



a world class African city



Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (NPC)

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Media Statement

Thursday, 18 April 2024

For Immediate Release

Another newly revamped park, Florida Park, is a gem for residents.

In just under two weeks, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo has revamped two parks in Joburg. Residents of Lufhereng in Region D in Soweto were presented with a green oasis on 10 April 2024 by Cllr Lubabalo Magwentshu, MMC for Community Development in the City of Joburg, accompanied by Mr Thanduloxo Mendrew, Managing Director for Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo. The new park in Lufhereng was welcomed by the community in the area. The park offers free-to-use outdoor gym equipment, newly installed safe play equipment for children, park bins, furniture, bollards and green lawns for picnicking.

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, the custodians in greening and providing liveable green spaces to residents of Joburg, will be unveiling another revamped park in Florida in Region C on 18 April 2024 at 11h30 in Eisteddfod Street, Florida.

The revitalised park is adorned with large indigenous trees, stretches of lawn, paved walkways, and an array of birdlife. This vibrant green space overlooks the serene Florida Lake, a much-loved and frequented fishing and bird watching spot for residents in and around the area.



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The recent revamp of Florida Park offers park users newly installed play equipment with rubberized surfaces for the safety of children, free-to-use outdoor gym equipment, a renovated Lapa, additional new braai facilities with ramps for wheelchairs users and most importantly, a controlled access and exit to the park. The park is ideal for taking walks, jogging, taking time out in the bustle of Joburg's busy life and enjoying a space with breathtaking views in a tranquil and natural environment. The park provides ablution facilities for its users.

The lake is surrounded by properties with a view like no other. Situated in the west of Joburg, the expansive park is a haven for lovers of the outdoors, especially on weekends and public holidays.

Florida and Florida Lake hold a rich history which was first inhabited in the late 1800's after the prospect of gold had begun in the area in 1884. The area was initially established as the farm *Vogelstruisfontein* and over time, has transformed into a vibrant park and a significant part of Roodepoort's heritage. The lake's popularity grew, and it eventually became a renowned fishing spot, canoeing, and perfect for the avid bird watchers.

The revamped park, developed in two phases at a cost of approximately R4.2m and over a period of seven months, created jobs for 8 EPWP workers, four SMME's and a Community Liaison Officer. The park will foster a sense of pride in the community, especially in areas like Florida where social struggles such as substance abuse, unemployment and everyday life challenges are a concern. Studies have shown that access to parks and nature positively impacts daily lives by reducing stress, improving mental health, and promoting physical activity. Parks are important where recreation is vital to reclaim the neighbourhood and in so doing, encourage healthy lifestyles for those who use them.



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"Within less than two weeks, City Parks and Zoo has unveiled beautiful green spaces to our residents. The community in Lufhereng was handed their new park and now the residents of Florida and neighbouring areas can enjoy this revamped Florida Park. As the greening entity of the City of Joburg, JCPZ continues to work towards bringing spaces such as these to the people of our city," said Thandoxulo Mendrew.

Ends.

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, creating and maintaining exceptional 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 all residents.