
Muizenberg Improvement District: Cleaning and Gardening Services

Monthly Report

April 2016

For review: 02/2014

OPS_002_v001

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1 INTRODUCTION

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) was appointed as the service provider for the cleaning and greening services within the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID), with the mandate to provide a cleaning and maintenance/gardening service team tasked with the following responsibilities over a one-year period:

- To ensure that pavements, streets and fences in the MID area are kept clean and free from litter and weeds;
- To ensure that threats to public health and safety are reported to the MID office; and
- To ensure that various formal and informal green areas are properly maintained, regularly watered and kept free from weeds and litter.

2 OPERATIONAL AREAS

The MID has been divided into 4 operational areas (Figure 1). These areas can be ranked according to their priorities, the latter which has been determined based on the following criteria:

- The volume of people that visit the area on a daily basis;
- Areas where litter build up is rapid and needs constant attention;
- Tourist hot spots;
- Public infrastructure and venues;
- Number of planted areas and gardens; and potential areas where criminal activities could take place.

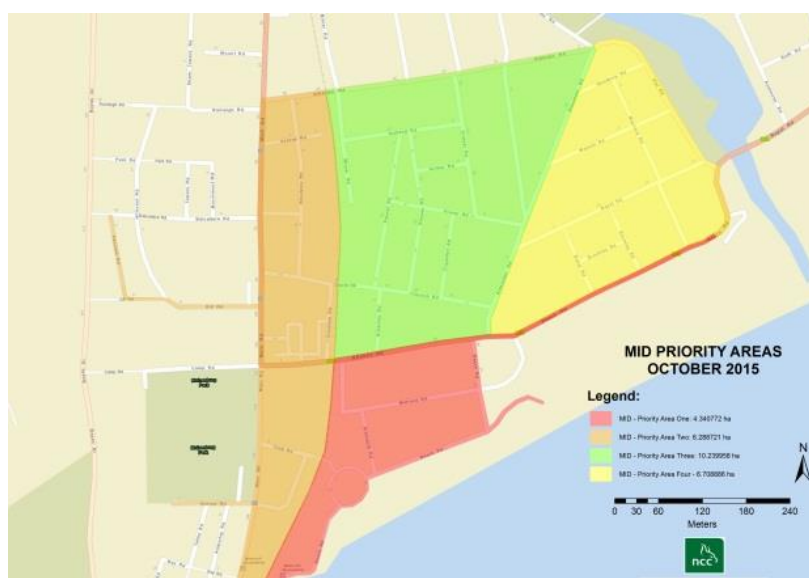


Figure 1: The four Operational Areas of the MID.

2.1 Priority Area One

There are no major issues to report from priority area one for April 2016. Litter cleaning once again takes priority due to the high human traffic volume and fact that this area is favoured by vagrants who unfortunately do add to the litter problem. The team has been requested to pay special attention to the civic centre garden which catches quite a lot of the litter blowing down Atlantic road and which is discarded nearby often ending stuck in and under the bushes.



Figure 1: The core MID team, Vulikhaya, Ayabonga and Lloyd. On Mondays they are assisted by Thandazile.

2.2 Priority Area Two

This area also receives a fair share of traffic, particularly pedestrians from False Bay College thus litter, and occasional sporadic dumping/vagrant dwelling places are the main issues here (see figure 2). Thankfully the dumping that occurred opposite Blue Bottle liquors has not been repeated as far as we are aware.



Figure 2: An area used by street people unfortunately results in a build-up of litter.

Pavement ‘gardens’ such as those behind Checkers are not maintained and could be vastly improved with new planting arrangements of indigenous, and if specifically required thorny plants, thereby improving aesthetics whilst adding a functionality (see figure 3).



Figure 3: Areas that the planting can be restored by NCC for MID on request.

2.3 Priority Area Three

With winter rains starting to occur it is crucial that drains and gutters are kept open. Weeds will also start to encroach again and the team is being kept mindful of these in order to remove them before they grow, spread and become more of an unsightly problem (see figure 4).

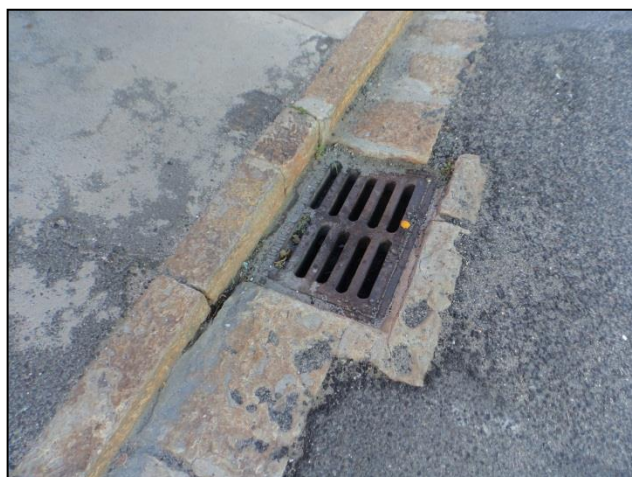


Figure 4: Recently cleaned street drain.

Overhanging plants are once again requiring some maintenance which the MID team will address (see figure 5).



Figure 5: Overhanging branches that will be trimmed near the church road subway.

2.4 Priority Area Four

Priority area 4 has experienced no major issues to report on during April 2016. Pavement weeding and litter blowing in have been the only issues here. Lamp posts are unfortunately also often covered with advertisements that many people take offense to (see figure 6).



Figure 4: Adverts cover a street lamp.

3 GENERAL

Two new MID workers have joined the team, one full time and one on a Monday. Whilst effort is made to ensure the new staff are a good fit and capable to do the job well they do require initial on site training which occurs whilst working with the experienced members of the team for their initial weeks.

Each morning one of the team continues to do a quick check and clean of the Atlantic road bridge wall, Rhodesia road and the Checkers area whilst the rest of the team does a morning and late afternoon check and sweep of Church road and the church road subway (see figure 7).

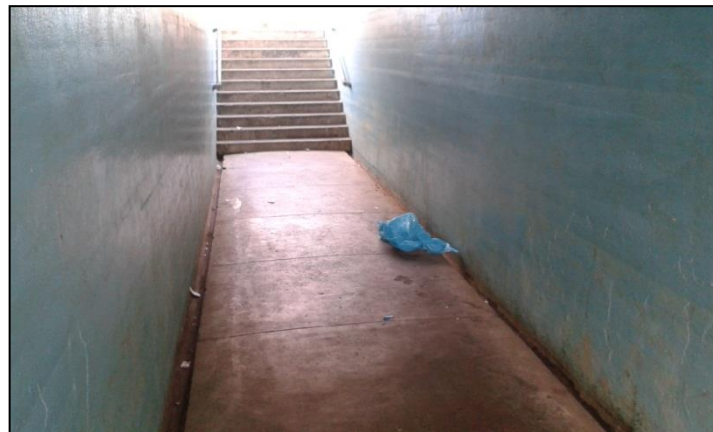


Figure 7: The church road subway seems to catch a lot of litter which is in a way useful but if not addressed does look unpleasant.

Friday mornings one of the team then cleans the new directional signage and maps in priority area 1 and 2 (see figure 8). We have had to reprimand the team for doing this task as a team when it is not required and will endeavour to make sure staff resources are not wasted as one member of the team stands around watching the other.



Figure 8: The new directional signage tends to pick up salt, thus becoming sticky and trapping dust and dirt if not cleaned weekly.

There are many minor issues that detract from Muizenberg as a whole such as the sporadic tagging, broken pavements and potholes. Vacant pieces of land tend to become eyesores and could be transformed to add value to the area if desire and resources combine (see figure 9).

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Figure 9: The open space on Church road has much potential but in its current state detracts from the area. NCC would gladly offer to design a park for space if requested.

4 CONCLUSION

The cleaning team managed to remove 950 black bags of waste from the MID area during April 2016. On site management of the project has once again been a team effort with NCC supervisor away on out-of-town projects and other staff members then maintaining the role during these periods.

The NCC team is striving to continually improve on the techniques and strategy being implemented to keep the MID clean and litter-free. To date the cleaning team has managed to make a significant impact on the visual appeal of the MID area. The guttering systems are constantly maintained to ensure they operate efficiently during the rainy season. All blocked or broken drains and infrastructure noticed during the cleaning operations have been reported to the MID Office to ensure that they are repaired quickly and operate effectively.

We look forward to working with the MID to strengthen this partnership and improve the quality of our services in future.

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