AIPH MEETING

20-23 March 2018
The Hotel Windsor,
Melbourne, Australia
The role of parks in making people healthier or How plants can make parks better for people?

Neil McCarthy
CEO World Urban Parks &
CEO Mosaic Insights
World Park Leaders Grow Here

World Urban Parks is a forum for the exchange of ideas where urban parks, open space and recreation are part of the solution.

- Advocacy
- Best Practice
- Collaboration

Creating Social Landscapes of the future

Insights

Ideas

Impact
Protecting the Earth’s two most important assets

Creating Parks
For People
For Life
Put simply, our modern world is facing a challenging future:

• Climate change – water & heat
• Chronic Health – Obesity & Heart
• Environmental crisis - Deforestation & decline in biological diversity
• Rising depression rates

• These are the Grand Challenges of this century as the world become urban centric
• The vital link between human health and nature is clear
• Our approach needs to bring multiple sectors together to work towards solutions for these Grand Challenges
VALUE OF PARKS

• Protecting Our Natural World
• Building Healthy Communities
• Contributing to Our Economy
• Reflecting Our Culture
VALUE OF PARKS

Protecting Our Natural World

- Conserving nature
- Sustaining the variety of life
- Protecting the earth’s outstanding features and processes
- Storing carbon
- Maintaining clean air and water
- Supporting industry & tourism
- Cooling our Cities

Building Healthy Communities

- Improving physical health
- Enhancing mental health and well being
- Bring people together
- Supporting science and learning
VALUE OF PARKS

Contributing to Our Economy

• Underpinning our tourism industry
• Supporting the recreational industry
• Employing people
• Enhancing property values
• Providing free space for the community

Reflecting Our Culture

• Inspiring our hearts and souls
• Conserving Indigenous cultural landscapes
• Conserving cultural history
• Bring many cultures together
Not just about parks
PUBLIC HEALTH - IN ACTION

The Melbourne Royal Children’s Hospital Project
Bogotá’s CicloRuta

- Bogotá’s CicloRuta is one of the most extensive bicycle path networks in the world. It covers over 211 miles (340 km) and connects citizens to major BRT routes, parks, and community centres.
Urban Transformation - In Action

Singapore as "The Garden City" was the brainchild of the former Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew. The verdant city of Singapore today is the result of a exceptional leadership and vision.
Rethinking the Design of Parks
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
SO WHY IS DESIGN LEGACY IMPORTANT?

- Great Cities are widely accepted
  - but why - form, function, features
  - influence of culture and landmark cultural events
- What is noticeable they use “space” extremely well

- Human health and wellbeing
- Social cohesion / identity
- Cultural Heritage protection
- Tourism
- House prices
- Biodiversity
- Air quality and carbon sequestration
- Water management
- Cooling - the Urban Heat Effect
Understanding Design Dimensions:

- Legacy
- Community Leadership
- Systems Thinking
DESIGN LEGACY – WHO’S LEGACY

“CAPABILITY” BROWN

OLMSTED
PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN LEGACY

- Principle 1: Natural Form - is the full utilization of the naturally occurring features of a given space;
- Principle 2: Blend - is “subordination” - the subordination of individual details to the whole;
- Principle 3: Concealment - is concealment of design, design that does not call attention to itself;
- Principle 4: Sense: is design to enhance the sense of space;
- Principle 5: Utility - is utility above all else
- Principle 6: System - is where space is designed as part of a network
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

• **Principle: Belief** - is the understanding that communities and individuals can achieve outstanding success;

• **Principle: Community Fabric** - the fabric of the park and open space should reflect the sense of what the community is!

• **Principle: Connections** - making connections between all sectors of society and individuals and making “parks’ relevant to them;
THE GOLDEN GATE MODEL

- is a unique partnership between the USA NPS, a Not-for-Profit Foundation (The Golden Gate Conservancy) and a broad range of partners. It is an open and very inclusive model rarely found elsewhere.
Principle: Systems Rethink - is about exploring “parks’ as a broader component of a whole system and how it becomes the fabric of a city;

Principle: Leadership without Fear - is about considering ideas and innovations that not only challenge existing concepts but also change the concept.
A GREATER LONDON URBAN NATIONAL PARK

- 1,500 square kilometres,
- More than 13,000 species - inhabit
  - 3,000 parks,
  - 30,000 allotments,
  - three million gardens and
  - two National Nature Reserves.
The role of Horticulture

In making parks, openspaces, street-scapes for cities
Water Sensitive Index Rating

Medicinal Value Rating

Food Production Rating

Healthy People Rating

Carbon Rating

Heat Island / Urban Cooling Rating

Sun Smart Rating

Global Impact Rating (overall rating)
“We have the opportunity today to reshape the role of parks and their value to society for tomorrow. We can leave a legacy if we dare to reimagine the world.”

Neil McCarthy 2015

www.worldurbanparks.org

Think differently

www.mosaicinsights.com

International Association of Horticultural Producers
Horticultural House, 19 High Street, Theale, Reading, RG7 5AH, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1 893 905896 | Email: sg@aiph.org | Web: www.aiph.org

The International Association of Horticultural Producers is an international non-profit association registered in Brussels, Belgium.