

<b>7.6</b>	<b>PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT: [PC: CLLR N JINDELA]</b>
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<b>7.6.1</b>	<b>PARADYSKLOOF NATURE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
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**Collaborator No:** 640919  
**IDP KPA Ref No:** D 435  
**Meeting Date:** 2019-05-21

**1. SUBJECT: PARADYSKLOOF NATURE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2. PURPOSE**

To present the Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan for Council approval.

The Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (**ANNEXURE A**) 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. Following the Council Resolution of 2018-10-31, referred to in section 6.6 below, this document was advertised for public comment for a period of 60 days between December 2018 and January 2019 (**ANNEXURE B**). Comment received during this period (**ANNEXURE C**) has been considered and various amendments made (**ANNEXURE D**) culminating in the above document herewith presented to Council for approval.

**3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

For decision by the Council of Stellenbosch Municipality (the Municipality).

**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 NA EMP is to serve this purpose.

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## 5. RECOMMENDATION

that Council approves the Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (March 2019) as the document to guide the management of the Paradyskloof Nature Area.

## 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 were 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 in a manner that address the challenges listed above, to maximize the value of these areas as resource and to ensure sustainability.

### 6.2 Discussion

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

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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**

The Paradyskloof NA EMP requires that an annual budget be compiled for the area in order to ensure that the management directives are performed.

### **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**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting (2018-10-31): Item 7.7.1, resolved (nem con):

- (a) that the Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan be duly advertised for the purpose of a public participation process until the end of January 2019; 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.

### **6.7 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 by 25 September 2018. These are listed below.

#### **6.8.1 Director: Infrastructure Services**

Provision should 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.

Due to developments taking place currently within the Paradyskloof area, the median in the R44 at Paradyskloof intersection has to be closed as per the requirement of Western Cape Province. In order to remedy this, another route has to be found to connect Paradyskloof Road with Trumali Road. There are currently three possible solutions:

- a. Extension of Schuilplaats Road such that Paradyskloof Road is connected with Trumali Road
- b. Possible road between two future developments, unnamed Road, but could also connect Trumali Road with these Developments.
- c. Extension of Wildebosch Road to Trumali Road.

There are various problems with each of these options and in order to study the best outcome, an amount has been placed on the 2019/20 budget to study these proposals

and provide a solution that will be able to solve the motorised and non-motorised traffic problems for the medium future. Each option should however be investigated and for this reason the possibility of a Northern route of some kind should remain a possibility.

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

The section in the EMP referred to above speaks to the construction or clearance of roads or tracks for recreational in areas being rehabilitated or in areas consisting of natural or fynbos areas. Should the need arise for road development in the area it could be considered in a responsible manner that causes minimum impact to the area.”

**6.8.2 Director: Planning and Economic Development**

No comment received.

**6.8.3 Director: Community and Protection Services**

No comment received.

**6.8.4 Director: Corporate Services**

No comment received.

**6.8.5 Chief Financial Officer**

No comment received.

**6.8.6 Municipal Manager**

No comment received.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE MAYORAL COMMITTEE, TO COUNCIL: 2019-05-21: ITEM 7.6.1**

that Council approves the Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (March 2019) as the document to guide the management of the Paradyskloof Nature Area.

**ANNEXURES**

- Annexure A:** Paradyskloof Nature Area Environmental Management Plan (March 2019)  
**Annexure B:** Eikestad News advertisement (November 2018) / Proof of document delivery at Stellenbosch- and Jamestown Library  
**Annexure C:** Comment received  
**Annexure D:** Comment and response report

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:**

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