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This report is based on the activities undertaken by the Liesbeek Maintenance Project (LMP), from the period of the 1st to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The LMP is a project established by the Friends of the Liesbeek (FoL) and seeks to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity and public interest of the Liesbeek River and its surrounding environs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

- 70% of the planned plan of actions (POA) was achieved for the month.
- The LMP celebrated world action day for Rivers and the World Water Day with the SAB Newlands Brewery Staff.
- Late autumn seasonal rain affected the POA: Three working days were lost in the month.

## SUMMARY

- In March, the OAs focused on the clearing of the canalized Rosebank lower reaches, where the LMP team cleared at least 200m of vegetation overgrowth from below the Alma Bridge to the corner of the Rosebank Greenbelt. Additionally, the LMP team assisted the Friends of Paradise Park weeding the Ecological Support Infrastructure (ESI) at Paradise Park.
- The LMP team joined in on the World Action for Rivers on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Additionally, we hosted the SAB Newlands brewery staff in celebration of the World Water Day in March. The group cleared a section of the Rosebank canalized section of the Liesbeek.
- The team attended First Aid and Health and Safety courses with SANBI in relation to the Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) contract clauses.
- The first of the Purple Loosestrife invoices were submitted and closed with SANBI in March. FOL to receive payments in the following months.
- Over 200 refuse bags were filled and collected from the Liesbeek River and her environs in March.

## INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Infrastructure maintenance was not a priority for the Month. However, the LMP team controlled weeds at the Mandela Day site in Observatory in early March and assisted with the maintenance of the ESI patches in Paradise Park: weeding, cutting back vegetation and conducting path maintenance. Additionally, Sabelo advised the Newlands based CCT Parks department with placement of benches in the Newlands reach between Sans Souci and Roslyn Park.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

The LMP team POAs for the month of March was to undertake two special projects: to clear vegetation overgrowth in Rosebank and conduct site preparation for the Wetland project north of the N2 Bridge along the Liesbeek Parkway. The projected tasks were not all completed. Rosebank clearing is 70% complete. And the N2 wetland project has been delayed due to logistic issues: available budget/funding being the factors delaying the project.

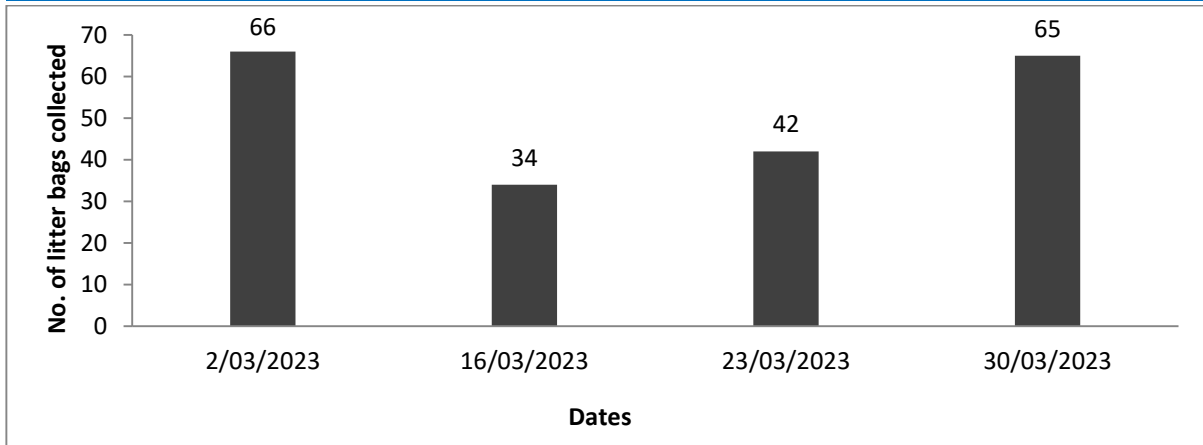


**ABOVE:** The Team posing for a World Action for Rivers and with the Newlands Brewery staff during the World Water Day celebrations in the month (Photos: Gill Lanham, Lauren (SAB Brewery), 2023).

### POLLUTION & WEEKLY THURSDAYLITTER RUN ACCOUNTING

Pollution incidents subsided in March. The sewage surge, that occurred throughout February were attended to by the City of Cape Town. Thanks to persistent complaints from residents, OBSCID and the FoL. Additionally, there has been a significant drop in the number of refuse bags filled and collected during the LMPs regular Thursday river and environs litter runs. This month, an approximated **207** were collected along the Liesbeek.

## LIESBEEK MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2023



ABOVE 1: The number of litter bags collected from the Liesbeek over a four week period in February.

### INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT (SPECIAL PROJECTS)

The Invasive Species Unit initiated the control of the PSHB infested Box alders (*Acer nungendo*) trees in the riverine sections of the lower reaches in Rosebank, Mowbray and in Newlands. Sabelo monitored the clearing, (i) to ensure that PSHB control protocol was observed, (ii) to ensure no biomass was left in situ and (iii) that no ESI were affected through collectoral damage of the tree felling process.



ABOVE: City of Cape Town ISU contracted staff chipping PSHB infested felled trees in Mowbray and a typical depiction of the methods applied post clearing: a blue herbicide was applied and black plastic covering was used to cover the stump.

### STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Nothing major to report on except: The LMP team do require chainsaw and brush cutter training. Over reliance on one official operator may delay POAs requiring small plant operations.
- Interns and three LMP staff attended OHS training with SANBI in connection with the Purple Loosestrife contractual clauses.

### PLANS FOR NEXT MONTH

- a) Site prep in Obs: Wetland Project (on hold).
- b) Rosebank Canal Maintenance (on going).
- c) Control of crofton weed, Ballon v ine and Maderira vine
- d) Regular litter runs.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the committee and our main sponsors SAB Newlands Brewery, ABAX investments and Tuffy as well as other associated stakeholders for continued support to Liesbeek Maintenance Project.