



Intent

Taking a cue from the theme of the 62nd Year - EMBARK, the Mohammad Shaheer Landscape Trophy this year encourages students to think of the larger picture, but to take simple, small steps towards achieving it. Every meaningful gesture, no matter how small, would be an important contributor towards larger achievements.

Landscape design is most often defined by and liked for its assumed qualities of aesthetic beauty, visual relief and the sense of providing a peaceful haven in an otherwise chaotic existence. While well-planned large open greens and designed landscapes fulfill important ecological functions, it is the appropriately located and sensitively designed smaller open spaces that lend a meaningful presence in the lives of their users.

As we EMBARK on the journey to bringing back greens into our built environments, the role player for this year's trophy brief is the POCKET PARK and the emphasis is on detailed landscape design.

Context

Pocket Parks, also known as miniparks or vest-pocket parks, are defined as small scale urban open spaces which can be tucked into and scattered throughout the urban fabric where they serve the immediately local population. These parks tend to act as scaled-down neighborhood parks, in residential or commercial or mixed-use areas, but still often try to meet a variety of needs. Functions can include a small event space, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing or meeting friends, taking lunch breaks, etc. They can be a refuge from the bustle of surrounding urban life and offer opportunities for rest and relaxation. However, because space is restricted and user needs are both diverse and vary throughout the day, conflicts can sometimes arise between different groups.

Thus, in organizing pocket parks, designers must often work out a delicate balancing act so that all groups can use the space in peaceful co-existence. These parks can be carved out of left-over spaces, forgotten spaces or vacant lots.

Pocket Parks are designed for heavy use by people as they are typically located in dense urban areas. However, they also present opportunities for promoting biodiversity in the area, increasing the number of permeable surfaces throughout the city and functioning as habitats for some animals, particularly birds.

Design Brief

The participants are required to study and document a location of approximately 200 metres radius in a densely developed urban area (the landuse may be residential/commercial/mixed) and identify a suitable site for a Pocket Park in the same. The selected site could be (though not necessarily) a designated existing park or an incidental open space, a parking lot or an underutilized or neglected park/space. The site area should not exceed 1500 square metres.

The students are then required to:

- Justify the selection of the site for the Pocket Park through a mapping of the area of influence (any legible scale)
- Site selection based on its social, cultural, physical and ecological context, relationship to the surrounding built forms/open spaces, access, views (or the lack of), drainage, etc. and program derivation are the key to a successful Pocket Park design and shall be given due weight-age in the assessment.
- Prepare a detailed landscape design layout for the site (all plans, sections and elevations to be of a scale NOT lesser than 1:100)
- Landscape design details, in terms of anthropometrics, choice of hardscape and plant material (with reference to heavy public use, outdoor weather conditions and aesthetic value), drainage and maintenance are important determinants of this size of open space design and participants are expected to focus on this aspect of the submission
- Present pre-intervention and post-intervention scenarios of the location with the help of drawings/sketches/photo-montages, etc.)

References:

These are just examples, participants can explore beyond the following references:

- https://depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/pocket_parks.pdf
- <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f768428a39aa4035ae55b2aaff372617/pocket-parks.pdf>
- <https://land8.com/7-top-pocket-parks-small-spaces-with-a-huge-impact/>

Evaluation Format

The evaluation shall be done in 2 stages, in the following manner:

Stage 1: Closed jury of all valid entries, declaration of shortlisted entries

Stage 2: Open jury with audio/visual presentation by the shortlisted teams.

Evaluation Criteria

- Degree of Understanding of the Brief: An innovative interpretation of the brief, a comprehensive understanding of the issues to be dealt with and an in-depth analysis of the same will form the basis of developing all further ideas
- Quality of Ideas: Ability of the proponent to explore and to develop thoughtful, functional, practical, planning and design concepts consistent and supportive of creating a responsive open space
- Quality of Communication: Ability to clearly communicate the proposed ideas in drawings, images and words
- There will be no set evaluative weighting to each of these criteria. The jury members will use their best judgment in selecting winning proposals based on each participant's demonstrated ability to meet all of the above criteria.

General Guidelines

- The entry can be an individual project or a group entry with *not more than four students in a group*.
- All sheets shall have the words "**MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY 2019-2020**" clearly mentioned on them.
- Registrations and submissions should be done by the Unit Secretary in NASA India website before the deadline.
- All text should be in English.
- Unless otherwise mentioned, choice of scale is up to the participants, provided everything is clearly legible.
- The mode of presentation (plan, sections, views, sketches, photographs etc.) is left to the participants.

NASA Logo Guidelines

- NASA Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet with a margin of 10mm from right and bottom of the page.
- NASA logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.
- NASA logo should be true black with a perfectly white background.
- For A1 sheet NASA India logo size should be 30mm x 52.50mm with 10mm clear border on all 4 sides.

Submission Requirements

- The entire project (including the location study and detailed design idea) shall be presented in not more than TWO (2 nos.) A1 size sheets in the form of 2D and 3D graphics and necessary text and mounted on lightweight rigid panels.
- Manually rendered entry should be scanned at 300*300dpi resolution.
- A presentation (PowerPoint/pdf/any other audio-visual format) of NOT more than 15 slides or running time of 5 minutes shall also be submitted in soft copy format. The same shall be used for presentation by the shortlisted teams in the second stage of the jury. The organizers or jury shall not be responsible if the submitted presentation is done in incompatible software.
- Authenticating letter from college HoD for each entry the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and with the name of Participant(s) and stating the unit shall abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is property of both the institute and NASA India.
- Declaration by the participant(s) stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, Jury process and the results.
- Authenticating letter from college HoD/Principal/Director (on College Letterhead with Sign and Stamp of HoD/Principal/Director of the college), specifying the Account Details (Account Name, Account Number, Bank Name, ISFC Code) in which the Prize Money is to be awarded.
- The soft copy (non - editable format) of the sheets and video link/presentation should be uploaded on the website failing which the submission will be considered incomplete and the entry shall be disqualified. If the soft copy file of the sheets is damaged or in low resolution, the entry shall be disqualified.
- Editable format of the sheets has to be submitted during the Annual NASA Convention (Applicable only for shortlisted entries), failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.

MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY | 2019-2020

Prize Money

Prize money of 1 lakh Rupees is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions

Important Dates

- The release of brief – 25th September 2019
- Queries till – 10th December 2019

Any Kind of Queries need to be submitted through

<https://nasaindia.co/trophy/landscape>

to

Simarjeet Singh

National Vice President | 2019-2020

NASA India