World Urban Parks

the new global representative body for the urban parks, open space and recreation sector
Urban growth will see 70% of the world’s population living in urban areas by 2050

- So it is vital to:
  - share knowledge and
  - provide a collective voice for people and organisations leading urban parks, green city, conservation, recreation, sport, health and related outcomes.

- Together we want to build healthy, livable and sustainable communities.
Origins
Strategic Review

- In 2013 Ifpra and Parks for Life conducted a strategic Review that determined a new-model inclusive and sustainable organisation was necessary.

- This would compliment the IUCN by focusing on urban parks, open space and recreation where the majority of the world’s population lives.
The urban parks, open space and recreation community

- National associations
- Government agencies, City departments
- Non-governmental organisations
- Universities & research institutions
- Businesses
- Community groups
- Professionals and community individuals
- Allied sectors: health, tourism, & resource management
World Urban Parks is the new international representative body for the urban parks, open space and recreation sector

Launched May 2015 Portugal - 1st World Urban Parks Congress
Ponte de Lima - Portugal
Vision
A World where people value and have easy access to quality urban parks, open space and recreation

A global voice and a forum for the exchange of ideas on common environmental, social and economic challenges where urban parks, open space and recreation are part of the solution. WUP influences at an international and local level in direct support of its members - whether setting global standards, advocating the benefits of urban parks, open space and recreation, or supporting a funding bid, a campaign, or professional development.
Long-term Goals

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

“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
4. Global Voice

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

- **Advocacy**: A global voice supporting the value and benefits of parks and the industry *through science and unity*

- **Best Practice**: World-class communities, organisations, and professionals recognized for high standards and efficiencies *through international congresses, benchmarking, awards and certification*

- **Collaboration**: Resolving issues and increasing knowledge and capacity *through diverse networks of colleagues and partnerships*. 
World Community Benefits

- 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.
### Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organisations</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Americas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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**Individuals by Region**
- Europe 42%
- Asia Pacific 44%
- Americas 12%
- Africa-Middle East 2%
Cities Represented

Organisation member

- **Europe:** Copenhagen, Berlin, Zurich, Basel, Helsinki, Malmo, Stavanger, Aalborg, Aarhus, Odense, Moscow, Gaziantep, Zaragoza, Monaco, Dublin, Oslo, Bergen, Antwerp, Luxemburg, Karlsruhe, Ponte de Lima
- **Asia Pacific:** Melbourne, Hume, Macau, Auckland, Christchurch, Rotorua, Invercargill
- **Americas:** Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Mexico City, Vancouver, Calgary, Victoria, Lethbridge
- **Africa:** Johannesburg

Agency Manager

- **Europe:** Vienna, Paris, Lyon, Nantes, Poitiers, Bergen, Reykjavik, Den Haag, Turin, Antwerp, Stuttgart, Nieuwport, Barcelona, Monaco, Albury, Dublin, Lelystad
- **Asia Pacific:** Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Brisbane, Queanbeyan, Albury, Hastings, Putrajaya, Timaru
- **Americas:** Eugene, Buenos Aires, Coquitlam
- **Africa:** Cape Town, Ekurhuleni
National Recreation and Park Associations

- **Europe**: France, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, UK*
- **Asia Pacific**: Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia
- **Americas**: USA, Canada
- **Africa**: South Africa

“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

*Individual Rep
## Portfolio Structure 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portfolios</th>
<th>VC Advocacy Neil McCarthy</th>
<th>VC Membership Torgeir Sørensen</th>
<th>VC Alliances Elisabeth Fournier</th>
<th>VC Governance Dr David Cochrane</th>
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| **Committees** | • Large Urban Parks  
• Knowledge & Standards  
• Green Infrastructure  
• Children & Nature  
• Aging & Parks  
• Healthy Parks Healthy People | • Membership | • Alliances  
• World Parks Academy | • Finance & Audit |
| **Regions** | | • Europe Region  
• Asia-Pacific Region  
• Americas Region  
• Africa-Middle East Region | | |
| **Working Groups** | • Good Practices  
• Advocacy & Events  
• Knowledge & Research  
• Operational Standards  
• Benchmarking  
• Applied Research  
• Think Tank | • Marketing & Communications  
• Awards Panel  
• LivCom Awards?  
• World Congress  
• Regional Congresses  
• World Parks Week | • MOUs - IFLA, Academy  
• Sponsorship?  
• Green Flag? | • Policy |
| **Themes** | • Rethinking Parks,  
• Climate Change etc. | | | |

*Green type = Europe Chairs*
World Urban Parks Executive

Gil Penalosa
Chair
gpenalosa@880cities.org
Founder and Chair 8 80 Cities Canada

Neil McCarthy
Vice Chair Advocacy
gpenalosa@880cities.org
CEO NE Catchment Mgt Authority Australia

Torgeir Sørensen
Vice Chair Membership
torgeir.sorensen@stavanger.kommune.no
Head of Parks and Streets, City of Stavanger Norway

Elisabeth Fournier
Vice Chair Alliances
elisabeth.fournier@hortis.fr
Secretary General, Hortis France

Dr Anna Steidle
Chair Europe Region
steidle@posteo.de
Consultant Germany

Neil McCarthy
Chair Europe Region
steidle@posteo.de
Consultant Germany

Torgeir Sørensen
Vice Chair Membership
torgeir.sorensen@stavanger.kommune.no
Head of Parks and Streets, City of Stavanger Norway

Dr David Cochrane
Vice Chair Governance
cloudstreeteco@gmail.co
Consultant Australia

Dr Anna Steidle
Chair Europe Region
steidle@posteo.de
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Co-Chair Americas Region
steidle@posteo.de
Principal Grupo Verde Columbia

Neil McCarthy
Vice Chair Advocacy
gpenalosa@880cities.org
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Torgeir Sørensen
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torgeir.sorensen@stavanger.kommune.no
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Co-Chair Americas Region
steidle@posteo.de
Principal Grupo Verde Columbia

Chris Rutherford
Chair Asia Pacific Region
chris@xyst.biz
Director Xyst Ltd New Zealand
Large urban parks have their own issues related to their size, role, high level of use, climate change and other factors.

The committee fosters a network of large urban park managers and stakeholders, advancing park management, sharing good practices, research, advocacy and events.
LUP - Good Practices Working Group

Current Projects:
• Good Practices Database
• Large Urban Parks Database
• Social media professional group site
• Good Practice Workshop at WUP Europe Region/Hortis Congress, Albi, France, October 2016
LUP - Advocacy and Events Working Group

Current Projects:
• Habitat III advocacy and side events – Barcelona, Quito
• Congress Declarations at WUP/IERM World Congress, Cape Town
• Park Benefits Handbook
• World Parks Week
LUP - Knowledge & Research Working Group

Current Projects:
• Collating research into a Knowledge and Research Database

Patricia O'Donnell  Hooshmand Alizadeh
Advocacy - Knowledge & Standards Committee

Services including international standards, benchmarking, best practice, world congresses, awards, and research. The Committee brings together a balance of park managers, academics, consultants and businesses
Giovanni Sanesi

Current Projects:
• Identify existing and required research to expand knowledge in the sector.
• Survey on Member research needs
• Publish recommended research articles in World Parks News
K&S Benchmarking Working Group

Todd Reichardt

Projects:
• Review services designed to improve the standard, effectiveness, and efficiency of park and recreation provision
• Endorsing or providing a database of selected benchmarking services
• WUP Key Indicators online benchmarking
• Yardstick benchmarking
K&S Park Operating Standards Developing Countries Working Group

Manuel Sousa

Project:
• developing a guideline for minimum standards for park operations that will improve the quality of park maintenance and services, and assist developing park agencies in particular.
K&S Think Tank Working Group

Project

• Create a model for WUP thought leaders to form a ‘think tank’ to make formal comment and submissions on key issues relating to urban parks and recreation
Membership - Membership Committee

Membership strategy and growth, marketing and communications, regional engagement, congresses and awards

Jenn Halliday

Marketing & Communications Working Group

Marketing and Communications Plan, social media development and members group site co-development

Brett Cheatley
Membership - World Urban Parks Regions

Europe
- Chair: Dr Anna Steidle
- Secretary: Dr Christy Boylan
- WUP-Hortis Congress
- Action Plan
- Facebook
- Europe Awards

Americas
- Co-Chair Martha Fajardo
- Co-Chair Keith Anderson
- Ifla Americas Congress
- Latin America brochure
- Sub-regions

Asia-Pacific
- Chair: Chris Rutherford
- Secretary: Nico Crous
- Awaji Symposium
- IPRS Congress

Africa Middle-East
- Oversight: Prof. Willie Nel

Facilitate face to face and region-flavoured activity, including partnered Region Congresses
Membership - Awards

Projects:

• Jury to select the Annual Distinguished Individual Award

• Europe Region Committee creating a Europe Region Park Award relevant to a number of national awards
Membership - World Congresses

The membership committee has oversight of World Urban Parks World Congresses

2015 Pont de Lima, Portugal (with Ibero American Congress)
2016 Cape Town, South Africa (with IERM Convention)
2017 Minneapolis, USA (International Forum with City Parks Alliance)
2018 Melbourne, Australia (with PLA Conference)
Membership - World Parks Week

Held annually in May to:
• Communicate the critical importance of parks in a global context
• Promote best practice by learning from other parks services
• Encourage people to enjoy their local park and appreciate the importance of green space

Any organisation can participate with branding and registration of events by WUP
Alliances - Alliances Committee

Relationships and MOUs, external policy and sponsorship

MOUs with other sector organisations (eg Ifla), national associations (eg NZRA), service partnerships (eg Indiana University)

Potential partnership with Keep Britain Tidy and national associations to internationalise Green Flag Awards
Alliances - World Parks Academy

Dr Christy Boylan  
Chair: Academy Board

Steve Wolter  
Exec. Director IU Eppley Institute

A partnership between World Urban Parks and Indiana University the World Parks Academy provides:

- national and international certification of professionals
  - Certified Parks Professional (direct or with national associations)
  - Certified Parks Professional - International
- training and webinars
- program evaluation and endorsement
Governance - Finance & Audit Committee

Dr David Cochrane

Governance Portfolio responsible for budget and financial performance, risk, internal policies, secretariat

Finance & Audit Committee prepares the budget and advises the board on financial performance and sustainability
World Urban Parks Secretariat

Contracted to the New Zealand Recreation Association. Services included governance, standing committee, working group, conference and member support; with executive, communications and administrative roles.
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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 Sørensen, Head of Parks and Streets Department, City of Stavanger, Norway

[World Urban Parks](http://www.worldurbanparks.org)
1. **Introduction-5 (10) minutes:** Digby Objectives. Colleagues

2. **Problem Identification-10 minutes:** South African Speaker (option) orientation to park issues

3. **Problem Clarification-8 (10) minutes:** Steve Process. Attendees to independently write, one sentence statements of the *problem* on a single piece of paper.

4. **Group Process-12 (15) minutes:** Attendees post them on a wall or board. Steve, Digby group similar statements together.

5. **Discussion- 10 (20) minutes:** Problem Solving: Steve Small group(s) discuss the problems and begin to explore solutions to the problems from their perspectives, countries.

6. **Problem Solutions-8 (10) minutes:** Steve Attendees write independently, one sentence statements of *solutions* to specific problems (*ID by number*) on a one piece of paper.

7. **Solution Sharing and Wrap Up-7 20 minutes:** Steve Individuals to turn in their solution idea papers; Digby Group to share some ideas; Digby Results will be written and distributed via email, WUP and WPA website. Close.