

CITY OF CAPE TOWN NATURE RESERVES



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

WITZANDS AQUIFER NATURE RESERVE



INTRODUCING THE AREA

The nature reserve covering over 3000 hectares consists of two vegetation types including the endangered Cape Flats dune strandveld and the critically endangered Atlantis sand fynbos. Generally both these vegetation types are poorly conserved.

Underground is a natural aquifer, from which water is extracted and converted into potable (drinking) water for the surrounding communities of Atlantis, Mamre and Pella. Atlantis, with a significant residential population and many industries, requires a steady freshwater supply. This is met by the area's natural coastal aquifer, recharged urban storm water runoff and treated wastewater. Pond 7, Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve's largest man-made water body, is a recharge pond managed by the City of Cape Town Atlantis Water Scheme. The scheme works closely with Biodiversity Management staff in the area to protect and enhance the unique biodiversity found here.

The non-vegetated mobile dunes and rocky outcrops are two outstanding features of the nature reserve. The mobile dunes cover an area of approximately 440 hectares. Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve is part of the southern core of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, which is unique in terms of its diverse landscape, fauna and flora.

LIABILITY OR INDEMNITY

Access to the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve is subject to the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003); Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves (Regulation No. R. 99, 8 February 2012) and the City of Cape Town By-laws. Please note that by entering this reserve and participating in activities in the reserve, visitors grant an indemnity in favour of the City of Cape Town (the City), its Council, Council members, staff members, officials and other persons authorised by the City against any loss, expenses, damage, injury of whatsoever nature, or death, suffered by any visitor (person or property) as a result, directly or indirectly, which may come about during a visit at this nature reserve. The indemnity extends to any activities which a visitor may take part in during such a visit.

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Please:

- Stick to designated paths
- Enjoy the area and activities offered
- Join in volunteer activities

Never:

- Engage in any illegal activities
- Pick, damage or disturb fauna or flora
- Light fires, litter, alcohol, pets, bring firearms and use unruly or rude behaviour

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BIODIVERSITY

Flora

The endangered Cape Flats dune strandveld is the dominant vegetation that occurs throughout Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve. The critically endangered Atlantis sand fynbos occurs towards the eastern side of the area. Plants that are found in the area include *Thamnochortus spicigerus* (Dune reed), *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis* (Bokbaai vygie), *Afrillimon peregrinum* (Strandroos) and the *Grielum grandiflorum* (Sand primrose or Duikerwortel).

Five different species of restios also occur here, as well as the West Coast-endemic *Salvia lanceolate* (Rusty sage).

Fauna

In the nature reserve, you can see *Raphicerus campestris* (Steenbok), *Raphicerus melanotis* (Cape Grysbok), *Galerella pulverulenta* (Small Grey Mongoose), *Bathyergus suillus* (Cape Dune Mole Rat) and *Caracal* (Caracal). The reserve is largely dominated by smaller type mammals, many of which are nocturnal and inconspicuous. Other indications of their presence are middens, scat and spoor. A small antelope count has been conducted in the area south-west of the dunes. Of special interest is the confirmed presence of raptors, including the Near Threatened *Circus maurus* (Black Harrier).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address: Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve, off Dassenberg Drive (R307), Atlantis
GPS –33.698371 S, 18.449309 E

Opening hours: The reserve is open from 07h00 - 19h00 (September – February) and 08h00 - 18h00 (March – August)

Permit Office: Mon-Sat 08h30-15h30

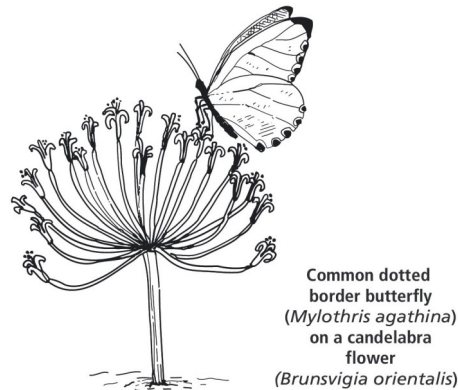
Sun & Public holidays 08h30-15h30

Entry fee: As per tariff list

Public transport: Taxi

Tel: 021 400 6000

Email:
witzandsnature.reserve@capetown.gov.za



For the latest updates on opening hours, maps or any other information, please contact management or visit www.capetown.gov.za

2019-10-23

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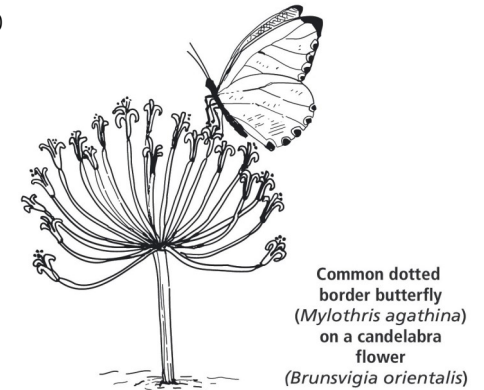
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