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COURSE BROCHURE

Park Planning and Design Training Course

10 – 14 May 2027
Madrid

Park Planning and Design Training Course

Ref: 3238_123256 **Date:** 10 – 14 May 2027 **Location:** Madrid **Fees:** 6200 GBP

Park Planning and Design is a 1-week training course for urban planners, landscape architects and municipal parks officers who shape new or renewed public open space, and it closes with a park master layout plan each participant drafts for a real site. Growing towns, hotter summers and tight water budgets make green space a long-term public investment. Jupiter Prime Training delivers this course for planners who turn sites into parks.

Why Park Planning and Design Matters Now

Three pressures shape park making today. Residents expect shade, walkable access and play space near home; climate change raises heat and storm runoff; and water scarcity forces choices between turf and native planting. A well-sited park cools and gathers people for decades; a poorly sited one leaves dead corners, unsafe paths and rising running costs. The course rests on site inventory, community needs assessment, safety-by-design layout principles and whole-life costing.

Who Gains Most from Park Planning and Design

- Planners who allocate open space within neighbourhood and district land-use plans
- Landscape designers who translate site conditions into zones, paths and planting
- Parks officers who brief consultants and judge concept proposals for public sites
- Community engagement staff who gather resident priorities for new parks
- Capital project staff who weigh construction choices against long-term running costs

A municipal parks or planning department gains most when its planners, designers and project staff attend together.

Park Planning and Design Capabilities

Participants move from reading a site to arranging its spaces, testing each choice against residents, water, safety and cost.

- Assess topography, soils, drainage, microclimate and existing trees on a park site — the zoning decision
- Specify park facilities from catchment population and resident consultation — the facility brief
- Design entrances, path hierarchies and circulation loops for all ages and abilities — accessibility reviewers
- Apply hydrozoning and climate-adapted planting palettes to limit irrigation demand — water budget holders
- Arrange play, sports and quiet zones with natural surveillance and clear sightlines — community safety
- Calculate whole-life cost of layout options to compare design alternatives — capital approval boards

Key Park Planning and Design Terms

- Site inventory — A recorded survey of a site's landform, soils, water, vegetation and services before design begins.
- Catchment area — The surrounding area whose residents are expected to use a park, used to size its facilities.
- Path hierarchy — The ranking of park routes from main promenades to minor trails, each with set width and surface.
- Hydrozoning — Grouping plants with similar water needs into zones so irrigation can be matched to each zone's demand.
- Natural surveillance — Layout that lets people see and be seen, discouraging misuse.
- Master layout plan — The scaled drawing fixing a park's zones, routes, facilities and planting structure.

Park Planning and Design Day by Day

Day 1: Reading the Park Site and Its Context

- Site Inventory Survey — Constraints and Opportunities Shaping the Layout
- Topography and Drainage Mapping — Grading Limits and Stormwater Routes
- Microclimate and Shade Study — Siting Seating, Play and Gathering Spaces
- Existing Tree and Habitat Audit — What to Retain, Protect or Replace
- Surrounding Land Use and Edges — Linking the Park to Its Neighbourhood

Day 2: Community Needs and the Facility Brief

- Catchment Population Profile — Sizing Facilities for Expected Park Users
- Resident Consultation Methods — Capturing Priorities of Families, Youth and Elders
- Open Space Provision Benchmarks — Testing Supply Against Neighbourhood Demand
- Activity Mapping — Balancing Active Recreation With Quiet Retreat
- Facility Brief Matrix — Agreeing the Park's Schedule of Spaces

Day 3: Access, Circulation and Activity Zones

- Entrance Placement Analysis — Pedestrian, Cycle and Vehicle Arrival Points
- Path Hierarchy and Loop Design — Route Widths, Gradients and Surfaces
- Inclusive Access Principles — Step-Free Routes, Rest Points and Wayfinding
- Play Area Layout by Age Group — Separation, Supervision and Safety Surfacing
- Sports Court and Pitch Orientation — Sun Angle, Buffers and Spectator Space

Day 4: Planting, Water and Whole-Life Cost

- Climate-Adapted Planting Palette — Native Species, Shade Trees and Groundcover
- Hydrozoning and Irrigation Layout — Matching Water Use to Planting Zones
- Sustainable Drainage Features — Swales, Rain Gardens and Retention Basins
- Safety-by-Design Layout Review — Sightlines, Lighting and Natural Surveillance
- Whole-Life Costing of Options — Comparing Build and Running Cost Over Decades

Day 5: Practising the Park Master Layout Plan

- Site Constraints Overlay — Combining Survey Findings Into One Base Plan
- Zoning Diagram Iteration — Placing Facility Brief Spaces on the Site
- Circulation and Planting Integration — Testing Routes Against Water Zones
- Peer Design Critique — Safety, Access and Cost Trade-Offs Exposed
- Park Master Layout Plan — Final Zones, Routes, Facilities and Phasing

Applying Park Planning and Design After the Course

- Lead a site inventory and constraints overlay for a park on your department's capital list.
- Run a resident consultation round for an upcoming park and convert the results into a facility brief matrix.

Park Planning and Design Questions FAQ

What is park planning and design, and why does it matter now?

Park planning and design is the process of turning a site into a public park, from survey to layout. It matters now because heat, water scarcity and growing towns make well-placed shade and play space a lasting public asset.

Which roles gain most from park planning and design training?

Urban planners, landscape architects and municipal parks officers gain most. Anyone who briefs, designs or approves new public open space uses its site analysis, zoning and costing methods.

How does park planning and design differ from a park maintenance course?

Park planning and design focuses on decisions made before construction: site analysis, facility briefs, circulation, planting structure and layout. A maintenance course covers upkeep of an existing park, such as mowing, repairs and inspections.

What do you bring back from park planning and design training?

You bring back a park master layout plan drafted for a real site. It combines a constraints overlay, facility brief, path hierarchy, hydrozoned planting and whole-life cost comparison.

Park Planning and Design: The Way Forward

The park master layout plan first informs which zoning option goes forward to detailed design and budget approval. Planners and parks officers use it to brief consultants, explain choices to residents and phase construction. After first use, revisit the water and shade assumptions: one hot season shows whether seating and play spaces sit where people gather.