Park Planning and Design: Creating Sustainable Green Spaces

20 – 24 September 2027
Geneva (Switzerland)



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Why This Course

Public parks are essential urban spaces that support recreation, wellbeing, biodiversity, climate resilience, and social connection. A successful park is not only attractive; it must be functional, accessible, sustainable, safe, and responsive to the needs of the community it serves.

This intensive 1-week Public Park Planning and Design Training program equips participants with practical knowledge and tools to plan, design, and implement successful public parks. The course covers site analysis, sustainable design, master planning, ecological design, green infrastructure, accessibility, community engagement, participatory design, budgeting, construction documentation, and long-term maintenance planning. Through practical exercises and real-world examples, participants will learn how to create vibrant and environmentally responsible green spaces for urban communities.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Understand the principles of sustainable park planning and design.
- Analyze the role of parks in urban development and community wellbeing.
- Conduct site analysis and environmental assessment.
- Identify user needs, community demographics, and public space requirements.
- Develop park master plans and design concepts.
- Create functional zones, circulation patterns, and activity areas.
- Integrate natural and built elements into park design.
- Design for accessibility, inclusivity, comfort, and safety.
- Apply ecological design and biodiversity conservation principles.
- Use sustainable water management and climate-responsive design techniques.
- Facilitate community engagement and participatory design processes.
- Manage park development from concept to implementation and maintenance.



The Program Flow

Day 1: Foundations of Park Planning

- Understand park planning and its importance in urban development.
- Conduct site analysis and assessment.
- Identify user needs and community demographics.
- Analyze environmental, social, and functional requirements.
- Apply sustainable design principles for public spaces.

Day 2: Master Planning and Design Concepts

- Develop a comprehensive park master plan.
- Create functional zones for recreation, relaxation, movement, and community use.
- Design circulation patterns for pedestrians, cyclists, service access, and visitors.
- Integrate natural landscapes with built elements and amenities.
- Apply accessibility and inclusivity principles in park design.

Day 3: Ecological Design and Green Infrastructure

- Incorporate native plants and biodiversity into park planning.
- Apply sustainable water management strategies.
- Use climate-responsive design techniques.
- Integrate green infrastructure into urban park design.
- Support ecological value while maintaining public usability.

Day 4: Community Engagement and Participatory Design

- Identify and analyze key stakeholders.
- Develop effective community outreach methods.
- Facilitate participatory design workshops.
- Gather, organize, and interpret community feedback.
- Incorporate public input into practical design solutions.

Day 5: Implementation and Project Management

- Prepare budgets and cost estimates for park projects.
- Develop phasing strategies for large-scale park developments.
- Understand construction documentation and specifications.
- Plan implementation requirements, timelines, and responsibilities.
- Develop long-term maintenance and management plans.



Individual Impact

- Build confidence in planning and designing public parks.
- Strengthen skills in site analysis, master planning, and detailed design.
- Improve ability to engage communities and manage stakeholders.
- Gain practical understanding of ecological and sustainable design.
- Develop project management skills for park implementation.

Work Impact

- Improve the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of public parks.
- Support better alignment between park design and community needs.
- Enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure, and climate resilience in urban areas.
- Strengthen community ownership through participatory planning.
- Improve project delivery through better budgeting, phasing, and maintenance planning.

Training Methodology

This program combines park planning principles with practical design application through:

- Site analysis and assessment exercises.
- Park master planning and zoning workshops.
- Ecological design and green infrastructure activities.
- Community engagement and participatory design simulations.
- Budgeting, phasing, and implementation planning exercises.
- Case studies of successful public park projects.

Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Create comprehensive park master plans.
- Conduct site analysis and translate findings into design decisions.
- Facilitate effective community engagement processes.
- Integrate sustainable and ecological design principles into park projects.
- Prepare implementation plans, budgets, and phasing strategies.
- Manage park projects from concept development to long-term operation.

