



The Moreletaspruit has been under the watchful eye of concerned residents since 2010 when representatives from Friends Groups, City of Tshwane (CoT) Nature Conservation and other departments, adopted the stream with the support of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). At the time of establishment of the Moreletaspruit Forum, these interest groups could not bear the perpetual destruction of the river banks in the Lynnwood area caused during the installation of the Moreleta outfall sewer. Recent activities within the catchment have kept the spruit alive and flowing.

Celebrating Water Month with partners

Anneli Kühn, Chairperson and co-founder of the Moreletaspruit Forum, Judy Scott-Goldman and Carol Martin, Friends of Moreletaspruit, recently partnered with the JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre (WSEC) in Mamelodi and representatives from the DWS, WRC and Mamelodi Community groups: Umkariso Women in Water Co-operative, Community Colours, Clean City of Tshwane and Tshanduko, as well as councillors and others, for Water Month in March 2017. Many activities were planned and the month's programme culminated in a Walk for Water on 24 March. Water-wise pledges were drawn up.

Nico Sithole of Community Colours organised a workshop to encourage taxi and car-wash owners to be water-wise. He was assisted by Kealeboga Letlhaku of the WRC, Anneli Kühn and WSEC staff. Anneli spoke on the concept of water catchments, Dr Nonhlanhla Kalebaila of the WRC spoke about responsible water use and a representative from the DWS showed how to fix leaking pipes. Afterwards there was a practical session led by WSEC staff.

Involvement of schools

WSEC staff conducted workshops for the local schools and learners wrote about their concerns regarding water. These concerns were put into a memorandum to the Mayor to be read out at the event on 24 March. Eight children and one teacher from each of fourteen schools took part in the 'Walk for Water'.

In Moreletakloof, students from UNISA learnt about bird-ringing and did practical work on combating soil erosion and removing bug-weed. Girls from Hoërskool Waterkloof removed plants choking the dam. Jeannie also taught a group of Voortrekkers from Laerskool Constantiapark about rivers and litter pollution.

In Faerie Glen Nature Reserve the Friends hacked invasive alien vegetation, and had an insect walk which attracted many fascinated children.

Benefit of the Adopt-a-River Moreleta Spruit Programme

"With DWS support, CoT Nature Conservation, Friends groups and other interest groups working together under the Adopt-a-River Moreletaspruit banner the forum has a stronger voice to encourage residents, developers, golf courses, shopping centres, businesses, industries and farmers in the spruit's catchment area and along the river to adopt environmentally-friendly and water-friendly practices," comments Anneli. "We are also in a stronger position to attract funding for studies and projects. Training in all catchment management related issues are provided by the Adopt-a-River Forum to promote an understanding of integrated catchment management," adds Anneli.

For more information visit <http://www.riv.co.za/ms/>