

The Friends of **THE STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE TRUST**



STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE 2025/26 MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. THE KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY (KM) – LEISURE ISLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (LIRA) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

- Steenbok Nature Reserve (SNR) is jointly managed by the Knysna Municipality and LIRA in terms of the KM – LIRA Agreement. The objectives of the Reserve are to:
- Manage the eco-systems on the north shore of Leisure Isle for the benefit of future generations.
- Nurture and protect the natural beauty of the Reserve.
- Create and maintain a place of enjoyment for all, whilst recognizing the protocols applicable to nature conservation areas.
- Establish representative plant communities as found in similar eco-locations along the Garden Route.
- Protect plant life indigenous to Knysna, Leisure Isle, and the salt marshes.

2. STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MANCOM)

The SNR Management Committee comprises:

- Three KM representatives: Sharon Sabbagh, Mulalo Musekene, Ivan van Wyk
- One SANParks representative: Vanessa Weyer, alt. Elmonique Petersen
- Two LIRA representatives: Diana Stromberg (Chair), Ingrid Meter (Deputy)
- One Steenbok Trust representative: James Botha (Treasurer)

Volunteer portfolio holders:

- Diana Stromberg - Reserve Maintenance, Communication
- Ingrid Meter - Membership
- Dave Stromberg - Planning and Projects, Infrastructure Maintenance
- Bev Steele – Litter management

Service Providers:

- Social Media, Public Relations and Administration: Lexi Meier
- Reserve Maintenance: Ivy Garden Services
- Irrigation: ODI Landscaping - Mihan Roos

3. MANCOM'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Represent the stakeholders as per the KM – LIRA Agreement.
- Hold regular Management Committee meetings.
- Prepare SNR Management Plan and Budget.
- Review progress against the Management Plan and Budget
- Hold mid-year progress review meeting.

4. FRIENDS OF STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE TRUST

- The Friends of Steenbok Nature Reserve Trust was established by LIRA to manage LIRA's responsibilities arising from the KM-LIRA Agreement, and to manage Reserve funds and expenditure, as approved by MANCOM.
- The Trustees are: Brian Steele (Chair), James Botha, Craig Carter, Andrew Johnstone, Ingrid Meter, Margaret Richards, Dave Stromberg, Diana Stromberg and Peter Surgey.

5. TRUST MEMBERSHIP

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

6. FINANCES

- Financial Statements to be prepared monthly.
- The Budget to be reviewed at mid-year.
- The 2025/26 Budget to be prepared by end-September 2025.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- E-mail correspondence to be answered promptly.
- Four Mailchimp Newsletters to be published per year.
- Noticeboards to be updated after each Newsletter, and rainfall charts updated monthly.
- Website to be updated periodically with Newsletters and Facebook posts, Children's Section, Fauna and Flora Sections and Factsheets.
- Regular Facebook and Instagram articles to be posted.

8. PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Maintain strong relationships with Knysna Municipality, SANParks, environmental groups, the LI Boat Club and LI Country Club, local communities, general public etc.
- Encourage educational tours for school groups, societies etc.
- A Steenbok stall to be set up at the November Leisure Isle Festival.
- Fundraising events to be organized.

9. PLANNING

- Engagements to be held with LIRA, LICC and LIBC to co-ordinate planning of the land-use requirements.
- Engagements to be held with KM and SANParks to update the Reserve cadastral and lease map to reflect correct property and lease boundaries.
- Continue with efforts to formalize the long-term protection of the Reserve.
- Green Flag assessment criteria to be used in the management of Steenbok Reserve.
- Prepare a first draft of a Long-term Plan for the Reserve, with a view to applying for Green Flag status at some future date.
- Investigate options for formalizing boat trailer parking on Harbor Road verges

10. GARDENS, NATURAL AREAS AND GRASSED AREAS.

- Direct and supervise Ivy Garden Services: prepare annual and monthly programs, and undertake weekly supervision.
- Upgrade the Indigenous gardens with new information signs.
- Coordinate and direct KM mowing, trimming and clearing teams.
- Encourage volunteers to assist with environmental activities.
- Trim Roger's Way annually to prevent shading of the LICC tennis courts.

11. SALTMARSH

- Boardwalk to be maintained regularly.

12. KINGFISHER CREEK

- Continue with the project to protect the intertidal saltmarsh.
- Make improvements to the highwater path which serves as the main access to Land's End.
- Investigate alternative pathway options to enhance visitor experience and further protect the saltmarsh.
- Remove all invasive vegetation obstructing pathways to Kingfisher Creek.

13. LANDS END

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

14. SEAWALL

- Undertake maintenance and repair breakages of the seawall, in compliance with LIRA's environmental authorizations.
- Start investigations of the desirability of allowing tidal flow into the western saltmarsh.

15. PATHWAYS

- Coordinate KM mowing and trimming of pathways and towpath.
- Undertake regular maintenance and weed control on the paved pathway.
- Repair and maintain the paved pathway.
- Investigate the feasibility of extending wheelchair and disabled access in the Reserve.

16. PUBLIC TOILETS

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

17. FENCING

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

18. SIGNAGE

- Clean, replace and upgrade Reserve signage as required.
- Install QR signs on the dog bag dispensers to encourage support for the Trust.

19. BINS AND LITTER

- Manage cleaning and litter collection staff, with weekly inspections, monthly payments.
- Supply bin bags, dog poop bags and cleaning materials.
- Ensure Allsound guards refill dog poop bag dispensers daily.

20. BENCHES

- Maintain existing benches.
- Existing plaques are to be retained on any replaced benches, and efforts made to locate the original sponsors.

21. 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, and rationalize the irrigation layout.

22. AQUIFER WATER PUMP

- Regular maintenance to be done.

23. SEEDPOD

- Twice annual maintenance to be done.

24. RESERVE 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.
- Utilize volunteers to inform visitors of the User Protocols.

15 September 2025