

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

Course code: HRT 506 (2 credit units)

Course Title: Parks & Gardens Design and Management

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Course outline:

- History of gardens
- Local and modern garden types
- Functional designs for parks and gardens – family gardens, holiday parks, social parks, amusement parks, multipurpose parks, etc
- Concept of national parks and gardens, educational parks and gardens (botanical, horticultural, zoological)
- Garden and parks facilities maintenance and management
- Garden and park restoration
- Contracts and contractual agreements in garden design works
- Garden and park design practical

Module 1: Parks & Gardens Definition and Historical Evolution

Definition:

A garden, in amenity horticulture, is defined as an outdoor planned space set aside for the purpose of recreation, aesthetics and sometimes education.

A park is defined as a publicly or privately owned area set aside for recreation, amusement, education or a combination of these.

History:

Garden establishment , either for aesthetics, leisure or production started from pre-historic times as evident from the holy books.

Conscious efforts at garden development in amenity horticulture started in the developed world as early as the 17th century. Documentation is found in the ‘American Garden Design’ by J.C. Loudon (1834). Explicit historical documentation of the evolution of amenity gardening is found in the ‘History of landscape architecture in North America’ by Frank Waugh. The ‘Yellowstone Park’ in America is the oldest park in the world and was designated a national park as far back as 1872

Formal elaborate garden establishment probably started earlier in Britain as the English gardens evolved after the Reformation when land owners began to create homestead parks and some natural landscapes were replaced with designed formal gardens. Italian garden styles were exemplified by the Tudors with the establishment of the historical ‘Tudor Knot Garden’ in the 20th century.

The French were involved in the early establishment of formal gardens with the establishment of a unique garden design known as *parterres* as early as the 16th century.

The Dutch developed on the French design in the 18th century with more formal designs involving more shrubs, trees and topiaries , giving a more natural appearance as trees were planted in clusters rather than singly on straight lines in a style championed by Kent and improved upon by his son-in-law, Lancelot Brown.

The Japanese had embraced garden design for a very long time with the evolution of special gardens like *Tsukiyama* or ‘hill gardens’, *Karesansui* or ‘dry gardens’, and the *Chaniwa* or ‘tea gardens’.

The modern day formal park and garden design was advanced through the formation of the British Association of Garden Architects which later became the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1929.

In Africa, the formation of the African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) in Cape Town, South Africa in 1998 was probably the first attempt at developing the gardening concept in Africa. The network is not exactly focused on amenity gardening but it is a good background to the advancement of garden design for specific purpose in Africa.

The concept of parks and gardens in Nigeria is relatively new and it is still at a stage of awareness creation.

Module 2: Types of Parks and Gardens

Parks and Gardens in Amenity Horticulture are classified based on purpose or usefulness derived from them.

Single purpose gardens are referred to as thematic while those that satisfy more than one use are termed either dual (in cases of two uses) or multipurpose in cases of more than two possible uses.

Thematic Parks and Gardens

1. Amusement parks and gardens
2. Social parks and gardens
3. Educational parks and gardens
4. Historical parks and gardens
5. National parks

Any park or garden that combines two or more of the uses of these parks is called a dual or multipurpose park.

This module involves practical design work that lasts about 6 – 8 contact hour (3-4 weeks) for the design and discussion of each park and garden type.

Module 3: **Peculiarities of Garden/Park Types**

- Amusement Park and Garden

Main purpose is providing recreation and relaxation with commercial undertone. Could be thematic in terms of target interest, e. g. children only, it could also satisfy a vertical interest, i.e. across ages or classes. Components depend on target interest. (A list of relevant items for each interest group is compiled in class).

- Social parks and gardens

Established principally for social reception and events as a commercial enterprise. Its components depend on the designed scale and scope as well as available resources of capital and space. (Major components and their relevance in the design of social parks are to be enumerated and explained in class).

- Educational parks and gardens

These are designed for the enhancement of client's knowledge in aspects addressed. Such aspects could be plant based (i.e. botanical gardens) or animal (wildlife) based in which case it is a zoological garden. Cases of combination of both interests are common. All components are properly labeled such that a client can have a fair knowledge of each component even without a human guide. (Major components of educational parks, design and structure are to be highlighted in class and discussed).

- Historical parks and gardens

These are parks established to serve cultural and historical interest. They could be community based, regional or national. Usually they preserve objects and features of historical significance including artifacts. They are often viewed as dual or even multi purpose parks because they often serve the interest of education.

- National Parks and gardens

National parks are established to portray and preserve significant features of a country. They are often financed by the state, may be a means of revenue generation as they often serve as tourism centers. Notable national parks in Nigeria include;

- The Yankari Games Reserve in Bauchi state upgraded to a national park in 1992 but later handed over to the state in 2006.
- Borgu Games Reserve in Niger state
- Gashaka-Gumti national park in Kwara state is the largest in Nigeria with a land area of 6,000 sq km made up wildlife and forest species.
- Kainji national park in Kwara state was established in 1979
- Obudu Cattle Ranch, now known as Obudu Mountain Resort is an emerging modern park in Nigeria. Located in the northern part of Cross Rivers State. Has become a notable holiday resort in Nigeria.

Module 4: **Gardens and parks Facilities Maintenance and Management**

Facilities requiring maintenance in parks and gardens are divided into two categories;

- a) Plant components
- b) Animal (wildlife) components
- c) Material Components

- Highlights of these, which are to be discussed in class, are as follows:

Plant component maintenance and management would involve;

- Plant nutrition
- Water supply (irrigation)
- Pruning
- Disease and pest control
- Replacement and rejuvenation
- Mowing for turfs and lawns

Wildlife management practices would involve;

- Housing
- Feeding veterinary care
- Replacement of old ones

Material component management involves;

- Substitution of old with modern materials
- Outright replacement of worn out materials

Module 5: Garden and park Restoration

Garden restoration refers to bringing an old or moribund garden back to the fulfillment of its original design concept. It often becomes necessary due to;

- (1). Changing taste of clients
- (2). Malfunctioning or non-functional due to age of materials

Therefore, restoration may involve all three major components of plants, animals and materials.

There are two methods of effecting garden restoration viz;

- a) Selective replacement – gradual, compatible with garden functioning, not requiring new paper design and therefore relatively cheap to carry out.

(Details of selective replacement to be discussed fully in class)

- b) Total garden components refurbishment – often used for a failed garden, may require new paper design, new design addresses the cause of failure, involves the replacement of old items taking cognizance of new clients' tastes and modernization, therefore expensive. Not compatible with concurrent garden functioning, thus has implication on revenue generation while restoration lasts.

(Details of practical steps to be discussed in class).

Module 6: Contracts Details in Park and Garden Design

Knowledge of contract details becomes necessary as a park and garden designer is responsible to other people who may want to establish but can not design. Third party assignments in civil dealings, more often than not, may have legal implications.

Contract, by definition, is a 'any agreement that connotes an obligation that is binding on the parties involved'. A client thus signs such agreements with a designer in contractual design works.

A contract must fulfill the following essential features;

- Must have a mutual assent (both parties willingly agreeing)
- Must have a legal consideration
- Both parties must have legal capacities to enter into contractual deals
- There must be outright absence of duress in signing
- The subject matter of must be legal and friendly with existing public operating policies.

Types of Contracts:

- i. Written or sealed
- ii. Verbal (open)
- iii. Implied (informal)
- iv. Specialty
- v. Simple

Contract nullification: Contract can be nullified when any of the followings is involved;

- A lunatic
- An idiot
- A minor or
- A person so under the influence of a narcotic or of intoxicating liquor as not to be capable of free exercise of will .

Breach of contract: Specific performance of a contract is the right by one contracting party to have the other contracting party perform the contract according to the precise terms agreed therein. In case of breach of contract the injured party may go to court to sue for money damages, or for rescission, for injunction, or for specific performance if money damages would not compensate for the breach.

Module 6: Studio works involving all categories of garden and park design types.

Module 7: Field Trips to relevant parks and gardens across themes .