



Public parks as a way to improve the quality of life in Saudi Arabia

International best practices

May 2021

Table of Contents

Observations

Examples of famous parks

Parks in Riyadh and Jeddah

Plants of Saudi Arabia

Because of the arid climate and different usage patterns, an adaption of Northern Hemisphere park styles to the local environment is required

OBSERVATIONS

- 1 **Famous parks** in metropolitan areas **usually have a long history**, often being transformed into a public park after having started as hunting grounds, gardens/parks of the nobility, or agricultural areas. Their initial purpose served de-facto as a place holder, thus enabling the **use of a comparatively large area in a central place of a major city**
- 2 A typical urban park is of **substantial size, usually serving a large number of people living in the vicinity of the park. The park is normally reached either by walking, or with urban transportation**. Most parks are in the range of **150-400 ha** of area. Lakes, channels or creeks are common elements
- 3 The typical large park in the Northern hemisphere is a **mix of open spaces with forest areas** with huge trees, often several hundred years old. **Maintaining a typical metropolitan park comes with a substantial cost in the range of USD 40-60mn of operational expenses p.a.**
- 4 **Saudi parks consist mostly of open spaces** with a comparatively low number of trees. They are **typically used by families for picnic, BBQ and usually provide a large playground** for children. Due to the hot climate the parks are frequented mostly in the late hours. Most of these parks are small compared to parks in Europe or the US
- 5 There is a **number of Saudi plants suitable for parks**, the date palm being the favorite plant, but also including the Red Acacia, the Charcoal Tree or the Desert Rose

Table of Contents

Observations

Examples of famous parks

Parks in Riyadh and Jeddah

Plants of Saudi Arabia

From a representative sample of top-notch urban parks, 10 were selected for detailed benchmarking

Royal Parks, United Kingdom

Hyde Park ✓	Kensington Gardens	Richmond Park	Bushy Park	St James Park
The Green Park	The Regent's Park	Greenwich Park	Brompton Cemetery	Victoria Tower Gardens

Top parks according to various rankings

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne ✓	Villa Doria Pamphili, Rome ✓	Ibirapuera Park, São Paulo	Forest Park, St Louis ✓	Luxembourg Garden, Paris ✓
Stanley Park, Vancouver ✓	Central Park, New York City ✓	Balboa Park, San Diego	Hibiya Park, Tokyo	Park Güell, Barcelona
Griffith Park, Los Angeles	Royal National City Park, Stockholm	Lumphini Park, Bangkok	Golden Gate Park, San Francisco	Millenium Park, Chicago
Parque del Buen Retiro, Madrid	English Garden, Munich ✓	Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Tokyo ✓	King Abdullah Park, Riyadh ✓	Kings Park, Perth ✓

Planned parks

Mohammed bin Rashid City Park, Dubai ✓
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Selected for benchmarking

Some features seem to be a must for any park, others are optional to a varying degree

		Percentage of instances a feature is present	Central Park, New York City	Hyde Park	English Garden, Munich	Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Tokyo	King Abdullah Park, Riyadh	Forest Park, St Louis	Luxembourg Garden, Paris	Stanley Park, Vancouver	Kings Park, Perth
Landscape	Forest/Trees	<div></div> 100%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Special/Exotic plants	<div></div> 67%	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Botanical garden	<div></div> 33%	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
	Greenhouses	<div></div> 33%	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
	Lawns/Meadows	<div></div> 100%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Ponds/Lakes	<div></div> 100%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Streams	<div></div> 56%	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Decorative elements	Sculptures	<div></div> 67%	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Memorials	<div></div> 44%	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	Fountains	<div></div> 22%	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
Catering	Restaurants	<div></div> 89%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	Stalls/Kiosks	<div></div> 89%	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Picnic/Barbecue areas	<div></div> 44%	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Entertainment	Theaters	<div></div> 22%	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Museums	<div></div> 33%	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
	Discovery Center	<div></div> 56%	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	Zoo/Animals	<div></div> 33%	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
	Playgrounds	<div></div> 100%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Concerts	<div></div> 89%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Festivals	<div></div> 67%	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Other events	<div></div> 89%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Sports	Soccer, basketball, etc.	<div></div> 67%	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	Running, skating, etc.	<div></div> 78%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	Horse riding	<div></div> 22%	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Golf	<div></div> 11%	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
	Tennis	<div></div> 44%	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y

- Feature present in at least 80% of examples
- Feature present in 50-80% of examples
- Feature present in less than 50% of examples

Famous parks and their components

Park	Size			Plants & Animals				Water	Art	Entertainment				Catering		Typical usage
	Size, ha	Visitors, p.a., mn	Budget, mn	Forest & Trees	Special plants, botanical gardens, greenhouses	Lawns & Meadows	Animals species			Sculptures, memorials and fountains	Sports	Children	Education	Events	Restaurants, stalls & kiosks	Grill & BBQ places
Central Park, New York	341	40	USD 65	> 25 th. trees, incl. 1,700 American elms	none	Seven major lawns	Urban species (birds)	Natural looking lakes & ponds	29 sculptures	Jogging, skating, cycling, team sports	Enclosed playgrounds	none	Open air concerts & theater	2 indoor restaurants	none	Walking and sports
Hyde Park, London	142	10	GBP 10 (est.)	3,174 trees, 37% of it London planes	1.6 ha of green houses	Several major lawns	Urban species (birds)	Two large lakes	Assorted statues & memorials	Football, tennis, horse riding, cycling	none	Speaker's corner	Concerts, Winter Wonderland at Christmas	Several restaurants, cafes, kiosks	none	Walking and sports
English Garden, Munich	370	6	EUR 2.7	Several thousand in 150 ha of forest	none	187 ha meadows	50-60 bird species	Several lakes (16 ha), 8,75 km of streams	Japanes Teahouse, Greek Temple, Chinese Tower	Jogging, bicycling, horse riding, surfing	Some playgrounds	none	None, Performances in a small amphitheater	4 restaurants, 4 kiosks, large outdoor beer gardens	none	Walking and sports, (Nude) sunbathing
Mohammed bin Rashid City Park, Dubai	200	80	tbd	The Mohammed bin Rashid City Park is still under planning/construction												
Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Tokyo	58	2	na	> 20,000 trees, including 1,500 cherry trees, Hymalaian cedars, tulip trees, cypresses, plane trees	1,700 exotic plants in greenhouses	Some lawn areas	Urban species (birds)	A number of connected ponds	Art gallery	none	Mother-and-Child-Forest	none	Chrysanthemum exhibition	Restaurant, Teahouse	none	Walking, contemplation, watching the cherry blossom
Forest Park, Saint Louis	526	13	USD 9	45,000 trees	> 600 species of plants	Several major lawns	> 200 bird species, fish hatchery	A chain of ponds connected by streams	Several statues/memorials, Sculpture garden, art museum	Extensive sports facilities	Playground	5 mcultural institutions (incl. museums and a zoo ajor	In the cultural institutions (e.g., concerts)	Several restaurants & cafes	Picnic grounds & pavilions	"A park for everyone"
Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris	25	na	na	Scattered across the park and lining the walkways	Orchard with old apple species, Rose garden, Greenhouses with orchids	Large lawns especially in the French garden	Apiary to learn bee-keeping	Large basin (used for model yachts)	106 statues, Medici Fountain	Tennis, chess, bridge	Pony rides, swings	In the context of botany and bee-keeping	Concerts, photography exhibitions	Refreshment stalls and kiosks	none	Relaxed walking, family afternoons
Stanley Park, Vancouver	405	8	CAD 123	500,000 trees, many of them several hundred years old	Flower gardens, Rhododendron Garden	Several lawns	Animals naturally occurring in the region	One big lagoon, surrounded by the sea	Multitude of monuments and memorials	Golf, tennis, team sports, swimming rowing	Narrow-gauge railway	Canada's largest aquarium	Occasional	2 "Bar & Grill", 2 Cafes	none	Fitness, Family outings, beach, dog walking
King's Park, Perth	401	5.8	n.a.	Typical Australian bushland with trees scattered across the landscape	324 native plants, 18 ha botanic garden with over half of Australia's 25,000 plant species	Large meadows	80 bird species	Several streams	State war memorial, honor avenues, aboriginal art gallery	Tennis club	2 large playgrounds	In the context of the botanical garden	Kings Park Festival in September	Several restaurants, cafes and kiosks	none	Walking and experiencing nature, Family picnics
King Abdullah Park, Riyadh	32	na	na	Comparatively few, mostly palms	Flower beads	Large open spaces for sitting	none	Large pond with an illuminated fountain	none	Small stadium	Playgrounds	none	Open area for shows & events, Amphitheater	1,700 sqm restaurant	Picnic in the open spaces	Walking, picnics, children entertainment

☐ Not observed
 ☐ Feature
 ☐ Signature Feature

Central Park

Central Park

Location	Manhattan, New York City
Owner	New York City, managed by the Central Park Conservancy (non-profit organization)



History

- Park designed by the landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux
- Established 1857, official completion in 1873
- After being neglected in the 1960/70s the park has been renovated since the 1980s

Description

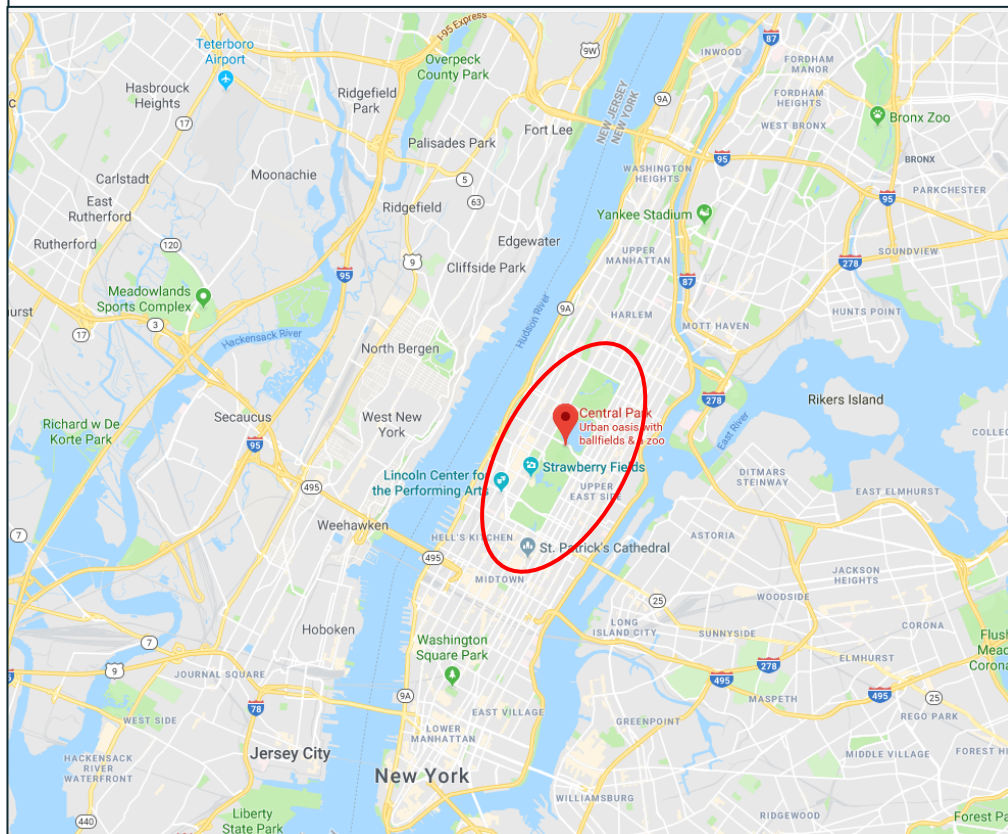
Area	341 ha
Visitors p.a.	40 mn
Budget p.a.	USD 65mn (about USD 40mn operational expenses)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several natural-looking lakes and ponds that have been created artificially by damming natural seeps and flows • Large area of woods in addition to seven major lawns, the "meadows", and many minor grassy areas
Plants/Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 25,000 trees, with a stand of 1,700 American elms, one of the largest remaining stands in the northeastern U.S. • Zoo with more than 100 species
Art	A total of 29 sculptures by sculptors such as Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Emma Stebbins, and John Quincy Adams Ward, most donated by individuals or organizations
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During summertime events (open-air theatre, New York Philharmonics concerts) • Ice rink in the winter • Theater, Art Museum, Discovery Center
Catering	2 indoor restaurants
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal team sports on the grassy areas • 6 miles (9.7 km) of drives within the park are used by joggers, cyclists, skateboarders, and inline skaters • Enclosed playgrounds for children
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National historic landmark since 1963 • Most visited urban park in the US

Central Park – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Manhattan, New York City

Size 341 ha



Composition

Central Park

See and Do

1. Arsenal
2. Bethesda Terrace and Fountain
3. Billy Johnson Playground
4. Central Park Zoo
5. Dairy
6. Friedsam Carousel
7. Grand Army Plaza
8. Heckscher Playground
9. The Pond
10. Rumsey Playfield
11. Sheep Meadow
12. Strawberry Fields
13. Ancient Playground
14. Belvedere Castle
15. Conservatory Pond
16. Great Lawn
17. Loeb Boathouse
18. Pat Hoffman Friedman Playground
19. The Ramble
20. Metropolitan Museum of Art
21. The Reservoir
22. Safari Playground
23. Wild West Playground
24. Charles A. Dana Discovery Center
25. Conservatory Garden
26. Great Hill
27. Harlem Meer
28. The Pool
29. Tennis Center
30. Heckscher Ballfields
31. Lasker Pool
32. Woolman Rink / Victorian Gardens Amusement Park
33. Delacorte Theater



200 Meters
1000 Feet



Hyde Park

Hyde Park

Location	London
Owner	Hereditary possession of The Crown



History

- Established by King Henry VIII in 1536 as a hunting ground
- Opened to the public in 1637
- In 1851 the Great Exhibition was held in the park for which the Crystal Palace was erected

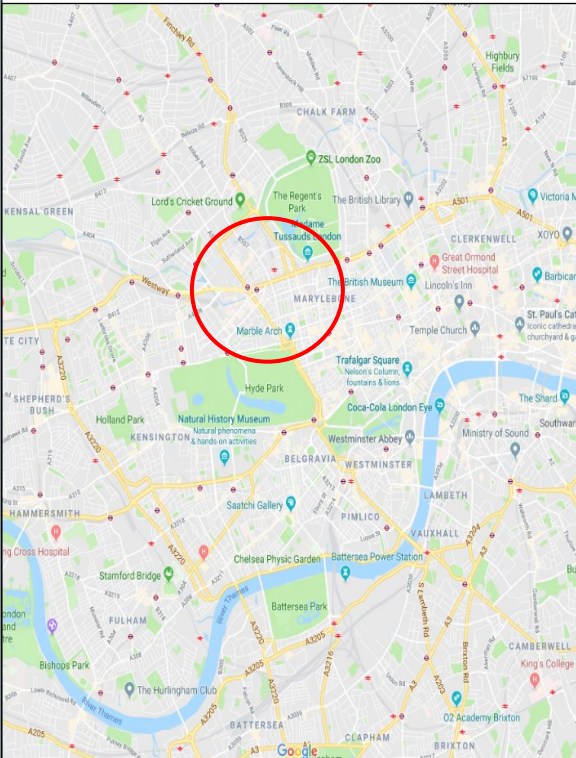
Description

Area	142 ha
Visitors p.a.	Ca. 10 mn
Budget p.a.	NA (the operating expenditure for all Royal Parks is about 35mn GBP, half of the expenses being remunerated by grants)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is divided by the Serpentine and the Long Water lakes • Seamlessly merges with the Kensington Gardens Park
Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park now holds 4 acres (1.6 ha) of greenhouses which hold the bedding plants for the Royal Parks • A scheme is available to adopt trees in the park, which helps fund their upkeep and maintenance
Art	A number of assorted statues and memorials
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale free music concerts, both free and commercial • Since 2007, annual Winter Wonderland event (numerous Christmas-themed markets, along with various rides and attractions, alongside bars and restaurants). One of the largest Christmas events in Europe, has expanded to include the largest ice rink in London, live entertainment and circuses
Catering	Several restaurants, cafes and kiosks
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free speech and demonstrations have been a key feature of Hyde Park since the 19th century. Speaker's Corner has been established as a point of free speech and debate since 1872 • Hyde Park contains several sporting facilities, including several football pitches and a Tennis center. There are numerous cycle paths, and horse riding is popular
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The largest of four Royal Parks

Location

Location London

Size 142 ha



Composition



Englischer Garten (The English Garden)

The English Garden

Location Munich, Germany
Owner State of Bavaria



History

- Created in 1789 by Sir Benjamin Thompson as a “military garden” for the recreation of soldiers
- The name refers to the design as an “informal landscape”
- In spring 1792 the park was officially opened to the citizens of Munich

Description

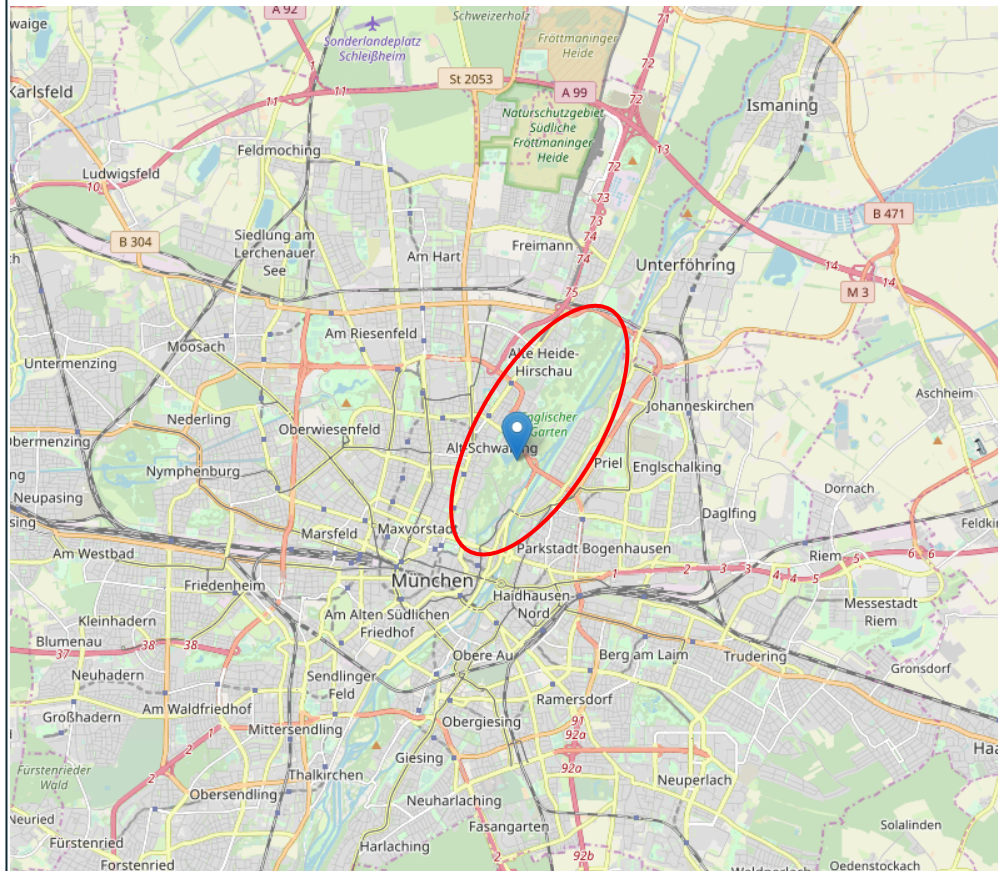
Area	370 ha
Visitors p.a.	More than 5mn
Budget p.a.	EUR 2.7 mn
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 ha forest, 187 ha meadows, 16 ha water area • Total length of paths and walkways: roughly 75 km (26 km roads, 36 km footpaths, 13 km bridle paths) • Length of streams: 8.75 km • Bridges: over 100
Plants/animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several thousand trees • Number of bird species that breed in the Garden: 50–60
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese Teahouse • Monopteros (a Greek style temple build on 1836) • Chinese Tower (a 25-meter-high wooden structure constructed in 1790)
Entertainment	Small amphitheater in the Northern part
Catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Restaurants and 4 Kiosks selling food • In summertime several large beer gardens (the largest one with 7,000 seats)
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely used for sports (jogging, bicycling, horse riding, surfing on a standing wave in one of the channels) • In a part of the park nude sunbathing has been allowed since the 1960s
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the world’s largest urban public parks • Seamlessly extends to the forest in the North of Munich

Englischer Garten – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Munich, Germany

Size 341 ha



Composition (English map n.a.)



Mohammed bin Rashid City Park

Mohammed bin Rashid City Park

Location	Dubai
Owner	Government of Dubai



History

- The Mohammed bin Rashid City project was announced in 2012
- The project is scheduled for completion in 2019/2020
- The 200-ha park is part of the first development stage

Description

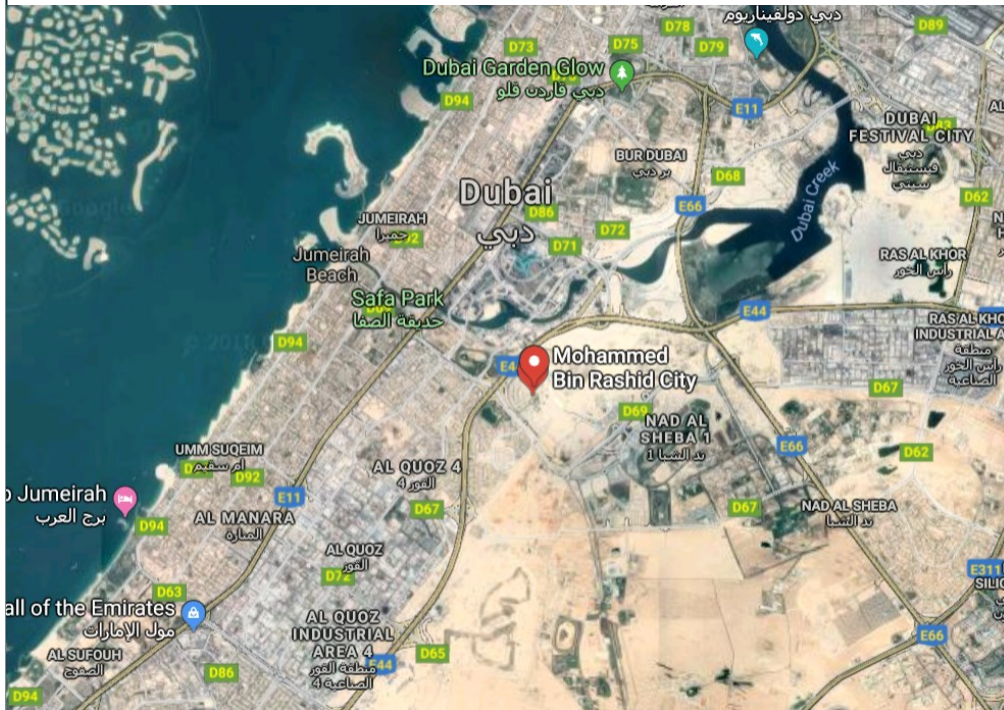
Area	200 ha
Visitors p.a.	35 mn (expected)
Budget p.a.	n.a.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is planned to be surrounded by the Mall of the World with an estimated 80 million visitors annually • The Mall complex will also include more than 100 hotels
Plants	tbd
Art	tbd
Entertainment	The Mall of the World will be connected to the massive family entertainment center being developed in tandem with Universal Studios International. The entertainment center is expected to attract an estimated 6 million visitors each year
Catering	tbd
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking
Remarks	

Mohammed bin Rashid City Park – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Dubai

Size 200 ha



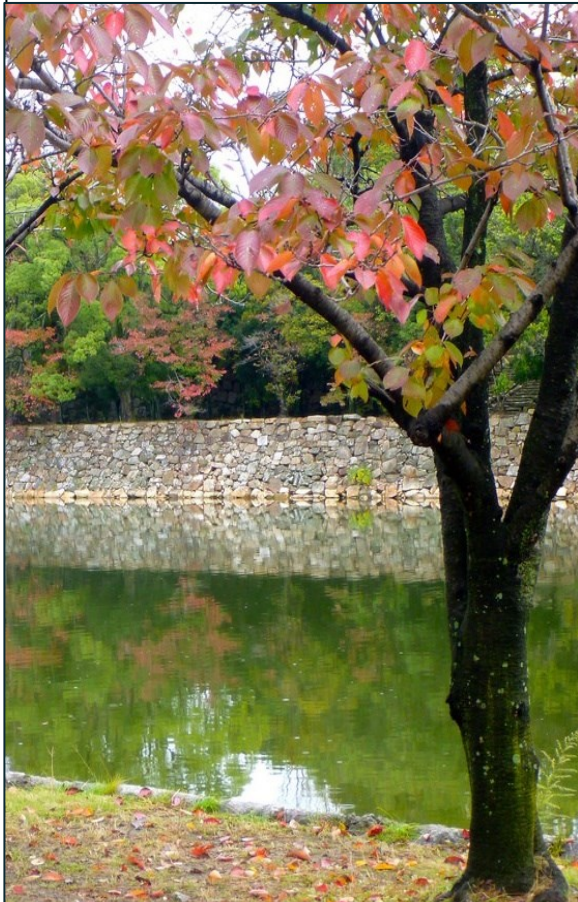
Composition

- tbd

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden

Location	Tokyo
Owner	Ministry of the Environment (operator)



History

- Former residence of the Naito family of feudal lords
- Garden completed in 1772, after serving as a botanical garden and an experimental agricultural center the current configuration was completed in 1906

Description

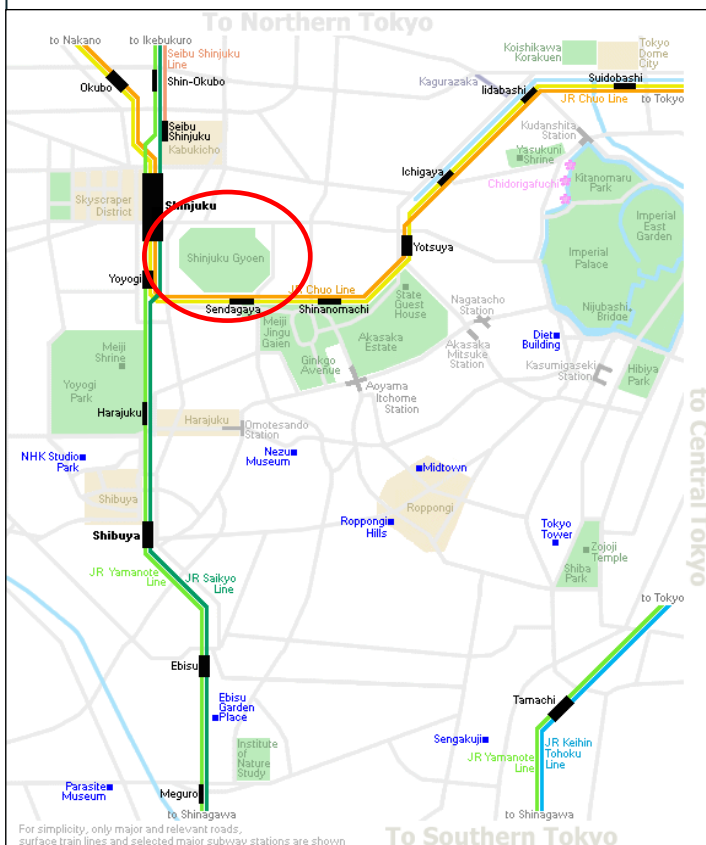
Area	58 ha
Visitors p.a.	2 mn
Budget p.a.	n.a.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blends three distinct styles: a French Formal and English Landscape in the north and to the south a Japanese traditional
Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20,000 trees, including approximately 1,500 cherry trees which bloom from late March (Shidare or Weeping Cherry), to early April (Somei or Tokyo Cherry), and on to late April (Kanzan Cherry) • Other trees include majestic Himalayan cedars, tulip trees, cypresses, and plane trees • Horticulture work has been going on in the greenhouses in the garden since 1892. The present greenhouse, built in the 1950s has a stock of over 1,700 tropical and subtropical plant species on permanent display • Chrysanthemum exhibition in November
Art	Art gallery
Entertainment	Information Center
Catering	Restaurant, Teahouse
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Watching the cherry blossom • Contemplation
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet park

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Tokyo

Size 58 ha



Composition



Forest Park Saint Louis

Forest Park Saint Louis

Location	Saint Louis, USA
Owner	Municipality of Saint Louis



History

- Opened in 1876
- Host of 1904 World's Fair

Description

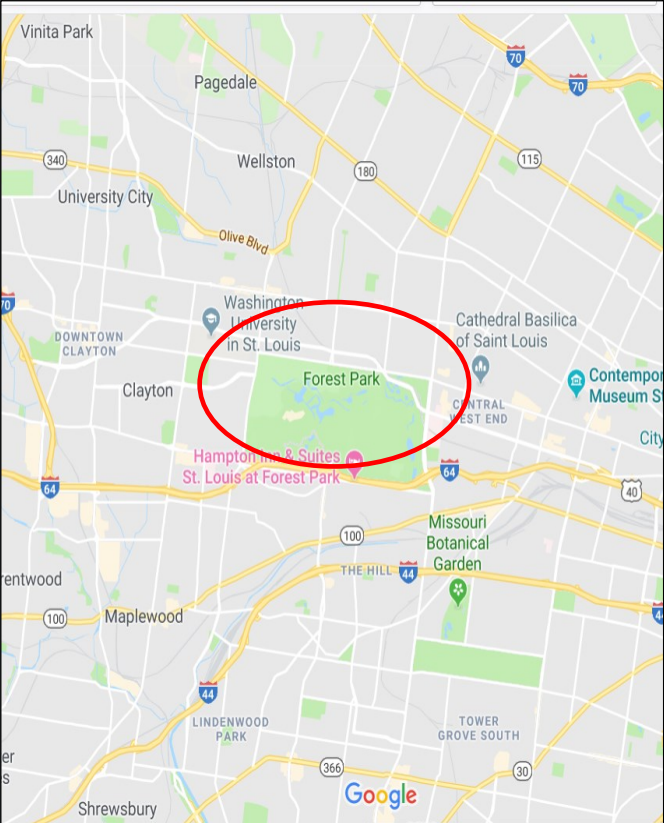
Area	526 ha
Visitors p.a.	13 mn
Budget p.a.	USD 9mn (two thirds coming from contributions of private persons)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large area combining • Cultural institutions • Extensive sports facilities and open fields for team sports • Natural landscapes including a multitude of lakes and ponds
Plants/animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45,000 trees, total of over 600 species of plants, more than 200 bird species • Fish hatchery with water birds (great egrets, green herons, kingfishers, and black-crowned night herons)
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several statues/memorials of historic celebrities and events • Sculpture garden (part of the art museum)
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosts five major cultural institutions: Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Science Center, Missouri History Museum, The Muny (musical hall) and Saint Louis Zoo • Archery range, baseball fields, soccer & rugby fields, cricket field, tennies courts, paths for running, cycling and walking, skating rink • Children playground
Catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several restaurants and cafés • Many picnic grounds and pavillions
Typical usage	• Motto is "a park for everyone", this is reflected in the broad range of activities possible in the park
Remarks	• Considered to be the best city park in America

Forest Park Saint Louis – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Saint Louis, USA

Size 526 ha



Composition



Jardin du Luxembourg

Jardin du Luxembourg

Location	Paris
Owner	French Senate – upper house of the parliament (meets in the palace)



History

- Created upon the initiative of Queen Marie de Medici in 1612
- Enlargement of the garden to 30 hectares (later reduced to 25 ha)
- Phases of neglect and improvement alternated

Description

Area	25 ha
Visitors p.a.	n.a.
Budget p.a.	Part of the senate's budget
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split into French gardens and English gardens. Between the two lies a geometric forest and a large pond • Garden is largely devoted to a green parterre of gravel and lawn populated with statues and centered on a large octagonal basin of water, with a central jet of water. The garden is famed for its calm atmosphere
Plants/animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchard with a variety of old and forgotten apples • Apiary for you to learn about bee-keeping • Greenhouses with a collection of orchids • Rose garden
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106 statues spread throughout the park • Medici Fountain
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many children activities and facilities (puppets, rides and slides) • Chess, bridge and tennis • Photography exhibitions on the garden railings • Concerts in the bandstand • Pony rides, swings, model yacht hire to sail in the large pond
Catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two refreshment stalls serving finger food • Several kiosks selling beverages, confectionery, food and toys
Typical usage	• Relaxed walking, family afternoons
Remarks	

Jardin du Luxembourg – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Jardin du Luxembourg

Size 25 ha



Composition



Stanley Park

Stanley Park

Location	Vancouver
Owner	Vancouver Park Board (operator)



History

- Incorporated in 1886
- Since 1988 National Site of Canada

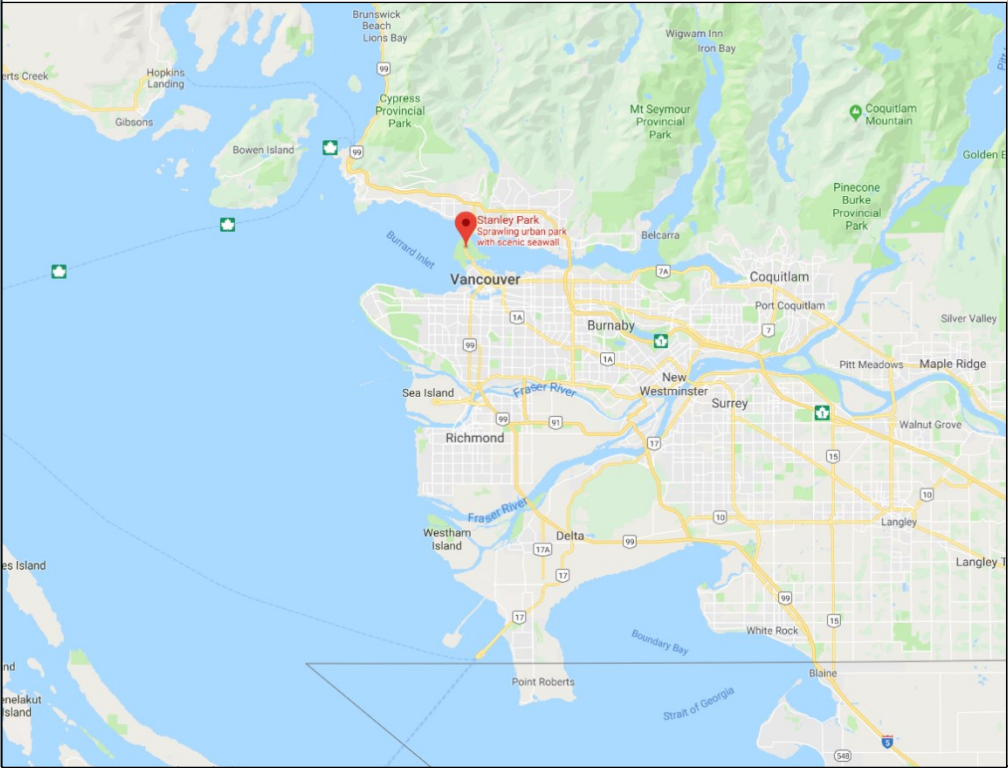
Description

Area	405 ha
Visitors p.a.	8 mn
Budget p.a.	CAD 123 mn (financed by equal parts from revenues and tax-based funds)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountainous peninsula, covered by natural West Coast rainforest • Not the creation of an landscape architect but the result of evolution of a forest and urban space • 27 km of forest trails and an 9 km long seawall for hiking and biking
Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half a million trees, some of which are hundreds of years old • Flower gardens • Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multitude of monuments of famous people and memorials referring to historical events
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's largest aquarium • Narrow gauge railway (children-sized train) • Sports activities: golf, tennis, team sports, swimming, rowing
Catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 "Bar & Grill" • 2 Cafes
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness • Family outings • Beach • Dog walking
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large part of the park is preserved natural forest

Stanley Park – Location and Footprint

Location

Location	Vancouver
Size	405 ha



Composition



King's Park

King's Park

Location Perth, Western Australia
Owner Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Administrator)



History

- Area was used in the late 19th century as a rifle range
- Park officially opened on 10 August 1895 as Perth's Parc
- 1901 renamed to King's Park

Description

Area	401 ha
Visitors p.a.	5.8 mn
Budget p.a.	n.a. (65% financed by the government)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is a mixture of grassed parkland, botanical gardens and natural bushland on Mount Eliza with two-thirds of the grounds conserved as native bushland. The park is famous for its panoramic views
Plants/Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 324 native plant varieties, 215 known indigenous fungi species • 80 bird species • 18 ha botanic Garden is home to over half of Australia's 25,000 plant species
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State War Memorial Precinct comprises Cenotaph, Court of Contemplation, Flame of Remembrance and Pool of Reflection • Honor avenues for service personal who died in several wars • Aboriginal art gallery
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host every September Australia's largest wildflower show and exhibition – the Kings Park Festival • Two large playgrounds • Tennis club • Several walks and tracks, with guided tours offered
Catering	Restaurants, Cafes, Kiosks
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and experiencing nature • Family picnics
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park has been serving as a place for memorial for people died in wars

Table of Contents

Observations

Examples of famous parks

Parks in Riyadh and Jeddah

Plants of Saudi Arabia

King Abdullah Park

King Abdullah Park

Location	Riyadh
Owner	City of Riyadh (gifted by the late King Abdullah)



History

- Opened to the public on 2nd October 2013

Description

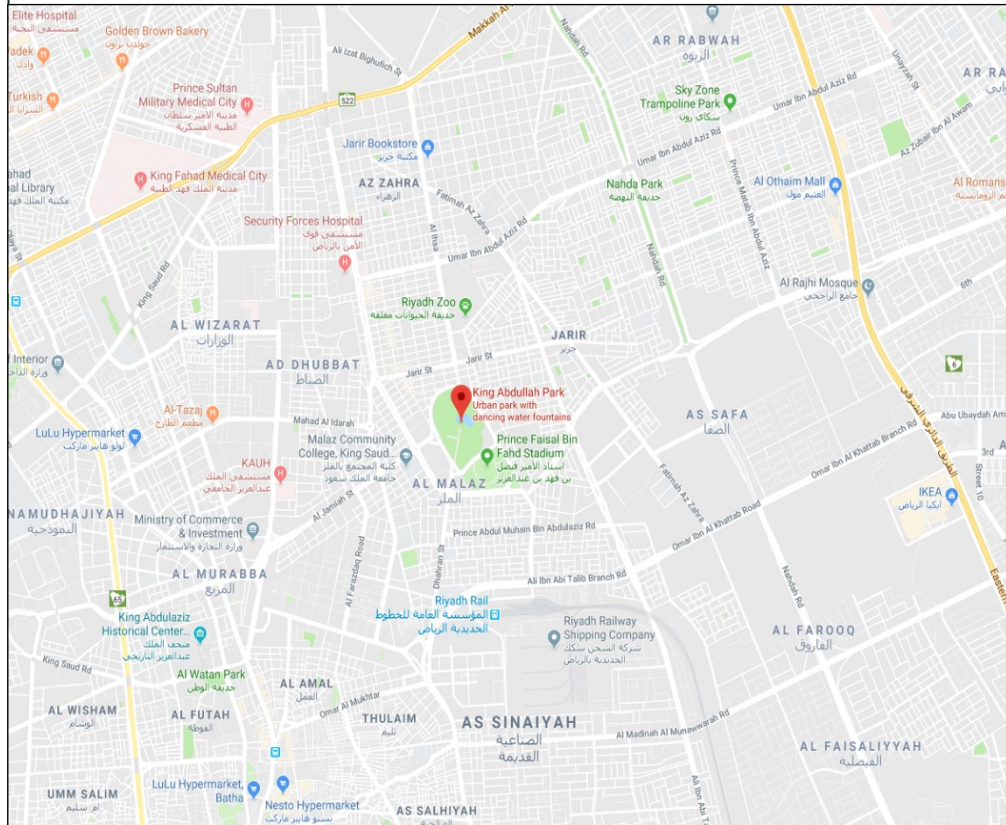
Area	32 ha
Visitors p.a.	n.a.
Budget p.a.	n.a.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The King Abdullah Park has five main entrances and includes several gardens, children's parks, rest areas for families, sports areas, walkways, and seating areas, and a 1,700-square-meter restaurant • The park features a large lake
Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few trees, mostly palms • Flower beads for decoration • Large open spaces with lawn
Art	None
Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancing fountain equipped with laser technology • Amphitheatres • Small stadium • Open area for conducting shows and events • Saudi flag post 37 meters high
Catering	1,700-square-meter restaurant, food can also be obtained from a multitude of vendors in the park
Typical usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is used commonly for picnics • Due to the hot climate the park is used predominantly after sunset, accordingly opening times are from 3pm (summer time) or 1pm (winter time) till 12am
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park also houses a building meant for VIP visitors

King Abdullah Park – Location and Footprint

Location

Location Riyadh











Size 32 ha



Composition



Riyadh hosts about 150 parks, 10 of which have a visitor rating of 4.0+, the majority of others just being green open spaces for families to sit

Parks with a visitor rating of 4.0+				
Location	Park		Description	Visitor rating
Riyadh	World Sights Park Riyadh		Hosts miniature models of worlds famous buildings. Entry fee SAR 10 for adults, SAR 5 for children. Green areas for sitting. Playground	4.3
	King Abdullah Park		Big city park with 12-m walkways, play & sports areas & daily dancing water fountain displays	4.2
	Salam Park		City oasis with many palm trees, play equipment, concessions and a large lake with pedal boats	4.3
	Rawdah Park		Roomy, popular park offering grassy areas for picnics & recreation, plus playscapes & bike rentals	4.0
	King Salman Safari Park		Large wildlife park 44 km from the city center. Often used for picnics and BBQ	4.1
	Al Watan Park		From the top of a water tower panoramic view of Riyadh. Many rides for children. Catering facilities	4.1
	Riyadh Zoo		Large, popular zoo opened in 1987, featuring 1500+ animals, train rides & prayer halls	4.0
	Olaya Park		Small garden-like park. Mostly used for walking, sometimes for cycling	4.0
	Ibrahim Bin Saidan Park		Small, quiet park. Mostly used for walking	4.0
	SABIC Private Park		Garden-like park. Most suitable for walking. Open to the public during day time	4.2

Jeddah parks are concentrated in the Corniche area, with smaller parks scattered across the city









Popular parks in Jeddah				
Location	Park		Description	Visitor rating
Jeddah	North Corniche		Newly renovated. Extensive playgrounds for children. Part of the Jeddah waterfront development	4.3
	Middle Corniche Park		Located in the bay of Jeddah. Used for family picnics. Children playground	4.2
	Corniche Park		View of the Jeddah water fountain. Widely used for families with children for picnics and playing	4.2
	Tihama Park		Popular park for families with children, mostly frequented in the evening hours.	3.9
	Silent Park		Park mainly used for walking. Described as “calm and empty”. Not illuminated during late hours	3.7
	Saudi Aramco Amusement Park		Private park exclusively for ARAMCO employees	4.3
	Zahra District Park		Local park for Al Zahra residents. Frequented mainly by families with children. Sometimes crowded	4.1
	Amira Tarabulsi Public Park		Park opens only in the evening hours. Mainly frequented by ladies with children	4.0

Table of Contents






Observations

Examples of famous parks

Parks in Riyadh and Jeddah

Plants of Saudi Arabia

Native plants of Saudi Arabia

<p>Desert Rose (<i>Adenium obesum</i>) العدنة (شجرة)</p>		<p>A flowering plant species in the dogbane family. It is native to the tropical and subtropical regions of Saudi Arabia. It is an evergreen succulent shrub which can grow to 1 to 3 meters in height. The red and pink flowers are tubular around 3 to 5 centimeters long with five petals.</p>
<p>Red Acacia (<i>Vachellia seyal</i>) سنط سيال</p>		<p>Medium-sized thorny tree which can grow to 6 to 17 meters tall and 60 centimeters in diameter. Pale greenish or reddish bark with feathery leaves and straight light grey thorns which occur near the tip of the branches. Its crown is umbrella shaped. Red Acacia is native to Saudi Arabia and part of North and East Africa</p>
<p>Date Palm (<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>) نخلة التمر</p>		<p>Native to an area starting from the Canary Islands in the west, across northern and central Africa, and continuing throughout southern Asia to southern China and Malaysia. The diverse habitats they occupy include swamps, deserts, and mangrove sea coasts. Most Phoenix species originate in semiarid regions, but usually near high groundwater levels, rivers, or springs</p>
<p>Charcoal Tree (<i>Trema orientalis</i>) تريمة شرقية</p>		<p>A flowering species in the Family Cannabaceae. It is distributed universally in the tropical and warm temperate parts of the world. High ecological impact with over 15 butterfly species and several birds feeding on its leaves and fruits respectively. It is also home to several insects, pigeons, and doves. Its leaves are also used as fodder for livestock. Wood can be used to produce paper and to make charcoal</p>
<p>Arabian Bonatea (<i>Bonatea steudneri</i>) Arabic name n.a.</p>		<p>A perennial herb which can grow to 25 to 125 centimeters in height. It has a green to yellowish green spreading flowers with a strong fragrant. Leafy stem with seven ovate and clasping leaves which bloom in the fall. Native to Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the East and North Africa within an altitude range of 1,650 to 1,800 meters above sea level. The species has a significant horticultural value in Saudi Arabia</p>