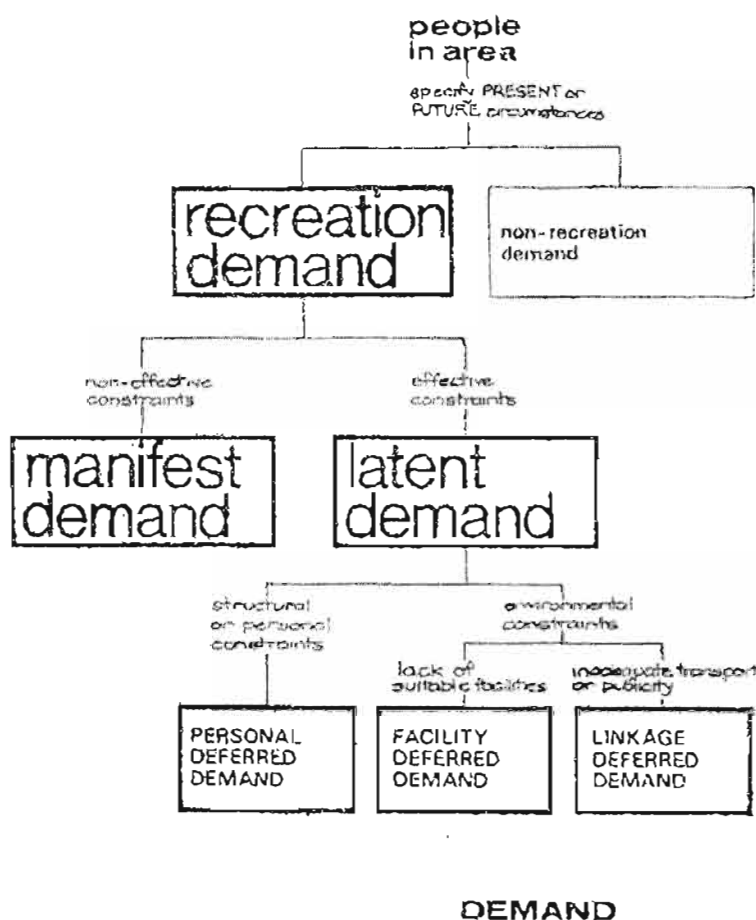
1. Seasonal distribution of use- one needs to understand the patterns of use and non-use to establish the design load and physical or human carrying capacity of a site or system. Recreation demand can be seen as a frequency with velocity, volume, intensity and impact on the landscape.
2. Leisure Periods/Time Budgets- time budgets is the basis of the behavioral approach. Choice is important in leisure time. The amount of leisure time varies with the individual and age. Time budgets also consider when the person is free to participate in the leisure activity. } Peak times
3. Geographic, which focuses on access and service areas for a particular site or system. A common approach used is to establish a service radius for each site in terms of time, distance or origin and destination. } distance
4. Participation- this is the most difficult to determine of recreation demand is determining a credible level of participation per activity for general and special populations. Assessing participation levels and rates is a continuous process because of the rapidly changing nature of many neighborhoods and life styles. } preferences practice
(Gold: 1980)

Figure 2: Hierarchy of Human Needs



Source: Gold: 1980: 145

Figure 3: Demand Model



Source: Appleton: 1974: 82

On the supply side there is less to consider, as one has to consider the function of facilities available, the quality and capacity for the various activities and the periods of opening. If the facility is an indoor space there should be adequate seating available. However, trying to assess a sports hall, which provides a range of activities, is far more difficult to assess. In terms of swimming pools and open spaces their need to be a limit that is stipulated so as to avoid overcrowding. By providing a balance between supply and demand in terms of man hours and weighting the constraints based upon demand one can determine an approach that deals with the issue of leisure planning effectively.

The supply of resources for recreation is varied. Recreation resources are not merely an inventory of identifiable physical elements but rather as dynamic elements, which are defined culturally by the nature of activities. The physical environment dictates the absolute level of supply.

Total potential supply refers to the potential and actual. Recreational activities place a variety of physical demands on the environment. These demands are static as consumption levels change but the characteristics of activities are stable. Potential resources at any given time will vary with the characteristics of the activities. Potential supply allows the planner to compare the present and the potential use of resources. (Coppock-Duffield: 1975)

Available supply relationship with potential supply is similar to that of participation to demand. Available supply is part of the potential supply that is available for recreation under a given set of constraints. The available supply of resources will change over time with increased knowledge, improved technology and changing individual wants and social objectives. The available resources will reflect at any given time the contemporary relationships of these dynamic elements. (Coppock-Duffield: 1975)

There are constraints on supply on the use of resources. These factors can have both regional and local significance. Also cultural and economic factors also influence the use of resources. Resources have a dual function, while they serve recreationists they can also be used in agriculture, forestry or water supply. Thus there is a competitive relationship that emerges. (Coppock-Duffield: 1975)

The supply and demand model has had several fundamental characteristics that are similar to economic evaluation. It is quite evident that a close relationship exists between both demand and supply. The relationship does vary in terms of scale of the area. This relationship is an important one.

2.3.2. Overview of approaches to the provision of recreational space

Recreational planning can be approached in many ways. There are the resource, activity, economic, behavioral and welfare approaches. Approaches can have a positive and negative impact on the communities' attitude or awareness of opportunities and their support of the planning process or recreation plan. Approaches should be appropriate to the physical or social character, values and planning capability of a community. There are two factors, which determine the best approach i.e. physical and social factors. (Gold: 1980)

2.3.2.1. Resource Approach

It is often the physical and natural resources that determine the types and amounts of recreation opportunities. Supply can limit the demand or use to the carrying capacity. Expressed demand encourages duplication and is thus more important than latent demand. The supplier and management values are important components as they dominate the planning process. (Gold: 1980)

Natural factors are dominating factors. It is often ranked over social factors. The environment is taken into consideration when acquiring and preserving open spaces irrespective of people's needs or fiscal resources to pay for the space. The focus is on the resource not the user. The planning process is based on ecological conditions rather than advocacy or pluralism. (Gold: 1980)

This approach focuses on the supply rather than the demand. Social and political are seen as secondary factors. This approach is most effective in the non-urban such as forest preservation. Lewis and McHarg have been associated with the resource approach. Their findings show that the natural base needs to support different types of recreation.

2.3.2.2 Activity Approach

The way people participated in the past provides us with information for opportunities in the future. Supply creates demand. The public demand for opportunities is based on participation or attendance. Only expressed demand is measurable, as latent demand is not considered. In the planning process the user and supplier values are key factors. (Gold: 1980)

The social is seen as a vital component. The uses of public facilities determine the creation of more public facilities and programs. The focus is on the user and supplier. This approach emphasizes expressed demand but is distorted by political factors. As this approach focuses on the past it has limited capability to respond to future needs. Much of the focus is on the public sector, organized sports and program leadership and fails to accommodate alternative means or possibilities.

This approach is quite effective when applied to homogenous populations. It works well in small suburbs or special districts with a population of under 50 000. It is quite ineffective in central city or metropolitan areas, as it cannot accommodate the diverse population and life-styles.

Butler and Bannon share similar ideas with this approach. They reinforce the activity standards. They focus on encouraging of the development of national standards and elaborate ways of classifying existing recreational activities. They acknowledge what people do in urban public spaces and develop these spaces.

2.3.2.3. Economic Approach

The economic base is vital in determining the amount, type and location investment and responsibility for provision of land, facilities and programs. They rely on measurable costs and benefits or the self-supporting nature of activities. There are often cost implications involved when providing recreational opportunities. Supply and demand is influenced by price. The user and supplier are in sync in the planning process. (Gold: 1980)

Economic factors are seen as the key components as compared to social and natural factors. The focus is on the market demand and pricing opportunities. The focus is not cost implications such as fees, charges, capital investment and costs and benefits. Latent and expressed demand is used to rationalize the use of public resources or private alternatives. Politics and special interest influence the planning process. Quantity outweighs quality.

This approach is focused on sophisticated statistical techniques for the analysis of alternatives. It is very useful in large areas with diverse populations. It is effective in analyzing questions of welfare economics, user charges etc. This approach is quite helpful in determining cost effectiveness.

Clawson and Knetsch have similar ideas with the economic approach. They apply economic methods to determining recreational demand and introduced the idea of a benefit-cost analysis. This approach's main focus is on the cost and benefits as compared to other approaches.

2.3.2.4. Behavioral Approach

Human behavior is a vital component as they influence how they will use their leisure time profitably. Recreation is an experience in which a person participates. The person chooses which activity he/she will participate as this creates an effect on the person. In the planning process user preference and satisfaction condition are key factors. Advocacy and pluralism are important aspects in planning, design and management process. (Gold: 1980)

This approach is focused with latent and expressed demand. It relates demand to supply to develop indicators of social need. The needs occur in the leisure setting, which is combined with the physical environment (space) and behavior (activity).

The behavioral approach is a difficult approach and cannot be easily detected. The focus is on the merits of citizen participation, user and non-user surveys and the relationship of people to space. This approach is a complex and controversial as compared to the other approaches. This approach requires value judgments, the development of credible measures and high levels of citizen participation. It is very effective in analyzing nonuse, latent demand, future trends and special needs. This approach focuses on the human aspect of leisure services. (Gold: 1980)

2.3.2.5. Welfare Approach

It assumes that human well being is developed through the satisfaction of human needs, which inevitably leads to a better quality of life or higher state of welfare. Recreation is seen as criteria for human well being. The critical issues for the welfare approach is based upon 'who gets what, where and how.' The 'who' is based on the population, community, group or region in the facet of welfare? The 'what' is focused on the things and resources that contribute to human well being? The 'where' is concerned with the things that enhance or impede the human well being e.g. access? The welfare approach focuses on inequitable resource distribution and looks at trying to understand the origins and effects of recreation. (Adam-Butler: 1986)

The aim of planning is essentially to create environment that are conducive to human habitation. It tries to ensure the well being of their citizens. Planners use this approach as it is planners that determine who gets what, where and how. Planners

use this approach in determining resource distribution. In South Africa resource distribution was very skewed due to the apartheid era. In South Africa today there is a focus on providing resources to the disadvantaged groups or marginalized groups. This approach is much more applicable in South Africa today than it was previously.

2.3.2. Assessment of the various approaches to the provision of recreational space

Demand and supply determines what is required and what is supplied. The resource approach will essentially affect the supply side because if there are no resources how can you supply the facilities or spaces. The activity approach will determine the demand as if people are not participating how can you determine the demand for recreational spaces and facilities. Economic approach affects both demand and supply. Developers need economic resources to produce such recreational spaces and facilities and if the recreational facility or space is affordable then there would be a demand for it. Also this determines how popular a facility or space will be. It is essentially focusing on the cost and benefits of recreational spaces and facilities. Behavioral approach is very difficult to determine as one has to consider what the people really want. It is never easy assessing one's behavior especially adolescents. Welfare approach will focus on the supply side as you want to ensure the well being of the citizens and you provide what is needed.

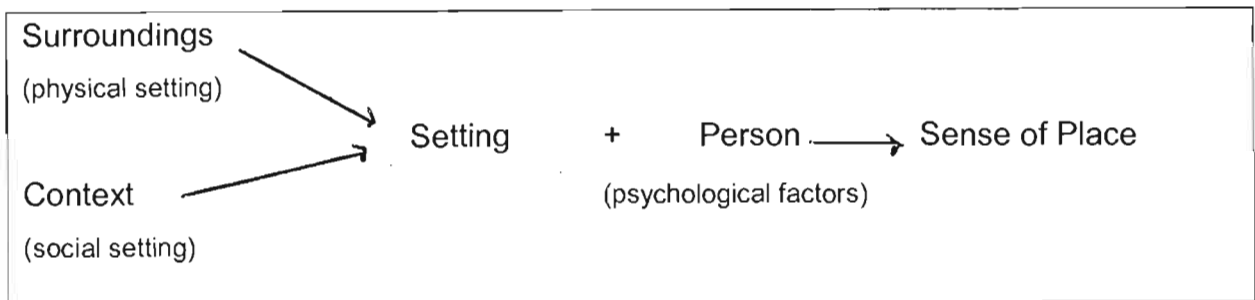
2.4 Desired outcomes in the creation of recreational spaces

It is important that we understand the concept of spaces. Recreational spaces are used by a variety of people. However, each differs in their choice, tastes, needs and experiences. The focus of this dissertation is on adolescents and how they view their recreational spaces. Spaces therefore have to be provided for with adolescents in mind. Adolescents often share a sense of place with many spaces as they associate with certain spaces more than others. Example nightclubs are a space where they meet people of their own age and tastes. They understand each other and communicate with each other through music. However, some spaces can have a positive effect while others may be negative. Those spaces that are negative can make people more cautious of their environments as it could be unsafe. Space plays a very important part in adolescent's lives and this needs to be understood.

2.4.1 Creating a sense of place

"This refers to a particular experience of a person in a particular setting, (feeling stimulated, excited, joyous, expansive)." (Steel, 1981:11). A sense of place is a pattern of reaction that is a setting stimulant for a person. The reaction is the product, which comprises of two aspects the features of the setting and the aspects the person brings to it. Figure 4 describes this:

Figure 4: Setting of and aspects of a sense of place



Source: Steel, 1981:12

A sense of place is regarded as an interactional concept. Thus a person is seen to come into contact with a setting thereby producing a reaction. It may be feelings, perceptions, behaviors and outcomes associated with that person being in that location. Sense of place is not only about a person's conscious experience but also about unnoticed influence e.g. avoiding doing things in a particular place. (Steel: 1981)

Some of the main types of place experiences are:

- ❖ What does the person feel and thinks when they immediately go to a place;
- ❖ Perceptions of the world;
- ❖ Their connection with the experience;
- ❖ The knowledge with the closeness of one 'spot';
- ❖ Memories and fantasies;
- ❖ Identification and newness;
- ❖ Personal recognition with a person's spot;
- ❖ Accomplishment and blockage;
- ❖ Having a sense of fulfillment, fun and displeasure. (Steel, 1981: 12-18)

The experience is vital however their needs to be an understanding of people and place to provide a clear understanding of what is sense of place are. The setting is important but the settings and people mix in various ways with different results. Example a teenager may derive pleasure from a nightclub but another could have an argument in the same place. Both are a real sense of place but neither true than the other. (Steel: 1981)

In the case study "Recreation visitation and cultural development," it acknowledges that place is often an abused term used today. It thrives on fabric as much as memory. Sometimes activities provide a national image and a local distinctiveness. Cities however, fail to satisfy the different needs of residents and visitors. Culture-specific traits and behavior patterns may overcome or exacerbate differences in perceived uses for facilities, even if at some cost, large cities do not accommodate competing access to services. Information technology has impacted on the conventional location criteria. (Domicelj: 1992)

These concepts are linked to my topic because it is vital that we understand what recreation is, as it provides the broad framework for me to answer my research question. Adolescents are an important focus as it narrows down the topic of recreation to a specific age group. Often recreation is seen as either family or individual activity. Adolescence is a difficult time in one's lives and trying to fit in society does create problems. It is during this time that they are left idle, which create a host of problems such as adolescent crime. The concept of a sense of place is linked to this because they are able to associate themselves with a particular place. These are vital concepts to my dissertation.

2.4.2 Creating Defensible Spaces

Defensible spaces are defined as [*"a surrogate term for the range and mechanisms-real and symbolic barriers, strongly defined areas of influence, and improved opportunities for surveillance – that combine to bring to an environment under the control of its resident."*] (Pinto, 2000: 18)

Defensible spaces are seen as a mechanism to empower people to control their immediate environment and eliminate and reduce opportunity for crimes by modifying

the structure and arrangement of buildings, There are four vital components of defensible spaces, which act individually or combines to contribute to the creation of a safe environment. These are:

- ❖ Territory- the capacity of the physical environment to create perceived zones of territorial influence
- ❖ Surveillance- the capacity of the physical design to enable residents to casually or continually survey a public area
- ❖ Image-the relationships between the building form and design influences perceptions and stigma that may be attached to a building or group of buildings
- ❖ Milieu or environment- the effect of locating a residential area adjacent to safe and unsafe areas (Pinto: 2000)

The literature on defensible spaces also focuses on what the personal preferences of people are and where people feel safe in their environment especially young women. Women take two precautions to protect themselves either through isolation and avoidance or street savvy. Young women often use the isolation and avoidance tactics. Many young women do not go to the movies alone after dark. However, precautionary measures do not necessarily ensure safety. (Altman-Zube: 1989)

Safety is seen as vital as many of the adolescents need to be protected from crime therefore safety is a key issue for this dissertation. To understand crime and where crime is committed it will result in prevention. Places can be managed through effective designing so as to make the user more responsible and therefore exercise control over them. Adolescent crime such as vandalism, drugs and alcohol in recreational spaces and facilities will also be discussed in this dissertation.

2.5. Traditional approaches to recreational space provision and design

2.5.1. Planning Standards and Norms

It is vital that we look at recreation planning standards and norms. Standards have been used to constitute broad guidelines and will need to be varied to take into account local conditions. Standards have disparaged in recent times but standards still offer a common approach to comparative need assessment for many public services. Standards have however evolved without what actually existed. This was

due to the lack of adequate information of what actually existed in urban areas.
(Seeley: 1973)

Standards are used as a means to assess the attainment of objectives. Standards are a valuable measuring tool as it measures effectiveness of leisure services for similar places or populations. Principal uses of standards are:

- ❖ Systems planning- a preparation of a comprehensive park and recreation plan and integrating of public or private land uses at the community scale.
- ❖ Facility/Site planning- determining what types of facilities is desirable or possible on a given site.
- ❖ Rationalization- the priority given to people or political units for acquiring and developing parks and recreational facilities.
- ❖ Measurement- using qualitative or quantitative indicator to analyze the performance or effectiveness of a reaction site or park.

There are criteria for designing standards. For standards to be effective they should satisfy the following criteria:

- ❖ People orientation- it should reflect the needs of the people.
- ❖ Feasibility- should be reachable within the planning period and the projected or existing funds.
- ❖ Practicality- should be easily applicable, revisable or projectable. Should be based on the best planning principles and best information.
- ❖ Relevance- should be relative to people at that specific time as cities; lifestyles and economies are constantly changing.

The local and provincial governments are usually responsible for determining space and user threshold for recreational facilities. Standards are however, assessed considering their optimal spatial requirements and are seen in isolation. With more optimal facilities it reduces residential land. Space standards become more complex and inflexible with higher densities. When space standards are in isolation they cannot share and make use of facilities in a multi-functional way. Standards should avoid over-provision and underutilization. Recreational standards are vital in this aspect. (Watson-Behrens: 1996)

Standards are important but they do not take into account that sometimes not all areas require for that specific standard. Space standards should be flexible. One should understand that the quantity is not equal to quality and community needs vary from place to place. Standards should not be rigid and should allow for flexibility. There should be alternatives to dealing with the current planning standards and norms.

Thus if standards are to be used properly it should focus on three essential components:

1. The amount of land and facilities required serving general and special populations.
2. The number of people a recreation area or facility can be designed to serve
3. The **adequacy** of an area or facility to accommodate potential users in a service area. (Gold: 1980)

2.5.2. Critique of current planning standards

The major critique of the current layout planning documents is that it lacks guiding vision of appropriate urban form. Previously there was a strong focus on suburban settlements but over the recent decades it has become evident that suburbia is neither financially attainable nor environmentally sustainable. The suburban vision has disappeared.

Urban form and the quality of urban environments are now based on administrative ease, civil engineering issues, capital costs and public participation procedures. This has resulted in "toilet" or "matchbox" towns, which are sterile and substandardised low-income townships. These towns lack accessibility for the people on foot and result in inefficiency of the city. The focus has shifted to small serviced starter houses or serviced sites. There is a lack of vision.

Watson and Behrens (1996) critique six fundamental concepts of planning standards:

1. **Place Making-** is a key concept but the creation of a sense of place is not adequately addressed. The concern for making places is lacking in South African layout planning over decades. There is no clear indication of how a

layout plan should respond to specific natural and cultural landscapes and of the role hard public spaces play in urban living.

2. **Scale-** The guidelines do not address the need for definition, surveillance and protection in hard public space provisions. The public environment focuses on vehicular scale rather than human scale.
3. **Access-** the road hierarchy and geometric layout are concerned with unrestricted private vehicle mobility, local pedestrians and cycle access to internalized public facilities, thus enhancing road safety. The guidelines focus on a road network that is inflexible and does not easily adapt to change. The internalized or introverted location of the lower public order facilities is not efficient, as it cannot deal with the demographic changes or facility backlogs. This results in lack of pedestrian safety, as people have to cross major arterial routes in order to reach public facilities. Locations of higher order public facilities are accessible only to those who have vehicular access. These higher order services are not accessible to low-income groups, as they do not have motorcars.
4. **Opportunity-**there is little consideration to the implications of layout planning for creation of economic opportunities. Small commercial enterprises or informal street trading are restricted due to the physical separation of road classes. The collective functions of services such as street trading, small-scale manufacturing, social integration and recreation are ignored.
5. **Efficiency-** the public facility space standards are inappropriate as they are large and inflexible. This results in lack of land available for residential purposes. Standards do not focus source sharing. There are implications of layout for the efficient service reticulation is ill defined.
6. **Choice-** this is one aspect that is commonly ignored. It does not take into consideration the implications the environment has on the humans

In the above Watson and Behrens (1996) have criticized the current planning standards. Thus, planners should take this critique into consideration for future development of recreational facilities and spaces. With regards to Chatsworth, adolescents require spaces and facilities that allow them to explore a range of facilities as well as allow for easy access to the various facilities. Notions of access, scale, opportunity and choice are therefore pertinent in this regard.

2.6. Towards the provision of recreational spaces for contemporary adolescents

2.6.1. Needs of adolescents

Adolescence is an experience where there is considerable turbulence in the young person's life as well as those close to them. Adolescents begin to explore their environments and they want to sample new experiences. Their experience can be universal and phase specific, but it can also be incomparably variable. The adolescents attention shifts frequently and their behavior changes from day to day even from hour to hour. They usually pursue activities once therefore planning for them is difficult. (Rapoport-Rapoport: 1975)

It is essential that we understand the interests of the youth so that it is possible for us to go back and measure and determine if their needs are being met based on their interests. Some of their interests are:

1. **Interests in variety-** adolescents are an active sub-population. Individual adolescents often experiment with new things expressing their interests. They want to try and experiment for themselves. Therefore when providing recreational facilities it should encompass many places. These places should be different in content, milieu, personnel and organizational structure. There should be diversity and contrast.
2. **Interest in novelty-** adolescents is interested in what is new and what is on. There is a tendency towards fads and fashion. Just because an activity is in does not mean that everything else is out. Therefore policy should be flexible.
3. **Interests in awakening new experiences-** adolescents are often willing to try new experiences. This makes adults anxious with fears of drugs, alcohol etc. However, adolescents can have anxieties about new experiences and this can create defiance. Friends, mates and peers play a vital role in this. Sometimes adolescents can be loners but they do most often rely on friends for support.
4. **Interest in living-** this requires adolescents to experience intensely the things they already know. It usually involves pressing the limits of speed and aggressiveness. It involves challenge and adventure. This also creates status among their peers.

5. **Interest in solitude**- this involves reading, having to think, going off by oneself. A way of dealing with this is to provide quiet places for the adolescents.
6. **Interest in making close relationships outside the family**- adolescents requires somebody that they can confide in. It is usually someone who they can share their interests with and thus this person becomes a common factor. A way of dealing with this is to provide adolescents with channels to express these interests through social service activities, which is not rigidly organized.
7. **Interest in the environment**- this has potential for awakening experiences. The challenge for recreation providers is to determine how to awaken their interests and derive maximum benefit. A way of dealing with this is to include the provision of opportunities for adolescents to learn about their environments.
8. **Interests in putting family relationships into new basis**- adolescents often are a time when there is a breakaway from the ties of childhood. Adolescents often become independent. Adolescents require a revision of their old relationship. A way of dealing with this is to have family outings.

It is important that we focus on the needs and challenges of adolescents today. Adolescents need to be presented with experiences that challenge them. This results in increased self-awareness and triumph over adversity. When the adolescents are challenged it creates a situation where there is potential for educational development. This results in self-knowledge and self-confidence. However, one has to consider who are challenged, what happens to those who are not challenged etc. (Leigh: 1971)

In the case study, "Town Center Town Management Awareness: An Aid to Developing Young Peoples Citizenships," it focuses on how the town center manager communicates with young people about urban activities. It looks at various systems of communication press, radio, parents and school. Young people make a significant contribution i.e. social and economic contribution to the local town centre rather than the city and town centre. (Woolley: 2000)

Young people enjoyed shopping, eating at burger bars, meeting friends and even watching the Christmas lights being switched on. They have a sense of civic pride, which is essentially having a sense of place. Retailers realized that young people are important to the future of town and city centres. These retailers became involved in the educational aspect of the youth and designed an educational pack in a CD-ROM. This encourages the youth to learn more about their surrounding environment and their town. The adolescents make an important social and economic contribution to the city centre. The CD-ROM has proven to be a powerful tool. It has enhanced the development and skills of the adolescents.

The needs of the adolescents are based on various activities in which they engage such as shopping, eating at burger bars and meeting friends. The adolescents are focusing on education through the CD-ROM. Adolescents of today are interested in the technological age such as internet, e-mail, and computer games. The needs of the adolescents have changed from those in the 60's when adolescents were amazed by the concept of the television. Young people have their own needs and they make a significant contribution to their environment.

It is quite evident from international case studies that adolescents are very interested in the computer age. This tool can be used to the benefit of the adolescent in terms of education and recreation. Essentially it is enhancing the skills that they already possess to educate them in a way that they will understand and relate to.

In the case study "The Utopianism of Children: An Empirical Study of Children's Neighborhood Design Preferences" it focuses on what children want and what they tend to favor i.e. diversity and accessibility. Children understand what they want. Recreational vs. utilitarian features is an important point that this study picks up on. Recreational features include ballparks, arcades, movie theatres, playgrounds and zoos. The analysis was to compare 'fun' vs. 'responsible' land use. Recreation did not take precedence over the practical land uses. (Talen-Coffindaffer: 1999)

2.6.2 Youth and their social spaces

Clubs and raves have become very popular in recent times. Due to the clubbing and raving being done by the narrow segment of the population after most people have

gone to bed, the scale of social phenomenon goes undetected. Clubs seem to be more popular than sporting events, cinemas and the live arts. There is a huge market for clubs. (Thorton: 1995)

Clubbing crosses all boundaries of class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality but not differences of age. The average age of clubbers or ravers is 15-19 years however it is possible for them to club as early as 11 years old. There are certain factors that have to be taken into consideration such as curfew, having enough money to pay the substantial entrance fees and successfully enforcing the drinking of 18 years. (Thorton: 1995)

For the British adolescents attending clubs is seen to be an integral part of growing up. It marks adolescent independence with the freedom to stay out and socialize with their peers. Clubs allow the patrons to engage in 'adult' activity such as sex, flirtation, drinking, drugs and exploring the cultural forms of adolescence e.g. clothes and music. Adolescents tend to have their own special music taste with a strong preference for hip-hop, indie and hardcore dance. Pop music is not regarded as a favorite among the adolescents. (Thorton: 1995)

Alcohol is a commonly used intoxicant of club culture as it is legal as easily available and inexpensive. However, drugs are also available such as cocaine, ecstasy (sometimes pharmaceutical MDMA, often in a cocktail of amphetamines and LSD) was popular in the 80's and 90's. However, marijuana is a common drug. Alcohol is seen to symbolize achievement of adult status and drugs signify rejection of adult culture. (Thorton: 1995)

Adolescents tend to go to cinema more often than any other age group. Films are a principal mediated discourse of adolescents. The cinema is seen as a form of evening entertainment but it often prevails over youth styles, tastes and activities outside the screen time. In the USA the movies are central to youth culture, as the movies depict American adolescents. (Thorton: 1995)

Adolescent recreation is often around music. Adolescent are often under pressure from peers to keep abreast the trends in modern music, which forms an important

part of their active socializing with the people of the same age group. A club is seen to be popular because it offers diverse fashions, proffers escape and regulates who's in and who's out. It fulfills the desires of the adolescents. Clubs have become very popular in recent times.

2.7. The current policy environment in South Africa

Recreation is defined in the White Paper on Sports and Recreation as *“a guided process of voluntary participation in any activity, which contributes to the general health, well being and the skills of both the individual and society.”*

(www.sportsa.co.za)

The Department of Sports and Recreation is committed to providing positive recreational opportunity for all. Recreation is seen to promote ethnic harmony, leadership opportunity and the development of a healthy society. There is a symbiotic relationship between sport and recreation. The provision of recreational opportunity is a vital; prerequisite for sport and recreation development programs.

(www.sportsa.co.za).

The National Department of Sports and Recreation set the following objectives for it and gave rise to the theme “ getting the nation to play”. This is done through

1. Increasing the levels of participation in sports and recreational activity;
2. Raising sports profiles in the face of conflicting priorities;
3. Maximizing the probability of success in major events;
4. Placing sport in the forefront to reduce the levels of crime.

(www.sportsa.co.za)

Sports and recreation goes beyond simply participation. The impact of crime exceeds into the confines of other spheres of government such as health, education, crime etc. I will look at sport and recreation vs. crime, as it is relevant to my topic.

1. The counter to the saying that the devils finds work for idle hands is that a child in sport is a child in court
2. Delinquent behavior is associated with low self-esteem and success in sport and recreation can act as a mechanism to improve self-esteem.

There are eight priorities that form the basis of the White Paper for Sports and Recreation:

Number 1:

To determine and streamline the responsibilities of those stakeholders involved in sport and recreation and to ensure that there is co-ordination and economies of scale are realized. The national, provincial and local government play pivotal roles. I will concentrate on the role of local government.

Local authority functions are important as they are in direct contact with the sites and delivery of sports and recreation.

- a) They develop a policy framework of sport at a local level that is within the national and provincial sport and recreation policy.
- b) Allow for accessibility of sport and recreation to all people in the local area.
- c) Create infrastructure required for the delivery of the sport and recreation.
- d) Ensure that there are programs available to develop human resource potential in sport and recreation.
- e) Ensure that there is a strong sharing of technology, skills transfer and the development of sport and recreation.

The National Department of Sports and Recreation does not have a statutory Act that empowers, them but relies on the good will of its agents to discharge its mandate. DSR determines when it's appropriate to intervene when things go wrong. Often the DSR is perceived to be weak when they lack the intervention and heavy-handed when they do intervene. It is a 'catch 22' situation.

The school, junior and youth sport plays a vital role. USSASA (United School Sports Association of South Africa) implement policy on sport and recreation at school level. Their core business involves talent identification, maximizing participation, coach and developmental programs for the teachers and co-coordinating intra and inters school competitions. They also liaise with national and provincial federations with respect to junior and youth sports specifically. It also liaise with its international parent body i.e. International School Sport Federation. (www.sportsa.co.za)

Number 2:

Priority two is to provide funding for the creation and upgrade of the basic multi-purpose sports facilities in disadvantaged areas

Number 3:

Priority three is to develop the human resource potential required management of sport and recreation in SA

Number 4:

Priority four is to motivate the community to develop active life-styles and to channel those with the talent for development into the competitive areas of sport

Priority four identifies three fundamental objectives

- ❖ Recruit and encourage the youth and adults to participate in physical activities
- ❖ Motivate the populace to develop physically active lifestyles
- ❖ Mobilize non-participants and convert them into participants in physical activities

The recreation policy is based on four principles:

1. Recreational development must be demand-driven and community based;
2. Recreation is a fundamental right;
3. Equitable resource allocation;
4. Coordinated effort and integrated development.

These are the other priorities:

Number 5:

Priority five is to develop high-performance program that is geared towards the preparation of elite athletes for major competitions

Number 6:

Priority six is to ensure that all sport and recreation bodies meet their affirmative action objectives

Number 7:

Priority seven is to develop a code of ethics for sport and recreation in South Africa

Number 8:

Priority eight is to develop an international relations policy, in concert with the national government policy.

This is the policy for which sport and recreation is based on. This will be critiqued in the final chapter.

2.6. Conclusion

These bodies of literature will help me answer the research question. It is important to understand the demand and supply model to determine the needs of adolescents. By applying this model I can answer what are the needs of adolescents. Recreation forms the basis of this dissertation. Focusing on standards and norms indicate that standards that are give don not necessarily mean that they are appropriate or adequate. Example it is pointless to have so many open spaces if only one or two are being used effectively or efficiently. Most of the time these open spaces are isolated, which creates an environment that, is unsafe, this relates to the safety aspect of this dissertation. Recreational facilities and spaces are not always appropriate in terms of safety, as it has been noted with the Throb incident. In conclusion these are some of the debates and arguments that had risen from the conceptual framework.

Debates and Arguments

- ❖ The debate is that while it is obvious that people recreate it is not clear what recreation is. It is very difficult to analyze, define or describe this phenomenon
- ❖ In South Africa this is a problem because is due to its socio-economic and cultural history and has created complexity in analyzing recreation. There is a need to create expensive recreation opportunities and facilities, which are both rural and urban based. This requires extensive research into this field in terms of experiences and needs.
- ❖ Recreation is difficult to explain because of its varying nature in terms of nature, content, relationships and form.

- ❖ There is a debate about the quality and quantity of input. But if there is too much emphasis on the quality it can restrict the quantity of input.
- ❖ The problem of supply versus demand is a hotly debated topic. Often the demand is so great that it far exceeds the supply. And sometimes the supply is too big and the demand is low. This is where planning standards and norms should be used effectively and efficiently.
- ❖ Some facilities do not accommodate multiple uses and make it difficult to justify their provision especially if there is a financial resource.
- ❖ Often there are large amounts of cash that are put into projects and it is not used appropriately.
- ❖ Recreational experiences are engaged and felt through advertising, that is mass media. Often the media is questioned over the amount of violence that is shown on television. This is always a hotly debated topic as it focuses on the impact of violence on television on adolescents and how this may impact on their recreation.

Chapter 3: Research Findings

3.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the findings that have been derived while conducting the research required for this dissertation. The research was conducted in Chatsworth, with the particular site area being Woodhurst. This information was derived through conducting focus groups, interviews and questionnaires.

The information has been broken down in the form of tables. The tables depict aspects such as age and sex breakdowns, safety and choice of recreation. It was essential that certain tables be linked such as Table 2 and Table 3. There are linkages with certain tables such as choice of recreation and age preferences for the various recreational facilities as this proves to be useful. The focus groups and interviewees each had five general questions and then interview questions were focused on that specific profession. The focus groups had six general questions but the church and temple group was asked one extra question on religion. With the findings there is a map that will provide a useful guidance of the area and types of recreational spaces. (Refer to figure 5 on next page).

3.2. Observation

The observation was carried out with the use of the Town-Planning Scheme, which located the various recreational spaces and facilities in Chatsworth. However, the in-depth observation was carried out while taking out photographs of the various recreational spaces and facilities that were in Chatsworth. While observing there was a keen focus on aspects such as lighting, placements of park furniture, and the participation in these recreational spaces such as how well are they utilised and who was utilising this facility and accessibility and transport routes. Also there was observation of the maintenance of these recreational spaces. Through the observation it was found that the area along the Chatsworth Stadium was very isolated and that the seating required maintenance, as it was old. This is also true for the swimming pool. In terms of escape routes it was very difficult for the Woodhurst Park as huge trees surrounded it and certain areas were very isolated. While conducting the research it was found that the exact location as the Throb nightclub was, was a new nightclub that was opened. There were no adolescents present as it

was during the day. In terms of location the sports facilities and entertainment facilities were in close proximity. The existing recreational spaces were very clean.

In Chatsworth there are:

1. 48 sports fields
2. 3 swimming pools
3. 6 major parks:
 - Havenside Park
 - Woodhurst Park
 - Gandhi Park
 - Crossmoor Park
 - 601 Park
 - Moorcross Park

These parks have a combined size area of 200 000m². There is also the Silverglen Nature Reserve. A cricket oval, netball court, tennis court and bowling court at the Chatsworth Main. There are 69 worship sites and there are 26 special shopping sites and 24 general shopping sites.

3.3. Questionnaire Findings

TABLE 1: AGE AND SEX BREAKDOWN

AGE	MALE	%	F'MALE	%	TOTAL
13	1	20	4	80	5
14	9	45	11	55	20
15	3	43	4	57	7
16	5	71	2	29	7
17	2	50	2	50	4
18	1	33	2	67	3
19	1	25	3	75	4
TOTAL	22	44	28	56	50

In Table 1 it is quite evident that there are more female than male respondents. There were 44% male respondents and 56% respondents. The majority of the respondents were those from the age group of 14 years. The only age group that had

more males than female respondents are the age group 16. The only age group that had equal respondents of male and female respondents were 17-year age group.

TABLE 2: CHOICE OF RECREATION

RANK	NUMBER
SPORTS	44
CINEMA	43
GAME ARCADES	28
NIGHTCLUBS	21
PARK	18
SPORTS CLUBS	16
OTHER	1

TABLE 3: AGE BREAKDOWN OF CHOICE OF RECREATION

AGE	SPORTS	CINEMA	G.ARCH	N/CLUBS	PARK	S/CLUBS	OTHER
13	5	4	1	1	4	0	0
14	20	19	15	10	6	10	0
15	5	6	3	3	2	1	0
16	5	5	2	3	1	2	1
17	2	3	3	1	2	0	0
18	3	2	2	1	1	1	0
19	4	4	2	2	2	2	0
TOTAL	44	43	28	21	18	16	1

It is important to note that the Table 2 and Table 3 are linked. The respondents were asked to indicate their choice of recreation varied, as there was more than one recreational activity, which they engaged in. Thus the totals do not add up to 50, which was the total number of respondents. The findings show that sports are a very popular choice among all age groups. Those between 13-14 years are very keen on playing sports. Cinemas are the adolescent's second choice. The popularity between the sports and cinema is very close. Game arcade and nightclubs are quite popular among those that are 14 years. Parks are not very popular among all age groups. Only those that are 13 years seem to enjoy parks. Those that are 13 and 17 years do

not participate in sport clubs. There is only one person that participates in other activities that is from the 16 years. Most of the youth did not participate in only one activity, but there were some exceptions.

TABLE 4: FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPACES

FREQUENCY	NUMBER
DAILY	3
WEEKLY	35
MONTHLY	12
TOTAL	50

Most of the adolescents indicated that they visited recreational places on a weekly basis. There are adolescents who visited recreational spaces and facilities on a monthly and daily. Those that visited recreational facilities were those between the age's 14-16 years. The 12 respondents that visited recreational facilities monthly were three from 14 years, 3 from 5 years, 3 from 16 years, 1 from 17 years and 2 from 19 years. The 13 and 18 years did not visit recreational places monthly or daily.

TABLE 5: DESIRED TIME FRAME FOR RECREATION

TIME	NUMBER
MORNING	9
AFTERNOON	30
EVENING	11
TOTAL	50

Most of the adolescents participate in the afternoon when school is over. There were a few that participated in the morning and afternoon. There were 2 from 19 years, 1 from 15-17 years and 4 from 14 years. The 13 and 18 years did not participate in the morning in recreation. There were 1 from the 17 and 18 years that participated in recreation in the evening. There were 2 from the 13 and 16 years and 6 from the 14 years that participate in the evening. The 15 and 18 years did not participate in the evening.

TABLE 6: CHOICE OF RECREATIONAL PARTNERS

PERSON	NUMBER
FRIENDS	46
FAMILY	26
COLLEAGUES	4
ALONE	0

It is important that the reader understands that the respondents of the questionnaires indicated that they participated with both parents and peers in recreational spaces and facilities. The findings show that friends and family were the two groups that the adolescents interacted with the most. There were 4 respondents where the adolescents did interact with colleagues. However, none of the adolescents participated in recreational facilities alone.

TABLE 7: SAFETY IN RECREATIONAL SPACES

AGE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	YES	NO	YES	NO	
13	1	0	3	1	5
14	8	1	9	2	20
15	3	0	2	2	7
16	5	0	2	0	7
17	1	1	1	1	4
18	1	0	1	1	3
19	0	1	0	3	4
TOTAL	19	3	18	10	50

The findings show that the male respondents felt safer than the female respondents did. The reason for this is that society portrays males to be stronger than females and assumes that they will feel safer than females. Males often tend to be in larger groups than their female counterparts and the numbers often allow for protection. Only 3 did not feel safe in these recreational spaces because of the high crime rate in nightclubs and because it sometimes made them feel helpless at certain times. However, there were more female respondents who felt unsafe due to crimes such as rape, the facility being considered dangerous, insufficient policing and

sports fields were not well lit in the evening. Most of the respondents did feel safe as they were usually in the company of friends and family. Often adolescents were in a crowd and with people that they knew. This is where the issue of trust plays a pivotal role. Some adolescents were part of a gang which provided adolescents with protection. Adults were also seen as a form of protection. In most of the recreational facilities there was visible security and was supervised. These recreational facilities were in enclosed areas.

Most of the adolescents felt that there was a need to improve, include and change recreational facilities in Chatsworth. It is important to distinguish between public and private facilities and spaces. The public spaces and facilities were those owned by the government i.e municipalities and private spaces and facilities that are owned by the private businesses. The facilities and spaces that required improvement, change and inclusion were both public and private spaces and facilities. The public facilities and spaces were the open-spaces, sports fields and a youth development centre. The private spaces and facilities were nightclubs, sports clubs, gymnasium, game arcades, ice rink, bowling alley, cinemas and a golf course. It is evident that there needs to be more private spaces and facilities than public spaces and facilities. This requires the involvement of private developers. While some said that none of the existing recreational facilities and spaces should be changed or improved in Chatsworth. Most said that nightclubs had to be included and should be for the under 16 years. Others said that nightclubs should be closed down. Sports fields were required and existing sports fields had to be properly maintained in terms of goal posts. There was a need for more sports clubs, gymnasium, and a golf course. Water entertainment such as pools and surfing had been suggested as a form of recreation. There was a need for more game arcades, ice rink, bowling alley, youth development centres and action sports bars. The existing cinema required bigger screens and a larger shopping mall. The recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth did not cater for those adolescents with disabilities and there was a need for recreational facilities that catered to this marginalised group. This was derived from the questionnaire as has been stated by the adolescents. The existing facilities and spaces needed improvements in terms of maintenance, especially toilets and parks required safety measures.

Overall, the questionnaire findings for the adequacy and appropriateness for recreational facilities and spaces showed that there was an even distribution of those respondents that were in agreement and disagreement on the issue of appropriateness and adequacy of recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth. Those that disagreed with the statement stipulated that the current recreational facilities and spaces did not provide any form of recreational satisfaction. There was inappropriate conditions as there was lack of usage of facilities, unproductive and allowed for illegal activities to occur such as drugs, vandalism, damage to property etc. The existing recreational facilities lacked maintenance and thus had to be upgraded. Thus the needs of the adolescents were not being met and did not cater to all participants. Chatsworth lacked certain vital recreational facilities and spaces. In Chatsworth sporting facilities lacked in terms of squash, badminton and chess. The distribution of various recreational facilities was not seen as adequate. For e.g. the swimming pool had limited hours and the cricket and stadium were not open to the public. It was mainly used for special functions such as school sporting events as well as provincial soccer games. Some of the existing recreational facilities have been over-provided for and are not open for public access. As there is only one large shopping mall in Chatsworth there is the likelihood of meeting up with parents and relatives and thus there is lack of privacy. Most of the recreational facilities and spaces are unaffordable and there are no youth development centres to cater to their needs.

Those that agreed with the statement stipulated that there was ample recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth. The adolescents said that the existing recreational facilities and spaces provided them with satisfaction and relaxation. That the Chatsworth area did offer a lot of facilities which cater to their needs. The adolescents stipulated that their needs were being met sufficiently. It was seen as affordable, safe and allowed for family activity to occur and thus family orientated activity was possible for the adolescents to engage in.

The Throb incident was a tragedy that the Chatsworth community faced. The adolescents perception of the nightclubs did change as 36 respondents stipulated that there was a change in their view point. However 13 respondents stipulated that there was not a change in their perception of nightclubs and 1 respondent was unsure. Many respondents felt that nightclubs are no longer safe as there was no visible

security. In nightclubs there was a lot of violence in terms of gang fights, drugs and underage drinking. Adults are seen to take advantage of the adolescents especially the females who were coerced into sexual activity. Nightclubs were seen as a risky place to attend. Adolescents now have second thoughts and are attending nightclubs far less than they previously did. Parents are no longer allowing their adolescent children to attend nightclubs. Adolescents now know the reason why parents prohibit them from attending nightclubs. There is a greater awareness in nightclubs and about nightclubs. Many adolescents fear nightclubs as there is a possibility of the similar incident occurring again. The nightclubs are seen as a place of unpredictability, death, pain and alertness.

Respondents who disagreed with the statement substantiated by providing reason such as not all nightclubs are the same or bad. These respondents felt that the tragedy did not affect them personally as it was a temporary setback. These respondents also felt that their lives would resume to their usual activities even after the tragedy. Respondents said, "It could happen to anyone and it was being at the wrong time at the wrong place." This response was also stated when the adolescents were interviewed during the Thob disaster. (www.mercury.co.za). This was during the devastating tragedy that occurred in March 2000. It is now two years after the tragedy and the response is still the same. It seems as if the adolescents are not in the least bit affected by the tragedy. Many respondents did not ask their parents permission to attend these nightclubs. However, there were respondents that did not attend nightclubs.

TABLE 8: RESPONSE TO PEER PRESSURE

RESPONSE	NUMBER
YES	14
NO	31
SOMETIMES	2
YES/NO	3
TOTAL	50

Peers play an important role in adolescent's lives. The respondents show that they were not influenced by their peers. The reason is that many made their own

decisions. There was a mutual understanding and thus joint decisions were taken as a group. Adolescents shared a common interest with their peers but they also shared a difference of opinion. However, some adolescents stipulated that their peers did influence their decision as to how to recreate. There was a general feeling of safety when in the company of their peers. There was a great sense of trust among the peers. The peers provided advice as to where to recreate and their opinion was very influential. Adolescents did not want to recreate on their own and enjoyed the company of their peers. There were some respondents that stipulated that their peers influenced and persuaded them as to how to recreate. There were some respondents that stipulated with a yes and no answer because their friends were not appropriate and were coerced into certain decisions on how to recreate. There was a difference of opinion.

3.4. Focus Groups

The focus group was a focal part of my research. There were three focus groups i.e. in the school environment, church youth group and temple youth group. The focus group in the school environment was held at the Woodhurst Secondary School. There were five respondents in this group ranging from the ages 13 to 16 years. It comprised of five males and one female. It was conducted during school time. The church youth group was comprised of six respondents. There were two females and four males. This focus group ages ranged from 13 to 18 years and it was conducted in the evening, as this was the time when the youth meetings were held. It was held at the Tarsus Full Gospel Church. The temple youth group comprised of five respondents with ages ranging from 14 to 19 years. There were two females and three males. It was conducted also during the evening at the Kharwastan Temple. These groups defined recreation as a time of enjoyment, satisfaction, pleasure, fun and relaxation. Recreation occurred in the free time of the adolescents. Recreation resulted in development, socialising and learning. Recreation was vital to the adolescents.

All groups stipulated that they did not feel safe in recreational spaces and facilities because the crime rate was high. There are drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, gang wars and fights at certain recreational facilities. This was very prominent in the nightclubs as there was no real adult supervision. It was during the night as well as during the

day when there were matinees. This could also be seen in the open spaces such as parks. There was a lot of sexual activity, as couple would truant school to be with their girlfriend or boyfriend. There was strong peer pressure to engage in drugs such as ecstasy, "buttons" and "rosh." Adolescents were witnesses to incidents such as sexual abuse. Adolescents often knew the abuser and the victim. Adolescents felt very insecure at certain recreational facilities. This was once again in nightclubs and parks. Recreational spaces and facilities were seen as a form of temptation. This was once again nightclubs as there was no real adult supervision and alcohol, drugs and adult behaviour was seen as acceptable. This resulted in adolescents desire not to attend recreational spaces and facilities. There was lack of support from the police and lack of visible security at recreational spaces and facilities.

All groups stipulated that the existing recreational facilities and spaces were not adequate or appropriate. This was both in the private and public sectors. Some of these included sports fields, parks and cinemas, bowling alleys. Affordability was a key issue as the existing facilities and spaces that were free of charge, were boring. Adolescent needs, tastes and preferences were not taken into consideration. Due to the inadequate and inappropriate facilities there were limitations on socialising. It was the same peers that were being met. There were limitation on sporting choices as there were enough soccer fields, but the area lacked facilities for chess, badminton and squash. Many of the recreational facilities such as cinemas and nightclubs were overcrowded during peak seasons and this resulted in the adolescents utilising recreational facilities and spaces outside the Chatsworth area e.g. central town. The existing recreational facilities and spaces lacked maintenance such as soccer fields did not have goal posts. In Chatsworth there are no youth development centres.

The three groups suggested improvements for both the private and public sector recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth. The adolescent's main objective was to motivate for more nightclubs and a youth centre. The other suggestions were an ice rink, entertainment centre, indoor sports, dragstrip, more churches, a drive-in, and a greater variety of sporting codes and a general adolescent 'hangout.' The existing recreational facilities required changes such as the 1021 grounds in Woodhurst needed to be upgraded. The Chatsworth Stadium, pools, parks and cinema required upgrading.

The three groups differed when asked if boys and girls share similar interest in participating in recreation. The church focus group said yes because girls enjoy shopping and boys like to go clubbing. Boys are seen to have much more freedom than girls do. Location was a key issue as girls were not willing to travel long distances for safety reasons, however each ward did differ in opinion. The school group felt those boys and girls are equal and are participating in the same recreational activity as boys do. The temple focus group felt that it was yes and no, because girls and boys are enjoying the same recreational activity even in certain sporting codes. Girls are no longer intimidated by boys and see themselves as equals rather than inferior.

Religion played a vital role in the church and temple focus group. Both groups felt that religion had impacted on their lives in a positive way. Religion educated adolescents about morality, truth, honesty, drugs and alcohol. There was a difference of opinion with these two groups on the aspect of recreation. The temple group felt that there were no recreational facilities where the Hindu adolescents could engage in. The only form of recreational activity that was being encouraged was classical dancing and singing of religious songs. The Hindu adolescents felt that understanding Hinduism was very difficult as there were many deities and the meaning of fasting was misunderstood. The church group felt that religion had no impact on their social life. The adolescents felt that it was essentially up to the individual to make the right or wrong choice as they saw fit. The adolescents did feel guilt when engaging in activity that was not appropriate of being a true Christian.

Both groups did acknowledge that youth programs did educate them about the evils of society. The church group had programs such as Drug and Alcohol Awareness and True Love Awaits, which educated them about HIV/AIDS and sex. This made them more aware of the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and AIDS. The temple focus group did not have any specific youth program but each week a topical social issue was discussed. The solutions to the ills of society were seen through reading and understanding religious scripture such as the Bhagavad-Gita.

Apart from the questions that were posed to the adolescents there were other comments that were made. The one issue that came through all three focus groups

was that adolescents do not inform their parents of who and what recreational activity they engage in. There was a lack of communication between the parents and the adolescents. The adolescents are not informing their parents of their whereabouts and this essentially means that the parents are either being lied to or being deceived. The parents are thus misinformed and unaware. There was a strong influence of peer pressure to engage in illegal activity such as drugs, consuming alcohol, truancy and sexual activity. Many of the girls were also pressurised into engaging in sexual activity with their partners. Some of the adolescent girls were also dressing in provocative ways to attract the attention of boys and other older males. These groups stipulated that they would engage in activity irrespective of the norms and standards that are set out by the adults.

3.5. Interviews

There were various respondents from different disciplines that were interviewed. These were a Hindu priest from Kharwastan Temple, a pastor from Tarsus Full Gospel Church, editor from the Rising Sun, educator from Westcliffe Secondary School, business woman from Compu Café, policeman from the SAPS, social worker from the Department of Social Welfare, an urban designer from City Engineers, a planner from City Engineers and an official from the Department of Parks and Recreation. All the interviews were conducted on a one to one basis at their place of work. Appointments had to be made prior to the interview.

There were five common questions asked and then there were more specific questions that were orientated towards their profession. Recreation was generally defined as a form of relaxation, fun, enjoyment and a deviation from the routine of life. It was an activity that was carried in the spare time of the adolescents. The time spent was in a constructive manner. This was a period when the mental mind is occupied through physical activity. Recreation was seen as a form of interaction with peers and the family unit. Recreation can be passive (family activity) and active (physical). Adolescents are more involved in the active rather than passive recreation.

The general consensus among the interviewees was that existing recreational spaces and facilities are safe in Chatsworth. There is visible security and the basic

security provisions are being utilised. Most of the parks were in the centre of residential areas to allow for residents to provide supervision e.g. Ghandi Park is in the town centre and is constantly surrounded by traffic and people. However, the policeman and social worker did not agree with the rest of the interviewees. According to them there was lack of proper lighting in recreational facilities, and the need factor was not taken into consideration when designing and providing recreational facilities. The planner and parks and recreation officials did have one common statement that these recreational facilities and spaces are safe but there are certain negative elements that threaten the safety of these recreational facilities. These include drug and alcohol abuse at the sports fields and parks. Vandalism is quite rife in the area especially in sports fields. There are young couples that engage in sexual activity during school hours. These adolescents are truanting school to engage in sexual activity, drinking and drug consumption. This allows for recreational facilities credibility as being safe is undermined.

All the respondents stipulated that the existing recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth are inadequate and inappropriate. There are no social development facilities such as youth centres in Chatsworth. However, there is a contradiction because the existing recreational facilities are not being utilised by the adolescents. Thus the existing recreational facilities are over provided for. The existing recreational facilities are too close to each other and this has implications for the design in terms of distance. There is a lack of accessibility to certain recreational facilities such as gymnasiums. These facilities charge service fees, which has cost implications. Some of the existing recreational facilities have very strict control mechanisms and have stringent hours such as pools. Certain recreational facilities cannot be provided for because private developers are not willing to develop if the project is not financially viable. Recreational facilities need to be more flexible. Adolescents however, are not interested in socialising in recreational facilities, as they are uncomfortable due to the strong family presence. The adolescents require a degree of privacy. This is very evident at the shopping mall i.e. Chatsworth Centre. The church focus groups and the educator noted the lack of privacy. There is always the chance that you will see someone that you know. This made adolescents very uncomfortable and seek other alternatives.

There were various suggestions, ideas and recommendations that were discussed. There is a need for youth centres to encourage and enhance the skills of the youth. The hours have to be flexible and it has to be free. There is a need for indoor recreation such as chess, badminton etc. There is a need for a coffee bar and library at internet café's, bowling alleys and a community hall that has a common purpose such as dancing, acting, and arts and crafts. There is a need for a subsidised gymnasium that is part private and public. Also certain facilities need to waiver the charges or have a card system where the adolescents pay for the processing for the card and thereafter the use of the facilities are free. There needs to be adequate promotion of the card system however if this is to work efficiently. There is a need to have motivating programs for the adolescents as well as a restructuring of educational and social departments. There is a need for professional staff to engage with the adolescents. The adolescents need to be empowered. The existing recreational facilities need to be upgraded, parks have to be surveyed and monitored. Recreational spaces have to be flexible, with the same space being utilised for different activities at different times. Spaces need to be interlinked, with the necessary controls in place to ensure appropriate use. Recreational facilities should be physically structured and controlled in terms of access times and variety of choice. There needs to be some form of system that ensures facilities and spaces are utilised effectively and efficiently.

The interviewees all agreed that the Throb tragedy did not change the adolescent's perception of nightclubs. When the tragedy struck the community of Chatsworth the adolescents, parents and community leaders were affected for that period of time. The adolescents are still persistently going to nightclubs. It is also the very same adolescents that were present when the tragedy occurred that are persistently going to nightclubs. The adolescents are viewed as worse off than when the tragedy occurred in March 2000. The adolescents are not even deterred by the thought of death. The parents have been more affected by the tragedy than the adolescents. The Throb incident was seen as a temporary setback as it was a prevalent issue at that point in time. The schools have played a negative role as they encourage matinees by simply changing the venues to school rather than in a nightclub. The promises that were made were not fulfilled and were in vain. That there would be

more adolescent interaction and more community centres would be built. The adolescents are still as irresponsible as they were in the year 2000.

The social worker and educator were key components to understanding the adolescents and their behaviour patterns, as they are constantly engaging with the adolescents. The role of these two disciplines was vital to the understanding of the needs of the adolescents. The educator stipulated that the guidance period that was once utilised was no longer in being utilised and therefore in her opinion a guidance period was required to discuss current issues. Also, school facilities had to play a dual purpose so as to encourage skills development. There was a need to look at other sources apart from the school facilities to develop the adolescents. The role of the social worker was also very important. Their role was to provide peer counselling, to empower the adolescents and encourage skills development. This could occur after school and on weekends. It can occur at the Department of Social Welfare or in an environment that makes the adolescents feel comfortable e.g. library.

The educator and the social worker felt that there was a lowering of the moral of the adolescents today. The educator stipulated that adolescents of today are faced with more challenges than those of the past. There is a higher incidence of drugs and the drugs are much more accessible than they were previously. In Chatsworth there are certain areas that are struck with poverty and for the adolescents their only solution is to give in to a life of crime. Education is not seen as vital or the solution to their economic situation rather it is seen as a deterrent. Also in the community there are not enough role models for the adolescents to want to aspire to be. AIDS has not impacted on their lives as they still engage in sexual behaviour that is dangerous. The adolescents today are not concerned about their futures. The social worker stipulated that the adolescents today have exaggerated egos and others do not have egos. There is a high incidence of suicides especially with the matriculants who cannot deal with the pressures of the matric. The adolescents feel that they cannot fulfil norms that society expects from them and this leads to society.

The educators do not have any special adolescent programs but the social worker stipulated that there was the Big Buddy Program, Drug Wise Marshall (refer to annexure D), Anti Crime Program, Youth Empowerment and Skills and Training. The

Big Buddy Program is a program where the adolescents have their peers engage with them. As they are educated each year they graduate to the next level and the older graduates educate the new recruits. It is a maintenance program. The Drug Wise Program also has graduates and each year at least 200-300 graduate. They educate the adolescents of the dangers of drugs and to say no to drugs. The Skills and Training is for the adolescents above 18 years, which is funded by the government. This program trains the adolescents in trade that can be used in the job market, as the schools do not equip the adolescents with a trade for the job market. There is more money from the government that contributing to skills development.

Religious leaders play a key component in the adolescent's development. The pastor and the Hindu priest acknowledged that there is a lack of understanding of religion with the adolescents today. Adolescents today are not keen to learn about their religion and issues such as fasting, the religious teachings. There is a higher incidence of drugs and alcohol consumption. The Hindu priest did not blame the business people because there is very low economic development in the community and everyone wants to make a profit. Both agreed that there is a need for the parents to be more involved in the adolescent's life however they do acknowledge that this is not always the case, as both parents work. There is a need for the parents and adolescents to be responsible. Both religious leaders saw the answers to the adolescent's delinquent behaviour in their religious scriptures. Both religious leaders preached truth and honestly to the youth and hoped that it would improve the moral decorum of the adolescents. The church did have a greater range of youth programs than the temple did.

The internet café situated at the Chatsworth Centre was an important activity, which adolescents engaged in. However, the adolescents utilised this service mainly for academic purposes such as assignments. Some did play computer games, e-mail and internet. There was a very irregular pattern of usage.

The editor did believe that media were very influential in adolescent's life as they usually are following the current fads and fashions that are shown in the media. The media played the role of informing the authorities of the lack of facilities in Chatsworth. They identify the needs of adolescents through investigation. The media

saw the community and other stakeholders as not playing an active role in the lives of adolescents. There is a need for the community and other stakeholders to reshape their agendas and take an interest in adolescents. The community and stakeholders need to motivate the adolescents in skills development and their needs to be greater communication between all interested parties.

The police play an important role in the community as they protect and serve the community. According to the policeman the police are doing very little to improve and change the safety of recreational facilities. It was seen to be under 10%. The issues that the police are facing with the adolescents are loitering and truanting. There is currently only one youth awareness program in Chatsworth. Safety in recreational spaces are not seen as a key issue as there are more serious crimes to tackle and the police do not have enough man power.

Planners are key actors in designing adequate and appropriate recreational spaces. The planner stipulated that the needs of the adolescents were being met in terms of provision but there was no motivation in terms of usage. It was very difficult for the adolescents to be provided for as their needs were based on current fashions and fads. Novelty was a key element. It was difficult to determine the appropriateness of current planning standards, as utilisation of recreational facilities were key to determining the appropriateness. Participation is a key element in determining appropriate planning standards. Recreation was important spatially to every community as open spaces were seen as breathing lungs of the community. It also had stringent psychological value. The environment was important as it was seen as breathing spaces. It also made the community more attractive and appealing. Planners today are more involved in participation. There is more bottom-up approach as compared to the previously more top-down approach. The traditional approach was based on statistics e.g. a certain number of sports fields for the area of Woodhurst. There is far greater communication with the various bodies. Due to budget cuts there was restructuring. Planners did consider the adolescents of Chatsworth as sports fields were adequately provided for but the issue is utilisation. The adolescents are not utilising these facilities.

The design of recreational spaces was also a key component. When designing recreational spaces the main criterion is location. Both public and private developers will not develop if the location is not feasible. Recreational spaces have to be flexible and safe. The criterion is also linked to the factors that are taken into consideration when design recreational spaces. The facilities have to be flexible and adapt to quick changes. There is a move away from rigid design facilities to more flexible recreational facilities. The environment is seen to be more important and thus the focus on the ecology. The focus is making parks more cultural and on passive recreation. The focus is on creating a dual purpose for parks as commerce centre i.e. flea markets. However, this has implications on the environment e.g. with traffic, wear and tear on the grass, carrying capacity of the park. The difference in design of adults as compared to adolescents is the different placement of activities. There is a move away from conflict situations. The design of safe recreational spaces should not have trees with spiky thorns, shrubs should be cut so it does not create hiding places for criminals, there should be visibility, the noise factor has to be taken into consideration, there should be adequate exit points, fire hazards, the building structure should be stable and lighting should be adequate especially in remote areas.

Parks and recreation play a vital role in creating environmental awareness, sustaining open spaces, D'MOSS is vital to preservation, wild life preservation and parks provide a stimulation of the mind through flowers. The adolescent's needs are being met in terms of provision but it is not being utilised. There is not participation among the adolescents. The two major problems that Parks and Recreation face is lack of maintenance and theft. There are no funds to upgrade and the existing facilities cannot be maintained. There is lack of labour as there are more facilities to maintain after demarcation. There is also aging plant equipment and staff. Some of the staff are infected with the HIV virus and have even died. For those staff that have retired or died there are no replacements. There are also many budget cuts, as the council does not identify with parks being a major asset. There are certain facilities that adequately provided e.g. sporting facilities but those that are lacking require motivation for the development of these recreational facilities.

3.5. Synthesis

The questionnaires and focus groups did provide valuable information in terms of what the adolescents' needs were. It also provided information on the adolescent's perception of safety of the existing recreational facilities. The focus groups and the questionnaires provided me with the answers to the vital question: are recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth adequate and appropriate?

It was vital to understanding the meaning of recreation. The general consensus among the focus groups and the interviewees was that it was a time of enjoyment, relaxation, satisfaction and fun. Recreation was seen as an activity that resulted in a development of the mind, socialising and learning. It could be passive or active recreation. It was essentially a deviation from the routine of everyday life.

The questionnaire responses to safety were that the adolescents felt safe in recreational spaces but the focus groups did not feel safe in recreational spaces. The interviewees also stipulated that the recreational spaces were safe. So the general consensus seems to be that recreational spaces are safe. The questionnaire also had an equal amount of respondents who felt that recreational facilities were adequate and inadequate as well as appropriate and inappropriate. But the focus groups said that the recreational facilities in Chatsworth were not adequate. This is where the interviewees also stipulated that the existing recreational facilities are not safe. The questionnaires did mention that there was a change in their perception of nightclubs after the Throb incident however the interviewees suggested that the tragedy did not change the perception of nightclubs.

The questionnaire, focus groups and interviews provided suggestions. There was a general consensus that there were many recreational facilities that lacked in Chatsworth such as a community centre. There was also a need for more nightclubs from the respondents of the questionnaire and the focus group. Also both wanted more water sports, ice rink and better sporting facilities. Essentially the interviewees wanted to develop the adolescents and wanted to empower them.

Chapter 4: Research Analysis

4.1. Introduction

This chapter will focus on the analysis of the findings. This chapter will be cross-referenced with the conceptual framework, research findings and answer the research questions posed in the dissertation. This chapter will also include the maps and photographs that will enhance the analysis of the findings. Newspaper articles will also be used to further support the findings. This chapter will analyse the existing recreational spaces and facilities against the criteria that has been set out in terms of adequacy and appropriateness.

4.2. Criteria for Analysis

Adequacy is having sufficient facilities and having the qualities required to fulfil the person participating requirements. The criteria for adequacy of recreational spaces and facilities are:

1. **Numbers-** it is imperative that there are enough recreational spaces and facilities to cater to the demands of the adolescents. This will be assessed in terms of
 - a) Crowdedness
 - b) Catering for existing populations
2. **Safety-** it is vital that we understand the aspect of safety in recreational spaces and facilities. Safety has become a key issue in recent times of recreational spaces and facilities especially after the Throb incident a few years ago. This will be assessed in terms of:
 - a) Sightlines- this enhances the visual permeability. Recreational spaces have clear and effective sightlines. Sharp corners, overgrown shrubbery, trees, walls, pillars and fences can obstruct sightlines. The aim of recreational spaces is to create aesthetically pleasing public places but it should not provide cover for dubious activities or secluded areas where criminals can flourish. Landscapes should also not cut off access as a means of escaping. Creating spaces and pathways with good sightlines ensures that there is visibility and people can assist.
 - b) Visibility/Surveillance- people need to feel safe in recreational spaces and facilities therefore it is vital that users know that people are able to assist and 'keep an eye on them.' There is natural surveillance and, which is created by the design e.g. houses and buildings that overlook recreational spaces. The

type and location of site furniture could also play a role in surveillance. Ensuring that there are a variety of users and activities on the recreational open space and facilities could increase the spaces attraction thereby encourage greater usage of natural surveillance

- c) Lighting- it used to encourage utilisation of recreational spaces during the evening hours. This is seen as the most important element of designing safer urban environments.
- d) Maintenance- this is a vital aspect as it portrays a positive image. As it is believed that 'grime equals crime.' The relevant authority needs to respond to the problems to prevent further damage and neglect. A clean recreational space and facility with functioning infrastructure encourages people to utilise it.
- e) Perceptions of safety from the participant's view- participants in these recreational spaces and facilities will utilise it if there is a feeling of security.
- f) Policing- many of the recreational spaces and facilities require policing to ensure that there is visible security and surveillance.

Appropriateness is something that is suitable and fitting. The recreational spaces and facilities need to be assessed according to these criteria.

1. **Accessibility**- this is a key issue, as adolescents require recreational spaces and facilities that are easily accessible to them. These adolescents do not have motorcars and rely on public transport to get to their destination.

Therefore we have to consider it in terms of:

- a) Location- it is a major determinant in the utilisation of recreational spaces and facilities. Location of recreational spaces and facilities determines the choice of recreational activity.
 - b) Public transport- what is the commonly used mode of transport and are the access points appropriately located.
2. **Affordability**-this is key issue as many adolescents do not work and rely on their pocket money to determine their choice of recreational activity.
 - a) Public- certain facilities that are public are free and others charge a nominal fee.
 - b) Private- all private facilities charge a fee to utilise their service.

3. **Catering to the needs of the adolescents-** are the needs of the adolescents being met in terms of self-satisfaction, variety and choice.
 - a) How are the recreational spaces being utilised
 - b) Are the current trends taken into consideration

These are the criteria set out upon which the existing and future recreational spaces and facilities can be assessed. These criteria allow for the analysis of the existing recreational facilities. These facilities include sports fields, swimming pools, stadium, cricket oval, tennis and netball courts, shopping malls with cinema, internet café, bowling alley, nature reserves, parks and nightclubs

4.3. Analysis

4.3.1. Adequacy

To determine the adequacy of a recreational space and facility one has to consider whether it is enough to cater for the participants in that particular recreational space. It is quite evident through observation that there are certain recreational spaces and facilities that lacked the number of participants and was utilised and under-utilised. In Chatsworth there are 48 sports fields but as noted by the Parks and Recreation and through observation many of these sports fields are not being utilised. This is true also for swimming pools and parks. It is quite evident that the park was not utilised as much as it was noted as one of the favourite choice of recreation among the adolescents. The issue is therefore not whether these facilities and spaces are crowded but where are the participants. The reason that many of these sports fields are not being utilised is due to the lack of maintenance as there were no goal posts or nets. These are often stolen or vandalised. Also there was controlled access to many of the facilities such as swimming pools as there were stringent hours that were stipulated for usage.

However some facilities were crowded especially nightclubs and cinemas. Nightclubs are recreational spaces that are very much utilised by the adolescents. These recreational spaces and facilities are often utilised during peak seasons however this has resulted in recreational spaces and facilities being utilised outside the Chatsworth area such as central town. This has implications as it is noted that the adolescents contribute to the economy as many businesses target this age group, if

the adolescents are utilising other recreational service it decreases the local economy substantially. This has economic implications. As adolescents are utilising services during peak season one has to consider seasonal distribution of use. One needs to understand the patterns of use and non-use to design load and the physical and human capacity of a site and system. If there are fluctuations in the distribution of services this has implications on the design, as it would not be reflected correctly. When there is a fluctuation then the recreational space will not be allowed to withstand the carrying capacity. Recreation demand can thus be seen as a fluctuating over time. The adolescents in recreational spaces visit recreational spaces on a weekly basis. The adolescents also tend to crowd in nightclubs. This was seen in the Throb incident when 1000 school children were crammed into a local nightclub. Refer to annexure D. "Club of death doors and exits inadequate." This had occurred during the peak season of the term end. It is evident that demand increases with seasonal distribution.

This has implications for planners and one has to consider are the current planning standards adequate in terms of carrying capacity. Some of these standards are:

1. Community centre- 1/100 000 population
2. Sports complex- 1/100 000 population
3. Community hall- 1/20 000 population
4. Park- 1/ 2 500 population
5. Worship- 1/ 300 population

These are the recommended planning standards but this is not always appropriate. Traditionally planning standards were based on numbers and statistics. It was inflexible and facility space standards are inappropriate as they are large. When designing the Chatsworth area the needs of the adolescents were not taken into consideration, as there was a set amount of recreational spaces that was set out. But there is a change and the adolescents today are different then those of the past. Instead of over provision of sports fields convert some of the existing ones into a variety of sporting codes, which provide the adolescents with different sporting choices that they require. Thus sports facilities can serve a dual purpose and at the same time be utilised instead of being left vacant. Thus standards should be based on providing adequate amount of land and facilities to serve the general public and the special groups, taken into consideration the number of people a recreation area

or facility can be designed to serve and it should be adequate to accommodate the potential users in a service area.

The existing recreational spaces do not cater for adolescents. It is quite evident that while there are the provisions of certain recreational spaces there is not usage of these spaces. As has been noted that many of the recreational spaces are left idle and under-utilised. There needs to be some form of intervention from the appropriate authority to motivate the adolescents to utilise these spaces. There needs to be a needs assessment that could be carried out in schools or spaces where the adolescents are commonly found. An analysis of these spaces and facilities needs to occur and determine what the problems exist. Adolescents need to be provided with new experiences in these spaces and facilities and allow them to form a sense of belonging and attachment with these spaces and facilities. Adolescents have to identify with these spaces that they are utilised in order to participate in the activity that the space is designated for.

Safety has become a focal issue in recreational spaces and facilities. Sightlines are important, especially in open spaces. Recreational spaces have to have clear and effective sightlines. The Gandhi Park (Refer to Plate 1) located in the Chatsworth town centre does have clear sightlines. There are no sharp corners, overgrown shrubbery, trees, walls, pillars and fences that obstruct the sightlines. Havenside Park also has clear sightlines and there are no overgrown shrubbery and trees. However this is not true for the Woodhurst Park. There are overgrown shrubbery and trees are tall and it has allowed for dubious activity and created secluded areas for criminals to flourish. The Gandhi Park and the Havenside Park does have clear access points that allow for escaping easily. However, the Woodhurst Park does not have clear access points and the tall trees make it very difficult to escape. The other parks are quite visible especially the Gandhi Park as it is well located but the Woodhurst Park lacks visibility and is very secluded. The Woodhurst Park has become a haven for criminals and adolescents to engage in delinquent behaviour.

Surveillance or visibility is a key issue when determining whether recreational spaces are safe. The motorists that drive around the park as well as the pedestrians are

Plate 1: Gandhi Park

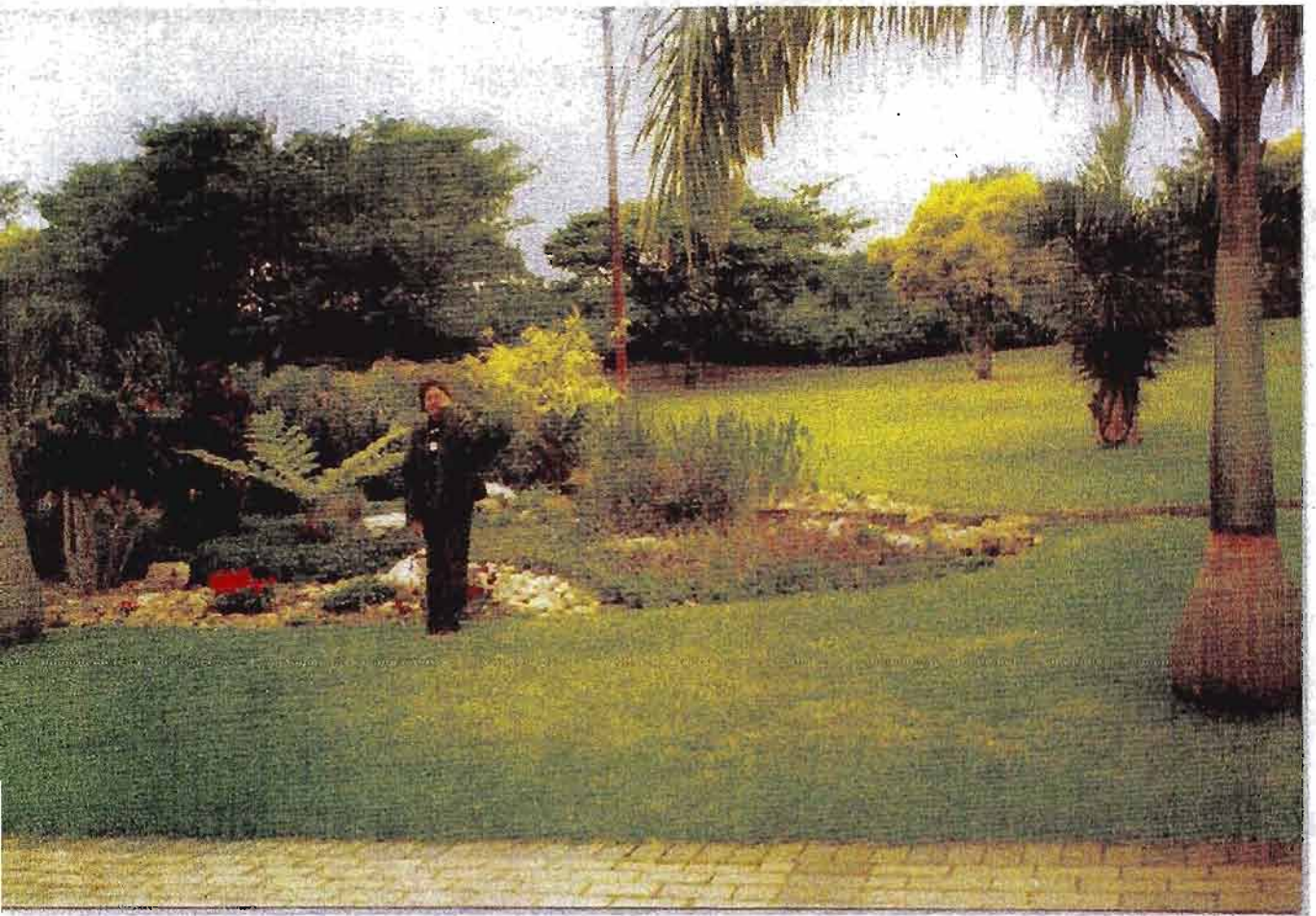


Plate 2: Chatsworth Stadium



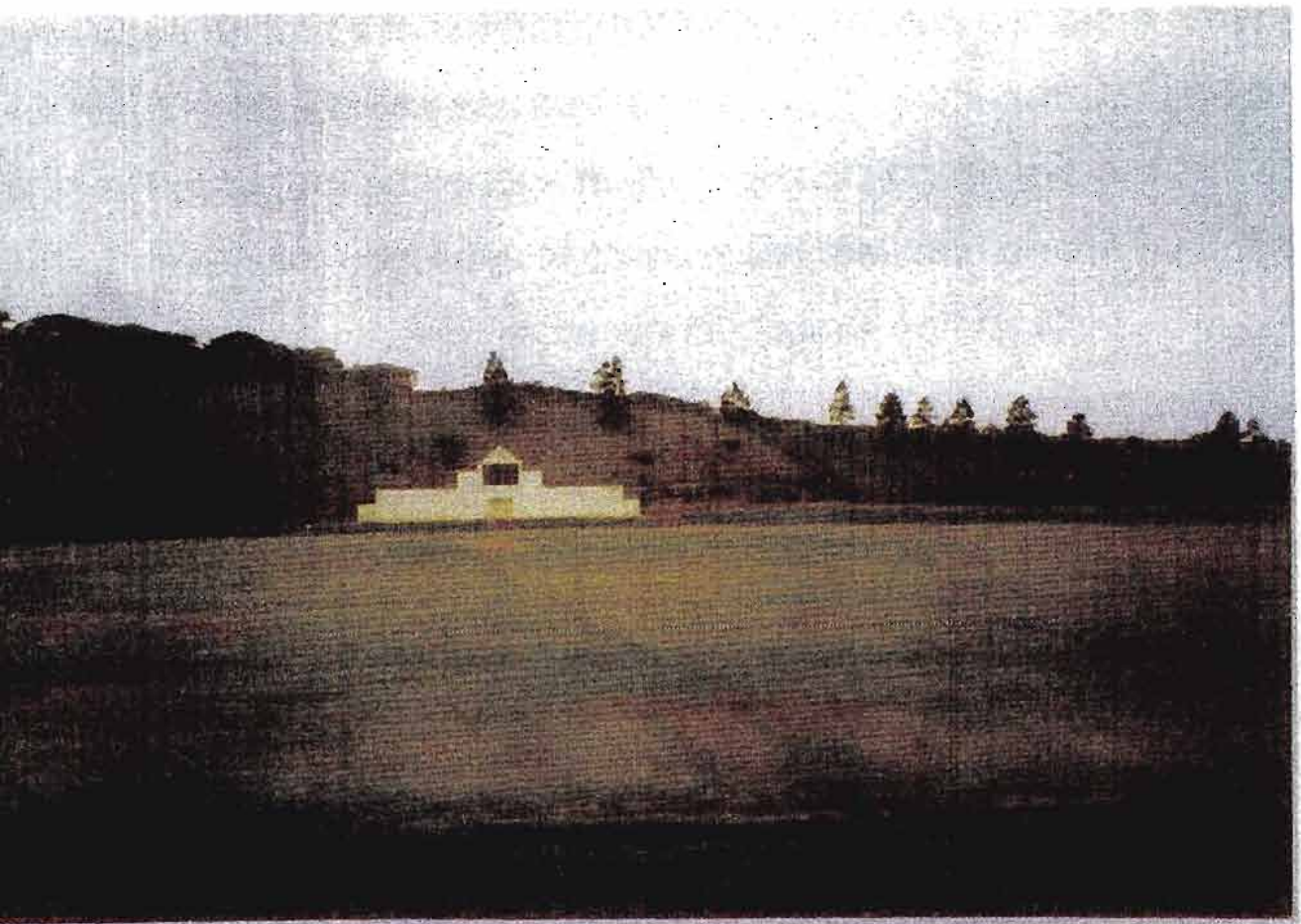
watching this park. It is central and allows for surveillance to be carried out easily. The park furniture is strategically located near the pathways. The Havenside Park is also located near the Higginson Highway and allows for surveillance to be carried out. The Woodhurst Park does not have adequate surveillance as the tall trees block the visibility of this park. There are no houses or buildings that surround the park to enhance visibility. The Chatsworth Stadium, (Refer to Plate 2) and Cricket Oval, (Refer to Plate 3), Chatsworth Swimming Pool, (Refer to Plate 4) and the netball and tennis courts are all visibly clear and the surveillance is relatively adequate. There is front surveillance of these recreational spaces but it lacks surveillance from the back as there are the distance to houses is relatively far and cannot form some form of surveillance. This can be seen in Plate 3 and 4 where the houses are at a distance to the facilities. There are smaller driveways that are entrances to the parking bays that are secluded and also lack surveillance. These secluded areas allow for dubious activities to occur. The Silverglen Nature Reserve is lacking surveillance. It has seen the flourishing of crime in the Lake View Drive. (Refer to annexure D: Public warned of escalating crime at the Silverglen Nature Reserve) This does not allow for participation to increase and does not allow for an aesthetically appealing environment. With an aesthetically unappealing environment it does create a sense of satisfaction among the users.

Lighting is a vital aspect to the design of the safer recreational spaces. The police did indicate that recreational spaces lacked proper lighting especially in the evening. This was quite evident at the sports stadium as it was isolated. Some of the sports fields did not have adequate lighting and allowed for drinking to occur. The Woodhurst Park lacked adequate lighting and was very isolated especially during the night.

Participants want a place where they can feel safe and not have to worry about their security. If these facilities lacked then this also reduces the participation levels of recreational activities.

Maintenance was regarded as one the problems that the adolescents felt was inadequate. Sports fields are not adequately maintained and lacked goal posts, nets, toilets were destroyed and there was vandalism to the property. Vandalism is required as one the common traits of delinquent behaviour. The parks were well

ate 3: Chatsworth Cricket Oval.



ate 4: Chatsworth Swimming Pool



maintained in terms of cleanliness and attractiveness. It was evident that the sports fields required maintenance as needed to be upgraded.

However, from a professional point of view the Parks and Recreation Department indicated that maintenance was an issue for them as well. Due to financial constraints there were no funds to maintain existing recreational spaces. There is a lack of labour force; the equipment and staff are aging. There are major budget cuts, as the council does not regard parks as a major asset. It is quite evident that on one hand the adolescents require upgrades of existing facilities and on the other hand there are no funds to upgrade these recreational spaces and facilities. If these spaces and facilities were well maintained then there would be greater participation. An aesthetically appealing environment always encourages participation. The user and the provider need to find solutions to maintaining these facilities and spaces themselves. The adolescents could form groups to maintain these facilities thus they are not kept idle and they are improving the situation of the existing recreational spaces. There needs to be an initiative on both sides and motivation. There is a tendency for people in this country to lay back and complain about the poor service that they are receiving yet they sit back and do nothing about it. The adolescents need to be taught to take a keener interest in their environment. The adolescents can even get a group of their peers find a common activity that they all enjoy and convert idle recreational spaces into productive spaces. With the initiative they are developing their skills and improving the condition of their urban environment. Also the council could see the improvements and provide funding and even temporary employment.

Adolescents generally feel safe in the recreational spaces and facilities that they are because they are usually in the company of their peers and parents. Sometimes they are even part of gangs which provide them with the protection they require. In certain recreational spaces and facilities such as shopping malls and cinemas there is visible security and it is adequately supervised. Certain parks were properly supervised e.g. Gandhi Park. The respondents of the questionnaire and interviewees except for the social worker and policeman stipulated that recreational spaces were safe. It is evident that the adolescents felt safe if there were with people that they trust. Most often adolescents tend to go out with their peers and this does not provide them with

a feeling of insecurity. Through my observation I did feel a sense of security in certain recreational spaces and facilities. These were the shopping mall, bowling alley, internet café and the Ghandi Park. This was due to visible security and these spaces and facilities were crowded. However, I did not feel safe at the Chatsworth Stadium, Chatsworth Swimming Pool and Cricket Oval. It was very quite and there was no visible security or people. The Silverglen Nature Reserve was lacked the most safety as it was not possible to stop and take out photographs. It was only possible to drive through very quickly. This was also true for the Woodhurst Park. In my opinion there are those facilities and spaces that provide security but the majority of facilities lacked surveillance.

However, the focus groups did disagree with this saying that crime was an issue in recreational spaces and facilities. In existing recreational spaces drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, gang wars and fights were occurring. There was strong peer pressure to engage in drugs such as ecstasy, mandrax and 'rosh.' Drugs have become a major problem with the adolescents in Chatsworth in recent times. (Refer to annexure D: "We are losing our youth,") There was 10 grams of marijuana, Tiger Balm, dagga and ecstasy in a Chatsworth nightclub. The adolescents were crammed and it was crowded. Adolescents enjoy going to nightclubs as they are allowed to engage in adult activity such as sex, flirtation, drinking and drugs. Adolescents see consuming alcohol as achieving adult status. There are many adolescent that are consuming alcohol and drugs. (Refer to annexure D: "A nation of young drunks,") It is evident that this is delinquent behaviour as consuming alcohol and drugs is defined as delinquent behaviour. The average age trends of criminal activity are do not encompass the age of 17-18 years, as it is lower. The start of criminal activity was 14-15 years but now it is 9 years. It is quite evident that nightclubs are not one of the safest recreational spaces but the youth persist in attending these nightclubs. This shows that that adolescents are not motivated and do not seem to have other choices. Adolescents are even truanting school to engage in drugs and alcohol abuse. (Refer to annexure D: "Truancy and Loitering at Chatsworth Schools,") Nightclubs are not safe yet the adolescents persist in attending these facilities. One has to find alternative means such as stipulating laws that prohibit adolescent from consuming alcohol at these nightclubs. Alcohol should not be sold in nightclubs so as

to reduce the abuse of alcohol. There should be greater involvement of parents, police and social workers.

The other existing recreational spaces and facilities that are unsafe are parks. These parks are used for hiding places for delinquent behaviour to occur. Many adolescents engage in drinking in these spaces. However, the planner and official from Parks and Recreation acknowledged that there were other negative elements that undermined the safety of parks. This can be seen in the Silverglen Nature Reserve where negative elements such as hijackings and robberies have become rife in the area. Sports fields are also unsafe, as it seems to encourage delinquent behaviour especially with poor lighting.

Policing is a key issue as it allows the participants to feel a sense of security. However, it is evident that recreational spaces lack efficient policing. The focus group also noted that there was lack of support from the police and visible security. The policeman acknowledged that the police was doing little to improve or change the situation of safety in recreational spaces and facilities and contributed only 10% of their time to focus on safety in recreational spaces and facilities. Thus there is a stronger focus on the issue of truancy and loitering. Safety in recreational spaces and facilities is not a top priority for the police as they seem to have more serious crimes to tackle and lack of manpower. Recreational spaces require policing especially when drugs and alcohol abuse is so rife in the community. There needs to be some form of community policing in the various areas. Parents and community leaders and religious leaders have to be more involved. Parents are the key to changing the perceptions of their adolescent children. The SAPS in Chatsworth has taken an initiative in creating awareness programmes. (Refer to annexure D" Community Youth Awareness Programme on the cards."). This is however not adequate as we need more programmes like this to create a change among the adolescents.

So, are recreational spaces and facilities safe for the adolescents in Chatsworth and are current planning standards appropriate? The answer is no. Certain recreational spaces and facilities seem to require more involvement from the police than others. Recreational spaces and facilities in Chatsworth show that they are not adequately serviced for the adolescents.

The current planning standards are inflexible and too broad. They are still based on the traditional planning standards where it was based on numbers. This can be seen as many of the sports fields are left unutilised. There is no participation and participation is imperative to determining if current planning standards are adequate. Latent demand refers to discovering true demand. Participation occurs if there are adequate facilities, access and information. Latent demand forms the argument that supply creates demand, which in turn form that argument that people will utilise the service if it is provided for. This is quite evident that this is not true as sports fields are adequately provided but it is not being utilised. This is also true for parks and swimming pools, as it is not being utilised. Supply does not create demand. Standards therefore should be more flexible. Recreational spaces and facilities should not be seen in isolation to one another but should work in synergy so as to create a multi-functional usage.

Whilst many public facilities are provided in Chatsworth, what emerges is that they are inadequate. Thus, there are a number of recreational spaces and facilities such as sports fields, the cricket oval, netball and tennis courts, parks, swimming pools and a nature reserve. These do not necessarily cater for the needs of the adolescents. Cinemas, bowling alleys, nightclubs and the internet café cater for the adolescents. Nightclubs and cinemas are often overcrowded as a result of demand. Furthermore there are 69 religious spaces that are provided in Chatsworth and these often provide recreational opportunities for adolescents..

Many of the recreational spaces are considered safe in terms of safety. Certain public spaces lacked adequate sightlines, surveillance/visibility, lighting, maintenance feeling of insecurity and lack of adequate policing. Safety is therefore a key issue in public spaces. It follows therefore that due to the fact that the private sector caters for market demand, that the provision of these facilities is adequate.

4.3.2.Appropriateness

Accessibility is a key issue when designing recreational spaces and facilities. Adolescents require access to and from a recreational space and facilities. Location is a key factor when determining access to a recreational space. (Refer to figure 5 in Chapter 3 depicting all recreational spaces). Recreational demand focuses on

geographic distribution. It focuses on the access and a common approach used is to establish a service radius for each site in terms of time, distance or origin and destination. It is evident that location was an issue for girls as they noted they were not willing to travel long distances to recreational spaces due to safety reasons. Geographically the town centre is not central but the town centre is regarded as being in the heart of Chatsworth and has the shopping mall, cinema, stadium cricket oval and tennis and netball courts and the Ghandi Park in close proximity to each other. The mall is the centre with the all-sporting codes surrounding it. It also has the entertainment centre with (Refer to Plate 5: Pool tables) and (refer to Plate 6: Bowling Alley). These facilities form a circle and are easily accessible to the adolescents.

Public transport is a key factor as many of the adolescents rely on public transport. Most often it is public transport that they rely on. The adolescents tend to utilise taxis more often than buses. The reason taxis were utilised was due to the loud music, friends and it was seen to be more appealing. There were enough transport routes that allowed for access to the various recreational spaces and facilities. Public transport was not available after 6pm. This means that recreational spaces and facilities such as the cinema could not be assessed during the evening. The cinema was regarded as the second choice of adolescents and this limits their capability to utilise this service in the evening. Neither could sport matches at the stadium and cricket oval be utilised. This is usually when provincial matches were played. It was not possible for the adolescents to be part of the experience of watching professional at their best. The adolescents therefore cannot pick up on the skill that these professional have and therefore there is no improvement of skills development, which is needed by the adolescents. This means that taxis have to be hired, which has cost implications for the adolescents.

Access to recreational spaces and facilities is often controlled. This is seen at the swimming pool, as the pools are open from 8am to 6pm. This is the period that is obviously not appropriate as the adolescents are at school from 8am to 3pm. This leaves three hours for the swimming pool to be utilised, which does not seem appropriate. This does not take into account travelling time. This affects the demands

Plate 5: Pool Tables at the entertainment center: Raffles



Plate 6: Bowling Alley at the entertainment center: Raffles



as it affects time budgets. Time budgets are vital as it determines when a person is free to participate in the leisure activity. This drops participation levels, which means planning standards are seem to be inadequate. Also the cricket oval and sport stadium has strong controlled access. This is most often available to schools for school sporting events, sports groups but not to the general public. Gymnasiums lack accessibility as they charge a service fee, which has cost implications.

Affordability is a key issue for adolescents. Most of the recreational spaces were seen to be unaffordable. Those that were affordable were seen as boring. Those that were the public recreational spaces were those of the parks, which were all free and the nature reserve. The swimming pool charged a fee depending on the age group. Those under 12 years were charged R 2, 60 and those over 12 years were charged R 6. Community halls had to have a service fee if it is to be utilised. This is also true for the cricket ovals, stadium and tennis and netball courts.

The private sector also charged a fee for the usage of the service. The cinema charges R15 a movie and if you are a club member and utilise the service on a Tuesday it is half the price. (Refer to Plate 7: Cinema). Nightclubs also charge a fee and the internet café (Refer to Plate 8: Internet Café) charges R5 for 15 minutes usage time of the internet. This is true for the bowling alley and the gymnasium. It is quite evident that these recreational spaces have cost implications. This is excluding the purchasing of food, snacks and cool drinks. Pocket money determines which recreational space is to be visited. Often adolescents spend large amounts of money upon achieving their leisure tastes and interest. It is quite contradictory that the adolescents acknowledge affordability problems yet they participate in “so called” expensive activities. This proves that adolescent do not grasp the concept of affordability. It shows that adolescents do not understand monetary value and therefore consider services to be unaffordable. Adolescents tend to find it easy to pay for drugs and alcohol, which is expensive yet they complain that there is an affordability issue. Adolescents should therefore use services that are free to them like parks and create interesting activities to participate in these spaces.

ate 7: Cinema in the shopping mall: Ster Kinekor



ate 8: Internet Café in the shopping mall: Compu Café



Plate 9: Major Shopping Mall: Chatsworth Centre



The needs of the adolescents are not being met. The recreational spaces are not being utilised. Only two recreational spaces are being used to their full potential and optimal level. These were the cinemas, which is in the shopping mall (refer to Plate 9) and nightclubs. The sporting facilities, parks and swimming pools are relatively used but not to their optimum level.

The current trends of the adolescents are not taken into consideration. In Chatsworth there are no youth centres. A youth centre is a place where adolescents can engage in improving their skills or learning new skills. It is also a place where adolescents learn to develop themselves physically and mentally. It improves their social skills and helps develop them into young adults. This was one of the suggestions made by the focus groups, respondents of the questionnaire and interviewees. There are no youth centres, which means that there is no skills development. Adolescents are not motivated and therefore this results in delinquent's behaviour. The focus groups and respondents of the questionnaires did agree that there were no youth development centres to provide them with skills required for the job market. Some issues identified in the IDP of eThekweni was skill development, access to recreational facilities and sporting programs as well as awareness of drugs and alcohol abuse. This is only possible if there is a youth centre that is developed. A multi-million-rand youth centre was announced after the Throb incident, which was to be established in Mobeni Heights area. This centre was to cater for a variety of sporting and recreational activities, which include a library and video collection. It is two years later and finally developments into the building of such a youth centre has begun. (Refer to annexure D: Youth centre built in memory of Throb Nightclub tragedy). The location is however not appropriate as it is not central to the Chatsworth area. It is more on the border of Chatsworth. The majority of the adolescent population are more in central Chatsworth. Thus it is not accessible to the majority. It has taken 80 years for a youth development centre in Chatsworth to be developed. It is quite evident that the adolescents in Chatsworth require a youth centre as they are easily persuaded into inappropriate recreational spaces and facilities. If the adolescent's skills were developed it could improve their economic condition, create skills for jobs and provide them with awareness to alternative recreational spaces that are inadequate. The youth centre can even provide an educational purpose by making the adolescents aware of drugs and alcohol abuse.

The internet does not seem to have captured the attentions of the adolescents in Chatsworth. Although it has been provided it is mainly used for academic purposes, with little attention on computer games, e-mail and internet. There are very irregular patterns of use. There is no demand for this recreational activity and does not follow global trends of the internet. The reason that one can derive for lack of demand is that it is quite expensive as it is R5 for 15 minutes or that adolescents are not equipped with the computer skills. This disproves the theory that all adolescents are interested in the technological age of computers. Also it shows that many adolescents cannot afford this service.

The current trend is that adolescents want nightclubs. Currently there are only three nightclubs in Chatsworth. The one nightclub is situated in the exact location as that of the Throb nightclub. This proves that the perception of nightclubs have not changed among the adolescents or private owners of this nightclubs, as the interviewees indicated. Adolescents still persistently go to nightclubs. The Throb incident has not made them more aware if anything made them want to go to nightclubs more than ever. Adolescents see nightclubs as a novelty because it is something that is new and all their friends are attending. They want to experience it for themselves. But the novelty wears off. It could be a "hot" club today but tomorrow there could be a better club that the adolescents want to go to. The adolescents interest vary from day to day sometimes even from hour to hour and it's very difficult to satisfy their needs. For the adolescent nightclubs provide an interest in living as it allows them to press the limits of speed and aggression. The nightclubs are seen as a space, which they associate with as their peers and people of the same age group attend.

The current trends in sport are that there is not a major variety of sporting codes. The sports that are provided are soccer, cricket, netball, tennis and volleyball. Sporting codes like squash, badminton and chess are not provided for. Recreational spaces and facilities should include a variety of activities to encourage participation. It is quite evident that the current facilities and spaces are not meeting the current trends and needs. However, it is not possible as determining recreational spaces and facilities for the adolescents is very difficult. They are often influenced by current fads and fashions. This is where the behavioural; approach is applicable as it is not easily

detected like the adolescents needs. It can be quite effective in determining nonuse, future trends and special needs.

It is quite evident that the existing recreational spaces and facilities are not appropriate and adequate as they have problems with accessibility, affordability and are not meeting the current needs of the adolescents. Adolescents are not adequately equipped with the skills they require for determining appropriate recreational space it is therefore up to the adults to show them what is appropriate behaviour and recreational spaces as they utilise recreation more than any other age group.

Adolescents are one of the most difficult groups of people to satisfy. They are constantly changing and modifying with the changing social and economic environment. Thus one has to take into consideration Gold's hierarchy of needs, which shows very clearly how human needs. For adolescents it is vital that we consider the safety needs, social belongingness needs and esteem of self and other needs. Adolescents often as has been noted exacerbated egos or weak egos. We need to help them in finding their true position in society and recreation can play this fundamental role.

Planners, when considering whether spaces and facilities are adequate and appropriate, have to take into consideration whether there are there enough resources available to meet the needs of the adolescents. Some of the resources are there such as sports fields, swimming pools but it is not being utilised. The activity levels of these recreational facilities and spaces are vital to determining opportunities. Adolescents contribute a great deal to the economy, as they are often the primary users of recreational facilities and spaces. But it is evident from the research findings that many of the recreational spaces and facilities are not adequate and appropriate for the adolescents in Chatsworth. This essentially proves the hypothesis that recreational demands of the adolescents are not being properly met and that the recreational spaces and facilities are not adequate. It is therefore up to community leaders, parents and other stakeholders to play more positive roles in the promotion of adequate and appropriate recreational spaces and facilities.

Chapter 5: Recommendations and Conclusions

Recreation has many definitions and each varies. Recreation is a difficult realm of human experience to define. It is evident from the research findings that there is a feeling of satisfaction, relaxation, pleasure and fun. These are all emotions that were experienced while engaging in the various recreational activities. Thus recreation is essentially a deviation from the routine of life and an activity that is carried out in the spare time of the adolescents. It is a positive feeling that one derives while engaging in recreation.

Recreation is an activity that can occur passively and actively. Adolescents often engage in recreation that is active. Adolescents possess a lot of energy, which needs to be utilised efficiently. Therefore recreational spaces and facilities need to be adequate and appropriate. It is evident that this is not true for the adolescents in Chatsworth. The adolescents in Chatsworth lack many of the facilities they so desperately require such as youth centres. This limits skills development and their access to opportunities such as social, economic and environmental. It is pleasing to note that finally there is an initiative from the council to finally provide a youth centre. The development of this facility has already begun.

This chapter will provide recommendations for adequate and appropriate recreational spaces and facilities, an analysis of the current policy and analysis of the suggestions that were provided by the respondents of the questionnaire, interviews and focus groups. These recommendations can be used positively in the future to help create adequate and appropriate recreational spaces and facilities in the future.

Based on the criteria that were set out in the analysis, the following recommendations have come out. These are based on the issues that were relevant in recreational spaces and facilities. These are important to future recreational spaces and facilities.

1. Addressing safety- this was a key issue that faced the adolescents of Chatsworth
- 1.1. Crime

Crime has emerged at the forefront of whether recreational spaces and facilities both private and public are adequate and appropriate. It is quite evident from the findings that safety is an issue. Clearly, there needs to be a distinction between public and

private spaces. The former is generally accessible and therefore more difficult to control, whereas private spaces have highly controlled access. It would therefore be incumbent upon the local authority to address safety issues in public spaces through design and other measures. It is from the findings that the recommendations have been derived.

1.1.2. Public Spaces

- ❖ Surveillance is essential in parks both during the day as well as night. Whilst not much can be done in existing areas, new parks needs to be designed with surveillance in mind.
- ❖ Surveillance in sports fields, especially during the evenings is important. This can be done with adequate lighting.
- ❖ Park shrub should be cut so as not to create hiding places for criminals

1.1.2 Private Spaces

Nightclubs have proven to be a very problematic recreational facility in terms of the consumption of alcohol, drug abuse and violence. This is evident in the findings as well as newspaper articles. Therefore stricter controls need to be in place for recreational spaces and facilities.

- ❖ In terms of private facilities, regulations needs to be enforced that provide for adequate exit points and fire hazards and stable building structures\
- ❖ Nightclubs for under 18 years should not be permitted to sell alcohol and should have permits
- ❖ Nightclubs should have permits, which have to be renewed regularly
- ❖ Recreational spaces and facilities should have regular check-ups by police ^{licenses} _{+ age}

1.2 Improved Facilities and Spaces

The findings show that many of the public recreational facilities and spaces do not have adequate and appropriate amenities. This can be seen in parks where there are no adequate lighting, and/or places for people to socialise etc.

- ❖ Parks, sports facilities and open spaces should have adequate lighting
- ❖ Tree canopies should be trimmed at strategic places so as not to obscure the light
- ❖ Benches in the park should be placed adjacent to the paths in the park
- ❖ Pools should be safe in terms of clear warning signs about the depths and carrying capacity

- ❖ There should be adequate staff i.e. life guards and staff should be present at for e.g. swimming pools

2. Stricter Building Controls

It was determined that there needs to be stricter building controls for privately owned facilities. The Throb incident indicated that there were not adequate exit points and the building structures were not strong enough to deal with the pressure of the cramped situation. Carrying capacity is also vital as they affect the usage of the facility as has been seen with the cinema.

- ❖ Nightclubs should have regular check-ups by building inspectors in terms of lighting, ventilation and exit points
- ❖ Nightclubs should have strict carrying capacity regulations based on the area of the facility

3. Maintenance

Maintenance of public facilities is a key issue, as many of the facilities were not well kept which was derived through observation, questionnaires, interviews and the focus groups. It had been stated that through budget cuts the maintenance was focused on certain areas only.

- ❖ Recreational spaces and facilities should be well-maintained i.e. litter collection
- ❖ If there are budget cuts in terms of maintenance then there should be a focus on trying to get NGO's or local communities involved in maintenance
- ❖ There should be a focus on trying to target outside funding through large private businesses or companies; for e.g. sponsorship
- ❖ Communities should be involved in the maintenance of recreational spaces and facilitates through community based projects
- ❖ Adolescents can also get involved in community projects through the schools, thus keeping them busy and off the streets.

4. Multi-functional Space

Many of the spaces and facilities are left vacant which was observed while VAGRANT
conducting research and this leaves prime land for negative elements to utilise such as vandalism to occur. Therefore these spaces and facilities could be transformed into spaces and facilities that are user friendly and attractive to the larger community.

- ❖ Facilities not utilised should be converted for other forms of activity. They could serve a dual purpose, many of the sports fields designed for soccer could be converted into rugby or cricket fields or cater for other popular sports
- ❖ School facilities should serve a dual purpose such as making use of them for workshops after school or for other extra-mural activities
- ❖ Community halls should also serve a dual purpose by allowing for extra-mural activities to occur. *should be provided*

5. Participation and Education

Participation was a key component in determining whether facilities and spaces were adequate and appropriate. Many of facilities such as sports fields, pools are not being utilised to their full potential. Therefore there needs to be greater effort in encouraging participation.

- ❖ Motivation is key to participation. If the spaces and facilities were motivated for then they would be utilised. Spaces and facilities should be targeted to the adolescents and marketed appropriately
- ❖ There should be awareness programs about drugs and alcohol abuse by the school, religious organisations and social workers
- ❖ Schools should introduce a guidance period and should get the social workers to be more involved
- ❖ There needs to be flexibility in recreational spaces and facilities. Swimming pools should be more flexible in their times.
- ❖ A needs assessment should be carried out at least once a year.
- ❖ There should be development of more youth centres that enhance skills development.
- ❖ Private and public partnerships should be devised so as to reduce the amount of service fees for the facilities
- ❖ Recreational spaces and facilities should be made more attractive to the adolescents.

6. Public Transport

Public transport is key to the access of recreational spaces and facilities for the adolescents. Often there is a tendency to use taxis more than buses as it was seen to be a more attractive alternative.

- ❖ Public transport should be made more attractive to adolescents to encourage usage, through improved safety measures
- ❖ When there is major sporting events or concerts public transport should be made available

7. Location - should be close

Location was a key component in the usage of recreational facilities and spaces because the adolescents were not willing to travel long distances to recreational spaces and facilities.

- ❖ The recreational spaces and facilities should be in close proximity to each other
- ❖ There should be transport linkages between the recreational spaces and facilities

These are the recommendations that can be utilised for future recreational spaces and facilities for the adolescents in Chatsworth. It can also be used to improve the existing recreational spaces and facilities for the adolescents in Chatsworth. It is imperative that recreational facilities and spaces are adequate and appropriate for the adolescents because they are the future.

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of eThekweni has conducted a needs assessment. They identified vulnerable groups and the youth were regarded as a vulnerable group. The IDP defined the youth as 15-29 years. The issues that were identified were skills development, access to recreational facilities and sports programmes. Also there was a need for educational funding, job opportunities, socio-political stability and opportunities for effective participation. There was a need for awareness of drugs, alcohol and HIV/AIDS.

These issues are very important that the adolescents face. These were also some of the issues that were identified in my research findings such as drugs, alcohol and AIDS/HIV. Skills development was also very important for the adolescents in Chatsworth. However, the definition of the youth being those between the ages of 15-29 years is not appropriate. Between these phases in the youth's life there are many life changes physically, emotionally and mentally. It is also not appropriate to define a child as someone between the ages of 0-15 years. It is difficult to define a 13-15 year

as a child as this is a phase where they reach puberty of young adults. This definition of the youth is very skewed and does not adequately define the youth.

Therefore adolescents should be defined as a special stakeholder group.

Adolescents are a period when childhood and adulthood are separated. A 15-year-old cannot be equated to that of a 29-year-old and cannot be defined as a youth. In many societies a 25-29 year old would be regarded as an adult. Those between the age's 15-19 years have very different needs, tastes and attitudes as compared to those between the ages of 25-29 years. Each age group is different mentally, physically and emotionally. Those groups even engage in recreational activities differently. Socially also these two groups are very different. It is therefore not appropriate to define youth within this age category.

The policy on recreation and sports is not very effective and there are many gaps that are evident. There have been many objectives that have been set out. The objectives state that there should be an increase in the levels of participation but it does not indicate how this is to be carried out. It also indicates that delinquent behaviour is the result of low self-esteem but how can sport actually improve low self-esteem? The local authority is important because they are in direct contact with the people. It functions as a form of accessibility but how can accessibility be achieved. What are the mechanisms required for achieving access and this has not been stipulated. It has also not defined what type of programs should be developed to determine human resource potential. Are the programs to be passive or active or educational or social? It also indicates to share technology, skills transfer and the development of sport but who is this going to occur with. It does not stipulate if it should be between areas, people or facilities. The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) does not have a statutory Act that empowers them but relies on the good will of its agents. This can have negative impacts as the agents could be biased. They also could not focus on the people that need it rather focus on self-benefit. It is up to the DSR to determine when it is appropriate to intervene but it does not say whom and how it should intervene. There are no regulations to check this against. United School Sports Association of South Africa (USSASA) involves talent identification but what are the criteria that are set out to identify this talent. It is quite evident that there are many gaps that exist among the policy of sports and recreation.

by = (f) (i) (n) (b) + (e) (e)

There were many suggestions that were put through from the respondents of the questionnaire and the focus groups. The suggestion that was top of the list was nightclubs. It is quite evident that the adolescents still want more nightclubs even after the Throb incident. Therefore it should be provided for those under the age of 18 years or 16 years. More sports clubs, ice rink, game arcades, cinemas need to be upgraded, a gymnasium, a golf course, water sports, indoor sports, a drag strip and a drive-in. It is however not possible to take into consideration some of these suggestions. Some of the suggestions that were inappropriate was the drag strip, the council will not accept such a motivation because it is dangerous and illegal. It is dangerous to the drive as well as the spectators. This proves that adolescents want to test the limits of speed and aggression. Also another example is the ice rink is not very appropriate, as the ice rink in Durban is not being utilised to its full potential. The chances of this are quite possible in Chatsworth as participation rates are very low among the adolescents. Water sports and indoors sports require large developers to invest and there is no motivation for such facilities to be developed in Chatsworth. It is not feasible for big developers to invest because Chatsworth is predominantly a low-income area. The community will not be able to sustain such a development.

The respondents of the interviews also made suggestions in respect of indoor recreation such as chess, badminton, a coffee bar and library, community halls and a multi-purpose centre. Recreational spaces and facilities have to be subsidized if they are to be affordable. Recreational spaces and facilities have to be interlinked and time usage of these spaces and facilities have to be flexible. To improve participation spaces have to be promoted so that these developers can develop these spaces and facilities. This shows that the way adults and adolescents think are very different. Adults had suggestions that were appropriate and workable where as the adolescents thought more along their current fashions and fads.

With the Cricket World Cup in 2003 to be hosted in South Africa there has seen an upgrading of existing cricket stadiums and Chatsworth Oval is no different. (Refer to annexure D "Stringent Security for the CWC 2003"). They will be hosting the Indian team when they play the Dolphins in December. The carrying capacity of this stadium is 8 000 but with this cricket match there are more expected to turn up. This has implications for safety, as the carrying capacity will exceed the limit of the carrying

adolescents with the feeling of challenging their peers and derive a feeling of being victorious.

It is evident that the recreational spaces and facilities for the adolescents in Chatsworth are not appropriate or adequate. The adolescents require the support of their parents, professionals, community leaders and religious leaders and the local authority to be educated. It is important that to try and shape and develop the adolescents young minds through motivation, education and promotion of a positive image of recreational spaces and facilities.

Planners therefore have to play a more positive role in determining a needs assessment. There needs to be a promotion of the existing recreational spaces and facilities so that the adolescents would want to participate in these facilities. Land use management systems should allow for these changes to occur. Planners need to create more flexible spaces and facilities so that the existing recreational spaces and facilities can play a dual function in the future. Planners need to adequately define adolescents as stakeholder groups in the planning process. Adolescent as has been seen with the IDP the definition of youth is not appropriate. There needs to be a reshaping all agendas of the leaders involved in the provision of recreational spaces and facilities for adolescents in Chatsworth.

In conclusion to answer the research questions, are recreational facilities and spaces for adolescents in Chatsworth are adequate or appropriate? The answer is no. There are many gaps that exist. Safety has proven to be an important aspect in determining whether recreational spaces and facilities are adequate. Most of the adolescents did not feel safe in these recreational spaces and facilities. The nightclubs are most definitely not safe because of the exploitation of hard substances in these facilities. The Silverglen Nature Reserve has also become a hub for crime, which deters people from utilising this space. In terms of appropriateness it is evident from the findings that the needs of the adolescents are not being met. This includes a youth development centre, which is vital in the Chatsworth area. The private facilities were also not seen as affordable to the adolescents. Also accessibility was key to the participation in the recreational spaces and facilities. It is important to note that while some spaces and facilities such as the sports fields and parks were adequately

provided for they were not always appropriate in terms of the needs of the adolescents. Determining the appropriateness and adequacy of recreational spaces and facilities were also determined by whether they were from private or public sector.

Also all the relevant sub-questions were answered effectively. All the existing recreational spaces and facilities had been noted through the Town-Planning Scheme as well as through observation. It is quite evident that the current needs of the adolescents have not been met. This is most evident in the types of facilities that are available to the adolescents. One of the key issues that emerged from this dissertation has been the issue of safety in recreational spaces and facilities. Nightclubs have been very relevant in this dissertation and it is evident that this is not a very safe facility. The same can also be said for parks such as the Woodhurst Park and sports fields. The current planning standards have proven to be inappropriate as they are very broad and not very flexible. These standards are still based on traditional planning standards of numbers.

The aim was to improve the current situation of recreational spaces and facilities. I think with the recommendations that have been set out hopefully it can be utilised to improve existing recreational spaces and facilities as well as future development. I think that the adolescents are a key component of society and we should not forget that they have needs that have to be taken into consideration. Recreation is key to them and providing a safe haven for them to engage in recreational activity with ease.

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Annexures

Annexure A: List of Interview Respondents

NAME	TITLE	PROFESSION	DATE
R.IYER	HINDU PRIEST	KHARWASTAN TEMPLE	31-07-2002
G.MOODLEY	PASTOR	TARSUS FULL GOSPEL CHURCH	31-07-2002
A.GOUNDEN	EDITOR	RISING SUN	15-07-2002
S.CHANDERMAN	EDUCATOR	WESTCLIFF SECONDARY SCHOOL	15-10-2002
V.SINGH	BUSINESS WOMAN	COMPU CAFÉ	15-10-2002
S.VIJAI	POLICEMAN	SAPS	17-10-2002
V.NADESAN	SOCIAL WORKER	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE	17-10-2002
F.HATTING	URBAN DESIGNER	CITY ENGINEERS	28-10-2002
E.WILSON	PLANNER	CITY ENGINEERS	28-10-2002
S.SINGH	OFFICIAL	DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	29-10-2002

Annexure B: Questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPACES FOR ADOLESCENTS IN CHATSWORTH

Instructions:

1. Please tick
2. This questionnaire is completely confidential
3. Please answer all questions

Questions:

1. Your age is:

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

2. Your sex is:

Male	Female
------	--------

3. Which of the following recreational activities do you participate in:

1. Playing sports	
2. Going to the cinema	
3. Going to nightclubs	
4. Going to the park	
5. Going to sports clubs	
6. Going to game arcades	
7. Other	

4. How often do you visit these recreational spaces and facilities:

1. Daily	
2. Weekly	
3. Monthly	

5. What time of day do you use these facilities and spaces:

1. Morning	
2. Afternoon	
3. Evening	

6. Who do you participate with in these recreational spaces and facilities:

1. Friends	
2. Family	
3. Colleagues	
4. Alone	

7. Do you feel safe in these recreational spaces and facilities and why:

.....
.....

8. What recreational facilities and spaces would you change, improve or include:

.....
.....

9. Do you feel that the recreational facilities and spaces in Chatsworth are adequate and appropriate for adolescents in Chatsworth and why:

.....
.....

10. Do you think that the Throb incident has changed your perception of nightclubs and why:

.....
.....

11. Do your friend's affect your decision as to which recreational space and facilities you should participate in and why:

.....
.....

Thank you

Annexure C: List of Focus Groups Participants

NAME	DATE	AGE	TYPE OF GROUP
UGAN	30-07-2002	13	SCHOOL
ALTAF	30-07-2002	13	SCHOOL
THAIR	30-07-2002	16	SCHOOL
ZAHIR	30-07-2002	15	SCHOOL
SAAIESHA	30-07-2002	16	SCHOOL
NIRUANA	18-10-2002	13	CHURCH
SHANNON	18-10-2002	15	CHURCH
AVINASH	18-10-2002	15	CHURCH
CLYDE	18-10-2002	16	CHURCH
IAN	18-10-2002	18	CHURCH
CHRISTOPHER	18-10-2002	18	CHURCH
ARTHI	25-10-2002	14	TEMPLE
ARYAN	25-10-2002	15	TEMPLE
NIEL	25-10-2002	16	TEMPLE
ASHEN	25-10-2002	16	TEMPLE
TRISHANA	25-10-2002	19	TEMPLE

Annexure D: Newspaper Articles

Drug-wise Marshall Club

The Drug-wise Marshall Club of Chatsworth, is an initiative of the Department of Welfare, Chatsworth. The Club caters for school children up to the age of 18 years. The club was formed as a result of the growing need expressed in the community to combat the scourge against substance abuse. The best ways identified to combat this would be lifeskills, self-development and creative alternative leisure activities. These enable them to take qualitative decisions that will ultimately contribute to a meaningful lifestyle. Due to the envisaged demand and need for a programme of this nature, a Parent Volunteer Committee was established to assist the social workers in fulfilling the objectives of the Club.

A draft constitution has been compiled and is available from the Department of Social Welfare, Chatsworth for comments. The constitution will be adopted at a meeting to be held.

Date: 20 November 2002

Time: 6:00 pm

Venue: Department of Social Welfare, Boardroom, Chatsworth

Contact Person: Mrs K. Naidu - 402 8000.

It will be appreciated if comments in

regards to the draft constitution reach this office by 18 November 2002.

Public warned of escalating 'crime' at the Silverglen Nature Reserve

At a mass meeting recently held at the Silverglen Nature Reserve, the dangers and risks of using Lake View Drive as a through road was high on the agenda.

It has since been agreed that due to the spate of vehicle hijackings and robberies in the area

information sign boards will be erected at the intersection of Lake View Drive and Silverglen Drive warning people proceeding to Silverglen Nature Reserve or visiting the residences at Seven Tanks, to use alternative route into the reserve via Road 752.

The Parks Department says that it can no longer guarantee the safety of people or visitors, who

use Lakeview Drive, past the lake to the south of the reserve.

A stern warning has been issued to all driving schools, picnickers and residents to refrain from using the Lakeview Drive as a short cut in the future.

For enquiries concerning the matter, contact Mr. SR Mkhwanazi on 312 4466.

Madiba magic conjures up new youth centre

November 12 2003 at 10:00 AM

THE MERCURY

Nelson Mandela announced on Monday that a multimillion-rand youth centre would be established in Mobezi Heights, Chatsworth, near Durban.

The project was initiated after the Throb nightclub tragedy earlier this year in which 13 teenagers were killed when a teargas canister was released in the club, resulting in a stampede.

Mandela, who was abroad when the incident happened, made a special visit to all the families who lost children.

After the tragedy, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund came to the aid of the grief-stricken families.

Will cater for sport and include a library and video collection

Mandela said it was now time for the community to unite and protect the leaders of tomorrow.

"We need to come together and make a better life for all youth, not just the ones in Chatsworth, so that we don't lose any more of our future leaders," he said.

Mandela had approached several companies who were keen to invest in the construction and development of a youth recreational facility.

The proposed state-of-the-art recreational centre will cater for a variety of sporting and recreational activities and will include a library and video collection, to be sponsored by television producer Anant Singh, and an information technology centre.

A committee has been formed to liaise with the community about the development and facilities of the centre, which will be funded by Nando's Fast Foods and I&J frozen foods. - Staff reporter

Club of death doors and exits 'inadequate'

November 30 2003 at 10:00 AM

THE MERCURY

By Keeran Sewsunker

The doors and exit routes at the Throb nightclub in Durban had been "inadequate" for about 1 000 schoolchildren who tried to escape after a teargas canister was detonated there in March.

This emerged in the Durban High Court on Thursday where rival Silver Slipper owner Sivanathan "Bolton" Chetty, Selvan "Dog Man" Naidoo and Vincent Pillay are being tried for the murder of 13 children who died in the tragedy.

They also face 54 charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and a charge of contravening the Teargas Act.

Each exit could only cater for a certain rate of people

In his testimony, Michael Andrew Webber, operations manager for Durban metro fire services, said the doors at the Throb nightclub did not appear to have been adequate as some of them had been barrel-bolted and padlocked.

He also said that even if the approximately 1 000 people at the club had behaved in a rational manner while trying to escape, the exit routes still would have been "overwhelmed".

Each exit could cater only for a certain rate of people passing through it at a given time.

"If more people tried to use the exit, for example in a panic situation which was the case in this incident, a bottleneck effect would have been created and the entrances would have been logjammed," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, an emotional Sumeshnie Pillay, 15, who was injured in the stampede, said: "I came here today to speak about what happened because the children who died cannot speak for themselves.

'I can't play sport anymore as I can't run'

"I want to ask on behalf of them that justice be done. This was a very bad thing that happened."

Her close friend, Guresha Naidoo, died in the stampede.

Sumeshnie said she felt bad because "I couldn't help the other children as I was helpless myself".

She had gone to the end-of-term matinee for the first time as she had wanted to see what a matinee was like.

"I had come out of the toilet and there was chaos. Children were rushing towards the main exit. I fell from the top of the stairs and my hair caught underneath some of the other children. I managed to free myself and lay curled up in a corner for a while.

"When I awoke, I ran towards a window but the window was seized. One of the boys picked up a rod and I helped him to break the window," she said.

Therushia Moodley, 15, of Isipingo, said a friend grabbed her hand after chaos erupted at the nightclub and they ran towards the entrance. "Hundreds of children had already congested the stairs. I tripped over their feet and lost consciousness.

"I regained consciousness only five days later and was in the intensive care unit on a life-support machine," she said.

Her left leg was broken in three places and she had severe burns to it. Her leg had needed plastic surgery. She also had a bruised face.

"I was a very active sports person. I can't play sport anymore as I can't run.

"I also did not attend school for the whole of the second term," said Therushia.

Judge Jan Hugo asked her how her recent end-of-year exams had gone. She said: "Fine".

The trial continues today.

Community Youth Awareness Programme on the cards

By Fiona Gouden
The Chatsworth SAPS has taken on a new project to promote the safety and well-being of the youth in Chatsworth. On Friday night members of the SAPS held a function at which various members of the police service were thanked for initiating the entire project. The youth of Chatsworth are faced with various problems on a daily basis and they need to be steered in the right direction. There were various sponsors present who agreed to sponsor various items needed for the day of the launch. Among the items sponsored were tents, meals, plates and various others

were going to be donated. Captain Edmund Singh thanked the members of the SAPS who made it possible for the programme to be launched and strongly believed that the entire project would be a huge success. "The officers and reservists deserve the utmost praise as if it weren't for them all this would not be possible. The youth are an extremely important entity in the community and we are optimistic that our plans and goals would be carried out with success". Inspector Denick Chetty stressed that there is a need to educate the youth and not judge them. "We cannot arrest, lock up and throw away the key

but we should rather strive towards promoting their needs and interests". He continued to urge the community to work with SAPS to achieve their long term goals. "It is pointless blaming the police as we don't have the means to always to deal with situations such as these. The SAPS in partnership with the CPF wishes to create a community of youths whereby their goals and values are to persevere and prosper in life". The launch of the youth awareness programme takes place on the 22nd June 2002 and there would be various displays by the SAP, the Airforce, The South African Airwing and members of the emergency

Service. It will incorporate the involvement of schools, tertiary institutions and various other youth organisations. The SAPS Chatsworth encourages the community to join the fight against crime as they can play a major role in setting this project in motion. They can work with the SA in trying to combat crime and violence amongst the youth. They also need to get the past incidents that exist between the SA and the community and realize that a future leaders need guidance. The youth Chatsworth have been through many hardships and the Tragedy in 2001 is an eye opener to the community. Youth are vulnerable and need help becoming responsible adults. The SA Chatsworth appreciates any sponsorships for a launch on the 22 June. For further information contact Captain Edmund Singh on 4514237.

Youth Centre built in memory of Throb Nightclub tragedy! - nightclub owner's sentence cut

Rushana Roonparain

Car manufacturing company Daimler-Chrysler is building a youth centre to the tune of R10 million in Chatsworth, Durban, in memory of the youth who died at the nearby Throb Nightclub in 2000. The construction of the building which was requested by former President Nelson Mandela, started last week and is expected to be finished within 12 months. Daimler-Chrysler spokeswoman Farzana Shiburi said last week that the building was seen as a monument to help through the healing process of parents who lost their children that day. Families, friends and the community of Chatsworth suffered tremendously because of that tragedy, said Shiburi.

Thirteen teenagers died and more than 50 injured after a teenage canister was set off in the club, triggering a stampede during an end-of-term madrasa disco. Mr Shiburi added that the centre would be built with the aim of drawing the youth out of the streets and places like nightclubs. Three men were consequently convicted of the crime. In light of this issue, the owner of the rival Chatsworth nightclub, the Silver Skipper, Selvan 'Dogman' Naidoo was sentenced to 19 1/2 years imprison-

ment while Sivanathan Chetty, Vincent Pillay, and the other accused were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. On Thursday, the Supreme Court Magistrate R. M. Marcus had now reduced Chetty's sentence to nine years and nine months on the basis that Chetty could not have foreseen the death of the 13 children and that he had no knowledge of the number of people at the nightclub at that time. Justice Marcus however, dismissed an appeal application lodged by Pillay and Naidoo.

Service. It will incorporate the involvement of schools, tertiary institutions and various other youth organisations. The SAPS Chatsworth encourages the community to join the fight against crime as they can play a major role in setting this project in motion. They can

"We are losing our youth"

by Dinesh Gangaram

"We are losing our kids to drug and alcohol abuse because of our complacency. After the Throb Nightclub incident we thought that parents would become more aware and take a more active role in monitoring their children's lives. Today proves that this has not happened."

This statement was made to a group of parents gathered at SAPS Chatsworth last Saturday afternoon following a raid on a local massage club in the Chatsworth area. Working on information gained from sources in the community the police swooped on the club where they found a number of under-age minors in an establishment licensed to sell alcohol on the premises.

Apart from the minors the police also allegedly found approximately 10 grams of marijuana in the club. The discovery of the marijuana coupled with the strong smell of Tiger Balm evident in the club has led the police to believe that some of the patrons were experimenting with illegal drugs at the club.

"When we entered the club we could smell the pungent Tiger Balm, which is used in conjunction with ecstasy to increase the effect of the drug, in the air. We began questioning those patrons who we believed to be under age and rounded up over a dozen minors. While searching the club we found the dagger lying discarded on the ground. The club was out

number of patrons crammed into the place.

"We are positive that the use of drugs was occurring in the club however a number of patrons left the premises immediately after seeing us enter the establishment and we were unable to question them. We are going to continue targeting clubs in the future in order save as many kids as we can," said SAPS Chatsworth communications officer Capt Edmund Singh.

From the reactions of parents gathered at the station it became evident

that a number of them were being misled by their children. All but one professed that they had no idea that their child frequented the club. When faced with the harsh reality of what was going on in the club they were shocked.

"The community needs to make the youth our first priority. Seeing a list of very young children in clubs is a sad indication of how our society has either given up hope or abandoned the cause. We need to make a concerted and ongoing effort to reach the youth both as a

community and as individuals

"Young people must be motivated and in doing so awareness programmes must be initiated to point the youth in the right direction. Clubbing at an early age is not the solution. Parents seem to be shirking their responsibility to their children. We at the SAPS Chatsworth urge the youth to become involved in Community Youth Programmes and derive fulfillment instead of wasting away," pleaded Capt Singh.

A nation of young drunks

More cases of our youth hitting the bottle

Drastic measures are needed to curb underage drinking write Yvonne Grimbeek and Chimaimba Banda

A NINE-YEAR-OLD is admitted to a clinic with drug and alcohol abuse problems; a 14-year-old is arrested in a bar for drinking; school children aged 14 and 17 are caught in the toilet at school drinking hard liquor early in the morning. This is the picture of South Africa's nation of young drunkards.

Gone are the days when matrics snuck a beer to school to test the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. Now police and social workers say young children, often accompanied by their parents, are drinking in bars and clubs.

And the drinking is not confined to any race, gender or particular economic sector – police and social workers say they are coming across children from squatter camps to those from classier suburbs. The one thing these children have in common is the quest to drink alcohol, and to drink as much as they can.

"We have had the experience of kids as young as nine coming to school nursing a huge hang-over," according to Ms Shamim Garda, the national executive director for SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (Sanca).

Garda warned that this dan-

They are drinking:

BRUTAL Fruit. Hooch. Extreme. Klippiies and Kola. Spin. Breezer. Bugs. Love Potion. Aqua... for the uninitiated, these are alcoholic beverages called coolers or shooters.

They have an alcohol per volume content of 3% to 6%, are almost sickly sweet and are aimed at the young end of the market. According to the companies who make these drinks, the 18 to 25 age group is the growth market.

Their advertising is aimed almost exclusively at youngsters with money to spend and a taste for alcohol. These drinks are available at pizza outlets, hamburger joints and even corner cafes.

gerous tendency among South Africa's young was likely to get out of hand unless urgent enhanced measures were put in place to deal with alcohol abuse.

"Alcohol is the most abused substance in South Africa. It's in every province," said Garda, whose organisation has 38 treatment centres countrywide.

"We need to reinforce prevention measures and awareness of alcohol abuse," she said.

Capt Mac McIntosh, liquor enforcement officer for Pretoria central, says there is a "huge" problem with youngsters and alcohol. "We recently arrested a

14-year-old in a bar. He was with his mother, who was buying his drinks for him. She said her husband was away on a business trip and that she wanted to have a good time..." he said.

The Liquor Act states that no one shall supply or sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. The mother, who bought her son drinks, was also arrested.

Related to the drinking is the increase of social crimes among teenagers. Many will resort to stealing to keep up their alcohol habit; they bribe older friends to go into bottle stores to buy alcohol for them; young girls who are drunk are more than likely to be raped or assaulted.

McIntosh said there was more active law enforcement taking place because of the increase in juvenile drinking.

Pretoria's Lepalamé Clinic's Ms Estelle van Schoor said three years ago the clinic was dealing with 12- and 13-year-olds who had alcohol and drug problems.

"Now we are seeing nine-year-olds coming in here with drug and alcohol problems. We see kids from the squatter camps in Soshanguve to kids from wealthy households in the east.

"Parents are not the biggest problem, it's the variety of choices children are confronted with. They can walk out of their front door and have access to alcohol and drugs. It's easily available, kids are wiser because of the internet. They have more freedom and more money," she said.

Truancy and loitering at Chatsworth schools

Information provided by Captain Edmund Singh

Parents generally worry about securing their children's education. They even go to the extent of taking an investment just so that after their children complete their schooling years, they will not have to worry about their financial burdens of furthering their children's education.

But did you ever think of asking your children if they are grateful for the sacrifice you make. No!

It has been reported that some children have ulterior motives, eg. truancy and neglecting their education. According to Captain Edmund Singh of the SAPS, Chatsworth, "Recently a number of learners from a school in Shallcross were found to be under the influence of alcohol during school hours whilst in uniform. It is believed that they were being entertained from a house close to the school".

Singh added, "Also learners from a school in Woodhurst are found to frequent a tuck-shop that sells drugs and alcohol. Schools in Westcliff are experiencing the same type of problem".

Police report that when the children had been questioned, very lame excuses are given like, they have been locked out of school. Also another excuse that is used very often is that the principals are not allowing them at school until their school fees are paid and other trivial reasons as to why they are not wanted at school.

she told the child to stay away". "However no explanation has been given", said the parent.

Captain Singh said, "Parents need to take an active role in their children's - welfare and well being. They also need to be educated and their input may prove to be invaluable".

Singh added, "Complaints have also been filtering through education circles that when important meetings are called to discuss crucial issues, parents commitment are less than satisfactory".

A warning issued by Captain Singh stipulates, "Having said this, the crux of the problem needs to come to the fore as to the actual reason as to why learners abscond.

One may ask what checks and balances do schools have in place to prevent learners from

absconding from school. Truancy does not necessarily mean that learners abscond for the entire day. It can also mean that learners abscond in-between lessons.

How effective is the management at schools to try and prevent this type of problem from escalating or spiralling out of control to a degree that it cannot be curtailed? What incentive programmes do schools have in place or do schools reward initiative will regard to full attendance. It would appear that schools may be falling short and fresh strategies / ideas needs to be implemented in order to bring absenteeism to an acceptable level.

Governing Bodies also play a major role in a child's welfare or well being. Members of Governing Bodies are often from the community the

schools is in, and they need to work closely with the School Management, put aside their differences and work towards a crime-free environment.

Local business also have a moral obligation to play, in that they must not entertain learners during school hours, yet they capitalise on the situation at hand at the expense of the learner.

Police Management is urging the community to join forces and get involved with policing sub-forums to create and aware-

ness with regard to the seriousness of this problem.

It must be emphasised that not all schools are guilty of this misdemeanour. In all fairness, all schools must not be taroished, or painted with the same brush.

School Governing Bodies and parents alike, must play an important role in trying to steer children in the right path and rather get actively involved in community based projects, instead of channelling our frustrations in less important issues'.

Stringent security for CWC 2003

Valene Goyender

The excitement for the Cricket World Cup 2003 has already begun as South Africa gears up for the sporting extravaganza keeping in mind the safety of the teams as well as cricket fans from around the globe.

The last international sporting event of this calibre that South Africa hosted was the Rugby World Cup in 1995 which was a great success and next years tournament is much looked forward to as it is expected to attract an estimated figure of 860 000 spectators. The public, however, can rest assured that the security measures will be as stringent as possible.

Director Ben Van Deventer, the person responsible for the security arrangements, confirmed that over 18 months of preparation went into the planning for the security measures of this event.

A security team together with close circuit cameras and security personnel will be appointed to the participating teams, and bomb squads and patrols would be present at all matches.

Chatsworth will be hosting the Indian team when they play the Dolphins early next year. Mr Sundra Reddy, the liaison officer of the Indian team said that this tournament is of extremely high profile.

"To watch the teams in action and in real flesh is a different feeling altogether and

Chatsworth is no different. The Indian team is a popular team and obviously security measures will be extremely stringent," said Mr Reddy.

The Chatsworth Oval is said to hold approximately 8000 people but a larger number is expected to turn out.

Mr Reddy added, "We must also realise that the infrastructure around the oval has not been upgraded to accommodate an event like the world cup in the past and the tolerance shown by the spectators in Chatsworth always ensures a successful event. We must also take into account that Chatsworth will be on the world stage for the cricket world cup and this is an opportunity to show the rest of the world that we can accommodate and host international events. With this being the first there will definitely be more high profile games to follow."

The upgrade of the Chatsworth oval is well underway (pic) and will definitely be ready by December. There was a slight delay with rain but Chatsworth will be ready for the CWC 2003 as planned.

