

Achievements 2024

Village maintenance and beautification:

- Revitalized Wilderness Improvement Program (WIP) to achieve additional support from businesses and residents
- Cleaning, mowing, gardening
- Beach art projects

Greater Wilderness maintenance and beautification

- Revitalized Wilderness Action Group (WAG) to achieve additional support from businesses and residents
- Cleaning, clearing, mowing, gardening

Community initiatives

- Support for sports teams
- Upliftment events
- Providing employment opportunities to support other activities and initiatives
- Painting initiative to improve living environment and engender residential pride

Fire Forum

- Successful Fire Expo event held on Wilderness Common

Environment

- Formation of Alien Clearing Team (ACT)
- Launch of Eco-Centre

Public Safety

- Liaison with new Wilderness Warrant Officer
- Preparedness for holiday season with proactive initiatives designed to prevent crime

Finance

- Process put in place for annual budget submissions and approvals
- Outcomes:
 - Formal planning, monitoring, accountability
 - Ability to consult with members for feedback, ideas, priorities
 - Ability to communicate to members what their money is being spent on
 - Ability to tailor subscription amounts in line with agreed budgets and, as necessary, consider additional income streams.

Community Liaison

- Appointment of member to Public Liaison Committee to represent WRRRA and the Wilderness community as the point of contact for two-way communications and provision of information in relation to the N2 upgrade project.
- Appointment of Municipal Liaison Officer to establish a clear and effective communication channel between WRRRA and the George Municipality with the aim of developing improved relations, collaborative problem solving, understanding and trust of all parties.

Planned Achievements 2025

Marketing, Branding, Events and relationship building:

To enhance awareness of WRRRA and ultimately grow membership.

Projects and focus for 2025:

- Community gatherings that promote WRRRA's mission and activities and encourage feedback and involvement of residents.
- Fund raising events and activities to drive engagement and awareness of WRRRA & mission. Examples include events appealing to different audiences, family friendly and seasonal events.
- Digital Marketing for social media advertising
- Greater WRRRA involvement to support the Wilderness Art Festival
- Town of the Year competition in conjunction with George Tourism
- Places of interest project
- Improved ability to update WRRRA website to enhance timeliness and accuracy of information.

Environmental:

Projects and focus for 2025:

- Clearing of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- Creating and maintaining firebreaks
- Securing water resources
- Enhancing native biodiversity and wildlife corridors

Expected outcomes:

Reduction of IAS, providing more resources to native species and creating natural firebreaks.

Employment for local residents.

Improved water security and preservation of local biodiversity.

Regular monthly visits for sapling management, supporting continuous community employment.

- Supporting the ongoing maintenance of an ECO-Centre in Wilderness: continued upkeep of display and educational materials.

Expected outcomes:

Promote awareness of environmental efforts.

Provide a resource for community education and involvement in environmental initiatives.

Community:

Projects and focus for 2025:

Support local upliftment projects:

- Young learners: to inspire young learners, in order to nurture their talent and develop their confidence
- Educators: enhance the emotional and professional wellness of educators so that they are empowered and inspired to nurture and support the young people they educate.

Maintenance of sports ground to encourage ongoing sporting activities for developing skills, motivation and teamworking abilities for local youth.

- Regular mowing and maintenance of sports ground

Public Safety:

Projects and focus for 2025:

- Continue to build collaborative relationship with Wilderness Warrant Officer and SAPS
- Resume and support regular community police forums
- Initiatives to prevent crime – railway lines, tunnels, open spaces

Maintenance and beautification: WIP, WAG, Art Projects

Projects and focus for 2025:

- Continue to engage with residents and businesses to motivate support.
- Explore options for formal recognition of contributors.
- Continue to use art projects as a method of uplifting and beautifying specific areas.