

*International Parks & Leisure Congress 2018*



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#### 1.0 Conference Attended and the Synopsis

Opening Address by Martin Lambert & Jayne Miller

Martin has more than 30 years' experience in planning and management of parks, sport and recreation and a particular passion for urban parks and city wide open space planning. Martin has worked at State and Local Government levels and is a Director at Otium Planning Group. He lives in Cairns and loves regional cities. Martin is also the President of the PLA Qld Regional Council. He has been a strong supporter of PLA for many years and believes strongly in the role of PLA to provide professional development opportunities and policy advocacy. Martin's qualifications include: Master of Education - Social & Environmental, B.App.Sc (Parks & Recreation), A. D. (Rural Techniques - Wilderness Reserves & Wildlife). Cert IV T&A

Jayne is the recently elected new Chair of World Urban Parks. Since February 2018 she has been the President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC), a U.S nationally recognized parks conservancy. The PPC was founded in 1996 by a group of citizens concerned with the deteriorating conditions of Pittsburgh's historic city parks. Since 1998, the PPC has worked closely with the City of Pittsburgh under an official public-private partnership agreement to restore the city's four regional parks. To date, the PPC has raised over \$105M for Pittsburgh parks and has completed 17 major improvement projects. Currently active in 22 parks, the PPC has expanded into community and neighbourhood parks throughout Pittsburgh. The PPC is poised to raise its profile even further; working with the City for a parks referendum in 2018 and creating a unified governance structure with the PPC being responsible for management, operations and development of all Pittsburgh parks.

From November 2010 through February 2018, Jayne served as the Superintendent of the nationally renowned and CAPRA accredited Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). Jayne was responsible for high-level oversight and leadership of the urban park system under the direction of a nine-member elected policy-making board. The MPRB was recognized by the Trust for Public Land in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 as the #1 Park System in the United States. In 2016 and 2017, the MPRB was named a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation as an agency that demonstrates excellence in long range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. The MPRB is a diverse system of land and water spanning 6,804 acres of parkland and water featuring 179 parks with 22 lakes, 49 recreation centers, 112 playgrounds, 7 golf courses, 12 formal gardens, 200+ miles of biking and walking paths, 396 multipurpose sports fields, 65 wading pools, 5 outdoor performance stages, nature sanctuaries and the 55-mile Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. Together these properties annually serve approximately 22.7 million visitors. As Superintendent, Jayne provided leadership to a staff of 558 full-time and 1200 part-time employees and oversaw an annual operating and capital budget of over \$112 million.

Jayne serves on the board of the World Urban Parks, City Parks Alliance, Indiana University Executive Development Program, Meet Minneapolis, Sports Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Urban League and the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board; and previously served on the board of Rocky Mountain Revenue and Management School. Jayne also serves as a Founding Member of Editorial Board for the Journal of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism in Public Health.

## 2.0 Key Learnings from each session attended or speaker session

### **Day 1:**

#### **YARRA BEND**

Located close to central Melbourne, Yarra Bend Park is home to the largest and most intact natural bushland near the city. Covering 265ha including approximately 12km of the scenic Yarra River, Yarra Bend Park attracts more than 1.5 million visits per year providing extensive recreation opportunities in natural and semi-natural settings. Facilities include sporting fields, a riverside cafe, an 18-hole golf course, cycling and walking trails and substantial picnic and off-lead dog walking areas. The park hosts diverse events from weddings to charitable fun runs with often over 1000 participants. The Yarra River slowly meanders through this natural setting and is popular for fishing, kayaking and rowing. The Main Yarra Trail, one of Melbourne's busiest shared trails, traverses the park, providing links to adjacent suburbs and Melbourne Central Business District. On this tour we saw the diversity of what the park has to offer. A special highlight will be a visit to Bellbird Picnic Ground, the home of a grey-headed flying-fox (bat) colony. This was an opportunity to view the flying-fox colony and enjoy an onsite briefing. The flying-foxes began roosting at Yarra Bend Park in 2003 and it has been identified as one of the most suitable sites for a flying-fox campsite in Melbourne. The site provides one of the best opportunities to protect and provide for the species while minimizing conflicts between flying-foxes and people. Over Summer the colony can swell to over 30,000 individuals including young.

### **Day 2**

#### **Keynote Speaker: Dr Jason Fox**

Dr Jason Fox is a modern day wizard-rogue and leadership adviser, oft sought after for his pioneering philosophies and expertise in motivation design. Jason is the bestselling author of *The Game Changer and How to Lead a Quest*, and in 2016 was awarded *Keynote Speaker of the Year*. When not liberating the world from the delusion of progress, Jason partakes in extreme sports such as reading, sun avoidance and coffee snobbery.

#### **Session 1: Should your city become a National Park City? Presented by Daniel Raven-Ellison**

Next year London will become the world's first National Park City. In this inspiring and challenging talk, Daniel Raven-Ellison explained where the idea came from, how it could improve urban life and ask... could your city become a #NationalParkCity?

Daniel Raven-Ellison is a guerrilla geographer, National Geographic Explorer and founder of the initiative to transform the whole of Greater London into the world's first National Park City in 2019. One vision to inspire a million projects, this new kind of national park will galvanise actions to make the city greener, healthier and wilder.

A former high school geography teacher, Daniel uses exploration to communicate complex and challenging ideas. Working with National Geographic Partners, Cisco, Emotiv and ESRI, in 2017 Raven-Ellison completed a walk of more than a thousand miles across all of the UK's 15 national parks and 69 cities, looking for insights to make a future National Park City successful. He did so while wearing an EEG that tracked and mapped his emotions. Daniel has walked across some of the world's largest cities, including Mexico City and Mumbai.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R6CGL4T9I5Cx\\_b9MY1VGkoQE81a2nJuQ](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R6CGL4T9I5Cx_b9MY1VGkoQE81a2nJuQ)

#### **Session 2: Removing Socioeconomics Barriers to Barriers to Accessibility in Canada's First Nation Urban Park- Presenter: Omar McDadi**

Since 2011, Parks Canada has worked with community groups, Indigenous partners and all levels of government to create Rouge National Urban Park – Canada's first national park in an urban setting. Comprised of a rich assembly of natural, cultural and agricultural landscapes in the Greater Toronto Area, the park is located within

one hour's drive of 20% of Canada's population and will soon be the largest urban park in North America. Unlike remote national parks that can be cost-prohibitive to access, the Rouge is uniquely placed to act as a gateway to connecting newcomers and urbanites to Canada's natural and cultural heritage. While the park is free, barriers to accessibility remain, including lack of transportation, awareness and connection to place, and inadequate programming. To overcome barriers, innovative initiatives have been introduced such as citizenship ceremonies, free shuttles, collaborations with settlement agencies, free "learn-to-camp" programming, and other collaborations with academic institutions, the private sector, and not-for-profits.

### **Session 3: Tourism Master Planning for 2020- a Case Study for Phoenix Parl, Dublin Ireland. Presenter: Margaret Gormley**

Dublin, Ireland is among the top 50 most visited cities on the planet, with over 4.8 million international visitors in 2017. Its largest enclosed public park, Phoenix Park (1752ac) is readying itself to embrace the increased usage of its finite resources while ensuring the protection of this wonderful 350-year old deer park. A recent visitor survey, indicated that 95% of visitors were happy with the park but some of its infrastructure did not fare as well. The Park management team have been working with consultants and Fáilte Ireland, developing a Tourism Master Plan for the Phoenix Park in parallel to the Phoenix Park Capital Investment Plan, costed at €25m. A new visitor hub capable of providing the visitor with a gateway that will unlock a multiple of new tourist experiences, including new product research and development, visitor management plans, detailed architectural plans, interpretative concepts and costings, is currently being undertaken.

### **Session 4: Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Healthier Cities Presenters: Caroline Gutleben & Pauline Laille**

Modern cities face numerous challenges: climate change, hectic urban metabolism, water, soil and air quality, environmental justice, social cohesion, economic competition... all of which can relate to public health and well-being. Among the diverse ways to address those challenges, Nature Based Solutions show a great potential.

NBS are solutions inspired and supported by nature, providing simultaneous benefits and involving a variety of stakeholders (citizens, policy makers, practitioners, scientists...). The concept of NBS is recent but refers as often to well-established assets as to lessons from the past to re-discover, or even pioneering actions and urban developments.

A number of research projects and a growing expertise in Europe support the NBS concept's notoriety and its implementation through innovative urbanism. Based on this knowledge, we will illustrate what NBS are, what we know of their associated benefits and how they can contribute to healthier cities by setting shared goals for cities' stakeholders.

### **Session 5: Drone Zones in Brisbane Parks. Presenter: Lisa Swatz**

In December 2017 Brisbane City Council commenced a trial of 10 sites in parks across the city where residents can fly drones for fun without Council consent, as a direct response to the increasing number of enquiries from the community about this activity.

Council's Public Lands and Council Assets Local Law 2014 allows Council to designate areas in parks for higher risk activities, so Council seized the opportunity to meet an emerging recreation need whilst managing its impacts through identifying and designating spaces for flying drones. Council consulted with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority in setting up the trial.

This presentation will take the audience through Council's current rules and regulations relating to flying drones in parks and the site selection process. It will cover the issues that emerged during the trial, the process Council used to assess the success of the trial, and how Council proceeded following the trial.

### **Session 6: Growing Green Parks. Presenter: Mark Bowater**

Auckland is a city undergoing rapid growth. It is also a lifestyle city that ranks highly on city liveability. Auckland Council is embracing new and innovative approaches in park design, sustainability and research, to inform and contribute to a better, healthier, more sustainable future. This presentation will profile the development of



green infrastructure guidelines for sports parks, the use of new community - level hybrid sports pitches (a first in Australasia), innovative research on low carbon parks, the use of infrastructure sustainability rating tools for a major park project (a first in New Zealand), and the design of a new sustainable park on a greenfield site (another first in New Zealand). Collectively these projects showcase the role parks should play in contributing positively to city liveability, a low carbon future, and responding to climate change - it's about growing greener parks.

### **Session 8: Collaborating for a Water Sensitive Future. Presenters: Alex Gunn & Emma Church**

The Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities engaged community members and industry and government representatives in a collaborative planning process to develop a vision and transition strategy for the regional city of Bendigo, Victoria. The project had several aims, including promoting a shared understanding of how, over time, water has been a critical influence on the urban landscape, liveability values and environmental resilience of the community, and how these links may change in the future in response to external environmental threats. The project positions Bendigo to pursue an integrated strategy that brings together water system planning, healthy urban design and inclusive decision-making for the first time. More broadly, the methods employed show potential for encouraging long-term collaboration between government, industry, traditional owner groups and the broader community to develop future-ready sustainable water initiatives and practices in other towns and cities.

## **Day 3**

### **Keynote Speaker: Gil Penalosa Creating Vibrant & Healthy Cities for All**

Half of the homes that we'll have in cities within the lifetime of today's children have not been built yet. We must improve the cities that we have today and create great cities for billions more. What is the role of parks? Parks people must prioritize our most vulnerable citizens: children, older adults and the poor. We must be at the table of city planning, climate change, public health, education, economic development, mobility, and equity. Gil Penalosa is passionate about cities for all people. Gil advises decision makers and communities on how to create vibrant cities and healthy communities for everyone regardless of age, gender, or social status. His focus is on the design and use of parks and streets as great public places, as well as sustainable mobility: walking, riding bicycles, using public transit, and the new use of cars.

Gil is the founder and chair of the board of the internationally recognized non-profit organization 8 80 Cities, based in Canada. The organization was created centred on a simple but powerful philosophy; if you create a great city for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, you will create a successful city for all people. Gil has been a strong supporter and advocate for improving city parks, first making his mark in the late 1990s, when he led the transformation of Bogota's park system as Commissioner. During his tenure Gil successfully led the design and development of hundreds of parks including Simon Bolivar, a 113 hectare park in the heart of the city. Gil's team also led the "new Ciclovía" / Open Streets - a program that sees over 1.5 million people walk, run, skate and bike along 121 kilometres / 76 miles of Bogotá's city streets every Sunday, and today is internationally recognized and emulated.

Until August 2018, for the first three years of its existence Gil was chair of the board of World Urban Parks, the international representative body for the city parks, open space, and recreation sector. He has now become its first Ambassador. Gil also works advising decision makers and organizations like Children & Nature Network, StreetFilms, America Walks, Kaboom, and others. Gil holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, where he recently was selected as one of the "100 Most Inspirational Alumni" in the school's history. He received the Queen Elizabeth II - Diamond Jubilee Medal, given by the Governor General of Canada, and later was named one of the "Top 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians". Last year Gil received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at the prominent Swedish University SLU.

Recently Gil has also contributed chapters to three books: Enabling Cycling Cities: Ingredients for Success – CIVITAS, Europe; Facilities for Cyclists – Copenhagen, Denmark; Resilient Sustainable Cities, Melbourne, Australia.

### **Session 1: What are the Benefits of the Parks and Greenspaces and why are they Essential to Building Healthy and Liveable Cities in the Future. Presenter- Dr Melanie Davern**

Urbanisation is occurring rapidly within Australian cities and internationally. Here in Australia, over 80% of our population lives in major cities and our population is expected to increase rapidly from 24 million to 70 million by the turn of the century. Urbanisation and increasing population densities mean that we need a radical shift in thinking about how we plan, share and maintain greenspaces in the future and an intersectoral approach to support greater awareness of the health and wellbeing benefits provided to society.

### **Session 2: Innovation at Sydney's Parks and Gardens. Presenter- Kim Ellis**

The 100 hectares of Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands in Sydney are run by one independent team, reporting to two supervising Boards. The organisation manages a \$A100 million annual budget with \$A75 million of that self-generated through commercial activities. Creating and maintaining this revenue, while at the same time providing free public access to the gardens and parks, has required innovation as a cornerstone of the management philosophy.

Kim gave details of the new projects and programs introduced over the last 4 years, including adaptive reuse of heritage assets, the Children's Garden, new food and beverage offerings, and all-weather sports facilities. He will outline the next phase of growth, including:

- New science facilities in Western Sydney,
- Sydney engagement and education centre,
- Centennial Park Wild Play Discovery centre,
- Mount Tomah Tree top walk,
- Moore Park Golf redevelopment,
- National Camelia collection at Blue Mountains Botanic Garden; and
- Parklands Environment Connection.

### **Session 3: Blue/Green Infrastructure Transforming Liveability. Presenter- Adrian Gray**

Brimbank City Council has been transforming the public realm since 2008 with the initial focus on creating quality public places. Key strategies, partnerships and integrated design have enabled significant Federal, State and Local Government funding to create a liveable and sustainable public realm.

Through this transformation, green and blue infrastructure have become crucial components that seek to green and cool public infrastructure and places with the aim to mitigate heatwave. The value and role of these components has been reconsidered.

This presentation will focus on how integrated strategy, design and partnerships have driven design disciplines to lead the creation of social infrastructure that supports liveability, sustains human health while increasing biodiversity in the urban landscape. Actions such as tree placement and water management in public places, planning scheme changes dictating trees for private places, are increasing the capacity of the urban landscape to support Human Thermal Comfort.



#### **Session 4: A New Way for the Participation Survey. Presenters- Martin Lambert & Gary Rauber**

How to plan for the best use of sport and recreation facilities is a crucial decision for local governments and planners. Which activities are most popular, what facilities will provide the best participation outcomes and most importantly where do we put them?

To answer these questions a wide variety of methods are used and because everyone seems to do it slightly differently we can't accurately benchmark, compare or learn a great deal, even across demographically comparable communities. Reinventing the wheel can also be expensive and some traditional survey approaches may not provide the most accurate results.

The presentation introduced a new, common method for participation surveys designed with local governments in mind, will explore the benefits of using a common method and discuss the potential to establish an industry driven national participation data set. This project has been led by PLA and supported by key Federal and State agencies.

#### **Session 5: Master Class “Nature is Good Medicine” Presenters Julia Miranda Londono, Dr Bruce Bolam, Dr Melanie Davern, Dr Mark Norman, Danielle Flakelar**

##### **How world leaders and change makers are championing inter-related health and environment policies and programs**

**Convenor:** Karen Keenleyside

The session featured Dr Julia Miranda Londoño (Colombia), Dr Bruce Bolam, Chief Preventive Health Officer, Victoria) and Dr Melanie Davern, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Healthy Liveable Cities Group

This Master Class was hosted by Parks Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

In the context of a changing climate and an urbanising planet, global health and environment experts will look to the future with a positive lens to explore practical nature-based solutions for human health and well-being, as well as for the environment. This Master Class will examine how leading change makers can champion new policies, programs and funding across health, environment and urban sectors.

#### **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE GALA DINNER**

Unfortunately, Gladstone Regional Council was unsuccessful in taking out “Park of the Year” but I would like to congratulate all the Award winners for all categories.

##### **Park of the Year Award**



[Announcing the PLA 2018 National Award Finalists – Link to media release](#)

## Day 4

### **Tour: Albert Park- Community Open Space and Built Facilities**

**Host: Park Victoria and Sport & Recreation Victoria**

Albert Park comprises 225ha of intensively used inner-urban parkland attracting over 6 million visits per annum. Located three kilometres from the heart of Melbourne's CBD, it provides 25 sports fields and accommodates over 40 sporting organisations ranging from professional to local and junior community-based clubs. In addition to the field-based sports the 50ha Albert Park Lake hosts yachting, rowing and sailing activities.

The park, managed by Parks Victoria, contains a diverse range of facilities including restaurants, cafes, kiosks, function centres, golf course, driving range, a soccer/athletics stadium, a major indoor sports and aquatic centre plus numerous sports pavilions. Informal active and passive recreation facilities also include a 5-kilometre running track, playgrounds and picnic areas. Albert Park is the home of the annual Australian Formula One Grand Prix and stages over 30 public events of National, State, metropolitan and local significance annually. This tour will begin with a short tour of the new Maritime Cove Community Park Playground nearby and will also include a tour of the Albert Park precinct and discussion on the recent Albert Park Master Plan process and outcome.







### 3.0 One thing you will use as a result of your learnings

There are so many things that can be introduced from this congress as from having Citizenship Ceremonies in our Beautiful Tondoon Botanic Gardens (cost effective) to working with our sporting group to collaborate, to utilising all of our green space for our residents and rate payers to enjoy over many years.

Identify parks within our region to fly Drone legally as drone flying and drone racing is becoming a very big issue with the compliance with CASA.



## 4.0 Conference attendance costs

<b>Conference Registration Fee:</b>	\$ 1850.00
<b>Travel Costs:</b>	\$ 631.78
<b>Accommodation:</b>	\$ 1145.00
<b>Sundries:</b>	\$ 153.31
<b>Additional Costs:</b>	\$ 00.00
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$ 3780.09</b>

