



Large Urban Park Award

Award Category: International Award for a “Large Urban Park”.

Presented by: World Urban Parks

Presented each year at a World Urban Parks International or Regional Congress, wherever most suitable.

Award Application Process:

World Urban Parks invites all parks around the world to apply for the Large Urban Parks Award. Large urban parks are very different. Some are well-groomed parks in the midst of a city, others are landscape parks on the periphery of a city. Some may contain deep forests, others agricultural areas. Some may be old, filled with historic heritage, others newly created. Climate differs and offers various types of nature. Usage differs from heavily populated to sparsely visited green spaces. All kinds of large urban parks are welcome to apply for an Award. All parks applying will receive a written recommendation for improvement.

Submissions of applications shall be made in a form for applications, accessible at World Urban Parks website, and submitted no later than the *14th of May*. The fee for applying is NZD 550 for World Urban Parks members and NZD 800 for non-members. The different application fees are motivated by greater ease to evaluate member parks. Applications will not be registered until the fee has been paid. The Award is given for just the year of its delivery. Parks may apply again any following year, regardless of earlier Awards.

Jury: The jury is made up of three to six jurors, appointed by the Board and the three regional committees of World Urban Parks and the Large Urban Parks committee. Jurors are excluded from applying and to take part in the assessment of a park in their own country of origin or if in any other way related or affiliated with that park. Jurors are elected for just one year.

Announcements: Announcement of awarded large urban parks will be given on the *30th of June*.

Award Presentation: In order for a park to receive an Award it has to be represented at the Award ceremony and also to present the awarded park. Award ceremonies are held in connection with World Urban Parks congresses, international or regional, wherever it is most suitable for awarded parks to go.

Award Criteria: The criteria take into account *first* the present status of the park, as it stands right now, and *second* its prospects for the future, i.e. circumstances that are important for its long run status. For example: a park may at present be well kept but will deteriorate if budgets to keep it up are inadequate or protection is weak.

The criteria are therefore divided up into two blocks, *Block A*, the present status, and *Block B*, circumstances of importance for the long run status. Some qualities will have to be judged both under Block A and Block B.

Assessments need to take local circumstances and preconditions into account

By this is meant that although, for example, size matters, it has to be regarded in context. A park that is very centrally located in a city cannot be expected to be as large as a park that is located on the periphery of a city. Biodiversity has to be assessed in comparison

with biodiversity in the surrounding landscape. The amount of resources needed for quality management of a park depends on a very large number of factors: type of nature, intensity of use, type of park etc. Heritage preservation carries a larger weight in an old park than in a young park. Judgments will therefore have to be relative to what might be expected.

Block A Present status

A.1 Park Design and Layout - 250 Points, minimum 125 Points

A.2 Features and Facilities - 250 Points, minimum 125 Points

Block B Prospects for future status

B.1 Protection and Community Engagement and Involvement - 250 Points, minimum 125 Points

B.2 Park Management and Maintenance - 250 Points, minimum 125 Points

Three categories of Awards will be given, gold, silver and bronze.

<i>Gold Award</i>	≥ 800 Points
<i>Silver Award</i>	650 – 799 Points
<i>Bronze Award</i>	500 – 649 Points

A park must receive at least the minimum (125 Points) on any one of the four subsets of criteria (A.1-2 and B.1-2) in order to qualify for an Award.

Block A Present status

A.1 Design & Layout (250 Points – minimum 125 Points)

A.1.1 Size of the Park (50 Points)

Of course, the size of the park weighs heavily in the assessment. But the size has to be seen in relation to natural preconditions and the location of the city.

A.1.2 Proportion of green and blue areas – corridors (50 Points).

Natural qualities are important. Large urban parks are likely to be cut through by roads and rails and also have buildings and other developments within its boundaries. Therefore some assessment of the proportion of green/blue and grey areas should be made. Are there green bridges connecting the various part of the park? Are there green/blue corridors leading to the surrounding countryside?

A.1.3 Integration of the Park with urban areas (50 Points).

The closer and more integrated in the urban area the park is the more valuable it is in many respects. The border between the park and the city can take different shapes, from a smooth and beautiful passage from city to nature to a brutal and untidy encounter.

A.1.4 Size of areas in the Park that are barred from noise and pollution (50 Points).

The value of the park increases with silence. The less pollution from surrounding areas the better.

A.1.5 Evidence of well thought out Planning and Design principles underpinning the usage and development of the Park (50 Points).

Is the park designed so as to take advantage of the natural conditions of the location? Is the park a natural part of the landscape? Does it rest on strong, consistent design principles with some aim? Is there room for change and development of the park? Does the design give the park a special identity? Is the park designed in a way to be used year around?

A.2 Features and Facilities (250 Points – minimum 125 Points)

A.2.1 The value of the park for the urban population of the ecosystem services of the Park (50 Points).

The park may be laid out and be integrated with the city in such a way as to help clean the air of the city, clean water, lower temperatures, dampen winds etc. The park may provide the urban population possibilities for physical activities (e.g. walking, jogging, skiing, skating, horse-riding, foot-ball).

A.2.2 Biological diversity of the Park (50 Points).

Number of species and the size of different populations is an important quality aspect. Biodiversity pertains to mammals as well as to birds, fish, reptiles, insects, plants (trees and flowers). Examples of red-listed species should be taken into account.

A.2.3 Evidence of enhanced accessibility with a focus on opportunities for social interaction (50 Points).

Public transportation, walk- and bicycle paths plus car-parking possibilities are important aspects of physical accessibility. To what extent are people with disabilities aided to visit the park? Are there places where people from all walks of life can meet, talk and play together? Meeting places can be of many different kinds, like play-grounds, sports fields, cafés and restaurants, arenas for events and picnic grounds.

A.2.4 Preservation of the cultural history of the Park (50 Points).

Parks with grounds, buildings, monuments or other aspects that have a historic significance should expose them and make them known. Is the history of the place told to visitors and inhabitants of the city?

A.2.5 Details of the range and quality of the physical infrastructure and recreational facilities provided (50 Points).

Playgrounds, sports facilities, toilets, information centres, park benches, signs of direction, cafés, restaurants, maps and much more play a role to make the park pleasant to visit.

Block B Prospects for future status

B.1 Protection and Community Engagement and Involvement (250 Points – minimum 125 Points)

B.1.1 Laws, regulations, ownership and other arrangements to safeguard the Park (125 Points).

For the qualities of the park to sustain in the long run there has to be legal protection or other arrangements that will safeguard the park. The strongest legal protection would be found in acts by the national government. Nature reserves, Natura 2000 or the like will also serve as protection. Former recognition (national heritage, World Heritage, Green Flag, Europa Nostra etc.) also serves as protection as well as recognition. Public ownership can be more safe than private, but it may also be the other way around, if the park is owned by a trust. Are there short or long term threats to the park?

B.1.2 Examples and evidence of structured opportunities for the participation of the local community in the life of the Park (125 Points).

This would typically include events, volunteer and friends programmes, public health initiatives, user surveys and public consultation. Volunteers and friends may add to the protection as well as to up-keep and user friendliness of the park. Events add to the usage of the park, but must not ruin the qualities of the park by wear and tear, noise, littering etc. The seriousness of public consultation should be taken into account.

B.2 Management and Maintenance (250 Points – minimum 125 Points)

B.2.1 Evidence of a well-developed, planned and properly resourced approach to the sustainable management of the park (50 Points).

Evidence may be a management plan and a budget for a couple of years. A strategic development plan will point ahead. How well grounded are the figures set for various ends? Are activities specified? To what extent are these plans endorsed by owners of the park?

B.2.2 Clearly defined and implemented maintenance and conservation policies and strategies (50 Points).

In order to be able to have a well thought through management plan management must have a clear picture of the shortcomings and the need for up-keep in the park. Is up-keep and maintenance done with the skill and knowledge of good conservation practices? Is maintenance of nature done so as to enhance biodiversity?

B.2.3 Details of events and activities programmed to make the park attractive on a year round basis (50 Points).

Events of various kinds help to attract visitors. Are there events for a broad set of interests? And for all seasons? To what extent is the park being visited? Are all areas being visited or just a few?

B.2.4 Evidence of a coherent and comprehensive approach to interpreting and informing about the park for its users (50 Points).

Information is important, both within the park and outside it, in order to reach people in the city and visiting tourists. Is the information easily accessible, in several languages, complete and understandable?

B.2.5 Examples of initiatives focused on enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services, waste and pesticide reduction and on-going environmental improvement (50 Points).

Are there examples of projects undertaken or planned to enhance biodiversity, reduce pesticides and fossil fuels in the operation of the park, reduce waste and littering? Are there investments undertaken or planned to

enhance the landscape of the park? To reduce noise of traffic? To better accessibility? Similar projects in the surroundings of the park are also valuable.

END