An Invitation to Join

WORLD URBAN PARKS
the organisation for open space and recreation
World Urban Parks – An Invitation to Join

World Urban Parks is the international representative body for the urban parks, open space and recreation sector. At a time when urban growth will see 70 percent of the world’s population living in urban areas by 2050, sharing knowledge and providing a collective voice for people and organisations leading urban parks, green city, conservation, recreation, sport, health and related outcomes is vital. Together we want to build healthy, liveable and sustainable communities.

World Urban Parks is the organisation to go to for international advice, support and getting connected with urban park, open space and recreation issues, people and activity. We combine the experience of our members and partners with opportunities to help build urban parks leadership and bring about significant improvements in cities where rapid urbanisation is occurring. We provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on common environmental, social and economic challenges where urban parks are part of the solution. And we speak at an international and local level in direct support of our members – whether setting global standards, advocating the benefits of urban parks, or supporting a funding bid, a campaign, or professional development.

World Urban Parks aspires to complement and attain the same level of recognition as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which represents protected areas on the world stage. To achieve this we will build membership to levels where we are truly representative of the diverse international urban parks, open space and recreation community. We will act as an umbrella to national associations and connect park agencies, non-governmental organisations, universities, research institutes, businesses, community groups, individuals and allied sectors such as health, tourism, and resource management.

“Developed countries with reduced budgets, developing countries with high population growth - all need information, best practice, and benchmarking to resolve these common concerns and challenges. We want to push forward with the good parks development learned from a variety of efforts from around the world.

- Kenzo Oguchi, Executive Director, Park and Recreation Foundation, Tokyo, Japan
Benefits of Membership

World Community:

• Advocating for access to urban parks, open space and recreation; researching and demonstrating the health and social benefits of urban parks; and promoting conservation and effective management of natural and cultural values to create healthy, liveable and sustainable communities and a healthy planet
• Forming a strategic international ‘think-tank’ or group of respected individuals to credibly advance and advocate for the cause of urban parks
• Partnering with like-minded global bodies and sectors to advance common agendas.

Organisation Members:

• Advocating and supporting common causes and issues internationally, nationally and on behalf of agencies; aligning activity around annual themes such as climate change
• Facilitating international networking, project collaboration, study tours, peer reviews, staff exchange and consultancy, and bringing government, businesses, and communities together
• Accessing the latest international data and information on urban park issues, actions and efficiencies through conferences and seminars, collaborative research studies, policy development, a knowledge hub and e-communications translatable into many languages
• Setting international standards and providing benchmarking services and awards to drive and recognise excellence in city liveability and sustainability, and organisational and community leading practices
• Coordinating and facilitating international programmes and events
• Strengthening national associations through member discounts, brokering speakers and world conference status, promoting and expanding services, and assisting the formation of new national associations
• Endorsing and promoting quality services and products by organisations and groups

Individual Members (in addition to the above):

• Facilitating specialised education and training, including by webinar
• World Parks Academy international professional development, certification and credentialing
• Great network support, committee and project roles; advancing young professionals

To join or seek more information visit www.worldurbanparks.org or contact office@worldurbanparks.org

"Obtaining the World Parks Academy's Certified Parks Professional credential has strengthened my credibility as a leading professional in the wide-ranging field of parks and recreation as well as had a positive effect on my perceived integrity as a government employee from the public."

- Adam Esch, Recreation Coordinator, Community Services, Municipal District of Greenview, Alberta, Canada
The Case for Urban Parks

World Urban Parks has a shared vision for a world where all people can be connected to and value nature, experiencing all of the health and wellbeing that this connection brings.

For the majority of the world’s population who now live in urban areas, urban parks not only provide an essential connection to nature - they are a critical tool in helping to build the next generation of environmental stewards, vibrant liveable communities, sustainable eco-systems and healthy local and regional economies.

Urban parks, open space and recreation provide relief from the stresses of urban life. They are common ground for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together. Studies show that populations with higher proportions of urban parks and green space are physically and mentally healthier and live longer, off-setting the increasing cost of human illness associated with diet, sedentary activity, and urban living.

Parks and green space also reduce environmental stresses resulting from changing climate conditions. The city’s natural environment are essential to clean urban waters, habitat conservation and biodiversity. Integrated with other green practices in transport, energy and renewable resources, urban parks contribute significantly to sustainability and a low carbon footprint.

Urban parks, open space and recreation keeps 21st century cities running, providing place-making and the quality of life essential to attract and retain workforces, and drive tourism and revenue.

Despite these advantages, as populations continue to grow in our cities green spaces are disappearing. Work is being done to research and promote the benefits of urban parks to physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing and a healthy environment. A key role for World Urban Parks is to connect knowledge and people to help them have the greatest possible impact.
A New Model Organisation

Following a strategic review, the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration and the International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance have stepped up and created a new inclusive worldwide organisation. World Urban Parks brings all stakeholders together to champion and manage urban parks, open space and recreation in our communities of interest, and to contribute to a healthier world where people are more connected to the natural environment and each other.

*World Urban Parks* will champion urban park outcomes for city liveability, place-making, conservation and access, and provide strong membership services by connecting, leveraging and supporting diverse memberships.

**Vision**

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

**Mission**

*To promote and support the provision, effective management and use of urban parks, open space and recreation worldwide as an integral contribution to healthy communities connected to the natural world*

**Long-term Goals**

**A. Park Networks**

Comprehensive and well managed urban parks and city open space improving the quality of life for urban dwellers and protecting natural and cultural values

**B. Park, Open Space and Recreation Benefits**

The economic, environmental, cultural and social values of urban parks, open space and recreation are well understood and supported across the world by communities and their governments

**C. People Networks**

Urban park, open space and recreation managers and stewards are well connected with ready access to quality information and training to enhance their effectiveness

**D. Global Voice**

*World Urban Parks* is recognized as the global unified voice for urban parks, open space and recreation

“As the peak professional association for Parks and Leisure Professionals in Australia, representation on the global stage is crucial. The new *World Urban Parks* body strengthens our relationships with international agencies, ensures we remain involved with global issues and trends, and provides a stronger, united voice for the benefits of parks and leisure to all levels of government across the globe.”

- Mark Band, Chief Executive Officer, Parks and Leisure Australia
The opportunity to exchange new and historic ideas with experienced professionals around the world mean better professional development and life-long learning for all of our young professionals. World Urban Parks contributes to building the leaders of tomorrow!
- Jenn Halliday, Chair Generate Network

"We are a long way from most folks and culling the best ideas from around the world is a great way to not waste money reinventing the proverbial wheel and that’s the best political sell of all!
- Anne Charlton, Director Parks, City of Calgary, Canada

Shorter-term Objectives

1. Build credibility as a knowledgeable and respected organisation able to provide policy advice to governments and high level decision makers across the world
2. Help governments, organisations and the community at all levels to plan, manage and use urban parks, open space and recreation through advocacy and provision of strategic advice
3. Strengthen capacity and effectiveness of urban park, open space and recreation managers and stewards through the provision of guidance, tools and knowledge, and providing recognition through accreditation
4. Consolidate and share knowledge to promote good practice, establish international standards and good practice, resolve issues, and to demonstrate and communicate all the values of urban parks, open space and recreation
5. Facilitate and support the formation of urban park and recreation national associations - connecting groups, organisations and individuals through national and international networking and advocacy
6. Develop partnerships and alliances with key sectors and organisations that benefit from the existence of urban parks, open space and recreation
7. Promote research into the social, cultural, health, environmental and economic values of parks, open space and recreation
8. Provide easy access to accumulated knowledge in readily understandable terms
9. Increase investment in urban parks by informing public, private and philanthropic sectors of the essential contribution of parks, open space and recreation to healthy communities and ecosystems
10. Exercise excellent governance and administration
World Urban Parks Incorporated is an international organisation registered in New Zealand. The organisation has a governing board and four member-based Standing Committees for:

- Knowledge and Standards - research, advocacy, benchmarking, standards, congress, awards
- Membership and Partnerships - marketing, communications, networks, partnerships
- Large Urban Parks – good practices, advocacy, events, science
- Funding and Audit – budget

Commissions may be appointed annually to advance key issues such as climate change and equity.

"The world body is the best chance for international networking. On the occasion of annual conferences, I meet many of my worldwide colleagues."

- Joachim Chen, Vice Head of Parks and Gardens Department, City of Vienna, Austria

There are four regions to facilitate regional congresses and member activity in Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Africa-Middle East.

To join or seek more information visit www.worldurbanparks.org or contact:

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PO Box 11 132, Manners Street, Wellington 6142, New Zealand
## World Urban Parks Member Benefits Table

### Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard (half-price) Fee (USD) likely range</th>
<th>Professional Association</th>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>University Department</th>
<th>Agency / Park</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Individual Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay half of all stated fees if resident in a country with an annual GDP per capita of less than $25,000 USD</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fee Benefits

- Pay the standard (half-price) member fee if a national/state association or if a member of a WUP member association
- All staff/board members approved by a member organisation receive professional Individual Membership for free
- All members of national/state associations receive Associate Member status
- Conference/seminar/training/service/product member discount (where offered)
- Half the value of any conference/seminar/training/service/product member discount

### Service Benefits

- A member of the General Assembly and eligible to hold an office (board, standing committees, commissions)
- e-mailed monthly World Parks News (Associates by request)
- Access to working parties and projects and eligible for World Urban Parks consultancy teams
- Access to global member contacts, resources, joint projects, benchmarking, awards, staff exchange, leading practices
- Endorsement of organisation’s parks/policies/services/products on evaluation
- Global advocacy for benefits of parks, open space and recreation
- Promotion of logo, conferences and events on website and World Park News
- Additional consideration as a, potentially sponsored, conference presenter
- Promotion of services on website and discounted trade show (fee-based)
- Eligible for professional certification and training via the World Parks Academy
- Partnerships to offer discounted national certification and other member services

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**Forming and maintaining mutually beneficial relations, and interacting internationally, is of paramount importance in the horticultural fraternity. Interacting succours members by sharing experiences, knowledge, relevant information and contacts with other networking members by establishing sustained partnerships. World Urban Parks is consequently an imperative role-player, especially in the African Continent!**

- Emmanuel Maphorogo, Parks Manager, Johannesburg City Parks, South Africa

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**The membership and network of World Urban Parks gives my staff and myself valuable and cost effective opportunities to learn and get adaptable ideas from all over the world - to enhance the services of our department.**

- Torgeir Esig Soerensen, Head of Parks and Streets Department, City of Stavanger, Norway
World Urban Parks Membership Fees

To join World Urban Parks go to [www.worldurbanparks.org](http://www.worldurbanparks.org) and complete an on-line Organisation or Individual membership form. Payment options are at the end of the form.

Organisations or parks pay a membership fee depending on their size, based on their annual operating budget (excluding capital) for urban parks, open space and recreation (see table). This might be the total budget for an association or a city department, or a part of the budget for a state agency or a business with wider responsibilities. Organisations may approve any number of staff/board members to join as Individual members for free. National/State association members become associate members.

Individuals pay a fixed annual fee.

Members from countries with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of less than $25,000 USD pay half the stated fees.

### Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks and Recreation Budget (USD)</th>
<th>Standard Fee (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $1 million</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 million to $10 million</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10 million to $40 million</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $40 million</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Standard Fee (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Professional</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired, Community, Student</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The standard fee applies to members upon joining. Professional members and organisations can renew at the standard fee if they are a member of a national/state professional association that is a member of World Urban Parks. Non-members of national/state associations pay double the standard fee.

Payment: The online membership form has an option to pay by secure credit card payment or you can seek an invoice to pay by bank transfer. Invoices are sent to all members in March for membership renewal. Although fees are expressed in US dollars, international payment by credit card will be charged in New Zealand dollars as World Urban Parks is registered in New Zealand. International payment by bank transfer may be paid in the equivalent value of any major world currency. The World Urban Parks financial and membership year is from April to March.

Need Help? Please contact ceo@worldurbanparks.org or office@worldurbanparks.org

“My membership allows me to keep in touch with parks and landscape managers who are implementing policy and practice. Networking and connections open up a completely new constituency of interest groups to me, mainly outside the academic sphere, and provide new and innovative thinking that feeds into both planning and landscape taught programmes and research student tuition.

- Maggie Roe, Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape, Newcastle University, UK
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