

Blaauwberg Conservation Area Expanded by 462HA

Garden Cities allocates land at Sunningdale

The Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA) is to be expanded by 462ha. This has been made possible by the generous allocation of land from Garden Cities.

An agreement of sale, for a nominal amount, was signed by the CEO of Garden Cities, Mr John Matthews, and the City of Cape Town's Director of Environmental Resource Management, Mr Osman Asmal on 16 February 2010, bringing to conclusion a number of years of negotiation.

Mr Asmal thanked Garden Cities for their willingness to engage with the City and contribute to the conservation and protection of our natural and historical heritage.

The land, which will be known as the Sunningdale Management Block of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area, comprises the site of the Battle of Blaauwberg, which was fought in 1806, and marked the end of Dutch rule at the Cape and the start of the second British period of rule. It also contains valuable Cape Flats Sand Fynbos - a critically endangered vegetation type that only occurs in the City of Cape Town, and of which only less than 1% has been conserved. The national conservation target of 30% is unobtainable as only about 14% of the original extent remains. For this reason the Sunningdale Management Block is of extreme conservation significance. A wetland, the Blaauwbergsvlei, also occurs on the property.

The land will be formally proclaimed as part of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area, thus enjoying statutory protection into the future. The addition of this land brings the publicly-owned land in the BCA to a total area of 1 415 ha, making it one of the biggest reserves managed by the City of Cape Town.

An active land consolidation programme is being implemented for the BCA, and it is planned that it will ultimately be approximately 2000ha in extent.

For more information on the Blaauwberg Conservation Area visit www.capetown.gov.za/environment, click on Nature Reserves and www.bca.org.za

