

REPORT



# City of Stonnington

Multipurpose sport and recreation facility survey report

23/10/2018

**capire**

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Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

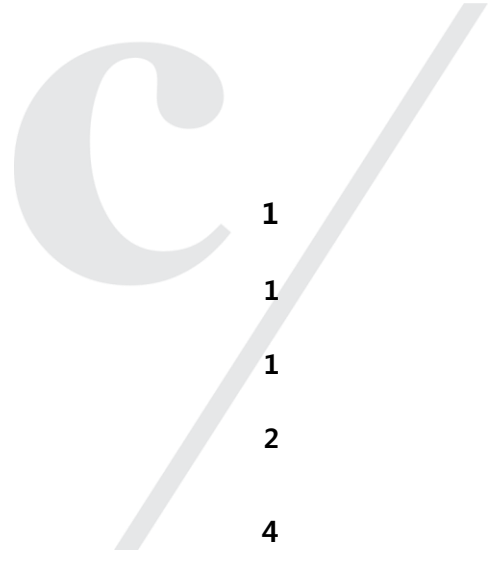
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# 1 Introduction

City of Stonnington Council (Council) confirmed Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park (the park) in Malvern East as the site for a new multipurpose sport and recreation facility incorporating a four-court indoor sports stadium on 30 October 2017.

The development of a Masterplan for Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park will plan for a multipurpose facility which will include a four-court indoor stadium, plus upgraded facilities for the Chadstone Recreation and Civic Club and its sports sections of the Chadstone Bowls Club and Chadstone Tennis Club. The facility will also provide for summer and winter usage by Chadstone Lacrosse Club and East Malvern Tooronga Cricket Club.

## 1.1 Project Stakeholder Group

Council has established a Stakeholder Group, chaired by Cr Glen Atwell. This group includes residents and representatives from the Chadstone Recreation and Civic Club and its sports sections of the Chadstone Bowls Club and Chadstone Tennis Club, Chadstone Lacrosse Club, East Malvern Tooronga Cricket Club, Chadstone Road traders and the Malvern Valley Primary School. Prahran Netball association and Basketball Victoria are also represented.

## 1.2 Community engagement

As part of the Masterplan development, a series of community engagement activities took place in July-August 2018. A survey was posted on the Connect Stonnington website and three drop-in sessions were held at the park on:

- Wednesday 25 July 2018
- Friday 28 July 2018
- Saturday 29 July 2018.

Dates and times for the drop-in sessions were agreed in consultation with the Stakeholder Group and Council engaged Capire Consulting Group (Capire) to assist at the drop-in sessions and to independently report on the results.

Community members were invited to attend the drop-in sessions by a letter to local residents, onsite signage, local print media, social media and via the Stakeholder Group.

Drop-in sessions were staffed by members of the project team from Council, Williams Ross Architects, and Capire. This enabled participants to ask questions of the masterplan and design process.

Participants provided feedback in two ways:

- 1 They were able to comment on the project principles established by the Stakeholder Group. These comments are not included in this report and will be delivered directly to the Stakeholder Group.
- 2 Invitation to complete the online survey (iPads were available).

The survey was available to complete online via Connect Stonnington to allow people unable to attend a drop-in session to have their say. This report compiles the results of both the online and drop-in sessions.

## 1.3 Reading this report

This report summarises the results of the survey, combining data collected both online and from the drop-in sessions. All data has been sorted thematically and reported against these themes. Only the most common themes (mentioned by at least five per cent of participants) are reported on as key findings.

All the charts in this document are presented as a percentage of the total number of respondents to a question (unless otherwise noted). The total number of respondents is



identified by the 'n=' in the chart total. For example, 155 participants identified their gender, therefore chart title is followed by 'n=155'.

We are confident that we have captured the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during the engagement activities. Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not those of our consultants or our clients.

## 2 Participants

A total of 158 people completed the survey. Approximately 43 per cent of these were *intercept surveys* where people who visited a drop-in session or people who were using the park were asked to complete a survey by engagement staff. In doing so, a broad range of park users were engaged in the project.

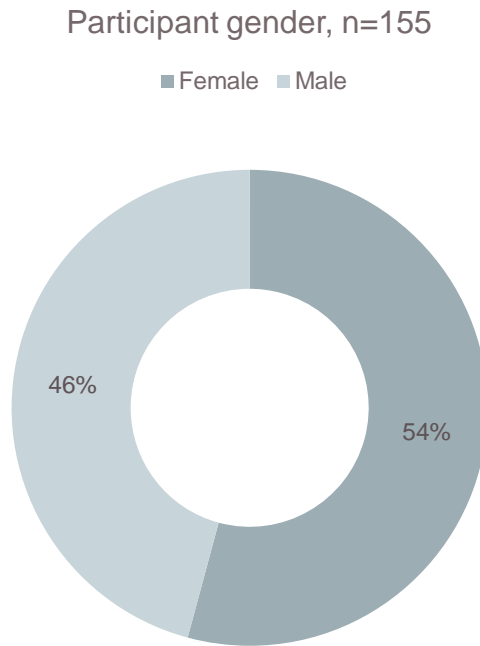
### 2.1 Demographics

The following section looks at the age and gender of survey participants. The key findings from this section are:

- more females than males participated
- older age groups participated more than younger age groups
- female participants were likely to be younger than male participants.

#### **Gender**

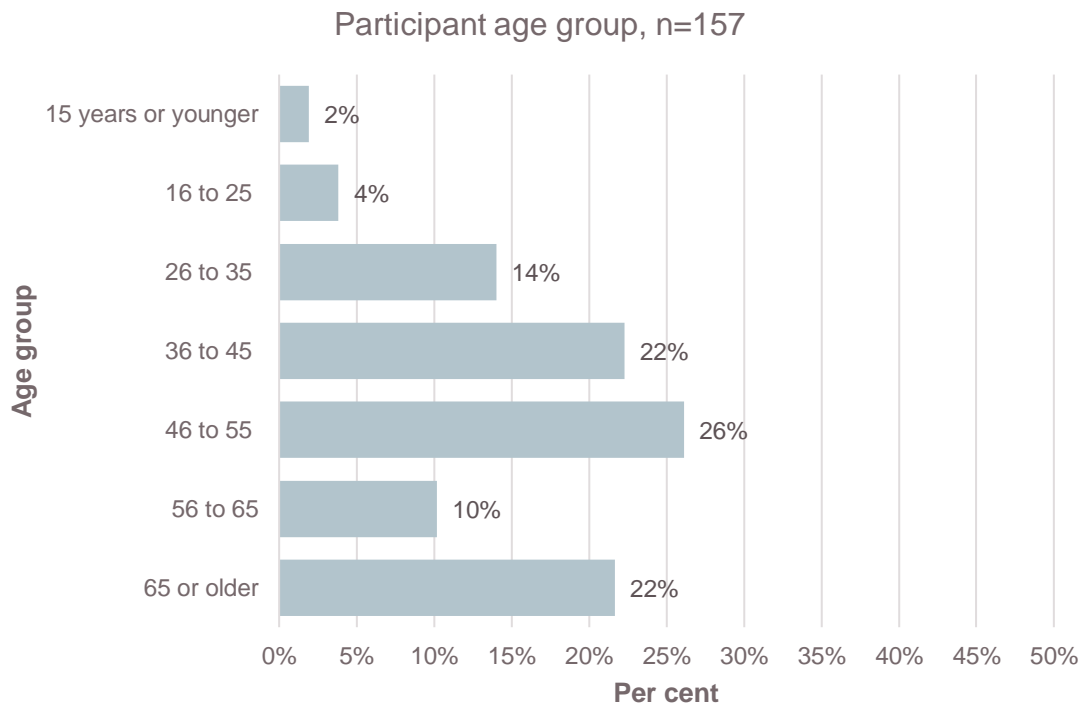
Slightly more females than males completed the survey. In total, 84 participants were female, 71 were male and three preferred not to identify their gender. Figure 1 below shows the percentage of female and male participants.



*Figure 1 Participant gender*

**Age group**

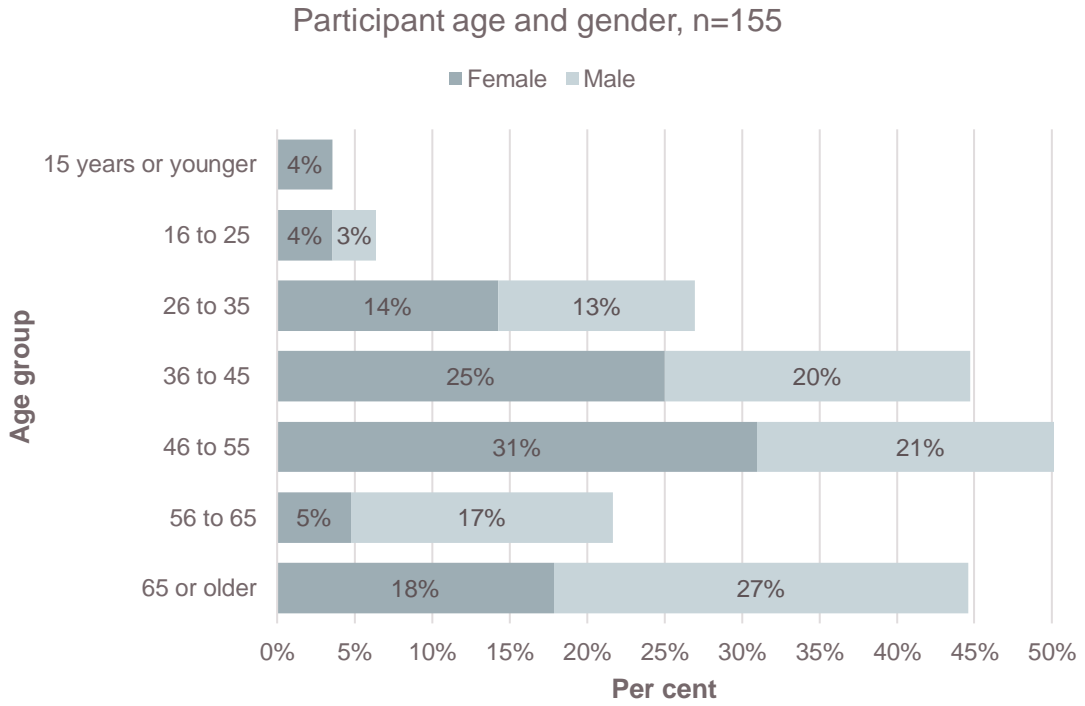
Generally, participants were from older age groups, with the most common age group, 46 to 55, representing 26 per cent of all participants. There were lower levels of participation from ages 25 years or younger, who represented six per cent of all participants. Figure 2 below shows a full break down of participant age groups.



*Figure 2 Participant age group*

**Age and gender**

As shown in Figure 3 below, female participants were more likely to be younger than male participants. The most common age group for female participants was 46 to 55 years, while for male participants it was 65 years or older.



*Figure 3 Participant age and gender*

## 2.2 Accessing the park

This section looks at the distance participants live from the park, how participants travel to and from the park and how often they visit the park. The key findings from this section are:

- most participants live within a five-minute walk from the park
- around two thirds of participants walk to the park, almost a third drive
- older age groups are more likely to drive to the park than younger age groups
- almost all participants come to the park on at least a weekly basis.

### Distance from the park

Most participants, 54 per cent, live within five-minute walking distance of the park. Figure 4 below demonstrates the percentage of participants and by walking distance to the park.

Note anomaly in percent is due to rounding up.

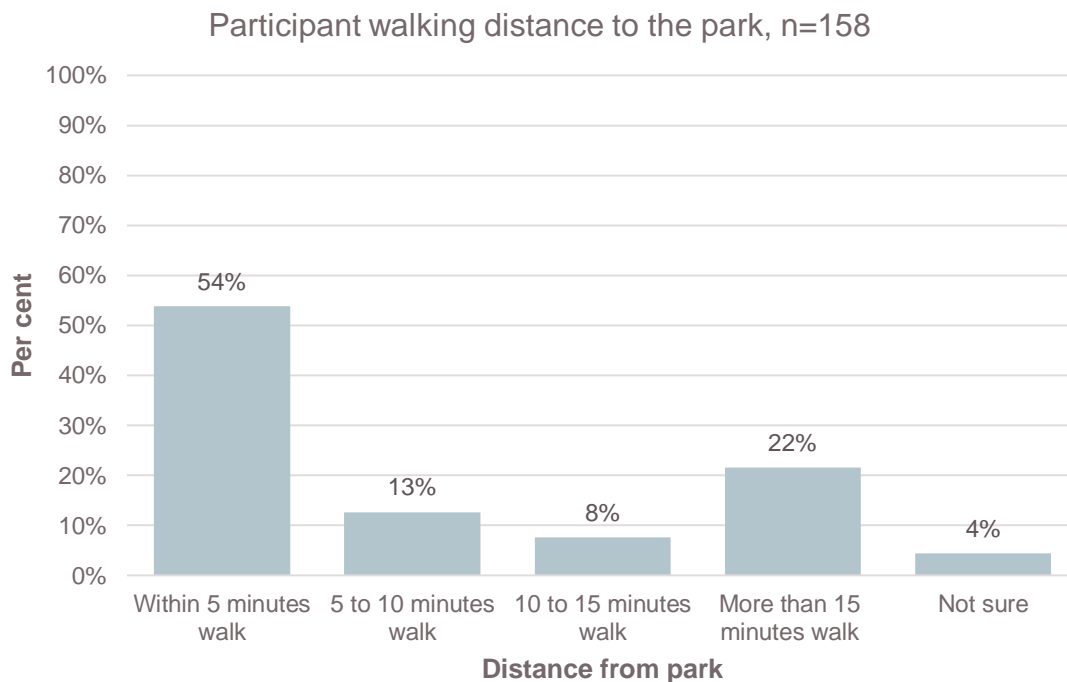
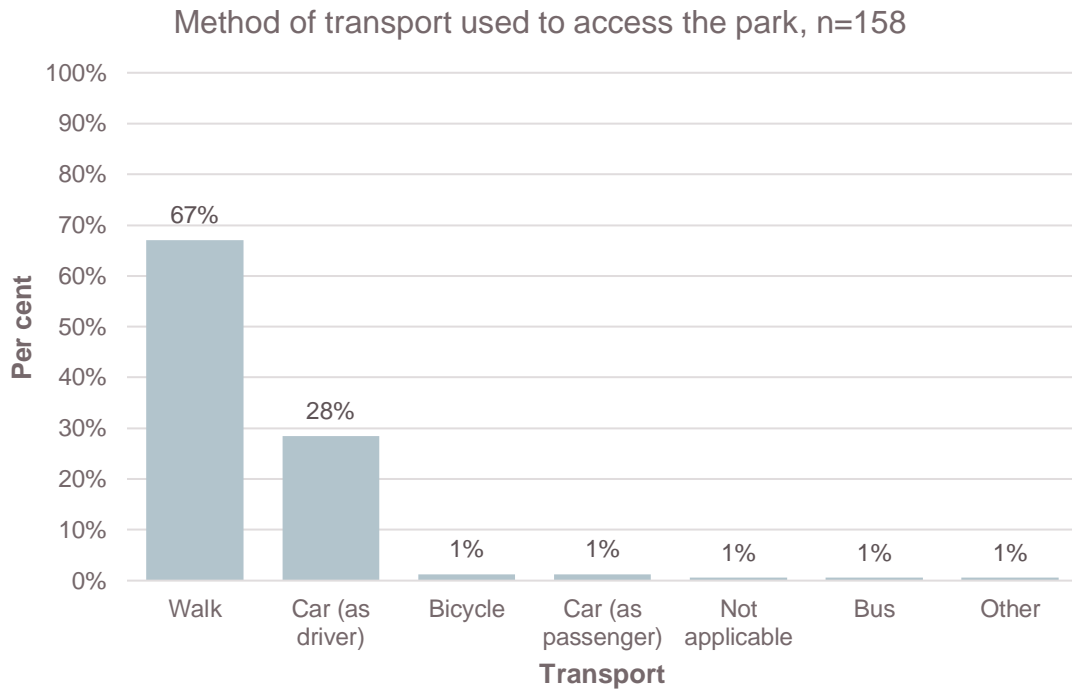


Figure 4 Participant's walking distance from the park

**Method of transport used to access the park**

Figure 5 below shows that most participants, 67 per cent, walk to the park and 28 per cent drive to the park. Combined, other modes of transport accounted for five per cent of participant’s journeys to the park.



*Figure 5 Method of transport used to access the park*

The method of transport participants used to access the park was influenced by their age, as shown below in Figure 6. Walking to the park peaks at the 26 to 35-year-old age group with 90 per cent walking to the park. Driving to the park becomes more common as participants age, with 47 per cent of those aged 65 years or older driving to the park as their main transport method.

Note anomaly in ages 46 to 55 and 36 to 45 is due to rounding up.

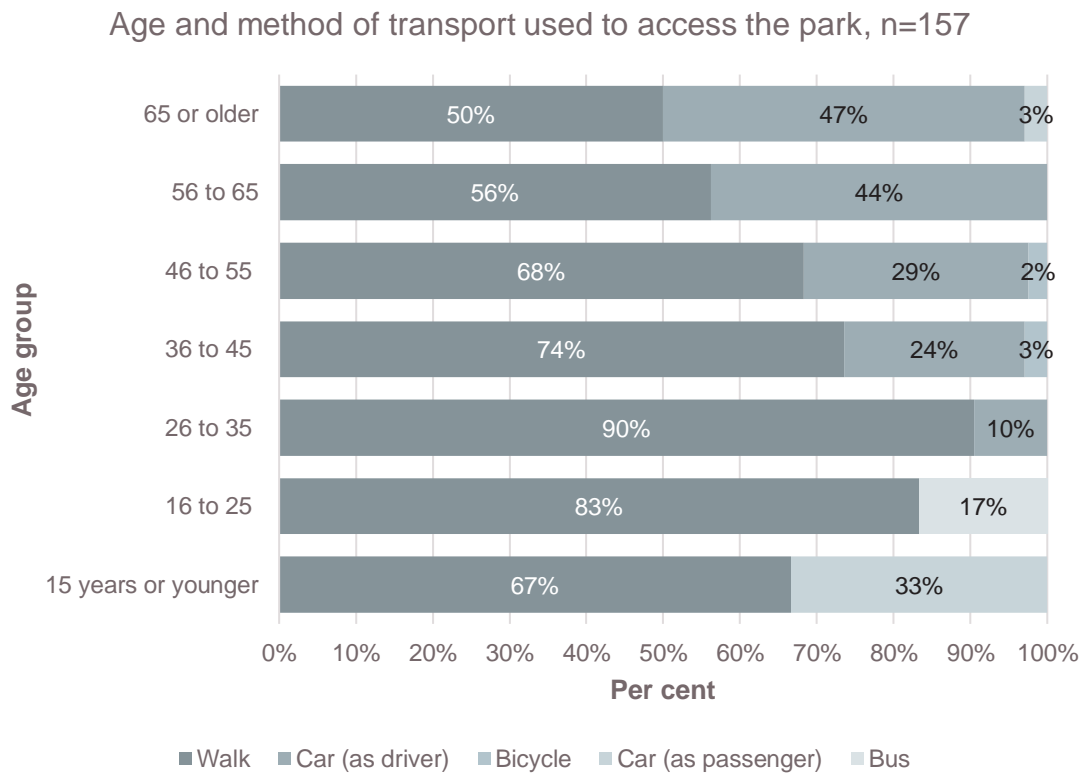


Figure 6 Age and method of transport used to access the park



### Frequency of visitation to the park

Almost all, 86 per cent, of participants visit the park weekly or more. Figure 7 below demonstrates the most common response was 'daily' with 32 per cent of all responses, followed by '2 to 3 times a week' with 24 per cent. Two per cent of participants never visit the park.

Note anomaly in per cent is due to rounding down.

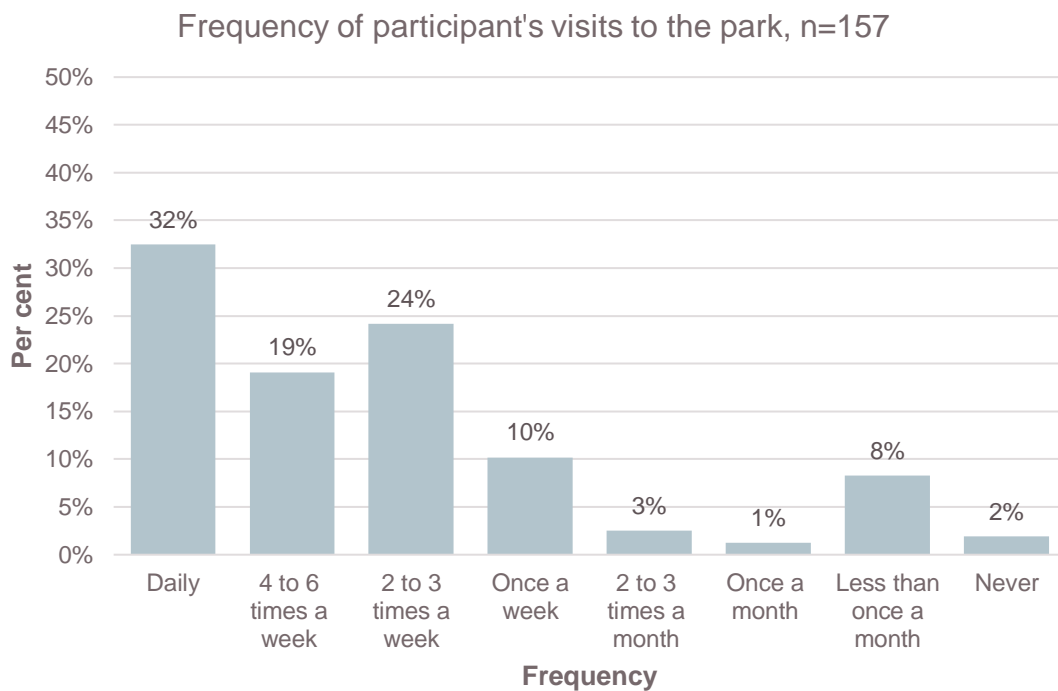


Figure 7 Frequency of participant's visits to the park

# 3 Survey results

## 3.1 Reasons for visiting the park

This section looks at the reasons for participants visiting the park. The key results from this section are:

- Reasons for visiting the park were similar across age groups, except those aged 26 – 45 were more likely to use the park as a short cut
- the most common reason for visiting the park was exercise, such as walking or running
- bowls was the most commonly watched and played formal sport at the park
- almost half of the participants come to the park walk their dog.

*Figure 8* below details the reasons participants visit or use the park. The most common reason for visiting the park, with 54 per cent of participants is exercise such as running or walking, followed by walking the dog with 47 per cent.

When looking at *Figure 8* please note participants were able to select multiple responses.

### Participant's reason for visiting the park, n=158

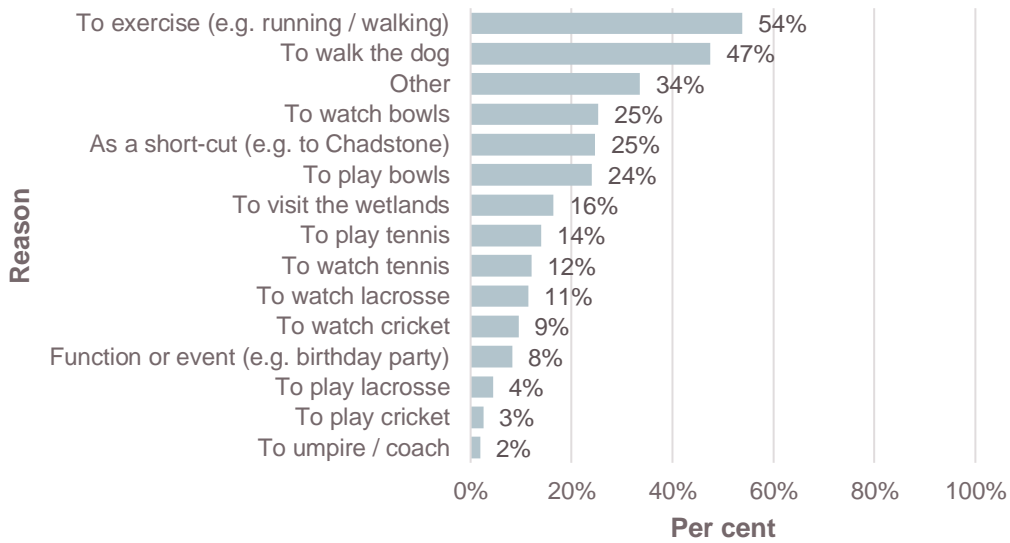


Figure 8 Participant's reason for visiting the park

The third highest response was 'other', with 34 per cent of participants. When asked to elaborate on the other reasons they come to the park, participants commonly commented:

**To socialise with other park goers:** This included going to sports clubs to socialise rather than play or watch sport.

**To play a sport not on the multiple-choice list:** These sports included playing or watching soccer, rugby, cycling and football.

**Children's activities:** This includes going to the playground with children or spending time with children or grandchildren.

## 3.2 What participants like best about the park

Participants were asked what they like best about the park. Responses were sorted into themed groups, Figure 9 below shows the frequency with which the top five themes were mentioned by participants.

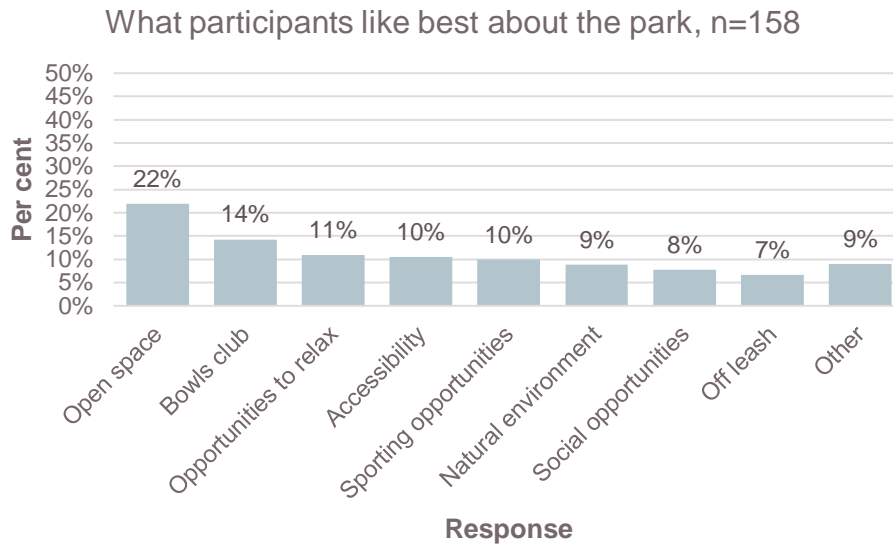


Figure 9 What participants like best about the park

The top five themes are expanded upon below.

Please note that comments are transcribed directly from survey responses.

1. **Open space** was the most common response with 22 per cent of participants commenting that it was the best thing about the park. Younger people, aged up to 35-years, were more likely to enjoy the open space. Comments included:

'[It's a] large green open space that's relatively well hidden from the roads around it'

'[It's a] large area of open space that doesn't get much use. It's good that the oval sits below street level and provides a more enclosed feel to it.'

2. The **Chadstone Bowls Club** was commented as the best thing about the park by 14 per cent of participants. Older age groups were more likely to comment on the bowls club. Participants said it is an important place to play and watch sport and for socialising. Comments included:

'the people, it's a good, lot of people in and around the bowls club, and playing bowls'

'I play bowls but the best thing about it is that it's for all ages and it's open for all socio-economic groups, all abilities.'

3. The **opportunities to relax** was commented as the best thing about the park by 11 per cent of participants. They like that the park provides a refuge from the busyness of life. Comments included:

'The peace and quiet. The mature native trees and the native birds. Seeing the dogs playing together.'

'It's parkland – [a] peaceful refuge from the bustle of Chadstone shopping centre.'

'It is a peaceful park with beautiful trees and enhances the area it is peaceful.'

4. The **accessibility** was commented as the best thing about the park by 10 per cent of participants. They particularly like that it is located within a neighbourhood, giving nearby residents ready access. Comments included:

'The interconnected pathways between the Primary School, Tennis Courts, Chadstone, Chadstone Road, Quentin Rd. So, I guess all the ways you can access the park'

'Close and easy access for the local neighbourhood which has a large amount of open space.'

5. **Sporting opportunities** was commented as the best thing about the park by 10 per cent of participants. Participants like that there are a variety of clubs such as the tennis, bowls and lacrosse clubs at the park and that different sports can be played on the ovals. Comments included:

'Multiple sports can be played on the park including football – but we still need goalposts.'

'Community centre for lacrosse, cricket, bowls. It's a great park, great grass. We like the trees and we use to use the small playground.'

### 3.3 Improvements to the park

Participants were asked what improvements they would like to see at the park. Responses were sorted into themed groups, Figure 10 below shows the frequency with which the top five themes were mentioned by participants.

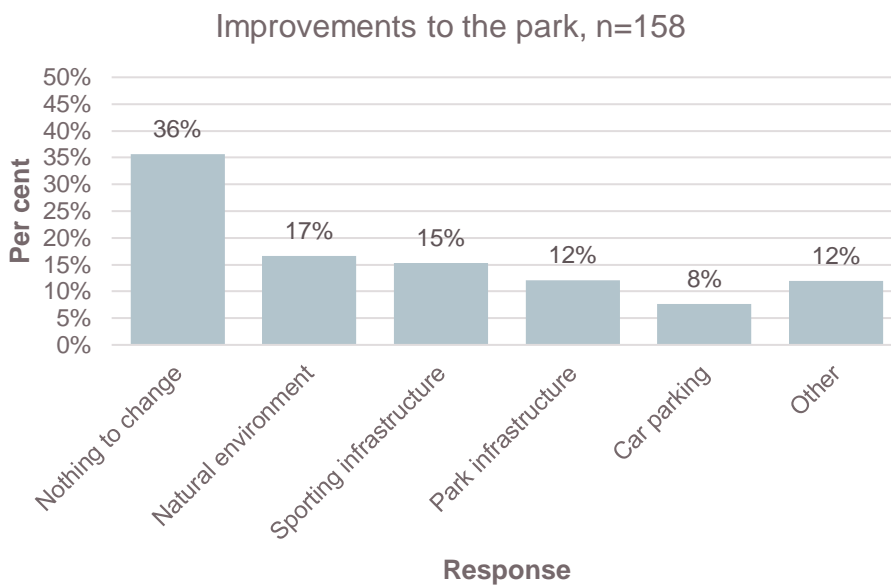


Figure 10 Improvements to the park

The top five themes are expanded upon below.

1. **Nothing to change** was the most common response with 36 per cent of participants commenting no changes/improvements are needed. Participants believe making changes at the park could impact many of the reasons they use and visit the park. Comments included:

'No extra amendment is needed, maintain the park and preserve what we have left from this concrete jungle would be really helpful'

'No - I am happy with the current layout and park'

'No, it is a beautiful park as it is – especially on a summer afternoon.'

2. Maintenance of the **natural environment** was commented by 17 per cent of participants. They particularly believe the pond would benefit from being improved. Many said it previously was in better condition and could attract more wildlife and birds. Comments included:

'A lot of money was spent on the pond, and it is now an overgrown eyesore. I would like it returned to its former state – a pond housing ducks'

'The landscaping at the entrance from Chadstone Road could be markedly enhanced around the car parking areas.'

3. The **sporting infrastructure** was commented by 15 per cent of participants. Participants said there are a variety of additions or improvements required at the park such as better-quality turf and playing surfaces, upgrading the pavilion and clubrooms, and providing outdoor gym equipment among others. Comments included:

'The only improvements I think are required are to the existing cricket clubrooms which have seen better days'

'Put money into the existing facility without removing established clubs who have been there for many years'

'Improve the turf and the drainage.'

4. The **park infrastructure** was commented by 12 per cent of participants. Park infrastructure includes things such as drinking fountains, bins, seats and toilets. Comments included:

'Heaps.... more pedestrian access, more seating and bins (separated for recycling and waste). More doggy bag dispensers. All placed where most used and appreciated and visible.'

'More facilities for older residents; acknowledgement of the use of facilities by older resident.'

5. **Car parking** was commented by 8 per cent of participants who were more likely to be older. Participants felt that the car park is currently unsafe, poorly designed and does not provide sufficient parking. Comments included:

'Better fencing around car park so children cannot easily run out to car park from playground'

'Build more car parking for the existing sports players and not for people visiting Chadstone.'



### 3.4 Additional facilities, attractions or events

Participants were asked what additional facilities, attractions or events they would like to see at the park. Responses were sorted into themed groups. Figure 11 below shows the frequency with which the top four themes were mentioned by participants. Only four themes are displayed as all other responses were made by less than five per cent of participants.

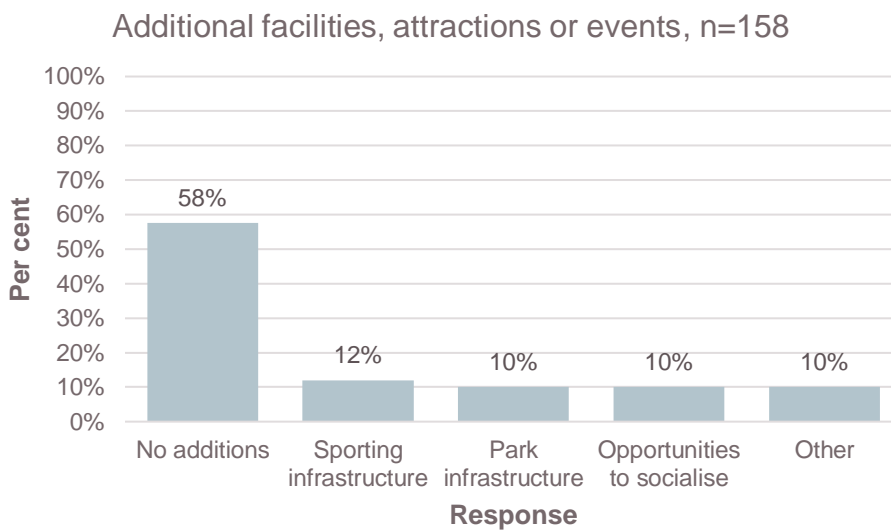


Figure 11 Additional facilities, attractions or events

The top four themes are expanded upon below.

1. **No additions** was the most common response with 58 per cent of participants commenting no additional facilities, attraction or events are needed. Younger people were slightly more likely to suggest this. Participants said that making additions would impact on the park’s facilities, while others commented that the multipurpose sport and recreation facility contained all that was needed for the site Comments included:

‘No, I think the multipurpose rec [centre] will be great as long as the design is beautiful.’

‘No. What is here is adequate’

‘It is busy enough, not [a] day goes by without it being utilised.’

2. **Sporting infrastructure** was commented as a necessary addition by 12 per cent of participants. They said the bowls club could use some additional facilities such as lights on the green or an undercover green. Others want more sporting infrastructure such as gyms and undercover multi-use facilities. Comments included:

'Undercover bowls green, would mean that even if the weather wasn't perfect we could still catch up for a drink and social activity'

'Maybe some indoor space for netball and basketball. Possibly multileveled, e.g. netball and squash and the tennis on top'

'Make the park an actual sporting park for example have an outdoor gym and a paved path al/ around the park for shared use for pedestrian, cycle [and] running.'

3. General **park infrastructure** was commented as a necessary addition by 10 per cent of participants. Participants said they want more things such as drinking fountains, bins, seats and toilets at the park. Comments included:

'Seats are good for an old man like me. As long as my dogs happy and I have seats it's good'

'Few more bins near the south face. Few more trees and seats'

'More water fountains'

'Maybe another toilet'

4. **Opportunities to socialise** was commented as a necessary addition by 10 per cent of participants. Participants said they would like 'Carols by Candlelight' to return to the park. Comments included:

'Bring back carols by candlelight'

'Some kind of festival once a year, food music. Utilising the park beyond sport'.

### 3.5 The multipurpose sport and recreation facility

Participants were asked if there is anything that they would like to see included in the design of the new multipurpose sport and recreation facility. The responses were sorted into themed groups.

**It is to be noted that 31% respondents chose not to answer the question and instead responded that they are opposed to the redevelopment.**

Figure 12 below shows the frequency with which the top themes were mentioned by the remaining participants.

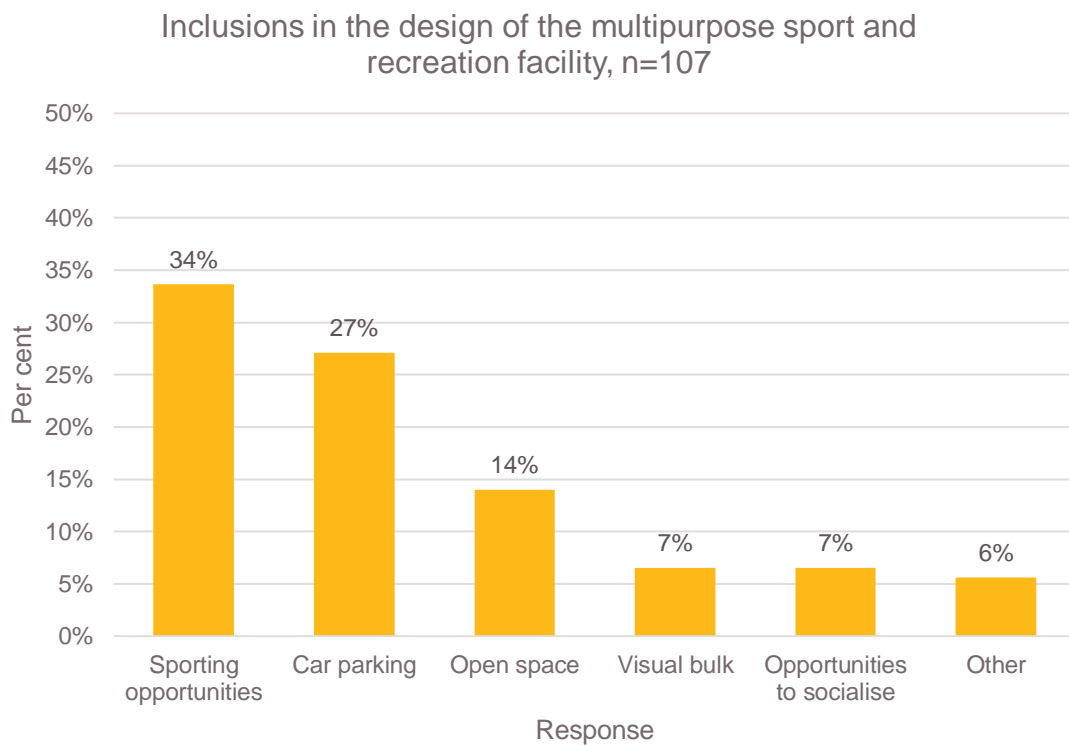


Figure 12 Inclusions in the design of the multipurpose sport and recreation facility

The top three themes are expanded upon below.

1. **Sporting opportunities** was commented as something that should be included in the design by 23 per cent of participants. Younger people were more likely to indicate that they want sporting opportunities. Participants had differing views on what sporting infrastructure should be provided. Comments included:

'I would like for the social areas for the Bowls club (& other clubs) to be kept separate and be able to maintain their own cultures'

'Netball courts which are full sized and have seating for spectator'

'Proper change rooms and shower facilities for woman (sic), clean facilities and private gym environment.'

Suggested sports included lawn bowls (16), netball (11), gym equipment (7), tennis (7), basketball (4) and swimming (4).

2. **Car parking** was commented as something that should be included in the design by 19 per cent of participants. Participants said they would like to see sufficient car parking provided for both existing and new users. Comments included:

'Car parking within the facility such as underground to not impact on the site'

'I'll need parking as I can't walk otherwise to use the park too old to walk.

'More parking with a nice design to suit the area not a concrete block.'

3. **Open space** was commented something that should be included in the design by 10 per cent of participants. Participants were concerned that the multipurpose sport and recreation facility could reduce the overall amount of open space in the park. Comments included:

'I would like it to not encroach on existing open spaces nor reduce the number of trees'