

Construction of uMhlanga Rocks new forest boardwalk has begun

Led by the uMhlanga UIP, construction on the first stretch of the new raised uMhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve boardwalk has begun. This community-focused and funded project aims to enhance the area's environmental integrity and provide a lovely 'walk-in-the-trees' experience for locals and tourists to enjoy.

Approved by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZN EDTEA), the project's initial funding of R345k was raised by community-minded stakeholders, businesses and contributors. This amount will see the first 81m of the 1km long, 1,8m wide boardwalk built by mid-December. The UIP is rallying local businesses, residents, visitors and the public at large to get behind this wonderful addition to uMhlanga Rocks experience and make donations to realise the vision for everyone's enjoyment.

Brian Wright of the uMhlanga UIP states: "We need a further R5,7million to complete the boardwalk and donors can rest assured that funds will be strictly governed and disbursed by the uMhlanga UIP non-profit company which has a long and proud tradition of serving uMhlanga Rocks."

Made from recycled plastic, the raised, wheelchair-friendly boardwalk's design will provide viewing decks overlooking the beach and lagoon and formalized access points from the boardwalk onto the beach. The infrastructure will be managed and maintained by the uMhlanga UIP.

Wright says: "Once the boardwalk is complete visitors will safely be able to experience the amazing coastal forest life while having negligible environmental impact on this incredible natural asset."

Other important benefits of the boardwalk include preventing further frontal dune damage allowing for natural regeneration of degraded areas, unlocking tourism and employment opportunities and relieving congestion on the promenade. The long-term plan is to build an environmental education centre to host nature-based activities including guided walks, canoeing, a bird hide and children's activities.

Wright sums it up: "This initiative will improve and enhance this fantastic natural space which is right here on our doorstep while allowing for an amazing experience for the public. We call on all businesses and the community to pledge their support with donations to help us complete it and further enhance the uMhlanga experience."

HOW TO HELP:

Anyone can make a difference. Use Zapper to make a donation and show your support – every cent counts. Zapper code can be found below or on the website:

<https://umhlangauip.co.za/site/>



LEAVE A LEGACY

Be a part of history! Become a Key Contributor and receive a boardwalk plaque in your name.

Gold – R100k
Silver – R50k
Bronze – R25k

To donate one of the below amounts and have your name go down in history on a boardwalk plaque, please contact us on 031 561 2496 or info@urbanmgt.co.za

ENDS

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