

# The people of Harmony Flats Nature Reserve

The people living around Harmony Flats Nature Reserve are important for the reserve's future. Therefore, they are often invited to take part in many interesting and fun activities that focus on taking care of the reserve, and learning about the environment. If you would like to participate, ask the conservation and community team to tell you more. Harmony Flats Nature Reserve is a great place to meet new friends and learn new facts.



## The Harmony Flats Working Group

The Harmony Flats Working Group (HFWG) started out as a group of volunteers from the nearby area Casablanca. They are the eyes and ears of Harmony Flats: They keep the reserve clean, pick up litter, remove **alien plants**, and make sure that people use the reserve responsibly. If there is a fire in the reserve, the HFWG will immediately phone the conservation team, and will even try to put out the fire. Children from the surrounding areas can also help by letting members of the HFWG know when they have spotted a fire.

The HFWG is now a proper **non-governmental organisation**, and hopes to get more members to help with all of their activities. Some of these activities include training and **skills development** so that people can get more jobs.

The HFWG is very important for the nature reserve. Many people have their eye on the reserve's land to build houses and sports grounds, but the HFWG is determined to protect it for the future. The people of the HFWG are proud to be part of Harmony Flats: To them, the reserve is a symbol of conservation in the new South Africa, where all people can learn and understand the importance of conservation and natural areas. Harmony Flats Nature Reserve is a treasure chest, and to find the treasures, you must go there and see for yourself.



## The YES programme

Harmony Flats as well as the other City of Cape Town nature reserves take part in the Youth Environmental School (YES) programme. This programme of activities for learners and educators runs throughout the year. The YES activities in which Harmony Flats participates are:

- Wetlands Week (February)
- Biodiversity Week (May)
- World Environment Week (June)
- Arbor Week (September)
- Weedbuster Week (October)



## Let learners take the lead

We know that you, the learners, are the ones who will enjoy and take care of Harmony Flats in the future. That is why you must share the responsibilities of the nature reserve, as well as use the reserve to discover the wonderful world around us. By joining any of the nature reserve's many exciting activities, you can learn and understand the importance of conserving the **ecosystem**, and protecting our natural assets. These activities build friendships and pride in your local environment.

Harmony Flats Nature Reserve supports many activities, like the YES programme, holiday programmes for learners, the Champions Forum, sports days, and a plant monitoring programme. The reserve has an alien plant eradication programme for community members; it gives basic training in community fire-fighting; it organises litter cleanups; and hosts community **public participation meetings**.

If you are interested in joining the HFWG or any of the reserve's activities, ask the conservation team to tell you more. They can also tell you about other environmental and conservation organisations.



## Learn the lingo

- **alien plants** – plants that do not naturally occur in an area
- **ecosystem** – all forms of life and the environment, working together as systems in nature
- **non-governmental organisation** – organisation that is not aimed at making a profit for its owners, but rather uses any income to promote its cause
- **public participation meetings** – gatherings at which members of the public are invited to have their say
- **skills development** – courses to improve people's abilities and knowledge



## Our partners

Harmony Flats Nature Reserve wants to thank its many partners, who make all of the reserve's conservation and social activities possible:

- City of Cape Town
- CAPE
- Botanical Society of South Africa
- Harmony Flats Working Group (HFWG)
- Cape Flats Nature (CFN)
- Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW)
- Cape Nature
- African Conservation Experience
- Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA).

For more information, go to [www.capetown.gov.za/environment](http://www.capetown.gov.za/environment).

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