



# Friends of the Liesbeek

P.O. Box 333, Rondebosch 7701

Public Benefit Organisation ref no 930002808

[Nonprofit Organisation ref no 56-033](#)

[www.fol.org.za](http://www.fol.org.za)

[info@fol.org.za](mailto:info@fol.org.za)

## **Liesbeek Project Report: January 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.

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

Date	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6	Block 7	Block 8	Block 9
07-Jan							AC / W		
08-Jan							AC / W		
09-Jan					AC / W				
10-Jan					L	L	L		
11-Jan							AC / W		
12-Jan									
13-Jan									
14-Jan							AC / W		
15-Jan					AC / PM / W				
16-Jan					PM / W				
17-Jan					L	L	L		
18-Jan					AC / PM				
19-Jan									
20-Jan									

**Management Schedule:** \_\_\_\_\_

21-Jan							AC / W		
22-Jan					AC / W / PM				
23-Jan					PM / W				
24-Jan					L	L			
25-Jan						AC			
26-Jan									
27-Jan									
28-Jan						AC			
29-Jan					AC / W				
30-Jan			AC	AC					
31-Jan					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:**

---

**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).**

Follow-up clearing done on the area cleared of White Ginger Lily (*Hedychium coronarium*), between Kirstenbosch Drive and Riverside Road.

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

Follow-up clearing done at the Vineyard Hotel, which included the removal of *Lanata camara*, and Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica*).

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

Maintenance of the rehabilitation site behind Newlands pool was carried out after the summer break, and consisted of weeding new shoots of various cleared plant species such as *Canna indica*, and watering the area extensively.

The trees that were planted along the trail last year were watered at least twice a week to help them cope through the dry season.

Trail maintenance was very much focussed from Rouwkoop Road to Belmont Road. At Rouwkoop Road, the rehabilitated area was weeded and watered. The section of the trail between Rouwkoop and Roslyn Rd, had overhanging and overgrown vegetation cut back, this included the trimming down and application of herbicide (3% EnviroGlyphosate) to the Spanish Reed (*Arundo donax*). The banks of Roslyn Park were cleared and neatened up to allow for future planting in this area later in the year. This clearing will also prevent further occupation by vagrants who often dump and litter in the general vicinity. A number of overgrown bushes and a variety of trees along the trail between Roslyn Park and Belmont Rd were trimmed up increasing visibility along this section of the trail.

**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. This maintenance included the removal of a number of weeds and watering the existing plants.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**Other Activities:**

---

**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:**

A presentation was held at the Vineyard Hotel on the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> of January to initiate a project involving property owners along the Liesbeek River in Bishopscourt to start rehabilitating the banks through the removal of alien invasive species. The event was well attended, and good constructive feedback was obtained regarding the concerns and issues the residents had with such a project. We managed to get the support of all those who attended. The next phase will involve the identification and mapping of alien invasive plant species along the river and in the properties of the residents who are willing to participate. This initiative is being run in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute and the Invasive Species Unit from the City of Cape Town.

### **Challenges:**

---

No challenges to report.

### **Monthly Expenditure:**

---

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Petrol:</i>	<i>R1082.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>R 52.63</i>

**Overall Total:**                      **R1134.63**

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

---

◆ ***Follow up session in Blocks 2 and 3 for cleared areas.***

As mentioned in the report above, follow up sessions were carried out in both management blocks for previously cleared areas.

◆ ***Follow up on species list and landscape plan for banks cleared along lower Liesbeek.***

This was raised at the Project Advisory Committee meeting for the Working for Wetlands Program. A list and plan is expected to be delivered by the middle of February 2013.

◆ ***Litter in Liesbeek Lake.***

The issue of the accumulating litter within the lake and the increased growth of the dense waterweed (*Egeria densa*), along with a couple other species, has led to the process of establishing a further team under the Kader Asmal River Project for the Liesbeek River. This team will focus solely on the lower reaches of the river, from the N2 north to its confluence with the Black River.

◆ ***Removal of piles from behind Vincent Palotti.***

This has been handed over to the City Parks department.

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

---

- ◆ Update on establishment of new Kader Asmal River Project team.
- ◆ Update on Lythrum project.

### **Appendix:**

---