
Muizenberg Improvement District: Cleaning and Gardening Services Monthly Report

For review: 02/2014

OPS_002_v001

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DATED:

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1 INTRODUCTION

In August 2013, NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd. (NCC) was appointed as service provider for providing cleaning and greening services within the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID) for 2014. This contract has since been renewed for another year until 30 June 2015, with the mandate to provide a cleaning and maintenance/gardening service team tasked with the following responsibilities:

- 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.

Daily operational requirements within the MID area are significantly affected by dumping activity and vagrants. Incorrect waste management, especially on refuse collection days, by both residents and businesses within the MID area, has furthermore been identified as a significant contributor to the overall volume of litter found in the MID area. Illegal dumping activities remained generally high during December 2014 and January 2015, mainly in Priority Areas One, Two and Three. Within the last two months these issues become compounded by the prevailing wind conditions which spread sand and litter throughout the area.

An increasing volume of sand is being removed from the guttering system at Surfers Corner, Beach Road and Atlantic Road on an on-going basis. Road works on Main Road, between Atlantic Road and Muizenberg Station, have negatively affected operations in Priority Area Two.

Other challenges still experienced by the team on site include bin pickers and neglected properties.

2 OPERATIONAL AREAS

The MID has been divided into four operational areas (Figure 1). These areas can be ranked according to their priorities, the latter which were 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 need constant attention;
- Tourist hotspots;
- 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

Priority Area One was the most challenging to manage during the December holiday period as the area attracted a large volume of people and in turn generated a large amount of waste. These issues are further exasperated by the prevailing South Easterly wind conditions which caused large volumes of sand to be blown into the area and into the guttering systems along Beach Road, Atlantic Road and Surfers Corner (Figure 2 & 3). These wind conditions also caused large amounts of litter to spread throughout the area. These same conditions were experienced during January, however due to the reduced volume of people visiting the area after the festive season the amount of litter within priority area one has reduced slightly when compared to the volumes experienced in December.

During the December period weekends and public holidays posed a challenge as these were the days in which the largest volumes of people visited the MID area, however, the cleaning team, as well as the City of Cape Town staff were not on duty resulting in a build-up of waste during this period.

Vagrants are a challenge in the area on refuse collection days. Melrose Road is of particular concern to the cleaning team, as they are not scheduled to service this area on Wednesdays. As previously reported, vagrants peruse through refuse bins left out by residents and shop owners on Melrose Road (Figure 4).

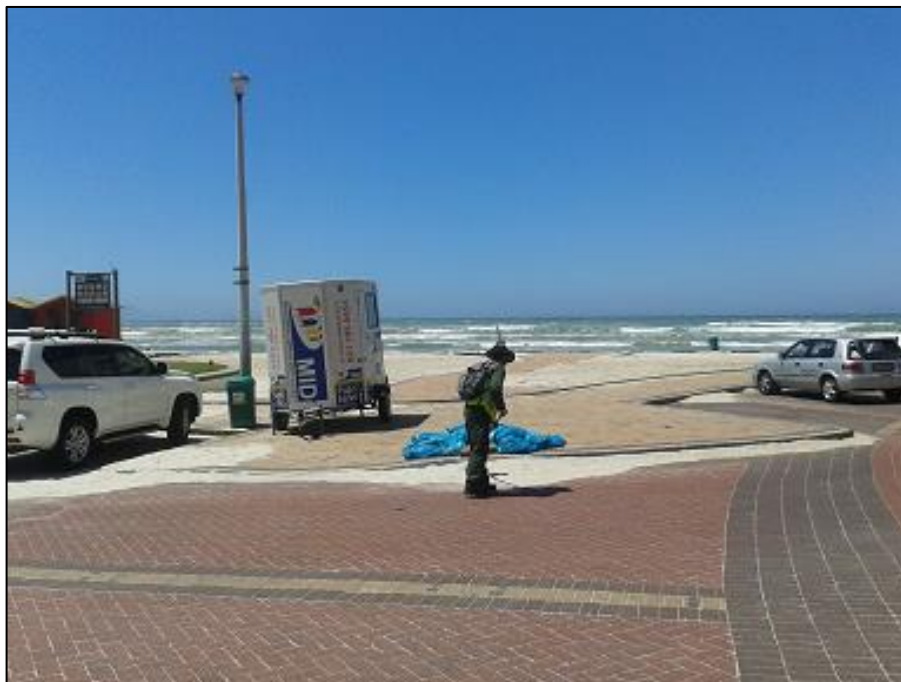


Figure 2: An MID worker sweeping up sand at surfers corner.



Figure 3: Sand build-up at Surfers Corner.



Figure 4: Vagrants perusing through refuse bins in Melrose Road to recover valuables.

2.2 Priority Area Two

The focus areas identified in Priority Area Two include Main Road, the railway crossing on Albertyn Road, the subway on Church Street, Rhodesia Road, York Road, the railway crossing at False Bay College and Muizenberg Station. Illegal dumping and incorrect waste management remains a challenge, though, as excess litter is being carried by the wind and scattered throughout the area e.g. the bin at the Railway crossing at False Bay College has a broken lid and is often stuffed to capacity with litter which inevitably falls out (Figure 7).

Road works on Main Road, between Atlantic Road and Muizenberg Station, are still negatively affecting operations in Priority Area Two. Sections of Main Road, York Road and the York Road parking area have been excavated and are undergoing construction (Figure 5 & 6). As a result of the risk to our staff, and the requirements of the NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd. Health and Safety Policy and Procedures, the team has been requested not to access sections of this area and therefore the area has received limited servicing during December 2014 and January 2015. As a result of roadwork activities, sand has been scattered throughout the surrounding areas.



Figure 5: Road maintenance on Main Road.



Figure 6: Road maintenance on York Road



Figure 7: A bin with a broken lid at the railway crossing at False Bay College and a drain being blocked by litter that possibly originated from the bin.

2.3 Priority Area Three

The team has identified Church Road as being the most challenging road to manage within the MID, as this road consistently experiences high volumes of dumping. During refuse collection, residents and businesses place large items next to refuse bins (Figure 8). These items are not collected by the CoCT Solid Waste during refuse collection and, hence, remain on site after refuse bins have been emptied and removed from site by residents and shop owners. Cars parked on the side of the road in Palmer Road, Killarney and Church Road often block the gutter and make it difficult for MID workers to sweep or collect litter (Figure 9 & 10).

The garden on the Corner of Palmer and Hansen Roads has been well-maintained by residents. The NCC team has been weeding and collecting litter in the area surrounding the garden to increase its aesthetic appeal.



Figure 8: Waste collection site after the municipality emptied the refuse bins. Many items were not taken.



Figure 9: Cars parked on road verges in Church Road.



Figure 10: Cars parked on road verges in Palmer Road.

2.4 Priority Area Four

The focus areas identified in Priority Area Four include: Alexander, Royal, Maynard and Watson Roads. The cleaning teams have managed to open all the over grown water gutters on the Royal Road embankment and parallel gardening area (Figure 11 & 12). These gardens and verges are being maintained weekly as it is important to keep the water channels open.

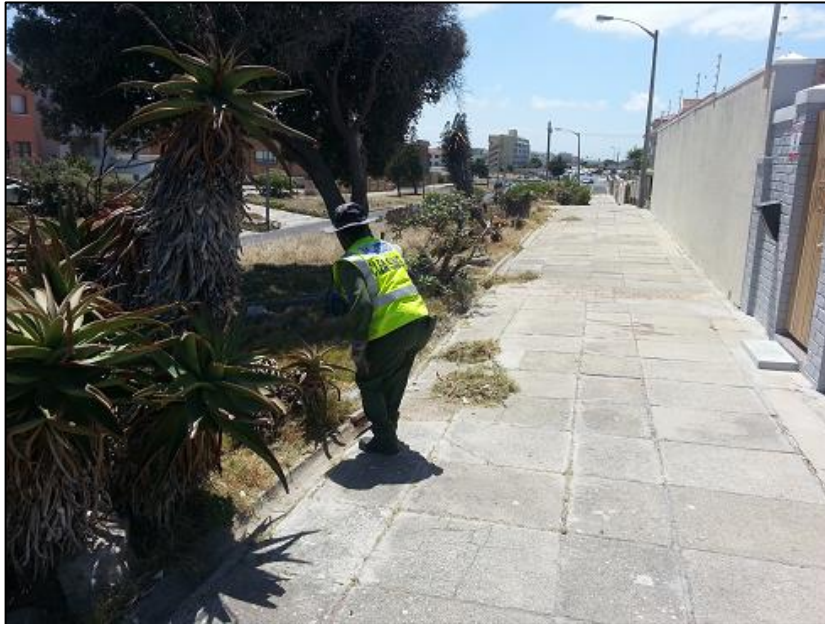


Figure 11: MID Worker performing gutter maintenance on the Royal Road water channel.



Figure 12: The garden at the corner of Royal Road and Alexander Road.

3 CONCLUSION

The cleaning team managed to remove 1750 black bags of waste from the MID area during December 2014 and January 2015, with 700 black bags of waste being removed in December and 1050 being removed in January.

Incorrect waste management systems and dumping continue to be the main contributing factors to the large volume of litter found in the area and it is suggested that additional measures be put in place to mitigate this challenge. An increasing volume of sand is being removed from the guttering system of Priority Areas One and Two due to the dominant South Easter blowing through the area.

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 garden areas are being maintained and, as a result, have been experiencing a dramatic decrease in dumping activity.

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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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Alexander', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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