

WUF12 Event Applications

Cairo, Egypt | 4-8 Nov 2024

Theme : *“It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities”*

Event Details: Networking events/ Voices from Cities/ SDGs In Action

Event Model *

In person/ hybrid

Title of Event * (250 words)

AUTISM FRIENDLY PARK: READY TO TAKE A PART IN THE CITY?

Event Summary * (3000 words)

Autism Friendly Parks in the City addresses the growing need for inclusive and accessible outdoor spaces for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other sensory sensitivities. These parks are thoughtfully designed to provide a welcoming environment where individuals with autism and their families can enjoy recreational activities comfortably. Features of autism friendly parks typically include sensory-friendly equipment, quiet areas, and accommodations to minimize sensory overload. These parks aim to promote social inclusion, sensory regulation, and community engagement among individuals with autism. By creating spaces that cater to the diverse needs of all residents, cities can foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with autism and their families.

Key Objectives * (1500 words)

1. **Enhance Inclusivity:** Create outdoor spaces that are accessible and welcoming to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other sensory sensitivities, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion within the community.
2. **Provide Sensory-Friendly Environment:** Design parks with sensory-friendly features and accommodations to minimize sensory overload, including quiet areas, sensory-friendly play equipment, and calming sensory experiences.
3. **Promote Social Interaction:** Facilitate opportunities for individuals with autism and their families to engage in recreational activities and social interactions within a supportive and understanding environment.
4. **Raise Awareness and Understanding:** Educate the community about autism spectrum disorders and the importance of creating inclusive spaces, promoting acceptance, empathy, and understanding among residents.
5. **Support Families and Caregivers:** Provide resources, information, and support services for families and caregivers of individuals with autism, helping them navigate and access the available amenities and programs in the autism-friendly parks.
6. **Collaborate with Stakeholders:** Partner with local government agencies, autism advocacy groups, community organizations, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation and ongoing support of autism-friendly parks in the city.
7. **Evaluate and Improve Accessibility:** Continuously assess the effectiveness of the parks' design and amenities, gathering feedback from individuals with autism and their families to make necessary adjustments and improvements to enhance accessibility and inclusivity.

8. **Promote Research and Best Practices:** Encourage research and the adoption of best practices in the design and management of autism-friendly parks, contributing to the development of innovative solutions and standards for inclusive urban environments.

By achieving these objectives, the proposal aims to create a network of autism-friendly parks within the city that serve as inclusive, supportive, and enriching spaces for individuals with autism and their families to enjoy recreational activities and social interactions.

Select at least one Sustainable Development Goal, up to a maximum of three Goals related to your topic

SDG 13

Relevance; Please select the Dialogue theme relevant to your event *

Dialogue 3 : Strong together

Describe briefly why should your event be selected and what makes it both relevant and impactful * (2,500 words)

Our event, the Autism Friendly Park Launch, should be selected because it addresses a pressing need within our community for inclusive and accessible outdoor spaces. Here's why our event is both relevant and impactful:

1. Addressing a Growing Need: There is a significant lack of outdoor spaces tailored to the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other sensory sensitivities. Our event fills this gap by introducing a park specifically designed to accommodate individuals with autism, providing a safe and welcoming environment for recreation and socialization.

2. Promoting Inclusivity: Inclusivity is a cornerstone of our event. By creating a park that caters to individuals with autism, we demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that everyone in our community feels valued and included. This promotes social cohesion and strengthens community bonds.

3. Improving Quality of Life: For individuals with autism and their families, having access to a park designed with their needs in mind can greatly enhance their quality of life. Our event aims to improve the well-being and overall experience of individuals with autism by providing them with a space where they can feel comfortable and supported.

4. Raising Awareness and Understanding: Our event goes beyond just providing a physical space – it also seeks to raise awareness and understanding of autism spectrum disorders within the broader community. By educating the public about autism and the importance of creating inclusive environments, we foster empathy, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism and their families.

5. Catalyzing Positive Change: The launch of the Autism Friendly Park sets a precedent for future development and urban planning initiatives. By demonstrating the feasibility and benefits of creating inclusive spaces, our event catalyzes positive change within our city, encouraging policymakers, developers, and community members to prioritize inclusivity in all aspects of city planning and design.

Overall, our event is relevant and impactful because it addresses a critical need, promotes inclusivity, improves quality of life, raises awareness, and catalyzes positive change within our community. We believe that by selecting our event, you will not only be supporting individuals with autism but also contributing to the creation of a more inclusive and compassionate society for all.

Promotion and monitoring ; What is your outreach strategy to promote attendance at this event * (500 words)

Targeted Social Media Campaigns: We will utilize social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to reach a wide audience. Targeted ads will be created to reach individuals interested in autism advocacy, disability rights, and community events. Engaging content, including event teasers, informational posts, and testimonials, will be shared regularly to build excitement and encourage attendance.

Registration Tracking: We will monitor registration numbers through our event registration platform to track the number of attendees and demographics. This will help us gauge interest in the event and make informed decisions regarding outreach efforts and event logistics.

Promotion and monitoring ; How do you plan to promote the event?

Website/ twitter/x/ facebook / Instagram/ linkedin

Promotion and monitoring ; What is your monitoring strategy to follow up on the outcome of the event? * (500 words)

Following the Autism Friendly Park Launch event, we will implement a monitoring strategy to evaluate its outcomes and measure its impact. Here's our plan:

Feedback Surveys: We will distribute post-event feedback surveys to attendees to gather insights into their experience, satisfaction level, and suggestions for improvement. These surveys will include questions about the overall event experience, the accessibility of the park, the effectiveness of sensory-friendly features, and any areas for improvement. Analysing survey responses will provide valuable feedback for future events and initiatives.

Attendance and Demographic Analysis: We will analyse attendance data collected during the event registration process to understand the demographics of attendees, including age, gender, and location. Comparing actual attendance with projected attendance will help us assess the success of our promotional efforts and identify any discrepancies.

Stakeholder Feedback: We will solicit feedback from key stakeholders, including event partners, community organizations, and local government representatives. Engaging with stakeholders will help us understand their perspectives on the event's outcomes and identify opportunities for collaboration and improvement in the future.

Post-Event Evaluation Meeting: We will convene a post-event evaluation meeting with the event organizing team to review feedback, analyse data, and discuss lessons learned. This meeting will provide an opportunity to reflect on the event's successes and challenges, identify areas for improvement, and develop actionable recommendations for future events.

Long-Term Impact Assessment: In addition to immediate post-event monitoring, we will conduct a long-term impact assessment to evaluate the lasting effects of the Autism Friendly Park Launch event. This may include follow-up surveys with attendees to assess changes in attitudes and behaviours related to autism awareness and inclusivity, as well as ongoing monitoring of park usage and community engagement.

Partners

First Organization

Second Organization

Panelists

First Organization

Moderator

Name : TPr Norliza binti Hashim

Official title : Chairperson of Placemaking Malaysia

Country : Malaysia

Organization : Urbanice Malaysia

Event Scheduling

First Organization