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Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (NPC)

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Media Statement

Monday, 10 November 2025

For Immediate Release

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo and Fourways Improvement District join forces to plant 3 000 trees in drive to green the North of Johannesburg

Johannesburg, 5 November 2025 — In a powerful demonstration of civic partnership and environmental renewal, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ), in collaboration with the Fourways Improvement District, will spearhead a large-scale greening campaign to plant 3 000 indigenous *Celtis Africana* trees between Fourways and Diepsloot on Tuesday, 11 November 2025.

The initiative forms part of the Presidential One Million Trees Programme, which aims to restore South Africa's natural environment, improve air quality, and create greener, more liveable urban spaces.

To achieve this ambitious goal, JCPZ teams have meticulously prepared 3 000 planting holes, secured 3 000 trees, spades, compost, and watering plans to ensure a seamless and impactful event. At exactly 10:00 a.m., residents, volunteers, schools, faith-based organisations, business representatives, and dignitaries will join hands to plant all 3 000 trees within a single hour — a symbolic act of collective action and commitment to a sustainable Johannesburg.

Ms. Thenjiwe Mjoli (Chairperson of the Board), Mr. Andile Jabavu, Mr. Mahlubi Madela, Ms. Winnie Sikhosana, Mr. Lizo Makele, Ms. Ziyanda Mncanca, Ms. Johanna Mapeko, Mr. Mbuso Poswa, Ms. Thandi Mlotywa, Ms. Olga Netshikulwe, Mr. Thanduxolo Mendrew (Managing Director), Mr. Nkhenso Njoni (Act. Chief Financial Officer) Ms. Ayanda Shongwe (Company Secretary)



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The greening drive extends beyond beautification. It forms part of a strategic effort to rejuvenate neglected corridors, bridge the “green divide” between communities, and reclaim urban spaces through the installation of low-maintenance, water-wise landscapes that are both functional and visually uplifting.

Building on this momentum, an additional 3 000 trees will be planted in Soweto on 18 November 2025, further reinforcing the City’s commitment to equitable greening across all regions of Johannesburg.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Sello Dada Morero, welcomed the initiative, describing it as a symbol of hope, unity, and action:

“This campaign is about reclaiming our beautiful city through the power of greening. As we plant 3 000 trees today — and another 3 000 in Soweto next week — we are planting a legacy of pride, partnership, and renewal. I call on every resident to become a champion of change: plant trees in your homes, protect the ones we plant together, and join us in restoring Johannesburg to its rightful place as a clean, green, and thriving city.”

Thanduxolo Mendrew, Managing Director of JCPZ, emphasised the operational readiness behind the campaign:

“Preparing 3 000 holes, providing spades, compost, and a detailed watering plan reflects the scale of coordination required for this kind of city-wide activation. It demonstrates what is possible when our teams, partners, and residents come together for a shared environmental cause.”

The campaign underscores the City’s ongoing efforts to protect and expand Johannesburg’s aging tree canopy — a vital urban asset that supports carbon absorption, temperature regulation, stormwater management, and biodiversity, while improving residents’ overall quality of life.

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Community members are encouraged to take ownership of the newly planted trees by caring for them beyond the event, helping to ensure their survival and long-term environmental impact.

The event will be attended by community leaders, local schools, faith-based groups, and residents — all united by a common vision: to make Johannesburg greener, cleaner, and more resilient.

Residents and learners who wish to participate can WhatsApp Dr Joe Ndou at +27 83 446 2412 or email jndou@jhbcityparks.com for more information.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of:

Thanduxolo Mendrew

Managing Director

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo

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