



THE LARGER WOLWE & WATERKLOOFSPRUIT OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Background, Status and Way Forward

AFFECTED AREA

Open Space System
& Directly affected
communities



PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- Working Together Towards a Focused Goal
- Defining the Problem
- Proposed Solution
- Wolwespruit MTB Trails
- Way Forward



Foreword to the Brooklyn SAPS Safety Plan

1. Safeguarding our natural assets for community use and enjoyment, including all **public open spaces, parks, spruits and ridges** (open spaces, sadly so, remain a launch pad from which criminal elements penetrate and plague many – if not most – of our residential suburbs);
2. Safeguarding our **business nodes**, including shopping centres and office precincts against business robberies (and in so doing, strengthen the economic base of the area and create an attractive investment environment);

DEFINING THE PROBLEM



General Problems

- Squatting and Vagrancy
- Environmental Damage - Littering & Poaching of wild life
- Deliberate and accidental veld fires
- Illegal Dumping
- Access and Escape routes for criminals

Criminal Activity (Direct & Indirect)

- House Break-Ins
- Theft from motor vehicles
- Cable theft
- Vandalism & Destruction of private property, incl.
 - Destruction of fencing
 - Cutting of electric fencing, etc.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Dumping property



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants 2018



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants – 25/01/2020



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants – 25/01/2020



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants – 25/01/2020



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants – 2019 SAWS Property



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Illegal occupants – 2019 SAWS Property



Proposed SOLUTION



The complexity of the problem Requires an equally Comprehensive, Integrated Solution

- Integrated response to the various components of the Open Space System – isolated interventions merely displace the problem to adjacent areas
- Permanent 24 hour security & fence maintenance
- Low-impact, daily usage by the public
- Wildlife conservation – fauna & flora

THE SOLUTION



The Complexity of the problem Requires an equally Comprehensive, Integrated Solution

- The solution: Expansion of and integration with the Wolwespruit Trail Park – Cycle, Run, Walk.
- Incorporation of Tshwane Public Open Space System components – in principle support for land part of the Wolwespruit system

THE SOLUTION



The Complexity of the problem Requires an equally Comprehensive, Integrated Solution

WHY IS THIS AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

- Relatively low capital outlay required
- Highly flexible and no permanent structures
- Environmentally friendly – low impact; no noise
- Critical mass already established on the Wolwespruit park east of N1 (90ha)
- Does not require complex lease arrangements

WOLWESPRUIT MTB TRAILS



Wolwespruit MTB
Trail Map

BACKGROUND



- The park was established in **July 2014** with the aim to create a safe environment for mountain bike riders, runners and hikers to enjoy the outdoors, right in their neighbourhood backyard.
- The park currently comprises a **90 hectare** area, with a **23 km mountain bike trails** and **10 kilometre trail run**.
- By fencing off the property, cleaning the creek and removing all the **120 tons of rubbish** left by vagrants.
- The use of the land as a mountain bike park has *effectively removed all vagrants* from the current park and now provides a safe environment for residents to enjoy the outdoors.

BACKGROUND

- Once the new fences were up, the police and CFP organised a raid on all the open spaces in the area and the vagrants were chased out & arrested.
- The park clean up took 4 weeks and cost about R60k, during this time there were daily incidents of vagrants trying to get back into the park, cutting up to 10 holes in the fences per day, to retrieve their belongings and stolen goods. We found a lot of stolen personal belongings like wallets and cards. Found ammunition buried under some of the “tent” structures.

Pollution of Wolwespruit before and after clean up



STATUS – WILDLIFE RETURNING



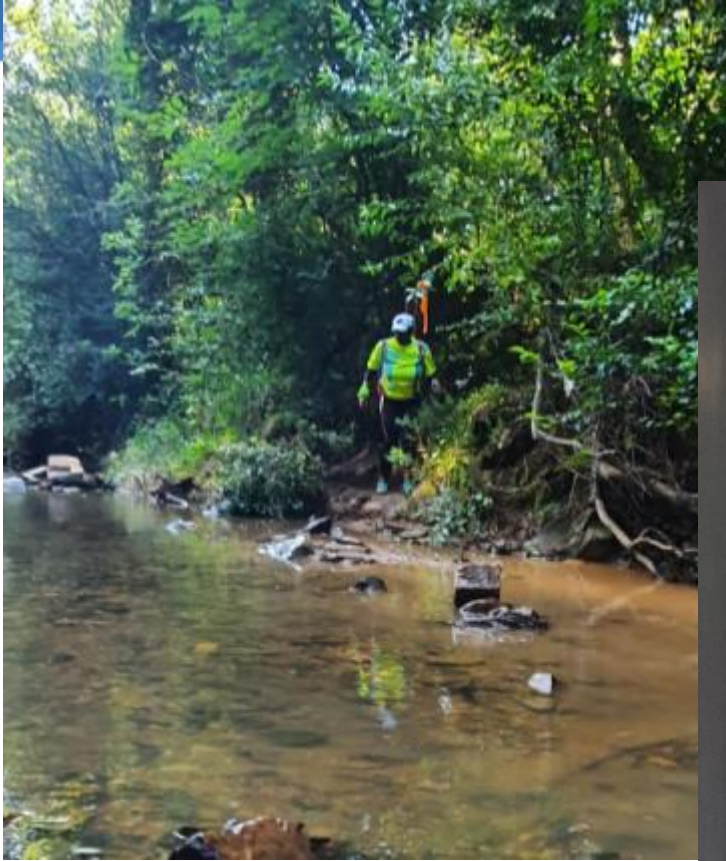
- Wild life returning to a safe Wolvespruit after clean up
- Most of the wild life where destroyed by vagrants



STATUS – WILDLIFE RETURNING



STATUS – RUNNING in the PARK



WAY FORWARD

- The Wolwespruit and Waterkloofspruit form part of an integrated open space system
- The solution entails the development of an extended, integrated, low impact use as park of an extended nature park around the Waterkloof and Wolwespruit open space system.



WAY FORWARD

Project has in principle support from:

- Community in the Area
- Tshwane Parks
- Sanral
- Respective Ward Councillors
- Friends of Wolwespruit Forum
- Private business sponsorships/pledges



WAY FORWARD



- Blue area: Tshwane Parks - Un Fenced – needs to be fenced to connect the current Wolwespruit outdoor park to the problem area
- Green area: Tshwane Parks - Vagrant and crime hot spot, already fenced and can be integrated.





The Complexity of the problem Requires an equally Comprehensive, Integrated Solution

NEXT STEPS

- Agreement between Tshwane & Wolwespruit Park to maintain the BLUE and GREEN areas defined in the map above, inc. responsibilities of each party
- Finalise Capital Cost to be raised from Stakeholders & Community
- Raise Capital & Erect Fencing
- SAPS Raid and Clean the area of Rubbish
- ENJOY the OUTDOORS in the CITY



Proposed Agreement

- Tshwane agrees to make the property available to use for outdoor sport activities by the community.
- Tshwane agrees that Wolwespruit MTB manages the day to day operations of the sport activities, including access control, fence & property maintenance
- Tshwane agrees that the community upgrade the fencing of the property at the cost to the community
- The agreement can be very flexible and can have an exit clause to give 1 month notice.



Proposed Responsibilities

- Community & Wolwespruit
 - Raise funding for fencing from the community & local businesses
 - Erect the fencing
 - Clean up (rubbish & vagrants) of the closed off area
- Wolwespruit
 - Build trails
 - Fund & Manage day to day operations, including fence maintenance
- Tshwane
 - Rubbish removal and support