

Status of wetland conservation in Tshwane



Date: 17 Feb 2017

Ernst Wohltitz

Environmental Management Services

Department

Parks and Regional Coordination



Presentation on the LAB: Wetlands and Communities. LAB: Wetlands and Communities Project
funded by the National Lotteries Commission

Colbyn Wetland Nature Reserve



Wetland Fountains Resort (Fountains Valley)



Wetland conservation in Tshwane



- Many wetlands in Tshwane have been damaged by development impacts and are lost (buildings, roads, etc)
- 31 Important wetlands in Tshwane has be identified, demarcated and mapped on the Tshwane Geo web GIS data system.
- The City approved a Local Governmental Wetland Management Plan for wetlands in 2016
- Some of the wetlands are already protected within a proclaimed nature reserve (Rietvlei, Colbyn, Fountains, Austen Roberts, Chamberlain etc.)

Wetland conservation in Tshwane



- Most wetlands in Tshwane need physical protection (fences) to prevent illegal activities (sand mining, dumping, squatting, security etc.)
- Assessment of wetland conditions and implementation of rehabilitation plans still have to be conducted
- All our wetlands need more information signs for awareness



Wetland conservation in Tshwane (continued)



- Up until now no budget was allocated for wetland management specifically (It has been requested)
- Residence knowledge on wetlands is poor and educational awareness have to be conducted.
- Insensitive development applications are still allowed
- Fragmentation of natural areas by roads and development initiatives took place

Wetland conservation in Tshwane (continued)



- Dumping of building rubble in water courses happen and effluents contaminate water courses
- Changes in storm water hydrology happen un noticed
- Water pollution is not under control
- Criminal activities are launched from wetland areas
- Alien invasive plants encroach into wetland areas

Challenges

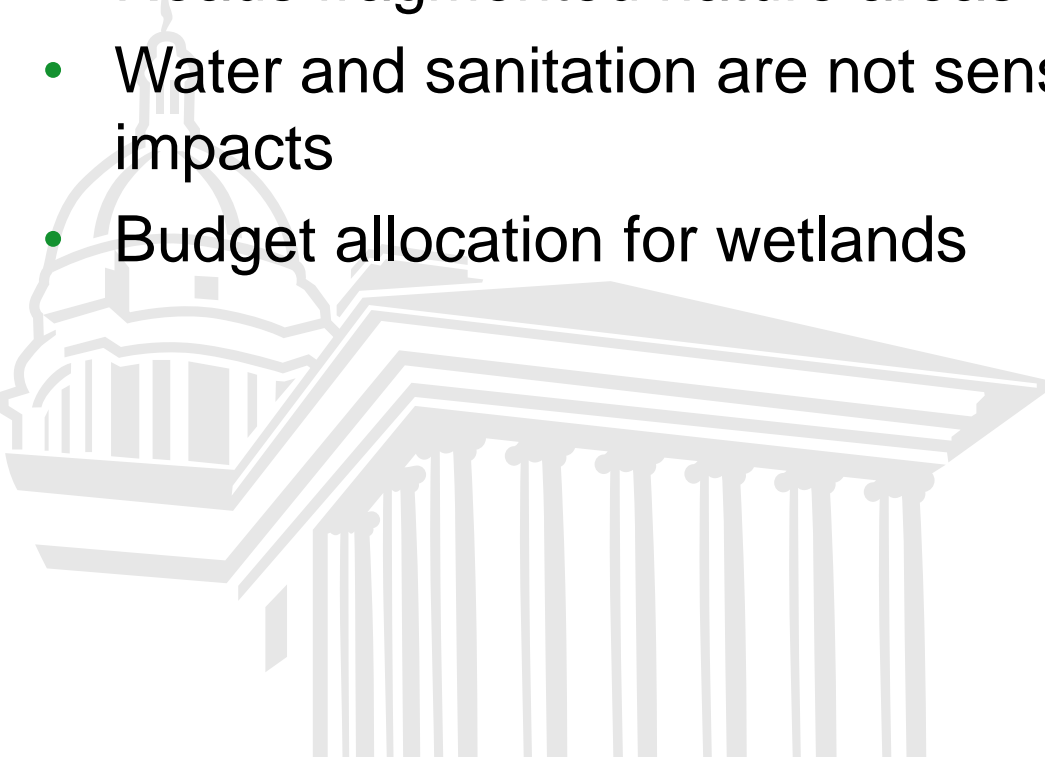


- The control and management of increasing insensitive development applications from developers and contractors
- Continuous fragmentation of urban nature areas divided by roads and development initiatives
- Poor support from metro police to implement public amenity by-laws
- Impact from the building industry on Tshwane`s nature areas (dumping of building rubble in water courses, effluents contaminated water etc.)
- Storm water pollution and impact on the urban hydrology

Challenges



- Educational awareness related to wetlands
- City planning not according to ecological boundaries
- Roads fragmented nature areas
- Water and sanitation are not sensitive to environmental impacts
- Budget allocation for wetlands



Riparian zones not protected, no buffer



Local Governmental Wetland Management Plan for Tshwane



- Physical protection (demarcate/ fence off)
- Legal protection (proclaimed)
- ID all threats to the existing wetland
- Implement Norms and Standards for wetland management
- ID benefits to provide resilience against climate change
- Asses wetland condition and implement rehabilitation plans
- Promote awareness (educational programs, booklet etc.)
- Brand wetlands with info signage
- Establish wetland forums/ programs

Operating procedures to manage wetlands in Tshwane



- Maintain fences to protect wetland against illegal activities (sand mining, dumping, squatting, uncontrolled fires etc.,)
- Erect signage with information regarding the wetland
- ID all water inlets to the wetland and monitor for pollution impacts
- Construct pollution traps at all water inlets
- Monitor water quality and improve it with oxygen traps (aeration of water)
- ID and rehabilitate erosion sites
- Eradicate all alien invasive plants
- ID and construct visitor infrastructure (path ways, bird hide, parking etc.)



Birders enjoying Colbyn Wetland Nature Reserve

- Thank you

