

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Parkhurst Parks Clean Up and Water Conscious morning.**

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Volunteers met at 12<sup>th</sup> Street Park early on Sunday morning, facing a frosty start to the day with some warming Mindful Movement facilitated by Lauren Wilshire. A geology chat hosted by Being a River provided some food for thought. With the sound of the Braamfontein Spruit flowing rapidly over its bedrock of granite, we considered what this landscape was like 100 years ago, 500 years ago and then further back to billions of years ago when those rocks young. "Water shapes our land in ways that depend on the type of rocks. ... Each type of rock has a story to tell about how it was made," said Rachel Adatia.

With their curiosity renewed and bodies warmed up, the volunteers' work began. Small teams set off armed with bin bags and protective gear, working along the water's edge collecting plastic, non-organic debris and polystyrene that was embedded among the roots and trees.

The White Horse Scout troop set up a "tippy tap" in the park, creating a clever handwashing solution for our teams. This ingenious innovation is used all over the continent as a handwashing station where clean water 'on-tap' is a luxury. PRABOA often engages Bubele Africa to assist with our clean-ups and the Being a River dialogue has revealed a need for clean water solutions to wash their hands after they work along the spruit. The White Horse Scout troop donated this mobile handwashing station and explained how it was made so we can create others in the future.

Prime Plumbing sponsored the clean-up and Mica on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West discounted our gloves and rubbish bags. A special thanks to Bubele Africa who provided us with in-kind support. Our volunteers were made up of representatives and families from PRABOA (Parkhurst Residents and Business Owners Association), Being a River, Prime Plumbing, Jozi Trails, White Horse Scouts, Mindful Movement in Parks, Grow Parkhurst, Bubele Africa, and WaterCAN.

This was PRABOA's third clean-up, reflecting a growing group of participants and developing knowledge networks about Parkhurst's green spaces and its community. Our clean-ups are so much more than a clean-up and are starting to activate our environment in a social activity, which connects us while doing good. Change will never happen overnight, but our 12<sup>th</sup> Street Clean -up reflected some progress in a well-used Parkhurst Park.

As energy waned after two intense hours of cleaning up, the group headed up to nearby community garden; Grow Parkhurst/Incredible Edible next to Verity Park for tea and a chat about our waterways facilitated by Being a River.

We co-created a thought-provoking story about a water drop that evolved into a creative conversation about water-wise gardening, and the connections between rocks, water and soil, the importance of compost and mulch, and how plants even link us to geology through the minerals they provide in our food.

*“Being a river was awesome to me. I could see all the stuff that affect our water system, clothes, litter, bottles, plastic. After picking you could see the clear view of trees, grass and the birds. Instead of colours of plastic and pieces of cloth lying on the riverbank I could see sand and stones that need to be taken care of to save both water, soil and plants.*

*Most of the time in the river there is always small paths where people could cycle and run for exercise. Some come to sit alone to feel different sounds of wildlife that lives there.”* - a reflection from Langa Ndlovu.

Our collaborative network takes a short break over the coldest months, but we will return for our next clean up celebrating World Clean Up day in September 2025. Please reach out to us if you would like to get involved: [support@parkhurst.org.za](mailto:support@parkhurst.org.za)

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **WHAT IS A WATER CONSCIOUS MORNING?**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, you are invited to join us at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Park and Grow Parkhurst for a clean -up and a water conscious morning. This is the continuation of a creative conversation started by Being a River in April at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park. It is about connecting with our waterways through storytelling, citizen science, resourcefulness, and imagination. Through this multidisciplinary collaboration we hope that solutions and networks emerge that will help us enhance the streams that flow through our parks.

### **WHAT IS BEING A RIVER?**

Being a River brings together citizen science with creative arts and collaborates with individuals and community groups to explore and find connections with our waterways.

So far initial activities have taken place in Albertville and Parkhurst with the support of PRABOA (Parkhurst Residents and Business Owners Association), Jozi Trails, Creative by Nature, Bubele Africa, and WaterCAN for water quality testing.

You can find out more about Being River [here](#) and WaterCAN [here](#).

On the 8 June we will gather at 12<sup>th</sup> Street Park for a litter clean up along Braamfontein Spruit and then convene for a creative conversation in the Grow Parkhurst community garden.

For more information: [support@parkhurst.org.za](mailto:support@parkhurst.org.za)