

## “Classification and Definition of Overall Green Spaces in Macao”

Based on the conditions/nature of the green spaces across Macao, its overall green spaces are differentiated into public green spaces and private green spaces. The green spaces under the management of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) fall within the scope of public green spaces, whereas those managed by other public departments are also public green spaces but not under its management. The green spaces managed by IAM can be classified into four categories, namely those in parks/gardens, leisure areas/green belts, hill forests and other green spaces.

<b>Green spaces under the management of IAM</b>			
<b>Green spaces in parks/gardens</b>	<b>Green spaces in leisure areas/green belts</b>	<b>Green spaces in hill forests</b>	<b>Other green spaces</b>
<b>1) Parks/Gardens</b>	<b>1) Leisure areas</b>	<b>1) Walking trail network in Macao</b>	<b>1) Wetlands</b>
<b>2) Country parks</b>	<b>a) Leisure areas for the community</b>	<b>a) Country trails</b>	<b>2) Farms/Farmlands</b>
	<b>b) Leisure areas of urban blocks</b>	<b>b) Fitness trails</b>	<b>3) Artificial lakes</b>
	<b>2) Green belts</b>	<b>i) Cycling tracks</b>	<b>4) Dog parks</b>
		<b>2) Hill forests in Macao</b>	<b>5) Squares/Plazas (green spaces)</b>
			<b>6) Plant nurseries</b>
			<b>7) Viewing platforms</b>
			<b>8) Fishing areas</b>
			<b>9) Others</b>

### **Article 1**

#### **Overall green spaces in Macao**

The overall green spaces in Macao refer to all the public green spaces and private green spaces across Macao (encompassing Macao Peninsula, Taipa, Coloane and Cotai reclamation zone).

## **Article 2**

### **Public green spaces**

Public green spaces refer to the green spaces under the jurisdiction/management of or owned by the Macao Special Administrative Region.

## **Article 3**

### **Private green spaces**

Private green spaces refer to green spaces not under the jurisdiction/management of nor owned by the Macao Special Administrative Region in general, including green spaces of roads, car parks, residential buildings, gardens and parks.

## **Article 4**

### **Green spaces managed or owned by IAM**

The open spaces managed by IAM serve ecological and landscape purposes in general, and are used for leisure, recreation and disaster prevention. Besides parks/gardens of varied sizes, refuge islands along streets, walkways without plant coverage, open spaces and squares/plazas are as well included. IAM grows different plants in these areas according to the areas' sizes and functionalities, and sets up facilities therein to create conditions for the public to engage in assorted activities in a better environment, which is hoped to contribute to the maintenance of ecological balance and microclimate improvement.

#### **I. Green spaces in parks/gardens**

These refer to green spaces that are opened to the public and whose primary function is for leisure and recreation besides serving ecological and landscape beautification purposes, and are conducive to disaster prevention and mitigation. They include parks/gardens and country parks, which vary in size and scale, and are fitted with recreational and service facilities, serving as an important indicator of overall urban environmental quality and of the life quality of residents.

##### **1) Parks/Gardens**

They are the public green spaces created within the living environments of residents that are fitted with public facilities. They are of specific boundaries and land areas, with clearly defined entrance(s) and exit(s), and their opening hours are generally time-bound. Ornamental

landscaping may be utilised and diverse facilities are available therein, such as those that are for leisure, recreation and sports, according to the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods. They provide residents of all age groups with open spaces for leisure, enjoyable viewing, recreation, disaster prevention and for holding different types of collective cultural activities.

## 2) Country parks

They are the green spaces in the hill forests across the countryside, which are far away from the downtown areas, and are planned out, built and financed by the government. They contain a variety of natural landforms, ecosystems and landscapes, complemented with public service facilities, and serve multiple purposes, such as ecological conservation, education towards popularisation of science, outdoor activities and for enjoyment of nature.

## II. Green spaces in leisure areas/green belts

They are the green leisure spaces for residents of residential areas, with land areas smaller than that of parks/gardens, and with fewer facilities. They are for leisure and recreation, and whose functions serve the urban road and transport infrastructure. They are simple in design and with less biodiversity.

### 1) Leisure areas

There are the green spaces attached to pedestrian crossing facilities and located within close proximity of community districts or urban blocks. They are highly accessible, easy for the public to visit, relax and do exercise in, landscaped with green areas and fitted with leisure and workout facilities, such as seats, gazebos and fitness equipment for adults. Most of them are open all day long, without clearly defined entrance(s) and exit(s), and the varieties of vegetation therein and their arrangements are simple, hence with less biodiversity. As the design and standard requirements for leisure areas are relatively simple, their creation does not require many specific conditions.

#### a) Leisure areas for the community

Leisure areas whose land area exceeds 1,000 square metres.

#### b) Leisure areas of urban blocks

Leisure areas whose land area is under 1,000 square metres.

2) Green belts

Green belts are used as the separate strips created along public traffic roads, including green belts for separation of traffic lanes, roadside green spaces and green spaces at roundabouts. Trees, shrubs or flowering plants are planted therein, as determined by actual conditions. The vegetation creates a green barrier that beautifies the urban landscape, blocks the exhaust particles emitted by road traffic and purifies the air. For effective vegetation management and maintenance, and that the plants do not obstruct or interfere with the road user sight lines, the vegetation species used for green belts are more selective and require proper pruning and trimming at regular intervals to ensure driving safety.

**III. Green spaces in hill forests**

These refer to open green spaces spread across hills with stable vegetation growth, land covered with trees, streams and brooks. They are characterised by higher biodiversity and serve ecological, landscape, disaster prevention, leisure and recreational purposes while allowing the public to be in close contact with nature.

1) Walking trail network in Macao

The trails mainly serve as fire barriers to prevent hill fires and provide safe hiking paths for hikers, where they can look at the distant scenery from the hill and enjoy the natural surroundings.

a) Country trails

They are more difficult hiking trails located across scenic wooded areas which take longer hours to complete. Trail signs and distance posts are placed along the way for hikers to locate their positions.

b) Fitness trails

Located in parks/gardens or along waterfront cycling tracks, these fitness trails take a shorter time to complete and without much difficulty. A variety of facilities and equipment are available along the

way for fitness training and early morning exercise.

i) Cycling tracks

Long paths exclusively for mechanically-propelled bicycles that are separated from motor traffic by vegetation planted along their way for greening purpose. They serve for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, and allow them to get in touch with nature.

2) Hill forests in Macao

These refer to richly vegetated hill lands in Macao where wildlife live and reproduce. There are hardly any human presence nor convenient transport connections. Macao is located on low-lying terrain with most of its forested areas found in hilly lands and comprised of indigenous tree species. The hills in Macao Peninsula are usually below 200 metres in altitude while those in the outlying islands are considerably bigger, higher in altitude and complemented by country trails and other facilities for use by public during their countryside outings.

#### **IV. Other green spaces**

In addition to the green spaces in parks/gardens, leisure areas/green belts and hill forests, the other green spaces managed by IAM consist mainly of conserved wetlands, green spaces for leisure, sports activities, farming experiences and those that serve as plant nurseries.

1) Wetlands

Wetlands are the transition between terrestrial and aquatic systems. According to the international Ramsar Convention, wetlands are broadly defined as “areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.” This shows that wetlands can be freshwater, brackish or salt.

2) Farms/Farmlands

They are premises dedicated to sustainable farming and promoting nature education by integrating with natural ecosystems, plantation of vegetation and raising of animals and composting. The plots of farmland

are available for rental and guided tours by appointment are provided to allow the public to enjoy the fun of farming and experience nature.

### 3) Artificial lakes

In general, they are small lakes or reservoirs artificially created through excavation or by enclosure. Their construction are well-planned and purposeful, mainly intended for urban flood discharge, water storage to meet livelihood needs of people, for ornamental, ecological, leisure and recreational purposes or land development. Landscape facilities are found within their surroundings to provide outdoor spaces for public leisure and activities.

### 4) Dog parks

They are the outdoor spaces created in urban areas for the exclusive use of dog owners to walk their dogs, where the dogs can exercise their body, and enjoy more freedom and human-dog interactions. These designated green places with public facilities, specific boundaries and clearly defined entrance(s) and exit(s) are usually time-bound.

### 5) Squares/Plazas (green spaces)

They are multi-purpose outdoor open spaces for public activities, of varied sizes and scales, as determined by urban road planning, and are built around specific themes. A variety of landscaping materials are in place, ranging from trees and vegetation, flowerbeds, lawns, pools, fountains, sculptures, footpaths to small architectural structures, and regular geometric shapes are often used in the layout design of the squares/plazas. They are intended for cultural, political, commercial and leisure purposes, and serve as a gathering spot, space separator and cooling shelter.

### 6) Plant nurseries

They are green spaces mainly for plant cultivation and production of seeds, flowers, grasses and tree nurseries provided for green belts, parks/gardens and hill forests in Macao, and are equipped with simple greenhouses in arbour structures and a variety of equipment for cultivation of seedlings.

7) Viewing platforms

They are high grounds located in close proximity of hills and waterfronts, or enclosed areas at the edge of high points intended for public to enjoy far-distance views or for observation purpose.

8) Fishing areas

Areas intended for the public to engage in fishing activities.

9) Others

These refer to green spaces not included in the definitions of green spaces managed or owned by IAM, such as venues for flower shows.

### **Article 5**

#### **Green spaces managed or owned by other public departments of Macao Special Administrative Region**

Green spaces managed or owned by the public departments (excluding IAM) of the Macao Special Administrative Region, in which some of them are entrusted to IAM to assist in their management and maintenance.

Appendix

