

A communique was developed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Urban Parks Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa from 26 to 28 September 2016. The theme for the Congress was “People and Green Space – A Celebration of Diversity” and there were numerous presentations, workshops and discussions on the diverse landscapes, experiences, visitors and benefits of urban parks. Delegates were inspired to apply the key learnings from the Congress into their practice, ensuring strong engagement with citizens and equitable access to open space.

The World Urban Parks Association is committed to strongly advocating the importance protecting and developing urban parks, and to provide tools and support to members to assist with problems we face as a sector and the opportunities for innovation.

The key Principles of the Cape Town Statement are:

- *Place citizens at the centre of planning and decision making* for urban parks and involve Traditional Owners and first nations people as real partners in management and governance structures.
- Ensure *adequate access* to urban parks and open space for the vulnerable, the poor and the disadvantaged.
- Work with partners to *increase the diversity of park users* by facilitating research into why some people do not visit, use or value urban parks and reserves.
- Develop and promote activity programs to encourage the use of urban parks by diverse groups, to *make parks safe, make them inclusive and foster social cohesion*. This should include programs for children, youth, women, LGBTI people, seniors, people with disability, social disadvantaged, multicultural and ethnic groups.
- *Provide multi-purpose urban parks and flexible facilities* to enable increased and diverse participation in sport and recreation to increase social connections, stable neighbourhoods, community identity and a sense of place. This should include opportunities to interact and socialise, as well as appreciate and connect with nature.
- Explain to decision makers the *importance of green urban spaces for climate change mitigation and adaptation*.

**World Urban Parks** champions urban park outcomes for city liveability, place-making, conservation and access, and provides strong membership services by connecting, leveraging and supporting diverse memberships across the international urban parks, open space and recreation community and allied sectors.

**Vision** - *A World where people value and have easy access to quality urban parks, open space and recreation*

<http://worldurbanparks.org/en/>

*The views expressed in this statement reflect the views of World Urban Parks and should not be taken to represent all our members or of any organization with which they are affiliated with*