
Muizenberg Improvement District: Cleaning and Gardening Services

Monthly Report

May 2015

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DATED:

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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.

The team has made good progress during May 2015, which has resulted in a positive impact on the aesthetic appeal of the MID area. New challenges have been identified and processes have been put in place to mitigate these challenges. Dumping activities and vagrants within the MID Area is a concern and it has a significant impact on daily operational requirements. Incorrect waste management, especially on refuse collection days, by both residents and business within the MID area is has been identified as one of the most significant contributors to the amount of litter found within the MID area. The cleaning team continued their maintenance of the Royal Road garden and Holland Road Garden and has opened and cleaned the guttering system. The cleansing team is still experiencing some challenges on site. These challenges include dumping, bin days, bin pickers, and neglected properties. Due to the change in season the weather conditions in MID have become increasingly wet. This increase in precipitation has impacted operations; however, measures have been put in place to ensure that daily operational requirements are met. Due to this increased precipitation, the growth rate of weeds and other vegetation has also increased and hence, maintenance of these items has been intensified.

A new process has been put into place to assist with the management of infrastructure within the MID. The cleaning team now collects additional information regarding the state of infrastructure in MID eg. Drain, Light Poles, fences etc. while performing their original cleaning and greening functions. This additional information is then compiled and stored in an MID Infrastructure database in order to keep track of issues logged with City of Cape Town (CoCT). A summary of the information stored within the MID Infrastructure database will be submitted with the MID Monthly Reports starting in June 2015.

2 OPERATIONAL AREAS

The MID has been divided into 4 operational areas (refer to 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

Melrose Road still remains a concern for the cleaning team. On the City of Cape Town (CoCT) waste removal days vagrants visit the area and peruse through refuse bins leaving litter scattered all over the pavements and in the street. Excess litter is carried by the wind and scattered throughout the area. This has resulted in a large amount of litter being found behind the railway fence between Atlantic and York Roads and has also resulted in the cleaning team having to spend extended periods of time removing litter from behind the railway fence. The operational plans have been adjusted to ensure that Melrose road is cleaned more often and on Wednesdays specifically, which are the CoCT waste collection days for this area. Road works on

Sidmouth road has resulted in access sand and debris accumulating in this area. Due to these road works the MID cleansing team has not serviced Sidmouth Road during May.



Figure 1: The MID Cleansing team cleaning up after vagrants who peruse through refuse and scatter litter.

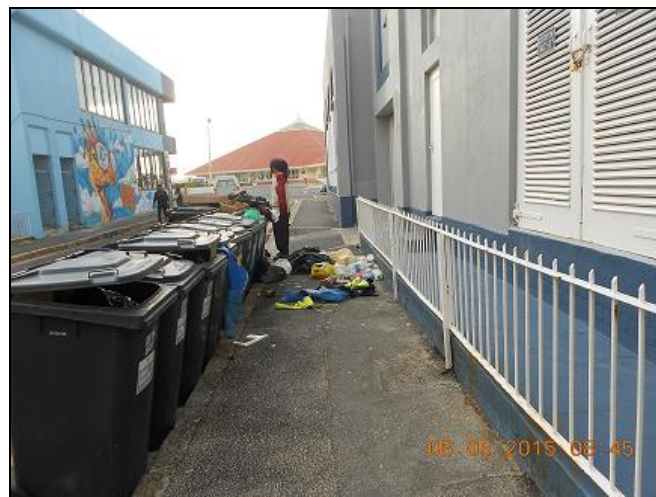


Figure 2: Another picture of litter scattered by a vagrant perusing through refuse in Melrose Road.



Figure 3: Construction underway in Sidmouth Road.

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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 in this area.

Roadworks 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 4 & 5). 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 May 2015.



Figure 4: Road Maintenance activities on the corner of Main Road and York Road.



Figure 5: Road Maintenance activities on Main Road.

2.3 Priority Area Three

Church Road has been identified as the most challenging road to maintain within the MID. Refuse collection days on Church Road have been especially challenging as the majority of bins are broken, missing their lids, filled beyond capacity or, are sifted through by passing vagrants. It has also been noted that there are too few bins placed in Church Road and that the area in front of the Café (house shop) on the corner of Church and Frankfort Roads is a major contributor to the overall waste within this road.

Local businesses and residents who have refuse exceeding the capacity of their bins, often leave this excess refuse next to their bins. The CoCT doesn't collect waste which is placed next to refuse bins by residents or businesses which results in this additional waste being left behind. Refuse collection times differ weekly which makes it difficult to contain this excess waste. This is of particular concern in Church Road where large items such as chairs, plumbing parts and boards are often left out for collection.

The garden on the corner of Palmer and Holland Road have been weeded, pruned and cleaned by the MID team to increase the aesthetic appeal of these areas. Pruning activities were also undertaken on the vegetation growing along the railway fence at Milner Road.

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Figure 6: Holland Road Garden after being cleaned and weeded by the MID Cleansing team.



Figure 7: Incorrect waste management in Church Road.



Figure 8: Church road as it was left by the CoCT waste collectors.

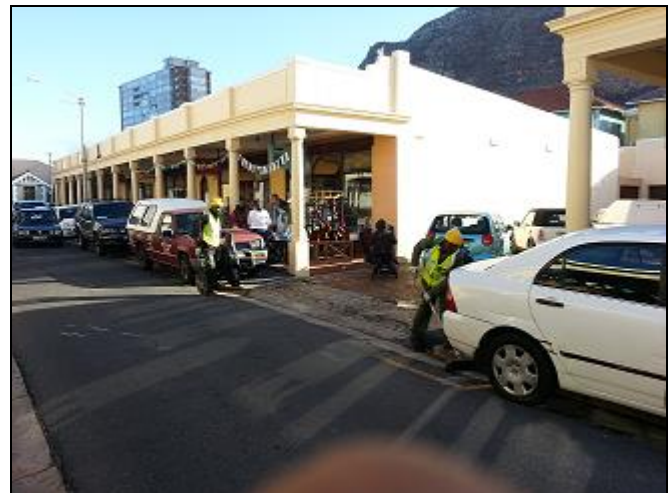


Figure 9: MID workers cleaning Palmer Road before the monthly Palmer Road Night Market

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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 areas. These gardens and verges are being maintained weekly as it is important to keep the water channels open during the winter months.

The Sour Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) garden area along Vlei Road was also trimmed and weeded by the MID Cleansing team during May.



Figure 10: Incorrect waste management in Priority Area Four.



Figure 11: Another example of Incorrect waste management in Priority Area Four.



Figure 12: Holland Road Garden after being cleaned by the MID Cleansing team.



Figure 13: Another picture of the Holland Road Garden after being cleaned and weeded.



Figure 14: The Vlei Road Sour Fig Garden before being trimmed and weeded.



Figure 15: Another picture of the Vlei Road Sour Fig Garden before being trimmed and weeded.

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Figure 16: The Vlei Road Sour Fig Garden after being trimmed and weeded.

3 CONCLUSION

The cleaning team managed to remove 1174 black bags of waste from the MID area during May 2015.

The maintenance of the Holland Road garden, The Vlei Road (Sour Fig) garden, the Royal Road guttering system and garden, as well as pruning activities conducted along Milner road has contributed to the increased amount of bags used during this month. As such, the garden areas have been maintained and the guttering system has been opened and cleaned. Incorrect waste management systems and dumping have been flagged as the main contributing factors to the large volume of litter found in 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 guttering systems will be monitored closely during the winter months to ensure that they function properly.

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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