

RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

AT ESIKHAWINI: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

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THE WISE USE OF LEISURE TIME

IS THE CHALLENGE OF

OUR TIME

DONALD C. WEISKOPF (1975)

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CHAPTER 1

ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Leisure has come to be a vital force in the lives of modern man. It brings forth an opportunity for self-expression, identity and self-actualization apart from work. Within the larger framework of leisure, recreation is assuming a greater role. At times each human being finds himself being a participant in some kind of outdoor or indoor recreation whether actively or passively as he wishes or as the opportunities present themselves. As increased amounts of leisure time contribute to the growing demands for recreation, larger amounts of resources and facilities of varying diversity and quality are required to meet those demands.

Recreation areas and facilities are a fundamental component of any residential area in the contemporary society where recreation has become part and parcel of life. Nowadays, leisure and recreation are recognized as essential for our health and learning and for adapting to societal changes. The provision of proper recreation facilities makes it possible for the people to use their leisure time profitably. With rapid urbanization the need for adequate recreation facilities increases. In the urban areas there is a great demand for both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. When recreation facilities are provided,

they should cater for the recreation needs of men and women, children and adults.

In the planning of modern cities and towns the provision of recreation areas and facilities is given priority. Recreation has become an intergral element in urban land use planning. It is the duty of local governments to provide areas and facilities that make possible a variety of recreation activities that serve a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation interests. Planning authorities require the advice of recreation workers and professionals in determining the recreation needs of the people and the types of areas and facilities which enable these needs and desired to be satisfied.

Since different people experience physical and social conditions in different ways, it is imperative that recreation facilities and programmes be designed with particular clientele and particular groups in mind. (Van Doren, et al 1979:16).

The planners of recreation facilities must know intimately the culture, wishes, social patterns and lifestyle of the people who are to use such facilities.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Human beings are very busy creatures, they are involved in both physical and mental activities. It is an undisputed fact that it

impossible for anyone to work indefinitely, at some stage a human being has to relax and be engaged in something different from his daily work routine. It is for this reason that people engage in recreation activities.

In this age of tremendous technological development many types of recreation facilities have been brought to the fore. What nature provided, has been manipulated by man to suit his own needs. As socio-economic changes take place, a complete change is also expected to emerge on the recreation scene where new and very advanced facilities will be brought forward which will be on the same level as man's advancement.

In South Africa there are advanced recreation areas and facilities in those parts of the country which are inhabited by Whites. On the other hand there is a tremendous shortage of such facilities in those areas whose inhabitants are Blacks. Hugo (1974) bears testimony to this when he states that because so few facilities for outdoor recreation currently exist for Blacks and because their incomes are usually lower than those of the Whites in South Africa, their experience of participation in recreation facilities is of necessity limited.

Perhaps the difference in the provision of recreation facilities for Whites and Blacks is brought about by the differences in socio-economic status and differentiated access to recreation resources in general. Most of the Whites are well-off and highly

educated and research studies on recreation undertaken in countries such as the United States of America and Britain have determined that those with an advanced education tend to engage widely and intensively in recreation.

The Black people who are living in townships are increasingly becoming aware of the necessity of advanced recreation facilities since they have been subjected to strong acculturation and thus they have accepted the Western recreation pattern.

The very fact that the Urban Black is trapped by a Western economy, high urban population density with relatively little room for movement, fixed hours of work and cash wages, leaves him with only one choice, that is, to take over many of the elements of White recreation in his own leisure time and to abandon much of his traditional way of life. (Hugo, 1974:58)

It is the feeling of most community leaders that the crime rate in Black townships is as high as it is because of the shortage of recreation facilities where recreation activities can be carried out. They believe that if adequate recreation facilities can be provided in the townships the number of criminals can be reduced. Butler-Adam (1982) also supports this when he states that in a society such as South Africa's which is renowned for large areas of sterile and frustrating housing scheme development (especially among the Blacks) some sort of leisure activity may prove to be a partial antidote to crime, delinquency and boredom.

In order to establish what the Black people really need in as far as recreation is concerned, researches should be undertaken with the sole aim of finding out what kind of facilities do the people require in the recreation sphere. The people should be given an opportunity to indicate what is going to suit their whims, desires and preferences. The qualitative and quantitative nature of the existing recreation areas and facilities in Black urban areas should be looked into and improvements effected wherever they are deemed necessary.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Recreation studies which relate to the needs and desires of individuals are long overdue in South Africa. This study is an attempt to help in filling part of that gap. Schlemmer (1977) in collaboration with the Town and Regional Planning Commission of Natal, undertook a study of patterns and needs of recreationists in Pietermaritzburg. Schlemmer's study only took into account the White, Indian and Coloured communities and excluded the African population group. However, the study itself made it clear that the needs of the African population should not be overlooked in subsequent studies, but very little to date, has been done to find out what the Black community desire in the recreation scene. This study therefore has the primary objective of establishing what the Black community of Esikhawini needs on the recreation plain. This enquiry might therefore serve as a

blueprint for similar studies in other Black townships.

It is the feeling of the researcher that a lot still has to be done by way of providing recreation area and facilities in Black townships, Esikhawini inclusive. One can therefore hypothesize that the present recreation areas and facilities at Esikhawini seem to be far from being adequate. Inter alia, there should be areas and facilities such as swimming pools, community recreation centres, community parks, cinemas and more sporting facilities.

1.4 PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study has the primary objective of scrutinising recreation facilities which are found at Esikhawini as well as looking into the possibility of providing additional facilities. The study seeks to find out what those in charge of the recreation system think about the provision of recreation areas and facilities at Esikhawini. It also purports to establish what recreation planning strategy is envisaged for the present and future by the Esikhawini recreation Authorities.

The study also seeks to find out what the residents in the study are (Fig. 1 Page 16) think about the present areas and facilities as well as establishing what they would like to have in future. In other words the study seeks to establish what the views of the residents are, concerning the supply

and demand of recreation areas and facilities in the township.

The study has as one of its objectives the establishment of the problems which the recreation authorities encounter in the provision of recreation areas and facilities and it also purports to get details about the financing of the recreation projects in the study area.

This study will be of great help to the recreation authorities in the study area (Fig. 1 Page 16) for it will provide them with first hand information about what the people desire in as far as recreation activities, areas and facilities are concerned. In the light of this study the recreation authorities will be afforded a better planning document since they will be aware of what the people want. Inquiry has also indicated that no preliminary recreation study of any kind has been attempted by the authorities of Esikhawini before.

It is also hoped that this research project will serve as reference work for other researchers who might wish to undertake more comprehensive studies on recreation patterns of Blacks in South African townships which is one of the fields where researchers are needed most.

1.5 DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms will be operational in this study:

RECREATION:

Recreation has become a household word the world over. Different meanings are attributed to recreation and it is applied to a great variety of activities and situations. Butler (1976) states that recreation has been defined variously as type of experience, an area of rich and abundant living, a specific form of activity, an attitude or spirit "off the job" living, and expression of the inner nature of man, a social system, a phase of education or an outlet for the creative urge, a means of lifting the wings of the spirit. Gray as quoted by Butler (1976) defines recreation as an emotional condition within an individual human being that flows from a feeling of well-being and self-satisfaction. It is characterised by feelings of mastery, achievement, exhilaration, acceptance, success, personal worth and pleasure.

Butler (1976) defines recreation as the essence of any experience through which the individual directly gains personal enjoyment and satisfaction whereas Fitzgerald as quoted by Weiskopf (1975) defines recreation as the natural expression of human interests and needs seeking satisfaction during leisure. From these definitions it is clear that the central theme of recreation is enjoyment and satisfaction. In this study the definition that will be adopted is that given in the Outdoor Recreation Glossary of the Subsidiary Committee for Outdoor Recreation (1979) of the

Department of Environmental Planning where recreation is said to mean all those activities that individuals choose to undertake during their leisure time for the primary purpose of enjoyment through physical, mental and or spiritual well-being.

The concept recreation will also be viewed as Sessoms, et al (cited in Magi, 1979) have suggested, that is, as a noun only when describing the recreational experience. At all other times it will be used as a modifier such as in recreation activities, and recreation facilities.

LEISURE TIME:

This concept has been defined variably by many authors Weiskopf (1975) defines leisure time as that period of time at the complete disposal of an individual, after he has completed his work and fulfilled his other obligations.

He goes on to say that leisure hours are a period of freedom, when man is able to enhance his value as a human being and as a productive member of the society.

Ratmore (1983) puts forward that the word leisure is derived through the old French leisir from Latin licere, to be allowed or to be lawful. The word leisure can be used to relate to leisure time, the residual time remaining when the needs of work and of basic human functions such as sloping and eating have

been satisfied. Leisure time can also be defined as the time when leisure activities are undertaken. Leisure is rooted in enjoyment and reflects degrees of pleasure and satisfaction. In this study leisure time will be used to mean time that is free from work and from fulfilling the basic obligations and necessities of life.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

The Oxford dictionary defines facilities as the equipment or physical means for doing something, thus recreation facilities means the infrastructure which provide for participation in recreational activities. Without such infrastructure recreation does not yield the desired enjoyment and satisfaction.

SPORT:

In the outdoor recreation Glossary of the Subsidiary Committee for Outdoor recreation (1979), sport is defined as organized physical games and active recreation requiring a certain amount of physical skill and practised on a competitive basis according to specific rules. Sport also encompasses a spectator participation element. The above definition is adopted in this study.

PASSIVE RECREATION:

This concept is used to mean recreation by which people listen,

look and relax with physical activity reduced to a minimum. This is an opposite of active recreation and includes spectator participation.

PUBLIC RECREATION:

According to the Outdoor Recreation Glossary of the Subsidiary Committee for Outdoor Recreation (1979), public recreation is recreation partly or entirely sponsored by public funds, making use of facilities that are available to the public. In most cases the facilities where public recreation takes place are owned by government agencies such as town councils.

INDOOR RECREATION:

This concept in this study refers to many popular forms of recreation that can be carried on successfully indoors or in a covered structure that has amenities or accommodates both the participants and the spectators.

OUTDOOR RECREATION:

In the Outdoor Recreation Glossary of the Subsidiary Committee for Outdoor Recreation (1979:3), outdoor recreation is defined as any type of recreation that is directly related to the natural environment. This definition excludes man-made structures for recreation such as sport fields, but would include swimming in

natural waters such as the sea, lakes and rivers.

In this study outdoor recreation will mean all those recreation activities that occur outdoors, including the man-made structures for recreation such as sport fields, open air swimming pools and parks. It includes what is sometimes referred to as out of doors recreation.

1.6 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited geographically to the area known as Esikhawini Township (Fig.1) which is located in the Natal North Coast and is about 20 km South East of Empangeni. Both sections H and J of the township which are presently the only existing sections are taken into consideration. The following types of recreation areas and facilities inter alia are dealt with: sport fields, child play areas, picnic sites and community recreation centres. The study looks into the supply and demand for both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. The management and provision of recreation areas and facilities will also be looked into.

The study is concerned with the way in which the residents of Esikhawini view the recreation areas and facilities which prevail in the township and what they desire in the recreation sphere. The study is not only confined to the present facilities, but also looks into those which are still in the planning stage of development and information about these will be gathered from the

local recreation authorities in the township. The views of both male and female residents will be dealt with since recreation areas and facilities should cater for the recreation needs of men and women as well as children and adults.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There were certain circumstances which limited the researcher's work, the most striking of which was the scarcity of literature with a direct bearing on recreation about Blacks in townships. Another limitation was the scarcity of time during which a more comprehensive research could be carried out. Because of occupational constraints the researcher was only able to conduct research during weekends.

1.8 HYPOTHESIS

The following is the hypothesis of this study:

RECREATION FACILITIES AT ESIKHAWINI ARE INADEQUATE AND DO NOT SATISFY THE RECREATION NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS.

1.9 METHODOLOGY

The following method of research was followed in the collection and analysis of data:

- (d) The respondent's views about the demand for recreation facilities.

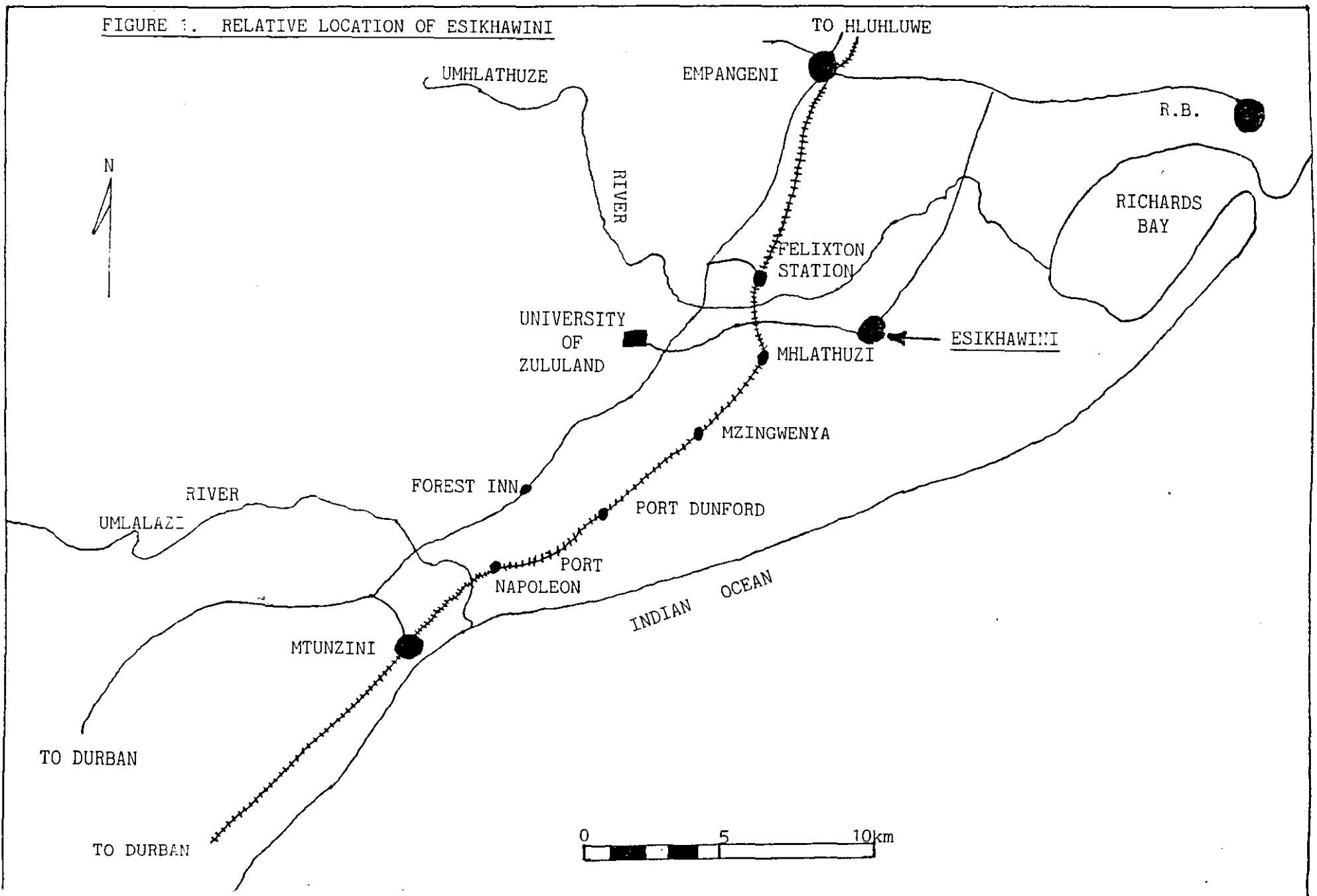
The questions in Section B which was meant to be responded to by the authorities (Councillors) can be categorised as follows:

- (a) Background to the respondents
- (b) Supply and patronization of recreation facilities
- (c) Recreation facilities and the future
- (d) Problems encountered in the provision of recreation facilities.

1.9.3 METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Data analysis was accomplished by tallying and constructing a number of frequency tables. Also a compilation of lists or figures showing the respondents' preference of recreation areas and facilities has been attempted. Spatial representations of these results using chorochromatic maps of Sections H and J will be used.

FIGURE 1. RELATIVE LOCATION OF ESIKHAWINI



CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will review literature related to the research topic under the following subheadings:

- recreation as a general phenomenon,
- recreation areas and facilities,
- research on recreation from a historical perspective and research on recreation in South Africa.

This it is hoped will form the theoretical foundation upon which interpretation of the collected data will be based.

2.2 RECREATION AS A GENERAL PHENOMENON

Recreation is a phenomenon of the modern age and is a fundamental component of the contemporary society. The availability of leisure time makes it possible for man to recreate. Recreation has become a household word the world over and is applied to a great variety of activities and situations.

The word recreation is broad enough to include play in its every expression and also many activities that are not thought of as play, music, the drama, the crafts and every free activity and especially creative activity for the enrichment of life. (Butler, 1968:4)

Recreation is for people of every country and every age. Recreation can be experienced by a person while alone, with a few others or in a large group.

In recreation the individual finds opportunity for self-expression and from it he derives fun, relaxation or pleasure.

"The primary objective of recreation is to give pleasure, enjoyment and happiness to individuals and groups, every other objective is secondary to this one, in matters relating to evaluation, measurements and in terms of the abundance of joy, happiness and pleasure that accrue to individual and group." (Shivers, 1981:168)

The range of available opportunities from which a person may choose influences the degree to which a person can satisfy his urge for pleasurable activity. The degree to which an individual participates in recreation depends upon the availability of recreation activities and the satisfaction that he derives from participating actively in recreation. "Unless an activity or experience gives a person satisfaction, it is not recreation for him." (Butler, 1968:7)

There is a growing belief among modern societies that leisure and with it recreation is just as important as work in the development of man. Recreation is no longer regarded as an antithesis of work. This trend is predominant in the

economically developed countries such as the United States of America and Britain but it has also taken root in some economically less developed countries such as Nigeria. It is the changing work position of man which has led to the changed approach to recreation. Leisure in which lies the means for improving the quality of living and recreation is no longer seen as just a way to pass the time or to improve the results that a person will obtain as a worker, but self-fulfilment and better adaptability within society are nowadays being seen as the primary reasons for man taking part in recreation activities. Recreation is rapidly being accepted as an end in itself and the joy, happiness and satisfaction which give an experience the quality of recreation are a sufficient justification for it.

There is a growing belief that man needs to recreate as much as he needs to work to develop himself, for through recreation the individual grows and develops his powers and personality. Because of the importance of recreation, it is increasingly becoming a matter of public concern that recreation opportunities be available for all people.

"Leisure and with it recreation has to bring opportunity for enjoyment of art, music and science; for development of health, strength and satisfaction; for acquisition of inner resources which lead to contentment."
(Maclean in Van der Smissen, 1975:10)

Butler (1968) puts forward that recreation holds an important

place in the balanced life along with work, rest, love and worship. He goes on to say that life would be incomplete without recreation. Recreation holds its place of importance in modern life because it gives opportunities for the attainment of some of the basic human needs such as friends, companionship and adventure. In today 's world of tension recreation has a place of undeniable importance since it is a leisure experience voluntarily chosen with the expectation of positive, pleasurable rewards. Shivers (1981) states that recreation is conceived as a behavioural act that can be performed at any time the individual wishes.

Recreation contributes to the physical well-being of the individual and it also helps in character development since it influences the growth of social attitudes which affect the individual as a member of a group. Recreation improves awareness, deepens understanding, stimulates appreciation, develops one's powers and enlarges the sources of enjoyment. it promotes individual fulfillment and encourages self-discovery and at the same time it gives meaning to life. "Recreation is a response to aesthetic experience, achievement of personal goals or positive feedback from others." (Van Doren, et al 1979:13).

Recreation is a very strong agent in the prevention of crime and all forms of delinquency since most criminal acts are committed during leisure hours. Recreation is also essential for safety, for recreation areas that are properly designed and carefully

operated are characterised by a degree of safety.

Although there are numerous activities that may be considered recreational, it is generally agreed that all recreation activity has certain basic characteristics. Weiskopf (1975) lists the following characteristics of recreation:

- The choice of activity is voluntary
- Recreation occurs during leisure time
- Recreation provides enjoyment
- Recreation is activity as opposed to idleness
- Recreation is broad in concept
- Recreation provides a refreshing change of pace
- Recreation should be wholesome and constructive
- Recreation should be socially acceptable
- Recreation contributes to physical, mental and moral welfare of the participant.

A person engages in recreation because he desires and chooses to do so, without compulsion of any type other than an urge from within. Recreation is relief from toil, it is intended for the rest and rebuilding of wearied muscles and nerves and spirit. It may take any form, but it is always lacking in seriousness and usually has only in re-creating the mind and the body for the more serious work of life.

The enjoyment of recreation pursuits is conditioned by their availability and the people's capacity to profit from them.

"Recreation can be a means of social intergration as many

socio-economic classes are mutually accessible in the theatre audience or in the basketball stands. Recreation seems to be contributing to a certain classlessness." (Maclean in Van der Smissen, 1975: 12)

Maclean in van der Smissen (1975) puts forward that recreation may become the weights, the means to keep lives in balance.

- (a) Weight of social interaction services to counteract transience caused by hypermobility.
- (b) A pinch zest and adventure for a routinized life. That disequilibrium which makes eventual stability like the satisfaction of coming home.
- (c) A pound of success in carefully selected recreation experiences to rebuild a self-image destroyed in a negative work situation.
- (d) Solitude for the married housewife. Social involvement for the disengaged retiree.
- (e) An exciting, exhilarating physical recreation for the office worker or restful music for the active labourer.

With rapid urbanization, the need for recreation especially outdoor recreation is increasing, for urban people need some time to go out into the outdoors away from their crowded day to day living. Leisure time and recreation is very important in the life of modern man and is definitely a domain of man's life that calls for more and more research to ensure that the utilization of resources for recreation will be as well planned as possible.

Age is a factor influencing changes in patterns and preferences for leisure and recreation activities. Young single people put the greatest emphasis on physical recreation since they have plenty of spare time during which they can involve themselves in such recreation and they have a combination of physical capacity and free income which they can spend on recreation. This continues until they walk into the matrimonial throne. Parenthood brings about quite dramatic changes in the recreation habits of the young people. Their domestic responsibilities increase with the result that the amounts of time and money available for leisure interests diminish. During this stage recreation becomes informal and less demanding physically. Such free time as is left tends to be spent in the home and pursuits previously centred upon the peer group are often dropped. Few new interests are acquired after marriage with the exception of gardening, an interest which is consistent with a home centred life.'

As people grow into middle age and their children leave home, the domestic responsibilities of the couple are greatly reduced and more money is available for the pursuit of leisure activities. During this phase of the life cycle leisure interest might be rejuvenated and people may start to engage in more activities outside the home. The wife is the one who gets more spare time after being released from the obligations of parental

responsibility. However, the general trend is for leisure and recreation interests and activities to become increasingly restricted with age despite decreased responsibilities. This might be caused by the fact that during middle life the individual's physical and mental vigour declines which results in a reluctance to cultivate new interests which might be too demanding on an individual.

Retired people as a whole face the problem of what to do with extra time available. Old age is the stage of passive recreation with physical involvement reduced to the minimum. Some of the old people do not take interest in any form of recreation. Women might pass time with their grandchildren, but this is not the case with men.

Carlson et al (1979) have this to say about recreation activities: Recreation activities involve all ages, from the preschool youngster to the older person and all capacities, from the paraplegic or retarded to the vibrantly healthy. They range from vigorous backpacking to quiet, intellectual philosophic debate; from watching activity to creating it, from totally independent individual projects to those requiring highly skilled professional leadership or publicly financed facilities; from low-level intensity and purpose to total commitment of the participant.

Because of the importance of recreation in modern times, responsibility for recreation services has been assumed by

various commercial, educational, religious and social organizations - public, private and voluntary. If recreation is to meet the potential values ascribed to it all the agencies concerned with it must take full responsibility for the provision of facilities and opportunities for patronizing these facilities. The recreation programmes must be diverse since if an individual has limited selections, there is little chance of attaining broad perspectives.

2.3 RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

Recreation demand can only be met by the provision of sufficient recreation areas and facilities for both indoor and outdoor recreation. Recreation areas must contain outdoor and indoor facilities which serve men and women, young and old people. Many facilities provide opportunities for highly organized, competitive sports such as soccer, golf, tennis and rugby and others provide for individuals or family groups. Butler (1968) states that the facilities differ widely in the activities made possible, in their construction and operation cost, space requirements, location, in the number of persons served and in the amount of leadership or supervision required. The provision of recreation areas and facilities is a sine qua non for proper recreation that brings out self fulfilment and satisfaction. Recreation areas and facilities should be planned in such a way that they satisfy the needs of the people for whom they have been constructed.

The recreation areas and facilities should be where they are going to be easily accessible to the people for whom they are made. Accessibility can be facilitated by a system of roads or paths of suitable location and width. The facilities must also be safe for utilisation by anybody. Butler (1968) puts forward that every recreation area should present a pleasing appearance from within and without, even though little space can be made available for plantings. Both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities should be well cared for so that they may satisfy the recreation needs of the people for whom they are constructed. The provision of adequate recreation areas and facilities leads to an increase in recreation opportunities and it also facilitate the profitable use of leisure time.

The facilities for indoor recreation can be used for a variety of recreation activities. These facilities vary from the single open park shelter to the elaborate building which serves as a centre for the recreation of a community or neighbourhood. Butler (1968) categorises recreation buildings as follows:

- (a) Multi-use buildings such as amphitheatres.
- (b) Single-use buildings such as historical museums
- (c) Service-buildings such as restaurants.

Butler (1968) lists the following facilities which are usually found in a recreation building with diversified facilities:

- A social hall for dancers, dinners or entertainments

- An auditorium equipped with stage and motion picture booth, used for concerts, community, music, dance and dramatic productions, lectures, movies and forums.
- A gymnasium with removable or folding bleachers for gym-classes, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, dancing, stunts and exhibitions. Locker, shower and toilet rooms for people using the gymnasium and pool.
- Meeting rooms for clubs, organizations, music and other groups.
- Workshops for handcrafts, arts, dramatics and hobbies.
- Game rooms with facilities for table games, table tennis, billiards or bowling.
- Kitchen and serving pantry or kitchnette only.
- Library and reading room also used for storytelling.
- Lobby and lounge
- Dark room
- Indoor swimming pool with spectators' gallery.
- Service features such as office, heater and fuel rooms, storage and general toilet rooms.

It is very seldom however, to find all the above-mentioned facilities in a single building. In large communities where large numbers patronise the recreation facilities daily several rooms are provided in which activities can be carried out simultaneously and in smaller communities fewer rooms are needed but are planned for several uses.

Recreation activity is by no means restricted to buildings

constructed exclusively for such use. Recreation activities can be conducted in schools, churches, industrial plants, settlements, apartment houses, municipal buildings and other institutions. School halls, gymnasiums and libraries can be constructed in such a way that they cater for the students and the community. Numerous recreation activities can be performed by both the students and the community in these facilities.

In countries such as the United States of America there are many schools which have been planned in such a way as to cater for both school and community recreation needs and a large percentage of indoor activities in many recreation programmes is carried on in school buildings.

Among the most important and commonly provided outdoor facilities in modern urban centres the following can be enumerated.

1. Netball courts
2. Hockey fields
3. Basketball courts
4. Soccer fields
5. Tennis courts
6. Softball grounds
7. Volleyball courts
8. Baseball diamonds
9. Golf courses
10. Swimming pools
11. outdoor theatres
12. Roller skating tracks
13. Running tracks
14. Bicycle tracks
15. Bowling greens
16. Cricket fields
17. Paddle tennis courts
18. Diving pools

To assure safety and satisfactory engagement in recreation activities, ample space must be allowed for equipment, game courts and sports fields. Case of access to the facilities must be facilitated by suitable roads and paths. Every recreation area must also present a pleasing appearance so as to attract people and make their recreation activities enjoyable. A recreation facility must inevitably also provide for the comfort and convenience of the people who use it. In order to ensure that the recreation areas and facilities are always in a satisfactory condition they must be properly supervised. ✓

2.4 RESEARCH ON RECREATION: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW /

According to Taylor (1984) recreation is a field of study is a relatively young field of scientific investigation with only a couple of decades of history. recreation is as old as man himself, but research on it is a phenomenon of the twentieth century. Most of the publications on recreation and leisure started to appear in abundance during the 1950's and the 1960's. Taylor (1984) states that the person who put recreation research on the forefront was Marion Clawson who published not fewer than 13 publications between 1957 and 1963 on the subject of recreation.

The United States Congress established the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission (ORRRC) during the early 1960's to establish the needs and wants of the American people in as far as recreation was concerned and to look into the question of whether

the recreation resources in America were enough to fill these needs and to make recommendations as to what could be done in order to satisfy the recreation needs of the people of America. According to Taylor (1984) the work of this commission is today still the greatest single task that has been undertaken in recreational research. The final report of the Commission was presented to the American Congress on 31 January 1962 and formed the basis of most recreation research and planning for many years in the United States.

During the start of the 1970's the publication of the Journal of Leisure Research did much to improve the standard of research on recreation. Many academics undertook research on recreation and leisure and published their articles in this journal. The articles published in this journal made it clear that strong schools of thought on research methodology were developing in different parts of the world. The Americans had their own methods which were quantitatively orientated, the Canadians had theirs which emphasised land capability for certain recreation activities. The Scottish school also established a system for the deliniation of recreation landscapes. The Journal of Leisure Research has provided a very good medium for interdisciplinary exchange. Apart from this journal since the mid-seventies there have been several efforts in America to disseminate information through separate research newsletters.

Research on the demand for recreation has lately been mostly a

domain of behaviourists or psychologists. The philosophy behind these studies is that the researcher should know why a recreationist takes part in a certain activity and not to find out that he does take part. Recreation research in the economically developed countries such as the United States of America is aimed at both the "what" and "why" questions. This however, is not the case in the economically underdeveloped countries where the emphasis in recreation research is more on the "what" question than the "why" question.

2.5 RESEARCH ON RECREATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

There have been very few studies undertaken in South Africa where recreation has been the main theme. The few studies that have been undertaken by geographers such as Hugo (1974); Steyn et al (1982); Butler-Adam (1982); Sutcliffe (1981) and Taylor (1984) are indispensable in the study of recreation in South Africa. There are also a few studies which have been undertaken by planners and government agencies such as the Natal Town and regional Planning Commission. Recreation research in South Africa is still in its infancy and much still remains to be done. Most of the studies that have been done are resource-base orientated. Taylor (1984) states that only Hugo has taken a population group (the Blacks) and looked at patterns of its recreation usage and demand. Most of the research has been done on a regional and local scale.

One of the few researches on recreation by a non-geographer which

have been undertaken in South Africa is that by Schlemmer (1966) who was working under the auspices of the Natal Town and Regional Planners. This study was done in 1966 on outdoor recreation patterns in Pietermaritzburg. In this study it is clearly stated that recreation is part and parcel of any healthy community.

In this study by Schlemmer (1966) which was conducted among the White, Indian and Coloured communities in Pietermaritzburg it is explicitly stated that it is the duty of the local authorities to satisfy the recreation needs of the community, but the authorities must be aware of the existence of such needs before they can satisfy them. The only way through which such needs can be discovered is the undertaking of researches. With adequate research, it is a relatively easy task to establish in broad terms what the recreation needs of a population if one is only concerned with those needs which are obvious to members of the population themselves.

Schlemmer (1966) found out that the Whites are the population group that engages a lot in recreation and the facilities in their areas are of a very high quality. This is not the case with the other racial groups. Their level of engagement in recreation activities is very low and this is brought about by the inadequacy of recreation areas and facilities. In order to be very active in recreation one must have money. The Whites do have money and thus can afford to engage in a wide variety of recreation activities whereas the other population groups have to

make do with the little money and inadequate areas and facilities they have.

The results of the study on recreation in Pietermaritzburg can be used as a basis for estimating standards for the provision of outdoor recreation space in South Africa since the standards arrived at, as far as can be ascertained represent a very first attempt in South Africa to quantify the outdoor recreation space needs of different groups of people in an urban setting.

Hugo (1974) after undertaking a study on the recreation patterns of the Blacks of South Africa put forward that the general tendency that becomes apparent from research into the question of recreation for Urban Black communities is that a very strong process of acculturation is noticeable in this sphere. This study by Hugo (1974) established that very little seems to be left of the traditional types of recreation among the Black Communities.

The Black in Urban Areas find themselves in an environment which is completely different from that in which their ancestors lived. "New demands have therefore arisen and new types of recreation have had to be found that will fit in with the environment in which the Black communities of today live."

(Hugo, 1974:57) ✓

It has become apparent that with increasing urbanization of Black people recreation is important to them only as a means of

spiritual and physical renewal and no longer fulfils the cultural functions it fulfilled in the olden days. The situation in which the Black man finds himself in an urban area makes it imperative for him to take over many of the elements of White recreation in his own leisure time and to abandon much of his traditional way of life. It is interesting to note that the Black man seems to accept this aspect of acculturation easily and with considerable satisfaction.

Table 1 indicates the pattern of participation by the Blacks as shown by Hugo (1974).

TABLE 1

PATTERN OF OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION BY URBAN BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

TYPE OF RECREATION	PERCENTAGE
Visits to friends/relatives	19,7
Picnics	10,5
Relaxing at the seaside	10,4
Spectator sports	7,6
Active participation in sport	6,8
Swimming baths	6,6
Visits to the zoo	6,5
Inland resorts	6,4
Park in town	5,9
Hiking	5,3

Camping	3.4
Nature reserves	2,9
Driving for pleasure	2,6
Hunting	2,0
Visits to places of cultural/historical interest	1,4
Cycling	1,0
Angling	0,4
Boating	0,3
Horse riding	0,2
TOTAL	100,0

SOURCE: HUGO (1974:58)

It should be kept in mind that actual participation in recreation activities is just as much a function of available facilities as of inherent popularity of the type of recreation concerned.

"As a basis in planning it must be determined what people want as well as where they wish to go and which activities they prefer, rather than accepting as correct the existing recreational patterns. Existing patterns are to a large extent simply human reactions" (Hugo, 1974: 59).

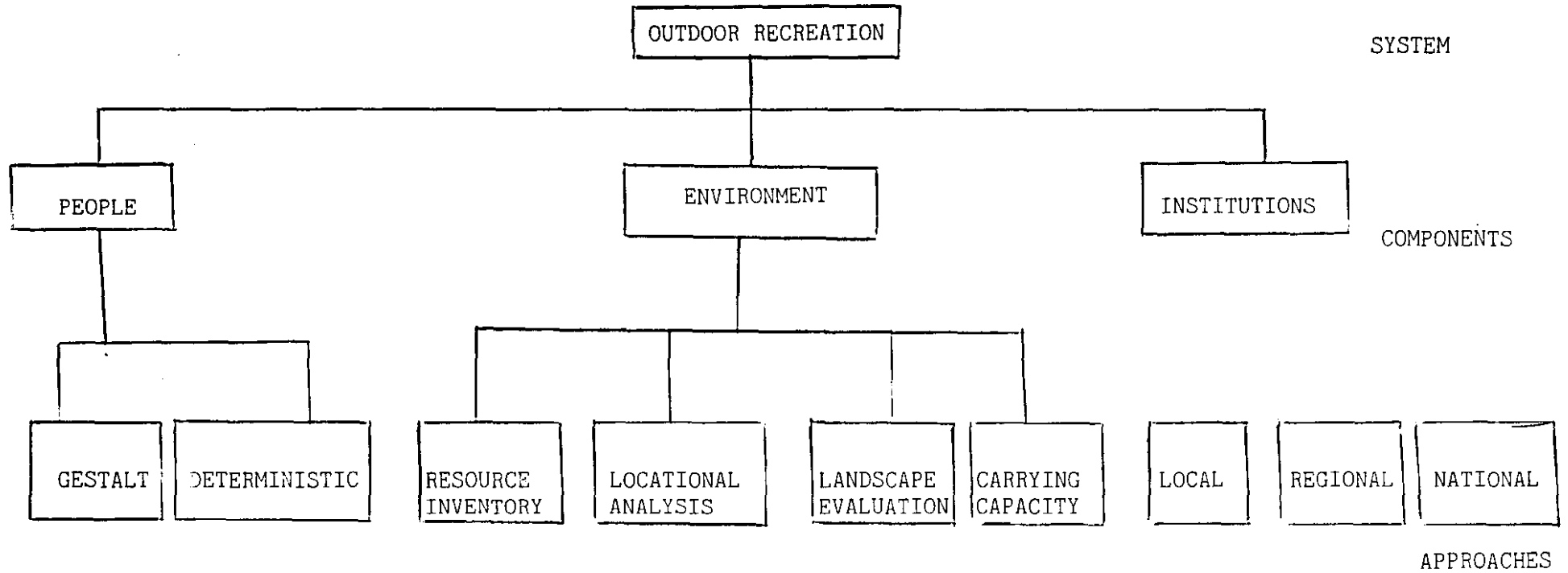
Hugo (1974) also found that because so few facilities for outdoor

recreation exist for Blacks and because their incomes are usually lower than those of the Whites in South Africa, their experience of participation in recreation facilities is of necessity limited.

One of the few studies on recreation in South Africa is that which was undertaken by Sutcliffe (1981). Sutcliffe's study on behavioural recreation in the Drakensberg is valuable because it is one of the few studies that examines the behavioural aspects of the outdoor recreation system. Involving the people, the environment and locations, and the institutional constraints introduced into the outdoor recreation system.

Sutcliffe (1981) classifies the fields of outdoor recreation research as shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2: CLASSIFICATION OF THE FIELDS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION RESEARCH



SOURCE: SUTCLIFFE, 1981:15

The behavioural study of recreation in the Natal Drakensberg, represents a step towards the use of a consistent analytic framework which includes behavioural as well as environmental and planning investigations, it also offers an explanatory rather than simply a descriptive approach to recreation. It tries to answer the question "why" more than the question "what".

The behavioural study of recreation in the Natal Drakensberg was concerned with four major issues, namely:

1. The preferences which people have for certain areas
2. The preferences which people have for certain activities.
3. The preferences which people have for certain kinds of accommodation.
4. The effect that distance and cost have on recreation use.

Sutcliffe (1981) established that the presence of the mountains and surrounding scenery were primary factors attracting recreators. He also found out that the recreators who visit the Natal Drakensberg enjoy the same set of activities irrespective of their relative location to the mountains. The study revealed that most of the recreators enjoy unorganised, relaxing activities. The differences which were established in activity preferences appeared to be specific to the kind of resort at which the recreator was staying.

In research studies undertaken in South Africa it has been established that recreation areas and facilities that are open

for the use of all racial groups are perceived differently by these racial groups. Butler-Adam (1982) observed in his Recreation Study of Albert Falls Public Resort that the image Albert Falls has on the different racial groups is quite divergent. For the Blacks, Indians and Coloureds the resort was found to be probably a part of the urban contact and interaction network.

For the Whites the resort appeared to be part of recreational opportunities which result from economic and legislative freedom enjoyed by the Whites. The same applies to a multitude of recreation areas and facilities in South Africa. The Whites frequent recreation areas and facilities and use them in a rather different manner than Blacks do. This is as a result of the differentiated economic, administrative and legislative conditions.

From the few research studies on recreation in South Africa such as that of Hugo (1974), Steyn et al (1982), Butler-Adam (1982) and Sutcliffe (1981) it has been apparent that one of the most critical problems concerning recreation in South Africa centres around recreation areas and facilities. This problem not only involves the provision of amenities, but also their financing and quality as well as their accessibility, utilisation and management. In many respects a revision of planning is called for to accommodate changing recreation practices and to establish recreation as a promoter and stabiliser of good human relations as it is in countries such as the United States of America.

Most of the studies on recreation in South Africa have been aimed at answering the "what" question than the "why" question since research on recreation is still in its infancy. It is an unquestionable fact that the "why" questions cannot be asked until it is absolutely clear "what" they are going to be based on.

Throughout the development of outdoor recreation studies which seem to be popular among recreation researchers in South Africa, two components have been consistent namely, resources and man. Geographers have played a leading role in outdoorrecreation studies because geography is one of the few disciplines which have a footing in both the physical and social sciences-something of outdoor recreation.

On the whole it can be stated without an element of doubt that recreation research in South Africa is still far behind compared to what has been achieved in other countries, such as United States of America, the United Kingdom and Australia. Taylor (1984) rightly states that there is still a great amount of spade work to be done in collecting basic data and formulating methods of research, which are applicable to South African society with its particular spatial character and ethnic composition.

CHAPTER 3

THE ESIKHAWINI PHYSICAL SETTING

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter a brief overview of the actual setting and nature of recreation areas and facilities available in Esikhawini is given. To a large extent maps and tables are used to illustrate the fundamental physical resources, areas and open spaces available for recreation development.

3.2 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP

The first step towards the establishment of Esikhawini was taken in 1975 and the first houses were ready for occupation in 1976. This township is therefore hardly ten years old. The main aim behind the establishment of Esikhawini was none other than to give accommodation to Black people who were employed by the industrial corporations in Richards Bay such as the South African Aluminium Factory (Alusaf); Richards Bay Coal Terminal; Triomf Fertilizer Industry; Richards Bay Minerals; etc. All these industries were established in Richards Bay during the 1970's and they depend a lot on the Black labour force, thus the growth of Richards Bay as an industrial centre inevitably lead to the growth of Esikhawini. Like all the other Black townships in South Africa, this township was meant to be a dormitory for workers and it was to be administered by the government of the KwaZulu homeland.

Although Esikhawini township originated as a dormitory for workers, today a considerable number of people have established themselves as permanent residents. Because of the growth of the population of the township an urgent need was felt for the provision of all the social services which are required by people residing in urban areas. Schools, clinics, churches and shopping complexes were given first preference. Today there are eight schools, three lower primary schools, two higher primary schools and three secondary schools (see Figure 3). There is also a College of Education. There are two clinics and five shopping centres which cater for the total population of about 20 000 residents who reside in about 4 000 houses which are provided by the KwaZulu Government as well as some of the industrial corporations in Richards' Bay. There are also houses which are built by the residents themselves through private constructors.

One of the factors which have contributed to the growth of Esikhawini has been the establishment of the gigantic Mondi Paper Mill in Richards Bay. This industrial corporation has already built one hundred houses in the township for its workers, who commute daily to Richards' Bay which is about 15 km away from Esikhawini.

TABLE 2: GLOBAL PICTURE OF FACILITIES IN ESIKHAWINI TOWNSHIP

KEY

- S - State
- G - Good
- B - Bad
- M - Medium
- R - Regular
- I - Irregular
- P - Private

		SIZE (HA)	POPULATION SERVED	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	PHYSICAL COSTS (000)	ACCESSIBILITY	USAGE
1.	EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES							
1.1	Dlamvuzo High School	5,1282	800	J	S	30	G	R
1.2	Mdlamfe J.S. School	1,6540	600	J	S	20	G	R
1.3	Khula J.S. School	3,4668	650	J	S	22	G	R
1.4	Esikhawini H.P. School	4,1603	500	J	S	20	G	R
1.5	Tambolini H.P. School	3,5869	450	H	S	24	G	R
1.6	Mzingwenya L.P. School	2,1042	500	J	S	21	G	R
1.7	Thakasani L.P. School	2,0208	300	H	S	25	G	R
1.8	Xhaphozini L.P. School	1,7730	400	J	S	20	G	R
1.9	College of Education	10,5560	300	W	S	300	G	R
2.	COMMERCIAL FACILITIES							
2.1	Kwa-Diye Superette	0,1014	6 000	H	P	25	G	R
2.2	Commercial Complex	1,3625	5 000	H	P	30	G	R
2.3	Amanguni Superette	0,0825	4 000	J	P	18	G	R
2.4	Intokozo Superette	0,0925	2 000	H	P	15	G	R
2.5	Esikhawini Superette	0,1200	3 000	J	P	28	G	R

Continued

TABLE 2
Continued

		SIZE (HA)	POPULATION SERVED	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	PHYSICAL COSTS (000) in Rands	ACCESSIBILITY	USAGE
3.	HEALTH FACILITIES							
3.1	Clinic	0,0338	10 000	J	S	5	M	I
3.2	Clinic	0,1015	10 000	H	S	7	G	R
3.3	Doctor's Surgery	0,0338	4 000	J	P	5	G	R
3.4	Doctor's Surgery	0,0637	4 000	J	P	5	G	R
3.5	Doctor's Surgery	0,0398	10 000	H	P	6	G	R
4.	RECREATION FACILITIES							
4.1	Soccer field	0,0508	10 000	J	S	5	M	R
4.2	Soccer field	1,0200	10 000	H	S	1	M	R
4.3	Tennis court	0,1010	10 000	H	S	2	M	R
4.4	Tennis court	0,1010	10 000	J	S	2	M	R
4.5	Child play area	0,0890	10 000	J	S	0,800	B	1
4.6	Child Play area	0,0780	10 000	H	S	0,800	B	1
5.	RELIGIOUS FACILITIES							
5.1	Roman Catholic Church	0,3188	1 000	J	P	30	G	R
5.2	Methodist Church	0,2085	1 000	H	P	30	G	R
5.3	Lutheran Church	0,2949	900	J	P	20	G	R
5.4	Anglican Church	0, 4100	1 000	H	P	22	G	R
5.5	St. John's Apostolic F	0,1772	700	H	P	15	G	R
5.6	Full Gospel Church	0,2239	500	H	P	15	G	R
5.7	Apostolic Faith Church	0,0536	500	H	P	15	G	R
5.8	Scandinavian Church	0,0656	400	J	P	16	G	R
5.9	Assemblies of God	0,0785	450	H	P	12	G	R

3.3 THE RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

Recreation areas and facilities are a fundamental component of any residential area and Esikhawini is no exception. The facilities that prevail in the township have been provided by the KwaZulu Government and they are located in such a way as to cater for the recreation needs of the residents of both Section H and J, but whether they satisfy the needs of the people for whom they were built is a big question. (Refer to Figure 4 at the back.)

TABLE 3: EXISTING RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

FACILITY	SECTION	NUMBER
Soccer field	H	1
Soccer field	J	1
Tennis court	H	1
Tennis court	J	1
Child play area	H	1
Child play area	J	1

The soccer field in Section H is mainly patronized by the residents of this section. It is not fenced-in and its turf is not as even as it should be. The quality of this field leaves much to be desired. It is estimated that its construction cost about R1 000. The soccer field in Section J is fenced-in and is popularly known as Khayaletu Stadium. This field is the most popular of the two fields and is used regularly. Its turf is also not of a high quality and the poles are in a state of decay. It seems as if there is nobody who is taking care of this field,

because even the fence itself has got numerous holes. It is estimated that the construction of this field cost about R5 000.

The tennis court in Section H is adjacent to the soccer field and is also patronized by the residents of this section. This is a surfaced tennis court which is fenced-in, but at the present moment the fence has been removed and a new one is to be built in the not too distant future. The tennis court in Section J is also in the proximity of the soccer field and is also surfaced and its fence is also undergoing renovations. This court is mainly patronized by the residents of Section J. Its quality is satisfactory.

The two child play areas which prevail in the township one in Section H and the other one in Section J are in a state of decay and are thus no longer safe for utilisation by the residents. The facilities in these areas leave much to be desired. The child play area in Section J is the worst of the two.

All the existing recreation areas and facilities are open for use by all the residents and they have been made accessible mainly by paths although there are some roads which are of course not in a good condition an example of such a road is the one which leads to the soccer field in Section J. These areas and facilities are supervised by the town council which is working under the auspices of the KwaZulu Government.

Apart from the recreation areas and facilities that fall under

the jurisdiction of the town council there are also those which are under the control of the various educational institutions and are found within their premises. These facilities include, netball courts, tennis courts, soccer fields and table tennis equipment. These facilities are used exclusively by the scholars. The location of these educational institutions can be seen in Figure 3.

TABLE 4: SOCIO-CULTURAL RECREATION FACILITIES IN ESIKHAWINI

TYPE	NUMBER AVAILABLE	UNAVAILABLE	BEING ESTABLISHED
<u>SOCIAL FACILITIES</u>			
Libraries		X	X
Camp sites		X	X
Picnic sites		X	X
Swimming pools		X	X
Beer halls	1		X
Hotel		X	X
Lounge	1		X
Dance halls		X	X
Cinemas		X	X
Theatres		X	X
Club halls		X	X
Societies	3		X
Indlamu Area	3	X	X

Table 5 shows that there are more than ten sporting activities in which the people of Esikhawini participate. This can be attributed to the shortage of facilities and areas where a variety of sporting activities can be performed. The participants in sports such as netball, volleyball, table tennis and softball are scholars only because the facilities for these activities are only found in some of the educational institutions in the township.

Soccer is the most popular sport in the township and this is proved by the fact that there are not less than 8 soccer clubs in Esikhawini. The two official soccer fields are inadequate and this is evident when one takes into consideration that there are about 5 smaller unofficial fields in the township.

There are no special facilities for sports such as boxing and karate. These are performed in school buildings as well as some of the local church buildings. In spite of the fact that there are no special facilities for athletics there is an athletics club which uses the soccer stadium for practising.

Problems that tend to affect the availability, participation and perception of sport and recreation facilities at

TABLE 5: SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN ESIKHWINI

TYPE	STATUS	CLUBS	APPROXIMATE MEMBERS	FACILITY OR FIELDS
Athletics	Scholars and adults	1	200	1
Soccer	Amateur	8	200	2
	Scholars and adults	8	200	2
Cricket	-	-	-	-
Tennis	Scholars and adults	2	30	2
Golf	-	-	-	-
Netball	Scholars	-	100	9
Rugby	-	-	-	-
Basketball	-	-	-	-
Softball	Scholars	1	10	1
Swimming	-	-	-	-
Body Building	-	-	-	-
Boxing	Scholars and adults	1	20	-
Karate	Scholars and adults	2	40	-
Table Tennis	Scholars	3	40	3
Volleyball	Scholars	1	15	1
Weightlifting	-	-	-	-
Tenniquet	Scholars	1	15	1

Esikhawini include the following:

1. Lack of personal funds
2. Working conditions
3. Lack of knowledge of sport and recreation activities
4. Effects of apartheid
5. Lack of organized sport and recreation system
6. Lack of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
7. Poor planning on the part of the authorities
8. Food and health

Some of these problems can be solved if the private sector can contribute towards the improvement and advancement of recreation areas and facilities. The local authorities must also plan well and do everything in their power to get financial resources. The residents themselves must also contribute financially to the improvement and advancement of recreation areas and facilities.

3.4 CONCLUSION

On the whole it can be stated without an element of doubt that the recreation space standard in the township is not in the least commensurate with that which prevails in other

Black townships such as Soweto, let alone that which exists in White residential areas. A lot still remains to be done to make the recreation space standard commensurate with that in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. The prevailing recreation areas and facilities seem to be inadequate and do not satisfy the recreation needs of the ever growing population of the township. The local firms in Richards Bay must also help in solving the problem of inadequate recreation areas and facilities.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

To get the views of the respondents about recreation facilities at Esikhawini data analysis has been done. The data is divided into two sections, namely the views of the ordinary residents of Esikhawini and those of the authorities, the township councillors. In this chapter a number of frequency tables have been constructed in order to facilitate the analysis of data. Interpretation of the data will be entered into at the same time as analysis is undertaken.

4.2 RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES AT ESIKHAWINI AS VIEWED BY THE ORDINARY RESIDENTS

In this section the views and wishes of the ordinary people of Esikhawini are dealt with in detail.

4.2.1 BACKGROUND TO THE RESPONDENTS

The background to the respondents is analysed in the following tables. Each table is followed by an interpretation.

TABLE 6: AGE ANALYSIS

AGE	F	PERCENTAGE/%
10 - 20	25	25
21 - 30	43	43
31 - 40	22	22
41+	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

Table 6 above shows that the majority of the respondents interviewed were between 21 and 30 years of age, this is so because the people between these ages were found to be very keen on responding to the questionnaires because they are very much interested in recreation since most of them are still unmarried and have plenty of spare time during which they can participate in recreation activities. The people above 30 years of age were not that keen to respond to the questionnaires, they claimed not to know much about recreation. All the respondents between 10 and 20 years of age were scholars.

TABLE 7: SEX ANALYSIS

SEX	F	PERCENTAGE
Male	56	56
Female	44	44
TOTAL	100	100

Table 7 shows that the males interviewed were in the majority (56%). This is brought about by the fact that Esikhawini has a

high male population since most of the people residing there, work in the industries in Richards Bay and these industries depend mainly on male labour from outside the area. Some of these males reside in hostels within the township.

All the respondents interviewed indicated that they are Christians. This suggests that the research was undertaken in a predominantly Christian community. This is so despite the fact that a majority of hostel dwellers do not seem to be enthusiastic church goers.

TABLE 8: PERIOD STAYED IN THE AREA

YEARS	F	PERCENTAGE
1 - 5	47	47
5 - 10	50	50
10+	3	3
TOTAL	100	100

Table 8 depicts that more than 95 percent of the respondents have stayed in Esikhawini for less than 10 years. This is so because Esikhawini is a relatively new township which came into existence in 1975. The few respondents who stated that they have stayed in the area for more than 10 years are those who established themselves there before the township was built. Since 1980 people have been moving to Esikhawini in large numbers since there are no restriction on population mobility.

TABLE 9: OCCUPATION ANALYSIS

OCCUPATION	F	PERCENTAGE
Schooling	40	40
Working	60	60
TOTAL	100	100

Table 9 shows that the majority (60%) of the respondents were the workers most of whom work in Richards Bay. All the scholars who formed part of the sample were drawn from the secondary schools in the township. More workers than scholars were interviewed because they are the people who depend most on the public recreation facilities whereas scholars also use the facilities provided in their schools.

TABLE 10: LEVEL OF EDUCATION ANALYSIS

LEVEL	F	PERCENTAGE
Primary	7	7
Secondary	76	76
Tertiary	15	15
None	2	2
TOTAL	100	100

Table 10 indicates that out of the 100 respondents interviewed the majority (76%) had acquired secondary education. This is on the basis of the fact that 40 percent of the respondents were

secondary school pupils. From this information it is evident that the questionnaire was responded to by people who could read and understand it and give appropriate responses. The secondary level of education comprise people that would be strong future decision makers in the Esikhawini community.

Only 15% of the respondents had tertiary education. The reason for this is not hard to find since it is known that among the Black people very few have attained this level of education.

4.2.2 PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES

The research interview indicated the 39,3 percent of the male respondents listen to music during their spare time. This is either from the different radio stations or from music cassettes and records. It was also established that 12,5 percent of the male respondents pass their time by watching television when it is operating whereas 14,3 percent stated that they take interest in working in the garden when they are free from their daily obligations.

Among other activities in which the males were found to take interest the following are worth noting: going to church, visiting friends, reading newspapers, watching soccer, dancing, going to town and going errands. The majority of male scholars put forward that they listen to music and read novels when they have taken time off their school work.

It was established that 38,6 percent of the female respondents utilize their spare time listening to music from records or cassettes as well as the various radio stations. It is worth noting that the percentage of male and female music enthusiasts is more or less the same. This brings to light the fact that music is a favourite pass time activity.

Sewing was found to be a popular pass time activity for 20,5 percent of the female respondents whereas 25 percent of them stated that they take pleasure in watching television when the programmes are on. Among other activities in which the females were found to be very much interested are the following: dancing, reading novels and magazines, cleaning the house, cooking, visiting friends, working in the garden, watching soccer, singing, knitting and washing.

It is interesting to note that some activities were found to be popular among both males and females. Examples of such activities are listening to music, watching television, reading novels and newspapers as well as working in the garden. Table 11 below shows a comparison of male and female music listeners and television watchers.

TABLE 11: COMPARISON OF MALE AND FEMALE MUSIC LISTENERS AND TELEVISION WATCHERS

SEX	MUSIC	TELEVISION
MALE	39,3%	12,5%
FEMALE	38,6%	25,5%

From table 11 it can be seen that the percentage of male music enthusiasts is nearly the same as that of female music listeners. This shows that both males and females consider music to be a perfect way of passing time. This distribution of responses can be attributed to the fact that one does not need special facilities in order to play music, almost every house at Esikhawini has either a radio or a cassette player. It is worth noting that the percentage of male television watchers is half of that of females and this can be ascribed to the fact that men do not spend a lot of time at home and they like activity more than passivity.

The majority of scholars both male and female stated that during their leisure time they enjoy reading novels and magazines, watching soccer and dancing such dances as ball room dance.

As far as participation in active recreation activities is concerned 17,9 percent of the male respondents put forward that they do not participate in any form of formal recreation activity. This must be looked at from the point of view that participation in recreation activities depends on the existence of facilities where such activities can be performed. Existing

recreation patterns are to a large extent human reaction to existing facilities.

A reasonable 44,6 percent of males stated that they are involved in soccer. This came as no surprise since soccer is the most popular sport or recreation activity in almost all the Black townships in South Africa. A further 26,8 percent of males expressed great enthusiasm for and active participation in lawn tennis. The reason for such participation is not hard to find since tennis is one of the few sporting activities for which facilities are available at Esikhawini. Some of the lawn tennis players also put forward that they take pleasure in playing table tennis, but there are inadequate facilities for this sport except those which are available in some of the local educational institution. The shortage of table tennis facilities can be ascribed to the non-availability of community recreation centres where such facilities can be provided.

Only 12,5 percent of the males stated that they recreate by being involved in singing groups and 14,3 percent are active participants in dancing either ball-room dance or disco dance. Boxing as a sporting activity was found to be popular among 8,9 percent of the males. Other activities in which the males were found to participate are karate, athletics and swimming.

A modicum 29,5 percent of the female respondents stated that they are not interested in any form of active recreation activity. This lack of participation can be easily attributed to the

shortage of recreation facilities because without proper facilities involvement in recreation activities is bound to be minimal. A moderate 31,8 percent of the females put forward that they recreate by being involved in singing groups, and this can be ascribed to the fact that one does not need special facilities in order to be able to participate actively in singing since any house can be utilized for this purpose.

Only 29,5 percent of the females were found to be involved in lawn tennis and 20,5 percent in dancing whereas 18,2 percent participate in netball. Most of the netball enthusiasts were the scholars who participate in it at school since there are no other netball courts in the township except those which are found in educational institutions.

TABLE 12 PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN RECREATION ACTIVITIES BY MALES AND FEMALES

SEX	LAWN TENNIS	SINGING	DANCING	NONE
MALE	26,8%	12,5%	14,3%	17,9%
FEMALE	29,5%	31,8%	20,5%	29,5%

Table 12 shows that more females than males participate in lawn tennis. This can be ascribed to that there is a feeling in certain sections of the Black community especially among men that tennis is a sport for females. More females than males were found to participate in singing and this came as no surprise

since females like to participate in the rather soft activities where there is less physical involvement. Dancing was also found to be more popular among females than males since it is one of the activities where no physical strength is needed. The degree of non-participation in recreation activities was found to be high among the females. This can be attributed to the fact that females, especially married ones do not care about active recreation, they just look after their children and perform other household duties.

4.2.3 SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

Information was also acquired concerning the availability of recreation facilities in the township. The respondents were asked about the type of recreation facilities which prevail in the township, the aim being to establish whether the residents are aware of the recreation facilities available in the township, as revealed in Chapter 3.

An overwhelming majority of the males, (91%) were found to be fully aware of the availability of two soccer fields. It can be said that it is the popularity of soccer among the Black people that makes such a high percentage of male respondents aware of the existence of soccer stadiums.

A sizeable 69,6 percent of the males stated that they are aware of the availability of tennis courts in the township and 30,4

percent of them put forward that they know one night club. Only 10,7 percent of the males acknowledged the existence of a few child play areas. The reason for such a low percentage of people who know about the existence of child play areas can be said to be that the two areas which prevail are in a state of decay and thus are seldom utilized.

Among the females it was established that 88,6 percent are aware of the availability of two soccer fields. This proves that the soccer fields are the most popular recreation facilities in the township and the more popular of the two is the one in section J. A sizeable 81,8 percent of the female respondents stated that they are quite aware of the existence of two tennis courts and this emphasises that the tennis courts are the second most popular facilities. The existence of a night club was acknowledged by 40,9 percent of the female respondents whereas the availability of child play areas was acknowledged by only 2,3 percent. This puts an emphasis on that very few people are aware of the existence of child play areas in the township.

There were in all two recreation facilities which were found to be popularly known by both the male and female respondents. These are, the soccer fields and the tennis courts. These are the facilities which are frequented by the people either as spectators or active participants in the activities which are performed in them. Chapter 3 revealed that after all these are the only ones predominantly available in Esikhawini.

In response to the question, do you think the prevailing facilities are adequate the following is reflected:

TABLE 13: RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE PREVAILING FACILITIES ARE ADEQUATE?

RESPONSES	F	PERCENTAGE
YES	2	2
NO	95	95
UNDECIDED	3	3
TOTAL	100	100

Table 13 shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents stated in no uncertain terms that the existing facilities are not in the least adequate for they do not satisfy the recreation needs of the residents. This shows clearly that the people are longing for the provision of more facilities which can satisfy the recreation needs of men and women as well as young and old residents. Only 2 percent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the prevailing facilities most probably because they are not very much interested in recreation.

A further 3 percent was found to be undecided about whether the facilities are adequate or not and these were among those people who stated that they do not participate in any formal recreation activity. Their indecision stems from the fact that they do not care about recreation areas and facilities since they do not use them.

As to whether the prevailing facilities should be improved, the responses were as shown in Table 14 below.

TABLE 14: RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: DO THE PREVAILING FACILITIES NEED IMPROVEMENT?

RESPONSES	F	PERCENTAGE
YES	98	98
NO	1	1
UNDECIDED	1	1
TOTAL	100	100

Table 14 shows that only 2 percent of the respondents had views contrary to that the existing facilities should be improved. This emphasises that the majority of the respondents were not in the least satisfied with the condition of the prevailing facilities since they felt that these do not satisfy the recreation needs of the residents. The people would be very delighted if improvement can be effected in the not too distant future.

As to whether the facilities should be improved in number or quality or both the former and the latter, the responses were as

shown in Table 15 below:

TABLE 15: RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: IF THE PREVAILING FACILITIES NEED IMPROVEMENT, SHOULD THEY BE IMPROVED IN NUMBER OR QUALITY OR BOTH?

RESPONSES	F	PERCENTAGE
NUMBER	5	5,1
QUALITY	7	7,1
BOTH THE ABOVE	86	87,8
TOTAL	98	100

Table 15 shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (87,8 %) stated that both the number and quality of the recreation areas and facilities warrant improvement. This throws light to the fact that both the qualitative and quantitative nature of the facilities is not to the liking of the people who utilize these facilities.

In as far as the soccer stadium in Section J is concerned the general feeling of those who are longing for improvement of the facilities was that it should be renovated and made a stadium in the true sense of the word, through the provision of seating facilities and a pavillion. Since soccer is the first love of most of the Black people in South Africa, those who desire improvement voiced out that the number of soccer fields in the

township should be increased and these should be of a high standard so as to meet all the needs of the soccer enthusiasts.

It was also the feeling of the majority of the respondents that the number of tennis courts should be substantially increased and their quality embettered since it is felt that the two prevailing courts are not enough to meet the recreation needs of the ever growing population of the township.

It was also established that besides the improvements which should be effected on the existing facilities, the need is also felt for the provision of more facilities in the township so as to satisfy the recreation needs of the community. The most desirable facilities are listed in Table 16 below in order of preference.

TABLE 16: RANKED PREFERED FACILITIES

FACILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Cinema	74	74
Swimming pools	51	51
Community hall	45	45
Dance halls	34	34
Museum and Libraries	30	30
Parks	29	29
Child play areas	21	21

CONTINUED.....

FACILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Picnic site	19	19
Community recreation centre	17	17

Table 16 shows that the cinema is by far the most desirable facility. This brings to light that most of the people are interested in watching movies. At the present moment school halls and church buildings are used for watching films. Because of the non-availability of a cinema some people hire video cassettes and play them in their homes.

The need is also felt for the provision of swimming pools since the summers in the area are very hot. Because of the non-availability of swimming pools whenever people feel like swimming, they have to go to the beach. It is however, interesting to note that according to the councillors places are at hand for the building of a swimming pool. The community hall is also one of the most desirable facilities and its building is already in the plans of the councillors. This hall will be of great help to the recreators for a multiplicity of activities can be performed in it.

It is worth noting that community recreation centres are at the bottom of the rank and this can be attributed to that most of the people feel that a well planned community hall can be utilized for a number of activities which can be performed in community

recreation centres.

Other facilities which are desired by the people and are also on the priority list of the councillors are museums and libraries and parks.

The question, whose responsibility is it to improve the recreation facilities, was responded to as shown in Table 17 below:

TABLE 17: RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATION FACILITIES?

RESPONSE	F	PERCENTAGE
Government	37	37
Town Council	57	57
Others	6	6
TOTAL	100	100

Table 17 shows that the majority of respondents stated that they deem it the duty of the town council to improve the recreation facilities. The town council is the body that was elected by the people to administer their affairs so it is not surprising to note that the majority of the respondents held this body responsible for the improvement of the recreation facilities.

The KwaZulu Government was also held responsible for the improvement of recreation facilities by 37 percent of the

respondents. Since the township is under this government, it is its duty to satisfy the needs of the residents. Even the councillors themselves have to dance to the tune of the government, which is the ultimate authority in the decision-making process.

A few respondents, 6 percent, put forward that apart from the government and the town council the local firms in Richards Bay for which most of the people residing at Esikhawini work, should also contribute towards the improvement of recreation areas and facilities in the township. In order for people to do their best at work, they should use their leisure time profitably, thus it is the responsibility of those who need strong and healthy workers to provide them with adequate recreation facilities. The factories that can be held responsible for the improvement of facilities are Richards Bay Coal Terminal, Mondi Paper Mill, Alusaf and Triomf Fertilizer, since they are the biggest firms in Richards Bay and thus employ the bulk of the residents of Esikhawini.

The values and benefits of a well organized employee recreation programme as listed by Weiskopf (1975:173) are as follows:

1. Promoting employee efficiency
2. Improving employer-employee relationship
3. Helping employees consume surplus energy and relieve pressure and emotions
4. Boosting morale of both labour and management.
5. Providing incentive for employment-recruitment appeal
6. Promoting greater employee stability and motivation.

7. Establishing good community relations and cooperation.

As to whether the prevailing facilities are well cared for, the responses were as shown in Table 18 below:

TABLE 18: RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE EXISTING FACILITIES ARE WELL CARED FOR?

RESPONSES	F	PERCENTAGE
Yes	10	10
No	89	89
Undecided	1	1
TOTAL	100	100

Table 18 shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (89 percent) expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the existing facilities are cared for by the recreation authorities. The negligence of the authorities is evident when one looks at the soccer fields. These are not properly fenced and their turfs leave much to be desired. The bad condition of the soccer fields can be attributed to the fact that there is nobody who is assigned to see to it that these are in a good condition. The tennis courts are also not properly fenced.

Only 10 percent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the way in which the facilities are cared for. This group most

probably comprises of those people who are not well vested with knowledge of how recreation facilities should be cared for. These people accept the situation as it is because they do not know anything better.

Since it seems as if the recreation areas and facilities at Esikhawini are not well advanced, the respondents were called upon to state what they regard as the problem with the advancement of recreation facilities in the township.

The blame for the non-advancement of recreation facilities was laid on the town council by 44 percent of the respondents. It was explicitly stated that the council does not care about the improvement of recreation areas and facilities in the township. These facilities seem to be totally neglected and it looks as though the council which is supposed to serve the community does not know what the residents desire in the recreation sphere and thus it is unable to satisfy their recreation needs. The council does not have a recreation committee which can attend to the recreation needs of the residents. There seems to be a lack of consultation between the Council and the community it purports to serve. The community is hardly aware of anything that is being done by the council by way of advancing recreation facilities so that these can be in a position of meeting the recreation needs of the residents of the township.

The respondents (35%) also indicated that the non-advancement of facilities is due to the shortage of money. It was stated that it seems as if there are no financial resources for the establishment, improvement and advancement of facilities. It is an unquestionable fact that not a single step can be taken along the line of improving recreation facilities without the necessary capital.

Other problems which were voiced out by the respondents include the following:

1. Lack of co-operation between the town council and the community.
2. The KwaZulu government does not provide the necessary capital for the improvement.
3. The township is still relatively new as a result many things, including recreation areas and facilities are not yet well established.
4. The community seems to be passive and thus does not make the necessary demands on the authorities so as to make them act more responsibly.

The list below shows the types of recreation facilities which are thought could be introduced at Esikhawini and how the people would use them.

TABLE 19: RANKING OF FACILITIES THAT ARE DESIRED

FACILITIES	PERCENTAGE
1. Cinemas	81
2. Museums and Libraries	71
3. Sporting facilities	68
4. Swimming pools	66
5. Dance halls	66
6. Community recreation centres	65
7. Community parks	54
8. Picnic sites	50
9. Braai-sports	46
10. Child play areas	32
11. Camp sites	31
12. Cycling facilities	31

From the information gathered from the sample a comparison of recreation activity preference between Americans and South African Blacks as well as the residents of Esikhawini can be made as shown in Table 20. What should be taken into account is that the ranking of activity preference for Esikhawini has been made on the basis of the facilities which the respondents said they would like to see in the township.

TABLE 20: RANKING OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES PREFERENCES COMPARED

U.S.A	S.A. BLACKS	ESIKHAWINI
1. Walking for pleasure	Visiting friends	watching movies
2. Swimming	Picnicking	Visiting museums
3. Driving	Relaxing at the seaside	Spectator sports
4. Sports and games	Spectator sports	Swimming
5. Bicycling	Participation in sport	Dancing
6. Sightseeing	Swimming	Indoor <u>events</u>
7. Picnicking	Visits to the zoo	Visiting parks
8. Fishing	Inland resorts	Picnicking
9. Outdoor events	Hiking	Braaing
10. Boating	Camping	Camping
11. Nature walks	Nature reserves	Cycling

SOURCES: MAGI (1979: 40) and HUGO (1974:58)

What should be noted is that the ranking of activity preferences for the United States of America and that for the Blacks nationwide in South Africa has been confined to outdoor recreation activities only whereas that for Esikhawini includes all the recreation activities, be they indoor or outdoor activities. The ranking for the United States of America and Blacks nationwide in South Africa is based on the actual patterns of participation in recreation activities whereas the ranking for Esikhawini is based on what the people would do if all the necessary areas and facilities were provided.

4.3 RECREATION FACILITIES AT ESIKHAWINI AS VIEWED BY THE AUTHORITIES (COUNCILLORS)

A total of five councillors were interviewed. In this section a close look is taken at how they view supply and demand of recreation areas and facilities in the township.

TABLE 21: PERIOD OF COUNCILLORSHIP

YEARS	F	PERCENTAGE
1 - 2	2	40
3 - 4	1	20
5 - 6	2	40
TOTAL	5	100

Table 21 shows that all the councillors who were interviewed have

been in authoritative positions for between 1 and 6 years. Councillors are elected for a period of three years after which they are eligible for re-election. From Table 21 it is clear that 60 percent of the respondents have been councillors for more than one term of office whereas 40 percent have served for one term of office. From the information above it is obvious that the views that were sought were those of councillors who have been in office for a considerably long period as well as those who have recently joined the rank of councillors. All the councillors who were interviewed were thought to have sufficient knowledge about recreation areas and facilities.

In as far as the availability of recreation areas and facilities is concerned 40 percent of the respondents revealed that they are aware of the existence of one football field in the township whereas 60 percent stated that they know of two football fields, one which is fenced-in and is in Section J and the other one which is not fenced-in available in Section H. From this information it is clear that 40 percent of the respondents do not know the exact number of football fields in the township and this can be attributed to ignorance.

A complete majority(100 percent) of the respondents were found to be aware of the availability of two tennis courts, one in Section H and the other one in Section J. The existence of two child play areas was acknowledged by 40 percent of the respondents, whereas 60 percent did not mention anything about the availability of such areas. The reason behind the difference

about the existence of child play areas can easily be said to be the fact that the two prevailing areas are in a state of decay and are thus not utilized regularly and so some of the authorities just like the ordinary residents are not aware of their existence. These areas can be said to have been recreation areas because the state in which they are today does not warrant them to be called recreation areas. One of these dilapidated areas is found in Section J and the other one in Section H. (See Figure 3).

As far as the ownership of the recreation areas and facilities is concerned the responses were as shown in Table 22 below:

TABLE 22: OWNERSHIP OF RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

OWNER	F	PERCENTAGE
State	4	80
Town Council	1	20
Other bodies	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	5	100

Table 22 makes it clear that the majority of the respondents stated without any doubt that all the recreation areas and facilities in the township are under the control or are owned by the KwaZulu Government. The township is administered by the KwaZulu Government so it stands to reason that most of the public

undertakings in the township are controlled by this government. The town council itself is responsible to the KwaZulu Government so it does not own the recreation areas and facilities but is administering them on behalf of the government.

It is worth noting that there are no areas and facilities which are owned by the private sector. The industries for which most of the residents of Esikhawini work should provide their employees with adequate recreation facilities. However the industrial corporations in Richards Bay have neglected this responsibility, they have only provided houses for their employees.

To the question: Do the people use the existing facilities?, all the respondents stated in no uncertain terms that they do. The people have got an urge for recreation, thus they utilize any facility that is on offer, for example the tennis courts.

As to how often the people use the recreation facilities, the responses were as shown in Table 23 below:

TABLE 23: RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: HOW OFTEN DO THE PEOPLE USE THE FACILITIES?

RESPONSES	F	PERCENTAGE
Daily	1	20
Once or twice a week	1	20
Only during weekends	3	60
TOTAL	5	100

From Table 23 it is clear that a sizeable 60 percent of the respondents indicated that the facilities are utilized only during weekends when most of the people are free from their daily obligations. People engage in recreation activities during their leisure time and most of them have got a lot of leisure time during weekends, thus the argument that the majority of people utilize the recreation facilities during weekends is in accordance with the African way of life. This also reveals the work ethic mentioned earlier in chapter 2.

There are some activities in which the people participate even during week days. These are activities such as playing lawn tennis. The people utilize the tennis courts in the afternoons after fulfilling their daily assignments. The soccer fields are utilized during the weekends.

All the respondents were unanimous in stating that the prevailing facilities are far from being adequate and thus are not in a position of satisfying the recreation needs of the people. A lot still remains to be done in order to provide adequate facilities and the authorities (councillors) were found to be quite aware of that.

The list below shows the facilities which the authorities plan to provide in the not too distant future.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Recreation hall | 4. Swimming pool |
| 2. Athletics stadium | 5. Libraries |
| 3. Soccer Stadium | 6. Community parks |

Listed in Table 24 below are the facilities which the authorities would like to see in the township. These are the facilities they wish for as opposed to those listed above which are already in their plans for the foreseeable future. What should be noted is that some of these facilities which are wished for are the same as those which are already provided for in plans.

TABLE 24: RANKING OF THE RECREATION FACILITIES THAT THE AUTHORITIES DESIRE.

FACILITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Athletics stadium	5	100
Recreation hall	4	80
Soccer stadium	4	80
Swimming pools	3	60
Libraries	3	60
Community parks	2	40
Netball courts	2	40
Amusement centres	1	20

From table 24 it is clear that the athletics stadium proved to be the most desirable facility among the authorities. At the present moment the soccer stadium in Section J is used for athletic events, but it is not in a position to accommodate both soccer and athletic events that is why the need is felt for the construction of a stadium that is going to be used for athletic events.

The recreation hall is also one of the most desirable facilities for a multiplicity of recreation activities can be performed in such a hall. Such a hall can cater for the recreation needs of both the youth and the adults. A soccer stadium is also desired for soccer is the favourite sport for a lot of people in the township.

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As to whether there is enough space for the provision of more recreation facilities in Esikhawini, the authorities responded in full accord (100 percent) that there is plenty of space where a number of facilities can be provided. (See Figure 6)

All the authorities (100 percent) interviewed also indicated that all the recreation projects in the township are financed by the KwaZulu Government. They, however, expressed some hope that in the not too distant future local companies in Richards Bay will also give a helping hand in the improvement and advancement of recreation facilities since most of the employees of these companies reside in the township.

In countries such as the United States of America industrial firms provide extensive recreation programmes for their employees and their families. "Industry discovered many years ago that involving the worker and his family in recreation activities can be an advantage to employees, the company and the community." (Weiskopf, 1975: 173) The recreation programs which are administered by companies are also financed by them.

Churches and religion institutions can also play a role in the provision of recreation facilities for their members. In the United States of America there are a number of recreation programs which are financed by churches for it has been recognized that man's spiritual life cannot be separated from his

physical, mental and social life.

All the respondents picked upon the lack of money as the most striking problem which retards progress in the provision and advancement of recreation facilities. It was explicitly stated that there are no other financial resources besides the KwaZulu government which has financial problems of its own. Other problems which were voiced out include the following:

1. Lack of co-operation between the Councillors and the community.
2. The township is still new thus it is not possible to provide recreation areas and facilities that are needed at the same time.
3. Proclamation R293 of 1962 as amended in 1970 which controls the way in which the local authorities exercise their powers, makes it difficult for the councillors to exercise proper management for it does not differentiate clearly between the duties and powers of the township manager and those of the councillors. In this Proclamation it is stated that the township manager administers the township generally whereas the township council has to manage and control the township and determine the order of priority to be observed in the allocation of residential facilities and it must also maintain good order in the township.

The authorities overwhelmingly (100 percent) stated in no

uncertain terms that the recreation facilities that are existing in the township are inadequate and there is an urgent need for the provision of more facilities and the improvement of the prevailing ones. With the population of township increasing rapidly the problem of the provision of more recreation areas and facilities is becoming more acute. The authorities also indicated that they have already started negotiations with the local firms in Richards Bay urging them to give a helping hand in the provision and advancement of recreation areas and facilities. The town council is also contemplating imposing a special tax for recreation on the legal residents of the township so as to ease its financial problems.

The authorities are also concerned about the organization and management of the recreation system in the township. To try and improve this they requested Mr L.M. Magi (1984) to draw an organizational flow chart of the recreation and parks system. This chart is shown in Appendix B.

4.4 INTERGRATION OF THE VIEWS OF THE RESIDENTS AND THOSE OF THE AUTHORITIES

In this section an attempt is made to intergrate the views of the ordinary residents of Esikhawini with those of the authorities (councillors).

The majority of both the ordinary residents and the authorities

stated that they are quite aware of the existence of two soccer fields in the township. This can be attributed to the fact that soccer is very popular among the Black people and soccer stadiums are utilised extensively.

The existence of two tennis courts was also acknowledged by a majority of both ordinary residents and authorities. This proves that tennis is the second most popular sport behind soccer. The tennis courts are used regularly by recreators.

Very few respondents among the ordinary residents acknowledged the existence of child play areas and only 40 percent of the authorities indicated that they know such areas in the township. The reason for this is not hard to find since the two areas which are available are in a state of decay and thus are no longer on a regular basis because they are not safe.

Both the authorities and the ordinary residents were found to be unanimous in indicating that there is an urgent need for the provision of more recreation areas and facilities as well as the improvement of the prevailing ones since the state in which the latter are, leaves much to be desired. The authorities must do everything in their power to see to it that the residents are relieved from the boring life which they are leading because of the absence of recreation facilities. This boring life can inevitably lead to the growth of the rate of drunkenness.

The residents look upon the authorities to improve the situation and at the present moment they are not satisfied with the way in which the authorities execute their duties, in as far as recreation is concerned. It seems as if the authorities have taken no positive steps towards the improvement of the facilities and thus the satisfaction of the recreation needs of the residents. The authorities in turn look upon the KwaZulu Government to provide them with the necessary financial support in order to live up to the expectations of the residents.

It is interesting to note that the facilities which the authorities desire and would be delighted if they can be provided in the township are not exactly the same as those which the majority of the ordinary members of the community would like to see prevailing in the township. The cinema ranked very high on the preference list of the ordinary residents whereas the authorities did not mention anything about such a facility. It was established that instead of building a cinema only, the authorities plan to build a multipurpose hall where a multiplicity of recreation activities can be performed. Also high on the priority list of the authorities is an athletics stadium which is nowhere to be found in the preference list of the ordinary residents.

The need for swimming pools, libraries and museums, community parks, soccer stadiums and community recreation centres was expressed by both the authorities and the community.

It is worth noting that a considerable number of ordinary residents (44 percent) laid the blame for the non-advancement of recreation areas and facilities on the town council whereas the authorities laid the blame on the shortage of money. The authorities stated that no matter how willing they might be to introduce more facilities, they cannot move an inch without the necessary financial backing.

Both the authorities and the community voiced out that another problem with the advancement of recreation areas and facilities is the lack of co-operation between the town council and the community. This lack of co-operation is brought about by the fact that there is a lack of communication between the local authorities (councillors) and the residents thus the authorities do not know exactly what the people need in the recreation field. This lack of communication can be ascribed to the absence of a recreation committee which can address itself directly to the establishment of the recreation needs of the people. It is, however, interesting to note that the authorities are contemplating establishing such a committee in the foreseeable future as indicated in Appendix B.

From the information gathered from both the authorities and the community it is clear that the recreation areas and facilities that prevail at Esikhawini are inadequate. This proves correct the hypothesis as stated in this study that:

The recreation facilities at Esikhawini are inadequate and do not
satisfy the recreation needs of the people.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

In this study an attempt has been made to explore the recreation areas and facilities at Esikhawini, looking at the present state in which they are and their possible situation in the future. The aim of the study was to establish whether the recreation areas and facilities which exist satisfy the recreation needs of the people as well as to look into the possibility of providing more facilities. It can be state without any element of doubt that both the authorities (councillors) and the members of the public felt that the prevailing facilities are not in a position to satisfy the recreation needs of the people. This therefore proves correct the hypothesis as stated in this study, that: The recreation facilities at Esikhawini are inadequate and do not satisfy the recreation needs of the people.

The authorities (councillors) as well as the public are concerned about the state of recreation facilities. The residents look upon the authorities to improve the situation whereas the authorities have their eyes set on the KwaZulu Government to provide them with funds which are indispensable in the provision of adequate facilities. The authorities have also appealed to the companies in Richards Bay for financial help.

With rapid urbanization of the Black people in South Africa the need for recreation is increasing. In order for this need to be satisfied adequate recreation areas and facilities should be provided. At the present moment at Esikhawini this need has not yet been satisfied and therefore the residents are not in a position to use their leisure time profitably.

Recreation facilities should be planned in such a way as to satisfy both the indoor and outdoor recreation needs of the people. At Esikhawini however, all the facilities which exist, namely the tennis courts, soccer fields and child play areas cater for outdoor recreation. There is not a single structure which can be utilized for indoor recreation. There is an urgent need for the building of a recreation hall where a number of indoor recreation activities can be performed.

Recreation opportunities at Esikhawini are restricted by the non-availability of adequate recreation areas and facilities. As a result of this non-availability of recreation opportunities a number of people are prone to drunkenness and there is a great possibility that the crime rate might increase since many criminal acts are performed during leisure hours.

In order to ensure that recreation areas and facilities are always in a satisfactory condition they must be properly supervised. However, this is not the case with the few facilities which exist at Esikhawini thus it stands to reason

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the information gathered from the sample, the following recommendations are made:

1. There should be co-operation between the community and the authorities so that all the recreation projects in the township can be carried out. The authorities must consult the people so as to find out what they need.

2. To provide adequate recreation areas and facilities the town council must perform several functions, including the following:
 - (a) Acquire and develop and maintain sufficient land for the needs of the residents.
 - (b) Provide an organized program with supervision.
 - (c) Develop immediate and long-range plans and goals for recreation projects.
 - (d) Establish a recreation committee which is going to see to it that the recreation programmes are implemented.
 - (e) Co-ordinate the use of areas and facilities.
 - (f) Acquire the capital that is required for the construction of facilities from both the public and the private sector. This can be done by imposing special taxes on the residents and asking for donations from local companies.

3. The local authorities must address themselves to the

needs of the people and take prompt decisions about the provision of recreation areas and facilities.

4. The prevailing recreation facilities should be improved with immediate effect so as to ensure that they are perfect for utilization by recreators.
5. The recreation areas and facilities which are in a state of decay such as the child play areas must be rennovated and made safe for usage.
6. The residents who are well-off, such as local business people should be encouraged to establish private recreation facilities which can be used for a small fee by the public.
7. The local authorities must give proper counselling about recreation. The members of the recreation committee can conduct clinics explaining to the people the values of recreation and teaching them the basic skills for participating in certain recreation activities.
8. The residents must be encouraged to be less passive but give suggestions to the local authorities about what should be done in the recreation field. The recreation committee can conduct surveys so as to establish what the people want.
9. Halls must be built in the various educational institutions. These halls can be used by both the scholars and the community for recreation purposes.

- ✓10. The Natal Parks Board should also provide recreation areas and facilities near the boundaries of the township as it has done in White areas, for example in Richards Bay.

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(i)

APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRES

QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION A

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND THEN PLACE A CROSS (X) IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE

1. AGE:

10-20 yrs

21-30 years

31-40 years

Above 40

2. SEX:

MALE

FEMALE

3. RELIGION:

CHRISTIAN

NON-CHRISTIAN

4. How long have you lived in this area?

1 - 5 years

5 - 10 years

More than 10 yrs

5. Are you attending School or working?

School

Working

6. If you are working, what is your level of education?

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary

None

7. What do you do during your spare time?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. What recreation activities do you participate in?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

9. Name the recreation facilities available in the township.

- 1- -----
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

10. Do you think these facilities are adequate?

Yes

No

Undecided

11. Do the prevailing facilities need improvement?

Yes

No

Undecided

12. If the prevailing facilities do need improvement, should they be improved in:

Number	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Both the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. If you like to have more facilities provided name those you would like to see in the Township.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

14. Whose responsibility is to improve the recreation facilities?

The Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Do you think the present facilities are well cared for?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. What do you think is the problem with the advancement of recreation facilities at Esikhawini?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

17. Of the facilities listed below tick those you would use if introduced-

1. Swimming pools
2. Dance halls
3. Cinemas
4. Parks
5. Picnic sites
6. Braai-spots
7. Community recreation centres
8. Sporting facilities
9. Child play areas
10. Cycling facilities
11. Camp sites
12. Museums and libraries

QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION B

1. NAME:

2. OFFICE HELD BY THE RESPONDENT:

.....

3. How long have you held this office?

4. Name the recreation facilities available in the township.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

5. Who owns these facilities?

State

Private Bodies

Town Council

Other

6. Do the people use these facilities?

Yes

No

7. If the answer to question 6 is yes, how often do the people use these facilities?

Daily

Once or twice a week

Only during weekends

8. If they do not use them, explain why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

9. Do you think the present facilities are adequate?

Yes

No

10. What other recreation facilities are to be introduced in the township?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11. What recreation facilities do you think should be introduced in the township?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

12. Is there enough space for the provision of more recreation facilities?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Who finances the recreation projects in the township?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

14. State the problems you encounter in the provision and advancement of recreation facilities.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

