



PEACE PARKS
TOOL KIT



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR **PEACE** THROUGH TOURISM
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR LA **PAIX** PAR LE TOURISME



RATIONALE FOR PEACE PARKS

For centuries the natural space between trees has been considered sacrosanct. Ancient cultures beginning with the Greeks and the Vikings believed that such a space was “Bosco Sacro” - the Sacred Space. Other first nations dwelt on the spirituality that existed in the metaphor of the tree. A Tree’s roots grasp the earth and are nurtured by it, while its branches reach out to the endless possibilities of the heavens.

With this as one of the many views in mind, the Peace Park Project was initiated with the “Peace Parks Across Canada” project commemorating Canada’s 125th birthday as a nation. The project has grown to now include over 450 Peace Parks dotting the globe. Our goal is to have 2,000 Peace Parks circling the globe by the year 2010.

Objectives

- To nurture the growth of peace and understanding at home and throughout the world.
- To enhance awareness of a community’s commitment to peace and a healthy environment.
- To create a common ground for members of the community to come together in celebration of their nation’s people, land, and heritage, and the common future all humankind.
- A place of reflection on our connectedness to one another as a Global Family and to the earth of which we are all a part.



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Concept

- IIPT Peace Parks to be dedicated in cities, towns, villages and rural areas in all countries and territories throughout the world.
- Dedicated parks are usually existing parks - dedicated as Peace Parks.
- A "Peace Grove" or "Bosco Sacro" of usually 12 trees as an integral part of each park. This can be a number of trees that is particularly symbolic to the city, town or village.
- The species of tree or trees to be used is at the discretion of the local Peace Park Organizing Committee.
- The Peace Park should include a plaque designating the park as an IIPT Peace Park - date of the dedication - and appropriate quotation relating to peace, or the IIPT Credo of the Peaceful Traveller.
- Workshops should be conducted representatives of the diverse civic organizations and population segments to reflect on the concept of peace - and what peace means to the community. How this concept of Peace might be reflected in the dedication of the Peace Park and thereafter with activities in the Park.
- The dedication ceremony should take place on a day that has significance such as September 21, the UN International Day of Peace.



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REFLECTIONS ON PEACE

These reflections on peace are a summary of reflections from some 17 workshops held across Canada as part of the "Peace parks Across Canada Project 1992."

Peace begins with each of us, as individuals. Getting in touch with the whole person within - mind, body, and spirit. Achieving an understanding of ourselves, seeking and finding our own inner peace and sharing it in relationships with others. Searching within to find right thinking, and right attitudes as a basis for right conduct and action in support of the right cause.

"Peace from inner strength"

"Personal commitment to the achievement of peace in our own lives"

"Raising awareness to the level of responsible actions"

Inner peace can be learned by simply observing the joy of children; their awareness of the simple things; their creativity and limitless sense of discovery of themselves, and the world around them; and their great capacity to enjoy life as reflected in their spontaneous smiles and laughter. We should all seek to find the "discovery factor" of the child within us, and nurture it.

"Respect for self to have respect for others"

"What we do now will affect our children and grandchildren"

From peace within us, reaching out to others in a spirit of understanding, trust, and acceptance to achieve harmony within our families and neighbourhoods, and particularly among our youth. The arts in all forms are invaluable as a universal language in creating bridges of understanding and appreciation. Peace with others



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extends to our colleagues at work and within our respective professions, trades, and occupations. It is creating partnerships to work together towards common goals.

“Love transcends all things”

“Collective peace through individual peace”

To achieve peace within ourselves and with others, we must also be at peace with nature. In this respect, we can learn from the Iroquois Great Law of Peace, which states in part:

“God created man - to take care of everything else that God created.”

We must re-connect with our roots, our communities, and natural environment and where possible bring nature back into our urban settings.

“Harmony with each other and the land”

“Peace is holistic, physical and ecological”

“Peace is a recognition of the inter-connectedness of all things.”

“Peace is the way we live, how we use the land and integrate the natural world into our cities”

The vision of peace includes harmony among jurisdictions - local/ provincial/ federal and a unified community working together in a continued leadership role in collaboration with other nations, towards international understanding, world peace, and a healthy environment. It is a recognition and celebration of the natural beauty and abundance we have and the opportunities before us. It is recognizing the importance of all parts of the global society - even small places in the global struggle for peace - Sharing and appreciating the diverse cultural heritage within the human family - The Global Village.



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Global Peace requires that we deal with the obstacles to peace - with famine, drought, and illiteracy; that we bridge the gap with the less fortunate. It requires peaceful means to resolve conflict and appropriate structures and strategies to build a better world for all.

“Have to provide food, water and shelter for all before we can achieve peace”

“We ARE our brother’s keeper”

Global peace requires a transition from military economies to peace economies; meeting human needs - particularly in developing countries and restoring health to the environment and our life support systems - land, air and water.

“Turning swords into ploughshares”

Peace is the recognition of our spiritual as well as our material capacities - a spirituality that embraces the whole of creation.



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THE DEDICATION CEREMONY: ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Schools, colleges, universities, military establishments, community organizations, community leaders, local businesses, park & recreation leaders, veterans of peacekeeping bodies.
ATMOSPHERE	Dignified, fostering community feelings, togetherness, unity, teamwork, oneness, responsibility, merry.
DEDICATION	Short meaningful speeches Dedication of a plaque.
CEREMONY	Short, involving as many sectors of the community as possible, involves local ceremonies, rituals. Have activities that involve a number of people or teamwork.
SOUVENIRS	Distribution of sapling, other memorabilia that are specific to the event.
FUTURE USE	To use this park as a place of promoting peace, hold other peace related events in it, spread the word of peace.

SOURCES OF POSSIBLE SUPPORT

- \$ Local Services Clubs: Eg: Rotary
- \$ Forestry Services/ Associations
- \$ Parks and Recreation Departments
- \$ Landscape Architects etc



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PROTOTYPE PEACE PARK DEDICATION CEREMONY



11:00am	Opening Remarks	_____
11:05am	Welcome by Park Official	_____
11:10am	People’s Perspective	_____
11:15am	Local Ceremony/Ritual	_____
11:25am	Community Vision	_____
11:30am	International Institute for Peace Through Tourism	_____
11:35am	Rotary club/Local Community Organization	_____
11:45am	Youth Representatives	_____
11:50am	Foreign Guest speakers	_____
12:00pm	Planting of Trees	_____





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PROTOTYPE PLAQUE

An inspirational message reflecting what the Peace Park means to the community:

Example:

“May eternal peace rule throughout the whole world
 with peace and friendship between all Mankind.”

Lester B. Pearson Peace Park
 RR3, Tweed, Ontario

_____ (Name of the Peace Park) was officially dedicated on _____
 (Month, Date, Year), commemorating _____ (the event /
 centennial/ region) and as part of the IIPT’S GLOBAL PEACE PARK PROJECT.

_____ (Name of the town/ region) joined with _____,
 _____, and _____ (names of regions,/ towns) in a celebration of _____
 (Name of the town/ region) ’s commitment to Peace among all people of the world
 and peace with our common home and environment - planet earth.

Officially Dedicated by:

_____, _____ (Mayor, Town)
 Members of the Town Council

And friends of _____ (Name of Peace Park)

(Supporting organizations)





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Register your park with IIPT

IIPT'S GLOBAL PEACE PARK PROJECT

The municipality of _____ (City) wishes to join with other communities across _____ (Region/Country) in dedicating an existing park as a "Peace Park" - a living legacy of _____ (City)'s commitment to world peace and a healthy environment.

_____ (Name of the Park) will be dedicated as a Peace Park on (Day, Month, Year) _____ symbolic of the life, creativity and hope for the future that thrives in peace.

Contact information

Name _____ Date _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Province and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E mail _____

Facsimile _____

Name of Peace Park and location

Description of attached digital photos

Photo # 1 _____

Photo # 2 _____

Photo # 3 _____

Supporting Organizations & Friends of the Park:

To register your park, please return this completed form to peaceparks@ipt.org :
 International Institute for peace through Tourism
 685 Cottage Club Road - Unit 13
 Stowe, VT 05672 USA