

# Guidelines for Parks

24 MAY

EUROPEAN  
DAY OF 2021

PARKS



PARKS: THE NEXT GENERATION



# #European DayOfParks

## 24 May 2021



[europarc.org/european-day-of-parks/](http://europarc.org/european-day-of-parks/)

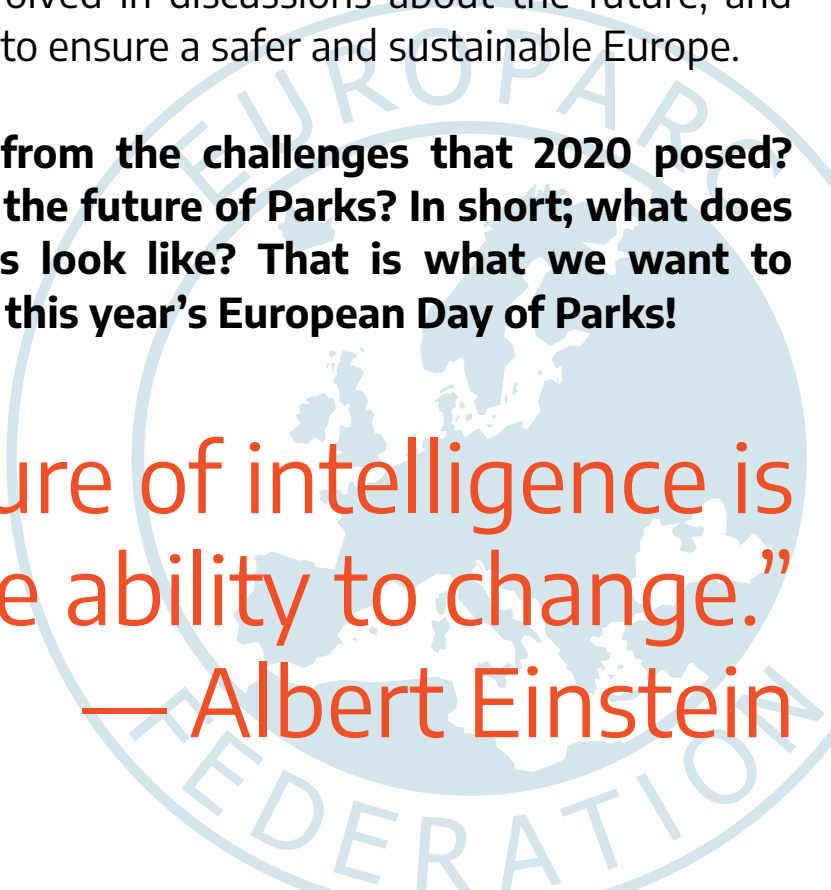
## PARKS: THE NEXT GENERATION

2020 was a year that posed **big challenges** for Parks around Europe. From no visitors to an overflow of visitors, from floods to droughts and from invasive species to a decline in biodiversity – the challenges are numerous. However, if there is one thing that nature teaches us, it is that to survive we need to adapt.

Covid-19 has, once again, highlighted Europe's need for green spaces. The European recovery plan "**Next Generation EU**" promises to build a better, greener and more resilient Europe. EUROPARC is convinced that Parks and Protected Areas need to be involved in discussions about the future, and work hard on efficient solutions to ensure a safer and sustainable Europe.

**So, what have you learned from the challenges that 2020 posed? And what does this mean for the future of Parks? In short; what does the next generation of Parks look like? That is what we want to discover and celebrate during this year's European Day of Parks!**

**“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”  
— Albert Einstein**



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## PARKS: THE NEXT GENERATION

We welcome Parks to look at **what lessons you have learned from COVID-19** and how these can be applied. It is time to refresh and rethink what Parks offer, to adapt to new methods of communication, new infrastructures and new visitors. Of course, when thinking about a next generation of Parks, youth involvement is absolutely essential - at all levels of Parks management. After all, they are the next generation of nature professionals. However, please note that the theme “The Next Generation” is not limited to just young people! It can be new ways of working, changes in management or adaptations due to the corona crisis: **feel free to get creative!**

The European Day of Parks is a day to celebrate Protected Areas. Let us show the world in 2021 how Parks are continuously evolving, adapting and moving forward!



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## Ideas to inspire your events

Even though, there is again a real possibility that this year's European Day of Parks will need to take place online, last year's edition shows us that this doesn't stop us from raising awareness on everything that Parks are doing. Here are some ideas of events you can organise, both on- and offline.



### Adapting to new crowds

Due to the corona crisis, many Parks received a large number of relatively new visitors. How is your Park responding? Are you using new signage? Developing new and more unknown paths? Using new ways to communicate? Creating better connections with public transport? Showcase these efforts by offering guided tours along the new paths, or starting a social media campaign on good behaviour in Parks!

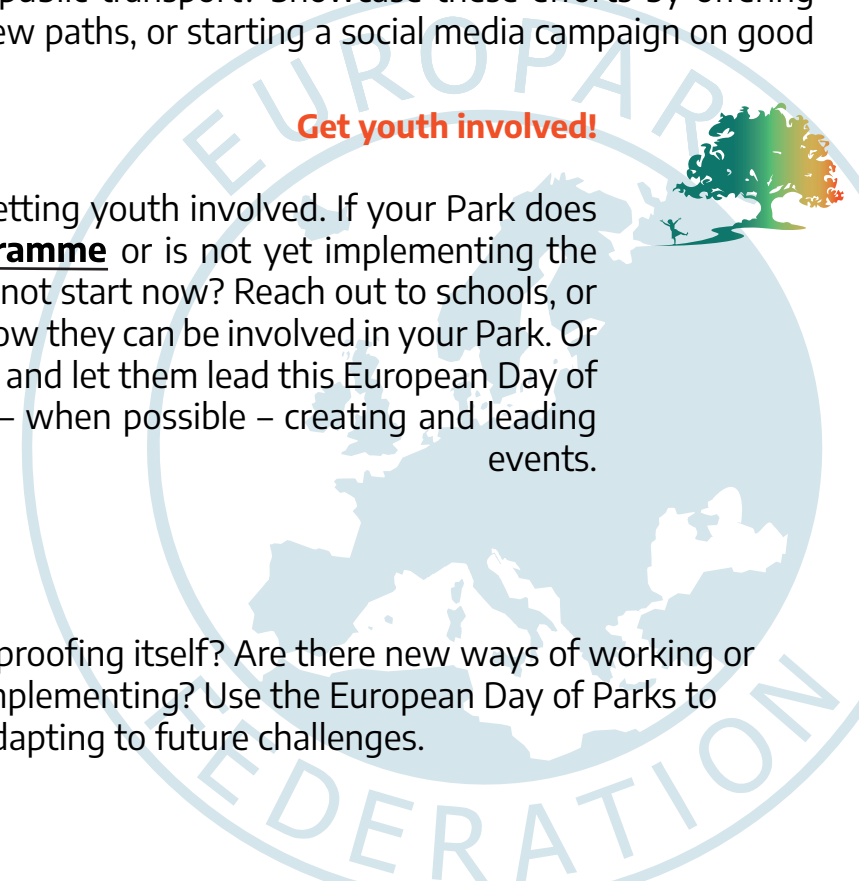
### Get youth involved!

Making Parks future-proof, means getting youth involved. If your Park does not yet have a **Junior Ranger programme** or is not yet implementing the **EUROPARC Youth Manifesto**, why not start now? Reach out to schools, or local youth groups, and show them how they can be involved in your Park. Or get your Park's youth board involved and let them lead this European Day of Parks by posting on social media or – when possible – creating and leading events.



### New ways of working

How is your Park future-proofing itself? Are there new ways of working or managing that you are implementing? Use the European Day of Parks to show how your park is adapting to future challenges.



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### Educating for the future



From the 17th - 19th of May the **UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development** will be held online. Environmental education is a great tool to create a sustainable future and Parks and Protected Areas are well positioned to offer it. Set up a partnership with a school, or organise (online) classes with a ranger on the topic of sustainability!



### New offers

Corona has emphasized that green spaces are more than just places for nature, they are essential for human health as well. How is your Park responding to this demand? Maybe through offering mindfulness walks or forest bathing? EUROPARC's new "**Healthy Parks Healthy People Europe**" programme can inspire you to create partnerships with the health sector.

## Call to action

EUROPARC always wants to highlight the important work of its members. Because this year's celebration might partially be online again, we ask you to send us a video message. In roughly one minute, explain what visitors can expect once they are allowed to return to your Park. What has changed? How has COVID influenced the Park? Tell us! EUROPARC will release these "In one minute" videos leading up to the 24th of May. By the way, last year's European Day of Parks video reached almost 40.000 people on Facebook alone! So, it's a great way to put a spotlight on the work you are doing.

**Deadline: 1st of April 2021**

You can find the guidelines for the video [here](#).



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## Register your events!

Parks are free to create events (where possible), (online) workshops, social media campaigns or any other measures that reflect how your park is evolving for, and adapting to, the future both on and leading up to the European Day of Parks.

As with any other year, you can upload your events (in whatever form they may take place!) on the EUROPARC website. We encourage you to upload your events, as there is “strength in numbers”. Together, we can raise visibility for all Parks and Protected Areas in Europe!

[Upload your events here.](#)

When posting on social media, don't forget to tag EUROPARC & use **#EuropeanDayOfParks** so we can highlight your efforts on our social media channels!

**Twitter: @EUROPARC**

**Facebook: @EUROPARC**

**Instagram: @EUROPARC\_Federation**

## About the European Day of Parks

The European Day of Parks (EDoP) aims to bring people closer to nature by offering a diversity of activities and events in protected areas across the EUROPARC Network. The European Day of Parks was created in 1999 as a celebration of the first National Parks in Europe (Sweden, 24th of May 1909). Since then, the EUROPARC Federation has been celebrating Europe's Protected Areas on the 24th of May. This celebration aims at bringing people closer to nature by offering a diversity of activities and events on Protected Areas across the EUROPARC Network.