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### **Liesbeek Project Report: February 2013**

Project Manager: Jason Mingo

This report is based on the activities undertaken by the Liesbeek Maintenance Project, from the period 01<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 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.

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## Management Schedule:

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

### 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:**

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### **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.**

Follow-up clearing work done at the confluence of Protea and Window Streams, for the removal of White Ginger Lily (*Hedychium coronarium*) and various other weed species. Only physical removal of new plants was done, with no application of herbicide.

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

Follow-up clearing done on the area cleared of White Ginger Lily (*Hedychium coronarium*), between Kirstenbosch Drive and Riverside Road. Only physical removal of new plants was done, with no application of herbicide.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Weeding and the clearing of emerging alien plant species from the rehabilitated section behind Newlands Pool, as well as trimming the pathways along the trail from Sans Souci Road to Arbor Road bridge.

Path maintenance from Arbor Road to Rouwkoop Road, including the weeding of various rehabilitation sites along the trail. All the trees along the trail were also watered.

Canal clearing was done late in the month from Alfred Stream down towards Belmont Bridge. All overgrown grasses and wandering Jew (*Commelina benghalensis*) within the canal were removed from the canal in preparation for winter.

### **Block 6: Belmont Bridge to N2.**

Follow-up work was carried out along the river bank, adjacent to the River Park business complex. The area was cleared of new shoots of *Canna indica* and a variety of other exotic weeds.

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

Maintenance was carried out on the planted section of the cleared areas along the river. All weeds within the cleared section were removed and the plants watered. Further clearing was done in Valkenberg Wetland, with the cutting of *Phragmites australis* and the spraying of Purple Loosestrife. Spraying was done using a 3% SEISMIC solution.

### **Block 8: End of wetlands to Observatory Road Bridge.**

Nothing to report.

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

Clearing took place within the Raapenberg Wetland as part of the effort to eradicate Purple Loosestrife. All *Phragmites australis* were cut using brush cutters, and piled in various locations on site. The clearing was done to assist in identifying invaded areas by Purple Loosestrife. It was found that the plant has been restricted to the western corner of the wetland and these plants were subsequently treated with 3% SEISMIC solution. Further clearing of the reeds will be done on a continual basis, in an effort to keep the open wetland for further rehabilitation. This rehabilitation will include the planting of a greater diversity of wetland species to transform the current homogenous landscape to a more diverse one, with the intention of attracting a greater diversity of birds to the area.

### **Other Activities:**

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#### **Litter Clean-ups:**

The regular weekly clean ups of the river from the N2 to Sans Souci Rd have continued. The presence of strong south-easterly winds allowed for much litter being blown into the river and canalised sections. A concern arising is the amount of litter gathering in the Liesbeek Lake as a result of the strong winds experienced.

#### **Events:**

##### **- *New community initiative to clean up the Liesbeek River***

A resident from Observatory, Ricard Sa, started a new initiative on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, to assist with the collection of litter along and within the river. The area that he is focussing on is the river north of the N2 to the confluence with Black River. The event fell on the same day as the World Wetlands Day and the Friends of the Liesbeek invited our members to join in this initiative, as our contribution to signify this day.

##### **- *New Kader Asmal team joins the Liesbeek***

A team of 18 people with the goal of reaching a total of 25, joined the Kader Asmal River Cleaning Project along the Liesbeek. This team will be focussed solely on the the maintenance work and alien clearing required for the lower reaches of the Liesbeek River. More specifically they will work for the majority of the time between the N2 and Observatory Road Bridge. Once the team has had adequate training, they will begin with the removal and management of *Egeria densa* (Dense water weed) within the Liesbeek Lake area. The long term goal is to have this team manage the aquatic weeds in both the lake and within the two channels that meet with the Black River.

##### **- *Using cellphone applications to report issues along the river***

The development of two applications has been finalised for testing on the Liesbeek River. The company Green SeeSaw has partnered with the Friends of the Liesbeek,

through the maintenance project, to trial various applications that can be used to report varying issues along the river. The two applications that have been finalised are one for reporting the presence and impact caused by vagrants along the river and the other is to map the various outlets and intakes along the rivers length. Both these applications will be trialled along the river in the next coming month.

### **Challenges:**

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No challenges to report.

### **Monthly Expenditure:**

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Petrol:</i>	<i>R1 541.19</i>
<i>Brushcutter PPE:</i>	<i>R 445.24</i>
<i>Brushcutter oil:</i>	<i>R 130.07</i>
<i>Internet:</i>	<i>R 200.00</i>
<i>Airtime:</i>	<i>R 110.00</i>
<b><u>Overall Total:</u></b>	<b><u>R2 426.50</u></b>

### **Report back on Milestones :**

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◆ ***Update on establishment of new Kader Asmal River Project team.***

This has been mentioned under ***Events.***

◆ ***Update on Lythrum project.***

Progress was made this month on the treatment of remaining plants within all three affected wetlands, namely Valkenberg, River Club and Raapenberg. Further treatment and monitoring will carry over into the following month.

### **Milestones for next Report:**

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- ◆ Testing of cellphone applications for reporting issues along river.

### **Appendix:**

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