



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD



## Smart Parks – An Approach to Planning of Public Parks

IERM 2015 - Johannesburg

City Parks Department  
**Planning and Development Unit**

Community Services  
City of Cape Town  
Bradley Burger



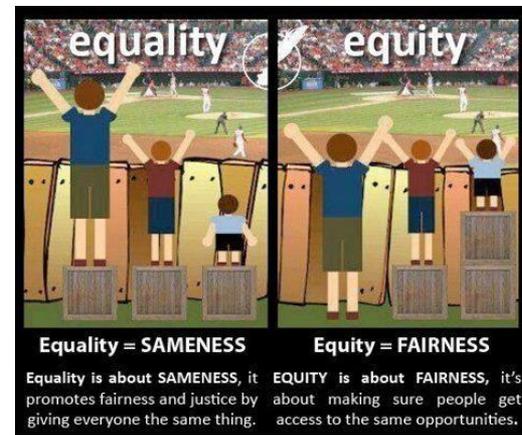
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  - NY110, Gugulethu



# 1. Introduction – why?

- Cape Town's 'green' spaces
- Vision to action





LEFT: FOR KIDS: Parents say the park means their children don't have to play in the street.

The Gugulethu Smart Park is the third of several parks across the greater Cape Town that the Cape Argus will be featuring over the coming weeks

# Popular area for all, to park off, play and exercise

**John Bantsho**  
 The City of Cape Town has opened the third of several parks across the greater Cape Town that the Cape Argus will be featuring over the coming weeks. The park, known as the Gugulethu Smart Park, is located in the Gugulethu township, a densely populated area in the southern part of the city. The park is a multi-use facility, offering a range of recreational and sporting opportunities for all ages. It features a large grassy area, a playground, a basketball court, and a tennis court. The park is also equipped with modern exercise equipment and a water feature. The opening of the park is a significant milestone for the City of Cape Town, as it demonstrates the city's commitment to providing high-quality recreational facilities for its residents. The park is expected to become a popular destination for families and individuals looking to enjoy outdoor activities and exercise.



BACK TO PLAY: The City says it is upgrading the park, adding clubs, lounge areas, two new soccer fields and a basketball hall.



IN CHARGE: Culbert Magadela is the caretaker at the NY110 Gugulethu Smart Park.



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PLAY: Kids (above) and adults (right) enjoy the park's facilities.



## 2. Guide for Investment

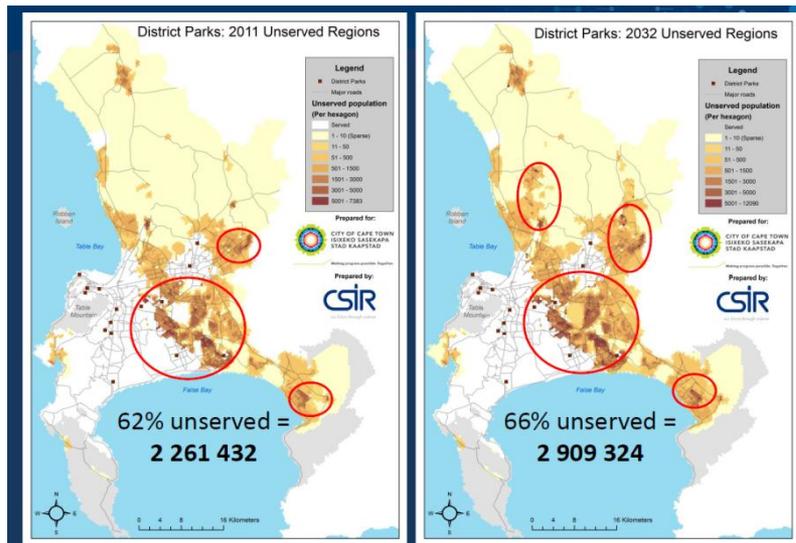
### Principles

- Focus on developing and upgrading parks in the most **underserved communities** to facilitate equitable access to parks at a city wide scale.
- Develop selected **high quality, unique and user friendly** parks that respond to the recreational needs of the communities they serve
- Contribute to **integrated public investment** in parks and other infrastructure and promotes partnerships which seek to maximise the use of limited resources



## 2. Guide for Investment – where?

- Research and modelling
- Underserved areas
- Spatial informants
- Priority investment areas



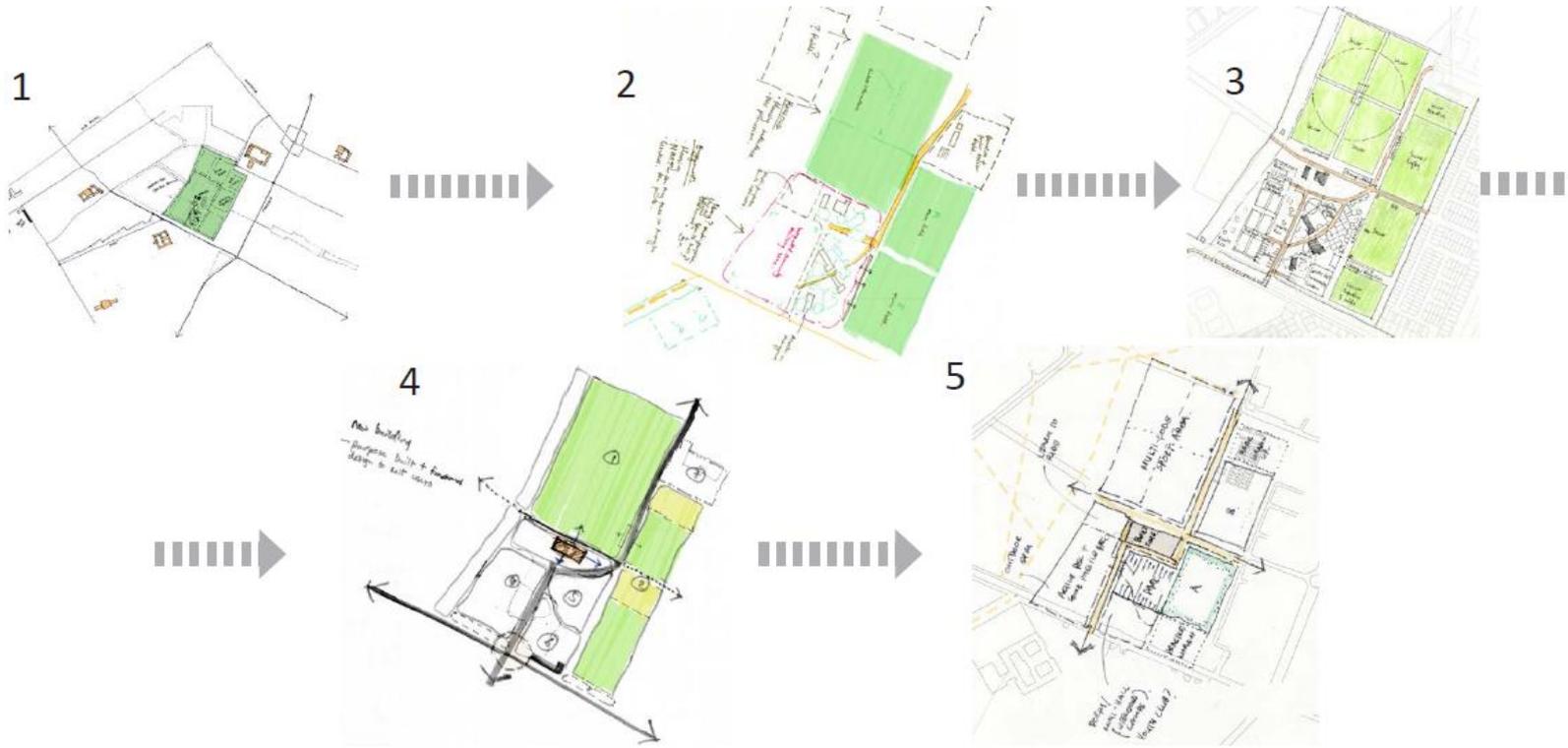
### 3. Fundamental Elements and Method

- **Team** – multidisciplinary team
- **Design approach**– respect context & 'fit', simplicity, robustness
- **Participative** - workshops with residents, workshops with kids
- **Quality & impact** - design, materials, something special



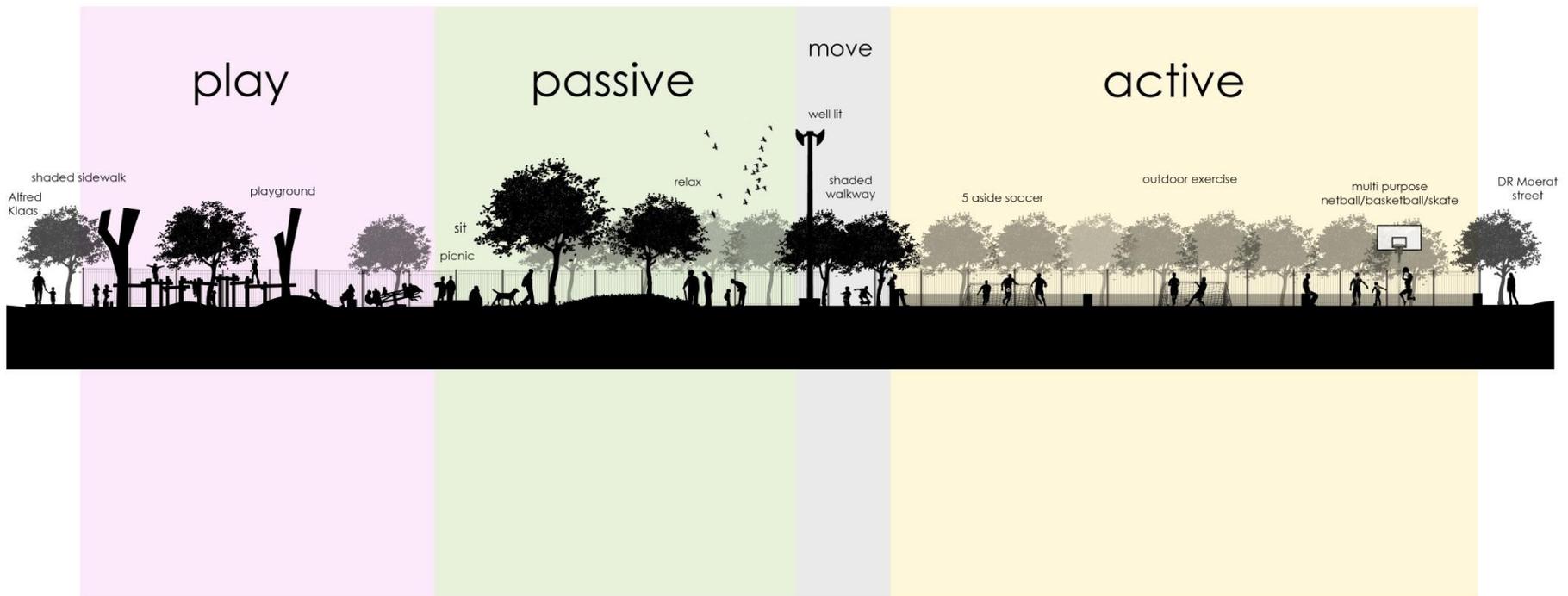
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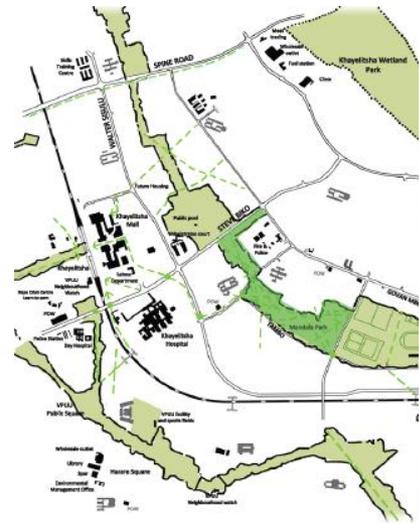
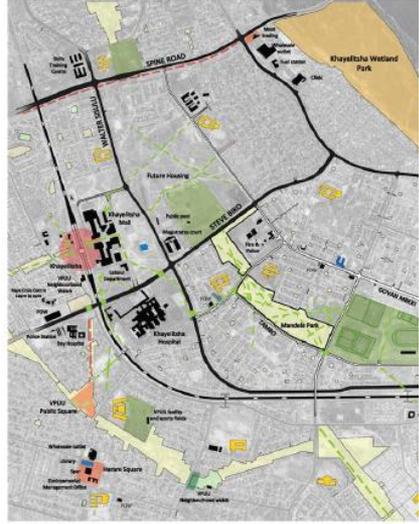


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## 4. Smart Park Projects – Mandela Park, Khayelitsha



# PARK UPGRADE & DEVELOPMENT MANDELA PARK, KHAYELITSHA



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ACTIVE AREAS

RELAXATION/PICNIC AREAS

PLAY AREAS

# 4. Smart Park Projects – Mandela Park, Khayelitsha



PHASE ONE



MOVEMENT



PASSIVE RECREATION



ACTIVE RECREATION



PLAY

## 4. Smart Park Projects – Mandela Park, Khayelitsha



## 4. Smart Park Projects – Mandela Park, Khayelitsha







MANDELA PARK







# PUBLIC OPEN SPACE UPGRADE SYMPHONY WAY TRA, DELFT



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CENTRAL PARK UPGRADE



ACTIVE AREAS

RELAXATION/PICNIC AREAS

PLAY AREAS

## 4. Smart Parks Projects - Symphony Way Park, Delft



## 4. Smart Parks Projects - Symphony Way Park, Delft



# 4. Smart Parks Projects - Symphony Way Park, Delft



## Smart Park has brightened up their lives, say residents

**Staff Writer**

**BLIKKINDORP** residents have welcomed the opening of a Smart Park as a beacon of hope in the impoverished and crime-ravaged settlement.

The Smart Parks concept is a World Design Capital project that uses "design-led" thinking to help transform the way public spaces are developed, according to Belinda Walker.

The Blikkindsorp park, which opened earlier this month, includes paving, low-wall seating, large trees to provide shade, and picnic sites.

The Smart Park project has been piloted in Blikkindsorp, Khayelitsha and Gugulethu.

"I feel that this park is the only sort of tangible hope we have here. It is so beautiful and my children simply love it. I went there a few times for a picnic and it is really nice. We don't have to go the long way to enjoy ourselves," Blikkindsorp resident Naresma Solie said.

Another resident, Bill Plimley, said the park would keep children off the streets.

"Finally the kids have something to make their world a bit brighter. We love this park. Blikkindsorp was built at a cost of roughly R30 million by the city in 2007 under the municipality of Helen Zille. It was meant to be a temporary relocation area, but now contains approximately 1 600 one-room structures," he said.

Each Smart Park would include custom-made play areas with robust play equipment.

Walker said, "We want to develop cre-

## City is getting smart with parks so residents can have more fun

**BELENDIA WALKER**

**SOCIETIES** today are committed to the idea of "smarter" things. Whether it involves impressing friends with the latest smart phone, using a smart tablet to read a timeless classic, or even joining the faculty to watch a movie on a newly received smart television, "smarter" is regarded as the trend to follow.

The City Parks Department has caught on to this trend. It has initiated innovative projects that apply what it means to be "smarter" in the planning, design and creation of new parks in Cape Town.

The concept of Smart Parks is one of the city's World Design Capital (WDC) 2014 projects demonstrating how by applying design-led thinking, we can improve people's lives. It seeks to improve transport for areas of highest need, and focuses on getting the basic right, and then that are both structurally sound and creatively designed.

Smart Parks provide inclusivity, social interaction and the unique spaces for children to play. These parks will provide them with a space to call their own.

Studies have shown that play and recreational activities are critical to children's development. Each of the parks will include custom made play areas incorporating the latest ideas also involving a fun experience that sparks the imagination of children and encourages them to be active.

The play areas will be state-of-the-art, with creative and creative play equipment similar to that provided in the Green Point Urban Park.

The Symphony Way Park in Blikkindsorp has at its core a focus on children, thus in central and accessible position. Trees, paving, low wall seating and picnic sites will add value to the park and provide places for people to meet and socialise.

Essentially a previously difficult environment will be transformed into a comfortable and interesting recreational space.

The two larger Smart Parks - NYD Park in Gugulethu and Mandela Park in Khayelitsha - will offer a host of services for residents to visit these parks.

For those who enjoy spending their free time being active, sports facilities will be available in the form of multi-purpose courts and basketball areas. For those who are just looking to relax outdoors, comfortable seating and picnic sites will be a network of pathways.

City Parks set out to investigate the activities and features that would draw residents to the park.

Meaningful engagement is critical to the building community ownership and a sense of pride. This is seen in the commitment to the park's long-term sustainability.

Continued public engagement for the first Smart Parks, the Gugulethu Smart Park will include outdoor gym equipment at the expense of the local community.

The community of Mandela Park specifically for exercise that does not require equipment, such as aerobics and yoga. The park will also include an amphitheatre for use as an outdoor education site and is expected to be popular with the two nearby schools.

In each of these parks, large trees will be planted in order to give them an immediate sense of place and a source of shade.

The amenities provided for construction demonstrate our commitment to the well-being of our residents. The City Parks Department hopes to ensure that accessibility, safety and convenience are all elements associated with the Smart Parks concept, and that community ownership and enjoyment of the smart parks are enjoyed by everyone in this new Smart Parks.

● Alderman Walker is the mayor and committee member for community services and special projects for the City of Cape Town.



# PARK UPGRADE & DEVELOPMENT

## NY110 PARK, GUGULETHU



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PLAY AREAS

RELAXATION/PICNIC AREAS

ACTIVE AREAS

## 4. Smart Park Projects – NY110, Gugulethu











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The Gugulethu Smart Park is the third of several parks across the greater Cape Town that the Cape Argus will be featuring over the coming weeks

# Popular area for all, to park off, play and exercise

**John Rumbold**  
 Cape Argus  
 The City of Cape Town has spent millions of dollars on building parks across the city. The Gugulethu Smart Park is the third of several parks across the greater Cape Town that the Cape Argus will be featuring over the coming weeks. The park is a popular area for all, to park off, play and exercise. It features a variety of play equipment, including a large circular structure, a climbing wall, and a sandpit. The park is also a popular area for exercise, with a variety of fitness equipment and a basketball court. The park is a great place for families to spend time together and for people to get some exercise. The park is also a great place for people to meet and greet. The park is a great place for all.



IN CHARGE: Culbert Magadela is the caretaker at the NY110 Gugulethu Smart Park.



BACK TO PLAY: The City says it is expanding the park, adding climbing gyms, tree-view boardwalk and a basketball hoop.



FOR KIDS: Culbert Magadela is the caretaker at the NY110 Gugulethu Smart Park.

