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**OUTDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION NEEDS IN  
GREATER DURBAN: A TREND ANALYSIS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1968 this Centre was commissioned to undertake an Outdoor Recreation Survey in Greater Durban by the Town and Regional Planning Commission of the Natal Provincial Administration. A very large population survey was undertaken, which will be referred to again in later sections of this analysis, and a fairly lengthy report was submitted after some considerable delay due to difficulties in processing the data. The report lacked a final section and it was this final section which caused the problems accounting for the delay.

In the original brief by the Town and Regional Planning Commission it had been specified that the report should arrive at an estimation of quantitative standards for the provision of open space for leisure purposes in residential areas of different types. This calculation was intended to serve as a form of standardised guideline for the determination of open-space provision in the zone planning of urban residential areas.

A similar study undertaken in Pietermaritzburg in 1966 (Schlemmer, et al., 1977) had provided a basis for the estimation of open space standards, although the exercise of calculating the standards proved to be extremely difficult. In the much larger Durban metropolitan region, the exercise proved to be futile. In particular, the influence of the beaches on outdoor recreation in the Durban area prevented the methods adopted in the Pietermaritzburg exercise from being applied. Very broadly stated, the proximity of some planned open-space areas to the beaches, as well as the major recreational attractions in the areas immediately to the north of the city centre, as well as the beaches themselves made it impossible to establish the same types of relationships between outdoor recreation and socio-economic and residential characteristics in the Durban area as had been evident in the Pietermaritzburg analysis.

For this reason the earlier report on the major Durban Recreation Study ended off with conclusions regarding the empirical need for additional facilities in different types of areas but could not proceed to the estimation of standards as such.

While the Town and Regional Planning Commission understood the difficulties attendant upon the empirical fixing of standards in a social ecology as complex as that of the Durban metropolitan area, it was nevertheless thought that an advance could be made on the findings of the earlier study using different methods. Accordingly a new investigation was commissioned in 1984 which was to be based on investigations at outdoor recreational sites.

The previous study had attempted to provide generalisations for outdoor space derived from the expressed needs in samples of the population at large. The degree of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the amount of open space was a function not only of the outdoor recreational facilities in the neighbourhood but, as suggested above, by the access to beach and central recreational amenities as well. It was thus clearly impossible to make conclusive statements about local facilities. The current investigation, on the other hand, was to focus attention on the local outdoor amenities themselves, in an attempt to provide more useful insights into the adequacy or otherwise of neighbourhood outdoor space provision.

In addition to the fieldwork at the local outdoor amenities, the Centre for Applied Social Sciences had accumulated population survey data subsequent to the major study conducted in 1970, and it was hoped that these data might reflect trends in overall need for outdoor recreation which would serve as a basis upon which the more specific information from local recreational sites could be analysed.

This report takes on its basis the new investigations conducted subsequent to the fieldwork in 1970 and attempts to provide guidance in regard to the planning of outdoor recreational space in the Durban metropolitan region.

## 2. METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE OF SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Durban metropolitan area, broadly defined, was divided into three zones for the purposes of the present analysis: municipal Durban, white outer suburban areas and black townships.

### 2.1 Municipal Durban

This covers all white areas in the Durban municipal area as well as the Indian and coloured townships under the jurisdiction of the Durban Corporation. Data were collected from the following coloured areas: Sparks Estate, Wentworth and Newlands East, and from the following Indian areas: Chatsworth, Phoenix, Reservoir Hills, Avoca, Redhill, Asherville, Effingham Heights, Greenwood Park, Clare Estate, Parlock, Merewent, Sea Cow Lake, Kenville, Umgeni and Springtown.

Information about the white areas was obtained from a cross-section of staff in the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department of the Durban Corporation. They also provided certain information about the coloured and Indian areas. The information on coloured and Indian areas was, however, supplemented with information obtained from interviews administered at the site of 221 recreation facilities (161 in Indian areas and 60 in coloured areas). The respondent was always the person in charge of the facility, or if there was no supervisor then a cross-section of adjacent residents nearby was asked to comment on the utilisation of sites. (See example of questionnaire in appendix I.)

### 2.2 White outer suburban areas

The following suburban areas were covered: Westville, Amanzimtoti, New Germany, Queensburgh, Pinetown, Umhlanga, Gillitts-Emerton, Hillcrest and Kloof.

The same questionnaire-based interviews as used in coloured and Indian areas were conducted at the sites of 60 outdoor recreation facilities in the largely white areas mentioned above.

The above data were supplemented by and checked against data obtained from interviews with one informed official in each of the various municipal authorities. (See schedules headed "municipalities".)

### 2.3 Black townships

Investigations were conducted in the following black Durban townships: Lamontville, KwaDabeka, Ntuzuma, KwaDengezi, Clermont, Chesterville, Umlazi and KwaMashu. A total of 31 site interviews were conducted in the townships.

"Municipality" schedules were also administered to a local authority official in each township, the official in some cases being the township superintendent. Additional insights were obtained from several informal interviews with social workers in the townships.

### 2.4 Content of investigations and approach used

In cases where some official or caretaker was in charge of the site the interviews were conducted with the person involved. As already indicated, in those facilities where no official was in attendance the adjoining residents were visited and the schedule was completed by building up a composite view of utilisation of the space from the views of residents surrounding the site. Individual replies were not analysed but a broad consensus or reconciliation of the views of residents was recorded for each site.

Broader unstructured interviews were conducted with a range of officials both in local authorities and in private sports clubs. These are included in the analysis of results in a qualitative form. As also indicated, people with particular insights into problems in the townships were approached for additional qualitative information.

The interviews in all areas with all respondents were basically aimed at establishing the extent of under or over-utilisation of facilities. Attention was also directed at needs for an increase in the size of the facilities or the number of facilities. Any additional information relating to patterns of use in the facilities was recorded.



In the analysis which follows, a broad picture is provided regarding the patterns of utilisation of open-space amenities in metropolitan Durban. Since detailed interview information was checked against the views of sports clubs and officials, a reconciliation and interpretation of the trends was indicated and it is this which is given in the following section. Any attempt to quantify the results of interviews would have proved futile since fixed criteria of over or under-utilisation do not exist. Hence the results are presented in the form which follows. (For further details on the interview schedules used see Appendix.)

### 3. BROAD ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF OUTDOOR SITE UTILISATION: 1984/5

#### 3.1 Planned Sportsfields

##### 3.1.1 Central Durban

###### Athletics

There is one synthetic surface athletic track with supplementary facilities. This track is very well used but there is reportedly no immediate need for another track. There are two trim tracks, one at Albert Park and one at Chatsworth Park. Neither have ever been used very much, and were recorded as under-utilised.

###### Cycling

There is a cycling stadium which is not constantly used. Cycling seems to increase and decrease in popularity according to the fashion. There are two BMX tracks, one at Overport and one at Bulwer Park which also vacillate in popularity.

###### Motor Racing

There is a motor race track at Kings Park soccer stadium which is well used but there is no demand for an additional race track. It is used for all types of motorcar and motorbike racing of a type suited to a small urban-track.

**Netball**

There is not much demand for it. A few Durban Corporation fields are used for this specific activity. The most activity is in Chatsworth.

**Football**

The Durban Corporation makes available 153 fields for football. Forty-three of these are in white areas and 110 in coloured and Indian areas. In the white areas there are sufficient football fields although a few clubs would like a few more fields. The need for additional "white" fields would not exceed 2 to 4 fields. In the Indian and coloured areas football is the most popular sport and it is here that there is a serious shortage of fields. Twelve more fields are needed to cope adequately with the present demand. In these areas there are often grossly inadequate toilet and changeroom facilities and many fields do not have taps. These fields are wholly overtaxed as they are used by schools, welfare organisations, and churches.

**Cricket**

Fifty fields are available from the Durban Corporation; 20 are in white areas and 30 in coloured and Indian areas. There is a shortage of fields in all areas. The shortage is more severe in the Indian and coloured areas. In the white areas the aim (ideal) is to play all matches on Saturdays but matches are quite often scheduled for Sundays. The officials consulted could not provide an estimate of the need for additional white fields, but another 5 fields would appear to be needed. In the Indian and coloured areas the grounds are used constantly; many become waterlogged when it rains. Approximately 20 more fields are required to cope adequately with the present demand.

**Rugby**

Twenty-one clubs are affiliated to the Durban Rugby Union. Most of these clubs have their own grounds or use those at Kings Park. There is no shortage of grounds. All grounds are presently well-used,

although not to their maximum capacity. . Some of the teams are non-racial and at present there is one coloured team participating. The Natal Rugby Board organises rugby for coloureds and Indians in Durban and has one ground in Sydenham which is sufficient for present needs.

#### **Bowling**

There are 58 bowling clubs in Durban and they have access to 118 greens. In the white areas the facilities are well-used but could accommodate more players. Few clubs have waiting lists for members. There is little interest among the coloured and Indian sections of the population, although there are two clubs in the coloured areas, but they are not well-patronised at all.

#### **Tennis**

There is no shortage of tennis courts for whites in the Greater Durban Area. The courts available are well-used, but not to their maximum. There is however, a dire shortage of courts in the coloured and Indian areas. Very few areas have their own courts and thus long distances have to be travelled. There is much enthusiasm for this sport, particularly amongst school children. At least one court for every local neighbourhood would appear to be needed, and more than one in larger areas.

#### **Hockey**

There are 5 hockey fields at Queensmead - one is synthetic turf which can be used four times as often as grass. These fields are used by the Natal Hockey Union and they are used to their maximum. Other fields are also used by the Union, but there are sufficient fields for their needs.

### Jukskei

There are 32 jukskei pitches which are used by the Jukskei Association. They require a minimum of maintenance from the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department. There does not appear to be a need for additional facilities.

### 3.1.2 White outer suburban areas

#### Soccer Fields

All the areas considered had soccer fields which were well-used but generally not over-utilised. The following areas however, needed at least one more field: Pinetown, Queensburgh, Westville and Kloof.

#### Tennis Courts

All the areas considered had tennis courts, with the exception of Gillitts-Emberton, where many people have their own tennis courts. Additional courts were needed in Amanzimtoti, Umhlanga, Westville and Hillcrest.

#### Bowling Greens

There were bowling greens in all the areas studied, with the exception of Gillitts-Emberton. Generally the greens were well-used but could accommodate more usage.

#### Rugby

There were fields in Pinetown and Hillcrest. There was no demand for additional fields.

#### Cricket

Pinetown and Queensburgh had cricket fields which were well-used, within capacity. Queensburgh needed an additional ground.

#### Other Facilities

There was a skate board track in Pinetown. All the other areas requested a similar facility with the exception of New Germany, Westville, Gillitts-Emberton and Kloof although the fashion may pass. A trim-track was requested for Hillcrest.

#### Problems

A problem in Westville was that facilities were poorly distributed throughout the area. In New Germany, all facilities were at the New Germany Sports Club - thus those people not belonging to the club could not play sport in New Germany. Another problem was vandalism of facilities.

#### 3.1.3 Black townships

In all the townships the provision of planned sportsfields is grossly inadequate.

#### Ntuzuma

No outdoor recreational facilities exist. A community hall is currently under construction. The problem in the area seems to be the undulating terrain which impedes construction of sportsfields.

#### Klaarwater

Presently there is one soccer field which is too small, over-utilised and inadequate. There used to be a tennis court and a mini putt-putt which are now both obsolete due to misuse and lack of maintenance. Additional facilities needed: tennis courts, netball courts, volleyball courts and soccer fields, particularly the latter.

**KwaDabeka**

There is one soccer field and eight tennis courts. The courts at the women's section are hardly ever used because players prefer to play together regardless of sex and men are not allowed at these courts. These facilities are inadequate as usage is increasing. Soccer fields are particularly needed.

**KwaMashu**

At present there are two soccer stadiums, eight soccer fields, six tennis courts and three netball courts. Additions to the whole range of outdoor facilities are needed. Cricket fields and even rugby fields and hockey fields are particularly needed.

**Clermont**

There was one tennis court but it is now obsolete as it has been persistently vandalised. There are a few soccer fields but they are inadequate and have insufficient seating capacity. There is one netball court which is also now obsolete as it too was vandalised. To judge from usage in other areas the facilities which have been vandalised would be over-utilised if they were protected.

**Umlazi**

There are six tennis courts and a soccer stadium. At the stadium there is one field used for matches. There are eight other fields at the stadium which are used as practice grounds. All fields are over-utilised and they are in very poor condition and are not suitable for matches. One of the main problems is that all these facilities are in D-Section. There is a need for similar facilities in all the other sections.

### Lamontville

There is one tennis court in Lamontville which is used to its full capacity and there is a definite need for more courts. There are five soccer fields which are also used to capacity and more are needed. There is one bowling green which is adequate. Netball fields were requested for this area.

### Chesterville

At the youth centre at Chesterville there are 2 soccer fields, 2 tennis courts and 1 multi-purpose field. They are all inadequate and over-utilised. Also needed are a bowling green and a running track.

### KwaNdengezi

There are no outdoor recreational facilities in KwaNdengezi. All types of facilities are needed here.

## 3.2 Parks

### 3.2.1 Municipal Durban

Parks represent a particular problem of analysis. A distinction must be made between a park and an open space. Open space is often a semi-developed area with planted trees and grass and with open access, requiring some maintenance mainly in the form of grass-cutting. A park usually requires more intensive treatment and horticultural maintenance. The Japanese garden, for example, is classified as a park. A park is different from a Botanic garden.

A list of parks and open spaces by division can be found in the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department financial reports and includes the area of each. The schedule from the open space survey lists parks and open spaces by district, together with area, and degree to which each has been developed.

No (statistical) studies have been done to determine their usage. The various division horticulturalists said that on the whole the parks were well used though not to their maximum. There is thus enough park space. The Amphitheatre, Japanese Gardens and Mitchell Park were particularly well-used. The obvious conclusion is that a person is far more likely to go to a park if there is horticultural development, landscaping, zoos/aviaries or other specific attractions.

Activities could be increased by the introduction of proper interpretative services eg self-guided tree tours, public promotions of horticultural developments, etc. A great deal of the usage potential is unexploited. There is a large demand for good tourist venues so facilities should be developed both scenically and horticulturally to increase usage.

#### Problems

1. Vandalism. The branches of newly planted trees in some areas (eg Phoenix) are often broken off. It was estimated that in Phoenix there is a 40% loss of newly planted trees.
2. Upkeep and maintenance of parks is very expensive.
3. Some parks, such as Carpendale Park, for example, are used by people during lunchtime and after hours to play football. People often complain about the noise.
4. Generally, littering is a very severe problem.
5. Motor-cyclists frequently ride their bikes in parks that are not well fenced. This is a big problem. They disturb essentially passive recreation spaces and generally wreck the area. There is a great need for an off-road track for motor cyclists.
6. Vagrants. At the Japanese Gardens vagrants steal duck food and kill wildlife.
7. Theft. Theft of plants and fencing etc is also a big problem of some magnitude.
8. Overusage of some facilities, such as, for example the swings at Mitchell Park in peak periods.
9. Child molesting. This has taken place often enough to be considered a problem.
10. Impact of people. There is an attempt to maintain certain bush areas but people encroach into these areas. Pigeon Valley has recovered considerably since it was adequately fenced.



### 3.2.2 White Outer-Suburban Areas

Altogether 17 facilities were considered in the outer suburban areas. Of these 15 were adequately provided with space and two were actually considered to be too large. Their size, however, brought with it other benefits.

Utilisation: 14 were well-utilised, three were under-utilised. One cannot claim that a need for additional open space of this type exists in a general sense.

#### Problems:

1. Vandalism, vagrancy and the resulting lack of safety;
2. Motor-cycle riding was a disturbing factor.

Queensburgh seemed especially in need of more parks. In this area and a few other cases it was considered a problem that people of other race groups use the existing parks. This contributed to the demand that there should be a better provision of public parks for blacks and Indians who work in white areas.

### 3.2.3 Black Townships

There are no open spaces specifically developed as parks or gardens in the black areas. There are however, a fair number of undeveloped open spaces.

Parks are particularly needed in the following areas: KwaMashu, KwaDabeka, Chesterville, Umlazi, Lamontville, Clermont. For young as well as for older people parks are particularly necessary for church-gatherings, social meetings, idling around and a variety of other activities. The need for places in which small religious sects can meet and sing is the most critical problem

### 3.2.4 Botanic Gardens

The Botanic gardens in Cowey Road is of considerable botanic interest. It has the largest collection of exotic trees in South Africa and was used historically as trial ground for test planting for commercial purposes. It has a small lake which has developed from the natural water supply to the old Curries Fountain.

It is very popular with tourists and is used daily. Local usage peaks during weekends and public holidays. It is closed and locked at night for security and to prevent theft of rare cycads. Stealing and vandalism are a more serious problem here than in ordinary parks.

The area does not need to be extended significantly although an additional indigenous area could be developed. More public education and interpretation of the gardens is needed to promote usage but there is a lack of staff and money.

### 3.3 Playlots

#### 3.3.1 Municipal Durban

There are 116 playlots in white areas in Durban and 178 playlots in coloured and Indian areas in Durban. The Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department has a separate schedule relating specifically to playlots; indicating their size and also listing playlot equipment.

There seem to be a sufficient number of playlots but it was generally felt that the equipment needed to be improved and updated.

Generally speaking playlots in white areas were moderately to well-used. They tended to be much better used in Indian and coloured areas. In white high rise, high density areas the playlots were much better used; especially Albert Park which has good equipment. There were no recent statistics available as to usage. The above are the impressions of the various divisional horticulturalists.

A number of problems are experienced. A major problem is vandalism of playground equipment. Especially if it is wooden it can be set alight or chopped up for firewood. Vandal-proof playground equipment is increasingly being installed. Littering is a big problem in playgrounds and upkeep and maintenance tends to be very expensive. In some coloured and Indian areas parents keep children away from playlots because of the presence of vagrants.

### 3.3.2 White Outer-Suburban Areas

Twenty-one playlots were considered. Of these the large majority were considered to be adequate in size. Thirteen were regarded as well utilised, six were considered to be under-utilised, and two were considered over-utilised.

Although half of the playlots were considered to be well utilised they were considered to be insufficient in terms of the kind of play equipment provided and real attractiveness to children as play areas. There is a great need for more interesting and varied equipment. The fact that many of the lots are unattractive for white children seems may not be unconnected with the fact that many of the lots were frequented by adult workers during their lunch hour.

A few lots were considered to be too isolated and not safe enough for children and a few suffered from poor maintenance and vandalism. In some cases, the ground allocated for playlots was considered unsuitable, ie uneven, weed-ridden or potholed.

The need for really safe and appealing playlots for children was stressed especially in the following areas.: Westville, Amanzimtoti, Pinetown and Hillcrest.

### 3.3.3 Black Townships

In Umlazi there were seven playlots but they were all within the grounds of creches and schools and thus not available for general recreational usage. There was a playlot in KwaMashu but it had been destroyed by vandals and urgently required repair. This was the case in several other areas as well where playlots had been erected but were soon vandalised beyond use.

### 3.4 Swimming Pools

#### 3.4.1 Municipal Durban

There are: 15 district pools

Rachel Finlayson Salt Water Pool  
Brighton Beach - 1 salt water tidal pool  
6 Paddling pools

Of these 15 district pools 7 are for whites  
2 are for coloureds  
6 are for Indians

Peak usage is over weekends and public holidays; obviously all in summer.

There are plans for an Olympic pool for the city. It will be part of the Greater King's Park Recreation complex.

Vandalism is a problem at some of the pools especially those in the coloured and Indian areas. There is a considerable need for more pools in these areas as the percentage of private pool owners is very low. There is not such a need in the white areas as the percentage of private pool owners is increasing quite rapidly.

#### Swimming Pools 15 District Pools 1983/4 in Durban Municipal area

MONTH	NO CLOSED	NO OPENED	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
JULY	15		
AUGUST	15		
SEPTEMBER	15		
OCTOBER	12	3	4 028
NOVEMBER	10	5	5 487
DECEMBER	9	6	16 024
JANUARY	6	9	10 036
FEBRUARY	3	12	5 367
MARCH	1	14	5 487
APRIL	1	14	5 142
MAY	1	14	1 092
JUNE	1	14	491

Figures obtained from Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department, statistical information for 1983/1984 Financial Year. Figures for the 1984/1985 Financial Year are not likely to be much different.

#### 3.4.2 White Outer-Suburban Areas

In all white areas two swimming pools were considered. One swimming pool facility is situated in Westville and is considered as adequate in size although very well used. This facility consists of one swimming pool and two paddling ponds.

The other swimming pool is in Pinetown and was considered adequate in the provision of space and also well used. It was noted, however, that the utilisation was slightly decreasing probably due to private pool ownership and schools possessing pools.

As many residents have their own pools, the existing numbers as well as the need for additional public swimming pools is limited. However, the need for new public pools was stated for the following areas: Westville North, Queensburgh, New Germany, Pinetown, Hillcrest, Umhlanga and Amanzimtoti.

#### 3.4.3 Black Townships

Four swimming pools were considered. In KwaMashu there are two pools but they are both too small and over-used. Problems experienced were unruly children, insufficient lifesavers, and vandalism. In Lamontville there is one pool which is too small and over-used. Similarly in Umlazi there is only one pool which is inadequate for population needs.

Swimming pools were urgently required in KwaDengezi, KwaNtuzuma, KwaDabeka, Clermont, Klaarwater and Chesterville, and additional pools are needed in areas where they presently exist.

### 3.5 Golf Courses

#### 3.5.1 Municipal Durban

There are two golf courses at Windsor Park. One is a full 18 hole course and the other is a mashie course. They are both well used but could accommodate more people especially during the week.

Attendance: Main Course: 1 July - 30 June 1985	64 498 approx.
Mashie:	32 119

There is also the Papwa Seewgolum course at Springfield which is a fairly new course which is rapidly picking up in patronage.

The above facilities are supplemented by private golf clubs. All in all there is no shortage of facilities. Vagrancy, littering and vandalism are generally not problems but upkeep and maintenance is very expensive.

#### 3.5.2 White Outer-Suburban Areas

Three golf courses were assessed - one in Kloof and two in Amanzimtoti. All of them were regarded as adequate in size although very well utilised. Vandalism in two cases and petty theft in one case were identified as problematic. Views were given suggesting that the golf course in Kloof needed to be enlarged and an additional golf course was necessary in the area of Pinetown - New Germany to replace one which has been closed down to make way for housing development at Wyebank.

#### 3.5.3 Black Townships

Only one golf course specifically for blacks exists in Umlazi. It was seen as being just adequate and was well-utilised — a problem was insufficient tools for maintenance. If the population remains segregated courses are needed for the following areas: Clermont (especially for young people), Chesterville and KwaMashu (especially for older people). Golf courses were not specifically seen to be needed in the remaining black areas.

### 3.6 Nature Reserves

#### 3.6.1 Municipal Durban

The following nature reserves are administered by the Durban City Council:

Pigeon Valley  
Burman Bush  
Virginia Bush  
Silverglen Nature Reserve

Both Pigeon Valley and Burman Bush are well used but are not over-utilised. The Nature Conservation and Environmental officer leads trails through these two reserves. Burman Bush is part of the Greater Kings Park Recreation Complex and there are plans to improve general picnic, trail and parking organisation. There are also plans for an interpretive centre and a coach viewpoint. Self-guiding trails are already in operation.

Virginia Bush has not been properly cleared or developed yet. Silverglen Nature Reserve at Chatsworth has only recently been properly developed and is not used much as yet. One problem experienced is the stripping of bark by African herbalists. The Parks Department has attempted to circumvent this problem by painting brown PVA onto the trees.

There are some other natural areas which are administered by the Natal Parks Board. There are the Umgeni River mangroves, Happy Valley on the Bluff and the Stainbank Reserve. Taken together these areas are well-patronised but not over-taxed.

#### 3.6.2 White Outer-Suburban Areas

Two nature reserves were assessed in the outer areas. One was the Mariannahill Nature Reserve which was considered adequate but rather under-utilised. The other one is the New Germany Common, an area at present being developed into a nature reserve, which should be fully developed by the end 1986.

There was a general view that additional nature reserves were necessary, but this opinion was voiced on the basis of intrinsic factors rather than demand factors. Some nature reserves were not assessed, such as Kloof Gorge and given the extent of both formal and informal natural areas around Durban a general problem of over-utilisation does not appear likely in the short term.

### 3.7 Beaches

There is a 25km coastline administered by the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department. Of this, 8kms is provided with lifeguard protection, shark nets, regular maintenance and cleaning.

The actual size of the beaches varies considerably depending on sand movement, but is gradually decreasing. Sand movement is being controlled by the City Engineers Department with a sand pumping scheme introduced to increase the size of the beaches; the aim being to re-establish the beaches in the same state as existed 20 years ago.

Safe bathing areas are as follows:

White	-	7 beaches
coloured	-	1 beach
African	-	1 beach
Multiracial	-	5 beaches

**White beaches:** These are South Beach, Addington Beach, North Beach, Ansteys Beach and Brighton Beach. South Beach is the most popular and its popularity is of a historical nature. It was the first bathing beach, and there are also many hotels and holiday flats in the area. It is the most accessible beach for pedestrians. The least popular beaches are Ansteys and Brighton Beach. This is probably because they are too far out and not easily accessible to tourists.

There are two beaches for "coloureds", one central beach and Treasure Beach to the south which are not well-attended.

There is a fair patronage at the Indian Beach - the Country Club Beach.



There are two beaches for Africans - African Beach 1 and African Beach 2. African Beach 1 is the most popular, perhaps because there is a catering outlet. African Beach 2 is generally only open at weekends when there is a demand for it. During the week these beaches are not used much at all.

Battery Beach 1 and 2, Snake Park, Bay of Plenty and Dairy Beach are the multiracial beaches. They are fairly popular. Some eighty percent of attendance is black.

Only on about four days of the year are the beaches really overcrowded, e.g. African Beach 1 is always overcrowded on New Years Day. As standard beach amenities the Durban beaches can absorb an increase in usage with the exception of the Christmas - New Year period.

#### Other Seaside Activities

Specific areas along the coastline have been set aside for surfing, paddle surfing and windsurfing. These areas are generally well-used. Sailing generally takes place at Vetch's Pier which is under the administration of the Port Captain. The Durban City Council is hoping to take over this area. Generally in terms of these activities the water area has reached saturation point.

Fishing from piers has reached a point of congestion but when the beaches are closed in the evenings the whole beach can be used for fishing and no problems exist. Furthermore, north of the Umgeni river and to the south there are adequate fishing areas. The problem is not so much one of congestion but an over-exploitation of marine life and the destruction of rock life due to pollution.

#### Problems

1. The beach office constantly receives complaints about litter on the beaches; surfboards on beaches; blacks on white beaches and vice versa.
2. Keeping people off the beaches when there is a bathing or surfing ban and the shark nets are not up is usually a problem.

3. Parking generally is very inadequate and causes much frustration.
4. Vandalism is a constant problem. All buildings are made as vandal-proof as possible but vandalism continues, e g lifeguard lookouts are constantly wrecked. A private security firm has been employed which has helped but has not solved the problem entirely.
5. There are many vagrants who sit and sleep along the beachfront. Child vagrancy is especially severe.
6. Theft: This problem as an accompaniment of the vagrancy problem. There is much petty theft on the beaches and from parked cars.
7. By-law contraventions: Specific areas are set aside for surfing, fishing and bathing. There are insufficient by-law enforcement officers to ensure separation.
8. Begging and illegal hawking are also considered quite a serious problem, although the latter is part of the informal economy which is increasingly being recognised as a benefit.
9. Lost children during holiday season.
10. Problems in the areas directly above the beaches, eg: skateboard riders; frisbees that are thrown in the middle of traffic; ball games on the sidewalk and in the road.
11. The beaches are often regarded by the public as dirty and oil-polluted, but the dark colour is natural and is from eroded stone. This is not commonly known.

### 3.8 Beachfront Amusements and Amenities

At present the entire beachfront is in the process of being redesigned as far as amusement parks are concerned.

The beach itself is being improved with new groynes, a sandpumping scheme, paving and landscaping. The Patterson groynes are being replaced by two low level groyne structures which will extend 200m out to sea. They are designed to reduce the rip currents which exist adjacent to the Paterson groynes and to inhibit the scouring of sand seawards. They will be available for promenading, fishing and viewing of surfing and swimming activities.

Newton's Amusement Park has been discontinued with ground remodelling, landscaping, attractive lights, sunbathing lawns and paved pathways, replacing it.

As regards the amphitheatre, the plan is to demolish the stage structure and build a new colonnade to mirror the present one, with built-in changeroom and storage space. More space will be devoted here to beach oriented, wing protected, grassed sunbathing spots.

A children's adventure playground will be installed south of the bowling greens at South Beach. The three greens are to be moved elsewhere to make way for a landscaped picnic/braai area. Similar changes are to be introduced at the central beach area.

All the changes imply that the capacity of the Durban beaches to cater for seaside or water-oriented activity is being expanded. More will be said in this regard later in the report but at this stage, with beaches becoming multi-racial, no serious problems of shortages of beach area exist for any group.

Other amusements presently available at the Durban beachfront include the:

- Snake Park
- Aquarium
- Dolphinarium
- Mini-town
- Putt-putt
- Trampolines.

All these are well used and although crowded at times there are always alternative activities available while people wait.

### 3.9 Zoos and Aviaries

There are few facilities of this sort. There is a mini-zoo and aviary at Mitchell Park and a privately run bird park in the Umgeni Valley at the old quarry site.

These facilities are very popular and consequently over-used at peak periods. There is a definite need for more facilities of this type.

The cost of feed for the animals and birds is very high as is the skilled staff that is needed to care for them. Another problem experienced is conflict between people and animals/birds - there is a need for supervision and control. Litter and vandalism of trees, fences and cages is also a problem, but it is being controlled fairly adequately.

### 3.10 Boating Facilities

The model yacht pond on the bank of the Umgeni River is on land administered by the city and is used by a club.

Durban Bay and the Yacht Mole are administered by the City Engineer, with whom the clubs liaise. There are six clubs, the largest of which, the Durban Boatowners Association has 1 000 members. Facilities are very inadequate. The number of slip-ways is grossly inadequate. New boating enthusiasts find it difficult to gain access to the facilities, which is partly due to controls exercised by the clubs and partly due to a lack of facilities. The fundamental problem is that there are far too few areas for water-oriented recreation on the shores of Durban Bay.

Some activities do not encounter problems. There are facilities for rowing on the Durban Bay, which are more than adequate for present needs.

The only place for canoeing in Durban is on the Umgeni River. This is highly unsatisfactory for a number of reasons: e.g. it is not deep enough for national championships; the times of high and low tides have to always be taken into consideration. There are plans to develop the Umgeni River so that it will be suitable for national championship class canoeing.

### 3.11 Greater Kings Park Recreation Complex

In August 1983, Chris Mulder Associates Inc., submitted their Master Landscape Plan to the Durban City Council for the development of Greater Kings Park. Their goals were to:

- 1) "develop planning and design proposals that will unify the existing diverse site elements and unrelated spaces into a continuous recognizable open green space"; and
- 2) "define and to design a functional pedestrian circulation system with accessible and adequate parking to mitigate pedestrian and vehicular conflicts".

The Greater Kings Park site is bounded by the Umgeni River and Riverside Road on the north, Argyle Road and the Natal Command headquarters of the SADF on the south, on the east by the beach and Snell Parade and on the west by the South African Transport Services (SATS) railway reserve and Umgeni Road. The site also incorporates the Burman Bush Nature Reserve and its immediate street links to Umgeni Road.

Seven design zones in the complex have been isolated and development in each zone has been phased. It began in 1983 and is planned to be complete by 1988. The aim is to give all the facilities greater cohesion as a total open space and recreation complex. This will be done by means of planting, fencing, parking, new roads, paving, pedestrian ways, street furniture (trash bins, drinking fountains, benches, bus shelters, telephones) landscaping etc. A few structural suggestions were also made e.g. a water theme park, olympic pool and indoor sports facilities. (See "Greater Kings Park Durban, master landscape plan" 1983 by Chris Mulder Associates Inc. for further details.)

The massive nature of this redevelopment of what is undoubtedly the region's most important complex of outdoor recreational facilities means that many patterns of outdoor space utilisation may change somewhat after 1988. One may expect some of the load to be taken off the beaches and for spectator sport to be given a boost by the new development.

This completes the brief review of the results of the site investigations of 1984 and 1985. Conclusions will not be drawn at this stage but will be held until the final section of this report. It may be useful, however, to present a summary of the major findings in tabular form, which appears in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: UTILISATION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE GREATER DURBAN AREA

	MUNICIPAL DURBAN	BLACK TOWNSHIPS	WHITE OUTER SUBURBAN AREAS
Athletics	Adequate for present demand	1 Track requested for Chesterville	
Cycling	Facility is under-used		
Motor-racing	Adequate for present demand		
Netball	Adequate for present demand	Courts requested for all black areas except KwaMashu where there are sufficient	
Football	2-4 more fields needed in white areas. 12 more fields needed to cope adequately with the demand in Indian and Coloured areas	All townships need at least 2 more fields	At least one additional field is needed in Queensburgh, Pinetown, Kloof and Westville
Cricket	In white areas more fields are needed. 20 more fields are needed to cope well with the demand in Indian and Coloured areas	There are no fields. KwaMashu requested a field	Queensburgh needed one additional field
Rugby	Adequate	No fields 1 field requested for KwaMashu	Adequate

	MUNICIPAL DURBAN	BLACK TOWNSHIPS	WHITE OUTER SUBURBAN AREAS
Tennis	More than adequate in white areas but insufficient in Coloured and Indian areas. More than 2 dozen required in these areas	All townships need a minimum of 2 more courts	Additional courts needed in Amanzimtoti, Umhlanga, Westville, and Hillcrest
Hockey	Adequate	Fields requested for KwaMashu	
Bowling	Adequate	Adequate	Greens in all areas well used but could accommodate more
Jukskei	Adequate		
Parks	Adequate	Severe shortage. Parks are needed in all the townships	Adequate, except for Queensburgh
Playlots	Adequate but is a need for more varied and interesting equipment	Severe shortage - though not seen as a priority by residents	Adequate but is a need for more varied and interesting equipment
Swimming Pools	Adequate in white areas but need for an extra pool in each of the various Coloured and Indian areas	Severe shortage. Pools needed especially in KwaDengezi, KwaNtuzuma, KwaDabeka, Clermont, Klaarwater and Chesterville. Additional pools needed in Lamontville, KwaMashu and Umlazi	Pools needed in the following areas: Westville North, Queensburgh, New Germany, Pinetown, Hillcrest, Umhlanga and Amanzimtoti



	MUNICIPAL DURBAN	BLACK TOWNSHIPS	WHITE OUTER SUBURBAN AREAS
Golf Courses	Ample facilities	1 golf course was requested for Clermont, Chester-ville and KwaMashu	Adequate but an additional course needed for New Germany
Nature Reserves	Adequate, but picnic areas are needed		
Zoo/ Aviary	Facilities at Mitchell Park and Umgeni are popular. Needs for another facility of this type needed.		
Yachting	Facilities inadequate. Need for several more slip-ways		
Rowing	Adequate, but see below		
Canoeing	Plans to develop the Umgeni River area will improve the highly inadequate facilities immensely		
Model Yachting	Adequate		
Beaches	generally adequate with deracialisation but see concluding section.		

#### 4 TRENDS IN NEEDS AND PREFERENCES FROM POPULATION SURVEYS : 1970, 1978, 1985.

The original research conducted for the Town and Regional Planning Commission in 1970 has already been referred to. Subsequently in 1978, samples in Metropolitan Durban of Africans, Indians and whites were asked certain questions from the 1970 survey as part of an investigation into quality of life in the city. These questions related to desires for increased participation in recreational activity and reasons for not participating more often. In 1985, one question relating to desire for increased participation was repeated again (although reasons for non-participation was not covered due to time constraints).

In all three time periods the general interviewing approach and the type of interviews were sufficiently similar to make comparisons between the three surveys possible. Sample sizes differed widely, mainly for reasons of cost, but with due consideration of statistical error comparisons can be made.

The results of the comparable items in the three different surveys are presented in table 2. In table 3a, 3b and 3c, comparisons between 1970 and 1978 are presented on reasons for non-participation in outdoor recreation, among whites, Indians and Africans. Sample sizes are provided in table 2.

The smallest sample is that for Africans in 1985. Particular problems were experienced in the interviewing as a result of political unrest in the townships. For this reason the sample was restricted in order to make quite certain that only genuine interviews were included which were conducted in a situation in which reasonably unbiased answers could be obtained. Obviously great caution has to be exercised in interpreting the results for the African sample, but nevertheless certain trends are apparent, as will be discussed below.

The results in table 2 are based on responses to a similar form of questioning used in the surveys in 1970, 1978 and 1985. The questions were whether respondents wished to take up new recreational activity, or to increase intensity of participation in existing recreational activity either as active participants or passive spectators. Younger respondents frequently gave more than one answer, in some cases several responses. The percentages in the table therefore reflect multiple responses calculated to the base of the subsample size. For this reason the percentages are dramatically high in particular fields of activity.

The use of multiple responses as a basis for the percentages in the table means that the results must not be interpreted as reflecting proportions of people. The percentages reflect the scope of additional desire relative to existing activity. A large variety of expressions of interest from a minority of respondents, expressed as a percentage of people, can result in a doubling or more of the scope of desire for increased recreation, as the table shows. The figures therefore are indexes of interest and not proportions of people.

TABLE 2 SCOPE OF INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL RECREATION AS A PROPORTION OF PRESENT ACTIVITY. (Based on multiple expressions of desire for new or additional recreational activity as a percentage of adults)

	Africans			Coloured		Indians			Whites		
	70	78	85	70	85	70	78	85	70	78	85
Outdoor (active)	21	37	77	23	88	26	72	89	30	37	75
Field sp. (passive) (planned sportsfields)	33	44	100	68	100	59	72	100	50	42	100
Indoor (active)	10	14	24	14	23	5	32	38	13	31	42
(passive)	13	21	28	9	43	4	18	56	6	9	33
Large (active)	1	2	3	1	4	-	3	4	5	6	15
Terrain* (passive)	3	5	3	1	6	2	2	10	3	1	14
Water (active)	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	3	11	11
Sport (passive)	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	1	1	5
Swimming (active)	-	2	3	7	13	6	22	19	4	8	19
(passive)	1	1	-	4	7	4	2	8	2	3	7
Fishing (both)	2	-	2	2	3	1	2	7	1	1	6
Other (active)	2	5	14	-	7	-	2	7	1	10	10
(passive)	5	3	24	1	4	-	3	5	1	1	7
Jogging/running	-	1	10	-	8	-	11	6	-	10	6
Sample n.	429	131	63	200	139	678	105	369	1865	103	583

\* eg. Golf, Motor-sport and Horse-racing.

In commenting on the table the words "scope of interest" will be used.

The table shows that the scope of interest in additional active outdoor field sport has trebled between 1970 and 1985 for Africans, Indians and coloured people and more than doubled for whites. The scope of interest in additional spectatorship has trebled for Africans, doubled for whites and increased less but nevertheless substantially among coloured people and Indians. The greatest amount of interest in increased activity is found in relation to activity performed on planned sportsfields.

All other areas of interest also show a more or less consistent tendency to reflect increases in desire for participation or spectatorship as well. In general the results suggest that a virtual expression of interest in sport and physical recreation has occurred over the fifteen year period.

This may be due in substantial measure to the effects of television in stimulating interest in sport by bringing it into the home. Even among whites, among whom one may have expected a level of activity approaching saturation, the increase in desire for additional activity or spectatorship has been dramatic over the period.

The results in table 2 must not be interpreted to reflect a probability or even a possibility of increased activity to commensurate with the increased interest. The responses reflect ideal or hypothetical desires. A host of factors intervene to make it unlikely that the desires expressed will be translated into additional recreational activity. The results provided in tables 3a, 3b and 3c illustrate the constraints on additional activity as such.

These three tables reflect the responses of whites, Indians and Africans in 1970 and 1978 to a probe as to why the respondents did not actively pursue the desires they expressed (the question was not able to be posed in 1985 due to time constraints).

Because the responses were linked to multiple choices of sports or recreational pursuits, the reasons tabulated in 3a, 3b and 3c are themselves multiple answers, summing to more than 100 percent. A perusal of the detailed results gives a picture of the complexity of personal and practical constraints which inhibit recreational activity.

TABLE 3a (Summary)

Percentages of the total AFRICAN population giving various reasons (grouped) for not taking up or watching new forms of sport or exercise or for not participating in or watching existing interests more frequently

GROUPED REASONS	Taking up new activities		Increasing existing activities		Watching new activities		Increasing existing watching		Sum	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978
General, personal, practical	9,6	40,5	0,6	50,4	16,2	28,2	2,2	22,9	28,6	14,2
Transport problems	0,4	0,8	-	0,8	0,3	3,8	0,2	2,3	0,9	7,7
Lack of facility	4,1	13,7	0,5	9,2	4,7	13,7	1,7	7,6	11,0	44,2

Note: detailed reasons follow below in the full table

TABLE 3a

Percentages of the total AFRICAN population giving various reasons for not taking up or watching new forms of sport or exercise or for not participating in or watching existing interests more frequently

REASONS FOR LIMITATION	Taking up new activities		Increasing existing activities		Watching new activities		Increasing existing watching		Sum	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978
Long work hours, overtime	1,0	5,3	0,3	7,6	1,1	2,3	0,3	2,3	2,7	17,5
Lack of time generally	3,5	3,1	0,1	9,9	7,1	6,1	0,5		8,2	19,1
Domestic duties and chores		2,3		3,8		0,8	0,1	1,5	0,1	8,4
Advanced age	0,3								0,3	
Health, disability	1,2	3,8	0,2	5,3	0,1	0,8	0,1	0,8	1,6	10,7
Financial reasons	1,1	5,3		6,9	2,3	5,3	0,5	6,1	3,9	23,6
Family commitments	0,4				1,1	0,8			1,5	0,8
Spouse, family unwilling					0,5		0,1		0,6	
No companions	0,1							0,8	0,1	0,8
Lack of incentive	0,3	0,8		4,6	0,3		0,1		0,7	5,4
Clash of interest	0,5	2,3		2,3	0,1			1,5	0,6	6,1
New to city, area					0,6				0,6	
Lack of first class sport					0,7	3,1		4,6	0,7	7,7
Parking problems										
Heat and weather										
No accoutrements/facilities		3,1		0,8						3,9
Personal safety risk		1,5		0,8		1,5		0,8		4,6
Social clash at club		0,8		0,8						1,6
Too tired		0,8		3,1						3,9
No info re time and place										
TV										
Rowdy elements and fights						1,5		1,5		3,0
Not allowed to by husband/parents								0,8		0,8
No teachers available		7,6		0,8						8,4
Not good at it		1,5								1,5
No light				0,8						0,8
Admin turmoil										
Because of Apartheid										
Other	1,2	2,3		3,1	2,3	6,1	0,5	2,3	4,0	13,8
Transport problems	0,4	0,8		0,8	0,3	3,8	0,2	2,3	0,9	7,7
No facilities at all	1,5	3,1	0,5	1,5	1,7	9,2	0,8	2,3	4,5	16,1
Limited facilities	0,8	1,5		2,3	1,2		0,6	0,8	2,6	4,6
Remoteness of facilities	1,0	8,4		5,3	1,8	4,6	0,3	4,6	3,1	22,9
Dont know of facilities	0,8	0,8							0,8	0,8



TABLE 3c (Summary)

Percentages of the total WHITE population giving various reasons (grouped) for not taking up or watching new forms of sport or exercise or for not participating in or watching existing interests more frequently

GROUPED REASONS	Taking up new activities		Increasing existing activities		Watching new activities		Increasing existing watching		Sum	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978
General, personal, practical	17,8	73,8	2,9	73,8	17,3	15,5	5,9	3,5	43,9	198,1
Transport problems	0,6	1,0	0,3	2,9	2,8	1,9	0,8	1,0	4,5	6,8
Lack of facility	3,9	11,7	1,3	16,5	2,5	3,9	0,8	5,8	8,5	37,9

Note: detailed reasons follow below in the full table.

TABLE 3c

Percentages of the total WHITE population giving various reasons for not taking up or watching new forms of sport or exercise or for not participating in or watching existing interests more frequently

REASONS FOR LIMITATION	Taking up new activities		Increasing existing activities		PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS				Sum	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	Watching new activities		Increasing existing watching		1970	1978
Long work hours, overtime	2,1	4,9	0,5	5,8	1,3	1,0	0,6	1,0	4,5	12,7
Lack of time generally	4,9	23,3	0,8	23,3	4,9	3,9	1,6	10,7	12,2	61,2
Domestic duties and chores	0,1	1,0		6,8	0,2			1,0	0,3	8,8
Advanced age	0,5	1,0	0,1						0,6	1,0
Health, disability	2,2	8,7	0,4	5,8	0,9		0,2		3,7	14,5
Financial reasons	1,6	7,8	0,2	7,8	1,3	1,0	0,6		3,7	16,6
Family commitments	1,7	5,8	0,2	3,9	1,9	3,9	0,6		4,4	13,6
Spouse, family unwilling	0,3		0,1		0,6		0,1		1,1	
No companions	0,2	1,9	0,1	1,9	1,4		0,3		2,0	3,8
Lack of incentive	1,0	5,8	0,1	2,9	0,9	1,0	0,1	4,9	2,1	14,6
Clash of interest	1,3	1,9	0,2	5,8	0,7	1,9	0,3	4,9	2,5	14,5
New to city, area	0,1			1,0	0,5		0,1		0,7	1,0
Lack of first class sport					0,7	1,0	0,6	6,8	1,3	7,8
Parking problems					0,2		0,1		0,3	
Heat and weather		1,9		1,0						2,9
No accoutrements/facilities		3,9		1,9						5,8
Personal safety risk		2,9								2,9
Social clash at club				1,9						1,9
Too tired				1,9						1,9
No info re time and place						1,0		2,9		3,9
TV						1,0				1,0
Rowdy elements and fights								1,0		1,0
Not allowed to by husband/parents										
No teachers available										
Not good at it										
No light										
Admin turmoil										
Because of Apartheid										
Other	1,8	2,9	0,2	1,9	1,8	0	0,7	1,9	4,5	6,7
Transport problems	0,6	1,0	0,3	2,9	2,8	1,9	0,8	1,0	4,5	6,8
No facilities at all	1,7	5,8	0,4	4,9	0,8		0,1	1,0	3,0	11,7
Limited facilities	0,8	1,0	0,4	3,9	0,7		0,3	1,0	2,2	5,9
Remoteness of facilities	1,0	3,9	0,4	6,8	1,0	3,9	0,4	3,9	2,8	18,5
Dont know of facilities	0,4	1,0	0,1	1,0					0,5	2,0



The interest in this report, however, is on the factor of spatial constraints on recreation. The reader is therefore directed to the summaries of the three tables in which responses (multiples) have been classified into three types. The second and third types are germane to the focus of this report. "Transport problems" obviously indicate a situation in which a particular activity has to be undertaken at a distance from home which is beyond the transportation resources or opportunities of the individual respondents. Lack of facilities is similar in the sense that opportunities to participate at venues convenient to the respondent do not exist. The other reasons are personal or practical factors beyond the scope of planning concerns and their content may be ignored for the moment.

In the summary tables all types of desire are summed in the right hand columns; ie, for new or increased active and passive recreation. The figures in the cells are percentages based on the numbers of constraints of different types, most especially transportation and facility constraints. The results taking only active pursuits imply the following:

**TABLE 4 RELATIVE AMOUNTS OF HYPOTHETICAL DESIRE FOR INCREASED ACTIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY PERCEIVED AS CONSTRAINED BY TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES OR LACK OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO RESPONDENTS**

	Africans		Indians		Whites	
	1970 %	1978 %	1970 %	1978 %	1970 %	1978 %
Aspiration constrained by:						
Transport	3	1	3	-	3	2
Facilities	30	20	70	42	19	16
Total constraint	33	21	73	42	22	18

These very broad results suggest that the constraining effect of remote or non-existent facilities was greatest for Indians in earlier years, followed with Africans and whites least constrained by these problems. The results also suggest, however that the extent of the constraint due to lack of or remoteness of facilities declined between 1970 and 1978 for Indians and Africans and that transportation problems declined for whites and Indians. The declining relative importance of these constraints is remarkable given the greatly increased interest or aspiration level between 1970 and 1978 reflected in table 2. Unfortunately it is impossible to say whether the relative importance of these external physical constraints would have shown a further decline had the same questions been asked in 1985.

It must also be emphasised that these results, given the somewhat small sample sizes in 1978, are tentative and suggestive rather than definitive. The consistency of the direction of the trends as well as the fact that one would have expected a higher level of external constraints given the increased level of aspirations are all somewhat reassuring. At least one may cautiously conclude that the constraining effect of facilities does not appear to have increased between 1970 and 1978.

The results in this section have suggested great scope for additional participation in a variety of forms of exercise and planned sport. It must be emphasised once again that in part this scope reflects intense interest in a multiplicity of activities by a minority in the populations. The great majority of adults still tend to pursue less structured or less active pursuits. The balance of interests between sport of a structured kind and less structured outdoor recreation is reflected in table 5, which gives a rank-ordering of preference among eleven very common outdoor or sporting pursuits.

The rankings in table 5 are based on "scores out of five" given to different activities by respondents in the 1985 surveys. It is clear that for whites, coloured people and Indians playing sport ranks last among the eleven activities. Among Africans the ranking is very substantially higher but still not in the top half of the rankings.

The results show that watching sport is the most popular pursuit among Indians and coloured people and the third most popular among Africans. Much of this interest is satisfied by viewing of sport on television. Detailed results presented also show that watching All-in Wrestling attracts a very substantial proportion (approximately 40 %) of the numbers of Indians and coloured people who watch sport outside of television viewing.

These comments on table 5 have been given in order to place earlier findings in some sort of perspective. In Durban the beaches, the resorts and a variety of activities for unstructured outdoor leisure are more salient than planned sportfields for the population at large. Demand for active sport, or the watching of it, at planned sportsfields of the cricket, tennis, bowls, rugby, soccer type exists among a very active minority in all population groups. It would be unwarranted therefore, to assume that the increases in interest in planned outdoor recreation, as reflected in table 2, is on an unlimited growth curve.

TABLE 5 RANK-ORDER OF POPULARITY OF A RANGE OF ELEVEN COMMON LEISURE PURSUITS BY RACE, 1985.

	Africans	Coloureds	Indians	Whites
Visiting city beaches	1	6	7	10
Relaxing at home/working in garden	2	10	9	5
Watching sport	3	1	1	6
Having a barbeque	4	2	6	1
Visiting out of town resorts/game parks	5	8	3	3
Visiting out of town beaches	6	7	10	4
Playing sport	7	11	11	11
Visiting a park	8	8	2	8
Going for walks	9	5	8	2
Picnicking	10	3	5	9
Going for drives	11	4	4	6

## 5 CONCLUSIONS FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

Broad conclusions from the evidence presented in this report are relatively easily drawn. All the data point to the fact that South Africans in all groups have become more interested in outdoor activity over the past seventeen years. The results in table 2 also indicate that the levels of interest in increased activity have drawn closer together for the different groups. The results of the on-site investigations reported in section 3 as well as the data in tables 3a, 3b, 3c and 4 indicate that blacks, coloureds and Indians are substantially more constrained by either lack of outdoor facilities (or remoteness of facilities) than is the case among whites.

These conclusions are very broad, however, and probably say nothing that planners do not already know. The original brief in this research programme was to establish standards for the provision of open space, and some attempt must be made in this direction.

The data available make it possible to attempt an estimation of desirable standards for blacks, coloureds and Indians. Whites present somewhat of a problem, as will be outlined presently.

It is proposed to attempt to estimate certain standards using a two pronged approach, in which the site survey data and the population survey estimates serve as checks on one another. The method used has many shortcomings, which will be pointed out. It is also a fairly "bastardised" approach using both qualitative interpretation and broad quantification. All-in-all it is far from ideal but it is probably the only approach which can be employed, given the available resources.

### 5.1 INCREASES IN AND STANDARDS FOR FACILITIES REQUIRED - PLANNED SPORTSFIELDS

In table 2 the additional "scope of interest" in activity on planned sportsfields was 77 percent for blacks, 75 percent for whites and 88/89 percent for coloureds and Indians. This, as already indicated was a hypothetical increase, based on loose aspiration as well as firm needs and desires. Those respondents who indicated a lack of time, family commitments and a host of other personal reasons were clearly in the category of people whose interest in additional activity was fanciful rather than real.

In table 4 estimates are presented of the proportion of the hypothetical increase referred to above which is limited by a lack of facilities or a lack of transport if local facilities are not available. Making the assumption that the constraining effect of facilities did not increase between 1978 and 1985 (it declined from 1970 to 1978) and assuming that the estimates for Indians can be taken to cover both Indians and coloureds, one can therefore estimate the effect of shortages of facilities on the scope of increased activity desired, as reflected in table 2.

One may calculate as follows:

Africans desire 77 percent more active sport on planned sportsfields in 1985 (table 2) of which 21 percent is constrained by lack of facilities or convenient facilities. Therefore the scope of increase desired which is linked to facilities is 21 percent of 77 percent, = 16 percent.

Among Indians and coloureds, there was an 89 percent increase desired, and the constraints linked to absence of facilities or convenient facilities was 42 percent, hence 42 percent of 89 percent = 37 percent.

The desired increase in relevant activity among whites was 75 percent in 1985, of which 18 percent was constrained by lack of facilities; 18 percent of 75 = 13,5 percent

These estimates, for 1985, therefore suggested that whites, Indians and Africans in the Durban area respectively required increases of 13,5, 37 and 16 percent in outdoor recreational facilities of a planned sportsfield type. These estimates are for the total metropolitan area. Given the sample sizes, any attempt to differentiate between different types of areas would have been extremely dangerous.

Taking Indian and coloured areas as a basis of calculation, the results of the site surveys showed a need to increase planned sportsfields from 155 to 224; an increase of 45 percent. This compares fairly closely with the 37 percent increase which the population survey data suggest. The two estimates are compatible when one considers that the site survey methodology was to identify needs for additional fields due to over-utilisation of existing facilities but without assuming that the new facilities would be used as intensively as existing facilities in the short run. The 45 percent increase therefore represents an estimate which is aimed at needs developing in the short to medium term. The lower estimate of 37 percent could be taken as a basis for assessing the increase required to satisfy immediate needs, but theoretically, would imply no reserve capacity in the facilities.

It would appear to make sound planning sense to make provision for some spare capacity in outdoor facilities since logs always occur in the development of new facilities to cope with population expansion. It is therefore suggested that a percentage increase midway between 37 percent and 45 percent be taken as a standard; ie 41 percent.

Using the 41 percent as a basis would imply an increase in fields in Indian and coloured areas from 155 to 219 fields. The Indian/coloured population of metropolitan Durban in 1985 was roughly 730 000, thus implying a need broadly for one playing field per every 3333 people in a community.

As regards Africans, calculations identical to those for Indian and coloureds, but substantiating the empirical data relevant to Africans, presented great difficulties. The desired increase in activity on playing fields was very low (16 percent) but people living in newer, far flung townships with virtually no recreational facilities (eg. KwaNdengezi) were not represented. The estimate of a 16 percent increase, therefore, applies only to the longer established townships like Lamontville, Umlazi, KwaMashu, Clermont, etc. The results of the site-surveys revealed a need for 53 more playing fields in the metropolitan area or an 88 percent increase. Even this large increase, however, when related to an estimated African township population in 1985 of 649 000 (total metropolitan area), resulted in a "standard" of one field per 5900 people.

This estimate is highly problematic simply because it would apply a differentiated standard as between Indians and coloureds, on the one hand, and Africans on the other. It can perhaps be argued that in part the difference could be ascribed to a different age-structure in the population and to lower income levels and longer working hours in the African population. Nevertheless, the nature of political perceptions today makes it highly undesirable to differentiate according to race.

Whites presented different and totally unsurmountable problems. There is such a multiplicity of private facilities for white outdoor recreation, and whites, given their very high level of motor-car ownership are so mobile, that any exercise attempting to specify standards for the provision of outdoor space for whites, along the lines attempted for other groups, is well nigh futile. Whites move around in search of recreation and concerns of quality weigh very heavily in their choice of recreational venues. They are certainly not limited to local areas as recreational outlets.

Most specifically, however, the utilisation of private and far-flung facilities by whites, many of which could not be surveyed in the site analysis (ie, tennis courts in private homes being the best example) that no broadly reliable base figure for present facilities could be arrived at.

In any event, had a calculation been undertaken for whites it would have produced results different to those for the other groups, once again raising the issue of differentiated standards according to race. For all these reasons a calculation for whites was not made.

After careful consideration, it would seem to be appropriate to adopt as a standard for the provision of open space for playing fields in suburban areas for all groups a figure midway between the standards calculated for Indians and coloureds and for Africans, allowing whites and an increasing proportion of affluent Indians to make up any deficit by utilising facilities in private homes, hotels, etc. This would imply a standard of one playing field per 4600 head of population of any group.

The estimate given above does not prescribe the uses to which such open space has to be put. There are clear differences between groups as regards preferences for types of playing fields. No exact figures can be given in this regard, but an inspection and interpretation of the results and trends in the various investigations over time, as well as the desires for increased activity recorded in recent studies, would suggest the following very broad ratios of sportsfields (not area) of different types:

	Africans	Coloureds	Indians	Whites
	%	%	%	%
Cricket	-	10	15	10
Soccer	40	30	40	7,5
Tennis	35	30	35	40
Rugby		5		7,5
Bowls				20
Other - Hockey				
Baseball, softball, netball, etc - (including Zulu dancing)	25	25	10	15
	100	100	100	100



Obviously the ratios of fields will differ from area to area since it may be impossible to accommodate all types of facilities at one site. The ratios above refer to the total distribution.

Furthermore, as stated above, the ratios refer to playing fields not ground area; the latter would have to be calculated from the carrying capacity of fields of different types (numbers of players differ according to the type of sport) as well as spectator needs, boundary areas, changeroom areas etc.

## 5.2 NEEDS FOR PARKS, PLAY LOTS AND OPEN SPACE

The site surveys showed very clearly that with very few exceptions, parks and open spaces were not used to capacity. These parks with restaurant facilities, good security, horticultural or other specific attractions (3005 aviaries) were well used and in the case of a park like Mitchell Park, possibly over-used on weekends and holidays.

A greater problem than over-utilisation was found to be the different purposes to which parks are put. Conflicting activities can give rise to friction, often manifesting as race-friction but not necessarily so.

In African, coloured and some Indian and white areas there are problems associated with loiterers who may or may not molest visitors. Vandalism is also a problem.

Given all these and other considerations discussed, as well as the result in the earlier 1970 research, an obvious conclusion is that any attempt to specify a quantitative standard for park-space is futile. The following conclusions are opposite:

- 1) there is a clear and consistent demand for parks, and parks, furthermore serve aesthetic purposes which extend far beyond the actual usage in terms of planned visits;
- 2) every suburb should have at least one park with sufficient space and horticultural attractions to attract visits on a planned basis;

- 3) in areas where loitering and vandalism could be a problem, the issue of security (sufficient attendants) is more important than the actual space;
- 4) the space in parks should allow for multiple uses. In African areas, for example, there should be secluded spots behind bushes for outdoor church services. Sections of parks should be set aside for children's activities and there should be facilities for picnicking. If possible there should also be restaurant or kiosk facilities;
- 5) In new working class housing areas and townships of substantial size open space should be concentrated in a single large park with the facilities above, rather than a series of smaller open spaces in different small neighbourhoods. A large park has a better chance of attracting large numbers of people and making commercial facilities viable. It would also allow the appointment of attendants who, in conjunction with the presence of larger numbers of the ordinary public, will help in reducing vandalism and the danger from loiterers and muggers.

What is being suggested is that parks should be designed as attractive, multi-purpose facilities serving fairly large suburban catchments. This would overcome the very typical under-utilisation of small open spaces and parks in suburban areas, and take some of the load off the very popular regional parks like Mitchell Park.

Large, well-equipped playlots need to be incorporated into these larger parks, so as to come under the surveillance of attendants. Most of the playlots in poorer areas have been so badly vandalised as to be unusable.

The site survey shows that all the African townships require one such large, multi-purpose park each. In the white, Indian and coloured areas selected suburban parks should be upgraded in the way described above.

Smaller parks on open spaces which serve as "lungs" and break the monotonous and concentration of housing are not primarily useful as venues for outdoor recreation. They are essential features of the city landscape, but the amount of land set aside for this cannot be calculated on the basis of utilisation, since they are generally under-utilised. These functions are ecological rather than recreational. The standards adopted in most major cities are adequate. In poorer areas, where the danger exists that such areas will become places in which hobo's lurk, they should be situated, if possible, so as to minimise the risk to innocent people who pass through them.

### 5.3 SWIMMING POOLS

Whites enjoy a high rate of ownership of private swimming pools and the trend discerned in the site surveys was for the utilisation of pools to be decreasing. Nevertheless, one pool for every moderately sized suburban region and more than one pool in extensive suburban areas was found to be an adequate standard. It is pointless to attempt to quantify this need in terms of pools per units of population since the issue is not so much one of the risk of over-utilisation in white areas but one of accessibility and convenience. A good rule of thumb would be that children should be able to walk or cycle to a local pool.

As regards Indians and coloured people, at the time of the site surveys there were eight pools and an assessment of the utilisation patterns showed the need to at least double the numbers of such pools. (This would exclude large, multi-racial regional pools such as Rachel Finlayson.) This would amount to one pool per roughly 45000 population.

In African townships a need exists for a minimum of 20 pools. The utilisation of pools is very intensive in African areas because children have fewer opportunities to go to the beach or on other outings. In addition, the age-structure in the population means that there are more children per 1000 population than in other groups. The result would be one pool per roughly 33000 population.

Once again, however, distinctions according to race are invidious and it would be most appropriate to standardise on an average for all races, ie, one pool per roughly 40000 population.

#### 5.4 ADDITIONAL REMARKS

This completes the review of the types of outdoor facilities for which a consideration of standards is appropriate and feasible. Other types of facilities are very space-intensive or are dependant on natural features such as water, bush or seaside, and are therefore not within the ambit of planning decisions as regards space needs. Some comments are perhaps in order, however.

Beach space is adequate now that deracialisation has occurred. Some of the non-racial beaches are still relatively under-utilised over normal weekends and therefore there is some room for the absorption of additional visitors. Beach attendance in the African population is growing steadily, however, and some subdivision of beaches (more lifesavers) will be required in due course. Space does seem to be available.

With increases in motor-car ownership in the black population, more and more people are likely to visit beaches up and down the coast, and this will take a load off the Durban beaches. More points of access to the sea need to be provided, particularly on the north coast, since people who visit these areas tend to want to escape crowded, noisy beaches and seek scenic beauty. It is essential that the available beaches should be protected from increased crowding by possibly negotiating with some of the larger sugar estates in order to develop more routes to the beach. With visits to out of town beaches the emphasis is less on swimming than on beach relaxation, so that no immediate need for lifeguards would exist. Adequate toilets and fresh water would be sufficient in new outlets in the early stages. This need is underscored by large numbers of cars parked by the roadside up the north coast over weekends. Often the parking is illegal and reflects the potential attraction of new outlets to the sea.

Golf courses are another amenity for which there is a demand. Golf courses require such large areas of space and are so expensive to maintain that setting standards would be inappropriate. In black areas they would cater for a small elite in any event. It can be anticipated, however, that three additional multi-racial golf courses will be required in the not too distant future; one towards the south, one towards the north and one towards the west of the city.

The need for more specialised amenities, like additional slipways for yachting has been mentioned in an earlier section. What has become apparent during the course of the research and which has not been mentioned before, however, is that Durban needs certain popular outdoor venues containing specific features. The following needs are most apparent, all of them for multi-racial amenities.

- a large, semi-natural picnic area with sufficient growth to allow relative privacy;
- more river-camping facilities;
- a zoological garden;

In conclusion it can be said that Durban is relatively well-served with outdoor recreational amenities and a greater degree of public satisfaction is probably well within the capacity of the local authorities to provide. The most critical areas of need are in the large black township areas, particularly those located inland. In the case of African areas they are recreational deserts and no time should be wasted in taking steps, possibly on a joint basis between Natal and KwaZulu, to develop appropriate amenities in or near these areas.

The attempts in this report at formulating quantitative standards for the provision of outdoor recreational space are quite clearly subject to all manner of weaknesses. They are at best approximations and no firm claims can be made as regards their validity. They are, however, the best that can be achieved on the basis of the available superficial findings. If they are ever implemented in planning, they should be monitored very carefully.

**APPENDIX 1**

**DURBAN METROPOLITAN RECREATIONAL SURVEY UPDATE**

APPENDIX I

DURBAN METROPOLITAN RECREATIONAL SURVEY UPDATE

Facility (details)

Address

Area

- I. Description: No of fields/courts/greens etc for each activity  
eg. soccer fields 7

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

2. Area of Total Open Space.  
(Measure each boundary and provide rough diagram.)(For swimming pools,  
obtain measurement of pool.)

3. Peak Usage - Regular (ie Weekends or after work)  
In order to cater for all the people that would like to use the facility,  
is the present facility:  
a) Too large  
b) Just adequate  
c) Too small

4. If c). How much extra space/no of fields/courts etc should be provided at  
this moment to make the facility comfortably adequate. (Specify separately  
for different activities.)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

5. How many visitors are estimated to use the facility at peak periods. (Try to specify for each activity.)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

6. Are there any activities where the usage is increasing? Obtain estimates of usage now compared with one year ago.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7. Please mention any problems connected with the public use of facilities - eg. vandalism, upkeep problems, costs, security, members of different race groups wishing to use facilities, etc.

8. (PARKS AND PLAYLOTS)

(Interviewer: If no person is in charge of park or playlot, please go to two or three houses on the edge of facility and ask for a description of usage along the lines of the questions above.)



-3-

9. (ALL RESPONDENTS)  
What in your view are the needs for additional open-space facilities  
(eg. facilities for young people, adults, facilities for domestics, etc)?

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APPENDIX II

MUNICIPALITIES

Explain purpose and show letter.

1. Over the past 10 years, what open-space recreational areas have been developed by the municipality or by private clubs or agencies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. As far as the development of undeveloped open space is concerned, what are the expected future developments and when roughly are these likely to occur?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How are or have the needs for development being assessed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What additional open-space facilities are necessary in your area, and what is likely to happen as regards providing them?

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