

Marloth Park is a unique holiday town cum nature conservancy, one where man and animal share the same domain. That is why many rules apply in this nature conservancy. It is a holiday town situated in the natural bushveld of the Mpumalanga Lowveld, adjacent to the famous Kruger National Park. Nestled in a bend of the Crocodile River, which forms the southern boundary of Kruger, the town recently achieved the status of a nature conservancy registered with the Parks Board of Mpumalanga.

The town shares most of the plant, animal and bird species found in the southern part of the Kruger Park, save for certain dangerous species amongst those called the Big Five, although they can be viewed across the river from inside town. More than 40 percent of the available land area within the town is devoted to parkland where no building activity is permitted. This further enhances the opportunity to view animals and birds in their natural state.

is less than 20 km from the Crocodile Bridge entrance to the Kruger National Park and game drives can be undertaken at a very economical rate thanks to the so-called Wild Card. We also have a list of activity providers on this site who could take visitors on an open vehicle safari into the Kruger National Park. The town has the added attraction of being only one hours drive from the beautiful tropical and sub-tropical Mozambique coastal resorts as well as one 45 minutes drive to Swaziland.

Marloth Park resembles a horseshoe formation, nestled in a bend of the Crocodile River that acts as a buffer zone around the central Lionspruit Game Reserve. Marloth Park consists of a development zone and a conservation zone; where the development zone of 1099 ha, consists of 6.9 ha utilised as municipal areas, 48 ha as road surfaces and 132 ha as road reserves. The remaining portion has been divided into approximately 4500 plots for residential development.

The residential development portion currently has a development footprint of 28 ha, and landscaped gardens that constitute 289 ha. The conservation zone consist of the remaining 528 ha, remnants of the natural vegetation that is scattered throughout the area. It is less than 20 km from the Crocodile Bridge entrance to the Kruger National Park and game drives can be undertaken at a very economical rate thanks to the so-called Wild Card. We also have a list of activity providers on this site who could take visitors on an open vehicle safari into the Kruger National Park. The town has the added attraction of being only one hours drive from the beautiful tropical and sub-tropical Mozambique coastal resorts as well as one 45 minutes drive to Swaziland.

Marloth Park resembles a horseshoe formation, nestled in a bend of the Crocodile River that acts as a buffer zone around the central Lionspruit Game Reserve. Marloth Park consists of a development zone and a conservation zone; where the development zone of 1099 ha, consists of 6.9 ha utilised as municipal areas, 48 ha as road surfaces and 132 ha as road reserves. The remaining portion has been divided into approximately 4500 plots for residential development.

The residential development portion currently has a development footprint of 28 ha, and landscaped gardens that constitute 289 ha. The conservation zone consist of the remaining 528 ha, remnants of the natural vegetation that is scattered throughout the area. Vegetation analysis identified five distinct plant communities, with sub-communities and variations that correspond to the initial vegetation analysis conducted on Lionspruit Game Reserve. The classification of the two additional plant communities is based on geological influence on the *Spirostachys africana* – *Balanites maughamii* Low bushland, and historic land-use practice on the *Dichrostachys cinerea* – *Tragus berteronianus* Low bushland.

The veld condition in all plant communities is moderate to good, with exception of the *Dichrostachys cinerea* – *Tragus berteronianus* Low bushland community that is considered poor. The tree densities of the various plant communities are generally within acceptable range with an average of 1500 trees per hectare.

However, the tree density in the *Dichrostachys cinerea* – *Tragus berteronianus* Low bushland community again exceeds the recommended threshold of 1700 trees per hectare.

In this plant community, it is apparent from the woody vegetation analysis that tree density is not the limiting factor in available leaf biomass production, but rather tree height. As much of the woody vegetation is mature sickle bush *Dichrostachys cinerea* it can only be deduced that the leaf biomass produced are now out of reach of the browsing animal species.

The herbaceous biomass production follows the same trend, indicating that the *Dichrostachys cinerea* – *Tragus berteronianus* Low bushland community cannot sustain a fire.

Located in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa, about 20 km northwest of Komatipoort, between latitudes 25°15' and 25° 30' south and longitudes 31° 45' and 31° 60' east (grid reference 2532 AC). The property is situated in a horseshoe bend formed by the Crocodile River that forms a natural boundary with the Kruger National Park. Centre to this development is the Lionspruit Game Reserve, a natural area wedged in the development zone. The reserve fence acts as inner periphery for the southern, western and eastern boundaries. Olifants Drive, with a tarred surface, traverse the property giving access from Hectorspruit and Komatipoort, respectively. Access through Marloth Park is not restricted or controlled.

Property owners association, MPPOA's charter is to manage Marloth Park to be as close as possible to a nature reserve, with human impact reduced to a minimum. They work with the Marlothi Conservancy, the Honorary Rangers, Mpumalanga Parks Board and Nkomazi Municipality towards obtaining higher conservation's status for Marloth Park and a scientific approach in managing the fauna and flora in the park.

MPPOA Charter

We stand for Marloth Park to be as close as possible to a nature reserve, with human impact reduced to a minimum. In other words, we are working towards having a "Kruger national park - like experience" in Marloth Park. We will work closely with the Marlothi Conservancy, the Honorary Rangers, Mpumalanga Parks Board and Nkomazi Municipality towards obtaining higher conservation's status for Marloth Park.

We support managing Marloth Park's fauna and flora along sound scientific principles and therefore will apply management recommendations from the Ecological Management Plan to be drawn up by the appointed independent ecologist.

Comprehensive access control and ancillary service are vital in the management of Marloth Park as a special nature area. Our infrastructure of road, water, sewerage, rubbish collection, etc., cannot sustain unlimited numbers of people and vehicles. Noise and dust pollution is threatening to change the ambience of Marloth Park. Increasing numbers of animals are killed on our roads by unscrupulous visitors.

We stand to lose exactly what we came here for. Access should be controlled for each category of person that enters or exits Marloth Park, for example, Property Owners, Guests, Farmers Neighbors, Builders, Workers, Businessmen, Maintenance, ect.

This is the only way we will be able to bring back the necessary discipline among property owners and visitors to protect Nkomazi's greatest asset, our fauna and flora. Access control lies outside the functions of the Municipality, therefore we have to commission a professional security firm to introduce and maintain such a system on our behalf.

We recognize that we are part of a greater community and we acknowledge our responsibility in assisting surrounding communities. We can make a positive contribution to their development through offering of environmental education programmes.

We see this as an investment in the future of the Nkomazi. We Endeavour to keep membership fees to a Minimum, to make our Property Owner's Association affordable to all. Initial registration will be R200, with annual renewal of R200 due on 1 January each year.

In general, our aims and objectives correspond closely with those of Duard Barnard's Marloth Park Future Plan, completed in 1997, after close consultation and consensus with the people of Marloth Park.

Bron: MPPOA