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Media Statement

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For Immediate Release

Fight against invasive alien species continues throughout October

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ), a leader in greening and environmental conservation, is in its eleventh year fighting destructive alien invasive species in our city. The “Alien Invasive Campaign” launched in October 2015 has gained significant momentum in raising awareness among residents and businesses about the dangers of these species.

This year, *National Invasive Species Week (NISW)* is observed from 11- 15 October and throughout October, under the theme: ***Know the threat, protect our biodiversity: Empowering local communities with knowledge on Alien Invasive Species.***

As part of its NISW commemorative activities, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the South African Reserve Bank, have been working collectively towards eradicating the scourge of invasive species in the Manie Mulder Adventure Centre. To date, JCPZ has cleared approximately 103 506 m² of invasive vegetation on site.

The cleared areas will be enhanced by planting indigenous trees which were generously donated by the South African Reserve Bank. A total of 120 trees have been donated, of which 40 will be planted at Manie Mulder Adventure Centre on Thursday, 22 October 2026, and the remaining 80 trees at Little Falls Resort.

Manie Mulder Adventure Centre is a picturesque escape set amidst nature’s beauty, renowned for its tranquility, spectacular waterfalls and stretches of greenery.

Residents can identify alien invasive plants by the following characteristics: rapid growth; excessive flowering; producing large amounts of seeds; growing in a wide range of habitats and outcompeting indigenous vegetation.

Suspected invasive plants can be reported to Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo's Integrated Catchment Management team on 011 791 1117. The control of these alien invasive species comes at huge costs to the City's coffers, delaying effective service delivery.

"Eradicating alien invasive plant species is essential to protecting Joburg's biodiversity, preserving our indigenous vegetation and protecting our environment. We all have a collective responsibility to safeguard the city's green spaces and its heritage," said JCPZ Managing Director Thanduxolo Mendrew.

Ends

Issued on behalf of

Thanduxolo Mendrew, Managing Director: Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ)

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