



**By 2030 eThekweni will be Africa's  
most caring and liveable city**



## **An Assessment of Homelessness in Urban Parks: a Review of Three eThekweni Park Case Studies and a Proposed New Urban Park Social Model.**

# Purpose statement and vision of eThekweni Municipality

.....creating an enabling environment for all citizens to utilise their full potential, and access opportunities which will enable them to contribute towards a vibrant and sustainable economy with full employment, and thus create a better quality of life for all.

Vision by 2030 to be the most caring and liveable city in Africa, where all citizens live in harmony.

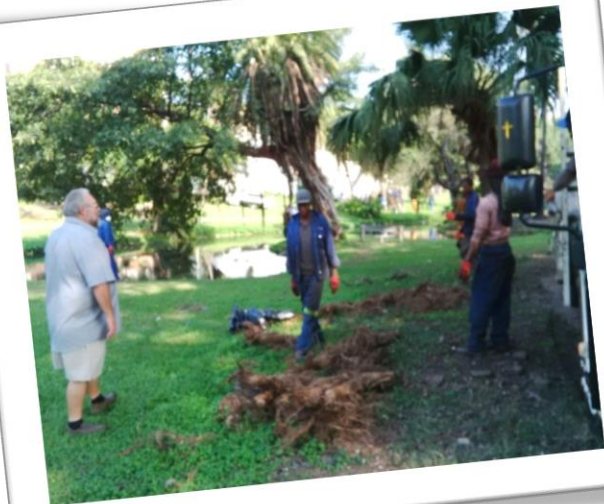




# “Our City, Our safety, Our Responsibility”



# A clean and green City is an attractive City





## Homelessness

The term "homeless" refers to someone who is usually poor and frequently on the move from one temporary dwelling situation to another. Many slang words are used to describe such a person: *squatter*, *hobo*, *vagrant*. Homeless people live in various spaces, under freeway overpasses, sleeping in parks, dilapidated buildings, subway tunnels, on sidewalks, etc.



# Major reasons and causes of homelessness

- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Lack of affordable housing
- ☐ Lack of accessible healthcare
- ☐ Migration, either domestic or foreign into the country



# ***City Reclaims Its Public Spaces by Conducting Major Clean-Ups.***

***In an effort to root out crime and grime, eThekweni Municipality has intensified its daily multi-disciplinary enforcement operations to clear and clean-up areas in the Municipality that have been taken over by homeless people.***

<https://www.durban.gov.za/.../City-Reclaims-its-Public-Spaces-by-Conducting-major-..>





# Challenges facing the policing of illegal squatting in parks

- ❑ According to Section 24 of the Constitution of Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, **the purpose of protecting a park** is to provide clean air for the public and to conserve nature for future generations.
- ❑ **Squatters** in these areas becomes a problem because they do not have the necessary infrastructure for healthy living, which includes decent housing, electricity, refuse removal, sanitation and water supply.
- ❑ Squatters often cut down trees in parks in order to make fires, and carry out **activities regarded as offensive** in public spaces e.g. washing their clothes & bathing.





# Improving Parks & Open Spaces

- ☐ Major clean-up campaigns
- ☐ Clear-cutting overgrown brush
- ☐ Encouraging private property owners to secure vacant lots and buildings
- ☐ Removing street furniture
- ☐ Managing feeding scheme for homeless people
- ☐ Working with land use enforcement officers
- ☐ Fencing open spaces
- ☐ Removal of debris





## Albert Park – Case study 1



## Qalakabusha Intervention Programme:



### The 7 Pillar Intervention:

- ☐ Outreach and Reception Services
- ☐ Screening and Psycho Social Support
- ☐ Treatment and Rehabilitation
- ☐ Skills Development & Employment Opportunities
- ☐ Identity Documents and Birth Registration
- ☐ Reunification and Reintegration
- ☐ Shelters and Halfway Houses

- ☐ Part of the Clean My City Campaign aimed at addressing social ills that exist in the Albert Park area in order to make it safer, cleaner and more attractive.
- ☐ Municipality aims to eliminate vagrancy, loitering and drug-abuse in the Albert Park area. Various intervention strategies have been identified.



## Intervention at Bulwer Park – Case study 2



- ☐ **‘Heart of the Park’** a multi-functional space was designed.
- ☐ **Upgraded playground areas** to generate a’ child and parent destination: ‘Play with Art’.
- ☐ **Create an amphitheatre**
- ☐ **Create an attractive pedestrian movement system**

Bulwer Park Upgrade is a pilot project of the municipality’s Sustainable Public Spaces Program which directly supports the Integrated Development Plan’s (IDP) Quality Living Environment Plan.

**‘Bulwer Park is retained as a valuable green space that offers opportunities for recreation, conservation and attractive creative spaces for community events, that will complement the site and create a unique identity reflective of the surrounding uses and community aspirations.’**

## **The following deliverables was implemented:**

- ☐ Multi-purpose footpath
- ☐ Outdoor gym equipment
- ☐ New lighting, benches, bins and drinking fountains
- ☐ Removal of selected exotic trees, tree lifting and pruning





## Intervention at Congella Park – Case study 3:



### Challenges:

- ☐ littering
- ☐ illegal dumping
- ☐ vandalism and homeless occupation





**Clean-up Day  
&  
Congella Park  
11 August 2016  
9H30 - 13H00**



**District 7 - Parks Department:**  
**Jennifer Rampersad**  
**031 3224085**  
**0762092917**  
**[jennifer.rampersad@durban.gov.za](mailto:jennifer.rampersad@durban.gov.za)**



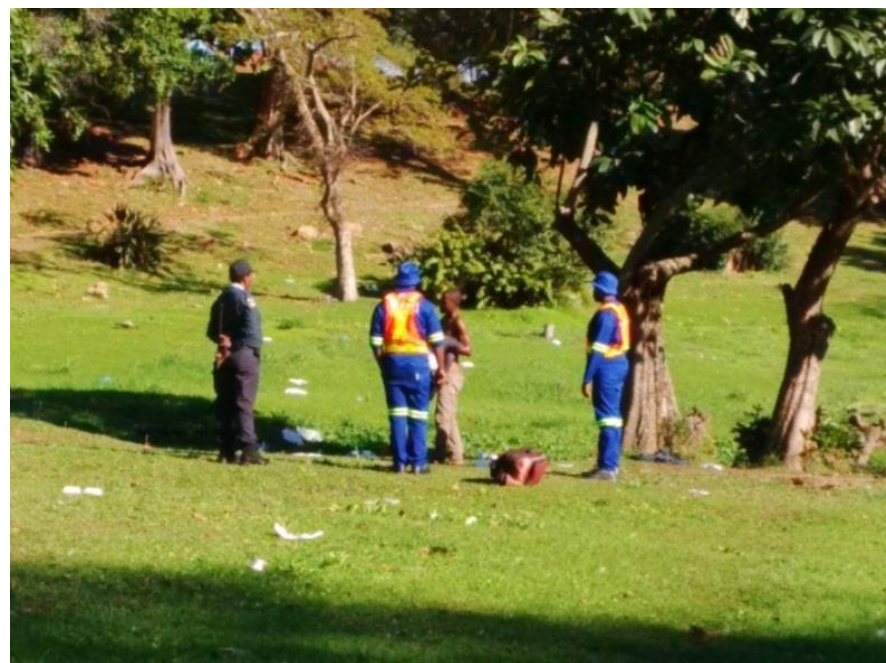
## Clean-up @ Congella Park with stakeholders



Daily general maintenance operations are in line with the Clean-up programme to address social ills in our Park as part of on-going interventions to deal with the homeless people.



## Law enforcement officers, SAPS and Metro Police conducts daily by-law enforcement operations



Concerned residents who live in the area say they are too afraid to walk in the park because vagrants are frequently intoxicated, and have no regard for the fauna and flora in the area.



## After a clean-up at Congella Park

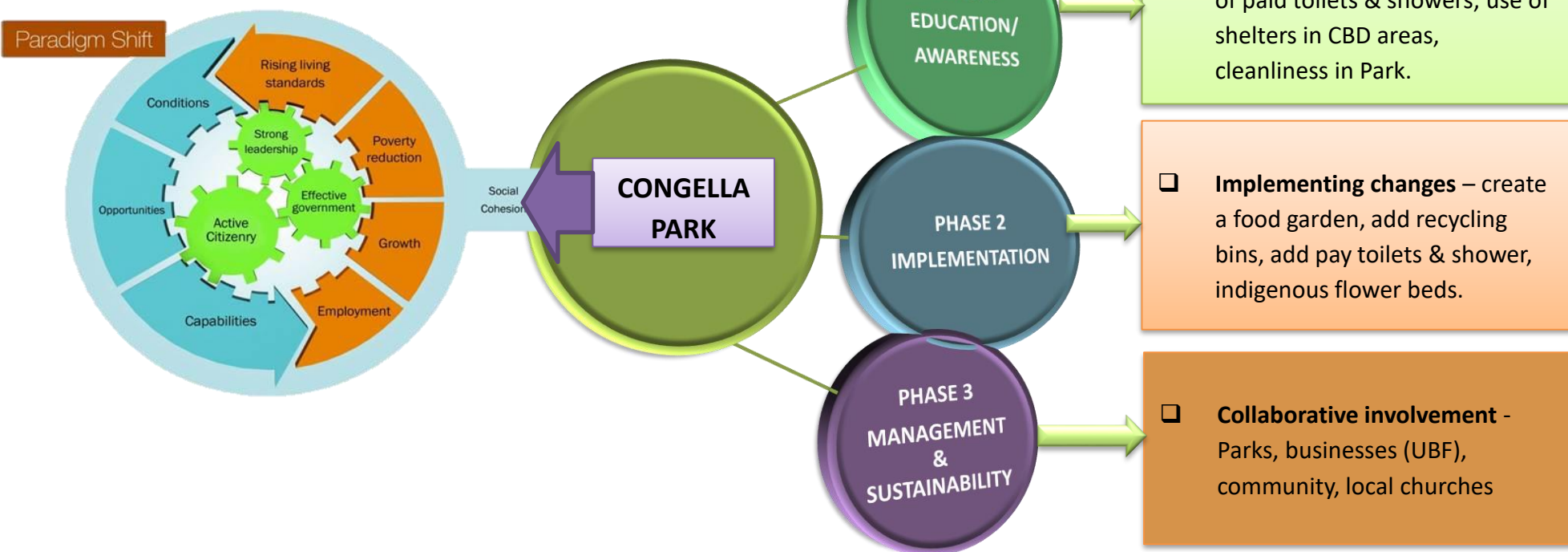






**Promoting and sustaining public private partnership with communities, businesses, church groups**

# Working towards a New Urban Park Social Model







## Quality Living Environmental Plan: Congella Park

- ☐ Landscape design and improved functionality and aesthetics
- ☐ Addressing homelessness in Congella Park by educating people, keeping the park neat & clean and enforcing by-laws.
- ☐ Installing toilet and shower facilities for the transient poor.
- ☐ Service be charged at nominal rates.
- ☐ Restaurants and shops buying fresh vegetables could also donate food to the poor.

# Learning from NGO's: Denis Hurley Centre



- ☐ Serves the needs of the poorest people of Durban.
- ☐ Honour and co-operate with people of all faith traditions.
- ☐ Welcome South Africans, migrants and refugees.
- ☐ Offer services through their clinic, feeding scheme, vocational training, educational and community support, and pastoral outreach.





# Diakonia Centre

... home of social agencies committed to justice, peace and development.

**Diakonia is dedicated to building a foundation** for those in crisis or who are homeless while maintaining their dignity and respect, providing hope and assistance and helping them change the direction of their lives, one step at a time.

The services Diakonia provides are funded through support from individuals, local civic organizations, churches, foundations.





I Care is involved in the rehabilitation of street kids. I Care is a Christian organisation which, through its cycle provides love, accommodation, schooling, spiritual guidance, removal from the street and reintegration into the community.



## Sustainability Plans



- ☐ Parks department responsible for maintenance.
- ☐ Promoting recycling.
- ☐ Promote adopt-a-spot campaign.
- ☐ Promoting and sustaining public private partnership: Community, Businesses, Ward Committees, Environmental Forum
- ☐ Enable event programme to restore park as a vibrant public place

## Points for reflection....

- ☐ Is there is a workable policy for homeless people?
- ☐ What is the future of homelessness?
- ☐ How do we solve homelessness in a meaningful and dignified manner?

