

Combined outing to Nagle Dam

The Site

It was a long road from the opening of the Smith Street Pump to the public of Durban in 1854 to the official opening of Nagle Dam in April 1950, but all the various schemes in the intervening years were focused on finding an adequate water supply for a rapidly growing city. By far the most ambitious of these many projects was the scheme on the Umgeni River, which started with the passing of the Durban Waterworks (Private) Act passed by the Union Parliament in 1937. The Second World War and the inefficiency of the initial contractors greatly delayed the completion of the scheme, hence the long construction period.

Nagle Dam is a particularly interesting piece of engineering. One of the problems with dams in Natal in particular was the massive silting which accompanied every instance of flooding. The ingenious way in which the engineers sought to tackle this problem will be one aspect of our visit to the dam.

The Visit

Weather permitting the outing is planned for Saturday, July 8 with all those who wish to attend meeting at the main picnic site at 11.45 am. Entrance charges are R20 per person (R10 for pensioners). A talk will be given on the dam's history and engineering. Nagle Dam has a very attractive and well-maintained picnic site with an abundance of braai places, so a leisurely lunch would be a pleasant option.

How to get there

The three different ways of getting to the dam are shown on the map.

- A – Off the old main road near Cato Ridge – this would be the preferred route for people coming from the Durban area.
- B – Via Table Mountain – this is the shortest way for those coming from Pietermaritzburg.
- C – Lion Park Road and down the Msunduzi River – possibly slightly shorter for those travelling from Pietermaritzburg.

The general map below shows the three routes.



Detailed map of Route A shown below:

