

Royal Ascot Landscaping **REPORT** *May 2026*



Dear Royal Ascotians,

It's been a while since my last landscaping report, and I hope that this one finds you all warm, well and enjoying that occasional sip of soup or sherry as the nights and days get colder!

Yes, it seems we somehow skipped Autumn and rolled straight into Winter. What with April sporting 97mm of rain and May currently sitting at a whopping 113mm, one could possibly assume we might be in for a rather wet June to September as well. Let's hope that when it does chose to rain, that we have less devastation and a bit more even consistency....

Although Mother Nature always has her own ideas.

As the days get colder, the floral palette in our ever-changing, planted beds, alter their colours, as different flowers get their chance to bloom and others die out.

Right now, all the Aloes are starting to bloom in hues of orange, as is the Wild Dagga (*Leonotis leonurus* / pictured below). In full yellow splendour, flanking the entrance to Grand National Boulevard (header page picture) is *Europes pectinatus*.

The corner of the pond area below the Paddsocks is electric with a plethora of colours from the blues of *plumbago auriculata*, the whites of *Metalasia muricata*, purples from the *Agapanthus africanus*, and spikes of orange from the *Aloe arborescens*.

With such bright colours on show, I encourage you all to put on your warm woolies and take a meander around our neighbourhood. For those who stepcount, you'll easily clock your 10 thousand steps with a brisk walk, without leaving our neighbourhood!









If you venture down to the lower Paddocks pond area, you will see that we have created new wind berms.

This process of allowing our plant waste to biodegrade in long, heaped rows, creates large quantities of added mulch for our beds, come summer, at no extra cost. These days, with prices climbing exponentially, every little bit helps!

After the heavy rains from a few weeks ago, we unfortunately had a few casualties. 4 of our Acasia Karoo trees were uprooted and had to be felled. Similarly, Stodels had 2 trees internally that blew over, as did Cape Grand China have two of theirs drop.



Thankfully, there was minimal structural damage that resulted.

With the loss comes new life, and we planted 5 new Syzigium Ganenses down at the Arena North pond area. These were to replace the loss of 2 other trees, also Acasias, late last year.

We will further budget to replace these latest casualties with new trees, but I am starting to think that we should stay away from further Acasias, as they seem to weaken when they reach maturity. I think they don't like the wind much?



Currently the team is doing a lot of weeding after the rains, and our replanting, is currently working its way up both sides of Grand National Boulevard, from down at Ascot Mews, past Nottingham Square, Stableyard and up towards the Met roundabout.

This area has a lot of established old growth that is becoming woody, and needs to be reinvigorated with new variety.

The replanting process starts with the removal of the old and dead vegetation. The soil is then tilled, and fertilizer and mulch added to it and mixed in. Lastly, new plants from the nursery are delivered, arranged and planted..





At our last full trustees meeting, we acquired the approval of a few large spends. Some foreseen and planned, others not. This included completing phase 4 of the Parade Ring Road irrigation upgrade, the purchasing of 300 meters of root barrier to be used when the City upgrades the road and pedestrian lane that runs along the entrance of Milnerton Drive into Milnerton Ridge, and also the procurement and installation of a pergola and deck structure at the 3rd circle retention pond area, to commemorate the life and dedication to our area, of Zulfa Solomon, who served as our portfolio administrator for 20 years, before passing in 2024.

We also recently received a request from one of our moms to consider a barrier / fence of sorts, to enhance safety for children that use the Parade Ring park. The trustees agreed that a naturally planted hedge is in line with our OEMP and Building guidelines, so have quoted accordingly, and will implement this as part of the next financial years projects.

Talking about the OEMP (Operational Environmental Management Plan) and the RAMPOA Building Guidelines: These are 2 very important documents that govern the management of our residential area pertaining to landscaping, planting and to all renovation and building works. These documents, along with our Constitution, underpin all decisions taken by the trustees of RAMPOA. For any HOA, Body Corporate, or resident, they can be accessed on the Royal Ascot website.

At inception, these documents were used to create all the individual precincts own Constitutions and Guidelines, knowing that trustees come and go, but that these principles would allow the constant vision of the area to remain.

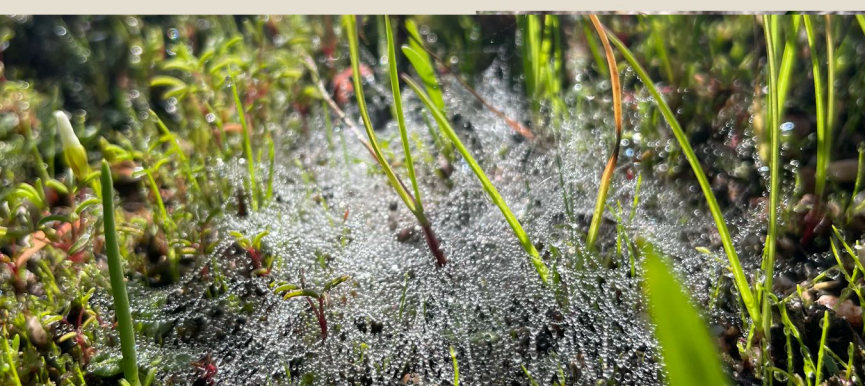
I have noted that some complexes have changed and amended their guidelines over the years, and encourage all present chairmen to review their current ones to ensure that they remain consistent and in line, with what is laid out in these documents.



For those of you who have not yet discovered our “pedestrian accessible”, Northern Reserve area, I encourage you to do so. This and our Southern Reserve make up a portion of the greater Tablebay Nature Reserve. Our section is called the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve, and is managed by the EMC and current reserve manager Abdul Gakeem Rakiep.

Some of you may have been fortunate enough to enjoy last month's night walk, where many chameleons, frogs and other small creatures were observed. Every quarter, the EMC release their quarterly reports, which are circulated through the managing agents, and can also be found on our website.

For me, our small reserve offers a wonderful chance to sit in silence, surrounded by nature, and catch up with my thoughts. You may be lucky enough to see one of the few grysbok that roam the 2 reserve areas, or even watch a weaver build his nest. This time I only managed to see some fresh grysbok hoof prints, but did enjoy spotting some of the colourful new blooms appearing.



As we look to the months ahead, our gardening team will continue general maintenance, weeding, replanting, the upgrade of the Parade Ring irrigation line, the branch pruning of the big Ficus in Parade Ring park, and the continual introduction of new varieties from our extensive Plant Species List.

Once again a big thanks Anthony, Pieter, Tendai and the Atlantic Scapes team. Not only do they constantly uphold a grand level of gardening and landscaping service, but they continue to log City service requests daily, and notify Crimewatch control room when observing anything untoward in the area. Cheers chaps!

To our residents, I hope you continue to get outdoors and enjoy our well looked after spaces. If you would also like to play your part in getting involved in the continual improvements we make, feel free to mail ideas to Sam at Stratton, or download the City of CT App, and log service requests if you see things that need attention. We continually encourage you all, to log taxi issues on the app or website too, and ask everyone, to please refrain from giving hand outs to vagrants at the traffic lights.

I wish you all a warm and safe time over these cold winter months and look forward to sharing a bumper Spring Report come September.

Thanks a mill,
Charl.

