

The COVID19 International Parks Expert Roundtable Statement



On the 2nd April (-4 UTC) World Urban Parks with its key global partners held the first COVID19 International Park Expert Roundtable to discuss how to further collaborate both during and after this global crisis on the importance of urban parks for people in our rapidly changing world.

The Roundtable was co-chaired by:

- Kristine Stratton – President and CEO, NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association, USA)
- Clare Shine – Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Global Seminar and
- Jayne Miller – Chair, World Urban Parks

And strongly supported by our partners: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (and CitiesWithNature), IUCN (#NatureforAll) and the National Park City Foundation.

There is overwhelming endorsement that parks are a critical public health and social resource and that we recognize that stay-at-home measures and physical distancing will likely take a toll on our mental health, especially during high-stress and anxiety-producing global public health emergencies. We also know from medical research how important nature is in urban life and how access to parks and open space provides that “nature fix” for human survival – providing opportunities for physical activity and regaining our emotional, psychological and mental balance all of which are critical to reducing stress and improving our physical and mental health. Urban communities can continue to unite, take collective action, and remain connected to nature and each other at this time.

A more detailed statement will be released in the coming weeks outlining key collaborative approaches that we will be adopting.

The COVID19 International Parks Expert Roundtable Partners

