

STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023/24

30 August 2023

1. KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY (KM) – LEISURE ISLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (LIRA): JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

- The KM – LIRA Agreement for the joint management of the Reserve has been extended until 2031.

2. STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE (SNR) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The SNR Management Committee comprises:

- Three KM representatives: Sharon Sabbagh, Mulalo Musekene, Ivan van Wyk.
- One SANParks representative: Pat Bopape (alt. Nico Oosthuizen).
- Two LIRA representatives: Margaret Richards (chair), Craig Carter.
- One Steenbok Trust representative: Diana Stromberg
- Volunteer portfolio holders: Diana Stromberg - Reserve Manager, James Botha - Finance, Barbara Krige - Communications, Ingrid Meter - Membership, Dave Stromberg - Planning and Projects.

- KM stakeholder representatives to be confirmed.
- New volunteer portfolio holders to be recruited to fill vacancies: Horticulture, Public Relations, Infrastructure.
- Succession plans to be put into place.
- Regular Management Committee meetings to be held.

3. FRIENDS OF STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE TRUST

- The Trustees are: Brian Steele (chair), James Botha, Craig Carter, Ingrid Meter, Margaret Richards, Dave Stromberg, Diana Stromberg, Peter Surgey.

4. TRUST MEMBERSHIP

- Current database has about 400 addresses, of which about a third are annual contributors.
- All Committee members to assist with the recruitment of new Trust members.
- Membership database to be updated monthly.

5. FINANCES

- Financial Statements to be prepared monthly.
- The Budget to be reviewed at mid-year.
- The 2023/24 Budget is to be prepared by end-September 2023.

6. COMMUNICATION

- E-mail correspondence to be answered frequently.
- Four Mailchimp Newsletters to be published per year, and one AGM Notification.
- Noticeboards to be updated after each Newsletter, and rainfall charts updated monthly.
- Regular Facebook and Instagram articles to be posted.
- Website to be updated periodically with Newsletters and Facebook posts, Children section, Fauna and Flora sections and Factsheets.
- Monthly budget to be provided for a contractor to provide communication services to the Reserve.

7. PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Strong relationships to be developed and maintained with Knysna Municipality, SANParks, the Knysna Basin Project, the LI Boat Club and LI Country Club, local communities, general public etc.
- Educational tours for school groups, societies etc. to be encouraged.
- A Steenbok stall to be set up at the November Leisure Isle Festival.
- Fundraising events to be encouraged.

8. PLANNING

- Engagements to be held with KM and SANParks to update the Reserve cadastral and lease map to reflect correct property and lease boundaries.
- Efforts to formalise the long-term protection of the Reserve through rezoning or incorporation with SANParks to continue.

9. GARDENS, NATURAL AREAS AND GRASSED AREAS.

- Ivy Garden Services to be supervised by the Reserve Manager – prepare annual and monthly programs, and undertake weekly supervision.
- Undertake ongoing clearing of alien and invasive vegetation.
- Co-ordinate and direct KM mowing, trimming and clearing teams.
- Encourage volunteers to assist with gardening activities.

10. SALTMARSH

- Boardwalk to be maintained regularly.

11. KINGFISHER CREEK

- Continue with the project to protect the saltmarsh.
- Erect permanent educational signage to discourage walkers, cyclists and dog owners from damaging saltmarsh flora and fauna.
- Erect post-and-rail barriers to block pathways that are damaging the saltmarsh.
- Make improvements to the highwater path which serves as main access to Land's End.
- Investigate alternative pathway options to enhance visitor experience and further protect the inter-tidal saltmarsh.
- Install pathway markers to direct walkers to preferred routes.

12. LANDS END

- Undertake trimming of low and invasive vegetation to increase visibility, aesthetic appeal, cleanliness and safety.
- Maintain daily Allsound patrols.

13. SEAWALL

- Undertake maintenance, and repair breakages in the seawall as authorised by SANParks.
- Remedial work to be undertaken on low-lying portion of seawall and towpath at the Saltmarsh pipes.

14. PATHWAYS

- Co-ordinate KM mowing and trimming of pathways and towpath.
- Upgrade the towpath with levelling and mowing to improve accessibility.
- Undertake regular maintenance and weed control on the paved pathway.
- Arrange for the uneven gravel parking areas outside the main entrance to the Reserve to be surfaced.
- Investigate the feasibility of extending wheelchair and disabled access in the Reserve.

15. PUBLIC TOILETS

- Boat Club toilets are accessible to Reserve visitors.
- Investigate options for toilets for the disabled.

16. FENCING

- Maintain and repair the post-and-rail fencing around the Reserve.

17. SIGNAGE

- Temporary signs to be used as required and for 'Dogs in the Reserve' notifications, Brunsvigia protection etc.
- Erect new Kingfisher Creek and Land's End signage, including educational signage, pathway markers, and regulatory signs prohibiting cyclists and dogs from the saltmarsh.
- Clean, replace and upgrade Reserve signage as required.
- Replace main entrance signs with updated information, logos etc.

18. BINS AND LITTER

- Manage cleaning and litter collection staff with weekly inspections, monthly payments.
- Supply bin bags, dog poop bags and cleaning materials.

19. BENCHES

- Maintenance to continue on existing benches.
- Old concrete and timber benches to be replaced as sponsors become available.
- When old benches are replaced, existing plaques are to be retained and efforts made to locate the original sponsors.

20. IRRIGATION SYSTEM

- Seasonal maintenance and adjustment to be done quarterly. Service provider to undertake repairs and improvements as required.
- Neaten the system by repositioning sprinklers to less visible positions.
Replace damaged wiring, and rationalise the irrigation layout.

21. AQUIFER WATERPUMP

- Regular maintenance to be done.

22. SEEDPOD

- Twice-annual maintenance and repairs to be done - sand down and varnish.

23. RESERVE USER PROTOCOLS

- Management Committee to review and update 'User Protocols' appropriate for the Reserve, with emphasis on the management of dogs and cyclists in the Reserve.
- Volunteers to be utilized to inform visitors of the user protocols.

24. GREEN FLAG AWARD CRITERIA

- Management Committee to consider how the Green Flag assessment criteria could be used to improve Steenbok Reserve, with a view to applying for Green Flag status at some future date.