

7.7	PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT: (PC: CLLR N JINDELA)
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7.7.1	DRAFT PARADYSKLOOF NATURE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
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Collaborator No:

IDP KPA Ref No:

Meeting Date:

17 October 2018

1. SUBJECT: DRAFT PARADYSKLOOF NATURE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2. PURPOSE

The draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (September 2018) (**ANNEXURE 1**) has been prepared to establish a distinct vision and overarching goal for the management of the Paradyskloof Nature Area in context off, and giving effect to, the relevant legislation and associated regulations. The purpose of this item is to acquire Council's approval to advertise the draft Paradyskloof Nature Area EMP for public input.

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Council.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paradyskloof Nature Area (NA), an approximately 550 ha area consisting of Portion 2 of Farm 368 and portions of Farms 369 and 366 (municipal property), is situated on the south-eastern edge of Stellenbosch town above the neighbourhoods of Brandwacht and Paradyskloof. Most of the area (with specific reference to the northern and eastern, mountainous, area) is in a natural state with ±40 ha of mature pine still left within the old forestry area. The vegetation type of Paradyskloof NA is Cape Winelands Shale Fynbos and is a vulnerable terrestrial ecosystem.

The area is currently used for a range of outdoor recreational activities, research, events as well as for service delivery purposes. With regards to the latter a number of municipal infrastructure, including a water treatment works and reservoir, is located within the above area. Recently the clubhouse within the Paradyskloof NA has been refurbished by the Municipality.

Because of the area's ecological value, its value as public resource and its vulnerability to degradation due to past and present use it is important that an overarching management plan for the area be put in place to ensure that the Paradyskloof NA is managed in a sustainable manner. The proposed Paradyskloof Nature Area EMP is to serve this purpose.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) that Council approves the advertisement of the draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (September 2018) for a period of 21 days for public input; and
- (b) that the inputs received during the above public participation process be worked into a final draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan to be presented to Council for approval.

6. DISCUSSION / CONTENTS

6.1 Background

Stellenbosch Municipality is located within an area that forms part of the world-renowned Cape Floral Kingdom, internationally recognised as one of the six Floral Kingdoms of the world. The Cape Floral Kingdom is the smallest, covering a mere 0,06% of the earth's surface, and is the only Floral Kingdom contained in its entirety within a single country. The Cape Floral Kingdom is characterised by its exceptional richness in plant species and its high endemism. The Cape Floral Kingdom is of immense scientific importance, both nationally and internationally. It covers only 4% of South Africa, but contains 45% of all plant species of Southern Africa.

The Municipality owns various tracts of land that can be described as natural or nature areas. Most of these areas are old forestry areas, such as the Paradyskloof NA, situated within or on the foothills of the local mountain ranges. Some of these areas house some municipal infrastructure but, with the phasing out of forestry, are mostly vacant, being rehabilitated back to its natural state.

Some of the threats or challenges facing the Municipality in managing these areas include:

Access control: Uncontrolled access poses various threats, mainly in terms of security (crime prevention), managing the risk of fire and vandalism.

Misuse and misunderstanding: The use of the relevant areas was primarily focused around the *instrumental* value of the site, which implies that the site has essentially been considered a mere resource utilised for forestry, infrastructure and recreational activities. These land-uses have caused degradation of the visual integrity and ecology of the various sites.

Fire: Given the nature of the ecology of the area within which the Municipality is located, the presence of biomass (especially in the old forestry area), challenges with access control most of these areas pose a risk of fire.

Infestation of alien vegetation: The infestation of alien plant species is a significant threat to the ecology and visual quality of the nature areas of Stellenbosch Municipality. The alien vegetation (which is a legacy of former forestry-related land uses) has resulted in a modified floral composition which is conducive to high-intensity fires.

The core value of these areas are the ecosystem goods and -services it provides to the area and its surroundings. It is therefore important that these areas be managed to address the challenges listed above, to maximize the value of these areas as a resource and ensure sustainability.

6.2 Discussion

The Paradyskloof Nature Area EMP (September 2018) (Annexure A) has been prepared to establish as distinct vision and overarching goal for the management of the Paradyskloof Nature Area in context off, and giving effect to, the relevant legislation and associated regulations.

The EMP consists of management strategies and guidelines for the management of the area under the following themes:

- Administration
- Environmental Protection
- Land Use Management
- Environmental Auditing

6.3 Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication should the recommendations as set out in this report be accepted.

The purpose of this item is to acquire Council's approval to advertise and request public comment on the draft EMP. Other than advertisement fees the execution of the above recommendation will have no financial implications to Council.

6.4 Legal Implications

The recommendations in this report comply with Council's policies and applicable legislation.

6.5 Staff Implications

This report has no staff implications for the Municipality.

6.6 Previous / Relevant Council Resolutions

No previous Council Resolutions in this regard.

6.7 Risk Implications

This report has no risk implications for the Municipality.

6.8 Comments from Senior Management

This Item was circulated to all directorates on 17 September 2018 for comment. Should Council accept the proposed resolution listed under #5 above, the Draft EMP will again be circulated to the various directorates for comment during the public participation process.

6.8.1 Director: Infrastructure Services

Provision must be made for a possible transport link (public road with cycle and pedestrian facility) in the vicinity of the north western boundary near the Welgevallen suburb, or, alternatively, amend the extents of north western boundary near the Welgevallen suburb to allow for a reserve for a public road.

Point 4.3.3 (d) that states that the clearing of new roads for recreational purposes are not permitted. Allowance should be made whereby a process can be followed for the purposes of constructing a new recreational road – should the need arise.

6.8.2 Municipal Manager

Document to be advertised for a period of 21 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE MAYORAL COMMITTEE, TO COUNCIL: 2018-10-17: ITEM 7.7.1

- (a) that Council approves the advertisement of the draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (September 2018) for a period of 21 days for public input; and
- (b) that the inputs received during the above public participation process be worked into a final draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan to be presented to Council for approval.

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Draft Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (Sep 2018)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

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REPORT DATE	10 October 2018

ANNEXURE 1

CONSULTATIVE DRAFT

PARADYSKLOOF NATURE AREA

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 2018



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