

March 2020 Friends of Kloofendal Newsletter

Cell 079-693-5608 (information)
Cell 082-938-3605 (school groups)
www.kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com

Facebook: Friends of the Kloofendal Nature Reserve



Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Friends of Kloofendal,

Registration as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to proposed development at the Reserve

Thank you to all of you who made it to the Public Meeting at the Kloofendal Ecological Centre on Thursday 6th February, despite rain, thunderstorm and blackouts! We had a super turn out and it was clear that our community does not want JCPZ's proposed development at the Kloofendal Reserve, while there is so much work on infrastructure maintenance and upgrades needed in Kloofendal that are at present not receiving enough attention.

As many of you may know through the WhatsApp groups, despite of what was decided at the public meeting on 6th February, where the JCPZ's proposed development was rejected, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is still going ahead, as was stated in the Roodepoort Record Friday, 13th March, on page 18 in a notice in tiny lettering : "Notice of Environmental Impact Assessment, Invitation to public participation process for the proposed development of Kloofendal Nature Reserve in Roodepoort".

The proposal as presented to our community on 6th February seems to have the building proposals reduced to staff accommodation and a visitors' centre, there is no longer mention of the canteen (restaurant?) and big parking lot.

The notice asks for people to [apply for REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTY ON OR BY THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2020.](#)

Jonathan Leeming is kindly providing information on JCPZ's Kloofendal Nature Reserve Development Proposal on <http://jonathanleeming.com/kloofendal/>

You may also follow the link to send an email.

Some questions

JCPZ Environmental Monitors

Four Environmental Monitors, diploma graduates in Nature Conservation or Wildlife Management, were employed as interns by JCPZ beginning 2020 for three years. They wear green overalls. They are managed by the deputy manager who has worked at Kloofendal for about one year. No EPWP (orange overalls) or other CWP workers appear to be working in the reserve at present, so the monitors need to do the work in Kloofendal themselves. We have seen some gardening in the parking lot and amphitheatre area. Recently they have been commissioned to do tree planting outside the reserve.

Accommodation for 4 JCPZ staff in Kloofendal in the JCPZ proposal

It would seem that the proposed accommodation in JCPZ's "Kloofendal Nature Reserve Development Proposal" would be for the four monitors, who are presently already staying in the reserve, as is the JCPZ manager of the reserve and his family. Why more buildings in a nature reserve, which is a protected area?

Kloofendal – a JCPZ servicing depot?

A varied number of EPWP and other Community Work Programme (CWP) employees were employed for different periods of time (one-month contracts) to work in Kloofendal, managed by JCPZ. Over the last two years this has changed, more and more workers would meet at Kloofendal every weekday morning and then be taken by truck to work in various areas of Johannesburg. Fewer and fewer of them would be employed to work in Kloofendal, and presently none are employed in Kloofendal, so only the four JCPZ Environmental Monitors and the Kloofendal deputy manager work in Kloofendal. The Kloofendal manager is usually working in other parts of his wide area of responsibility.

Question arises, why has the Kloofendal Nature Reserve become a JCPZ Servicing Depot, while the spacious JCPZ depot facility in Florida, adjacent to the Len Rutter Park, stands almost unused?

As mentioned in our previous newsletter,

Kloofendal nature reserve needs urgent infra structure upgrade

Money needs to be spent on the following priorities

Improving security of the reserve

Proper repair of FENCING all around the reserve – many parts of concrete fencing are in a bad state and need replacement by good fencing, such as clear-view fencing.

		
<p>Recently broken concrete palisade wall. Attempts of temporary repair with wire mesh fencing has failed. Security guard showed path from broken fence towards squatter area in adjacent forest 😞</p>	<p>Old repairs not being upgraded to replacing fencing either with better quality concrete palisade or Clear-view fencing.</p>	<p>Old attempted repairs not being replaced by permanent replacing of poor quality, broken fencing</p>
		
<p>Damage of poor-quality fence</p>	<p>Neighbours suspect that this gap was used for illegal entry into reserve. Breakage of fencing reported various time, but left unrepaired</p>	

Failing sewerage system

There has been a marked increase in repeated sewerage overflows which end up in the dam, and ultimately into the wetland. If unattended, this will destroy the Kloofendal Nature Reserve – plants and animals in the dam and the animals utilising the dam will die.

			
Sewerage running down the path	Overflowing manhole	Sewerage in riverbed above the dam	Initial investigation. Professional investigation and remediation need to be done

We do need to thank the Ops room of the Roodekrans Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group for reporting the leaks, getting a reference number, our ward councillor Sonja Meyer escalating it to Joburg Water and then Joburg Water quickly attending to unblocking the sewerage pipes, JCPZ providing access to the reserve, security staff showing Joburg Water staff where the leak is, people reporting the leak in the first place, FroK being part of this all, a combined team effort!

Pavement in the parking area is falling apart.

The parking area paving needs to be replaced by quality paving before new buildings are built.

	
Paved parking lot is in a very bad state	

Invasive alien plant infestation in Kloofendal –alien trees replacing natural vegetation

Kloofendal represents Roodepoort Reef Mountain Bushveld, a critically endangered ecosystem. Young declared invasive trees are invading many copses in the reserve, forbs such as the Pompom weed are a threat to dominating the veld.

We see insufficient work done, particularly in recent years, on the invasives by JCPZ.

The community under direction of FroK has, for years, been working on invasive plant control. FroK has been involved in training some of the temporary employed EPWP and other CWP workers, but their jobs are terminated after a few weeks, so no ongoing work was done on invasives by them. Community volunteers, community service students and scouts help, FroK volunteers work with them and supervise them, but the job in Kloofendal is too big a job for just volunteers.

However, volunteers have done and are doing a big job on the invasive forbs with lots of seeds, such as the Pompom weeds and Forget-me-nots, which need attention during the flowering time. Once these plants seed, the invasive problem is multiplied hugely in the following growing season.

		
<p>Karin – on a Forget-me-not mission</p>	<p>CWP workers – temporary help</p>	<p>Bug weed cleared</p>
		
<p>Volunteers at work</p>	<p>Student – volunteering and working</p>	

Working for Water

Recently we discovered that [Working for Water](#) has allocated a team to work in Kloofendal on the invasive plants – communication between JCPZ and Working for Water was not been good, but last Tuesday ((17th March) the two parties met with ward councillor Sonja Meyer and FroK representatives. I did ask for a list of invasive plants they are going to be working on, was given a few names, but certainly not a complete list even of the larger plants. I will follow up and have offered help in showing the Working for Water team the many IAP (Invasive Alien Plants) hotspots in the reserve This was accepted. I have shown JCPZ some of the hotspots.

Please let me know if you would like to be a volunteer so that I can put you the FroK Volunteer WhatsApp group?

Other needs for

Other needs for Kloofendal were presented at the public meeting held on 6th February and can be found on our web site (11Mb) [here](#).

Good news

Rain

This is now old news but now shows some of the flooding that took place on the 6th February this year.



Dam totally dried out November 2019. Just amazing how creatures and plants survive, they do! Thousands of red toadlets are hopping around in Kloofendal, all having come from the dam.



5th February 2020 - Dam overflowing!



5th February 2020 - Water flowing from wetland collapsed the fence next to main Kloofendal entrance



Water everywhere! Next to drive way entrance towards parking lot



Debris running down from reserve through amphitheatre area from path and hillside erosion

Jungle Gym

A Jungle Gym made of natural materials (wood, poles, rubber tyres) to blend into the natural surrounds of the reserve is going to be build as a Springbok Scout Project in Kloofendal. At present the Springbok project scout is working on the design to present to the FroK Committee. The jungle gym will need to comply to JCPZ health and safety regulations. Anyone willing to help, donate materials, please contact Amber Williams at cell 082-496-3318

Goldmine maintenance

The old bridge in the Confidence Reef Goldmine has been made safer by new and longer lintels having been put in place – a FroK project



Also, the loose fence in adit has been secured with a step of cement – sorry, no photograph of that.

FROK conservation initiatives

Here are examples of FroK adding value to the Reserve.

	<p>Volunteers helping towards maintenance and upgrading the educational displays in Kloofendal Ecological Centre – February 2020</p>
	
<p>FroK guides, experts in their field, who give of their knowledge to the community for a minimal guiding fee. These events, environmental education for all, are organised by FroK for free. Fee for the guided walks go towards the guides, FroK’s admin. costs and FroK projects in the reserve</p>	

FroK events (planned, but all cancelled until 16th April or later)

FROK EVENTS FOR APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2020, 2 hour guided walks and Star Gazing (Saturday 27th June) have been posted on the FroK website, they are open to all of you to enjoy and benefit from, conditional to the reserve being open again to the general public once the Corona Virus dangers have died down.

For information on the weekend events and bookings, once the reserve has reopened, please phone me (Karin) on cell 079-693-5608?

Fees for daytime walks from 1st April 2020 will be R80 for adults, R70 for pensioners and R60 for children.

Star gazing: pensioners free, adults R50, children R30. No booking required, just come if the Corona Virus has been controlled by that time.

FroK EE for schools,

FroK “Hands-on” environmental education programme for schools, grade 0 up to matric, please phone Shirley Winter for information and bookings at cell 082-938-3605. We do hope and pray that the Corona Virus will be gone in due course!

The school programme is a two-hour guided nature experience, takes place in the reserve, in the field, but in case of rain, we do offer an indoor programme in the Kloofendal Ecological Centre



Ecological Centre – FroK displays, specimen
Gaining interest & knowledge



“Hands-on” learning experience in the field

Membership, WhatsApp and Facebook

Please join the Friends of Kloofendal to support conservation and continued peaceful use of the reserve, adherence of the public open spaces bylaws and allowing so much pleasure from this beautiful nature reserve. Membership forms are available at the Ecological Centre and here on [our website](#).

We post a few quick news items on the FroKNEWS [WhatsApp group](#) and encourage discussions on Kloofendal-related matters on our [Facebook group](#).

Kind regards,

Karin Spottiswoode

Cell 079-693-5608

On behalf of the Friends of Kloofendal

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