



**WORLD
URBAN
PARKS**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023–2024**



Table of Contents

	4 From our Chair		
	5 From our CEO		
6	WHO WE ARE		
	7 What we do		
	7 Mission		
	7 Vision		
8	BOARD, COMMITTEES AND STAFF		
	9 Committees & Portfolios		
	9 Regions		
	9 Staff		
10	PARTNERS		
	10 Principal Donor		
	10 Partners - Leadership with Impact:		
11	MEMBERSHIP		
	12 Member Benefits		
13	STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS		
14	OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		
	14 Advocacy		
	14 Membership		
	14 Alliances		
	14 Governance		
15	SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT		
16	EVENTS		
	16 World Urban Parks Congress 2023		
	18 Landscape Istanbul Fair 2023 (LIF 2023)		
	19 World Parks Week		
20	AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT		
22	CONTENT		
23	COMMITTEES' AND PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS		
	24 Asian-Pacific Region Committee		
	25 Ageing, Well-being and Parks Portfolio		
	26 North America Region Committee		
	27 Large Urban Parks Portfolio		
	28 Healthy Parks Healthy Cities Portfolio		
	29 Climate Change & Resiliency Portfolio		
	30 Cemeteries Portfolio		
	31 Advocacy Portfolio		
32	AWARDS		
	32 Individual Awards		
	32 International Large Urban Parks Award		
33	PRINCIPAL DONOR		

From our CHAIR

I am pleased to share the World Urban Parks 2024 Annual Report. As an international organization, The focus of our work is in the urban park, open space, and recreation sector; and we work with many individuals and organizations to collectively advance, advocate, and provide leadership in building and supporting urban parks and recreation globally.


The commitment of our CEO, Global Secretariat, and board members bringing a variety of professional skills, talents, and various global perspectives and experiences are critical to advancing our work.

As you read this report, know that the work accomplished and represented is due in great part to these individuals. A big thank you to our CEO Luis Romahn and Global Secretariat Vitoria Martin who keep the ship running day to day.

I also want to acknowledge and recognize board members Kristen Jackson, Ismail Ngah, and Bishop Ngobeli who have volunteered their services to WUP since 2018. As their terms come to an end later this year, I am personally appreciative of their work and commitment to World Urban Parks. Thank you all for your efforts!

Happy reading and get out in nature!

Warm regards,
Jayne Miller
Chair, World Urban Parks



From our
CEO

Dear Members and Friends of World Urban Parks,

As we reflect on the past year, I am grateful for our community's growth and the increasing recognition of parks as vital urban assets. Our diverse membership brings invaluable insights that enrich our network and strengthen our collective impact.

Belonging to World Urban Parks means joining a global movement dedicated to enhancing urban environments for the well-being of people and the planet. Our organization provides access to knowledge, resources, and opportunities for professional development, fostering a supportive community committed to positive change.

In our digital age, personal connections remain powerful. Attending physical events like our annual congress offers unique opportunities to engage directly, share experiences, and spark collaborations. At the same time, our online community allows members to stay connected and access global insights anytime.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to actively engage with World Urban Parks through our events and online community. Your involvement is crucial to our success as we continue championing the transformative power of urban parks.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Yours truly,
Luis Romahn
CEO, World Urban Parks

Who we are

World Urban Parks is the go-to organization for international guidance, support, and connections related to urban parks, open spaces, and recreational issues. We leverage the combined expertise of our members and partners to foster urban park leadership and drive significant improvements in rapidly urbanizing cities.

We offer a platform for exchanging ideas on shared environmental, social, and economic challenges where urban parks can be a key part of the solution. We advocate for our members at both international and local levels by setting global standards, promoting the benefits of urban parks, and supporting funding bids, campaigns, and professional development.

World Urban Parks serve as an umbrella organization for national associations and connect park agencies, NGOs, universities, research institutes, businesses, community groups, individuals, and allied sectors such as health, tourism, and resource management.

The concept of World Urban Parks was realized in 2015 following a strategic review of the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration (Ifpra) by the International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance (Parks for Life) in collaboration with other stakeholders. International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance (Parks for Life) in conjunction with other stakeholders.



What we do

World Urban Parks exerts influence at both international and local levels to directly support our members. We set global standards, advocate for the benefits of urban parks, open spaces, and recreation, and provide assistance with funding bids, campaigns, and professional development.



Mission

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



Vission

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

Board, Committees and Staff

World Urban Parks

WORLD URBAN PARKS | ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

We are very proud to introduce you to the World Urban Parks Board. Its formation is based on a balance of professional profiles of different regions and countries, representing organizations, backgrounds and gender.

Each of the members of our Board is a volunteer and donates their time to the service of the organization and in promoting our mission.

Jayne Miller
Chair, USA

Tim Geyer
Deputy Chair, Australia

Richard O'Byrne
Congress Chair, Australia

Lydia Gaby
Young Leader Chair, USA

Carl McClean
Chair Europe Region, UK

Itziar de Luisa
Chair Latin America Region,
Mexico

Bishop Ngobeli
Chair Africa Region,
South Africa

Mark Bowater
Co-Chair Asia Pacific Region,
New Zealand

Nella Lomotan
Co-Chair Asia Pacific Region,
Philippines

Scott Martin
Co-Chair North America
Region, USA

Brenton Grear
Co-Chair Alliance Portfolio,
Australia

Jennifer Dunn
Co-Chair Alliance Portfolio, UK

AP Diaz
Co-Chair Advocacy Committee,
USA

Jo Hopkins
Co-Chair Advocacy Committee,
Australia

Kyle Ripley
Treasurer, Canada

Kristen Jackson
Chair Governance Committee,
Australia

Hannah Chapman-Carr
New Zealand

Maarten Loeffen
Netherlands

Jean-Marie Rogel
France

Michael Boland
USA

Barbara Apocada
Mexico

Gabino Carballo
Spain

Ismail Ngah
Malaysia

Jenny Moodley
South Africa

Sofia de Lesantis
Australia

Kazuma Takeda
Japan

Kevin Halpenny
Ireland

German Enriquez
Mexico

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members, Kristen Jackson, Ismail Ngah, and Bishop Ngobeli, for their dedicated service and valuable contributions to WUP. Their commitment and leadership have greatly impacted our organization, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

Committees & Portfolios

World Urban Parks has five advocacy committees that work on diverse initiatives all working towards creating greener and more livable communities.

These committees are a great way to connect with international colleagues and work together towards our common goal.

ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

Co-Chair: A.P. Diaz (United States)

Co-Chair: Jo Hopkins (Australia)

GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO

Chair: Kristen Jackson (Australia)

ALLIANCE PORTFOLIO

Co-Chairs: Brenton Greer (Australia)

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Dunn (UK)

CONGRESS PORTFOLIO

Chair: Richard O'Byrne (Australia)

CHILDREN, PLAY & NATURE PORTFOLIO

Co-Chair: Amanda O'Rourke (Canada)

Co-Chair: Jenny Veitch (Australia)

Executive Officer: Anya Gregory (Belgium)

LARGE PARKS PORTFOLIO

Co-Chair: Michael Boland (United States)

Co-Chair: Richard Murray (Sweden)

Executive Officer: Henrik Waldenstrom (Sweden)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO

Chair: Kevin Halpenny (Ireland)

Executive Officer: Gavin White (United States)

HEALTHY PARKS - HEALTHY CITIES PORTFOLIO

Co-Chair: Holly Meese (New Zealand)

Co-Chair: Clare Johnson (Australia)

AGING, WELL-BEING & PARKS PORTFOLIO (ex-OAP)

Co-Chair: Masamichi Tamura (Japan)

WORLD PARKS ACADEMY

Chair: Digby White (Australia)

Vice Chair: Luis Romahn (Mexico)

Administrator: Kellie Seaton (United States)

CEMETERIES PORTFOLIO

Chair: Hamish Coates (Australia)

REGIONS

AFRICA

Chair: Bishop Ngobeli (South Africa)

LATIN AMERICA

Chair: Itziar De Luisa (México)

NORTH AMERICA

Co-Chair: Scott Martin (United States)

Co-Chair: Ben Jonah (Canada)

ASIA-PACIFIC

Co-Chair: Mark Bowater (New Zealand)

Co-Chair: Nella Lomotan (Phillipinnes)

EUROPA

Co-Chair: Carl McClean (UK)

Co-Chair: Maarten Loeffen (Netherlands)

STAFF

CEO – Luis Romahn (Mexico)

Global Secretariat Coordinator – Vitoria Martin (Mexico)

Partners

World Urban Parks is very proud to be able to sustain alliances and partnerships with important global and regional organizations. These partnerships strengthen our mission and allow us to amplify our message and voice, while enriching the content of our programs.

We are very grateful to all the allies and partners who for many years have brought time, talent and knowledge.

Principal Donor



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water



Partners – Leadership with Impact:



Membership

What's it like to be a Member?

We see our members as partners. Becoming a member opens program and professional development opportunities to improve recreation and parks in your community setting, but also ensures you are an essential part of our mission to build open space and recreation world-wide.

World Urban Parks works to promote and support the provision, effective management and use of urban parks, open space, and recreation world-wide as an integral contribution to healthy communities connected to the natural world.



Member Benefits:



Digital Library, Newsletter and Blog

Access to the most important and up-to-date information.



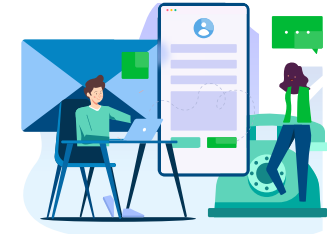
World Urban Parks Congress & Professional Profile

Opportunities to make relationships with other professionals of the sector.



Committee and Discussion Forums

Opportunities to increase your experience and leadership.



Member Directory

Search and connect with professionals.



Access and Discounts

Exclusive access and special discounts for members on products and services.



World Parks Academy

Educational and professional development provision.

Sector Benefits:

- Provide standards or best practice guidelines
- Collect, analyze and publish data and trends
- Maintain a code of ethics among the industry
- Promote the importance of the role and value of the sector
- Develop studies and research that affect or help the sector
- Influence and promote public policies that benefit the sector
- Support the continuing education of interested students
- Attract trained and competent professionals
- Certify professionals and parks
- Provide a training system for continuous improvement.

Strategic Directions 2018 – 2024

The World Urban Parks Strategic Directions 2018 was developed by our CEO with contributions and approval from the Board. This document clearly outlines WUP's purpose, aspirations, strategic priorities, and focus areas, along with the expected outcomes. It serves as a crucial guide for our organization.

Over the next six years, we will build on our strong history as a sector leader, leveraging the growing strength of our advocacy and alliances. We are excited about what we can achieve and aspire to solidify our role as the industry leader by providing even more member-focused services.

Our Strategic Statement aims to fulfill our responsibilities in contributing to the UN Sustainability Goals through World Urban Parks:



Primary World Urban Parks contribute directly to:



And through our contribution to the above, we achieve and are committed to:



And we aspire through our actions that we will also assist communities to achieve the following UN Sustainability Goals:



All our future policies, statements and work of World Urban Parks will identify how they contribute to the UN Sustainability Goals.

Our Strategic Priorities



Advocacy

A global voice supporting the value and benefits of parks and the industry through science and unity.



Membership

Built on a strong foundation of organizational and individual membership representing world-class communities, organizations, and professionals recognized for high standards and efficiencies.



Alliances

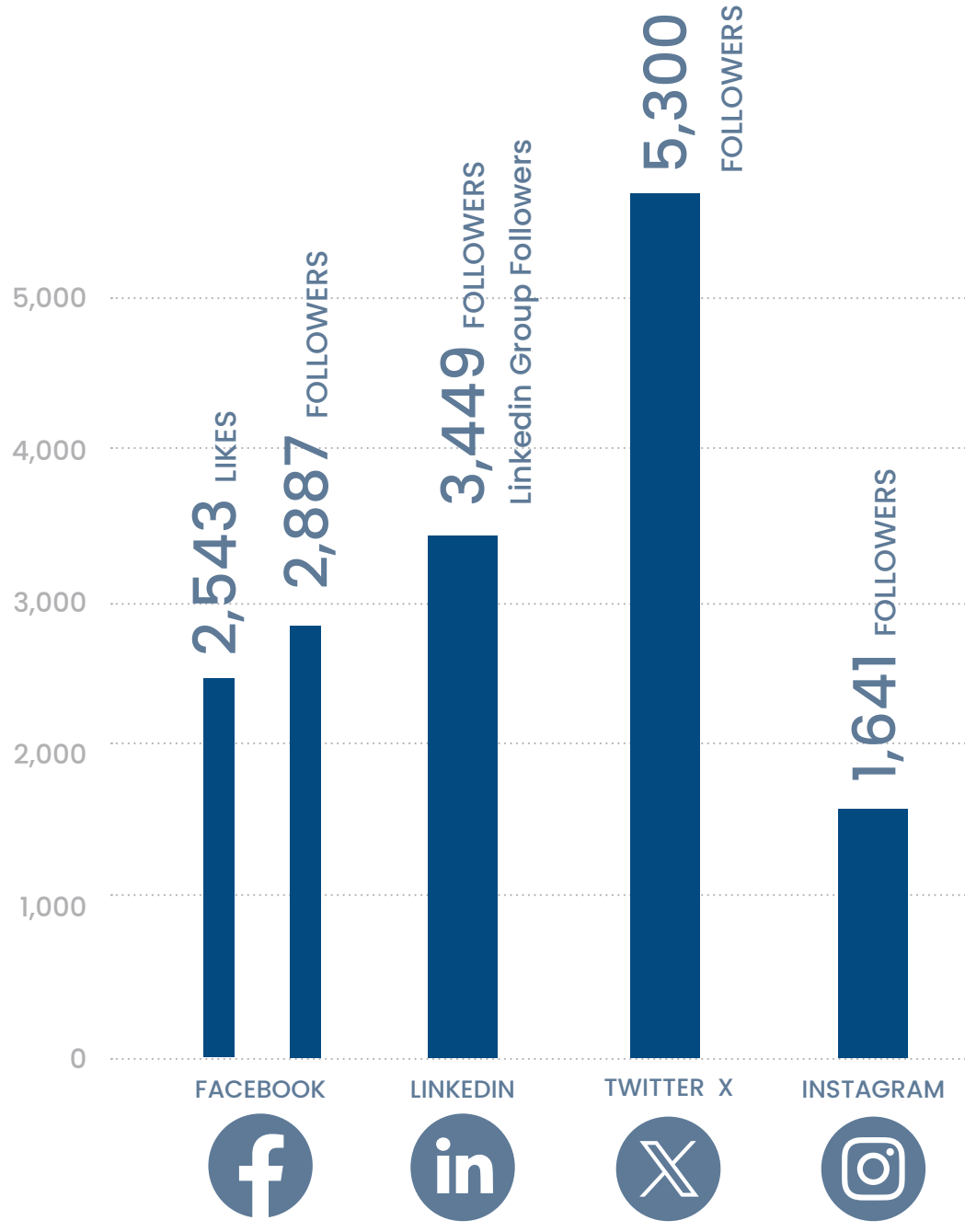
Networked, influential and collaborative through diverse networks of colleagues and partnerships.



Governance

Efficient management and administration to ensure all legislative and regulatory requirements are met, and that members and funders have full confidence in the WUP.

Social Media Report



World Urban Parks Congress 2023

World Urban Parks hosted its 2023 Congress from October 22-26 in Adelaide, Australia. This joint event with Parks & Leisure Australia, supported by Green Adelaide, built on the success of the 2022 congress in Monterrey, Mexico. The Congress gathered over 2,500 professionals, public officials, housing developers, decision-makers, industry suppliers, students, and NGOs. It provided a space for creating collaborative networks with global industry leaders. The theme, "Sustainable Places, Spaces, People, and Habitats," focused on making cities more active, cooler, greener, wilder, and inclusive.

Throughout the World Urban Parks Congress Adelaide, Australia 2023, we received:

- 507 attendees over five days, including:
 - 127 speakers
 - Over 100 exhibitors
- 50 delegates (10%) traveled from overseas, including:

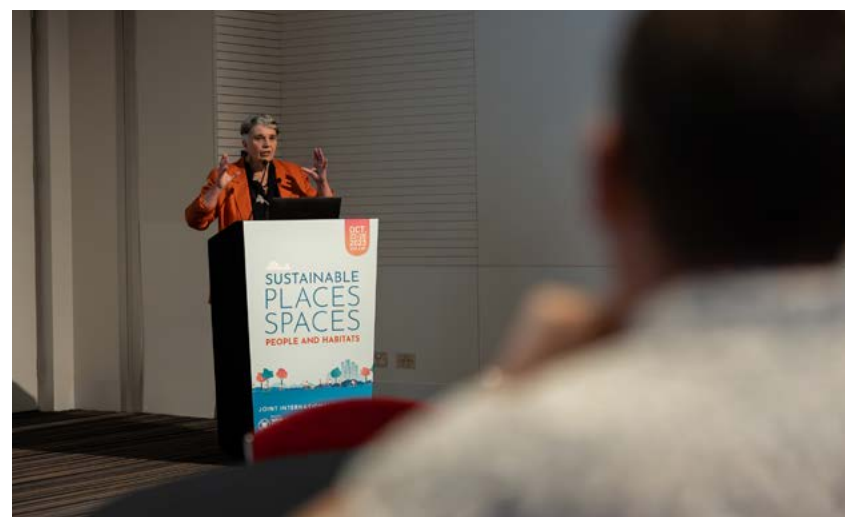
New Zealand	Austria
United States	Japan
Philippines	Hong Kong
Saudi Arabia	Belgium
United Kingdom	Cameroon
Canada	Singapore
Mexico	South Africa
Netherlands	
- 395 attendees participated in the Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner held at Adelaide Oval.
- 7 technical tours with a total of 154 attendees

Pre-Technical Tours – Sunday 22 October:

1. Balancing Conservation and Recreation - Cleland Wildlife Park & Belair National Park
2. Ityamaitpinna Yarta (King Rodney's Country)/Glenthorne National Park and Happy Valley Reservoir.
3. Nature Play in Urban Parks – Morialta Conservation Park, Wittunga Botanic Garden, Ityamaitpinna Yarta/Glenthorne National Park.

Technical Tours – Wednesday 25 October:

4. Tour of Adelaide's urban parks, including Green Infrastructure and Water/Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design.
5. Adelaide Botanic Garden – Conservation and Culture Tour.
6. The Adelaide Park Lands – Adelaide City Council.
7. Community Sports Hubs, Facilities, and Management Models - Campbelltown Council .
8. Elite Facilities Tour - Adelaide Oval and The Drive.



Landscape Istanbul Fair 2023 (LIF 2023)

The Landscape Istanbul Fair 2023 (LIF 2023), organized by Athena Fuarçılık A.Ş., hosted the World Urban Parks (WUP) International Symposium. Held in Istanbul, this two-day event brought together WUP's international expertise to address the challenges and benefits of sustainable urban parks and green spaces.

Mustafa Gültekin GÖKGÜL, CEO of Athena Fuarçılık A.Ş., highlighted the synergy of partnering with WUP, providing a valuable opportunity for city planners in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa to learn from experts and network with peers.

WUP CEO Luis Romahn emphasized the importance of promoting public spaces and advancing the urban parks agenda through this collaboration.

Taking place from November 16-18 at the Istanbul Fair Centre, LIF 2023 attracted increased participation and showcased the latest innovations in landscaping and horticulture, reinforcing its status as the region's premier trade event.



Financial Statement:

WORLD URBAN PARKS | ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

World Urban Parks Incorporated
Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 31 march 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Income			
Individual Membership Fees	10.882	8,142	
Organisation Membership Fees	32,738	44,811	
M Awards Income	1,340	-	
Conference and Seminars Income	43,583	33,440	
Donor Income	30,020	38350	
Total Income		118,563	124,742

Membership fees outlined above are presented on an accrual accounting basis. As a result, income received in advance has been adjusted for and is reflected as a liability on the balance sheet. Actual cash received during the period is as follows:

Individual Membership Fees: **\$13,698**
Organisation Membership Fees: **\$75,053**

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

World Urban Parks Incorporated Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 31 march 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Income			
Individual Membership Fees	10,882	8,142	
Organisation Membership Fees	32,738	44,811	
M Awards Income	1,340	-	
Conference and Seminars Income	43,583	33,440	
Donor Income	30,020	38,350	
Total Income		118,563	124,742
Expenses			
Accountancy Fees	6,290	5,080	
Awards Programme Expenses	-	151	
Audit Fee	7,686	11,300	
Bad Debts	(1,546)	35,756	
Banks Fees	1,191	2,143	
Conference and Seminars Expenses	-	203	
Depreciation	1,980	1,976	
Insurance	3,285	3,140	
Interest	1	20	
IRD Penalties	86	72	
Management Fees	26,856	105,032	
Member Fee Collection	1,651	579	
Other IT and Software Systems	263	234	
Postage	-	29	
Subscriptions and Licences	29,796	31,649	
Travelling Expenses	-	7,868	
Total Expenses		77,536	205,232
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		38,238	(82,714)

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	NOTES	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash Balances	2	75,189	54,655
Accounts Receivable		29,008	4,045
Income Tax Receivable	1	447	-
GST Receivable		2,022	2,856
Total Current Assets		106,666	61,555
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		38,300	60,754
Income Tax Liability	1	-	3,482
Income In Advance		71,515	40,687
Total Current Liabilities		109,815	104,923
EQUITY			
Member Funds/ (Deficit)			
Accumulated Deficit		(11,037)	(62,275)
Reserves	3	9,638	22,868
Total Member Funds/(Deficit)		(1,170)	(39,408)

Content

Throughout the year, the World Urban Parks Content and Communications department has diligently worked to provide our community members with fresh and engaging content. This includes webinars and podcasts covering a wide range of topics relevant to our members and the industry.

Some of the webinars launched during this period include:

- Safer Parks: Improving Access for Women and Girls
- Carbon Impacts of Urban Parks
- Healthy Parks: Principles in practice from design to end use – case studies from around the world
- Global perspectives: How urban parks can enhance the special connection between nature and play
- Social and health equity within public spaces

Some of the podcast that were emitted during this period were:

- Greening our cities on behalf of our health with Tim Geyer
- Building Communities where All Life can Thrive: Dror Benshetrit
- Beyond the Green.
- A global perspective on parks with Jayne Miller
- The new ParkScore Report

Our goal is to launch a new webinar every month and a new podcast every week, offering diverse activities for our members and audience. Upcoming webinars that we are planning to release include:

- The journey to a world class parks system for Auckland Council and City of Melbourne
- Plante & Cité – from research to operations



Committees' and Portfolio Highlights



ASIA-PACIFIC REGION COMMITTEE

Chair: Mark Bowater	
Co-Chair: Nella Lomotan	
Executive Officer: Katelyn Elley	
CURRENT MEMBERS:	16
NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR:	10

COMMITTEE MISSION

- Asia - Pacific Regional Committee for representatives of member countries - to advance the goals and strategies of World Urban Parks.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Appointment of new co-chairs - Mark Bowater and Nella Lomotan.
2. Supporting membership drive and increasing member base in the Asia Pacific region.
3. Case study on Auckland history of parks, by Neil McCarthy, September 2023. Shared on WUP website, and submitted as Legacy Organisation Award for the 2023 Adelaide Congress, where it won the award.
4. Supporting the Philippines Parks Congress in November 2023 - Nella Lomotan facilitated and Mark Bowater presented.
5. Provided a regional webinar in June 2024 - "The journey to a world class parks system for Auckland Council and City of Melbourne." Presented by Martin van Jaarsveld from Auckland Council and Fiona Finlayson from City of Melbourne.
6. Supporting award nominations for the 2024 Future Green City Congress in the Netherlands, and providing articles about the history of World Urban Parks (Neil McCarthy).

CASE STUDY

- Case study on Auckland history of parks, by Neil McCarthy, September 2023. Shared on WUP website, and submitted as Legacy Organisation Award for the 2023 Adelaide Congress, where it won the award.

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. Continue to focus on building organisational membership across the region.
2. Organising more regional webinars to showcase best practice, interesting projects, and incentivize membership.
3. Exploring and supporting regional partnerships, initiatives, partner conferences.

AGEING, WELL-BEING AND PARKS PORTFOLIO

Chair: Masamichi Tamura	
CURRENT MEMBERS:	30
NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR:	2

COMMITTEE MISSION

- Promote inter-generational thinking through discussing issues and possibilities of urban parks today, while articulating the idea that ageing is a long-term framework to promote the well-being of all ages through urban parks.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Preparing WUP blog article,
2. Preparing a document on Salutogenesis, such as a case-study book,
3. Made an excursion of green network management in Tokyo.

CASE STUDY

- NPO birth (a green management entity in Tokyo, which connects small green areas across a walkable neighbourhood - a case study that provides lessons for non-traditional green space development)

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. More collaboration with Children committee,
2. explore better communication methods for members from diverse time-zones,
3. make a statement on inter-generation possibilities of urban parks in an e-publishable format

NORTH AMERICA REGION COMMITTEE

Chair: Scott Martin	
Co-Chair: Ben Jonah	
CURRENT MEMBERS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Boland• Fred Bonci• AP Diaz• Anne Charlton• Kyle Ripley• Scott Martin• Ben Jonah	
NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR:	2

COMMITTEE MISSION

- Provide a touch point for WUP in the region.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Held two conference calls.
2. Appointed Ben Jonah co-chair.
3. Preparing Proposal for the Region to Host the 2025 Congress

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. Great question! Need help from WUP community on this in terms of how the region can be more engaged, supportive, and have a clear lane of operations and actions that differentiates itself and its work from other park organizations

LARGE URBAN PARKS PORTFOLIO

Chair: Michael Boland

Co-Chair: Richard Murray

Executive Officer: Henrik Waldenstrom

CURRENT MEMBERS:

- Lilia Haua
- Alberto Ipas
- Clive Read
- Marie LeDevehat
- Eric Tamulonis
- Carl McClean
- Pascale Salah
- Peter Verdyck
- Fiona O'Loughlin
- Callantha Brigham
- Josh French
- Janet Carding
- Jennifer Burnell

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS
HELD THIS YEAR:**

4

COMMITTEE MISSION

- To promote excellence in the development and management of large urban parks around the world.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. The Large Urban Parks Committee (LUPC) hosted three themed meetings focused on different topics related to the development and management of large urban parks – discussing new funding models for Large Urban Parks (October 2023); emerging threats to Large Urban Parks (January 2024), and biodiversity in Large Urban Parks (April 2024). Our fourth meeting focused on the revamping of the WUP awards program and generating ideas for the WUP strategic plan (July 2024).
2. Several LUPC members collaborated to develop a presentation focused on triple bottom line Large Urban Parks for the 2023 WUP World Congress in Adelaide, Australia.
3. Several LUPC members collaborated to develop a comparative analysis of urban national parks in San Francisco and Canada for the 2023 WUP World Congress in Adelaide, Australia.
4. The LUPC presented as part of the 2024 WUP Member Marathon.
5. Several LUPC members participated in the revamping of the WUP Annual Awards program, which resulted in the addition of two new parks awards – the Outstanding New Park Project Award and the Local/Neighborhood Park Award.
6. LUPC Co-Chair Michael Boland participated in the WUP Long Range Financial Planning Working Group and co-led the Strategic Planning Working Group, which recently completed the first draft of a 2025 – 2029 Strategic Plan for World Urban Parks.

CASE STUDY

- Triple Bottom Line Urban Parks: Explored the challenges and opportunities presented by new strategies for generating revenue to partially or fully support large urban parks. Strategies explored include programs and special events, visitor amenities and services, real estate, and private philanthropy.

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. Hosting another year of themed meetings focused on best practices in the development and management of large urban parks.
2. Implementing a new awareness program to drive participation in newly minted WUP annual awards program.
3. Developing and delivering a series of Large Urban Parks-themed webinars.

HEALTHY PARKS HEALTHY CITIES PORTFOLIO

Chair: Holly Meese

Co-Chair: Clare Johnson

Executive Officer: Kat Marshall

CURRENT MEMBERS:

- Mark Bowater
- Kirstin Zullo
- Kat Marshall
- Eugene Minogue
- Clare Johnston
- Akmar Abdul Aziz
- Ruth Holmes
- Anne Cleary
- Ponds Morgan
- Holly Meese
- Kristen Jackson

NUMBER OF MEETINGS
HELD THIS YEAR:

5

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. HPHC Webinar presentation in November 2023.
2. New members have joined our committee.
3. Change of roles and responsibilities - Holly Meese (previously the executive officer of the committee) has stepped in as committee co-chair and Kat Marshall has recently joined the committee and taken on the role as executive officer.

CASE STUDY

- Our case study of focus for 2024 is Natural Capital Accounting.

COMMITTEE MISSION

- To highlight the role that parks play in creating healthy cities around the world. To advocate for the principles that make healthy parks and healthy cities.

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. Practical application of principles for Healthy Parks, sharing our principles and mission with parks professionals around the world, and increasing committee membership from emerging areas of WUP.

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY PORTFOLIO

Chair: Kevin Halpenny	
Executive Officer: Gavin White	
CURRENT MEMBERS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Enriquez • Jean-Marie Rogel • Cameron Pensini • Shivran Chandra • Charles Neer • Barbara Apodaca • Minoo Esfehiani • Treasure Shepherd 	
NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR:	7

COMMITTEE MISSION

- World Urban Parks is committed to supporting and promoting measures aimed at reducing the effects and severity of Climate Change through education, mitigation and adaptation in alignment with targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. July 19th 2023 Webinar on Carbon Impacts of Urban Parks.
2. Participation by Kevin Halpenny in Nature Based Solutions Summit meeting in Porto, Portugal 23-24th May 2024, Herman and Gavin participation in World Congress in Adelaide, Australia, October 2023.
3. Charles Neer participation in Greater and Greener June 2024.

CASE STUDY

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?hl=en&ll=22.485283074575%2C-125.68132841910551&z=3&mid=1a2pLkJP3u2iGD-r1CAhVgF2g3Bwx51y&authuser=0>Case Study Project

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. During 2024 In-depth examination of research regarding Urban Heat Island Effect and impact of Urban Green Infrastructure and Parks. Webinar on this topic later this year. Poster Presentations at World Congress Utrecht focusing on work of the Committee and promotion of Committee membership.

CEMETETERIES PORTFOLIO

Chair: Hamish Coates

CURRENT MEMBERS:

6

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS
HELD THIS YEAR:**

5

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. General discussions around aspects of cemeteries and sustainability; developing design principles; formulating key themes to developing cemeteries that align with principles of design: Placemaking, biodiversity, culture, health and wellbeing, death and memorialisation.
2. Chair has presented at two conferences this year including Open House Melbourne & Planning Institute Australia Study tour host on the above themes, and advocating for good design to compliment and contrast the experience of death and dying.

COMMITTEE MISSION

- To advance to idea that cemeteries can be more than places to bury and inter, by tapping into their potential to function like urban parks.

CASE STUDY

- Main focus is to present the above at the Future Green Cities/WUP World Congress in Utrecht.

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. Continue to develop cemetery design principles.
2. Present at FGC WUP World Congress.
3. Develop membership.
4. Contribute to newsletter/publication(s)

ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

Chair: AP Diaz

Co-Chair: Jo Hopkins

Executive Officer: Angela Gardiner

CURRENT MEMBERS:

- Amanda O'Rourke
- Hamish Coates
- Holly Meese
- Brenton Gear
- Tim Geyer
- Jenn Dunn
- Neil McCarthy
- Tamura Masamichi
- Gavin White
- Michael Boland

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS
HELD THIS YEAR:**

3

COMMITTEE MISSION

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

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

1. • Good progress has been made into aligning the work of the Advocacy Portfolio to the priorities of each of the committees, by identifying common themes and enabling collaboration across teams, particularly in the lead up to key events. Significant contributions were made in developing the Adelaide Statement in 2023 and the draft Utrecht Statement in 2024.
2. This year we combined the Advocacy and Alliance portfolios with Brenton Gear and Jenn Dunn joining the broader group. This was beneficial during the membership drive in 2023 and 2024 where the Advocacy Portfolio capitalized on its networks to promote the benefits
3. of becoming members of World Urban Parks.
The re-establishment of the collaborative partnership agreement between World Urban Parks and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Urban Alliance and the World Commission on Protected Areas has commenced.

FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND MEMBERSHIP: Develop a program of thematic webinars (committees themes) for current and prospective members and associates to build participation in World Urban Parks with industry experts.
2. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF URBAN PARKS: Drive collaboration with like-minded organisations such as the IUCN to complement the work program of each organisation and move the urban parks agenda forward in a global network of advocates.
3. ADVOCACY AND CHAMPIONS: Continue to advocate for inclusive initiatives including events to enable maximum participation for members across all regions utilising regional networks of chairs and contacts to support activities planned in their regions

Awards

World Urban Parks encourages and recognises significant contributions made by individuals to the urban parks, open space and recreation sector with these prestigious international awards.

Individual Awards:

Distinguished Individual Awards:

Kevin Halpenny
(Ireland)

Young Leaders Award:

Hannah Chapman-Carr
(New Zealand)

Emerging Cities Leader Award:

Mayu Ferrufino
(El Salvador)

Legacy Award:

Legacy Award:
Auckland Council
(New Zealand)



Board Chairs Special Recognition Award:

Special Recognition Award:

Albert Park Managed by
Parks Victoria (Australia)



Principal Donor

Thank you to the Government of South Australia – Department of Environment and Water as World Urban Parks first Principal Donor. The Government of South Australia, has a clear vision for Adelaide, as outlined in their Greening Adelaide policy and has been leading the challenge to rethink urban parks and open space. World Urban Parks is proud to have such support from the Government of South Australia and the leadership they are providing.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water



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