

## GRASS-CUTTING POLICY

Item B-ET (07-2006) MC 18/01/2007	METRO PARKS: GRASS CUTTING TURN-AROUND STRATEGY
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### RESOLVED:

1. That the report on the outcome of the Turn around Strategy for Grass cutting **BE NOTED**.
2. That the Turn-around Strategy for grass cutting, the job cards and the revised grass cutting policy dated July 2006, attached to the report as **Annexures "A", "B" and "C2"** respectively, **BE APPROVED** and **IMPLEMENTED**.
3. That the existing Grass-cutting Policy attached as **Annexure "C1"** to the report **BE RESCINDED**.



# Ekurhuleni

## METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

### **Policy for Grass Cutting of Parks and Other Facilities**

#### **1. Preamble**

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality being on the gate way into the country has the responsibility of presenting the best image of the country as visitors get into the country. The municipality also has the responsibility and is committed to providing world class parks, flower gardens, side walks, nature reserves, recreational facilities, cemeteries, monuments and other related facilities to residents of the municipality.

In this regard, the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has resolved to promulgate this grass cutting policy to guide the delivery of services related to the development and maintenance of parks, public open spaces, cemeteries and related facilities.

#### **2 The Overall Objective of the Department**

The overall objective of the department is to provide world class parks, side walks, public open spaces, cemeteries, sports and recreational facilities and services. Other related services and facilities that shall be provided shall include arts, culture and heritage facilities.

#### **3. Principles in the provision of parks and related services shall include:**

- Equitable levels of parks and other related facilities to all communities of the Metropolitan Municipality
- Equitable access to parks and all other related facilities to all communities of the municipality
- The use of parks and other facilities shall be regulated and guided by by-laws of the municipality
- Such by-laws shall be enforced by the Metropolitan Municipality.

#### **4. Organisation for Grass Cutting**

To ensure effective provision of grass cutting and other related services, the current structure, unless changed by the municipality, shall be adopted by all regions of the municipality

- The Municipality is divided into the Three Regions; the Northern Region, the Eastern Region and the Southern Region.

- Each region shall be divided into Area One and Area Two,
- Each Area shall be serviced by three teams; Team One, Team Two and Team Three,
- The division of the Regions into Areas, and the Areas into Teams shall be on the basis of equality of service areas.

## **5. Allocation of Resources**

The allocation of resources including human resources, machinery and equipment and finance between regions, areas and teams shall be done so as to:

- Ensure that services are delivered to the standards required
- Ensure equity between the regions, areas and teams.

## **6. Norms and Standards for Grass Cutting**

The following norms and standards shall be applicable, until such time as they shall be modified:

- Flagship parks including parks and sidewalks around metropolitan municipal and State buildings shall be serviced in 4 cycles a month, with the grass cut to between 25—50 mm
- Other developed parks and cemeteries should be maintained in 4 cycles a month with the grass cut to a maximum height of 50 mm
- Undeveloped parks including open public open spaces shall be maintained in a once a month cycle, with the grass cut to a maximum height of 150 mm.
- Street corners shall be cut as often as needed as a safety precaution for motorists,
- The Municipality shall have the right to change the norms and standards for grass cutting based on any considerations including international experience.

## **7. Maintenance of Land not Owned by the Municipality**

- No State or privately owned land such as churches, schools, police stations etc. shall be maintained by the Municipality. The maintenance of sidewalks in residential areas shall be the responsibility of the residents,
- The Municipality shall to the extent possible make available to the State, private individuals, churches etc. the Municipality's grass cutting norms and standards for their use.
- The Municipality shall have the responsibility of cutting grass along the main routes that go through the Municipality.

## **8. Maintenance of Servitudes in Residential Areas**

The Municipality shall, when informed, allow residents to plant grass and or flowers on servitudes, with the understanding that the Municipality shall have the right of access to the servitude without prior information to the residents for the purpose of repairing water pipes, telephone lines, power cables etc.

## **9 Management of Grass Cutting Activities by Private Entities**

The Municipality's Department of Health shall oversee the maintenance of privately owned parks, open spaces, and servitudes. In this regard, the Department of Health shall:

- Inform owners of privately owned, state owned facilities of the Municipality's grass cutting norms and standards
- Carry out periodic inspection of the privately owned, state owned facilities to ensure that the norms and standards are maintained
- Enforce the grass cutting standards and norms by using Municipality by-laws
- Inform the Municipality Metro Parks Department of the grass cutting status of privately owned, state owned facilities.

## **10. The Use and Appointment of Contractors**

With regards to contractors, the Municipality shall:

- Make use of contractors to cut grass and maintain undeveloped parks, public open spaces etc.
- Appoint such contractors on tender basis and in accordance with relevant policies of the Municipality on appointment of service providers.
- Continue to maintain flagships, developed parks and cemeteries
- Use freed resources from the maintenance of undeveloped parks as the result of using contractors to provide other primary services of the department

## **11. Involvement of Communities**

The Municipality shall to the extent possible involve communities in the maintenance of parks. This shall include:

- Grass cutting activities in parks located in the community
- Painting and maintenance of playing equipment
- Litter picking

And to ensure the effective involvement of communities in the provision of above services, the Municipality shall:

- Remunerate communities for their services in maintaining the parks
- Support the communities through capacity building programs
- Provide mentorship support to the communities
- Support communities to set up Community Based Organisations as a strategy to sustain the program

**12. Other Considerations**

- Councillors shall be provided with the schedule of grass cutting indicating the programme of grass cutting in their areas.
- Councillors shall be encouraged to provide feedback to the Department head on issues of grass cuffing affecting their areas.
- The Municipality shall have the right to change or amend this policy as conditions dictate.