

## Interview Process

The following are proposed interview processes for organisations and groups that our team will be interacting with in Cape Town. Due to the informal nature of the interviews, it is difficult to plan an exact route for obtaining information. However, by making plans for the types of questions we want to address and the mechanism for which we want to elicit them, this can maximise the useful information we receive in the short, seven weeks we have in Cape Town.

Each interviewing group is listed in bold, followed by a description of why we want to interview them and what information we hope to gain. We provided information on specific individuals we could interview and how we plan to interview. The stakeholders are organised in two waves, each in a rough order for who we intend to interview first. The first wave of interviews will take place in the beginning of our planning process while the second wave of interviews will come later.

### First wave of interviews

The first group of interviews consists largely of community members in both Maitland Garden Village (MGV) and Oude Molen Eco Village (OMEV). These interactions will come first so we can start building relationships with these communities, as outlined in our first objective, and begin to understand the direction of our project.

The **Gardening Club** is an excellent organisation to interview because they can give insight into their experiences, their history, and agricultural influences in the community. From the 2011 MGV team's research we have identified that the Gardening Club has similar goals as this year's pathway project. We hope to gain useful information about the Gardening Club and MGV gardens and history that can be incorporated into a pathway vision.

*Who:* project co-researchers, Nathan Hardenberg (founder)

*How/Methods:* Our team will conduct this interviewing process in an informal tour of MGV and around the river guided by one of the Gardening Club members. Many of these questions can be addresses as the background of the Gardening Club inception and the development of their goals. These efforts will be conducted within the first week in Cape Town to provide a basis for the project.

1. How did the Gardening Club begin? How long ago was it formed?
2. How would you describe community reception and involvement in this program?
3. What time frame are you looking at to restore the MGV gardens?
4. What is the general basis for the restoration of MGV gardens? What plans have you made?
5. What is the state of the MGV gardens now? What proportion is for food and what proportion is for beautification?
6. Have you looked into the restoration of the Black River Corridor (outside of this project) or any efforts that this organisation can contribute to it?
7. How do you see this organisation fitting in with WPI's project and students?

8. What would you like to see happen in these seven weeks?

**MGV** is an important community for us to interview and develop a vision for the pathway. Since it is located on the Black River, our hope is to engage MGV members in discussions regarding the agricultural, tourist, and recreational opportunities that can be made possible by utilizing the pathway.

*Who:* community leaders or officials with influence over the community, walkers along the river, the Green Light Project (below), the Gardening Club (above)

**OMEV** is a key group who would be beneficial to interview since we are looking into a section of the Black River pathway that directly affects them, and can hopefully help their community, their input into the development process is highly valued. We hope to reveal opinions on directions this pathway can go such as agriculture, tourism, and recreation.

*Who:* community leaders or officials with influence, walkers along the river, business owners

*How:* This process is likely to be an informal discussion. The following are questions we would like to have answered in our discussion with community, although they will not be asked directly. The use of a photo book or presentation will be the main point of conversation in getting these questions answered.

1. How do you and others in the community perceive the potential pathway, the Black River, and its surroundings?

*Method:* This discussion will begin by asking the interviewee about their background in MGV and lead into specific aspects of the Black River. For example, how the river is currently used, how it was used in the past, and how these may change with their need and history in the community.

2. Do you feel that you and others in the community would use the pathway more often if it was more developed and had attractions along it?

*Method:* As a lead from question two, this will be a discussion based on the member's needs and therefore what they want to see in the pathway that would draw them to it.

3. Do you currently use the unofficial pathways along the Black River? If so, what for? (transportation, fishing, recreation)

*Method:* Start a conversation about the person's background to elicit information about their daily needs and routines. Ask about their relationship with the river and how it has impacted their life, if at all.

4. Discuss the following topics in relation to the Black River pathway:
  - a) Recreational space (benches, open grass areas)
  - b) Tourist attraction (such as trails and tours)
  - c) Historical features
  - d) Cultural features
  - e) Ecological development (wildlife, nature)
  - f) Job creation
  - g) Connectivity to surrounding communities like MGV
  - h) Safety

*Method:* This will be aided by a book of pictures portraying these topics. For example, recreational space may be represented by a sports field or ecological development might be portrayed by a nature pathway. Viewers will be asked to comment on the pictures and discuss what they like and what they do not like about them. This will also give information on not only what the community wants in the pathway but how they want it to be designed.

5. Do you think people in MGV/OMEV would be interested in starting businesses along the Black River pathway?

*MGV Method:* This will be a very specific discussion leading into the interviewee's personal experience with business and livelihood. Since MGV has such a high unemployment rate, this will be a consideration for the discussion to be both respectful but elicit high quality information.

*OMEV Method:* This will be led by discussing the importance of businesses in OMEV since it is a village with many micro-businesses. We would like to identify businesses that would benefit from the river pathway.

6. What would you like to see go along the Black River pathway?

*Method:* This will also incorporate use of the photo book but will more largely be the community member's final recommendations to the project. Hopefully, after a meaningful discussion, the person will feel more open to discuss what they really want to see along the Black River pathway.

The **Green Light Project** was born from the work of a WPI Maitland Garden Village project in 2011 in conjunction with members of MGV. Collaboratively, the WPI team and the newly formed Green Light Project of MGV created different committees for the group, one of which is

the Gardening Club. As a pivotal community organisation, the Green Light Project members will be key people with whom to develop and discuss pathway visions and plans.

*Who:* Any member of the Green Light Project, specifically different branches other than the Gardening Club

*How/Methods:* Since this is an organised group of individuals within MGV, a simple way of eliciting information is using a fun, interactive game. This will be done through picture drawing in groups based on the different branches of the Green Light Project. The pictures will be the perception of the river in its current state and the hopes for the river's future, specifically with a pathway around it. We will be able to see the motives of each group and start a discussion on how these factors can be combined in a multi-functional pathway.

1. What do you feel the role of the river's surroundings is in people's lives?
2. Could a pathway be an area that is of importance to your group?
3. Is a potential pathway an area that your group would like to help develop?
4. What role could you see yourselves in regards to the pathway's development?
5. What would you like to see happen along the pathway in the next seven weeks?

The **Two Rivers Urban Park Committee** will be an important stakeholder for us to interview because of their prior experience working in the land between the Black River and Liesbeek River. They will have insight into what progress is feasible and beneficial to surrounding communities.

*Who:* organisers or volunteers

*How/Methods:* This interview will be in the form of a discussion in which the following questions are addressed through fluid conversation. This can be an exchange of ideas in which the interviewee shares the involvement of the Two Rivers Urban Park Committee and we share our research and visions for the pathway through our photo book.

1. What previous work has been done or planned for the land surrounding the rivers?
2. What are some other organisations you have worked with in TRUP?
3. How would a pathway along the Black River fit into your vision for the area?
4. Could you see a farmer's market being successful in this area?

## Second wave of interviews

The second group of interviews consists of established organisations that are related to this project. They are not necessarily integral in building relationships with the communities along the Black River but are useful in planning for a pathway.

The **Friends of the Black River** is a relatively new NGO similar to the Friends of the Liesbeek. Their goal is to revitalise the river and use it to create revenue.

*Who:* organisation leaders and volunteers

*How/Methods:* The following questions will be informally discussed. Since this is a new organisation, the size of the interviewing group might vary. As long as the group is reasonably small, a guided group discussion will be used because the members will be the most knowledgeable about the Black River and can hopefully work off each other and our team to aid in the vision of the pathway.

1. What is the history behind the Black River?
2. How was this organisation formed and who are the founders?
3. What are the main priorities and projects for this organisation?
4. How are you gaining volunteers?
5. How has commitment been since your creation in 2011?
6. What visions do you have for the area surrounding the River?
7. What communities are you interested in working with?

The **Friends of the Liesbeek** is comprised of volunteers whom helped revive the Liesbeek River, which was polluted similarly to the Black River. The Liesbeek River restoration was focused on cleaning the river because it was polluted by commercial buildings making it easy to target and reverse the pollution.

*Who:* organisation leaders and volunteers

*How/Methods:* These questions will be in the form of an informal discussion with the interviewee(s). The discussion will start with broader questions about the Friends of the Liesbeek and end with questions related to Friends of the Black River and river pathway planning.

1. How did this organisation originate and who founded it?
2. How were volunteers organised?
3. How do you keep your volunteers involved?
4. Can just volunteers be left to run this NGO or do you need paid officials?
5. What positions are there in the organisation? How were they filled and by whom?
6. Would your organisation be willing to guide the Friends of the Black River in its early stages?
7. What advice would you give the Friends of the Black River?

The **Raapenberg Bird Sanctuary** is part of Two Rivers Urban Park and it showcases many species of birds living in a more natural habitat. The natural beauty of this area could play a role in a nature/history walk along the Black River. We will determine the sanctuary's potential to fit into our project.

*Who:* workers or coordinators of the bird sanctuary

*How/Methods:* This interviewing process will still be in the form of a discussion but slightly more formal than with the communities. Since this is a business setting, the questions can be asked more directly to the interviewee.

1. Who are the main visitors to the Raapenberg Bird Sanctuary?
2. Would it be disruptive to the area to have a walking tour pass through it?
  - a. If so, is there a way to work with or adjust plans so the sanctuary could still be included in a tour?
  - b. How do you suggest we minimise disruption?
3. Is there anything you would like the sanctuary to be used for that it isn't currently being used for?