

Analyzing the correlation between cemetery vandalism and locality in **City of Johannesburg Municipality.**



SACA Presentation

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Research Contributors

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Introduction

Death is not seen as a cessation of human life but rather seen as a transition to the spiritual realm .

It is believed that ancestors commune with the families and with their descendants.

The popular interment method used to lay our departed souls is through dignified traditional ground burial in a respected space termed '**cemetery**'.

Cemeteries are recognized as public spaces for reflections, memorials, recreation and cultural encounters.

The level of criminal activities recurring in our cemeteries is alarming.

Cities across the globe talk about green economy, sustainability and climate change responses, in their strategic documents and plans however little is being said or done about green burials in the context of sustainable development and sustainability.

Introduction cont.

CoJ is one of the strategic cities in South Africa. As capital city and economic hub the long - term vision emphasizes a range of Sustainable Development Goals.



Although evidence points to the role of impacts of urbanization, potential drivers of cemetery vandalism within the City of Johannesburg have not been determined.



As a city experiencing high rates of population growth and high mortality rates daily, it is imperative for a scientific study to be conducted.

Rationale

Constitutional mandate section 10

- **Human dignity**-everyone has inherent dignity and right to have their dignity respected and protected.

Mayoral flagship priorities

- **Safer City**-Work to improve public safety through initiatives such as community policing, investment in technology and infrastructure, and increased resources for law enforcement.
- **Green Economy**-Develop a plan to promote the growth of the green economy, including increased investment in green manufacturing and job creation, renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives, and sustainable agriculture and food security.

CoJ By-Laws alignment

- **Cemetery and Crematoria By-laws** – places a responsibility on City council to uphold health and safety standards.

Background



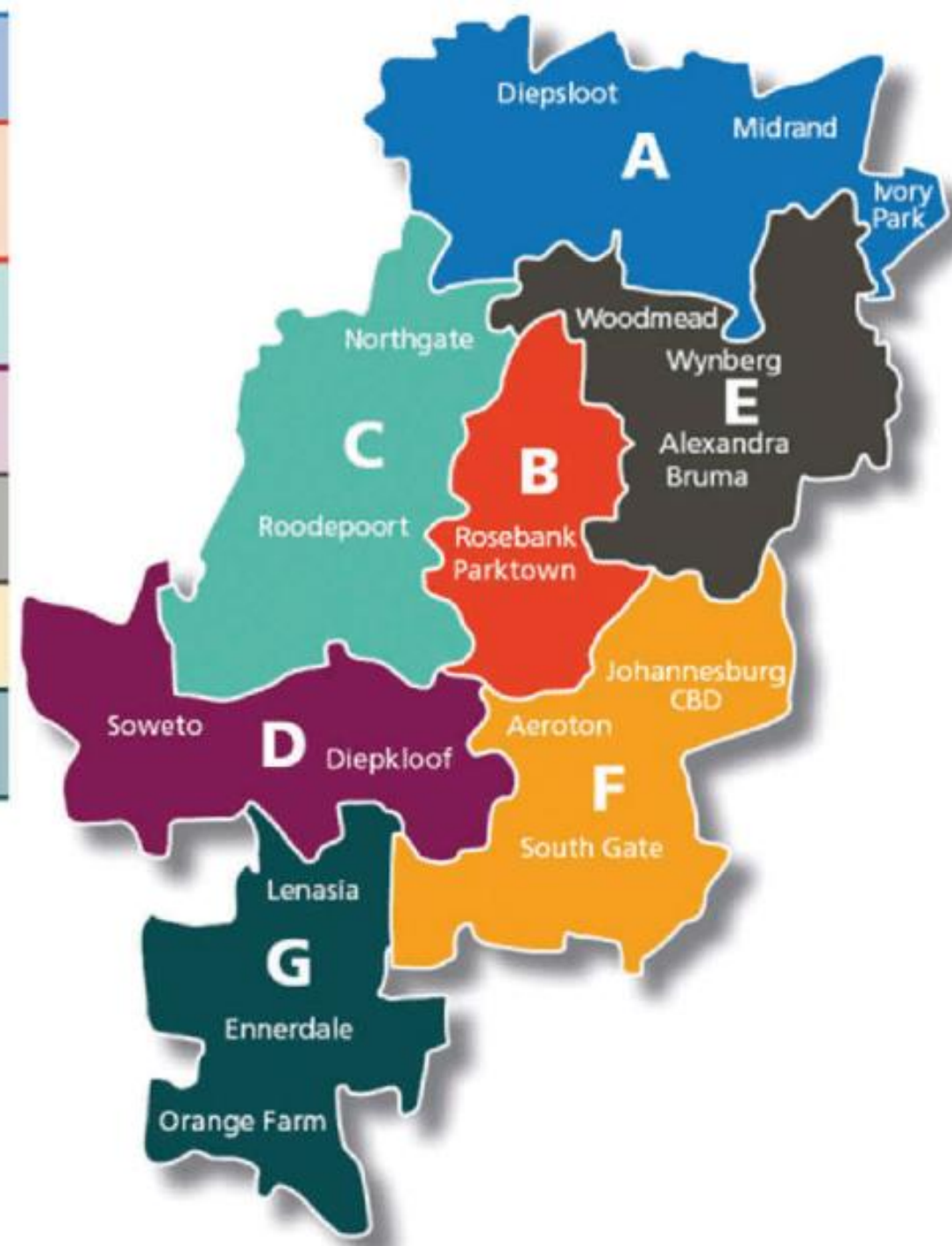
Total
number 42

Active 5

Passive 37

Background

Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Dainfern, Midrand, Lanseria, Fourways
Randburg, Rosebank, Emmarentia, Greenside, Melville, Mayfair, Northcliff, Rosebank, Parktown, Parktown North
Roodepoort, Constantia Kloof, Northgate, Florida, Bram Fischerville
Doornkop, Soweto, Dobsonville, Protea Glen
Alexandra, Wynberg, Sandton, Orange Grove, Houghton
Inner City, Johannesburg South
Orange Farm, Weilers Farm, Ennerdale, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Protea South



Background



Background

CoJ: 'We pride ourselves on being inclusive and diverse'

Inclusivity:

- All cultures, races, religions and indigent people are accommodated for in our public owned cemeteries.

Diversity:

- There are various options of interment in our cemeteries such as underground traditional burial, cremation and mausoleum.

Historical significance in our cemeteries



Historical significance in our cemeteries



Problem statement

The conventional fencing of methods currently used in South Africa such as steel , palisade and concrete fencing which do not promote environmental sustainability.

Secondly these materials do not respond to climate change actions and are likely to be stolen or vandalized.

Due to inadequate security, unwanted pathways are created invading the privacy of mourners and attracting criminal activities.

All these hard materials are costly to install, exorbitant to maintain and risky to keep.

Current conventional cemetery boundary fencing off



Type of Material used	Examples	Vulnerability to theft and vandalism	Value
Metallic elements	Wire, Steel , Metal & Iron	High	High
Concrete elements	Bricks, aggregates & stones	High	Medium
Combination elements	Palisade	High	Medium

Significance of the study



Literature has indicated that there is little data on management of cemeteries in the City of Johannesburg. However, if scientific evidence is provided as in this dissertation, that shows improved ways of managing cemeteries.



Municipalities may be more inclined to adopt the recommendations of this study for safety reasons and better management of cemeteries in the cities. This study will therefore contribute immensely to the body of knowledge on management of cemeteries.

Aim and objectives of the study

Aim:

- Examine how geographical, social, economic and demographic characteristics of different locations influence the frequency or severity of vandalism in CoJ owned cemeteries.

Objectives:

- To identify vandalized cemeteries as per their functionality and location.
- Evaluate and quantify the degree of damage.
- Assess the safety risks imposed to members of public in our cemeteries.
- Investigate the correlation between vandalism and locality.

Research Design and Methodology



Pearson statistical analysis method was used to analyze correlation coefficients.



Regression analysis was used to model how locality factors predict vandalism.



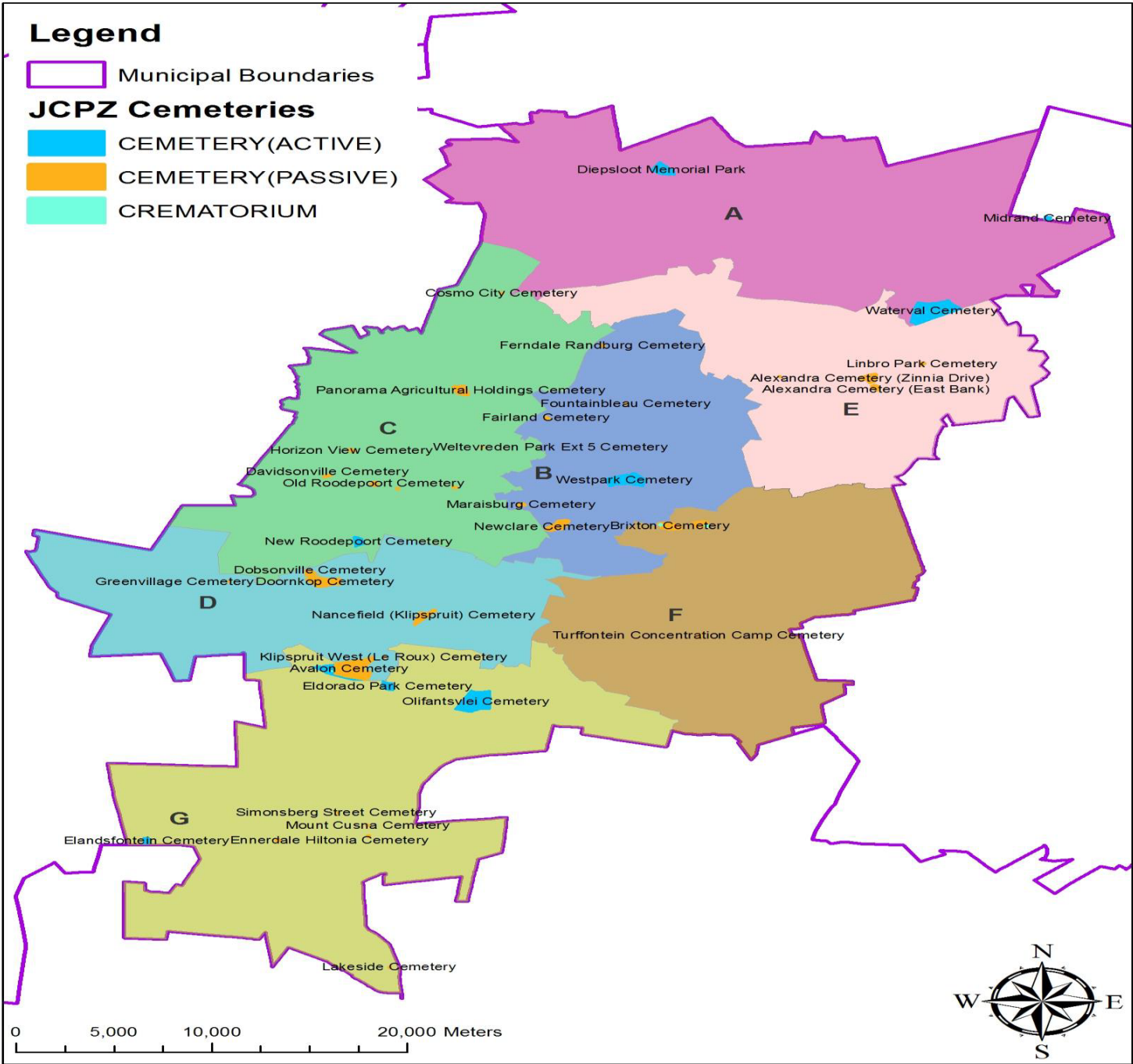
GIS Mapping was used to visualize vandalism incidents by location.



Field surveys and interviews were conducted to gather qualitative data from securities and cemeteries caretakers and locals

Study Area

Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality Cemeteries



Key variables applied

Dependent variable (Cemetery vandalism)	Independent variable (Locality)
1.Frequency of incidents	Urban areas vs Informal settlement
2. Type of vandalism (broken tombstones, theft etc.)	Crime rate in the surrounding neighborhoods
3. Severity (minor damage vs extensive destruction)	Socio-economic status (income-levels ,unemployment)
	Level surveillance (presence of security cameras ,& fencing)
	Cultural diversity or religious tension
	Proximity to schools or hangout spots
	Youth population

Preliminary findings

- Higher vandalism rates are linked to informal settlements, low income and high- crime areas.
- Cemeteries near youth-dense areas experience more incidents.
- Cemeteries near shopping centers, railway stations and hangout spots are used as short cuts to reach the destinations.
- Neglected or unsecured cemeteries attract vandalism more than maintained ones.

Extensive destruction



Extensive destruction



Minor damage



Illegal dumping in



Vagrancy in the cemeteries



Unwanted walkways created in the cemeteries



Key information and valuable equipment exposed



Recommendations

01

Going green is considered one of the twentieth-century and C40 ways of ensuring that the actions of the current generation do not negatively affect future generations.

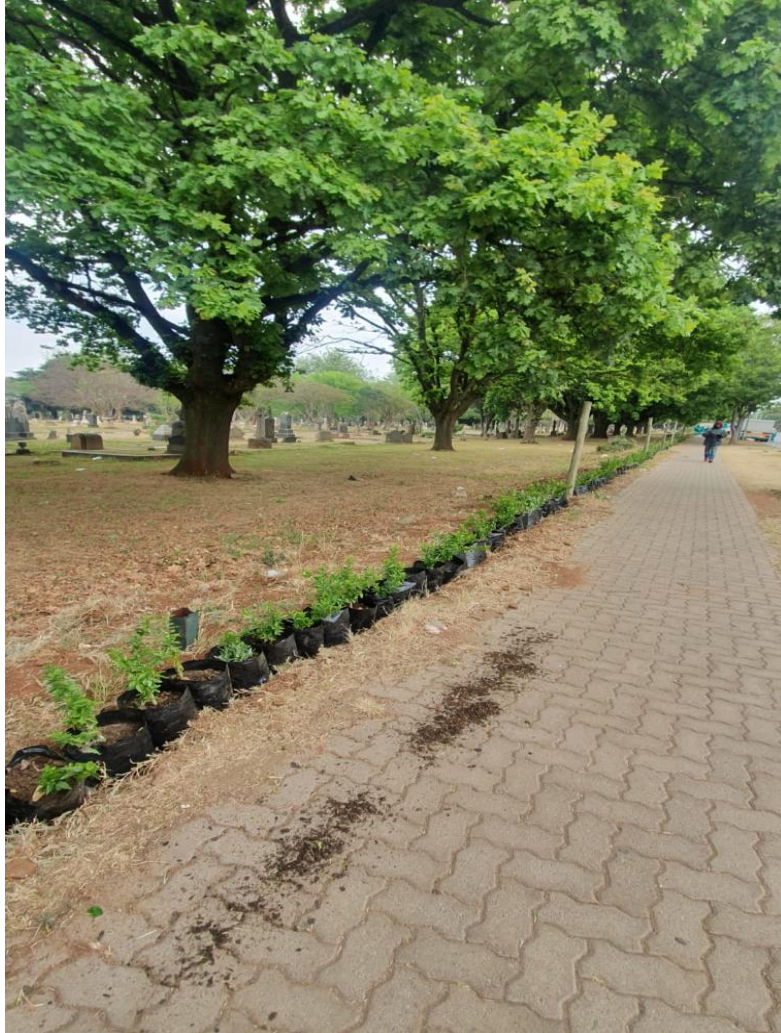
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It is recommended that Municipalities adopt green fencing for green economy and sustainable development and better management of cemeteries.

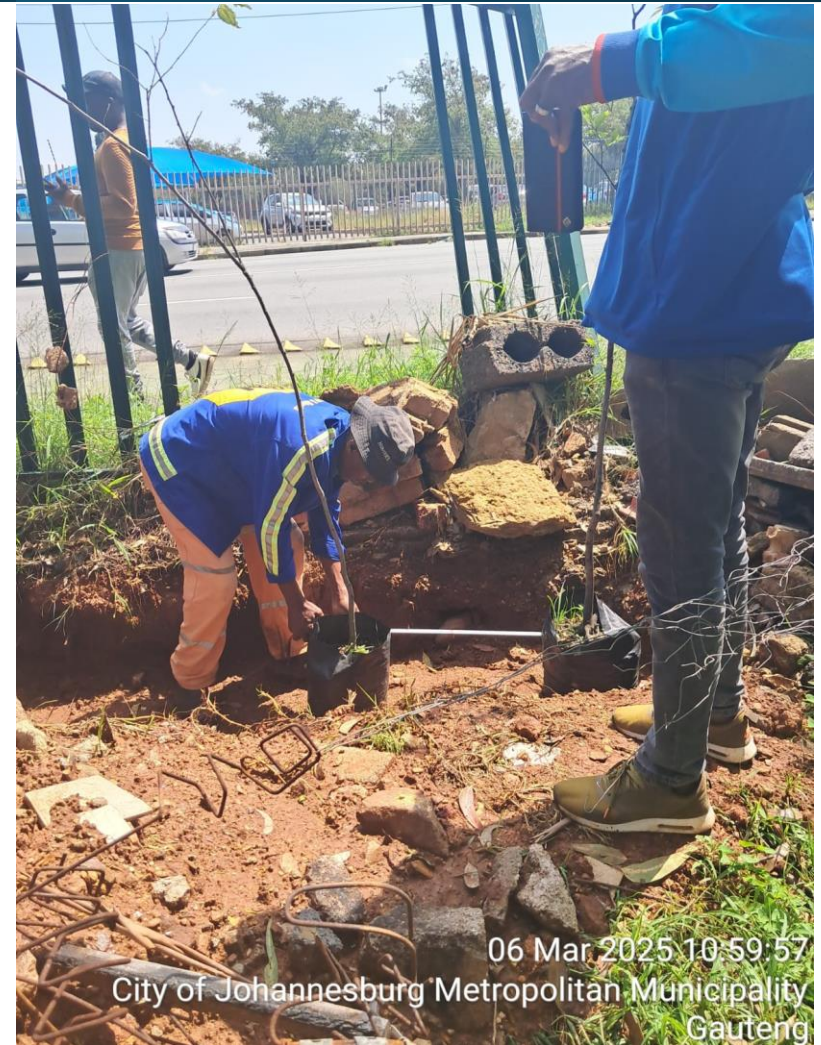
03

Types of species to be used need to be low maintenance requirements, longer life span, have deterring functionality such as thorns etc.

Inception Green fencing at Brixton and Alexandre Cemetery



Green fencing at Braamfontein Cemetery



Established green fencing at Avalon Cemetery





From nna setlogolo sa bakwena,
moilalehlaka, moroka a meetse a pula ke
ale leboga

