

STRANDFONTEIN CULTURAL MAPPING

BACKGROUND AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

BACKGROUND

The Pavilion has slipped into a phase of decline, diminishing the significant role it once played in the lives of people from the surrounding suburbs and the broader Cape Flats. Nevertheless, the Pavilion, especially its large tidal pool, continues to be visited and used by various groups for social and cultural activities, particularly during the high season.

In its current neglected condition, the Pavilion serves as a symbolic reminder of apartheid-era efforts to create racially segregated amenities and spaces designed to keep different population groups separated, both in where they lived and where they spent their leisure time.

In 2022, the City allocated funding to upgrade the Strandfontein Pavilion. Improvements along Fisherman's Lane have been completed, and Environmental Authorisation has been granted for mixed-use development within the planned Coastal Urban Node, including approval for the setback-line required for the Pavilion infrastructure refurbishment.

In 2025, a cultural mapping and planning process was incorporated into the Strandfontein Pavilion upgrade project to ensure the refurbished Pavilion reflects the community's local identity and cultural heritage, guiding its design and transforming the pavilion into more than just a recreational space.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ROOTED IN NATURE AND NATURAL LIVING HERITAGE

- Panoramic views of the ocean along the False Bay Coastline
- Flora and fauna on and around the Strandfontein Pavilion
- The remnants of a long strip of sand dunes
- Flanked by the False Bay Nature Reserve/Rondevlei to the south; Wolfgat Nature Reserve/Edith Stephens to the south; and Zeekoevlei to the west

APARTHEID SPATIAL PLANNING AND SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT

- Segregation across Cape Town post 1923
- Mitchell's Plain/Strandfontein created as a core element in the making of an apartheid city
- Strandfontein Pavilion designed as a "separate amenity"
- Strandfontein Beach ends at Sunrise Circle - restricted access beyond this point

BUILDING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

- Endurance post social and cultural dislocation and upheaval
- Building social and cultural networks and activities within a "separate development" paradigm
- Celebrating social and cultural life in and around the Pavilion

A RE-IMAGINED STRANDFONTEIN PAVILION AND SURROUNDS

- Emphasising the area's natural history and living natural heritage
- Reviving memories and celebrating past and present stories of Mitchell's Plain/Strandfontein/the Strandfontein Pavilion
- Connecting the Strandfontein Pavilion socially and culturally to its natural environment and its place in a wider city narrative
- Creating a unique 21st century public space destination along the False Bay coastline that transcends its apartheid "separate amenity" stigma