

## Welcome to Parks for Life

Our aim is simple: to develop a global understanding of the core values of urban parks and green spaces, regardless of scale or form, through: Leadership, Knowledge, Innovation, Standards, Advocacy, Networking, Professionalism and Research.

Our vision is a world network of urban parks and green spaces that are strongly supported and valued by their communities and their governing bodies which are committed to best-practice park management in meeting the social, environmental, cultural, and economic needs of their communities

The Founding Organisations who form the International Urban Parks and Green Spaces Alliance – City Parks Alliance, GreenSpace, and Parks Forum - have recognised the emerging need for an appropriate international body that reflects their shared and common objectives whilst respecting the role that these entities play in their regions or countries.

## World Parks Day September 20

The inaugural World Parks Day ([www.worldparksday.com](http://www.worldparksday.com)), September 20, is an unprecedented opportunity for parks leaders and organisations around the world to join together in celebrating and boosting the profile of the massive urban parks movement. Parks leaders around the world are signing to the worldwide **Parks for Life Call to Action**, and rather than producing special events for the day, participants are documenting, through YouTube video, photos, or written reports, some of the simple ways that urban parks are making a difference in communities everywhere.

## Body & Soul Conference Draws over 500

Body & Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities ([www.urbanparks08.org](http://www.urbanparks08.org)), an international urban parks conference, will convene in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the US on the day after World Parks Day on September 21. Over 500 participants have already registered, including over 50 parks leaders from around the world. The conference focuses international attention on one of Parks for Life's key strategic challenges: using parks to help advance public health of all kinds. The conference is jointly presented by Parks for Life co-founder City Parks Alliance ([www.cpa.org](http://www.cpa.org)), National Association of Olmsted Parks, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and the City of Pittsburgh.

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## Parks for Life Holds 3rd International Meeting September 24

The Parks for Life Alliance will be holding its third annual international meeting following the Body & Soul Conference from 7:00-11:30 a.m. EST on Wednesday, September 24 in the Hilton Pittsburgh overlooking Point Park. If you cannot attend in person, you can link to the meeting via Skype by sending an advance email with your Skype name or email to [mcmanusrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:mcmanusrhonda@gmail.com). Parks leaders from all six inhabited continents are expected to take part in the meeting.

## Parks Forum Boosts Park Values



Parks Forum ([www.parksforum.org](http://www.parksforum.org)), the peak industry association for park management agencies across Australia and New Zealand and host of the secretariat for Parks for Life, has published a compelling statement on **The Value of Parks**. The document was launched at Parks Forum's recent international conference, 'A World without Parks?', in which leaders from the Pacific Rim and elsewhere assessed the significance of parks by examining what the world would be like without them.

## GreenSpace Reaching Out



GreenSpace ([www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)), a co-founder of Parks for Life, is presenting Reaching Out, a conference on managing parks for greater multicultural and multiracial engagement, on September 23 in Reading, England. GreenSpace's Love Parks Week was an inspiration for World Parks Day, and the organisation is hosting the World Parks Day web site.

## IFPRA to Join Parks for Life



The International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration ([www.ifpra.org](http://www.ifpra.org)) will formally sign on as a cooperating organisation in Parks for Life, the International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance, at its Asia-Pacific conference in Christchurch, New Zealand September 15-18, in collaboration with the New Zealand Recreation Association. IFPRA President Rob Small, a long-time leader of this movement, has been a driving force in the launch of Parks for Life. IFPRA's joining brings community parks leaders from a number of non-English-speaking countries into the Parks for Life Alliance on the eve of the inaugural World Parks Day on September 20.

## Background of the Parks for Life movement

The inaugural meeting in Reading, UK, in September 2006 brought together a range of organisations to discuss international collaboration and benefits regarding urban parks and greenspace management. It was agreed between the City Parks Alliance, GreenSpace and Parks Forum to establish an international working group chaired by Steve Coleman (CPA).

A second workshop of the IUPGSA was held in Dublin in September 2007. An agenda was developed to take forward international collaboration. The agreed Dublin Agenda was:

- **Call to Action:** A statement that would define the need for parks in urban and peri-urban settings. A simple statement with three or four clear areas of international co-operation that would support the work of existing entities and agencies.
- **Communicating Values:** A document that supports and underpins the "Call to Action" statement. This document would combine the existing work by entities and agencies and would have an international flavour, feel and focus.
- **Parks Week:** Develop an International day/week that would enable the key "Call to Action" statement and agenda be communicated to key individuals and organisations with influence.
- **Communication (between Agencies):** Develop collaboration and sharing between agencies that would build upon "Call to Action", "Communicating Values" and "Parks Week". This would be achieved through a common web portal that enabled sharing of best practice, research and reports. Initially this would build upon existing peak organisation web sites and a parks week web portal.
- **Standards:** Develop a common understanding and basis for park management comparison that would eventually lead to improved park services and quality for the community.
- **Funding – New Models:** Develop and share ideas regarding ways to tackle the adequacy of funding for parks.



## Contact Us

If you wish to be involved in Parks for Life please contact the founding organisation in your region. If you are not from within Australia, New Zealand, the UK or the USA and would like to get involved, please contact Parks Forum.



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