Palace Park

IFLA 2019 Common Ground / Walks + Talks #11

A royal walk through one of Oslo’s first public parks, about maintaining the romantic landscape yet adding contemporary elements, and about the park’s role of being the national outdoor ceremony area.

Information about Slottsparken can be found at https://www.kongehuset.no

**Time:** 09:00 – 12:00
Please make sure to be on time, as the tour begins at 09:00

**Meeting point:** Universitetsplassen, Karl Johans gate, Oslo

**Remember to bring:**
- a good pair of walking shoes
- a bottle of water
- an umbrella/raincoat (if the weather is unreliable)
- a return ticket for local transportation “Ruter Impuls”, distributed upon registration in Oslo Congress Centre

If you have any tour related questions, please contact:

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1. Slottsbakken
2. Slottsplassen
3. The Queens’ Park
4. The Courtyard
5. Urban Ecology
6. Sculpture Park
7. Nisseberget
8. Abelhaugen

(START) Universitetsplassen

Oslo City Hall (END)
The Palace Park is one of Oslo’s first public parks, displaying the romantic landscape style that dominated garden arts in the 1840s. Extensive perennial plantings, great lawns as well as some of the oldest trees in central Oslo characterize the park.

Despite its historical roots, new ideas and styles are also implemented in the park design. One area is dedicated to native meadows, important for bees and pollinators. The park also contains seven historic statues as well as a newly opened section with sculptures designed in collaboration with children.

The walk will introduce to the participants the history of the park and how it is the main outdoor area for national ceremonies. Information will be given about the use of the park as a public park in the city centre. We will talk about the maintenance program for vegetation with focus on the treatment of trees.

**Stop 1: SLOTTSBAKKEN**

**Time:** 09.05 - 09.15  
**Theme:** General information about the walk and the park

Slottsparken is point of gathering in the national context. And an important **green** area in the centre of Oslo. History, use of the park in national context and as the city centre green area.

**Stop 2: SLOTTSPLASSEN**

**Time:** 09.15 – 9:30  
**Theme:** The structure of the Plaza, geometry and form.  
**Speaker:** Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court

The newly reconstructed Plaza of events in a national context.

**Stop 3: THE QUEENS’ PARK**

**Time:** 9.35 – 9.55  
**Theme:** Dronningparken design and use  
**Speaker:** Head Gardener Royal Estates Ane Senstad Guldahl, The Royal Court

The first gardens were established in 1700. Historical information and gardens function today. Principals for vegetation management. Choice of vegetation considering sustainability.

**Stop 4. THE COURTYARD**

**Time:** 10:00 – 10:15  
**Theme:** Use and design of the entrance area of the castle  
**Speaker:** Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court
Design and use of the courtyard

**Stop 5: URBAN ECOLOGY**

**Time:** 10.15 - 10.45  
**Theme:** Vegetation management  
**Speaker:** Head Gardener Royal Estates Ane Senstad Guldahl, The Royal Court, Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court

Information about pollinators and bees, urban ecology, Maintenance of the trees in the park while walking through the western and northern parts of the park.

**Stop 6: SCULPTURE PARK**

**Time:** 10.45 – 11.00  
**Theme:** The sculpture park  
**Speaker:** Head Gardener Royal Estates Ane Senstad Guldahl, The Royal Court, Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court

The park was opened in 19th May 2016. Information about background, contents and choice of sculptures.

**Stop 7: NISSEBERGET**

**Time:** 11.00 – 11.30  
**Theme:** The outskirts of Slottsparken  
**Speaker:** Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court

Nisseberget, facing the city centre, has a significant use of vegetation. It is a hedged area offering a calm and quiet contrast to the urban intensity of the city center. Refreshments will be served before the walk continue to Abelhaugen.

**Refreshments**

**Stop 8: ABELHAUGEN**

**Time:** 11.45 – 12.00  
**Theme:** Interface between city and park  
**Speaker:** Landscape architect Thor Johansen, The Royal court

Abelhaugen was and still is an important element in the park, creating a visual and practical connection between the city and the castle. This part of the park is named after Niels Henrik Abel, a famous Norwegian mathematician. It is redesigned to a small but complex garden with a beautiful planting of roses and perennials.