
Muizenberg Improvement District: Cleaning and Gardening Services

Monthly Report

October 2015

For review: 02/2014

OPS_002_v001

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30 October 2015

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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

Roadworks on Sidmouth and Melrose Road have negatively affected operations in Priority Area One. Sections Sidmouth Road has been excavated and is undergoing construction. As a result of the risk to our staff, and the requirements of the NCC 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.

There was one near-miss incident which occurred in priority area during October 2015. Whilst walking under the Atlantic road railway crossing a construction truck with a large wooden cable spool loaded on the back drove under the bridge and the cable spool collided with the bridge sending wooden shards towards and over the heads of the NCC supervisor and MID team who were walking nearby. Fortunately no injuries were recorded (Figure 2). A 'pre-barrier' that trucks need to go under just before the bridge might be a worthwhile deterrent to prevent continued truck crashes with this bridge.



Figure 2: The Atlantic road railway bridge.

Homeless people using this area also contribute to some of the litter in the area which can be a frustration for the team as the littering often occurs after they have just finished cleaning (Figure 3.a, 3.b., 4.a, 4.b).



Figure 3.a. Before



Figure 3.b. After



Figure 4.a. Before



Figure 4.b. After

In certain places rocks have been displaced from pavement garden areas, possibly by human traffic, which have also been cleared and the pavements cleaned (Figure 5.a. and 5.b.).



Figure 5.a. Before

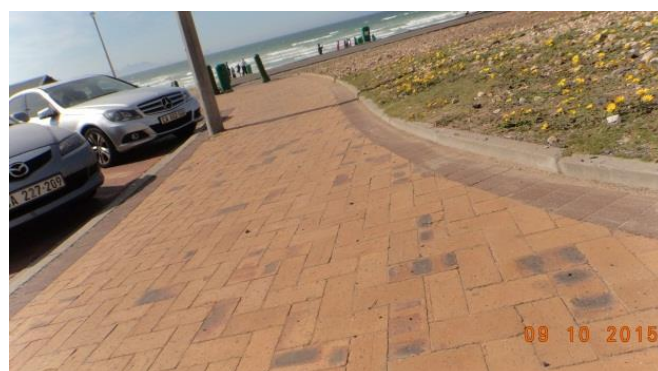


Figure 5.b. After

2.2 Priority Area Two

Roadworks on Main Road, between Atlantic Road and Muizenberg Station, are still negatively affecting operations in Priority Area Two. As a result of the risk to our staff, and the requirements of the NCC 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. The road works in this area are however coming to an end and as such proper servicing should be able to continue without further issue.

2.3 Priority Area Three

Priority Area Three has once again experienced dumping and problems with infrastructure issues. Church Road continues to be a challenge as illegal dumping continues to occur, bins in the road are still broken, some are missing lids, whilst others are often filled beyond capacity and are regularly sifted through by passing vagrants (Figure 6.a, Figure 6.b, Figure 7.a. and 7.b.).

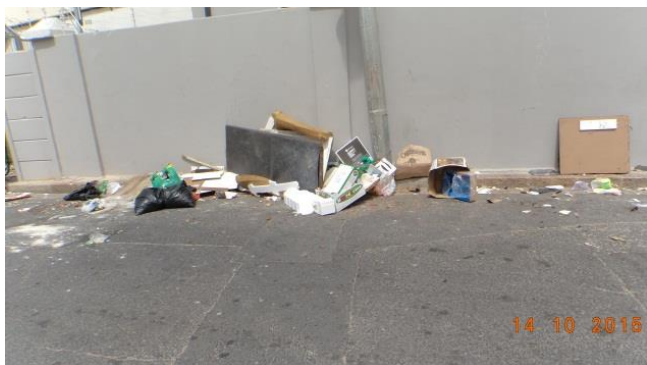


Figure 6.a. Church road.



Figure 6.b. Albertyn road



Figure 7.a. Bin picking.



Figure 7.b. Another overflowing bin.

A large bollard on the corner of Holland road has been knocked over and needs to be replaced (Figure 8).



Figure 8: The broken bollard.

Two valves have been leaking on the corners of Palmer and Hansen adjoining Holland road and are in need of urgent repair as these are wasting water and becoming a safety hazard (Figure 9).



Figure 9: One of the leaking valves on the corner of Palmer and Holland road.

Two drains in Albertyn road and one in Rhodesia have been blocked by sand for a number of weeks now and require the City to unblock (Figure 10).



Figure 10: One of the blocked drains in Albertyn road.

Graffiti has been present on the telephone booths at Holland road for a number of months and should be cleared as this contributes negatively to the area (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Graffiti has been present on this telephone booth for a number of months now.

2.4 Priority Area Four

During October 2015 Priority Area Four experienced no major negative issues. As springtime contributes to accelerated weed growth the team have been asked to keep a special eye on any new growth and remove this before it becomes unsightly. Annual and perennial weeds such as the Cape dandelion *Arctotheca calendula* amongst others in flourishing in the Muizenberg areas and unfortunately often in places such as sidewalks where it is not welcome (Figures 12.a, Figure 12.b)



Figure 12.a. Cape dandelion *Arctotheca calendula*.



Figure 12.b. Pavement cleared of weeds.

3 GENERAL

There are no other incidents or event to report on in Priority Area Two for October 2015 however certain elements could be improved such as the scruffy alien plants growing along the railway lines and the odd cobble stone missing from pavements (Figure 13.a. and 13.b.).

The beach road corner garden has leaking irrigation due to a hole in the pipe resulting in water wastage spilling onto the pavement whilst some sprinkler heads are facing directly into walls and serving no purpose (Figure 14.a and 14.b).

A few areas have small holes in the pavement, usually around infrastructure installations and certain roads are potholed such as Rhodesia (Figure 15.a and 15.b). The road marking are also quite faded and stop signs especially along Albertyn road are in need of painting.

The general planting of the area is not great and could be improved. Some residents have done this however maintenance of their areas is apparently not always a priority resulting in scruffy looking frontages. A few kerb stones are also broken in and around the MID area largely as these are driven over into driveways (Figure 16.a and 16.b).



Figure 13.a. The railway vegetation.

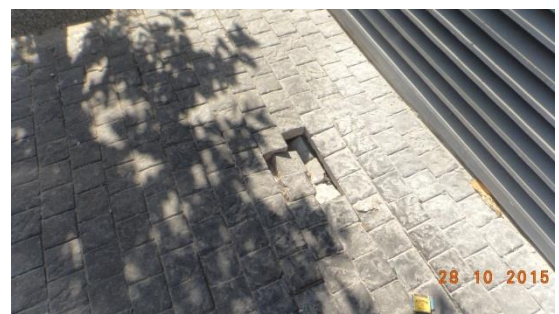


Figure 13.b. Missing cobbles.



Figure 14.a. Irrigation leakage.



Figure 14.b. Misdirected sprinkler head.



Figure 15.a. Unsafe hole.



Figure 15.b. Potholes.



Figure 16.a. Weed infested complex corner.



Figure 16.b. Fractured kerb stones .

4 CONCLUSION

The cleaning team managed to remove 1094 black bags of waste from the MID area during October 2015.

Due to the violent taxi strikes in Capricorn and Vrygrond during October 2015 the MID cleaning staff occasionally needed to come to work in normal clothes and thus avoid being targeted.

Work hours were also shifted around slightly in order to get the team to and from work avoiding peak hours where they were more susceptible to attack from protesters.

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.

PREPARED AND REVIEWED:

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Quinton van Wyk'.

Quinton van Wyk

NCC SLM-Conservation – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

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