

2015-03-08

## **SUNDOWNER PARK REMEDIATION PROGRAM**

The Sundowner Park forms the geographical center of the suburb of Sundowner. It is a recreational open space, meant to add recreational value to the residents of Sundowner. Further, it adds significant value to property values for the suburb of Sundowner as a whole. It is a public open space, functioning further as a storm-water controller, and falls under the management of municipal departments of Parks, Roads and Water. Further, department of sanitation, Eskom and other government run tiers have interests concerning the Sundowner Park.

### **PROGRAM**

#### **Photo Competition**

##### **'The good, the bad and the ugly of the Sundowner Park'**

A photo competition will commence as upon distribution of this information. Avid professional as well as novice photographers are called upon, to spend time in capturing the beauty and degradation of the Sundowner Park nature (animals, birds, plants, trees, granite koppie etc.). A prize of **R 500.00** will be awarded for best photo (Sponsored by Corporate Investment Matters (Pty) Ltd). Photos will be used for report writing, signage and website for purpose of the SRA only.

- a. There are accounts of Slender Mongoose, Leopard Tortoise, Yellow-billed Ducks, Purple, Goliath, Grey AND Black-headed Herons, Marsh and Barn Owls, Hamerkop, Brown-Hooded Kingfisher and many more animals, reptiles and birds. At one time, even a common Duiker was spotted rummaging through the park. Lesser spotted Genets also were once a common occurrence.
- b. Giant or Highveld Bullfrogs used to be a common sound in the summer evenings after a thunderstorm.
- c. Bobbejaanstert or Black-stick lily used to be a common occurrence, systematically harvested for traditional ceremonies by garbage collectors and others. Can anyone find one?
- d. Various tree species, both indigenous and alien, populate the park. Some alien trees are more than 50 years old, performing a vital function, whilst others are invasive and detrimental to the park ecosystem and stability.
- e. Reeds and other wetland vegetation play a vital role in the hydrology of the suburb, as well as the natural ecosystem. This is a home to thousands of small insects, non-problematic rodents, reptiles, providing a feeding bonanza for birds of all sizes.
- f. The wetland is a natural dam within the soil, slowly releasing clean water into the dam.
- g. Hanging wetlands of root peat on the granite koppie (the most easterly extending from the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens) form a unique micro environment and very likely scientifically undocumented.

There are a lot of amazing natural wonders to discover, as well as evidence of shocking deterioration.

Deadline for submitting pictures is the **31 April 2015**. This will allow for the vegetation to change colour, sun rise and sun sets to be a little more dramatic and allow for variable lighting conditions.

Please e-mail your pictures, name and if you like the street you live in to: [sundownerparkproject@gmail.com](mailto:sundownerparkproject@gmail.com).

The winner will be announced on Monday, the **4<sup>th</sup> of May**.

### **Sponsors, Professionals**

The SRA has decided that enough waiting has been done and a SRA private initiative is now responsible for the remediation of the park.

This means we need sponsors. We need professionals, who are involved in some or other way in the environmental industry, engineering, earth moving/construction (earth moving equipment trucks), geotextiles, garden service, printing and signage and accountants (because we need to stay transparent). If you are a resident, or know of someone who is willing to contribute to this project **financially or with skills**, all help is welcomed.

### **Presentation – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015 – Questions and Answers**

Once the photo competition winner has been announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, a meeting will be called by the SRA for purpose of the Sundowner Park. This will entail a short (10 minute) presentation of what is wrong with the park and what needs to be done and why. This will be followed by questions and answers.

Further, the meeting will account all funds and skills available to the project. This will then lead to ad hock preliminary decisions to be discussed. In due time, a report will be issued to all residents concerning the decisions taken. Please remember that this is a residential community project, meaning that your (The Residents) interest is being represented. Majority vote wins, Laws preside over rulings.

### **Procedures and Responsibilities**

A further meeting will be called for the planning of the remediation procedures and responsibilities to be allocated. Preliminary remediation inception is towards the end of winter during the months of July and August.

Kind regards  
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