

# WORLD PARKS ACADEMY

## ENDORSEMENT OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS OF MERIT

### ABOUT

The World Parks Academy is a partnership institution developed by Indiana University and World Urban Parks (WUP) to advance the management of parks, public lands, and recreation through professional programs, certification, and development around the globe.

The World Parks Academy will endorse university programs and other tertiary parks, open space, and recreation-related programs that meet the Academy's standards based on its internationally developed Certified Park Professional (CPP) competencies. Programs that include any of the following coursework may be eligible: Landscape and Amenity Horticulture, Resource Management, Recreation, Asset Management, Interpretation and Education, Public Health Foundations, Operations and Maintenance, Project Management, Business Acumen, Supervision, and Leadership.

Endorsement as a 'Program of Merit' is not at the same accreditation level or cost of accreditation programs but will give students and stakeholders confidence that the program is recognized internationally as relevant and of good quality.

### RECOGNITION

Programs of Merit approved by the World Parks Academy Board receive:

1. A certificate suitable for framing and promotion
2. Listing on the Academy and WUP websites
3. Option of recognition of graduating students as 'provisional Certified Park Professionals' by WUP

### WORLD PARKS ACADEMY CREDENTIALS

**Indiana University** is a top-tier US educational institution with exceptional park and recreation management programs. The World Parks Academy is managed by the Eppley Institute, located in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Studies of the Indiana University School of Public Health.

**World Urban Parks** is an international peak body for parks, open space, and recreation. Its members include the world's national associations of parks and public lands, cities and government agencies, universities, NGOs, businesses, and professionals.

WPA board members are nominated from both bodies, and the Program of Merit is issued by the Eppley Institute on behalf of Indiana University.

## PROCESS

Following a formal inquiry a discussion will be held between the program and an Academy representative to confirm eligibility and acceptance. Eligible programs pay an up-front fee and submit a self-study report within six months. The report is evaluated by a sub-committee of the World Parks Academy and vetted by a two-day visit by one member of the Academy to view and discuss the program with educators, students, and other stakeholders.

Following payment of the expenses of the on-site evaluation, a report is prepared recommending to the World Parks Academy board to either approve endorsement of the program as a 'Program of Merit' or to request further development of the program by the applicant.

The applicant is notified of the board's decision by email within two weeks of the next bi-monthly World Parks Academy board meeting. A certificate is both mailed and emailed to successful applicants and the program status is recorded on the Academy website.

The certificate is valid for a five-year period and may be renewed following the same process.



## FEES

### Evaluation Fee

**\$2000**

For administration and evaluation of the program, and paid in advance.

### Site Visit Fee

**\$2-4000**

Expenses of the two-day on-site evaluation are estimated in advance and received as a \$2,000 deposit and topped up as necessary following the visit and submission of expenses and receipts by the World Parks Academy evaluator.

### Renewal Fee

**\$2800**

Renewal after five years involves resubmission of an updated self-study report. If the program has not substantially changed the site visit will be waived.

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For more information on how to apply contact Academy Administrator, Hana Cleveland, at

**[worldparksacademy@gmail.com](mailto:worldparksacademy@gmail.com)**