



P.O. Box 333, Rondebosch 7701
Public Benefit Organisation ref no 930002808
[Nonprofit Organisation ref no 56-033](#)
www.fol.org.za
info@fol.org.za

Liesbeek Project Report: March 2013

Project Manager: Jason Mingo

This report is based on the activities undertaken by the Liesbeek Maintenance Project, from the period of 01st March 2013 to 31st March 2013. The Liesbeek Maintenance Project is a project established by the Friends of the Liesbeek organization and seeks to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity and public interest of the Liesbeek River and its surrounding environs. The activities reported upon are also supported by teams from the Kader Asmal River Integrated Catchment Management Project, an initiative by the City of Cape Town to address unemployment and improve the state of the Metropolitan's rivers.

Contents of report:

- Management Schedule
- Work Summary
- Other activities
- Challenges
- Monthly expenditure
- Report back on previous milestones
- Milestones to be achieved for next reporting period
- Appendix

Management Schedule:

Date	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6	Block 7	Block 8	Block 9
01-Mar									AC
02-Mar									
03-Mar									
04-Mar			AC/CM						
05-Mar			AC/CM						
06-Mar			AC/BS						
07-Mar					L	L	L		
08-Mar					PM/W				
09-Mar									
10-Mar									
11-Mar					O				
12-Mar					O				
13-Mar					O				
14-Mar					AC/W/PM				
15-Mar						AC/PM			
16-Mar									
17-Mar									
18-Mar						AC/PM			
19-Mar						AC			
20-Mar						AC			
21-Mar									
22-Mar							AC	AC	
23-Mar									
24-Mar									
25-Mar								AC	
26-Mar									AC
27-Mar						CM/L			
28-Mar									AC
29-Mar									

Work Codes

AC - Alien Clearing
 BS - bank stabilization
 CM - canal maintenance
 L - litter collection

O - Off Site
 P - planting
 PM - Pathway Maintenance
 W - weeding

Work Summary:

Block 1: Source of Liesbeek River to Rhodes Drive (inclusive of all tributaries).

Nothing to report.

Block 2: Winchester Avenue to bridge over river along Kirstenbosch Drive.

Nothing to report.

Block 3: Bridge on Kirstenbosch Drive to Paradise Road intersection (M3).

Assistance was given to the Upper Liesbeek Garden in removing *Acanthus mollis* along the banks of the river, on the Fernwood side. The removal of the plants from the steep bank meant the area required stabilization, which the team assisted with, through the alignment and placement of poles to create stepped banks for future planting. Canal maintenance included the removal of rocks that were creating a bridge onto the gabions along the stretch river next to the Upper Liesbeek Garden. The bridge allowed for increased foot traffic over the gabions raising concern over the wearing down of the mesh for the gabion. A new stepping stone bridge was created further upstream for people to cross.

Block 4: Paradise Road intersection to San Souci Road Bridge.

Nothing to report.

Block 5: San Souci Road Bridge to Belmont Road Bridge.

General maintenance of the trail, including trimming of overhanging vegetation, weeding of cleared areas and watering of planted trees formed part of much of the work carried out along this section. Follow up clearing of areas with regards to the removal of species such as *Canna indica* and *Hedychium coronarium* was also done with emphasis placed on those areas in Newlands.

Block 6: Belmont Bridge to N2.

Work done to try and alleviate the issue of vagrancy within this block included the removal of small exotic bushes and trees as well as the lifting of larger trees close to Belmont Bridge. The reason being, to increase visibility thereby deterring vagrants from frequently using the area as both a lavatory and cooking place, all of which impacts negatively on the river.

Follow-up clearing took place adjacent to River Park Business complex in Mowbray, just south of the N2. The area was cleared of a variety of weeds and emerging *Canna indica*. The clearing of this area is to allow for the replanting of a variety of indigenous species by the Working for Wetlands re-vegetation program later in the year.

Block 7: N2 to end of wetlands in front of Courtyard Hotel.

The donation of a new boat from PlasticsSA during national water week (18th-22nd) enabled the Liesbeek Maintenance Project and Kader Asmal Project teams to initiate the process of maintaining *Egeria densa* within the river. Both boats were used to collect and be filled with the aquatic weed and then were off loaded onto shore where they were piled for collection. The maintenance of *Egeria densa* will be one of

the main tasks to be undertaken by the Kader Asmal team working on the lower reaches of the river.

Block 8: End of wetlands to Observatory Road Bridge.

Work continued with the removal of *Egeria densa* within the river and lake area, as well collecting litter out of the water.

Block 9: Observatory Road Bridge to both confluences with Black River.

Continual maintenance of controlling the reed, *Phragmites australis*, growing within the wetland and treating emerging *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife) within cleared areas. Treatment was done with 3% SEISMIC, and applied as foliage spray.

Other Activities:

Litter Clean-ups:

The regular weekly clean ups of the river from the N2 to Sans Souci Rd were only carried out for one week due to issues regarding the collection of bags. This is being brought to the attention of the relevant departments to sort out for the following months.

Events:

- EnviroClub along the river

The Claremont High School's EnviroClub ran a number of practical's involving water quality testing, habitat assessments and SASS surveys along the Liesbeek River, in the Boschenheuvel Arboretum. This was organised by Sam Braid of Aurecon, as part of National Water week. The EnviroClub has shown interest in continuing to assist with river monitoring in the future.

Challenges:

No challenges to report.

Monthly Expenditure:

Item	Total
Petrol:	R 993.84
<u>Overall Total:</u>	<u>R 993.84</u>

Report back on Milestones :

- ◆ **Testing of cell phone applications for reporting issues along river.**

The testing of the cell phone application created by SeeSaw was a success. Further testing will continue next month continuing the use of the app mapping vagrants along the river as well as mapping the various outlets and abstraction points along the river as well.

Milestones for next Report:

- ◆ Sending out of donation letters for plants.
- ◆ Report on data collected through using the cell phone applications.

Appendix:
