



JAMES & ETHEL GRAY  
PARK FOUNDATION

# TOWARDS A JOHANNESBURG PARKS ALLIANCE(JPA)

Sunil Geness  
Chairperson:  
James & Ethel Gray  
Park Foundation,  
23 October 2020



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# CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Communication undertaken in writing with the City of Johannesburg MMC for Community Development, Margaret Arnolds & CEO : JCPZ, Mr Bryne Maduka regarding the intention to establish the Johannesburg Parks Alliance during September 2020
- Both MMC Arnolds and MD Bryne Maduka, in their respective capacities, indicated strong support of the initiative, via teleconference
- Ms Louise Gordon, JCPZ Executive Manager: business support was kept abreast of developments and also indicated positive sentiment and support of JCPZ
- Ms Bohlale Mohlathe, JCPZ Manager: Corporate projects, sponsorships & grants, enabled the involvement of all current green space JCPZ initiatives/adoptions/partnerships.
- MMC for Environment, Infrastructure & Services, Mpho Moerane has been informed of developments towards a JPA







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# WHY A JOHANNESBURG PARKS ALLIANCE?

- The recent global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the essential role parks and open spaces play by allowing people in cities to seek nature and relieve stress during these unusual times
- Use of parks and public urban green spaces in Jhb has increased exponentially
- Requests from neighbouring residents associations & subsequent benchmarking
- Recent Cabinet approvals regarding national Climate Change interventions & the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) 2020
- Recognition that 67 % of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, and the important role that parks play in creating healthy cities and communities





# WHY A JOHANNESBURG PARKS ALLIANCE(2)?

- This has increased the focus on issues that impact on the value and utility of parks and green spaces VIZ:
  - Safety and security (particularly of women and children)
  - Inappropriate land use and illegal activities in parks
  - Managing the needs of different user groups (eg. Cyclists vs walkers vs Dog-walkers, Vs Yoga vs Gym)
  - The need to improve physical infrastructure in parks (fencing, signage, etc.)
  - Managing events
  - Mechanisms to fund the development and maintenance of parks





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# WHY A JOHANNESBURG PARKS ALLIANCE(3)?

- The mentioned issues impact on all Jhb parks and urban green spaces in some way.
- Some parks have dealt with issues successfully
- Currently there is sparse sharing between urban green space initiatives in Johannesburg
- There has also been minimal coordination between parks themselves and between parks and other stakeholders in the public or private sector, civil society and residents associations.
- The *status quo*, works against the City of Johannesburg's overall ability to achieve the optimum benefits associated with a strong network of parks and green spaces.
- Cooperation between all parks, in a coordinated way, can strongly enhance JCPZ and COJ's capacity to achieve various goals and serve as a progressive resource for engagement with all stakeholders.





# WHAT A PARKS ALLIANCE MIGHT LOOK LIKE ?

- A Non-Profit, SARS approved Public Benefit organisation(PBO)
- Governed by a regularly elected board of directors under the auspices of a constitution and subsequent charter
- With voluntary membership, consisting of registered Joburg parks and urban green space initiatives and other organisations such as JoziTrails, which have an interest in parks
- Without authority over members and which does not assume members' responsibilities
- Works in strong partnership with JCPZ in particular & City of Johannesburg in general
- Engages with other provincial, national and international authorities, as and when required







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# EXAMPLES OF WHAT A PARKS ALLIANCE MIGHT ADOPT AS GOALS

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- Advocate for the role that parks play throughout the city and for ALL sections of our communities
- Provide all citizens with access to a safe, secure, accessible and well maintained quality public green space
- Support and strengthen the work of local authorities, JCPZ and COJ entities
- Support and translate into action government policies in areas such as climate change, biodiversity management and water management
- Encourage, enable and support best practice & high standards





# **EXAMPLES OF WHAT A PARKS ALLIANCE MIGHT ADOPT AS ITS GOALS**

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- **Conservation, biodiversity and wetland management**
- **Educational programmes, leisure programmes, events**
- **To encourage, enable and support best practice & standards that seek to protect parks from inappropriate development, inappropriate or illegal use**
- **To foster partnerships with all stakeholders**







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# JOINING JPA AND KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH JPA DEVELOPMENTS

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Please join the WhatsApp group.

- **WhatsApp Group:** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GTkFc7PSuleIFeOe9wguD6>





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# ABOUT THE JAMES AND ETHEL GRAY PARK FOUNDATION

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- **Website :** <https://jamesandethelgrayparkfoundation.org/>
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