

LANDSCAPING REPORT

OCTOBER 2020



“Spring is nature’s way of saying let’s party”
Robin Williams



With the coming of Spring, the past month has birthed colourful explosions across the landscaped canvas of Royal Ascot.

For me, it's been just over a year since taking up the reigns of landscaping trustee, and for Anthony, Kudzi and their team, a few months more.

Looking around, I'm really excited for what lies ahead, and really proud of what's been achieved.

Less than 18 months back we had a drought stricken, barren landscape. We had a vandalized, non-functioning irrigation system, and were in the middle of our borehole procurement. That left us with a rather badly stained precinct, but still managed to salvage many of our established plants.

In the commercial precinct, we were fighting with City and Province to clear the overgrown bushes along the R27, while battling an endless scourge of vagrants, and doing our own weekend clean up operations, that had residents picking up faeces and hypodermic needles.

Now, that's all changed. We have a neighborhood boasting a vibrant display of colour, a fully functioning hybrid irrigation system, that now offers Council and borehole water, and a landscape that keeps improving by the month.





This past month has seen the installation of beautiful mosaicing on our last four concrete benches. I have to take my hat off and commend the incredibly beautiful works created by Jocelyn de Freitas.

I encourage all our residents to take a walk around the precinct to admire these six works that depict scenes from our natural surroundings.

Along with this installation, RAMPOA also commissioned Jungle Mania to renovate our 4 parks. We now have new swings, including toddler seats, stainless steel fixtures all round, cobblestone borders, new sandpits and freshly varnished structures.

During September, Atlantic Scape have continued with replanting, and have now created a new water wise palette around the Hirsch area and the entrance to Bridle Way.

They have also removed much of the Carpobrotis, originally planted to stabilize the soil, and are continuing replanting areas with other colourful species from our Plant list.

As you will all see, the replanting of both sides of the entrance to Grand National Boulevard between Racecourse Road and the first traffic circle is now complete.

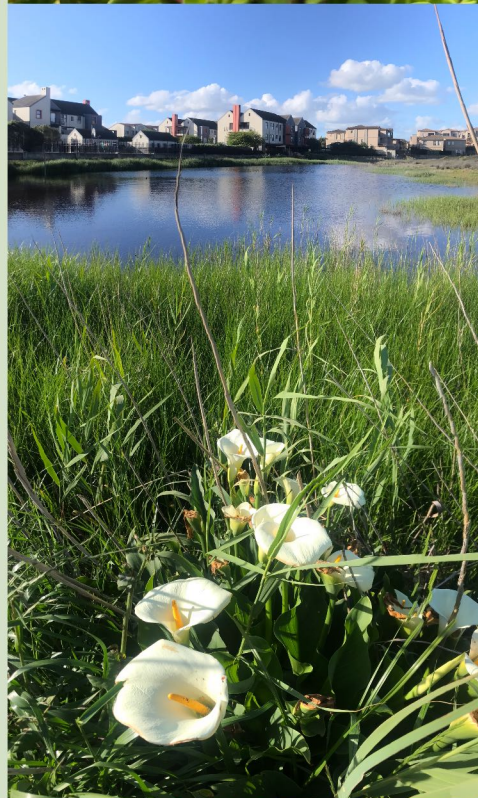
The lower retention pond area below the Paddocks has had a major clean up operation during the lockdown period. Many skip loads of vegetation were removed, and the rest that was left was chipped on site, and left to mulch the soil.

The team have also created 2 shaped “wind rows” which will be used to mulch new planting in the months ahead.

Further to this, a few kilos of vygies and Namaqua / West Coast daisy mix was seeded in the bare areas and should produce an explosion of colour in the coming summer months.

The commercial precinct suffered a few incidents of vandalism in the months preceding lockdown, where cabling from our irrigation system was pilfered. We have now installed buried lockable boxes which has proved successful in preventing further thefts.

Down at the Arena North retention pond area, the water levels have returned to their full state, thanks to all the recent rain. There are currently many nesting Red Bishops in the reeds as well as a family of Coots with a few chicks. If you're looking for a place to escape from it all, head down to the island deck and take in all the abundant bird life for a while.





Looking forward to the month ahead, Atlantic Scapes will continue their replanting program.

They will also have a team that will be varnishing all our post and rail fencing, our wooden walkways and Peter Daysons bench.

Kudzu, our team leader and on site horticulturist will also be getting a new trailer for his bakkie which will greatly aid the removal of vegetation and help the team to increase their efficiency all round.

Royal Ascot has 29 large Ficus Nataliensis trees, and we will be starting a rotational pruning operation, starting with the 2 on parade ring road, which will be canopy thinned and cut back in the first week of November.

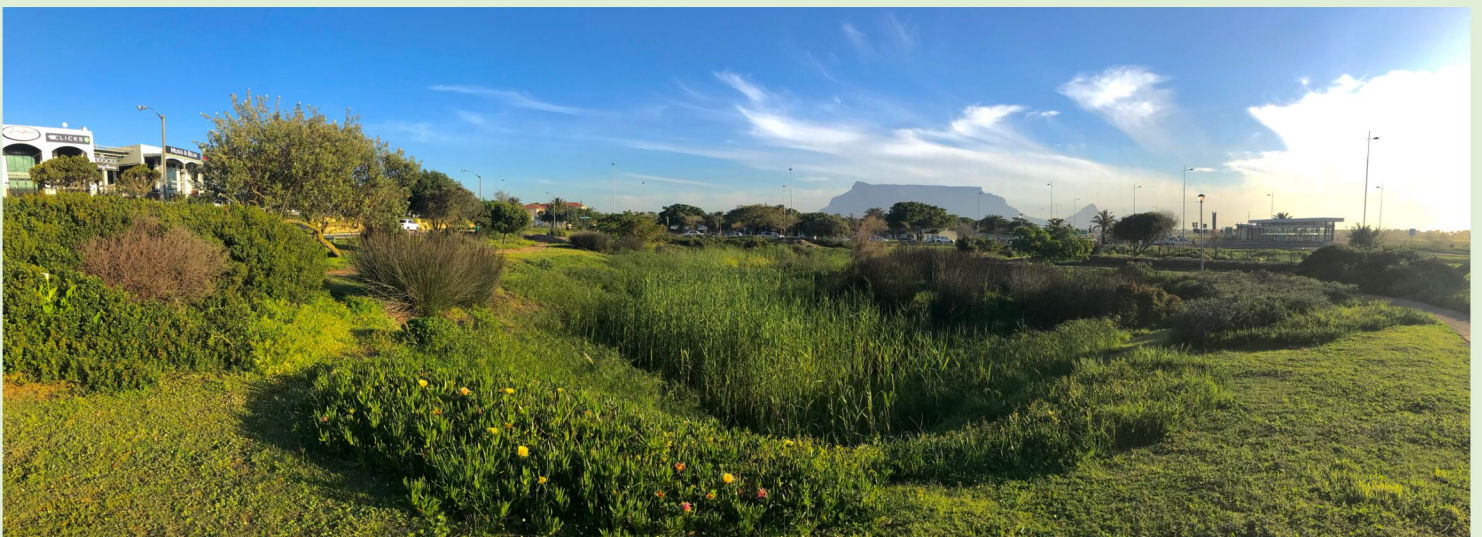
WS irrigation will also be installing more turf valves along Bridle Way, to increase the ability to hand water newly planted infrastructure.

Our teams will also start the clearing of vegetation in the waterways that lead into the retention ponds down at the Arena North Park.

All in all, our landscaping is looking really happy and healthy heading into the Summer season. A big thanks to Atlantic for their continued great work and attention to detail.

As for our reserve areas, they too are looking lush. We now have a new Reserve manager, Ntombikayise Lolwane. She has just drafted the Quarterly report, which I encourage everyone to read.

All in all, our neighborhood has got so much to showcase and I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy these outdoor spaces in the months ahead.



Flowers in the Northern Reserve

