



The PICID Newsletter: A Public Open Space Update

November 2024

Good day, Park Islanders!

Public Open Space Update

The winter rains have ended, and we are transitioning into the long, dry, windy summers of the South Peninsula. Maintenance is the primary activity on our POS at this time, so it's a good time to review our POS activities.

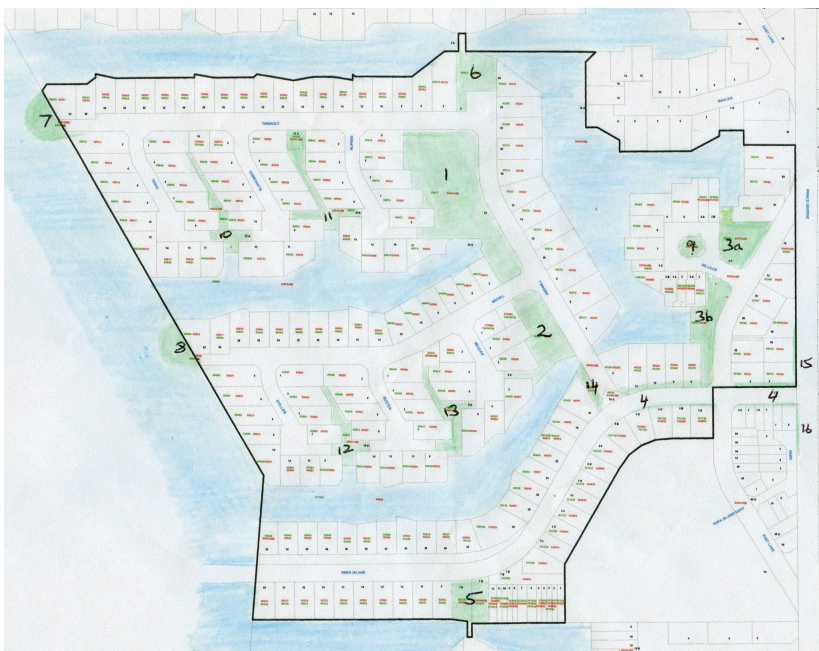
No single entity is responsible for maintaining and developing the abundant POS in the PICID area. Responsibility is shared between the City of Cape Town, the MDGA, PICID, and many active resident volunteers.

The CoCT Recreation and Parks department is responsible for only basic maintenance - mowing the grass and trimming the trees. Weeding of grass areas, maintenance of beds, new plantings and redesigning parks are all excluded.

The MDGA provides a gardening team of 5 gardeners and a foreman for one day every 3 weeks. This team provides the maintenance and development not provided by the City - planting, weeding, pruning, watering and strimming.

PICID allocates about 7% of its budget to environmental upgrading, which is provided to resident volunteers to develop the POS in their area.

Overview of POS



- Large Parks
 - Thibault Park 1
 - Mitchell Park 2
 - De Lille Park 3a & 3b
- Entrances
 - Park Island Way 4
 - Eastlake Bridge 5
 - Uitsig Bridge 6
- Peninsula ends
 - Thibault 7
 - Mitchell 8
- Smaller areas
 - De Lille Square 9
 - Pedestrian lanes 10 - 13
 - Wide verges 14

Partners

PICID is partnering with Fynbos LIFE and its associate BOSSIES to guide and implement initiatives in our POS to support local biodiversity, particularly the restoration of Cape Flats Dune Strandveld. Fynbos gardening embraces ecological principles to reduce water consumption, lessen maintenance and support Cape Town's highly threatened flora and fauna. [Click here](#) for the Fynbos Life website.

CoCT Memorandum of Agreement

The City has embarked on a project to improve collaboration between the CIDs and City Departments. We are discussing with Recreation and Parks about implementing an MOA to manage our POS.

Initially, we have established a 90-day mowing schedule for all POS. The mowing will be done by Council employees rather than sub-contractors as in the past, giving us more flexibility to adapt our requirements.

Other areas to be covered in the MOA include tree trimming requirements and infrastructure (play equipment, garden features etc).

Maintenance of any improvements to POS is the responsibility of PICID - CoCT does not have any budget for maintenance. For example, the recent plantings at the PIW entrance will be maintained by the MDGA gardening team, assisted and directed by PICID volunteers.

PICID management of POS

We are fortunate in that we already have many knowledgeable volunteers involved in maintaining our POS, a long tradition going back many years. The involvement ranges from regular watering of an adjacent section of POS, through establishing beds and trees, to POS redesign and development.

Our philosophy is to encourage residents to form working groups to develop and manage POS adjacent to their section of our CID. The style of the working groups will be collegial and informal, and decisions will be made by sufficient consensus. We encourage local fynbos (including grasses) for their water-wise resilience and low maintenance. Still, we are not purists - each working group must decide what planting suits them and their neighbours.

The PICID Environmental portfolio holder will coordinate the activities of the POS entities and manage requests for financial and labour assistance from the PICID board. We are currently seeking a volunteer to take over this portfolio at the AGM in December.

Current POS projects

As stated above, we have begun facilitating resident working groups and will expand this program throughout our CID.

Park Island Way entrance:

The fynbos gardens laid out over the winter will be deep watered for the first summer only, to allow them to become fully established. The Council rehabilitated the water point next to the guard hut to assist us. We are in discussions with the Council to complete an asphalt sidewalk from Prince George Drive to T'Wagen.

Thibault & Michell Parks:

Thibault Park has been subject to antisocial behaviour for some years. The working group comprises residents whose homes are close to the park and therefore most affected. A detailed plan is being developed which will include security response.

De Lille Parks

The priority is to remove the extensive sword grass from the park during the summer. This will be done by using regular mowing by the Council and the Marina gardening team removing undesirable grasses and weeds by hand. We will monitor progress and may use additional resources if required.

Eastlake Bridge Approach

This sloping POS requires no mowing and is lovingly being tended and watered.

Road verges

The majority of residents are active in gardening the road verge outside their homes.

Conclusion

What you are seeing now are the first activities of a multi-year project. Your input is welcome - speak to or join your local working group, or drop us an email.

Kind regards

Park Island CID