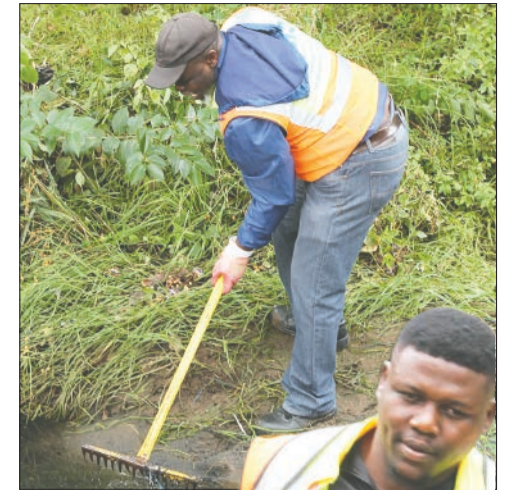




City Parks staff remove rubbish, standing on a tree that has blocked the spruit for years.



Ward 99 committee member Irvin Sammons and councillor Nicole van Dyk attend the clean-up at Emma Park. Photos: Nicholas Zaal



Litter blocking the spruit in Emma Park is removed.

Years of neglect at Linden's Emma Park

Nicholas Zaal

nicholasz@caxton.co.za

The spruit running through Emma Park might have been cleaned for the first time in at least six years.

So said Ward 99 councillor Nicole van Dyk after an extensive clean-up was conducted at the park in Linden, by Joburg City Parks and Zoo on November 2.

About 40 staff turned up in boots, overalls and river waders to cut grass and branches and removed litter that was blocking the river.

"Emma Park has been a fight since I became councillor

six years ago," Van Dyk said.

"We have done many clean-up campaigns but I don't recall the spruit itself ever being cleaned, though I have been asking for this for a long time. It's a beautiful park but there has been illegal dumping, displaced people living here and the spruit has been blocked for years."

Particularly troubling, she said the faeces from displaced people runs down the spruit under one of the bridges, and builds up near a retirement village.

The stench this creates has in past made some elderly residents sick.

The ward councillor asked

that the spruit be cleaned monthly.

Irvin Sammons, a local resident on Van Dyk's Ward committee with the environment portfolio, said he had never seen the spruit looking so bad.

"This clean-up was long overdue," he said, pointing out a tree the pair said had been blocking the spruit for as long as anyone could remember, at least several years.

Randburg Sun also asked City Parks spokesperson Jenny Moodley how frequently spruits, and particularly the one in Emma Park, are cleaned.

She did not immediately

respond, but her comments will be published when they are made. Instead, she said two teams are involved in clean-ups at parks in Joburg.

"[These are] the park operations team that undertakes horticultural maintenance in the park proper and the second separate conservation department which has an aquatics team that does water body maintenance," she said.

"Litter is an ongoing concern, however, after the first rains much of the litter accumulated over the dry season is washed into the spruits and dams, which makes the litter more visible."



An employee removes bags of grass cut from Emma Park.

Rand Rebellion remembered in Brixton

Neo Phashe

neop@caxton.co.za

Recently, the unveiling of restored headstones of two victims of the The Rand Rebellion of 1922 took place at Brixton Cemetery.

The rebellion, which was also known as the 1922 Strike, did, according to South African History online, occur during a period of economic depression following World War I, when mining companies were faced with rising costs and a fall in the price of gold.

Convenor of Friends of Johannesburg Cemeteries Sarah Welham said the unveiling was attended to by veterans of the Transvaal Horse Artillery, representatives from other regiments, a Piper from SA Irish Regiment along with those of the organisation she forms part of.



Major General Roy Andersen.

We have been identifying the graves of victims of the 1922 Strike over the past few years and marking their graves

Friends assisted in the restoration of the headstones and as Welham explained, this is a way for the organisation to continue to build bridges with the community 'and support groups who are connected in any way with our old cemeteries.

"We are also familiar with the process and contacts in the memorial business so can assist with the process."

The first step in the process of restoration is to choose which stones need to be restored and why.

"We have been identifying the graves of victims of the 1922 Strike over the past few years and marking their graves as a mark of respect for their sacrifice."

She continued that thereafter, they do the paper work required by City Parks and

negotiate with one of the monumental masons to fix or make a new stone.

"We have built good relationships with these companies and they are happy to cooperate."

Other projects they are working on is to put up three more headstones for 1922 Strike victims.

"Also to try and make our old cemeteries places that members of the public will feel safe visiting, picnic in as people did many years ago, exercise in, paint or sketch in," she said.

They also plan to work with the Muslim community to identify and record their graves in Braamfontein.

Graphic

DESIGNER

WANTED

We seek the service of a skilled Junior graphic designer. You will work in the production department and will gain experience in the production process of Newspapers. You will be required to deal with deadline pressure and to work well within a team.

Requirements:

- Good knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Experience in DTP & graphic design.
- Matric certificate required – degree or diploma in graphic design advantageous
- Knowledge of social media platform designs
- Out-of-the-box thinker and team player
- Able to work well under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- Word-Press knowledge advantageous
- Live in the Joburg northern suburbs.

November 18, 2022

The closing date for applications is ilda@caxton.co.za

If you have not heard from us within two weeks, thereafter please consider your application unsuccessful.

CAXTON local media