



Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (NPC)

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Media Statement

Tuesday, 16 July 2024

For Immediate Release

City Parks pulls all stops for Mandela Day

It has been 16 years since the great giant Nelson Mandela planted the Champion Tree in Thokoza Park in 2008. The Celtis Africana or White Stinkwood, stands tall and strong, symbolizing the fortitude and resilience, characteristic of Tata Madiba.

The Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority declared the “Mandela Tree”, and the Garden of Remembrance as an official heritage site.

In commemorating this great legend, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo is pulling all the stops for what could be considered the most historical and significant International Mandela Day since the dawn of democracy, thirty years later.

Delegates from the city will lay a wreath, plant trees, and light a candle in remembrance of Madiba. Children from a nearby creche will render an item, while attendees will be encouraged to write messages of hope on white pebbles.

The community, environmental organisations, Friends of Thokoza Park, and veterans will pay homage to a stalwart of peace and human rights.



a world class African city




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"After 16 years, the site remains a popular international tourist destination and is visited regularly by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and other dignitaries. Its presence in Soweto, which lacked trees and green spaces, highlights the importance of greening and the need to build vibrant, liveable communities," says Jenny Moodley, Spokesperson at Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ).

MEDIA INVITATION



Cllr Lubabalo Magwentshu
MMC for Community Development

**TAKE ACTION
INSPIRE CHANGE
MAKE EVERY DAY
A MANDELA DAY**



JCPZ celebrates Mandela Day

You are cordially invited to join Joburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ) in celebrating International Nelson Mandela Day. JCPZ marks the day to build social cohesion, address food security, and honours Madiba's legacy.

The majestic Champion tree planted by Tata Madiba 16 years ago for his 90th birthday in Thokoza Park, is a heritage site, symbolising strength, and resilience.

- Date:** Wednesday, 17 July 2024
- Time:** 09:30 for 10:00
- Venue:** Thokoza Park
Corner Chris Hani Road and Ntuli Streets, Rockville,
Soweto, Region D
- RSVP:** Noeleen Mattera
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Issued on behalf of Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo

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Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo is wholly owned by the City of Johannesburg and is responsible for managing, maintaining and preserving parks, open spaces, cemeteries, nature reserves, street trees, and the Johannesburg Zoo. Through their work, JCPZ strives to enhance the quality of life and promote a healthy, active lifestyle for the well-being of all residents.