

RESEARCH COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

“Spatial-temporal trends in usage & perception of parks and green spaces”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Please note that the FAQs will be updated periodically. Please refer to the [LTSER programme website](#) for the latest version of the FAQs.

1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 Should the project proposal address all the research objectives and deliverables stated in the Research Collaboration Opportunity, or can the proposal address part of them? Can the proposal include other research objectives besides those mentioned in the Research Collaboration Opportunity, if the project teams assess these to be relevant?**

Proposals should address all the research objectives and deliverables stated in the Research Collaboration Opportunity, and may also include additional scope as deemed relevant, keeping in mind the maximum funding support for the Research Collaboration Opportunity. Proposals that only address the research objectives partially will not be considered favourably and may potentially be deemed out of scope. NParks' decision on project and funding support will be final.

We strongly encourage researchers in project teams to collaborate with other researchers of different fields/expertise to develop a comprehensive proposal that addresses all the stated research objectives and deliverables.

- 1.2 Will NParks share the data required to carry out the research for the project?**

Applicants should clearly identify the source of any essential data required for the proposed project during proposal submission, such as under the “Methodology and Work Plan” section of the project proposal. Applicants may also indicate whether they already know that the required data exists.

NParks will help to facilitate data sharing, including between other agencies where appropriate and relevant. Please note that access to data is ultimately subject to permission from the respective data owners.

- 1.3 Will NParks facilitate the application for permits and provide support for research to be undertaken at NParks-managed sites?**

NParks will facilitate discussion with the respective site managers of the NParks-managed sites. Research teams are ultimately responsible for applying for and ensuring

the validity of the necessary permits, and the final decision for the granting of permits lies with the site managers responsible for each respective site, at their own discretion.

NParks, at its own discretion, may also provide on-site support to facilitate the project activities at its own managed sites.

1.4 Can NParks staff be listed as Co-PIs or Collaborators in a submitted proposal?

The Research Collaboration Opportunity has already been conceptualised in consultation with NParks staff, who will be involved in evaluating and refining submitted proposals and driving and participating in the awarded research project.

As such, NParks staff should not be listed as Co-PIs or Collaborators in the initial submitted proposal, nor directly involved in the preparation of any proposal.

Please direct all enquiries on the Research Collaboration Opportunity, including technical details of the research topic, to angelia_sia@nparks.gov.sg.

1.5 Is an applicant allowed to participate in multiple proposals for the Research Collaboration Opportunity, as per the following scenarios?

(1) The applicant is a Lead PI in one proposal and a Co-PI/Collaborator in other proposal(s).

(2) The applicant is a Co-PI/Collaborator in more than one proposal.

Applicants are allowed to participate in multiple proposals for the Research Collaboration Opportunity, such as in the aforementioned scenarios. Nevertheless, applicants should ensure that they are able to fulfil the roles and responsibilities that they have committed to take on across the multiple proposals.

1.6 What is the mechanism for fund disbursement?

Fund disbursement will be via reimbursement, and in accordance with identified payment milestones, as described in the payment schedule agreed upon between NParks and the institution of the Lead PI.

1.7 Does the stipulated funding support for the Research Collaboration Opportunity correspond to the cost of a project before, or after the tiered funding support levels have been applied (for projects with private sector entities)?

The stipulated funding support for the Research Collaboration Opportunity corresponds to the total supportable costs of a project. For projects involving private sector entities, this corresponds to the cost of a project after the relevant tiered funding support levels has been applied.

1.8 How many projects will be awarded under the Research Collaboration Opportunity?

NParks intends to award a single project under the Research Collaboration Opportunity.

1.9 When will successful applicants for the Research Collaboration Opportunity be informed?

We hope to identify and inform successful applicants from Q1 2025 onwards. Other applicants will also be individually informed on the outcome of their respective applications, once assessed and decided upon.

1.10 Are all the surveys conducted door-to-door, or are there data that were derived from on-site surveys or other data sources?

NParks will provide datasets derived from national door-to-door household surveys for this proposal. On-site data will not be included.

1.11 Can research institutions without the stated certification on information security and data management be eligible to participate in the RCO?

The research team may still apply for the RCO. If your team is shortlisted in the RCO, NParks will assess the risk level based on your submitted proposal. Depending on the findings from the risk assessment, you may be asked to acquire the listed set of certifications or share your current data security and management standards for further assessment.

1.12 According to the information sheet, 'Salaries of Lead PIs / Investigators / Project Leads' is not allowable. Can there be exceptions?

Exceptions are only considered if the PIs/ Investigators / Project Leads produce documentation that they are not paid by the respective IHL's core funding.

1.13 When roughly is the project anticipated to start if it is granted?

Based on the closing date of the grant call on 8 Nov 2024 and taking into consideration the grant application processing time, we anticipate the start date for the project to be in 2nd quarter of 2025.

1.14 Is there any word/ page limit for the grant call proposal?

There is no word/ page limit for the proposal. However, we advise researchers to be concise in their submissions, ensuring clarity and brevity without sacrificing essential information. Additional information may be included as annexes.