

# Wessa Umngeni Valley Hike - 22 March

Report by Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht

An early start brought rich rewards as members of the Midlands Hiking Club set out along the WESSA Umngeni Valley fence line, bordering the scenic Rietvlei Conservancy.



Andrew Loots



Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht

Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht  
22 Mar 2026



22 March 2026 6:18 am

Jen Caruth



Rebecca Wakeford

The soft morning light and mist rising from the valley created a breathtaking backdrop, reminding us of the quiet beauty that makes these hikes so special.



Rebecca Wakeford



Ben Padayachee



Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht



Andrew Loots



Jen Caruth

Our route followed the Rietvlei stream, where we discovered a hidden mini gorge and a canyon waterfall - natural treasures tucked away like secrets waiting to be found. The WESSA Wildlife Protection Rangers accompanied us. Their guidance and generosity added depth to the experience. Together, we contributed to conservation efforts through snare patrols, a small but meaningful way to protect this remarkable landscape.



Beth Bester



Kalina Kerr



Rebecca Wakeford



Kalina Kerr



Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht

The hike was not without its lighter moments. Occasional pauses were needed to regroup, thanks to enthusiastic water frolics and scenic photos.



Andrew Loots



Andrew Loots



Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht  
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Andrew Loots

We rounded off the day with well-earned refreshments at Forty One Restaurant, where laughter and shared stories flowed as freely as the bowls of milk enjoyed by our four-legged companion.



Ben Padayachee



22 March 2026 9:37 am

Jen Caruth



Ben Padayachee



Ben Padayachee

Muddy swims, warm friendships, and the joy of discovery made this outing one to remember.

Gratitude goes to the WESSA Rangers, our fellow hikers, and the spirit of conservation that binds us together.



22 March 2026 4:22 pm

Jen Caruth