WHY are we involved?  

Shortly after his inauguration as new Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Clr Parks Tau (photo) summoned all Metropolitan Owned Entities (MOEs) and pronounced that it is business unusual. The 90 days Accelerated Service Delivery Programme launched was to make a visible difference in the City during the first three months of the new Mayoral term.

WHAT are we doing?  

During the 90 days, City Parks’ focus was on the following:
1. Cutting of long grass on non-designated green spaces
2. Backlogs on grass cutting of sidewalks and undeveloped spaces
3. Litter, waste management and illegal dumping in parks
4. Provision of burial and cremations services
5. Greening of the City – Bridging the Green Divide
6. Safety, security and vandalism in Parks
7. Bruma Lake rehabilitation
8. Education programme for the under privileged
9. Accelerating customer relations

"My City...... Our Future"
Getting the basics right!
1. CUTTING OF LONG GRASS – NON-DESIGNATED GREEN SPACES

Overgrown non-designated green spaces – sediments, informal settlements, highways, housing developments, flats and Provincial/Regional roads – were identified per Region. The target was to maintain 10,000 ha. The Regions within City Parks identified their problem spots and included them in the 90 Days Plan.

Some of these included (per Region):
Region B: Zampaho Infra Moral Settlement
Region C: Matholekniki, Zandspruit, Princess Crossing, Beyen Naude Dr, Malbonpopae Dr, Northumberland Drive, Hendrik Potgieter Rd, Christiana die Wet Dr, N1, Dobsonville Flats and Botshabelo Spuit.
Region D: Ermibuzi, Klipspruit, Tlali, Pelican, Motswatlo, Heaven Valley, Boitshong, Tiadi Camp and Naledi.
Region E: Ireneve Park, Woodmead, Ben Skilman and Alexander Hotels.
Region G: Sweet Water, Thubelrutana, K41, Nisane Drive, P163, Niel Road (Orange Farm) and Main Road (Elorde Park).

2. BACKLASH ON GRASS CUTTING OF SIDEWALKS AND UNDEVELOPED SPACES

City Parks’ Regions identified sidewalks and undeveloped open spaces to focus their grass cutting efforts during the 90 days. A total of 372,48 ha was identified. Some of the areas in this “blitz programme” include, per Region:
Region A: Diepsloot, Iony Park, Kykami Region B: Fife, Bramley, Woodbury
Region C: Theophilus, Braamfontein, Davidsville
Region D: Glenridge FOS, Zondi POS, Mooikloofs, Thabasela, Glenride X 12 & 13
Region E: Fairmount, Bruma, Linksfield, Houghton, Birdhaven, Norwood, Bryanston.
Region G: Sweet Water, Thubelrutana, K41, Nisane Drive, P163, Niel Road (Orange Farm) and Main Road (Elorde Park).

3. LITTER, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ILLEGAL DUMPING IN PARKS

All Regions put in an extra effort during the 90 days to focus on the cleaning of parks to ensure they are litter free and free of illegal dumping AT ALL TIMES. Although these are part of the day-to-day management of parks, Regions were to put plans in place and identified 40 parks (of approximately 400 ha) to ensure a renewed effort in this regard. An additional intervention has been to have fully serviced recycling stations in operation in flagship parks.

The 40 parks, per Region, are:
Region A: Diepsloot, Iony Park Regional Park, Mongameli Xtreme Park
Region B: Clarendon Park, Penneville Park, Delta Park
Region C: Eton Park, Wilgeheuwel Xtreme Park, Golden Grove Park, Florida Lake.
Region D: Jaca Park, Koppiespark Park, Dorothy Nwanye Park, Oppenhoven Park, Elliot, Malakie Park, Smitsho Park
Region E: Alexandra Park, Melrose Park
Region F: J.J de Villiers Park, Alex Goshell Park, Donald Mackay Park, Louis Baphe, Cawndish Street, End Street North, Ekhaya Park, Pullinger Park, Edith Carvell, Metro Centre, Pieter Roos Park, End Street South, Ahmed Gardens.
Region G: Eldorado Park Ext 3, Rose Park, Vaalfontein Park, Strydfont Park.

4. PROVISION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION SERVICES

This is an ongoing service to the citizens of Jaburg. Tarring of pathways at Awaken Cemetery completed.

5. GREENING OF THE CITY – BRIDGING THE GREEN DIVIDE

A total of 2 576 trees were planted in all the Regions as part of the 90 days plan, coinciding with Arbor Week that was celebrated from 1 to 7 September 2011.

6. VANDALISM IN PARKS

Community Parks maintenance in Cosmo City, Region C

6. SAFETY AND SECURITY IN PARKS

City Parks’ Park Ranger Unit patrols parks on a daily basis to ensure law and order in the City’s public open spaces. During the month of July, a total of 1 283 arrests were made in various parks, for camping in open spaces, littering for the purpose of prostitution, public drinking, cable theft and trespassing.

7. BRUMA LAKE REHABILITATION

The challenge during the 90 days was to improve the water quality of the Lake and to upgrade the lake support infrastructure. In order to improve the water quality, the lake was dosed with appropriate bio-technology products. The upgrading of the lake support infrastructure included the installation of outlets, litter baskets, upstream weirs and circular solar-ees to oxygenate the water.

8. EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED

The Johannesburg Zoo sponsored visits for approximately 5 000 under-privileged people.
HIGHLIGHTS

1. Clean-up Campaigns in all the Regions on 17 September
On 17 September City Parks celebrated World Parks Day by joining Pikitup’s Clean-up Day, an annual initiative to encourage Joburg residents to get involved in the cleaning of their City. This campaign also aims at ridding the City of illegal dumping. All City Parks’ Regions identified spots to clean up on that day. The day was a huge success and went a long way in creating a cleaner Joburg.

The parks targeted by City Parks included: Riverside in Ivory Park; Zoo Lake in Saxonwold; Juweel Park in Fourways; River Park in Alexandra; Pullinger Kop in Berea; Francois Oberholzer Park in Turfontein; the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens in Emmarentia; and Cosmo City Nature Reserve. Undeveloped open spaces included Wagenaar Street in Davidsonville; Sheffield Street in Lenasia; Boeing Street in Eldorado Park; Sonickson Street in Ennerdale; 4th Street in Alexandra; Msilinga Street in Pimville and open spaces in Chiawelo, Mofolo and Orlando East in Soweto.

2. Bridging the Green Divide
A total of 13 050 trees were planted in all the Regions.

3. Litter-free parks
The set target was exceeded by 28%.

4. Awards
During the 90 days Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, City Parks scooped a few awards which showed that the company’s efforts do not go unnoticed:

- Green Collar Award: City Parks won the Green-Collar Training Award at the BHP Billiton Achiever Awards 2011 in the Environmental Education category for “setting the standard in skills development”.
- City Parks also won a national AgriSETA (Agricultural Seta) Award for training a group of unemployed youth in the 2009/10 class in Ornamental Horticulture NQF Level 1. The training was done through the JCP Academy programme.
- Sunninghill Community Award: The Sunninghill community handed over an award to Puleng Ditabe, acting Senior Manager in Region A, for work done in the area. The community expressed their appreciation for initiatives put into place by the Region, including planting of trees, cleaning up the river, maintaining parks and main arterials and the partnership with the community in creating the Madiba Forest.

5. Community Based Park Maintenance
All targets – in terms of service delivery interventions and trees planted – were achieved. Community parks maintenance has been implemented in over seventeen parks as a pilot project and this approach has already revealed positive results. Vandalism in the selected parks has significantly reduced.

6. Olifantsvlei Eco Park Cemetery
The Environmental Impact Analyses was completed. The project is now in the planning phase.