

Name: Restoration of Braai Area, Braai Kopje, Hillside Dams Conservancy

Location: Hillside Dams, off Banff Road, Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Objectives: to clean up area and restore existing braai areas near the Banff Road entrance

General Background

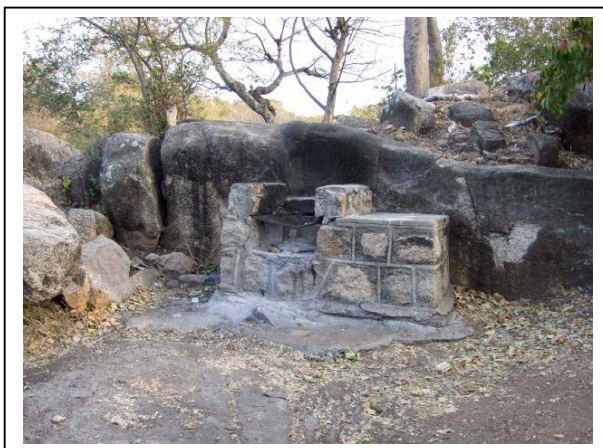
The Hillside Dams were once a popular recreational area operated by Bulawayo City Council (BCC). However it has fallen on hard times what with financial difficulties, a lack of vision and application, and several serious criminal incidents. This has resulted in the existing facilities being allowed to deteriorate while the area is now shunned by most local residents.

The entire area, approximately 86ha., has been leased from the BBC by Mungrisdale Marketing (Pvt) Ltd who has conceded the conservancy area to an independent, broad-based Trust, the Hillside Dams Conservation Trust. This non-profit Trust has been tasked with the restoration of existing facilities and developing new, appropriate projects in the area in line with the defined aims of the Trust which place an emphasis on conservation, education and recreational pursuits all within a safe, well-run recreational area aimed principally at the residents of Bulawayo.

The conservancy includes a large section of natural vegetation as well as two dams built amongst the rocky kopjes at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. There are also several gardened sections, including what was once an impressive aloe garden. Several archaeological and fossil sites in the area are of a national, if not international importance. Previously there was a trim track on the east side of the conservancy while several youth organizations once used this area for camping and educational purposes.

Project objectives

While we appreciate the serious financial situation in which we find ourselves in Zimbabwe today, we are looking at practical assistance from companies and individuals with various skills and interests – we are not seeking financial contributions. It must be emphasized that this appeal is being made on behalf of the general Bulawayo Community and not simply ourselves.

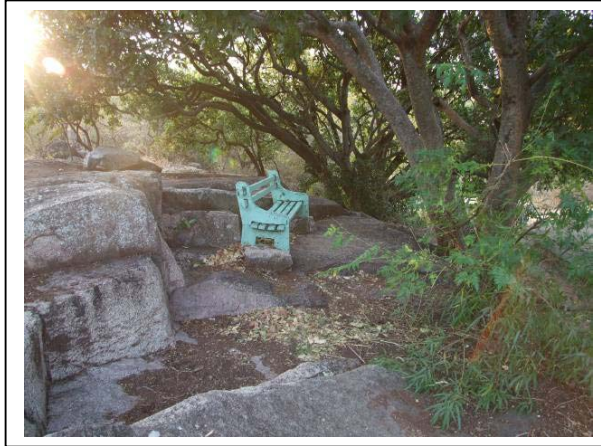


**One of the existing braais,
Hillside Dams**

A detailed Site Management Plan has been drawn up (Burrett 2007). This document provides some suggestions as to the way forward and sets out the ultimate objectives towards which we operate. It is a long to medium term policy which will be tackled by the Trust as and when the finances and skills are available. The focus of this specific proposal forms part of the overall plan.

The purpose of this document is to appeal for assistance in restoring the braai area on the so-called braai kopje on the west bank of the Lower Dam near the dam wall. This small kopje is accessed by a dirt track off to the left just after entering the Hillside Dams Conservancy from Banff Road. This area was set aside many years ago for braaing

facilities and is one of several such areas that we hope to develop in time (others will be on the east bank near what was once a camping ground). The area currently used for braaing consists of eight braai stands (built of local rock and cement) which are clustered, in the main, on the southern side of a small kopje in positions less prone to run away fires. These stands are generally intact although minor repairs are needed. More problematic is the loss of the braai grids which have been stolen or have simply rusted away. There are currently two old dustbins but they are so damaged as to be useless while there is only one remaining, intact bench. It is also of some concern that the BBC employees have cleaned the braai area but that the rubbish has not been removed and has instead been dumped in a series of piles in the bush on the northwest side of the kopje.



One of the remaining benches at Braai Kopje

We, the Hillside Dams Conservancy Trust are requesting your help in this project. We seek someone to help us out with:

- 1. Cleaning the area of existing rubbish and dumped ash.**
- 2. To undertake the necessary repair work to the braai stands.**
- 3. To provide several rubbish bins.**
- 4. Provide a large metal bin for the collection and removal of ash from the fires – to be dumped elsewhere in designated composting pits.**
- 5. To assist with providing simple benches at the site.**

Our estate manager will be available to discuss with the donor what needs to be done and to assist with anything that is required both before and during the work.

All assistance will be suitably acknowledged and companies will be able to use this for purposes of advertising or addressing issues of corporate responsibility. We suggest that the kopje is renamed to reflect the donor and that suitable signage with company logos at select locations be erected. We would also suggest that the company logo is painted on these dustbins thereby identifying them as separate to other such bins which are being sought for elsewhere.

If you are able to assist please contact the Estate Manager, Hillside Dams Conservancy, Mr. Norman Scott or Neil Rix 011-402851.