



PROTECTED AREA NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 6 OF THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN: NATURE RESERVE BY-LAW (2020)

WITZANDS AQUIFER NATURE RESERVE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

The purpose of this Protected Area Notice is to advise visitors of the conditions of access to and parking within the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve. These conditions apply from the date of signature of this Notice until 30 June 2027 and are enforceable in terms of the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law.

The Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve (the WANR) is a proclaimed protected area in terms of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, Act 57 of 2003 (the NEM: PAA). The City is therefore mandated to manage the WANR in accordance with the NEM: PAA and the associated Regulations and Norms and Standards that are applicable to the WANR.

The WANR is one of the most popular destinations in the Western Cape for recreational activities on the dunes, among which 4x4 off-roading, quad biking and sandboarding. The WANR has experienced significant growth in the number of visitors during the peak holiday season. Given the exceptional growth in the above activities, the reserve has reached and exceeded its capacity to accommodate these activities. This has resulted in impacts to the environment, concerns for visitor safety and challenges associated with the WANR infrastructure, including parking and ablution facilities. It is therefore necessary to establish and enforce conditions of access and for parking, so as to ensure a safe environment for visitors and to minimise conflict between users of the WANR.

The Protected Area Notice aims to ensure public safety; optimise the visitor experience; integrate various recreational uses and user groups of the reserve; ensure international best practice; and protect Cape Town's environmental assets and strategic water sources.

POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY

The City may in managing the nature reserve take reasonable steps to ensure the security and well-being of visitors and staff.

ACCESS TO NATURE RESERVES

ADMISSION

Access to the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve is subject to the NEM: PAA Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves (Regulation No. R. 99, 8 February 2012), City of Cape Town By-laws and applicable Codes of Conduct.

All rules, regulations and notices stipulated on signage must be adhered to at all times when entering the nature reserve.

Access to the nature reserve is subject to the applicable tariffs, fees and charges. For a detailed list of tariffs, fees and charges please visit www.capetown.gov.za

SAFE ENTERING

No person may enter or take a vehicle into a nature reserve in an unsafe, reckless or negligent manner.

ALCOHOL AND INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES

No person may, within a nature reserve be under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances, be in possession of alcohol or intoxicating substances or consume any alcohol or intoxicating substances.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The wearing of Personal Protective Equipment is mandatory.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO VEHICLES

No person driving a vehicle in a nature reserve may-

- a) drive, park, or stop in such a manner that constitutes a nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to any other person or vehicle;
- b) drive, park or stop in any manner that causes an obstruction;
- c) block the pathway of a management operation or emergency vehicle;
- d) park a vehicle in a place other than in a place designated for that purpose by the City;
- e) drive or park anywhere except on a designated road or designated parking area;

- f) drive or operate any vehicle in a reckless or negligent manner, or deliberately or intentionally disregard the safety of any person, species, specimen or property of whatever nature;
- g) drive a vehicle off designated roads or tracks, except in an area set aside by the City for that purpose; or
- h) drive a vehicle for recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, 4x4ing, off-roading, quad biking and motor biking in any area not demarcated for such recreational activity.

The City of Cape Town has undertaken to provide safe access to all users of the Witzands Aquifer Nature and will implement a parking plan (Annexure A) to promote the safe entry and exit of all users.

Please refer to the attached Annexure A which shows:

Figure 1	Taxis, minibuses and all public transport and e-hailing services	Taxis, minibuses, e-hailing services and all public transport except for buses, shall park in the overflow parking area near the entrance to the WANR. No public transport vehicles are permitted to enter the area around the multipurpose centre.
Figure 2	"Drop & Go"	This area is reserved for visitors to be dropped off only. No parking is permitted in this area. All vehicles must allow passengers to alight and then leave the parking area.
	Visitors parking	This parking is reserved for the public and may not be used by commercial operators.
	Commercial operators	One parking bay per commercial operator is permitted. Additional vehicles and trailers are not permitted to remain in the parking area and must be removed from the WANR. No tour operator employee parking is available on reserve.
	Informal Traders	This parking is reserved for informal traders (permit needed).
	Disabled Persons Parking Bay	This parking is reserved for disabled persons (permit needed).
	Emergency Parking Bay	This parking is reserved for emergency services.
Figure 3	Recreational Use Special Management Area	Ten (10) quadbikes per commercial operator are permitted to park on the sand at the entrance to the Recreational Use Special Management Area. Additional quadbikes shall be parked inside the Recreational Use Special Management Area. No quadbikes shall be parked in the parking area or parking bays. Quadbikes shall be lined up close enough to allow tours to depart with ease and not be in the way of the entry and exit points. One parking bay will be made available close to the entrance for refuelling purposes only.

The City may restrict or preclude the use of any vehicle or vehicle type within a nature reserve or section of a nature reserve.

The WANR has a limited number of parking bays available. Parking is on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. The use of public transport and car-pooling is recommended to reduce the number of vehicles in the nature reserve parking area.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Any user found to be in contravention of this notice and/or the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law commits an offence and may be subject to a fine, imprisonment for a period of time, both a fine and imprisonment or a ban may be imposed on them.

The City of Cape Town appreciates the continued support of users of the WANR and we look forward to your continued enjoyment of our facility and your co-operation with the requirements of this Notice.

For a complete copy of the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law please scan the QR code below:



Delegated Authority:

Julia Wood

Digitally signed by Julia Wood
Date: 2026.06.12 16:56:20 +02'00'

Julia Wood
Branch Manager
Biodiversity Management Branch
Environmental Management Department

ANNEXURE A

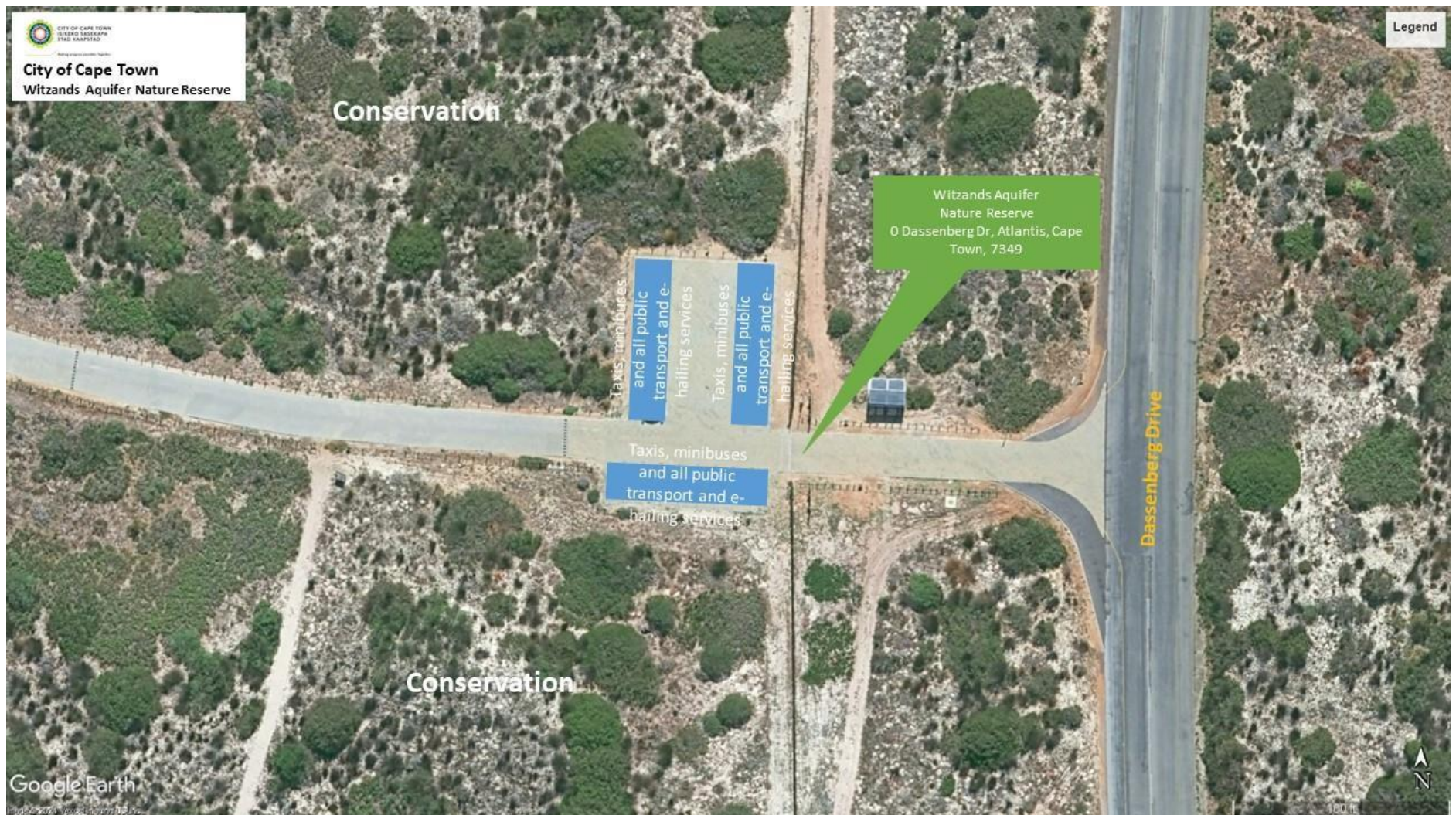


Figure 1. Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve Public Transport Parking



Figure 2. Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve Visitor Precinct Parking



Figure 3. Recreational Use Special Management Area