

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 8 March 2012

HC/05/2012

Management of Promenades under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the management of promenades under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

BACKGROUND

2. LCSD develops and manages a wide range of recreational and sports facilities in Hong Kong for the enjoyment of members of the public and for the purposes of promoting a healthy lifestyle and sport for all. Among the over 1 500 parks and playgrounds managed by the department, around 37 public open spaces such as promenades, gardens, children playgrounds and sitting-out areas of varying sizes are located along the Victoria Harbour waterfront. A list of the venues and their facilities are set out in **Annex**.

DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF PROMENADES

Design and Facilities

(a) The Planning Process

3. LCSD keeps an open mind on how public open space should be designed and managed, and attaches great importance to the stakeholders' views in drawing up the scope and design of the project through continuous public engagement. Insofar as new open spaces and promenades at the harbourfront are concerned, LCSD would take into account the needs of the local community, the site conditions and constraints, as well as the need to ensure good connectivity and accessibility to the waterfront in drawing up the project scope for

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endorsement by the Home Affairs Bureau. The proposal will then be forwarded to the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) for preparing the proposed conceptual design layout. As and when the draft conceptual design is available, LCSD will consult relevant stakeholders including the relevant District Council (DC) and Task Force of the Harbourfront Commission (HC). Thereafter, LCSD would revise the scope and design of the open spaces/promenades for ArchSD to prepare the Technical Feasibility Study. We also need to consult the relevant Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on the scope of the project, before seeking funding approval from the Public Works Sub-committee of the LegCo Finance Committee.

4. Taking the Runway Park Phase I project as an example, having consulted the Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development of the HC, LCSD has drawn up a simplified design for the Park to provide extensive lawn and soft landscaped areas. For Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 2, LCSD organized a venue management workshop with participation of members of the HC and Kwun Tong DC before the first layout design was worked out. The early engagement of different stakeholders has facilitated the design process.

(b) Creative Elements in LCSD projects

5. LCSD attaches high priority to the injection of creative elements into its parks and promenades to enliven their atmosphere and enhance user-friendliness. One major initiative is the Park Deco Scheme (Phase I) launched at the waterfront of Quarry Bay Park in May 2011, where LCSD partnered with local artists/designers and installed three sets of creative park furniture and a new signage system under the theme of "Oasis along the Seashore". The project was well received by the public. We are now implementing Phase II of the Scheme at the Cornwall Street Park in Kowloon Tong where three sets of interesting and creative park furniture and a new signage system are being installed. The project will be completed in the second half of 2012. One important deliverables of the Scheme is to draw up a set of design parameters for adoption/reference by the relevant departments in

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designing new parks or renovating existing parks. Meanwhile, the Art Promotion Office of LCSD will continue to explore with ArchSD in co-organizing public arts projects at new LCSD parks, such as the one being organized for the new Town Park and Indoor Velodrome-cum-Sports Centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O.

Usage and Management

(a) Designated Use

6. Public pleasure grounds, including promenades, are managed by LCSD for general leisure and recreational purposes, i.e. designated uses. When managing such uses, the department exercises flexibility where possible and justified, with a view to striking a balance between the sometimes conflicting needs of the users. For example, whilst some people enjoy cycling, skateboarding or walking their dogs in the promenades, other users may be concerned about the potential risks of bicycles and skateboards to other users especially the elderly and children, or they may find dogs a nuisance or even a threat. LCSD tries to balance the needs and concerns of different users, for instance, by designating specific areas in the parks for cycling and pet corners after consultation with the local community. In recent years, we have developed more pet gardens to address the needs of the rising number of dog owners, and some of them are located at our promenades or venues along the waterfront, including the cycling tracks at West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade and Quarry Bay Park; and the pet gardens at Central and Western District Promenade (Sheung Wan Section) and North Point Promenade. We will continue to explore the possibility of providing these two types of facilities in new and existing promenades.

(b) Non-designated Use

7. Apart from designated uses, LCSD also makes available its promenades and other leisure venues for non-designated uses such as community activities, public gatherings, carnivals and musical performances. As such activities usually involve large number of

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participants and the erection of temporary structures (e.g. stages), LCSD has formulated guidelines to facilitate bookings of leisure venues for non-designated use to ensure that they are organized in a safe and orderly manner. In 2011, we approved over 3 000 applications for non-designated uses in our leisure venues, about 500 of them were held at promenades.

(c) Arts and Cultural Activities at Promenades

8. LCSD has injected an arts and culture dimension into our pleasure grounds in recent years. The promenades managed by the department are available for booking by organisations for holding arts and cultural activities. Besides, arts works are displayed on a permanent basis in various promenades managed by LCSD such as the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade. In addition, LCSD has launched the following arts projects in parks -

- (i) **ArtAlive@Parks** – LCSD has since 2010 partnered with local tertiary institutions to bring arts to the community through the installation of artworks in major parks. For 2012, artworks produced by students of three local tertiary institutions will be displayed in phases at three waterfront parks, namely, the Tsim Sha Tsui East Waterfront Podium Garden (from February to May 2012), Tai Po Waterfront Park (July to September 2012) and the Stanley Promenade (November 2012 to January 2013). Through displaying artworks of student artists in highly patronized LCSD major parks, the scheme also helps nurture the creativity of a new generation of young artistic talents and contributes to audience building.
- (ii) **Open Stage** – LCSD launched the "Open Stage" pilot scheme at the piazzas of Hong Kong Cultural Centre (HKCC), Shatin Town Hall (STTH) and Kwai Tsing Theatre (KTT) in July 2010 to provide opportunities for performers to showcase their talents and enable the public to appreciate the arts at leisure. In line with similar practices in some other overseas countries, auditioned and

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qualified performers may register for performance sessions at specified times on a first-come, first-served basis, and at no charge. No stringent criteria are adopted for the auditions which are meant only to ensure that performances are commensurate with the image of these prime cultural piazzas. However, following a review of the pilot scheme, and in view of the low level of patronage at HKCC and KTT, the Administration has decided that "Open Stage" will continue at the STHH on a long-term basis.

Refreshment or Retail Outlets

9. LCSD currently provides about 100 refreshment kiosks/outlets in its leisure venues, including a restaurant and a refreshment kiosk at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade; and a fast food kiosk at the promenade between Central Piers 3 and 4. Depending on the demands for refreshment facilities, LCSD keeps an open mind to provide such facilities in our parks and promenades. It will invite interested parties to bid for the operation of various outlets at its promenades and award contracts to the successful bidders.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

10. Like other public pleasure grounds such as parks and playgrounds, promenades are managed by LCSD under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132) and the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (PGR) made thereunder. Under the legal framework of PGR, LCSD is vested with the statutory authority to manage public pleasure grounds, meeting the diverse leisure and recreational needs of the public and ensuring that activities in our pleasure grounds are conducted in a safe and orderly manner. The Regulation prohibits activities which may cause physical harm or danger to other park users or damage public property (e.g., lighting a fire other than in an area set aside for cooking, erecting unauthorised structures, tampering with hot wax and defacing or damaging any wall or fences in the parks). There are also provisions seeking to ensure that activities conducted in the pleasure grounds will not cause

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unacceptable nuisance to other users, e.g., making noise to the annoyance of others. The guiding principle is to facilitate users' enjoyment of the public open space in widest possible ways as long as they do not cause safety or hygiene problems, or create unacceptable nuisance to other users.

11. For a public open space that is not designated as a public pleasure ground under PGR or vested in a specific authority (e.g. Urban Renewal Authority, Housing Authority), it will have a status of "unallocated government land" and be managed by an array of government departments such as Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Police, Transport Department and Highways Department, each exercising their respective statutory authority in carrying out management and law enforcement functions such as street cleansing, hawker control and enforcement against noise nuisance and smoking, where applicable.

WAY FORWARD

12. LCSD will continue to plan and manage our promenades under the guiding principle of facilitating different users to enjoy these public open spaces in a diversified and harmonious way. We will continue to develop new initiatives, and keep an open mind towards new ideas put forward by stakeholders, so as to optimise the design and use of promenades for the benefit of the community.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
March 2012

**LCSD Leisure Venues/Facilities along Victoria Harbour
(as at February 2012)**

District	Name of Venue		Major Facilities Provided
Wan Chai	1.	Wan Chai Temporary Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Viewing Platform – Landscaped Area
Central and Western	2.	Central and Western Promenade – Sheung Wan Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pet corner – Landscape Area – Tai Chi corner
	3.	Central Pier Waterfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape Area
	4.	Pier 3 Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscaped Area
	5.	Pier 2 Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscaped Area
	6.	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Artificial Turf Soccer Pitches – Basketball Court – Children Play Area – Elderly Fitness Station
	7.	Kennedy Town Temporary Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hard-surface Soccer Pitches – Basketball Court
Eastern	8.	Siu Sai Wan Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children Play Area – Hard-surface Soccer Pitches – Elderly Fitness Station – Fitness Station – Pebble Walking Trail
	9.	Aldrich Bay Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children Play Area – Basketball Court – Fitness Station – Pebble Walking Trail – Tai Chi Area
	10.	North Point Ferry Concourse Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arbours – Landscaped Area
	11.	North Point Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pet Corner – Pebble Walking Trail – Elderly Fitness Station
	12.	Hang Fa Chuen Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hard-surface Soccer Pitches – Children Play Area – Elderly Fitness Station
	13.	Tong Shui Road Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children Play Area – Pebble Walking Trail – Elderly Fitness Station
	14.	Man Hong Street Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arbours – Landscaped Area

District	Name of Venue		Major Facilities Provided
	15.	Provident Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children Play Area – Arbours – Landscaped Area
	16.	Whitfield Road Rest Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pergolas – Landscaped Area
	17.	Fu Hong Street Sitting-out Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pavilion – Landscaped Area
	18.	Sai Wan Ho Harbour Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fitness Station – Pebble Walking Trail
	19.	Quarry Bay Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tennis Court – Artificial Turf Soccer Pitches – Basketball Court – Jogging Track – Cycling Track – Walking Tile – Fitness Station – Elderly Fitness Station – Children Play Area
Yau Tsim Mong	20.	Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscaped Area – Arbours – General Restaurant – Light Refreshment Kiosk – Souvenir Stores at Avenue of Stars – Mobile Carts at Avenue of Star for selling of snacks & drinks
	21.	West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscaped Area – Children Play Area – Bicycle Kiosk – Cycling Ground – Cycling Track
	22.	Hoi Fai Road Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscaped Area
Kowloon City	23.	Hung Hom Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rain Shelter
	24.	Hoi Sham Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children Play Area – Elderly Fitness Station – Hard-surface Soccer Pitch – Basketball Court – Light Refreshment Kiosk
	25.	Tai Wan Shan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sitting Out Area
Kwun Tong	26.	Kwun Tong Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 200 metre Long Seaside Boardwalk – Performance Area – Spectator Stand

District	Name of Venue		Major Facilities Provided
			– Children Play Area
	27.	Lei Yue Mun Typhoon Shelter Breakwater Sitting-out Area	– Landscaped Area – Arbours
	28.	Lei Yue Mun Waterfront Sitting-out Area	– Landscaped Area – Arbours
	29.	Lei Yue Mun Rest Garden	– Landscaped Area – Arbours – Children Play Area
	30.	Hoi Bun Road Sitting-out Area	– Landscaped Area – Arbours
Kwai Tsing	31.	Tsing Yi Promenade	– Jogging Tracks – Pebble Walking Trail – Elderly Fitness Stations – Piazza – Fitness Stations – Children Play Area
	32.	Cheung Fai Road Promenade	– Pavilions – Landscaped Area
	33.	Tsing Yi Northeast Park	– Artificial Turf Soccer Pitch with Spectator Stand – Basketball cum Volleyball Courts – Piazza – Skateboard Arena – Cycling Track – Children Cycling Track – Gateball Court – Jogging Trail with Fitness Stations – Children Play Area
Tsuen Wan	34.	Tsuen Wan Riviera Park	– Hard-surface Soccer Pitch – Gateball Court – Tennis Court – Basketball cum Volleyball Court – Elderly Fitness Station
	35.	Tsuen Wan Park	– Children Play Area – Fitness Station – Elderly Fitness Station – Pet Garden – Tennis Court – Gateball Court – Amphitheatre – Light Refreshment Kiosk – Lookout Tower cum

District	Name of Venue		Major Facilities Provided
			Bridge – Children Cycling Park – Walking Tile
	36.	Ting Kau Village Playground	– Children Play Area – Elderly Fitness Station
	37.	Ting Kau Sitting-out Area	– Landscaped Area – Fitness Station – Sitting Benches