



■ Work on the park finished in December 2017 and included benches, a skate park and play equipment, but locals say they are not being used.



■ Niyaz Fortune, 8, slides under the fence to use the park.

Fence frustration

HAZEL ALLIES-HUSSELMAN

Manenberg's children are risking injury climbing over the spiked fence of a fancy new park because it's being kept locked.

Work on the R4 million park was finished in December 2017,

but the City of Cape Town has kept it locked most of the time since then, say residents.

The City denies the park is always locked, but when the Athlone News was there on Thursday March 7, at about 11am, the gate was locked. This reporter also saw two teens climb over the park's

spiked fence and a small boy climb under it to get into the park.

Elsjeskraal Park boasts modern facilities and a skate park, but locals say it is only open when the City hosts events there.

"The children have resorted to making a hole under the fence to gain access to the park. Some

of the older ones even jump over the spiked fences," said Magadien Wentzel, who lives nearby.

"So many children have fallen, knocked their heads and twisted their ankles to get into the park. Why would the City spend so much of taxpayers' money, but the park cannot be used?"

"I would like to know what the definition is of a public park. Why build it in the first place if it cannot be used?"

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