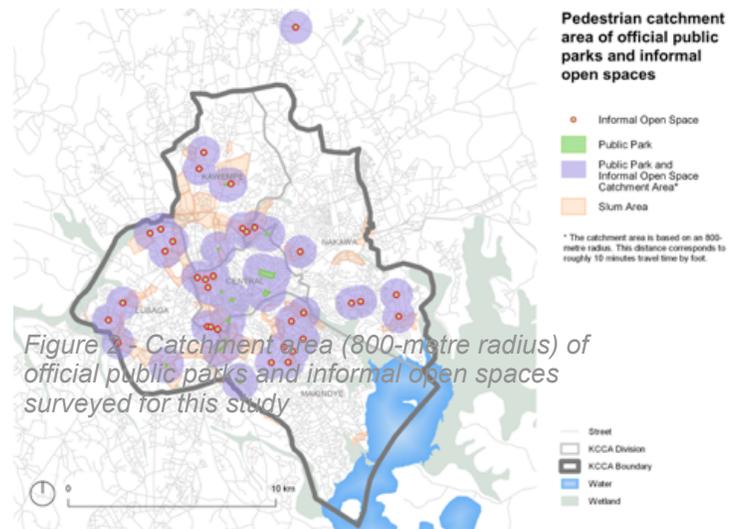




booked for sports time, and lack facilities for most activities apart from football. In addition, participation in recreational activities is low among women, children, and the elderly.

The study also showed that the quality of the informal spaces is poor. They host many non-recreational activities and some of these do not benefit the surrounding community. Examples included car washing and garbage disposal. Multiple hazards were found in all surveyed informal open spaces. The safety conditions in most spaces were poor, especially for children and women.



The results of both studies demonstrate that there is an unmet demand for parks and open spaces in Kampala. The preservation of informal open spaces is under continual threat from encroachment and redevelopment. In order to protect and preserve these spaces, more community engagement is required. Slum dwellers indicated they are eager and well positioned to take care of “their” open spaces.

As a result of the studies we recommend the following:

1. Engage with owners of informal open spaces to arrange schemes that ensure the preservation and management of the open spaces.
2. Work with local communities and organizations such as ACTogether in order to create a plan to enhance, manage, and maintain the informal open spaces.
3. Establish a policy framework, along with enforcement mechanism, for non-recreational activities (activities of daily living, vendors, dumping) in open spaces.
4. Local organizations should engage in a communication strategy to explain the importance of parks to the public, as well as bureaucrats and elected officials.
5. Develop a strategy to encourage women, children, and the elderly to use open spaces.
6. Kampala Capital City Authority should prepare a park master plan and ensure all areas of the city have access to parks and open spaces.

For a copy of the full reports visit the HealthBridge website at: <http://healthbridge.ca/programs/livable-cities>