



Outer Space LA + UD

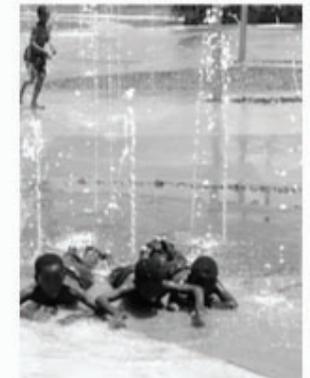
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# Outer Space

## LA + UD

Landscape Architects + Urban designers





LARGE SCALE URBAN



COMMERCIAL



HERITAGE /CULTURAL

## ABOUT US

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Outer Space Landscape Architects (Pty) Ltd is an award-winning landscape architecture firm based in Johannesburg and Cape-Town.

The scope of our work includes a wide variety of landscape architectural design and planning work, from environmental planning, visual assessments, large scale master planning and urban design to a detailed garden design. These specialist services include design, planning, reporting, supervision and project management.

We pride ourselves on our ability to implement our client's vision within the budget and time constraints, whilst also creating spaces that embrace the terrain in a functional, sustainable, contextual appropriateness and artistic distinctiveness. Our team consistently strives for a product that meets an exceptional professional standard.

We draw upon a vast array of landscape design influences namely André Le Nôtre, Michael Angelo, Roberto Burle Marx and Luis Barragán.

Sustainability and site appropriateness inform our design philosophy which ensures that our projects have a positive impact on the environment and people they serve.

We aspire to follow the ethics and standards set out by the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP).

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# BRIXTON SOCIAL CLUSTER

| Commercial |



Fig 11 Graphic illustration of ph 2 play area: 5-a side + gathering



Fig 13 Pedestrian boulevard, community hall facade



Fig 14 Pedestrian boulevard, Olea africana trees



Fig 15 Spectator seating overlooking multipurpose courts



Fig 16 Spectator stands + planters



Fig 12 Graphic illustration of phase 2 play area: chess node + outdoor gym

Budget: R4 000 000  
Client: Johannesburg Development Agency  
Architect: Ikemeleng Architects  
Completed: Ongoing

Brixton is an old working-class Johannesburg suburb that has experienced gentrification over the years. As part of a larger strategy to revive the area and its surrounds, the Johannesburg Development Agency on behalf of the City of Johannesburg aims to revitalise the community's recreational infrastructure with upgrades to the Brixton Park and the construction of additional sports and recreational facilities.

Outer Space Landscape Architects was appointed in January 2019 to spearhead the landscape architectural design when the upgrade of the Brixton Social Cluster was already underway. This posed some challenges as the master plan had already been finalised by Ikemeleng Architects and required the design team of Outer Space Landscape Architects to work within a set of predetermined factors.

The landscape architecture required the establishment of pedestrian circulation, hardscaping, the planting of indigenous trees, installation of street furniture and assisting the contractor with any other landscape-related elements such as paving, storm water runoff, softscaping, as well as soil, drainage and level issues.

Materials were locally-sourced and chosen for their sturdiness. Because vandalism is a major challenge, a lot of the infrastructure needed to be theft-proof with the option of being easily and inexpensively replaced. Therefore, the street furniture was either mounted or cast in, while easily replaceable paving material, bollards, dustbins and drinking fountains were utilised so that these could be replaced by the Johannesburg Development Agency should the need arise.

With South Africa being a water-scarce country, it was important to plant vegetation that was water-wise, indigenous and low maintenance.

The Outer Space Landscape Architects design team were successfully able to work within the parameters of the master plan, while also offering knowledgeable assistance where needed. One such instance was the installation of the soccer field. Unfortunately, the earthworks on this feature needed to be redone as the surface had not been adequately prepared to allow the lawn to grow correctly.

# HORWOODS FARM - PH 1

| Large scale urban park |

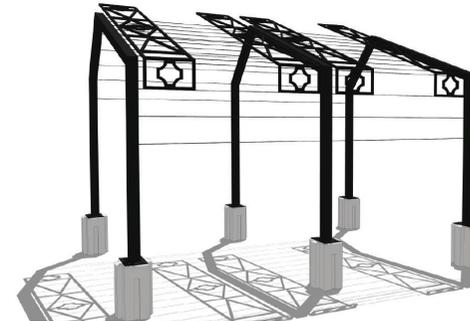


Fig 17 Market structures



Fig 18 3D Illustration overlooking "pump track/skatepark", pedestrian circulation, new trees & formalised parking



Fig 19 Master plan, phase 1 + phase 2

Budget for Phase 1: R8 930 000  
Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
Phase 1 completed: 2019  
Estimated Budget for Phase 2: R13 million

This farm was used by its owners, the Horwoods, as a picnic spot for family get-togethers. Today, the space is still used by the public for a similar purpose and hosts a monthly community-led farm market. Despite this bustling activity, Horwood's Farm still experiences a number of challenges including vandalism, neglect, littering and loitering of vagrants. In an effort to revive the farm, the City of Ekurhuleni appointed Outer Space Landscape Architects to design and implement a regeneration strategy to upgrade the infrastructure, improve site circulation and connectivity, and reactivate previously unused areas through activities.

The master plan would see Horwood's Farm upgraded in two phases. The first phase was completed by Outer Space Landscape Architects in August, while the client has not yet appointed an architect to continue with phase two. During phase one, major earthworks and site clearance took place on the southern side of the park. Paved walkways were created to improve pedestrian circulation and the parking was formalised. The parking upgrade saw the installation of bioswales for the irrigation of plants. The farm already had an existing informal amphitheatre structure, but it was not well placed making it visually secluded.

The decision was made by the design to reposition it in a more prominent area. To improve the reactivation of dormant areas of the farm, a mixed collection of activities was installed.

In phase two of the master plan, Outer Space Landscape Architects has made provision for further site clearance on the northern side of the farm with the intention of repurposing existing ablution facilities and market stalls and the installation of additional structures. There is also the addition of a new storeroom and guardhouse, as well as street furniture. The master plan also includes supplementary vehicle and pedestrian circulation with formalised brick paving, additional irrigation and play equipment.

# COCT (CITY OF CAPE TOWN): SURRAN PARK

| Large scale urban |



Fig 20 3D illustration of envisioned multipurpose courts, 5-a side and play areas



Fig 21 3D illustration of envisioned entrance walls & pedestrian circulation into park



Fig 22 Master plan

Surran Park is situated in gang conflict area. It is an existing Park with existing infrastructure. The fencing has been vandalised due to closing off certain access points. This must be considered in the future design. The challenge for this park is to consolidate the existing features and pedestrian routes into a holistic design.  
 The brief given by the client is develop "Conceptual landscape design for Surran road Park. Design must make provision for a 540m<sup>2</sup> multi-purpose sports court and a 5-a-side soccer pitch with artificial turf. Low seating walls at the existing stage area. Please incorporate paving in-between and around the sport surfaces"



Fig 23 + Fig 16 Bird's eye view of envisioned design.





# BOKSBURG LAKE

| Large scale urban park/ environmental |



Fig 33 Master Plan



Fig 34 Steps into amphitheatre & overlooking dam



Fig 35 a & b: Play area (South)

Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
Budget: R15 000 000  
Completed: 2015/2016

Boksburg Lake was built as a dam in the 1800s and therefore has an extensive history in the greater Johannesburg area. In recent years, however, it has fallen victim to neglect, so in an effort to revitalise the area, Outer Space Landscape Architects was brought on board by the City of Ekurhuleni to revitalise the lake and its surrounds. This regeneration project of one of the city's major green lungs would take place in three phases to the tune of R15 million. By reviving this recreational community space in the Boksburg Central Business District, the City of Ekurhuleni hopes it will be the catalyst for urban renewal in the area. The project was completed in three phases with the first starting in 2015/2016 (there's a discrepancy over the dates quoted on the website and the one included in the press release by Estelle Cooper). Major earthworks took place during phases one and two, so as to enlarge the park's utility surface and make way for further development.

This included the removal of an unauthorised arterial road used by motorists to avoid traffic; this exercise increased the park's size by 10 000 square metres. Other features included the installation of perimeter fencing and controlled access points, a network of three-metre wide brick-paved walkways to steer pedestrian traffic, as well as a 500-seater multipurpose amphitheatre. In the construction of these facilities, the design team thought it important to recognise both the city's rich vernacular Highveld architectural legacy with the use of red clay brick and sandstone elements – both distinctive features of Boksburg's buildings. While having a sentimental purpose, these materials are also functional in that they are robust in their ability to withstand the elements and general wear-and-tear that comes with high usage.

The final phase saw the installation of recreational facilities such as a climbing wall, jungle gyms, swings, gym equipment, mini soccer fields and basketball courts. Braai areas were also established. The use of environmentally sound ecological principals has played a role in the greening of the nine-hectare park. Reed beds have been introduced to filter the lake's water and improve its aquatic health, while water-friendly and indigenous high veld plant species such as acacia and wild olive trees have been planted throughout. In addition, solar lights have been installed with the aim of improving security in the park while keeping electricity costs at a minimum. In time, it's intended that Boksburg Lake will once again return to its former glory while providing its surrounding community and future generations an outdoor recreational



# GILLOOLY'S FARM

| Large scale urban |



Fig 36 Climbing wall & play area



Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
Budget: R12 000 000  
Completed: 2017

Gillooly's Farm was sold to the city in 1944. At 44-hectares, this urban green lung is popular amongst hikers and birders in Johannesburg. It is also often the setting for various family gatherings such as children's birthday parties and picnics. The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's Environmental Development and Metro Parks Division

sought to upgrade the farm to a premium quality park and appointed Outer Space Landscape Architects to develop a master plan with the intention of enhancing the existing facilities. The design team considered the farm's large space and how the area was being underutilised by visitors.

Because there is not a one-size-fits-all to a park's layout, Outer Space Landscape Architects had to take the needs of different individuals into account by determining how the park is currently used and how a new design could improve the user's current experience.

The design team determined that the farm's upgrade would only require a single phase. This would include a network of paved walkways to connect various parts of the park. There is also a lack of seating and so benches, tables and braai facilities were included in the design. Other elements in the master plan were fencing, bird island built into the existing lake, amphitheatre, gazebo, playground and water play park, jogging and hiking trails, and outdoor gym.

The farm's existing parking structure would be upgraded and expanded. This project has not yet been implemented as the client has not yet received approval for the environmental impact assessment and water-use licence.

Fig 37 3D illustration of pedestrian circulation around dam  
Fig 38 Amphitheatre



Fig 39 Master plan

# SPRUITVIEW PARK

| Large scale urban |

WINNER: 2011 ILASA Awards of Excellence + SALI Gold award



Fig 40 Entrance signage by community members

Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
 Budget: R12 600 000  
 Architect: Outer Space Landscape Architects  
 Completed: 2009

The upgrade of the Spruitview Multipurpose Park had remained in the planning stage for many years. Eventually, the project was given the go-ahead in June 2009 and was completed in December 2009. The City of Ekurhuleni's intention for the park's development was to establish a multipurpose park for community use with the emphasis being on providing a venue for a host of activities that were not always sports-related. The park also needed to cater for various functions without impinging on other public activities.

Outer Space Landscape Architects was brought on to take an approved master plan and turn it into a practical solution that optimised the return on investment and community benefits.

There has always been a demand from clients to consider the environment in the planning stage, and so Outer Space Landscape Architects made provision for various green design elements such as solar heating and lighting where necessary. Another provision that needed to be made in the plan was the use of local workers in the park's labour-intensive construction.

In terms of the geological considerations, the design needed to take the moderately steep dolomite into account. This saw the project being divided into two principal phases with extensive earthworks taking place during the first phase. The second phase was more complex as it required the construction of several new elements such as two toilet blocks, a lapa, caretaker's house, amphitheatre, play park and skateboard park. Pedestrian paving was laid, irrigation installed and the planting of trees and lawn completed this phase. The master plan had made provision for a water park, but on discovery of dolomite soil, this had to be removed from the plan.

At completion, the park is now home to 8 000 square metres of sports fields as well as an amphitheatre. As they say, there's always room for improvement and so the design process also made provision for the possible future development of the area.

The success of the park's new design was recognised by the 2011 ILASA Awards of Excellence with Outer Space Landscape Architects receiving an Excellence in Design award for the project. The panel described the park's design as going "beyond competence to a balanced design approach which addresses functionality and appropriateness while employing sensible plant choices."



Fig 41 Play equipment & 5-a-side soccer



Fig 42 Play mound  
 Fig 43 Braai area & gazebo



Fig 44 Play mound & amphitheatre



Fig 45 Public art in square



Fig 46 Public art & gathering node



Fig 47 Climbing wall with rubberised surfaces



Fig 48 Pedestrian boulevard & seating



Fig 49 Amphitheatre seating

# ZONKIZIZWE PARK

| Large scale urban park |

Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
 Budget: R10 000 000  
 Completed: 2015

Located south of Germiston, Zonkizizwe Park was established at the request of the City of Ekurhuleni for the community of Katlehong. The park has been in the planning stage for many years and thanks to the determination of the community, the park is set to become a reality.

The City of Ekurhuleni brought on Outer Space Landscape Architects in 2007 with the intention of creating a recreational space with mixed activities that will cater to all members of the community. At the request of the client, the project needed to make use of local labourers for the surrounds in the construction of the park. A training budget was allocated for the purpose of upskilling local SMMEs, sub-contractors and labourers in kerbing, construction, laying grass and various other services.

The area earmarked for development poses some challenges, namely the sloping dolomite rock, and, therefore, required major earthworks in the creation of certain park features like the amphitheatre and field. The park's boundaries were established using 1.2m fencing which also help to formalise the entrances and exits for pedestrians and included a service gate for vehicles. Pedestrian pathways have been consolidated into a more coherent network.

An amphitheatre with seating and a multifunctional communal area was built to provide a setting for large gatherings without impinging



on other park activities. The community has also requested the installation of a TV, which is intended to be installed in the amphitheatre. When considering adults in the design, clearly defined areas were established that included adult games such as chess boards as well as street furniture for socialisation. The children's play area includes standard off-the-shelf play fixtures as well as custom-designed equipment.

To ensure the space is child-friendly, undulating rubberised surfaces were created and a traffic learning centre with road signs and obstacles were installed. A five-a-side kick-about and multipurpose court was established using river sand, and if more funds are made available in the future, these areas can be resurfaced with rubber.

Passive areas for socialisation include picnic areas with braai facilities, tables and benches, while a gazebo, lapa and ablution block was constructed. The design team gave a nod to the type of rock material available in the area by adding sandstone cladding as a final touch to these facilities. With recycling becoming a more contemporary practice throughout homes in South Africa, a depot was set up to serve the park.

To finish off, indigenous trees and shrubs were used in the landscaping of the park to provide shade for visitors, screening and uplifting the aesthetic quality of the facility.



Fig 50 Entrance walls & signage by community



Fig 51 Implemented play areas: Rubberised mounds

# MURRAY PARK

| Large scale urban park |

Client: City of Ekurhuleni  
 Budget: R20 000 000  
 Completed: 2019

Located in Springs on the East Rand, Murray Park used to be a hive of activity in its heyday with family coming from all over Johannesburg. The park's caravan and resort facilities were a huge drawcard for visitors and the Alexander Dam has proven to be a popular fishing spot for anglers. However, the caravan and resort facilities were closed a few years ago, the dam has become overgrown with water hyacinth and there have been a number of crimes reported at the park.

Over the past few years, the City of Ekurhuleni has been in the process of upgrading this nine-hectare park under multiple phases. Outer Space Landscape Architects was appointed in March 2019 to carry out phase four of the master plan.

The design team discovered that the sidewalks of homes in Presidentdam were being taken over by vehicles, creating an uproar amongst residents in the area. Following this feedback from the community, it was determined that parking was in short supply and was, therefore, made a priority during phase four of the park's upgrade. In an effort to service the needs of visitors and appease the residents of Presidentdam, the park's footprint was extended to include more parking which should now provide ample space during the busy seasons.

Additional new features included concert lawns for future events, a BMX pump track, pedestrian walkways, picnic and braai facilities, multi-purpose sports courts, gazebo, roadway and trees.

The next phase begins in November 2019, but Outer Space Landscape Architects will not be a part of this next stage of development.



Fig 52 Master plan phase 3b



Fig 54 Entrance signage

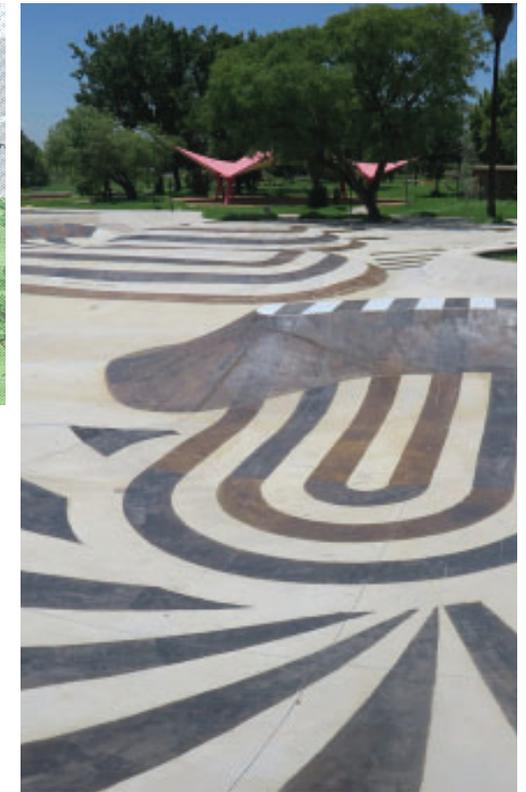


Fig 53 Skatepark with artistic patterns

# CRADLE OF HUMAN KIND landscape character assesment

In 2018, Outer Space Landscape Architects along with Information Decision Systems and LEAP were invited by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development to conduct a Landscape Character Assessment of the Cradle of Humankind, World Heritage Site (COHWHS) in accordance with the 2014 Natural England guideline document "An Approach to Landscape Character Assessments".

The purpose of a Landscape Character Assessment is to define and describe the unique landscape types and characteristics. By collecting this information, management teams of sites like the COHWHS are then able to make more informed decisions on the guidelines and interventions to better manage and protect these unique landscapes.

A Landscape Character Assessment helps to contribute to and protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a World Heritage Site while also assisting with the monitoring of the change in the area. In the case of the COHWHS, this assessment will provide the private land owners within the COHWHS and its management authority with more information on how to work together and manage the site in a sustainable manner.

The Landscape Character Factors are identified and divided into two categories: Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types. The first, Landscape Character Area, are traits defined by human influence, while Landscape Character Types are individually identifiable elements that are made up of unique combinations of defining features.

The Land Character Assessment of the COHWHS has been divided into five areas based on their geographical and historical relevance:

- Cradle Central
- Hartebeespoort
- Maropeng
- Lanseria
- Sterkfontein

The following Landscape Character Types of the COHWHS were identified during the Landscape Character Assessment:

- Open Valley Grassland
- Ridge/Koppie Plateau
- Kloof/Riverine Upland
- Rolling Bushveld
- Farmlands
- Peri-urban periphery
  - a. Structures
  - b. Alien vegetation
  - c. Mining

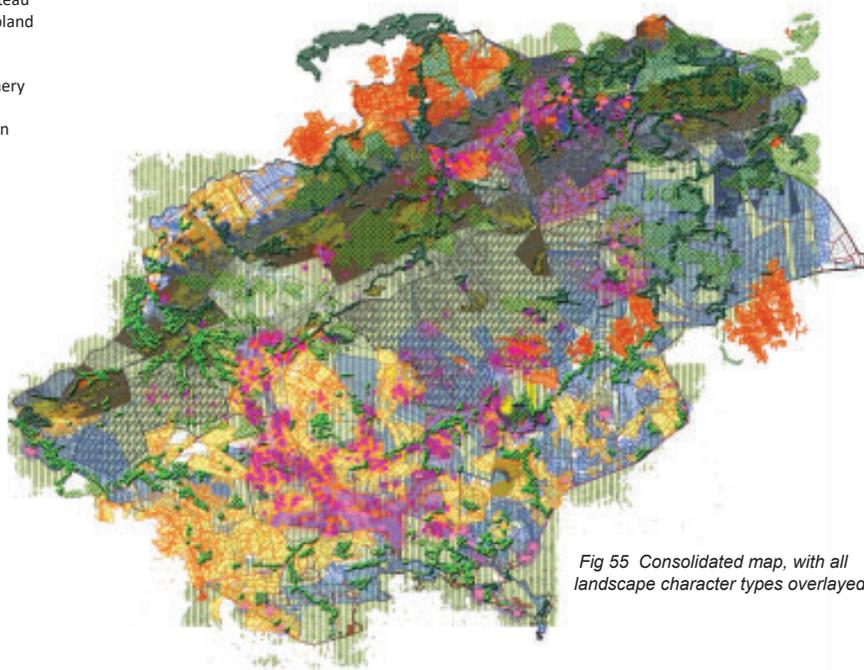


Fig 55 Consolidated map, with all landscape character types overlaid

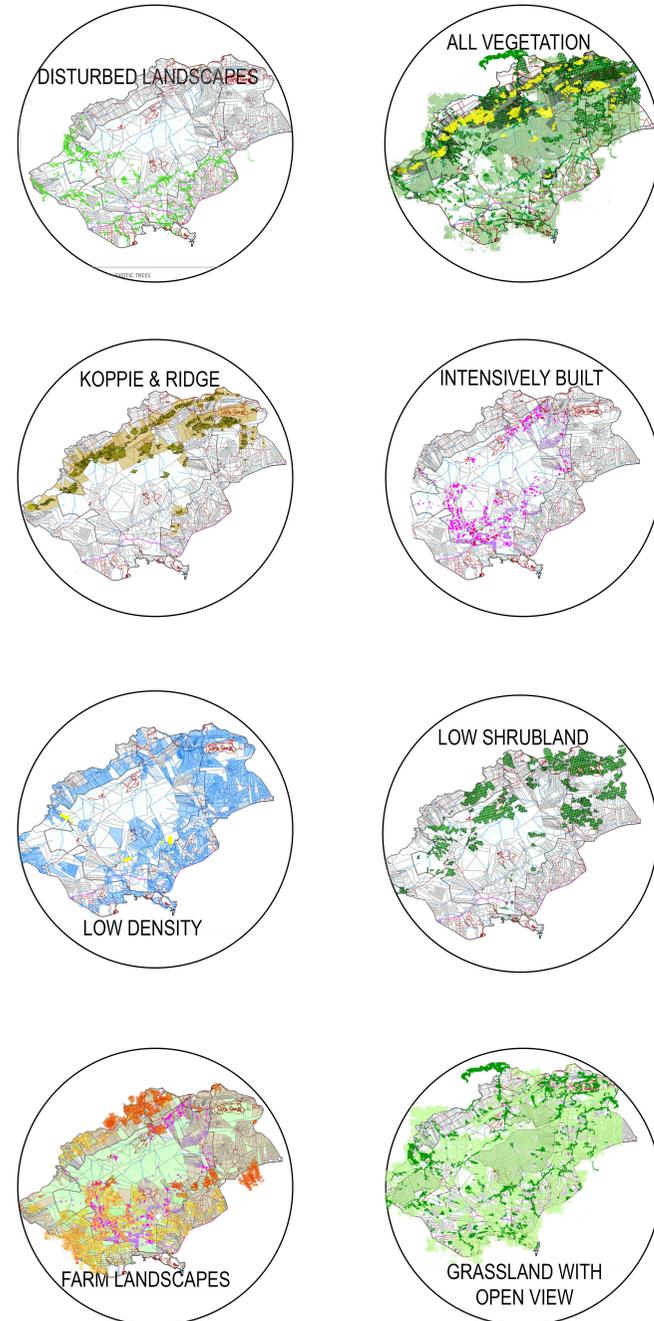


Fig 56 The eight landscape character types depicted, within the boundaries of the COHWHS.

# KANANA PARK

| Large scale park:urban/informal housing |



Fig 57 Kid play area, climbing wall and slides, rubberised surfaces



Fig 58 Kid play area, climbing wall and slides, rubberised surfaces



Client: Johannesburg City Parks  
Budget: R3000 000  
Completed: 2011

Kanana Park is located in Rabie Ridge Ext. 5 and is conveniently placed next to the members of the community that will receive the most benefit from its upgrade, a school. With this in mind, the design team of Outer Space Landscape Architects wanted to create a healthy, green recreational space for the school children. The park's name is a biblical reference to the Promised Land of Canaan, however, before its development, the setting was not worthy of its name. The vandalised make-shift soccer field was studded with large rocks and did not make for a great play area for kids.

While the younger members of the community were prioritised in the design, Outer Space Landscape Architects needed to take vandalism and theft into account. Elements of the park needed to be low-cost, green and robust so as to ensure its longevity as a community site that never loses its sense of playful delight.

This was achieved by making hard structures fun using shape and colour, low-maintenance indigenous planting, solar lighting and ingeniously pioneering a grass reinforcement that covered the kikuyu lawn with a slip-resistant mesh protector made from partly recycled UV-stabilised polyethene, to avoid grass wearing flat in high traffic zones.

An existing footpath was kept in the design and was used as the park's central spine for this multi-use space. Various activities to suit all ages branched off from this walkway including a climbing wall for the younger community members, colourful zig-zag stone seating and a large chess board for the more mature audiences.

In an effort to foster a sense of community ownership of Kanana Park, an art project was held where learners from the neighbouring school were invited to paint the walls. Unfortunately, it was decided that the colourful walls needed to be swapped for brown paint just for cost-effective maintenance in the future.

Following the completion of the Kanana Park, Outer Space Landscape Architects are confident that the facility is now worthy of its name.

Fig 59 Chess play area and gathering space



Fig 63 Master plan



Fig 60 Public square



Fig 61 Public lighting art



Fig 62 Marabaraba game on seating wall

# ALEXANDRA WETLAND

| Environmental |



Client: Johannesburg City Parks

## Environmental Projects

### Alexandra Wetland and Bird Sanctuary

It is unfortunate that over the years, Alexandra and the Jukskei River have become infamous for the high level of water pollution. The water quality of the river and its tributaries is one of the concerns of the Spatial Planning and Environmental Team under the Alexandra Renewal Project.

In an effort to rectify this, Johannesburg City Parks wants to revitalise the existing wetland that covers an area near the N3 highway and establish a bird sanctuary. The upgrade is to take place along upper reaches of the Jukskei tributary which threads through further planned parks in the Far East Bank and East Bank suburbs.

In its current state, the wetland has become infiltrated by alien vegetation which is now overgrown, while landfill site on the other side of the N3 highway has had an adverse effect on the water quality.



The river's wetland will require a great deal of rehabilitation to return it to its former glory. This will require the removal of alien vegetation and the construction of various elements to improve the river's water quality. Outer Space Landscape Architects has identified that this rehabilitation will be aided by the construction of a silt trap, rocky patch to aerate the water, sandy bank with reeds for natural filtration and a small dam.

Included in the design will be grassed embankments that will serve as communal areas for the surrounding community. The rehabilitation of the wetland is expected to bring with it an improved diversity of birdlife to the area, and so a timber and thatch bird hide has been included in the plan. The hope is that these elements will turn the river and its surrounds into an education tool for future generations.

In order to protect unattended children away from the dam and prevent the area from being a thoroughfare or turning into an illegal dumpsite, the area will be fenced.

These recommendations and plans for the Alexandra Wetland and Bird Sanctuary include an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and are currently awaiting approval from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs.



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