

PRESS RELEASE

1st December, 2020

The International Large Urban Parks Award 2020 Announcement

World Urban Parks is delighted to announce the winners of the 2020 Large Urban Parks Awards - recognizing the quality of the Parks, the skills of the people who manage them and the value they bring to the cities they serve. The Awards were presented at the World Urban Parks Congress – Parks For All, hosted by World Urban Parks and City of Tirana.

2020 has been a challenging year and it has become evident that parks are now essential for any functional and liveable city. As the world urban population will double from 3.5 billion to over 7.0 billion in the next 40 years it is this important to support the development of parks and open spaces as critical elements in creating vibrant cities and healthy communities. The International Large Urban Parks Award program is an important element in the promotion of the benefits of urban parks around the world and to highlight best practice within our industry.

The International Large Urban Parks Award enables Cities around the world to benchmark their performance and understand where improvements could be made. The Awards are based on 4 main criteria which are:

- Park Design and Layout
- Features and Facilities
- Protection and Community Engagement and Involvement
- Park Management and Maintenance

The Awards are given in three Categories:

- Gold Award \geq 800 Points
- Silver Award 650 – 799 Points
- Bronze Award 500 – 649 Points

World Urban Parks is pleased to announce the following recipients for the 2020 International Large Urban Parks Award:

Silver	<i>Al Ain Oasis, Abu Dhabi, UAE</i>	is awarded Silver. Formerly an oasis in the desert, nowadays preserved as a park in the midst of the city, with displays of traditional life, housing, agriculture and cattle in an oasis. It is well kept and managed and its large forest of palm trees serve both as a cultural heritage to identify with, a meeting place and a refuge from heat.
Silver	<i>Ambury regional park, Auckland, New Zealand</i>	is awarded Silver. Ambury Regional Park is a piece of preserved farming country very close to the center of Auckland. It gives residents an opportunity to walk, jog and bike in open country and enjoy the culture of farming although living in a major city.

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Silver	<i>Atatürk Urban Park, Istanbul, Turkey</i>	is awarded Silver. Atatürk is a recently restored and well-kept forest on the outskirts of Istanbul. It provides local citizens ample opportunities to jog, walk and breath fresh air. It is a good example of city planning taking advantage of natural provisions.
Silver	<i>Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) Park, Malaysia</i>	is awarded Silver. The park was created in a strategic stroke of city renewal, setting aside several blocks for a park with lake, rainforest trees, flower beds and lingering pathways next to central business district sky-scrapers, thereby creating a lush breathing space for office workers and city shoppers.
Silver	<i>Millenium Park, Chicago, United States</i>	is awarded Silver. The park is a bold construction at the very center of a very large city, providing citizens and tourists an amazing array of entertainment such as fountains, sculptures, playgrounds, playing fields, theater performances and much more set among flower beds and large trees, all in a very in a very compact space.
Honorary recognition	<i>Green Mubazzarah. AlAin, Abu Dabhi, UAE</i>	receives an honorary recognition for a well-kept resort placed in a nature reserve at some distance from the city, offering visitors the possibility of experiencing a bit of green nature in an otherwise very barren desert area.
Honorary recognition	<i>Reader Rock Garden, Calgary, Canada</i>	receives an honorary recognition for the many people who for a century have worked on and managed Rock Garden have created a botanical garden displaying the local flora. The garden is not large but houses a varied set of different environments for the enjoyment of visitors.
Honorary recognition	<i>Six Senses, Yalta, Crimea</i>	receives an honorary recognition for a Japanese garden as part of a hotel and spa complex outside the city, it takes advantage of the hilly coast of the Black Sea and displays the exquisite qualities of traditional Japanese gardening.
Honorary recognition	<i>Taman Tugu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</i>	receives an honorary recognition for using an abandoned piece of land with remnants of rain forest, Taman Tugu in the midst of the big city is on the way of becoming a real forest through cleaning the area and a massive planting of trees. It is still being developed but shows very good signs of future success.

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Quotes:

"It has been a challenging time in 2020, as it has become evident that parks are an essential service. Therefore, it is this important to support the development of parks and open spaces as critical elements in creating vibrant cities and healthy communities. The International Large Urban Parks Award program is an important element in the promotion of the benefits of urban parks around the world and to highlight best practice within our industry."

"I am pleased to announce the 2020 International Large Urban Parks Awards and congratulate all the recipients "

Neil McCarthy
CEO World Urban Parks

"The Awards highlight best practice in urban park management with leading examples from North America to Malaysia"

"These 2020 awards reflect the global importance of Urban Parks - spaces that help with health, the environment and community cohesion. I congratulate each of the winners for all they do to make their cities more liveable"

Richard Murray
Jury Chair
International Large Urban Parks Award

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