

EUROPARC Webinar

11 June 2025
15:00 CEST

Hosting Large Events in Periurban Parks: Essential Strategies for Reducing Environmental Impact



Organised by:



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Essential information

- This **Webinar is being recorded** – please start/stop your video camera at your convenience.
- Please write your **questions/comments in the ZOOM® Chat Box**
- All **presentations and a recording** will be available under www.europarc.org/europarc-webinars/previous-webinars/



Periurban Parks Commission

Welcome to this webinar!

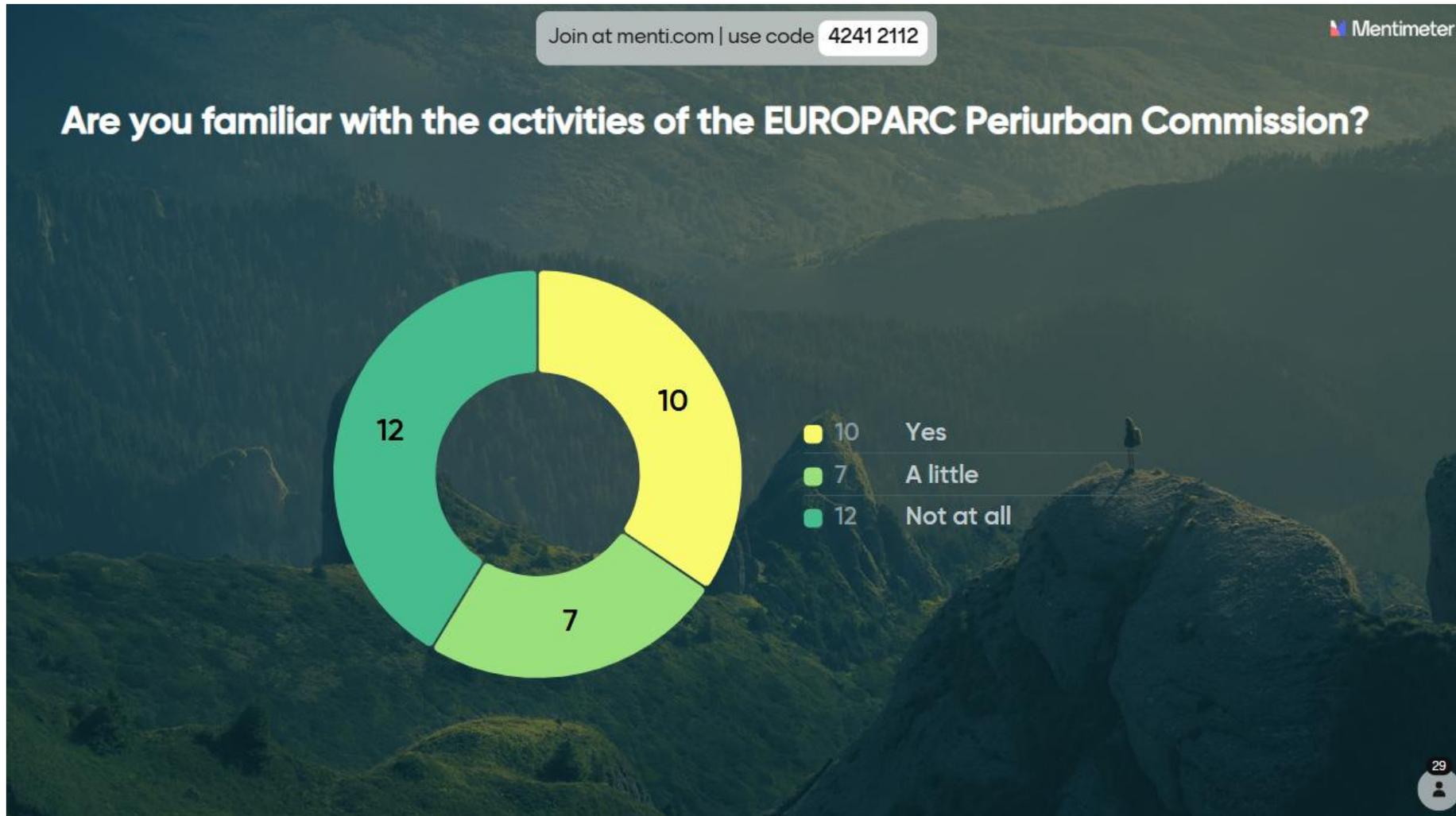
We will break the ice with a short poll



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Who are the participants of this webinar?

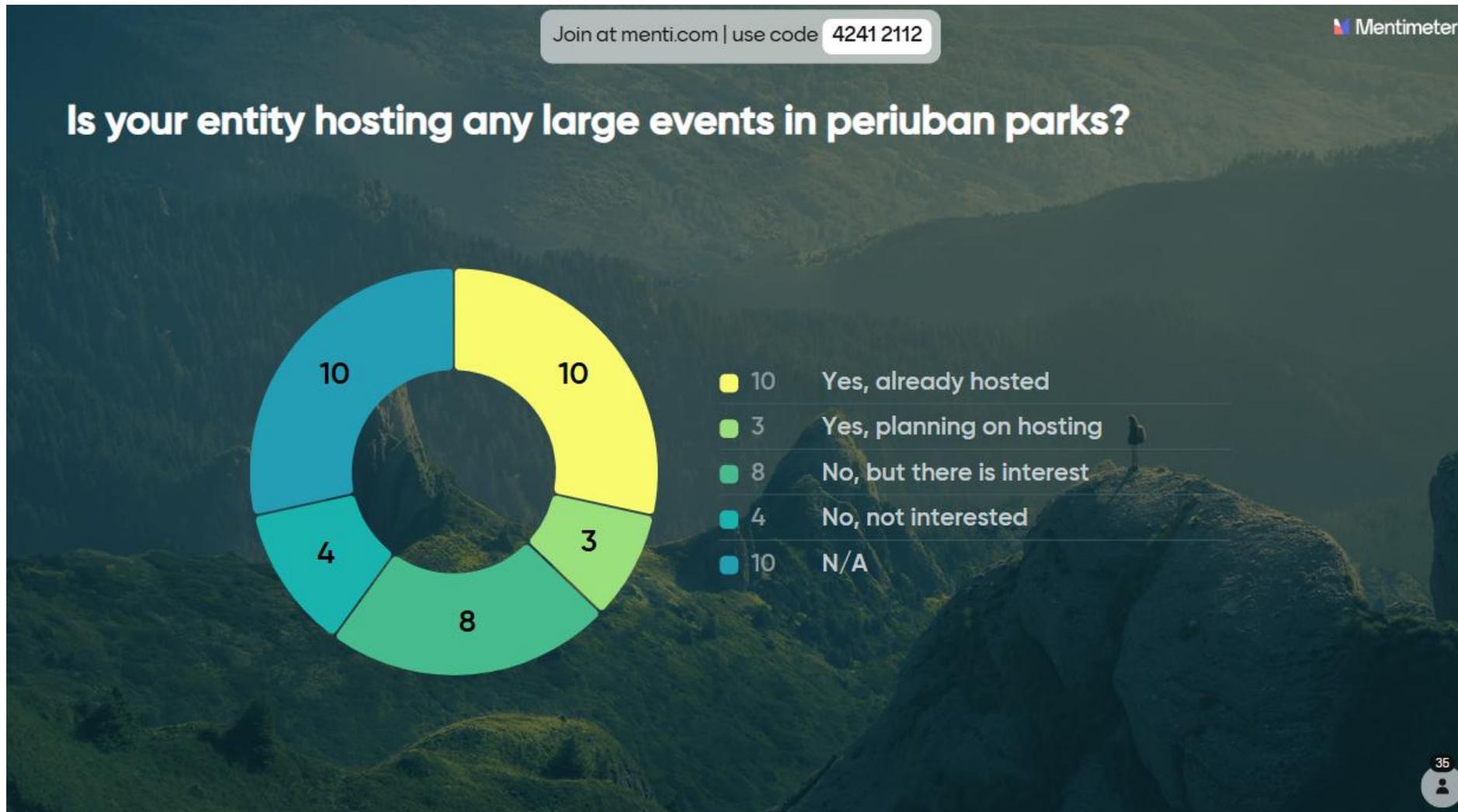


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Introduction

EUROPARC Federation was founded in **1973** with the aim of **supporting Protected Areas** to fulfill their role as preservers of Europe's natural beauty.

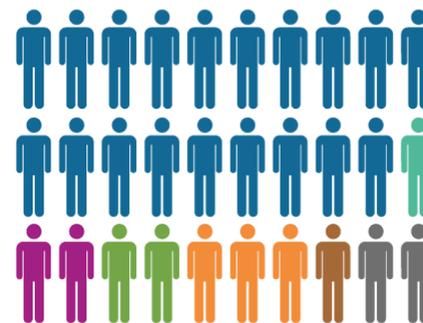


Our vision:
Sustainable Nature, Valued by People

+/- 400 members in around 40 countries

Get to know them!

www.europarc.org/about-us/network/members/

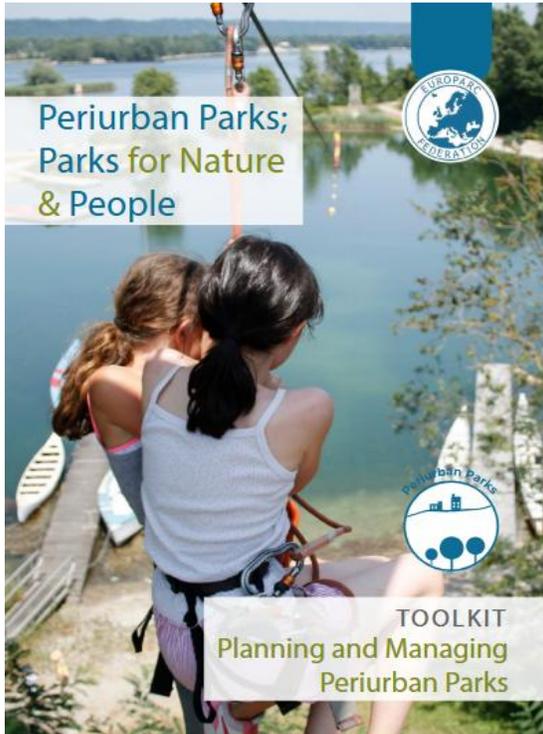


-  Protected Areas
-  National governmental organizations
-  NGO's
-  Regional Government Agencies
-  Other official Agencies Associations
-  Supporting organisations
-  Honorary and individual members



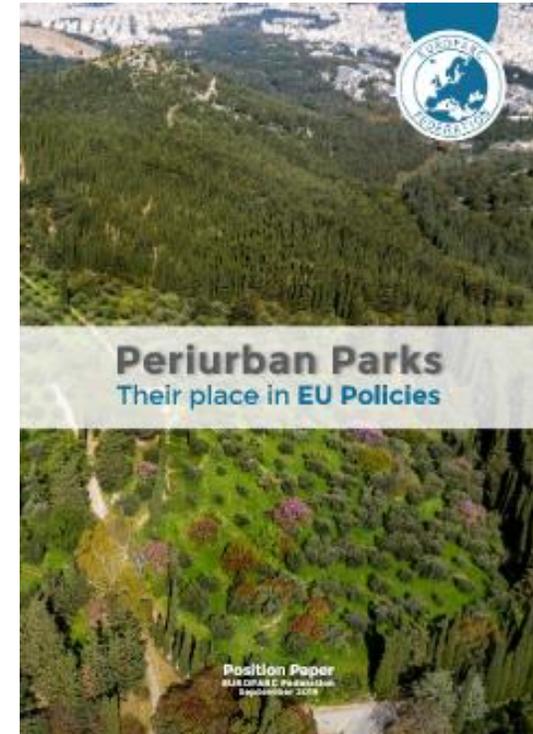


Fedenatur / Periurban Commission



Periurban Parks are the heart, lungs and soul of a city

They bring together issues connected to biological diversity, landscape, leisure activities, environmental education and sustainable management of metropolitan areas.



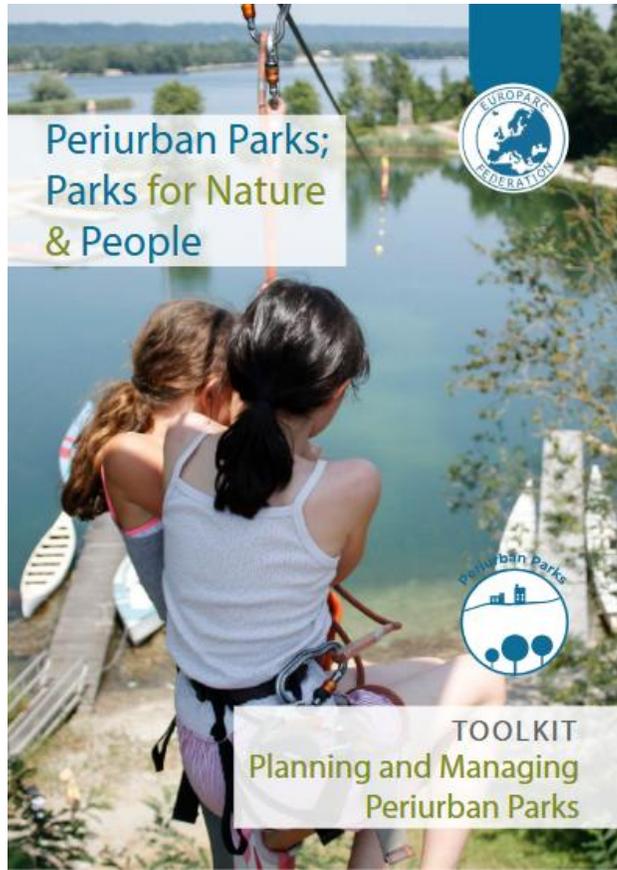
To know more:

<https://www.europarc.org/managing-parks/managing-parks-and-people/periurban-parks/>





Carrying Capacity



The high number of visitors endangers the ecosystems & the biodiversity in Periurban Parks. It also destroys the benefits people are seeking and that the city environment needs.

Carrying capacity can be defined as:

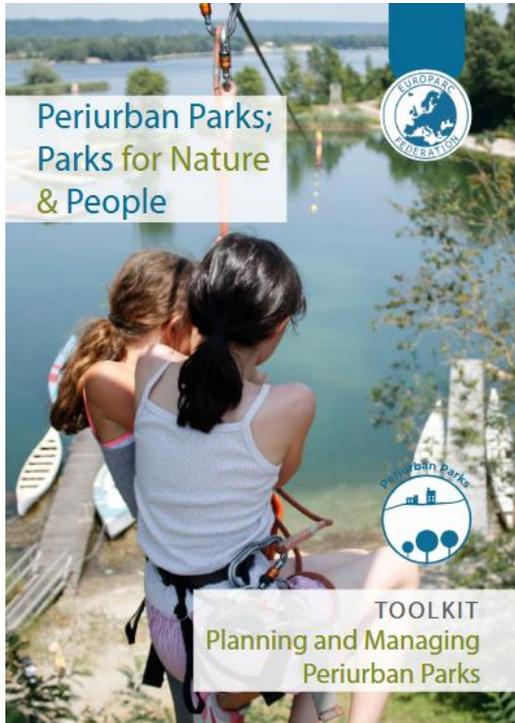
“Maximum visitor level that an area can hold with no impact, or the least environmental impact level, and the best nature experience quality for visitors”.

This will vary per habitat and location.

You can get some example of practical approaches to visitor management in Protected Areas in this article <https://www.europarc.org/news/2025/04/adapting-to-increased-visitation/>



Carrying Capacity



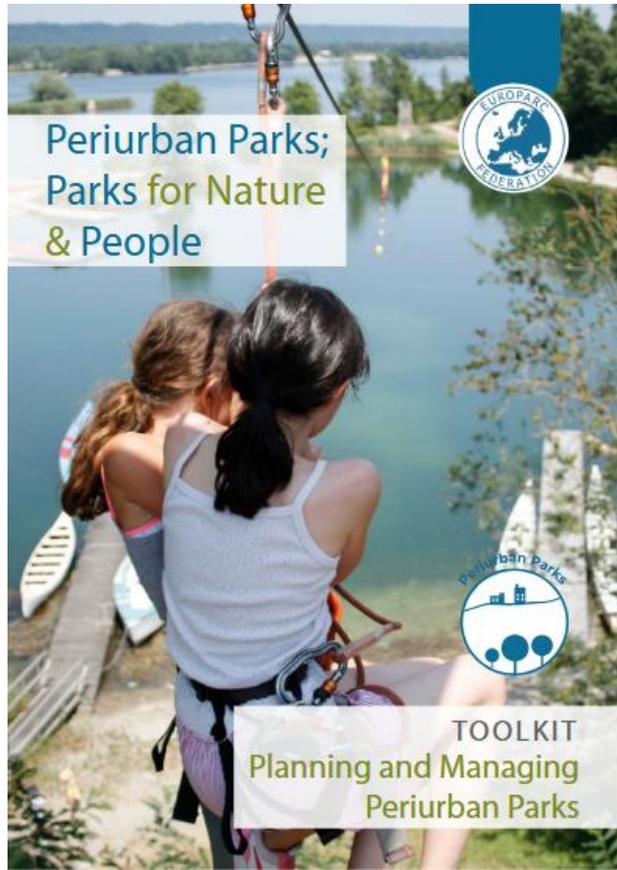
Several types of carrying capacity need to be assessed to get the global carrying capacity:

- **Physical carrying capacity:** maximum visitor level that an area can physically hold, related to their public use facilities & services, visitor centres, parking, trails, recreational areas, beaches.
- **Ecological carrying capacity:** maximum visitor level without detrimental or irreversible environmental impacts.
- **Social /Psychological carrying capacity:** amount of visitor use that individual visitor can endure before the number of visitors begins to intrude upon individual quality of the experiences.

To know more download the toolkit at: <https://www.europarc.org/managing-parks/managing-parks-and-people/periurban-parks/>
& watch last year's webinar at: <https://www.europarc.org/europarc-webinars/previous-webinars/exploring-carrying-capacity-navigating-visitor-management-in-protected-areas/>



Hosting large events



How do European parks manage the balance of **hosting leisure, sports and recreational events** and the need for **ecological sustainability**?

How to reach a **strategic compromise** among stakeholders so that Parks are both sustainably managed and meet the need of people to access natural spaces for their well-being?





Agenda & speaker

Case studies:

- Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France
- Englischer Garten, Munich, Germany
- Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium
- Grand Parc Miribel Jonage, Lyon, France
 - Video message from Lyon

Key recommendations

Q&A

Conclusions



Dr. Quentin Drouet,
Geographer

Author of the benchmark study "*Biodiversity protection in urban parks during large-scale cultural and sporting events*"





Q&A

Please write your questions in the chat



Hosting large events – recommendations and concluding remarks

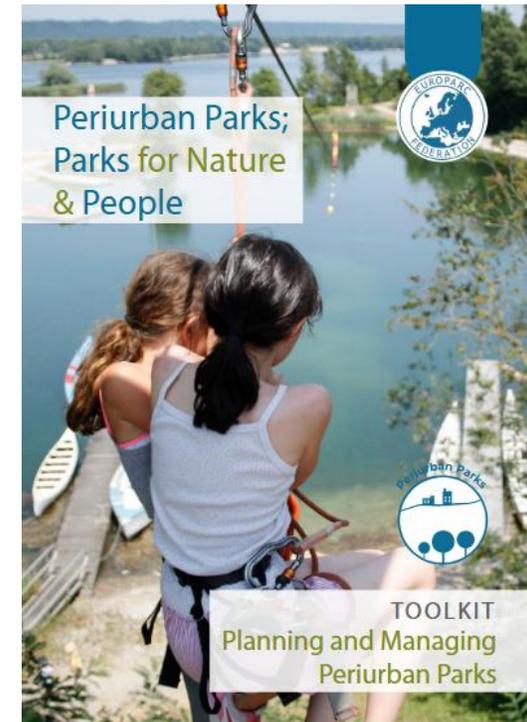
Designing at the Park

➤ Maintain different functions

- E.g. in case of sport events use suitable tracks and a buffer area surrounding them to mitigate negative impact; define buffer zones to tree canopies by either using a barrier or setting up facilities to discourage visitors from approaching them.

➤ Planning for mobility and accessibility

- E.g. consider safety and security of visitors and having clear routes, incl. for emergency vehicles; supervise the preservation and restoration of the sites used (status of the site, tree value barometer and fines) and specify the insurance responsibilities in case of high-altitude trees incident during the event;
- Promote soft mobility and accessibility (e.g. reach the location by bike or public transport, move around on foot or by designated electric vehicles).



Get inspired by our toolkit! <https://www.europarc.org/managing-parks/managing-parks-and-people/periurban-parks/>





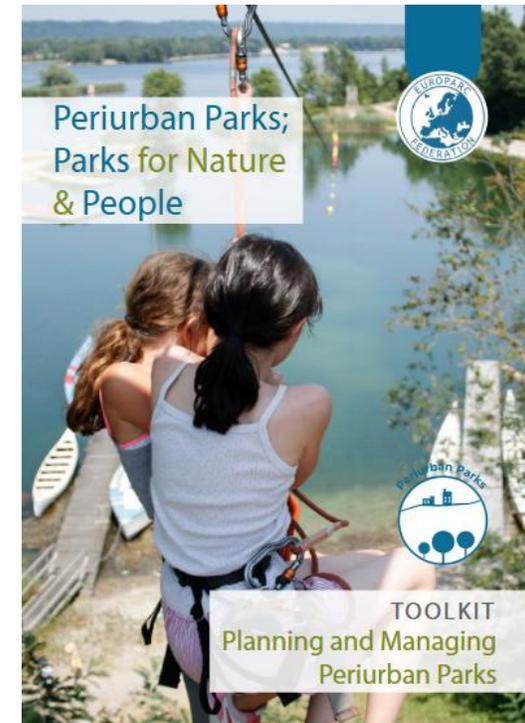
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

➤ Monitoring biodiversity

- E.g. Schedule rest periods (1 event per month, rotation and several months' resting areas) for lawns outside of football fields or event areas and avoid mowing the lawn before events to mitigate soil compaction from mass trampling with spontaneous mulch.

➤ Planning for recreation and leisure

- E.g. Pay attention to the commitment of organizers and all partners involved in terms of waste disposal, respect for trees and lawns, management of smoking areas, sufficient sanitation facilities to prevent the use of trees and bushes for this purpose, ash and oil management from barbecues and cooking. Give particular attention to waste management and collection.



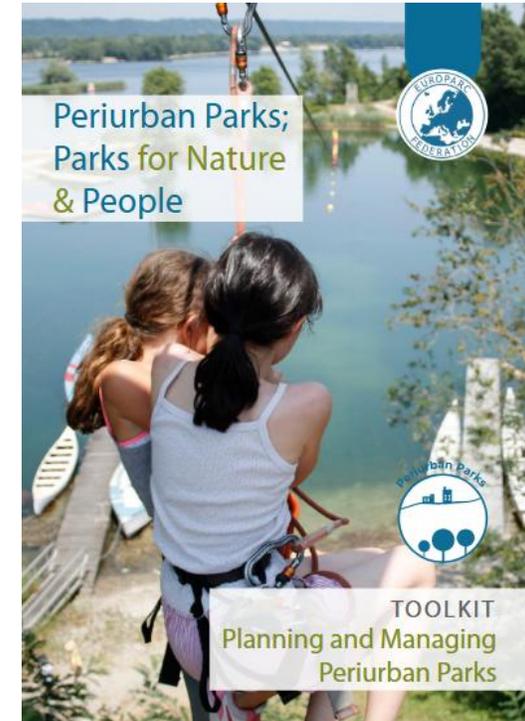
Hosting large events - recommendations and concluding remarks

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity



➤ Partnerships for biodiversity

- E.g. Develop cooperation between organizers through constructive relationship. It is often not enough to establish rules and monitor violations. A cultural change must also be supported.
- Enhance environmental efforts with the organizers (event labelling). Ensure coherence between the exemplary public management of the parks and the requirements for event organizers to ensure optimal cooperation
- Have enough staff to organize meetings with the organizers and to visit the event site during and after the event!



Get inspired by our toolkit! <https://www.europarc.org/managing-parks/managing-parks-and-people/periurban-parks/>



Hosting large events - recommendations and concluding remarks

Hosting people in Periurban Parks

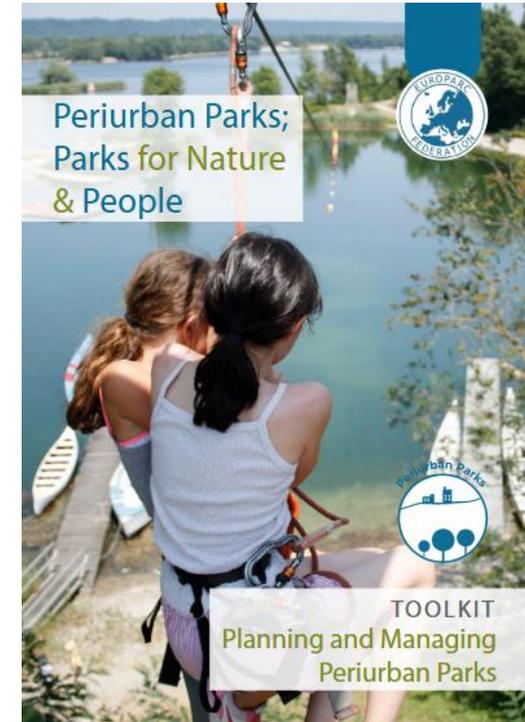


➤ Planning for recreation and leisure

- E.g. Pay attention to the commitment of organizers and all partners involved in terms of waste disposal, respect for trees and lawns, management of smoking areas, sufficient sanitation facilities to prevent the use of trees and bushes for this purpose, ash and oil management from barbecues and cooking. Give particular attention to waste management and collection.

➤ Planning for receiving people

- Raise awareness and communicate about appropriate behaviour to the target audiences of the events (local media, communication or information plan during the event from the dedicated staff and/or volunteers)



Get inspired by our toolkit! <https://www.europarc.org/managing-parks/managing-parks-and-people/periurban-parks/>





Thank you!

We value your feedback: please fill out the evaluation form by clicking on the link in the chat

