

## HOWLONG PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY

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Address: Umlazi 'U' Section, Howlong Park, Durban  
Ward: 86  
Client: Parks and Recreation;  
Contract Period: April 2013 – August 2013  
Contract Value: R1,5million

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Howlong Park was established by a member of the community Micheal Mlangeni of Umlazi 'U' Section by rehabilitating Isipingo River banks through planting beautiful flower gardens making it attractive for the community to host functions and using bed rock found on the river banks to build his house in the park.

The architectural brief was to provide ablutions to support the use of the park for weddings, parties, community festivals and by tourists visiting the park. The brief was expanded to accommodate a tourist office, and community recreational space which doubled up as a viewing deck for visitors to view the park.

The design driver was to use materials sourced locally and material choice of rock face was due to the abundance of bed rock in the river. The building sits facing the park with high level natural lighting internally, additional terraced seating built into the embankment. The roof of the building reclaims the building foot print with a covered timber viewing deck and for community functions.

Working with the community played an integral part in the construction, together with Micheal (CLO) who assisted in sourcing the rock with members of the community who gained skills with building using rock finish. There have been various functions hosted by Howlong Park since the recreational facility has been completed including Miss Howlong Park 2013 who is set to continue Micheal's legacy in Umlazi.

