

## Mamelodi Heritage Route:

The city of Tshwane has proposed a number of heritage routes through the city as a part of its branding exercise. These routes are categorised into a number of themes, being Conservation city; Garden city; Knowledge and industry; Park Route and finally, the category applicable to Mamelodi: Struggle and Freedom. (Tourism Brochure; 2006)

The greater proposed route begins and ends in the city centre; however, Mamelodi has its own small circuit. This route begins at the entrance to Mamelodi, the intersection between Soutpansberg Road and Waltloo Street, the position of Solomon Mahlangu Square and a community amphitheatre, a fenced in concrete structure. Solomon Mahlangu was an ANC cadre who was hanged by the state for the part he played in the freedom struggle. A statue by Angus Young commemorates his memory in Solomon Mahlangu Square.

From here, the route leads North West to the cemetery, final resting place for numerous struggle heroes including Solomon Mahlangu. Further north, the Magaliesberg Mountains were “the site of many skirmishes between cadres and the South African Police (SAP)”. (Tourism Brochure; 2006) Moretele Park lies at the base of these mountains and there is a picturesque gorge cutting through the hills cut by the Pienaars River. This gorge is easily accessible from the street and houses a bridge



Fig92



Fig93



Fig94



Fig95



Fig96



Fig97



Fig98



Fig99



Fig 92: Walled houses along the street

Fig 93: The house of Dr Nico Smit, the roof is a geodesic dome

Fig 94: A temporary structure in the park

Fig 95: School children walk along main roads at lunch time and after school

Fig 96: Former hostels now occupied by illegal squatters

Fig 97: A typical spaza shop

Fig 98: The original shopping complex in Mamelodi

Fig 99: The house of Dr Fabien Ribiero

Fig 100: Most major intersections have become commercial nodes



Fig 101: The structure of the existing amphitheatre can be seen in the background



Fig 102: Solomon Mahlangu



Fig 103: Tsamaya Station; the public transport hub



Fig 104: Trade around Mamelodi



Fig 105: Entrance to the hostels

Fig 106: Containers used as an extension to a house



Fig 107: More affluent citizens built typical suburban homes

Fig 108: The existing community hall sees little or no activity through the year



Fig 109: The water slide behind the playground



over the river. There are cliffs, caves and many a secluded spot down the gorge. It is suggested that access by footpaths to the gorge from the park be made. Potential activities in the gorge include swimming, rock climbing and picnicking to name but a few.

H.M. Pitje Stadium served as the venue for many events during the struggle era and also housed “various mass meetings called by the Mamelodi Civic Association during the struggle era. It is currently being upgraded to the tune of R10m and there are reports (Sunday Times; Soccer Life; 07/10/2006) that business tycoon and mining magnate, Mamelodi Sundowns’ owner, Patrice Motsepe has ambitions to build a bigger state of the art stadium here for his team. The stadium will be used as a training facility for visiting international teams in the upcoming soccer World Cup.

East from here lies the Community Hall, Balebogeng Centre and the Old Beer Hall (the first structure in Mamelodi to have electricity).

Further along the route, the houses of two prominent white citizens of Mamelodi can be found: those of Dr. Fabian Ribiero, :”the peoples doctor” and that of Dr. Nico Smit a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Moretele Park lies just north of this point. Further away, in Mandela Village, the Johannes Maisha Stanza Bopape Memorial can be found. Stanza

disappeared one night and his body was never recovered. He was reportedly murdered by apartheid police and his body allegedly dumped in the Komati River. (Tourism Brochure; 2006)

### **Mamelodi Tourism Proposal:**

A government committee has been reviewing the state of Mamelodi and commissioned an independent tourism company to propose a tourism plan for the township. The plan centres around the concept of empowerment of local stakeholders: tavern owners, guest houses and shebeens among them.

Conceptually modelled on the Soweto tourism model, the tourism plan seeks to make certain fundamental changes. Mamelodi is to be regarded as a destination, rather than as a stop off as part of a larger tour. This approach seeks to ensure direct economic results in the township. The case in Soweto has been largely criticised because tourists both begin and end tours in Sandton meaning little of no economic effect in the township. The Soweto tours are experienced through bus or car windows and very little is actually bought. Some shebeens and recreation facilities are connected with these tours, giving them clear advantage over competitors. In terms of provision of tourism facilities, restoration has been proposed for some sites, such as the Mamelodi Rondavels, while upgrades of existing infrastructure has ben proposed elsewhere.



Fig 110: Rondavels on the farm from early years



Fig 111: The logo for the Earth Summit



The process is ongoing. As a guideline for this project, the concept of Mamelodi as a destination has played a central role in programme development and informing design decisions. (Mamelodi Tourism Development Project; 2006)

### **Applicable legislation:**

Based on information from the Gauteng Tourism: Responsible-Tourism Manual

Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, South African economic policy has embraced the “essential tenet of the ‘triple bottom line’”, guidelines for sustainable practice based on social, economic and environmental criteria. Where previous practice focussed on environmental issues, the contemporary approach has “shifted to place more emphasis on poverty alleviation and other important socio-economic aspects of sustainable development.” (Gauteng Tourism: Responsible-Tourism Manual; p4) The guiding principles of this are articulated in South Africa’s *White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism (1996)*( Gauteng Tourism: Responsible-Tourism Manual; p4) Statistics show that this trend of basing development on the “triple bottom line” is appreciated by tourism patrons. As many as 95% of tourists feel that resorts that show respect to the way of living of locals is the most important criteria for them when booking a holiday. (Gauteng Tourism: Responsible-Tourism Manual; p4)



The guidelines of the Gauteng Tourism: Responsible-Tourism Manual prioritises:

- Protection of the environment
- Respect for local culture
- Provision of measurable benefits to local communities
- Conservation of natural resources
- Minimising pollution

These principles have been considered in conceptualising an appropriate intervention for Moretele Park.

### Institutional Framework

The Municipal Systems Act, 2000 determines that a municipality must adopt a framework for integrated development in its area in the form of an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (Section 27).

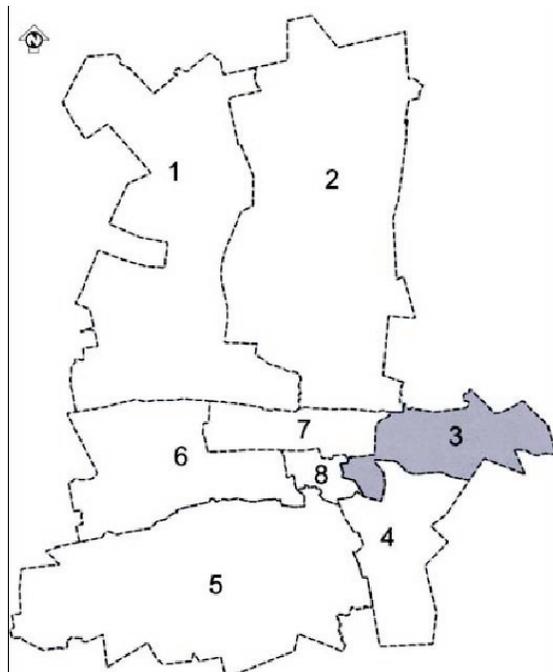
A Spatial Development Framework, which guides and informs all development, forms part of the IDP (Section 35 (2)).

The Gauteng Planning and Development Act, 2003 determines that municipalities must formulate spatial development frameworks for their areas (Section 31 and 32).

An overview of the SDF is been shown on the following pages. The development of the park as an entertainment and recreation area within a nature reserve falls in line with existing requirements



Fig 113: Administrative regions of Tshwane



In order to understand the context of the area and gain some insight as to what is envisioned here by the government, it is useful to examine the nature and content of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF).

An SDF must:

Indicate where public and private development infrastructure investment should take place.

Indicate desired development and land use patterns for different areas.

Indicate where development of particular land uses should be discouraged or restricted.

Provide broad indication of the areas where priority spending should take place.

Shall provide guidelines for development and land use decision making by the municipality

Mamelodi falls into Region 3 which is situated east of the Tshwane CBD with portions on both sides of the N1 Highway. Most significantly the eastern part which comprises the largest section of the region includes the lower income areas of Mamelodi and Eersterus, as well as the industrial areas of Silverton and Waltloo. The smaller western part of the region includes Hatfield and other higher income areas. It is regionally accessible via:

The N1 freeway which runs north south along its western boundary of the northern part and links the City of Tshwane with the Limpopo Province in the north and Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Cape Town towards the south;



The N4 freeway, which links the region with the Mpumalanga Province to the east, which forms part of the Maputu/ Walvis Bay Corridor.

The region is therefore accessible from a regional point of view as it is served by both north-south and east-west first order roads linking it to the rest of Gauteng and the broader region.

### 2.3 Metropolitan Characteristics

The main regional characteristics of Region 3 are:

It consists of two distinct urban areas namely:

A large northeastern section (Mamelodi, Eersterus, Nellmapius, Silverton, Eastlyne, Murrayfield, La Montagne, Meyerspark etc.) .

A smaller southwestern section (Hatfield, Hillcrest, Colbyn, Lynnwood and Menlopark).

The northeastern section of the region accommodates mostly low-income communities and industrial land uses.

The southwestern section of the region accommodates medium to high income areas with large institutional uses.

The region includes a number of strategically located undeveloped areas in terms of accessibility and infrastructure which offer significant development potential.

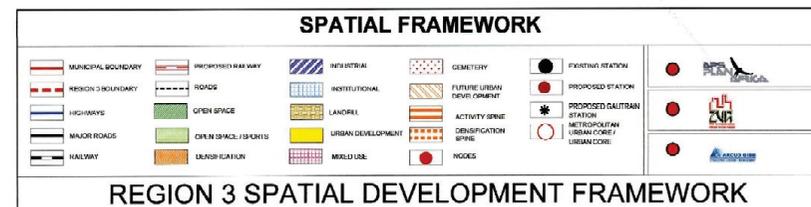
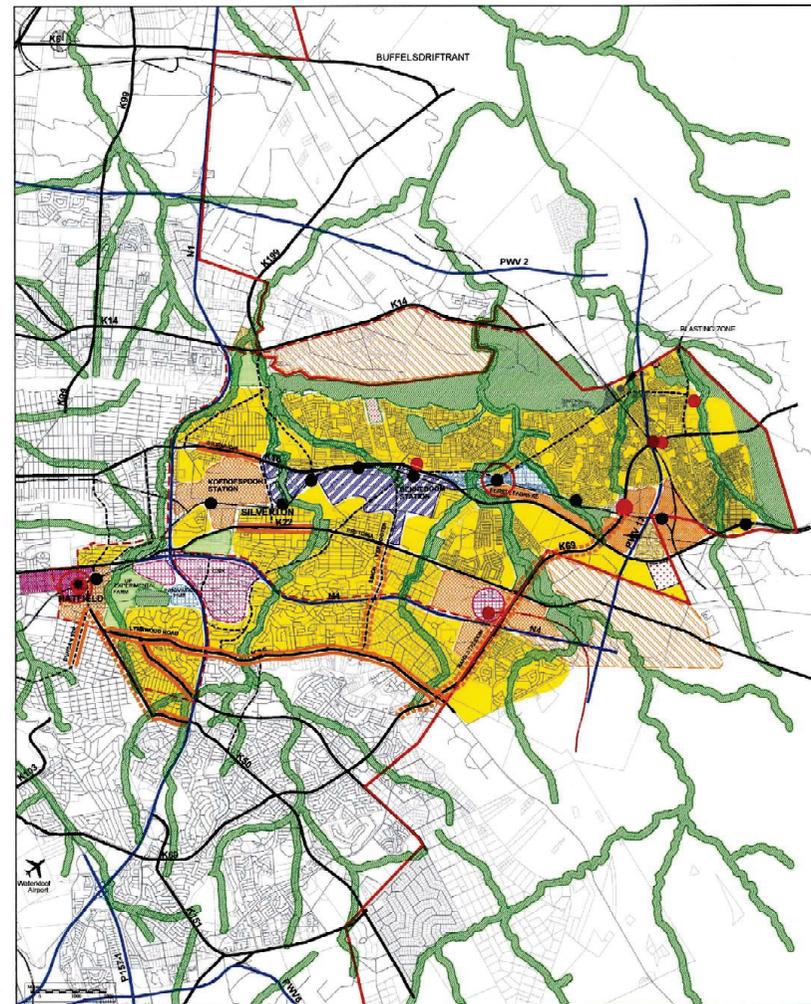
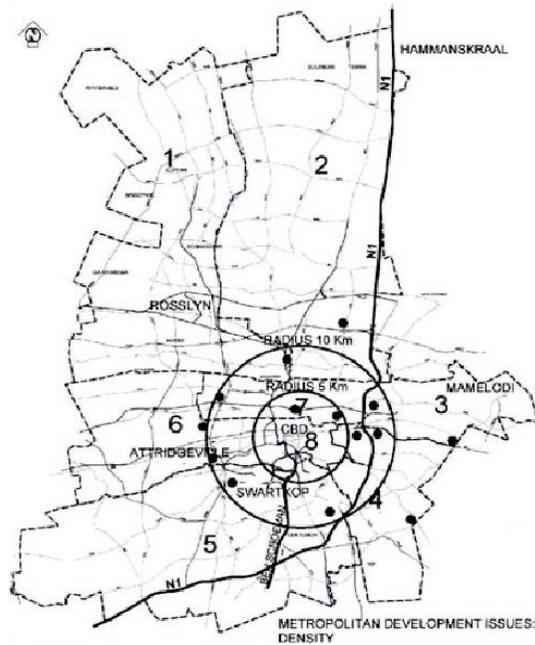


Fig 114: Spatial Development Framework for Region 3 in Tshwane

## Area Characteristics



Fig 115: Concentraion of economic activities in the CBD mean much commuting



**Interested parties:**

Local stakeholders include business owners, craftsmen and entrepreneurs. Anyone, in fact, hoping to generate an income in Mamelodi without having to commute to traditional work areas should be considered a stakeholder in the tourism plan.

**Long Term Vision:**

The long term vision for Mamelodi is being formulated around the concepts of the brand of Mamelodi as the home of South African jazz and a major site of the Freedom Struggle against apartheid, a sustainable and viable economic plan and a plan for economic monitoring to ensure future growth. The main challenges in Mamelodi are similar to those in many other townships around the country: escalating crime levels, a move away from community coherence, lack of employment, poor standards of and difficult access to education and lack of public transport (compounded by the fact that South Africa has generous stretches of land between formal activities.)

The vision for Mamelodi is that it becomes an independent area of the city with a powerful economy based on tourism, industry and craft. A place where a sense of community and inclusivity can be rekindled. When people look after one another, rather than themselves, dysfunction is rarely tolerated.

