



WINTER 2026 – UPDATE

CITY OF CAPE TOWN BLANKET SPRAYING OF ROADS/PARKS

1. **LET’S CELEBRATE!** Today, 20 May 2026, is Poison-free Peninsula’s 3rd birthday! **Send us a birthday emoji** in celebration of our joint efforts over the past 3 years. **We are not backing down until the City listens!**
2. **WORLD BEE DAY** – Today is not only our birthday but its also WORLD BEE DAY! In honour of wild bee conservationist Jenny Cullinan, co-founder of **Poison-free Peninsula movement**, I share with you this thought provoking and inspirational podcast interview with Jenny:
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4dzBD686BrHhktDNvmUcLe?si=RXyDKaM1S2So7hIQraPgXw&nd=1&dlsi=3d296d532c964257>
3. **GENERAL (PEOPLE POWER):** We are incredibly grateful that **Unpoison SA is driving an “Unpoison Our City” campaign which currently involves getting City residents to complete a poll on this topic to help Unpoison motivate the City to change its weed spraying programmes to manual/non-toxic weed control programmes that will create jobs.** Unpoison is aiming for 10,000 poll respondents. If you have not already done so, please complete the poll and ask your family, friends and neighbours to do the same here:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02gMpYdYuM4c1Z1SiEKGcbWt6kNdeMUiQYn8Qu5fmeyowt9HiaDyuW1JmYbGBoWxeil&id=61582418597447&rdid=cjNsiY87ILDpQ3Lj
4. **GENERAL (PEOPLE POWER!):** In April 2026 we launched a ‘mini action’ encouraging the public to comment of the 2026/7 COCT budget to request for the City to change from poison-spraying control of weeds to manual control of weeds. Unpoison SA supported this action by submitting a comment and by also activating its network to do the same. **THIS EFFORT WAS A BIG SUCCESS! We counted 85 comment submissions**, just from those who copied us in when sending their comments to COCT.
5. **PARKS:** Last year we raised hell with the City for the blanket spraying Atlantic Seaboard recreational areas and Camps Bay Beachfront recreational areas. In addition we collected samples of “grass clumps” from both sprayed locations to have them analysed in a lab (**we will be announcing the findings soon**). We also requested for Unpoison to help us mobilise ward councillors in getting blanket spraying of parks and recreation areas stopped. **We received news (scroll down for screenshot of the communication) that City Parks was seen manually weeding Mouille Point to Three Anchor Bay and Sea Point!**
6. **ROADS:** Unfortunately winter spraying of roads is underway despite all our protests (except for exempt suburbs). There has been evidence of severe damage to grassed verges in Zeekovlei. In recent years we have noticed that the road spraying is mainly carried out from a bakkie with the spray equipment hanging off the side of the vehicle whereas previously the contractor often had men walking and spraying and/or men on scooters spraying. The “bakkie” technique is presumably preferable for the contractor as it makes it more difficult for members of the public to approach their workers to ask questions. We suspect also that the road spraying might take place early in the mornings, before people are up and about to witness it. Remember that you can check the spray schedules and/or report a spraying contravention via the City’s webpage:
<https://www.capetown.gov.za/general/weed-spraying-information-and-schedules>
7. **DEAD BEES:** The week after road spraying in Zeekovlei, hundreds of dead bees were discovered on a residential property. The dead bees have been taken in for testing. I personally visited this wonderful community following this incident and was inspired by how everyone pulled together to pay for the testing to be done. We will announce the results of the tests as soon as received. **At this stage, we don’t yet know the cause of the deaths. It could well have nothing to do with the road spraying. WATCH THIS SPACE for updates.** In the process of this investigation, we learned about the rising bee poisoning incidents

(<https://wcba.co.za/spike-in-honey-bee-poisonings-highlights-urgent-need-to-tighten-regulations-on-agrochemical-use/>) and that a database of the incidents is being kept by the Western Cape Beekeeping Association. We also found out that beekeepers can report suspected mass bee poisoning incidents to the Western Cape Government: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3fde97833fe642048b97ca800e766f28?portalUrl=https://gis.westerncape.gov.za/portal>. We have also received some guidelines from the WCBA on what to do in a case of suspected bee poisoning. Contact us should you require more info: poisonfreepeninsula@proton.me

8. **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RIGHT INDIVIDUAL:** Poison-free Peninsula is planning to facilitate a migration of supporters from this platform to the Unpoison community platform for a future unified approach. A new *UnPoison Our Suburbs & City Campaign* coordinator for the Unpoison community will be needed. You will receive on boarding and support from me based on my work under Poison-free Peninsula and support from Unpoison reps based on their work. It is a voluntary position so best suited to a passionate individual with a bit of free time, yearning to make a difference in the world. The commitment can be for as long as you are willing and the arrangement can be structured so that it suits you. Depending on how things evolve, it might turn into a more permanent and rewarding working opportunity. DM me (Ninette) for a chat if you are interested in exploring this possibility. (No chancers)

For context of the above latest updates, refer back to our 2025 updates available on our website: <https://poisonfreepen.wixsite.com/poison-freepeninsula/resources>

POISON-FREE PENINSULA – A people-powered movement for a poison-free CAPE PENINSULA!

