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Statistics

According to the mid-year population estimates released by Statistics South Africa in 2009, South Africa at that point had a population of 49 320 500 people. The City of Tshwane had a population of 2 346 000 people. This amounts to 4.4% of the total population of South Africa.

In the year 2009 there were 613 900 deaths in South Africa; there are approximately 1682 deaths per day. 4.4% of the total deaths per day is 74, which means that in the City of Tshwane there are 74 deaths per day. There are 42 cemeteries in the city, with 8 cemeteries not in use anymore after being filled to capacity (www.tshwane.gov.za). This means that there are some cemeteries where more than two burials take place per day.

	Number of Births	Total number of deaths	AIDS deaths	Percentage AIDS deaths
2001	1 138 600	523 900	202 200	38,6
2002	1 132 500	562 400	236 900	42,1
2003	1 120 400	596 600	267 700	44,9
2004	1 109 200	626 200	293 900	46,9
2005	1 096 600	634 100	298 600	47,1
2006	1 083 900	628 600	289 800	46,1
2007	1 064 900	621 600	279 600	45,0
2008	1 049 300	602 800	257 500	42,7
2009	1 044 900	613 900	263 900	43,0

Table 3: Births and deaths for the period of 2001-2009

Of a total of 613 900 deaths in 2009, 27 000 of those deaths occurred in the City of Tshwane. An average grave takes up around 5m² of actual surface space. If the average square metreage is multiplied by the total number of deaths in the City of Tshwane for the year 2009, it shows that 135 000m² of horizontal surface was needed for burial in that year. By evaluating the numbers and considering the growth of the city, one can just imagine how the need for more land for burial will increase every year. These portions of underutilized land can potentially be used for other purposes.

A crematory urn (or the box supplied by the crematorium) is 215mm x 175mm x 262mm in size. The total floor space needed for the box is 0.06m². That alone, if multiplied with the number of deaths per year in the City of Tshwane, will make a considerable difference to the space problem. If the crematory urns are placed in a 2m high wall with the same (0.06m²) footprint, the wall will be able to accommodate 6 urns. This then reduces the floor space needed for one crematory urn to 0.01m². Hypothetically, if everyone in the City of Tshwane was to be cremated, then the total floor space needed for all 27 000 people who died in 2009 will amount to 270m². Compare 270m² to 135 000m², and it is a fraction of the floor space needed to house the same number of people.

If promession is used and the remains are still to be buried, it will take up approximately a third of the space needed for a normal burial.

History of cemeteries in Pretoria

Pretoria was established in 1855, and the layout of the town was done in the mid 1870's. The town of Pretoria is situated between a series of ridges that form borders to the north and to the south. The Apies River was the natural boundary to the east, with Steenhoven Spruit forming a boundary to the west.



Fig. 139: Reconnaissance map of Pretoria by the British RE in 1880. To the left of the map, the Steenhoven spruit forms the edge of the town. At the main western entrance of the town, on the opposite side of the spruit, the first cemetery was established (Van der Waal Collection, University of Pretoria Library).

Before the official planning of the town layout of Pretoria, farms had their own family burial grounds. After the town was laid out in the 1870s, the first cemetery was planned at the (then) main western entrance into the town on Church Street, just outside the borders of the town. Church Street cemetery is known as Heroes' Acre, with several former presidents and influential people like artists and writers buried among British soldiers who died in the Pretoria region during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1901).

A second cemetery was established during the Anglo Boer War. It is situated south of Pretoria in Irene. Unlike Church Street cemetery, this cemetery was not planned but was established out of necessity. The Irene cemetery is an old concentration camp cemetery, used by people held captive during the Anglo Boer War (www.anglo-boer.co.za).

The second official cemetery was opened in 1904. Established further to the west of the city, Rebecca Street Cemetery has been in use ever since. The cemetery has, unlike the Heroes' Acre, several sections that house all cultural and religious groups. The cemetery is however reaching a point where it cannot expand or move its borders — it will be reaching its full capacity soon.

The cemeteries that are situated to the east of Pretoria were established during the 1960s (Silverton Cemetery) and the late 1970s (Pretoria East Cemetery). The cemeteries to the west of the city centre and most of the cemeteries in the north were established in the 1960s, with some new additions during the 1990s.

As a result of growth, cemeteries were also placed on the periphery of new suburbs, even further away from the city centre. In the second half of the twentieth century apartheid also played its part, not only in the segregation of communities and the differentiation between culture groups, but also in many planning issues that resulted from this separation. New developments far from the city meant that amenities needed to be provided for the communities. Currently, the City of Tshwane has a total cemetery count of 42, as a result of growth, apartheid and urban sprawl over the course of history.

Fig. 140: Figure ground of the Pretoria CBD showing the first cemeteries in Pretoria: Church Street Cemetery and Rebecca Street Cemetery in the top left corner of the image (Author, 2010).



First cemeteries in Pretoria

1. Heroes' Acre (1870's)
2. Irene Concentration Camp Cemetery (1899-1901)
3. Rebecca Street Cemetery (1904)

Fig. 141: Church Street Cemetery, also known as Heroes Acre, the first cemetery in Pretoria (Author, 2010).



Fig. 142: Irene Concentration Camp Cemetery, with memorial building (Deckler, 2006: 36).



Fig. 143: Rebecca Street Cemetery entrance with an avenue of well established trees (Author, 2010).



Complete list of cemeteries in the City of Tshwane

- Centurion Cemetery
 - Church Street Cemetery
 - Crematorium (Rebecca Street)
 - Eersterust Cemetery
 - Hatherley Cemetery
 - Heatherdale Cemetery
 - Irene Cemetery
 - Olievenhoutbosch Cemetery
 - Pretoria East Cemetery
 - Rebecca Street Cemetery
 - Silverton Cemetery
 - Zandfontein Cemetery
 - Honingnestkrans Cemetery
 - Atteridgeville Cemetery
 - Lotus Gardens Cemetery
 - New Mabopane cemetery
 - Mamelodi East Cemetery
 - Mamelodi West Cemetery
 - Saulsville Cemetery
 - Soshanguve Cemetery
 - Dilopye Cemetery
 - New Eersterust Cemetery
 - New Ga-Rankuwa Cemetery
 - Majjaneng Cemetery
 - Selosesha Cemetery
 - Temba Cemetery
 - Winterveldt Cemetery
 - Five Acres Cemetery
 - Morokolong Cemetery
 - Old New Eersterust Cemetery
 - Old Mabopane Cemetery
 - Old Ga-Rankuwa Cemetery
 - Old Soshanguve Cemetery
 - Stinkwater 1, 2 & 3 Cemeteries
 - Suurman 1, 2 & 3 Cemeteries
 - Makanyaneng Cemetery (previously Twelve Acres Cemetery)
 - Klipkruisfontein Cemetery
 - Tshwane North Cemetery
- (tshwane.gov.za,2010)

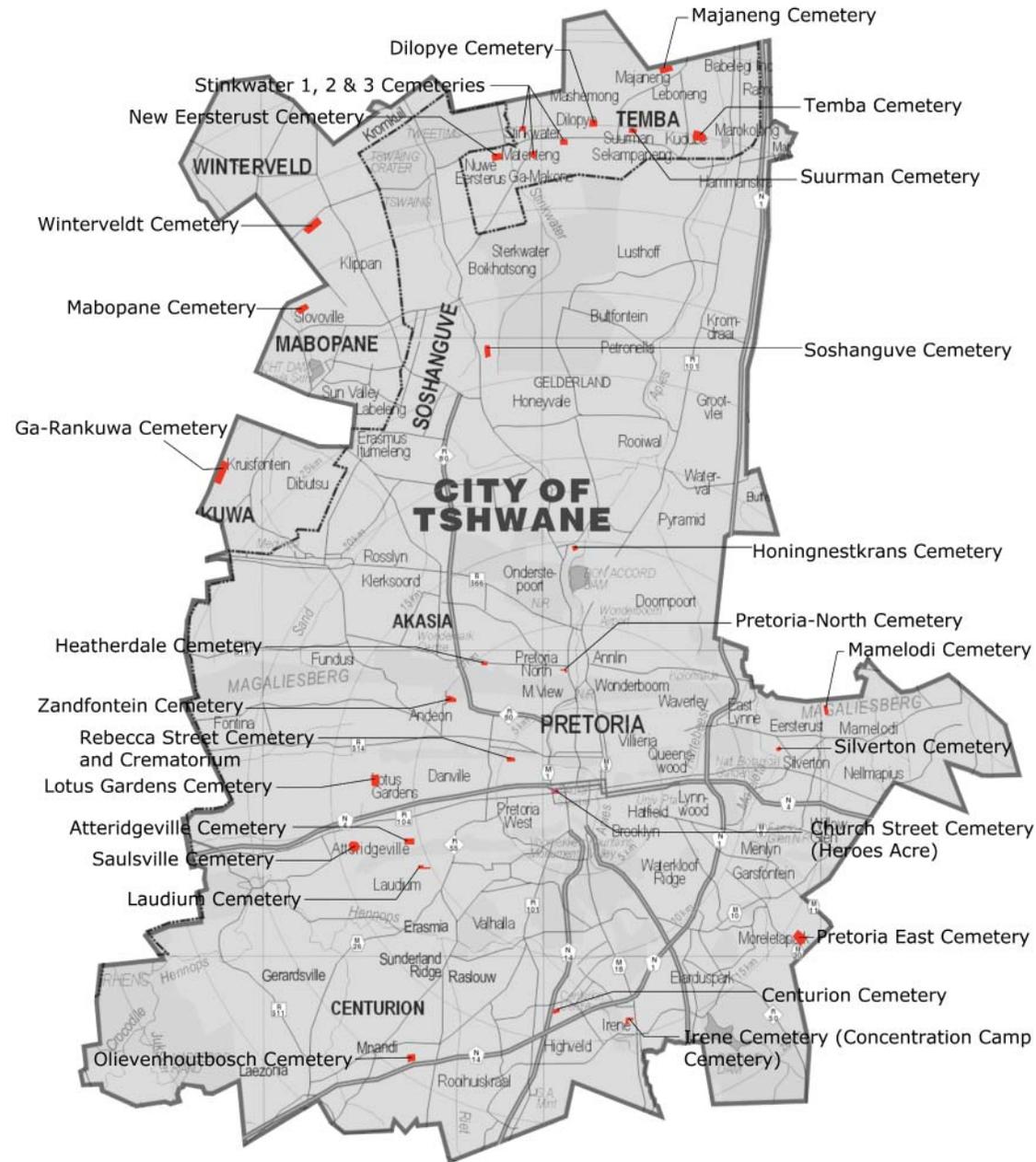


Fig. 144: A map showing most of the cemeteries in the City of Tshwane. One can see how the cemeteries sit on the periphery of certain areas within the broader city limits (Author, 2010).

Final presentation and model



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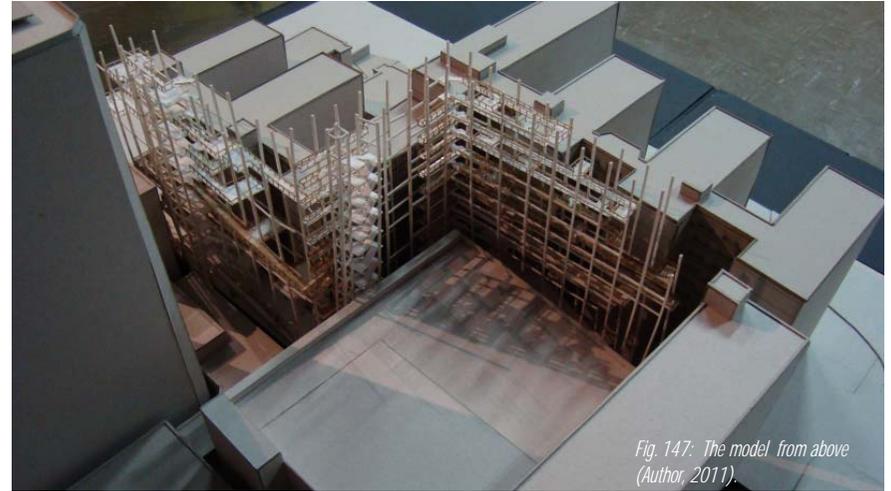


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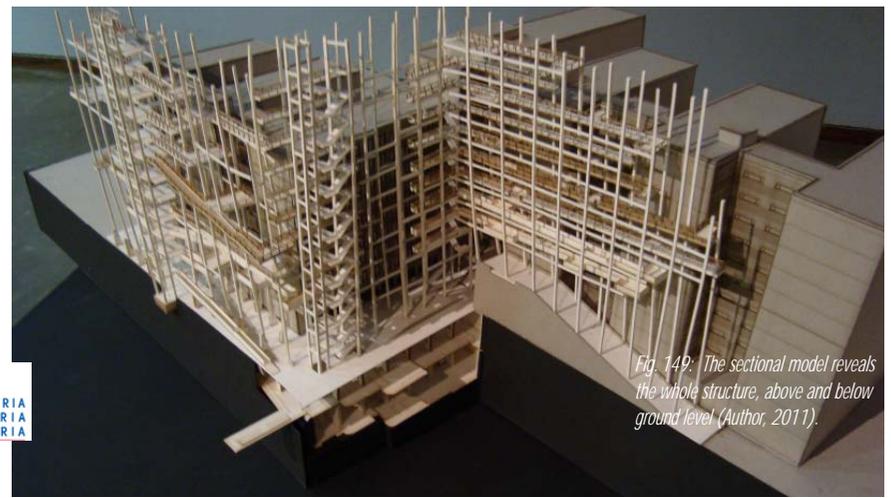


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Appendix

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