

HURLYVALE PARK

Review and update



HEBRA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 11TH APRIL 2026, 15H00 AT HURLYVALE PARK

REVIEW AND UPDATE ON HURLYVALE PARK

In brief, and I sure you will all agree.... Hurlyvale Park, is our community hub, and to visitors in the area, an urban oasis!!!

An unequalled vibe, at this beautiful park; superior and distinct!!!

Vibrant energy, frequented by joggers, walkers, dog walkers, school events, exercise classes, and family outings; oozing with cheerfulness and optimism, with children enjoying the outdoors, and the jungle gym.

The beautiful surroundings, make it ideal, for photographers who have often been seen, capturing special moments, such as matric farewells, weddings or special birthday celebrations.

On the side line, to make it even more appealing, lovely Lynette, is keeping all happy, with a cup of coffee at her Trailer Swift Mobile Café, or at the monthly market, and likewise, Joe, with his delicious varieties of bread.

The monthly, Hebra Homemade Harvest Market, is undoubtedly a favourite hang-out with the community and visitors in the area; very popular and well supported!!

The park is doing exceedingly well, and has made progress in leaps and bounds, initiated by a vision, foresight, passion, endurance and hard work.

Since its inception, many purpose driven organizations or individuals have joined forces, to push toward social responsibility, impacting society positively, or contributing to charitable causes.

There has also been a sustained rise in volunteer activity at the park, and we are privileged and thrilled to welcome Anelda Hofsaier, a horticulturist, who has agreed to join our team in assisting with amenity horticulture and arboriculture.

Hats off, and Thumbs up to the pioneers of this beautiful park; Noel Brownlee, and Steve and Leigh-Ann Hasselbach, who started this project “bit by bit”, in 2018/19.

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Currently, we are busy with an ambitious task, that requires an immense amount of time, effort, resources and dedication.... the cleanup of the stream!!!

Our goal is to keep the stream free of pollution, waste and debris, ensuring the water remains healthy and the ecosystem thrives.

This is a long-term endeavour which will combine community action, with technology.

One of the preventative measures anticipated, is a passive floating boom, to be placed at the bridge on St Francis Rd, to ward off, or intercept floating plastic, and debris from higher up in the river system. The floating boom will be cleaned on a regular basis to ensure its effectiveness, and to ensure that it does not become submerged, or damaged by excessive weight.

In addition, stormwater pipes from the neighbourhood, flow into the stream. Preventative measures anticipated are mesh removable screens or netting systems which are effective for preventing urban and natural debris from entering the stream.

Both Brian van der Spuy and Leigh-Ann Hasselbach are comparing multiple options to guarantee effectiveness and value.

The extraction of woody debris, fallen trees and logs from the stream, by mechanical means, is being considered, and Leigh-Ann Hasselbach is in the process of approaching multiple contractors for quotes to acquire fair pricing, quality work, and to gain insight into the project's scope.

The eradication of invasive trees along the streambank, requires strategies, combining manual and biological controls, to protect biodiversity, water security and ecosystems.

Anelda Hofsjer, with her vast knowledge, and expertise and ongoing research, will advise us accordingly, and compile a work plan to kick-start the process.

Sincere thanks to:

Hebra Committee, and the community, for their generous monthly financial contributions, or those who donated selflessly and generously in kind, with much needed equipment, park benches or plants.

For random acts of kindness, by the community, where gardeners were made available to assist for the day, together with equipment needed for a particular task. To the community who stop by regularly with a friendly "hello" and chat, to express their appreciation to the Lawn Rangers and volunteers, for their hard work.

The upkeep of the park would have been unattainable, without your generous financial support and kindness.

Noel Brownlee, for the availability of borehole water from his property, to maintain the flower beds at the park.

The Lawn Rangers, Noel, Steve, Sean, Mark and Uli, for their commitment and hard work, in keeping the lawns at the park, manicured and looking stunning!!!!

Theo, for his dedication and hard work, in transforming and maintaining the upkeep of the park on Horwoods side.

Kevin Palmer, for the informative wooden sign boards within the park area, the owl box in the Weeping Willow tree, adjacent to the jungle gym, and book exchange boxes (little free library) at both Mamba entrances.

Boy and Klaas at Ekurhuleni Solid Waste, for furnishing us with waste bins, or making the grab truck available to us, at no charge. Also for the supply of refuse bags for use at the park.

To Mamba, TTK and CPG Security; for their visible presence at the park ensuring safety and security in the area.

To the labourers who have helped maintain the park; Muzi, Sylvester, Ronnie and Emazeli.

To the community, who have given their outstanding support to the black heart/tags and tops initiative.

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In conclusion....

It is an honour and privilege to be part of this formidable team, who serve with dedication and passion.

There are still hurdles to overcome, but then Siya Kolisi's famous words spur us on: "We South Africans are a resilient people who thrive, in the face of adversity".

