

APPENDIX A

Report on the community open space survey outcomes

**Prepared for the City of Whittlesea
Open Space Strategy**

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APPENDICES

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1. Introduction

1.1 Open space survey design and distribution

1.1.1 Survey purpose

This survey was prepared as the main method of seeking community input during the background research and analysis phase of the City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy. The intent of the survey is to gain an understanding of what people value about open space, existing patterns of use and key issues that the community would like addressed in open space. The surveys included questions about both resident and worker use of open space.

The survey distribution and reporting on the outcomes focus on the established areas within the municipality. The extent of the established areas is described in 1.1.3 below.

1.1.2 Survey design

The survey included a combination of multiple choice and long hand questions that can be completed within 5 to 10 minutes. The survey included photos of different types of open space in the City of Whittlesea, and provided a brief background as to what an Open Space Strategy is and the reasons for its preparation.

A copy of the survey is attached to this report as Appendix A.

1.1.3 Survey distribution

The survey was distributed and available as both a hard copy and online survey. Translated copies of the survey were uploaded onto Council's Community Voice Website in Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Printed surveys were distributed in August 2013 via the walker network to 38,100 properties in established areas including:

- Bundoora (within the City of Whittlesea)
- Epping (up to Findon Road)
- Lalor
- Mill Park
- South Morang (up to McDonalds Road)
- Thomastown
- Whittlesea Township

Additionally, 2,500 were mailed to businesses in the established areas to gain feedback from workers as well as residents in the municipality. 200 printed surveys were distributed to the industrial precincts and Thomastown. 50 surveys were distributed to community groups and organisations including educational activities, senior groups, multicultural groups, sporting clubs, environmental organisations, etc. 1,020 printed surveys were distributed to residents/land owners in Rural North. In total 41,720 hard copies were distributed.

The survey was advertised and/or featured in the Whittlesea Leader, The Northern Weekly, Staff Matters Weekly, Council's Corporate News and Whittlserene. In addition posters and flyers were displayed within Council offices and municipal libraries.

The surveys were available for completion and return by 15 September 2013 and they were received for data entry up to 2 October 2013. The online survey closed on 28 September 2013. A combined total of 630 completed surveys were received, with 436 hard copy surveys completed and mailed back to the City of Whittlesea and a total of 194 surveys completed online. This represents approximately 1.5 per cent of the total number distributed.

Entry into a draw to win an iPad mini was offered as an incentive to all who completed and returned the survey. The prize was drawn by the Mayor and awarded to the winner on 15 October 2013.

Please refer to Appendix C for the assumptions made during the data entry process.

1.1.4 Returned surveys by precinct

No. of surveys returned	% of total surveys	% of total population	Precinct	Suburb
9	1%	4%	Blossom Park	Blossom Park
55	9%	7%	Bundoora	Bundoora
69	11%	12%	Epping	Epping
41	7%	13%	Lalor	Lalor
123	20%	16%	Mill Park	Mill Park
53	8%	2%	Rural North	Beveridge (3), Eden Park (35), Humevale (8), Kinglake West (2), Wollert (1), Woodstock (1), Yan Yean (3)
33	5%	12%	South Morang	South Morang
62	10%	13%	Thomastown	Thomastown
48	8%	3%	Whittlesea	Whittlesea (30), Whittlesea Township (18)
77	12%	18%	Growth Areas	Mernda (25), Doreen (43), Epping North (9)
60	10%	n/a	No address nominated	Included in the municipal-wide summary only

Surveys were received from all areas of the City of Whittlesea and these have been assessed collectively in the Municipal Wide section of this report. The

percentage of returned surveys from Bundoora, Mill Park, Whittlesea and Rural North areas were slightly over represented when compared to the percentage of the total population of City of Whittlesea living in these precincts. The percentage of returned surveys from Blossom Park, Epping, Lalor, South Morang and Thomastown were slightly under represented as a proportion of the total population and Growth Areas. All precincts have also been assessed individually to inform the strategy at the precinct level. Refer to Section 3 of this report.

1.2 Overall summary of the open space survey outcomes

1.2.1 Summary of residents' responses

The top three values for open space are:

- To relax and unwind (72%)
- Place for children to play (63%)
- Trees (62%)

The three most popular open spaces visited within walking distance are:

- Redleap Recreation Reserve (10%)
- Ancillary open space including shopping plazas, local streets and school grounds, etc (8%)
- Mill Park Recreation Reserve (5%)
- Norris Bank Parklands (4%)

Further than walking distance, the most popular open spaces are:

- Bundoora Park (8%)
- Yan Yean Reservoir Park (8%)
- Other open space outside the Municipality (6%)

The key information this is telling us is that people are travelling outside the city to regularly visit open space, and based on reviewing the reasons for them doing this, it relates to the diversity of facilities, activities and character offered in other open spaces, along with it being convenient.

Top three reasons for visiting open space within walking distance:

- Access - close by (25%)
- Walking (19%)
- Play (17%)

Top three reasons for visiting open space beyond walking distance:

- Walking (8%)
- Play (7%)
- Barbecues (5%)

For open space nearby, suggested improvements include:

- Regular maintenance (7%)
- More public toilets (7%)

- Improvements to playgrounds including increasing diversity of them (4%)
- Provide more seating (4%)

Lack of time is the main reason people give for not visiting open space, followed by it being too far to travel. People specifically nominate Plenty George Park as an open space they do not use.

On a regular basis (daily and weekly) local streets for exercise are the most frequently used areas followed by small local parks. The low daily usage of regional and major parklands suggests that they do not serve the local needs and when analysing the responses to the question about open spaces not used, distance to travel is a key reason they don't use some open spaces. The waterway corridors are not well used which may reflect the difficulties associated with easily accessing them.

The most frequently used facilities include:

- Walking paths (82%)
- Seating (66%)
- Open grassed areas for informal use (62%)
- Playgrounds and playspaces (60%)

1.2.2 Summary of workers responses

Approximately 33 per cent of respondents who completed the survey nominated they also work in the City of Whittlesea. Of the people who work in the City of Whittlesea, 62 per cent said they use open space near their workplace.

The most common reasons for visiting open space near their workplace are:

- Being outdoors as a break from work
- To exercise and keep fit
- Cycling/jogging/walking too and from work

1.2.3 Summary of general comments

The long answer questions from the survey are summarised and entered into the database as summary statements. Following is a summary of the key issues raised in the surveys prepared by the person reviewing all the long hand answers.

- Public toilets, provide more (23)
- Exercising dogs in open space (20)
- Additional open space required (17)
- Improve multi-use of open space (14)
- Additional open space required as densities increase (10)
- Maintenance - regular maintenance and/or cleaning of open space (13)
- Rubbish and litter in open space, including broken glass, is a concern to residents (13)

2. Municipal-wide summary

Number of respondents

630 respondents completed the survey. 571 indicated that they live in the City of Whittlesea and 59 of respondents indicated they only work and don't live in the municipality. The survey was designed such that the workers only answered questions related to open space near their workplace. These are summarised in Section 2.8 of this report. All other questions were answered by those living in the City of Whittlesea (571).

2.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open space in their municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of residents, 571. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

Open space in the City of Whittlesea is most valued by respondents as a place to relax and unwind, closely followed by a place for children to play, and trees. More than 50 per cent of residents consider open space an important habitat for native plants and animals and for their health and wellbeing.

%	Values
72%	Place to relax and unwind
63%	Place for kids to play
62%	Trees
54%	Habitat for native plants and animals
51%	Health and wellbeing
45%	Just being outside
44%	Escape from buildings and roads
43%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
43%	Natural bushland character
41%	Spacious
40%	Flowers/garden beds
39%	Quiet
37%	Fitness
36%	Accessible
34%	Green character
33%	Meeting people/friends

%	Values
27%	Knowledge that it's there
26%	The diversity of open space
24%	Playing sport
21%	Playing casual games
19%	Historical character
17%	Cultural activities and events
12%	Watching activity
9%	Other

The other category included a range of comments with the most frequent being dog walking, followed by fresh air.

2.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following tables, the percentage column is calculated based on 571 surveys, and they are listed in priority order.

2.2.1 Most frequently visited open spaces

The following tables lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home. Those with 2 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. Those open spaces with more than 10 visitors have a more detailed summary in Appendix B. All open spaces visited are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Open space within walking distance
10%	Redleap Recreation Reserve
8%	Ancillary open space*
5%	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
4%	Bundoora Park
4%	Hendersons Creek Wetland
4%	Norris Bank Parklands
3%	Botanica Park
2%	A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve
2%	Barry Road Park
2%	Darebin Creek
2%	Findon Creek Park
2%	Hawstowe Recreation Park
2%	Hill Top Park
2%	Main Street Recreation Reserve
2%	Mernda Villages Wetland
2%	Mimosa Park
2%	Other open space outside the municipality

%	Open space within walking distance
2%	Plenty Gorge Park
2%	Quarry Hills Park
2%	Whittlesea Public Gardens
2%	Whittlesea Showgrounds

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

2.2.2 Reasons for visiting them

The following table lists the main reasons people indicated they visit open space within walking distance. Those with 3 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. All reasons are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Reason to visit open space within walking distance
25%	Access - close to home
19%	Walking
17%	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
11%	Dog walking
7%	Open space - peaceful/quiet
7%	Play - take children to the park
6%	Exercising
6%	Relaxation
5%	Play - take grandchildren to the park
4%	Birdlife - watching
4%	Community hub/meeting place
4%	Cycling
4%	Fitness
4%	Open space - none within walking distance
4%	Playground and equipment
4%	Wildlife watching
3%	BBQs
3%	Birdlife - feeding
3%	Open space - ambience, beauty

2.2.3 Suggested Improvements to open space within walking distance

The following table lists the suggestions for improvements to open space within walking distance. Those with 3 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. All improvements are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Improvements to reserves within walking distance
7%	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
7%	Public toilets - provide more
5%	Playgrounds - improvements required
5%	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
4%	Seating - provide more
4%	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
3%	BBQs - more required
3%	Drinking fountains - provide more
3%	Rubbish bins - more required

2.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following tables, the percentage column is calculated based on 571 surveys, and they are listed in priority order.

2.3.1 Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

The following tables lists the open spaces visited beyond walking distance of home. Those with 2 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. All open spaces visited are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Open space visited beyond walking distance
8%	Bundoora Park
8%	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
6%	Other open space outside the municipality
4%	Ancillary open space*
4%	Redleap Recreation Reserve
3%	Kinglake National Park
3%	Mernda Villages Wetland
2%	Edwards Lake Park
2%	Hawstowe Recreation Park
2%	Hendersons Creek Wetland
2%	Mernda Creek Park
2%	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
2%	Quarry Hills Park
2%	Whittlesea Public Gardens

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

2.3.2 Reasons for visiting open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists the reasons why people visit open space reserves beyond walking distance. Those with 3 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. All open spaces visited are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Reasons to visit reserves beyond walking distance
8%	Walking
7%	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
5%	BBQs
5%	Open space - ambience, beauty
4%	Open space - peaceful/quiet
4%	Picnics
4%	Playground and equipment
4%	Dog socialising
4%	Views and vistas
4%	Dog walking
3%	Facilities
3%	Relaxation

2.3.3 Suggested Improvements to open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists suggestions for improvements to open space beyond walking distance. Those with 2 per cent and more have been included in this municipal-wide summary. All open spaces visited are included in the more detailed precinct analysis.

%	Improvements to reserves beyond walking distance
3%	Public toilets - provide more
2%	Open space - retain as is
2%	Seating - provide more

2.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by residents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

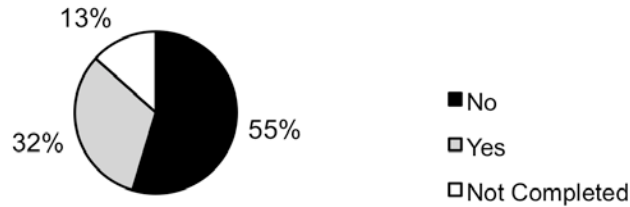
Part One – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

Part Two – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part Three – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

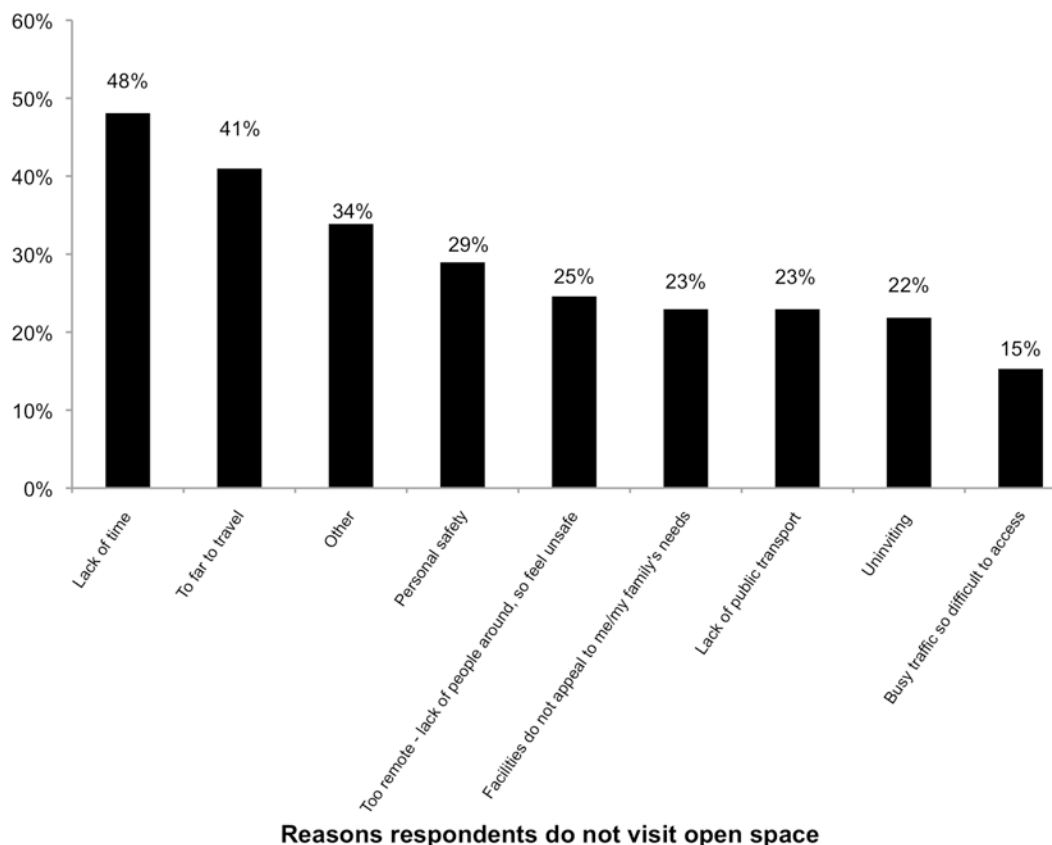
The percentages nominated in Part One are a proportion of the total of 571 surveys. The percentages nominated in Part Two are a percentage of respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question (183).

2.4.1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?



The following pie chart illustrates the percentage of respondents who answered yes to this question as a proportion of all 571 respondents. 32 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to.

2.4.2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



The most frequent reason for not visiting open space was lack of time at 48 per cent. This was followed by the reason that open space is too far to travel at 41 per cent. Personal safety and open space being too remote with a lack of people

around were also important factors with 25 per cent or more of respondents indicating this.

The lack of time and distance too far combined with other reasons and general comments indicate that improving the quality of open space and ensuring it maximises its appeal to the community who live nearby may encourage higher levels of use.

34 per cent of respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space.

%	Other reasons respondents do not visit open space
9%	Lack of information/knowledge
7%	Facilities do not appeal to me or my family
4%	Access - closed
2%	Lack of footpath
2%	Personal safety
1%	Busy traffic so difficult to access
1%	Dog - off lead area, additional required
1%	Health issues
1%	Lack of car parking
1%	Lack of time
1%	Other
1%	Lack of public transport
1%	Lack of shade/trees
1%	Lack of signage
1%	Too far to travel
1%	Unclean - graffiti
1%	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned

2.4.3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

The majority (66%) of the respondents who said they would like to visit open space but are unable to indicated they don't visit multiple open spaces, while 25 per cent indicated they don't visit a specific open space.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited and percentages are calculated based on the number of respondents who indicated they don't visit a specific open space (25%).

%	Open space you don't visit
29%	Plenty Gorge Park
11%	Toorourrong Reservoir Park - temporarily closed
11%	Whittlesea Public Gardens
11%	Yan Yean Reservoir Park

%	Open space you don't visit
9%	Quarry Hills Park
7%	Barry Road Park
7%	Hawstowe Recreation Park
7%	Hendersons Creek Wetland
7%	Kinglake National Park
4%	Ancillary open space*
4%	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
4%	Other open space outside the municipality
4%	Yan Yean Reservoir

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

2.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table highlights the various types of open space used by the residents of City of Whittlesea and their frequency of use.

The percentage columns are calculated based on 571 surveys. The total percentage column on the left hand side is calculated on the basis of the number of respondents who use the open space as a proportion of the total number of returned surveys excluding Never and Not Completed responses.

The percentages in the Table A below have been highlighted using shades of grey to identify the most frequent responses.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 times a week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
82%	Local streets for exercise	29%	23%	16%	10%	4%	9%
80%	Small local parks	9%	19%	20%	19%	13%	10%
72%	Major regional parklands	1%	1%	5%	13%	52%	21%
70%	Large parks and gardens	4%	6%	9%	19%	31%	20%
49%	Medium sized parks	1%	5%	8%	14%	21%	36%
47%	Sporting reserves	3%	4%	9%	13%	19%	40%
47%	Urban squares/plazas	2%	6%	11%	12%	16%	37%
35%	Plenty River	2%	1%	4%	8%	21%	49%

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 times a week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
29%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	6%	6%	12%	56%
29%	Merri Creek	1%	2%	4%	6%	17%	56%
22%	Edgars Creek	2%	2%	4%	3%	11%	60%

Local streets for exercise and small local parks are the most commonly and frequently used type of open space by City of Whittlesea residents.

On a monthly and annual basis major regional parklands and large parks and gardens are the most commonly visited type of open space.

Overall, sporting reserves receive comparatively low levels of use, in part likely to the older demographic completing the survey. There are also low levels of use of the waterway corridors.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 times a week	Weekly
68%	Local streets for exercise	29%	23%	16%
48%	Small local parks	9%	19%	20%
19%	Urban squares/plazas	2%	6%	11%
19%	Large parks and gardens	4%	6%	9%
16%	Sporting reserves	3%	4%	9%
14%	Medium sized parks	1%	5%	8%
11%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	6%
8%	Edgars Creek	2%	2%	4%
7%	Major regional parklands	1%	1%	5%
7%	Merri Creek	1%	2%	4%
6%	Plenty River	2%	1%	4%

In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being urban squares/large parks and gardens. The waterway corridors and major regional parklands are not fulfilling a role in the being frequently used, all with less than 10 per cent use.

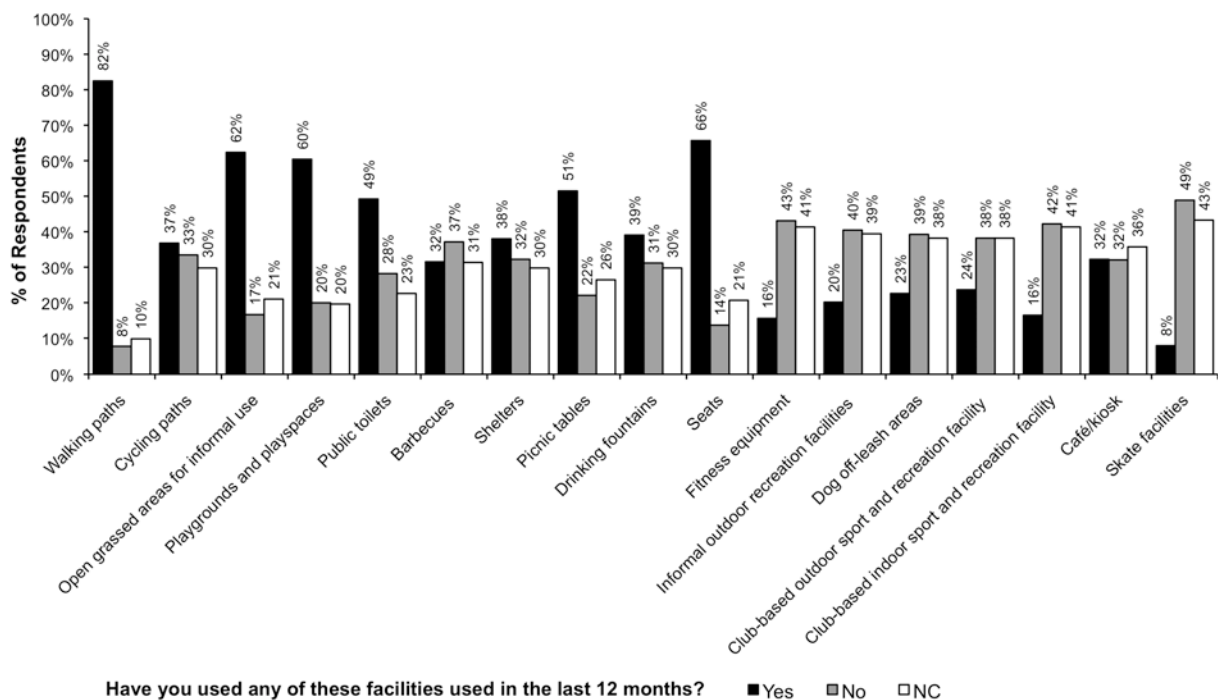
2.6 Facilities and features in open space

2.6.1 Use of facilities in open space

The following graph highlights various types of facilities used in open space by residents of the City of Whittlesea in the last twelve months. Percentages are calculated on the basis of the number of respondents who use the open space facility as a proportion of 571 surveys.

82 per cent of respondents used walking paths in the last twelve months. This is followed by 66 per cent using seats, 62 per cent using open grassed areas for informal use, 60 per cent playgrounds and playspaces, and 51 per cent using picnic tables.

This graph reinforces the popularity of walking and the unstructured use of open space including the seats and informal open grassed areas. Club-based sport facilities have low levels of use along with informal outdoor recreation facilities, fitness equipment and the skate facilities. These facilities are more commonly used by children and young adults and this group is not well represented in the survey.



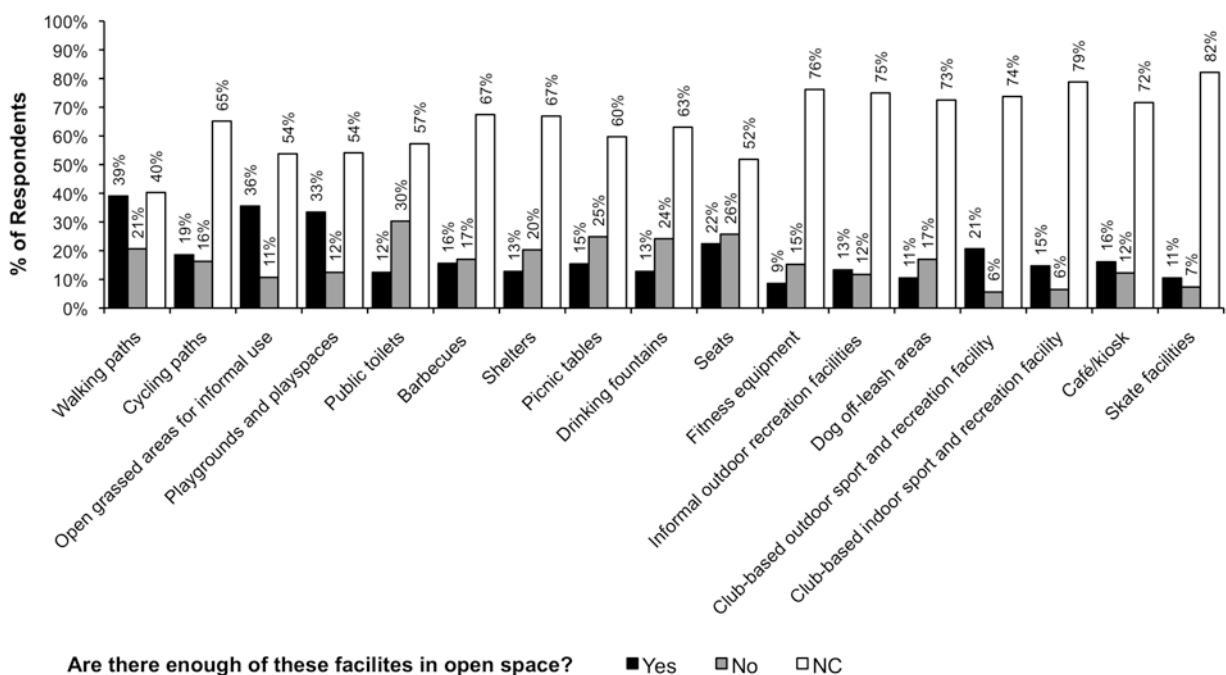
2.6.2 Provision of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the percentage of residents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total of 571 surveys.

Overall, the results of this question indicate there is a low level of satisfaction with the provision of facilities in open space. While the previous graph highlights the high levels of use of walking paths, only 39 per cent of respondents consider these are well provided for, and walking paths are considered the best provided for facility in the Municipality. Only one third of the 66 per cent of respondents that use seats say there are enough. For public toilets only one quarter of the 49 per cent who use these facilities say there are enough.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

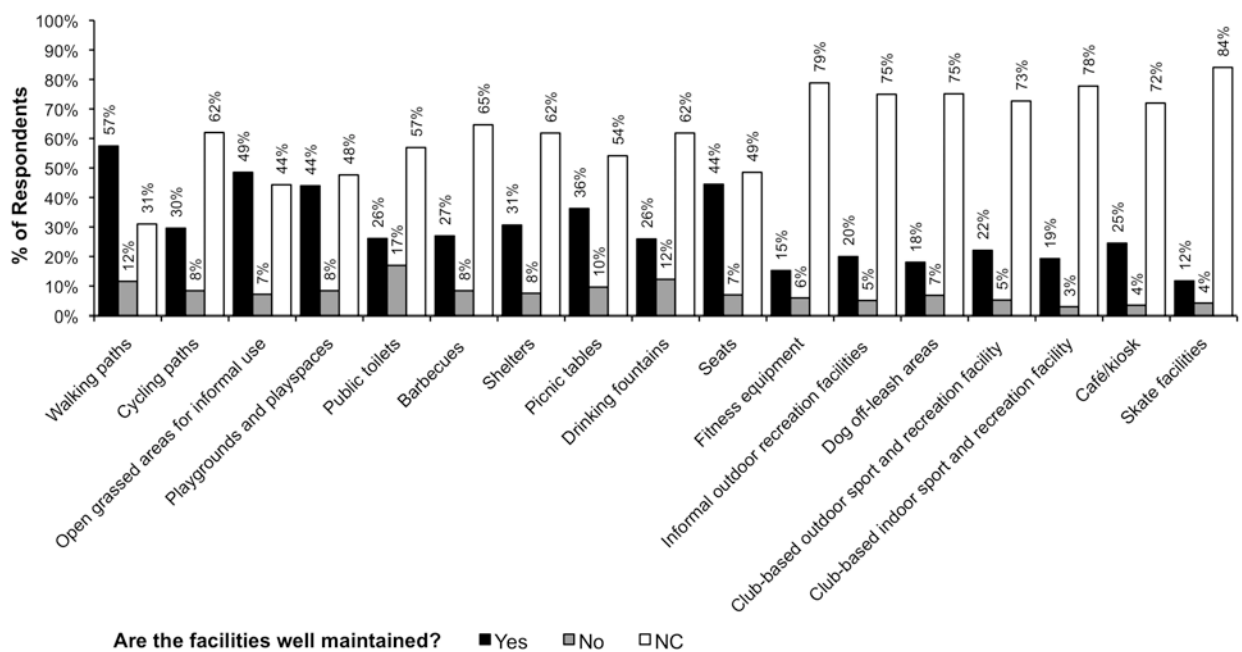
- Public toilets
- Seats
- Picnic tables
- Walking paths



2.6.3 Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities over the last 12 months. The percentages are calculated on the total 571 surveys.

More than 50 per cent of City of Whittlesea respondents are satisfied with the level of maintenance for walking paths, and almost 50 per cent are satisfied with open grassed areas for informal use, playgrounds and play spaces, and seats, consistent with the higher level of use of these facilities. Overall, when assessing the results of the three questions relating to facilities in open space, the lack of them and lower level of use are more of an issue than their maintenance.



2.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from the City of Whittlesea, which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order. These comments are important as they are unprompted and have been summarised from larger statements.

The highest number of general comments received indicated Whittlesea residents (23) would like more public toilets provided in open space. A number of residents (20) would also like to see additional dog off-lead areas provided as well as additional open space in general (17), and additional multi-use open spaces (14).

While some residents indicated they enjoy using open space, they also commented on the management and maintenance of open space suggesting regular maintenance of streetscapes (13) and open space. There were also some concerns regarding the impact of development on open space (14).

No.	General comments
	Open space provision
17	Open space - additional required
14	Open space - additional multi use spaces
13	Open space - enjoy using open space
10	Open space - additional required as density increases
4	Open space - adequate amount of open space provided
1	Open space - keep / retain what there is
	Open space values and character
10	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
10	Open space - contributes to liveability
9	Open space - enjoy the ambience
8	Open space - important to create a sense of community
8	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire municipality
8	Open space - improve landscape design and layout
5	Ambience - general ambience needs improvement
4	Open space - ensure council distributes funds equally across the municipality
3	Natural character - bushland feel valued
3	Open space - don't use it
3	Open space - happy with existing
3	Open space - value close proximity to home
2	Open space - additional required for flora/fauna protection
2	Open space - additional small open spaces required
2	Open space - maintain existing character
1	Open space - appreciate improvements
1	Open space - at capacity
1	Open space - open and uncluttered character important
1	Waterways - improve overall character and facilities along Darebin Creek
1	Waterways - improve overall character and facilities along Edgars Creek

No.	General comments
	Management
20	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
13	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
12	Security - improve surveillance
7	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
6	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
6	Security - increase lighting
5	Vandalism - an issue
4	Mowing - regular mowing required
3	Opening hours - to be extended
2	Dog - provide fenced off-lead areas
2	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
2	Pest control - improvements required
2	Waterways - to be regularly cleaned
1	Safety - improve safety
1	Dog - drinking facilities, more required
1	Dog - off-lead areas, require enforcement
1	Dog - provide dog 'agility'/exercise equipment
1	Management - Council to provide a contact number to report concerns about open spaces
	Maintenance
13	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
13	Maintenance - improve maintenance and cleaning in open space
9	Open space - well maintained
7	Maintenance - continue to maintain
5	Maintenance - appreciate existing maintenance
5	Rubbish - remove litter in open space
3	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
3	Graffiti - maintenance required
3	Open space - ensure they are well maintained
1	Maintenance - regular pruning of vegetation required
	Park Infrastructure
23	Public toilets - provide more
11	Rubbish bins - more required
8	Seating - provide more
7	Lighting - additional required
5	BBQs - more required
5	Drinking fountains - provide more
5	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
4	Park infrastructure - provide more
3	Cafe/kiosk facilities - more required
3	Fencing - more required
3	Shelters - with BBQs required
2	Car park - additional required
2	Public toilets - improve maintenance and cleaning
2	Shelters - provide more

No.	General comments
1	BBQs - regular maintenance required
1	Drinking fountains - provide near playground
1	Fencing - around playground for safety
1	Fencing - remove fencing
1	Lighting - provide lighting in car parks for safety
1	Park infrastructure - refurbish
1	Public toilets - to be located near playgrounds
1	Seating - additional near playground
1	Seating - provide more in shaded areas
1	Signage - informative, instructional and navigational signage required
	Paths
12	Cycle paths - improve connecting paths into linear trails from adjoining areas
11	Cycle paths - more required
9	Cycle paths - off-road cycle links required
7	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails so they are continuous
5	Paths - improvements required
4	Paths - address gaps in linear paths so they are continuous
4	Paths - improve connecting paths into open space from adjoining areas
3	Cycle paths - improvements required
3	Paths - more required
3	Shared paths - address gaps in shared paths so they are continuous
2	Paths - improve path surface
2	Paths - Improve safety at intersections
2	Paths - improve sightlines
2	Paths - more unsealed paths - like 'the Tan'
2	Paths - ongoing maintenance required
1	Cycle parking - provide more rails/racks
1	Cycle paths - better lighting for safety
1	Cycle paths - connecting paths required
1	Cycle paths - improve path surface
1	Cycle paths - widen
1	Cyclists - conflicts with pedestrians on shared paths
1	Paths - better lighting for safety
1	Paths - convert old railway line to walking/cycling link
1	Paths - maintain sightlines
1	Shared paths - better lighting for safety
1	Shared paths - improve sightlines
1	Shared paths - maintain sightlines
	Sport and Recreation Facilities
10	Exercise equipment - more required
10	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment for a range of age groups
6	Playgrounds - provide more
4	Facilities - more required for teenagers
4	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
4	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
4	Playgrounds - upgrade/maintenance required
4	Sporting facilities - provide more

No.	General comments
3	Basketball ring/half court - required
3	Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
2	Sport - oval required
1	More activities for teenagers
1	Netball facilities - more required
1	Playgrounds - provide equipment for kids with disabilities
1	Playgrounds - provide more equipment in parks within walking distance
1	Playgrounds - provide shade
1	Skate parks - improvements required
1	Skate parks - provide more
1	Sport - more indoor sport facilities required
1	Sport - restrict/reduce formal sporting club use
1	Tennis - facilities more required
1	Waterway use - improvements required
	Development
13	Development - concerns about impact on open space
3	Development - adjoining open space maintain height restrictions
	Community consultation and information/awareness
10	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase awareness
10	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available
4	Community - continue to seek community feedback
2	Community - introduce more community involvement in the maintenance/upkeep of open space
1	Community - advisory committees to be established for all parks
	Trees and vegetation
11	Retain grasslands/habitat value
2	Garden beds - improvement required
2	Trees - important for shade
2	Trees - more street tree planting required
2	Trees - plant more exotic trees
2	Vegetation - increase native planting
2	Vegetation - more streetscape planting required
2	Vegetation - provide more
1	Gardens - more colourful plantings
1	Trees - additional required
1	Trees - falling limbs are a personal safety concern
1	Trees - maintenance required
1	Trees - plant in avenue
1	Trees - provide edible trees/fruit trees
1	Vegetation - important to protect
1	Vegetation - improve maintenance
1	Vegetation - more shrubs required
1	Vegetation - provide more to perimeter of park

No.	General comments
	Access
7	Links - improve links to open space
4	Access - provide more entry points to open space
3	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
2	Traffic - noise intrusive and impacts on open space use
1	Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs
1	Access - improve driver awareness of pedestrians in open space
1	Access - improve links across railway lines
1	Traffic - difficult to reach open space due to busy roads
1	Traffic - provide buffer to open space
	Environment and sustainability
4	Wildlife - improve wildlife corridor
2	Wildlife - important to protect
2	Wildlife - native wildlife needs protection
2	Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife
1	Sustainability - need additional programs in parks
1	Wetlands - provide more
	Cultural heritage events and arts
2	Programming - community bus trips to open space for elderly/disabled
1	Events - more activities for Seniors
1	Events - provide more
1	Festivals - more required
	Other
4	Overall strategy - Council doing a good job
3	Public transport - improve network
2	Don't waste ratepayers money
2	Re-open Toorourrong Reservoir
1	Council rates - too high

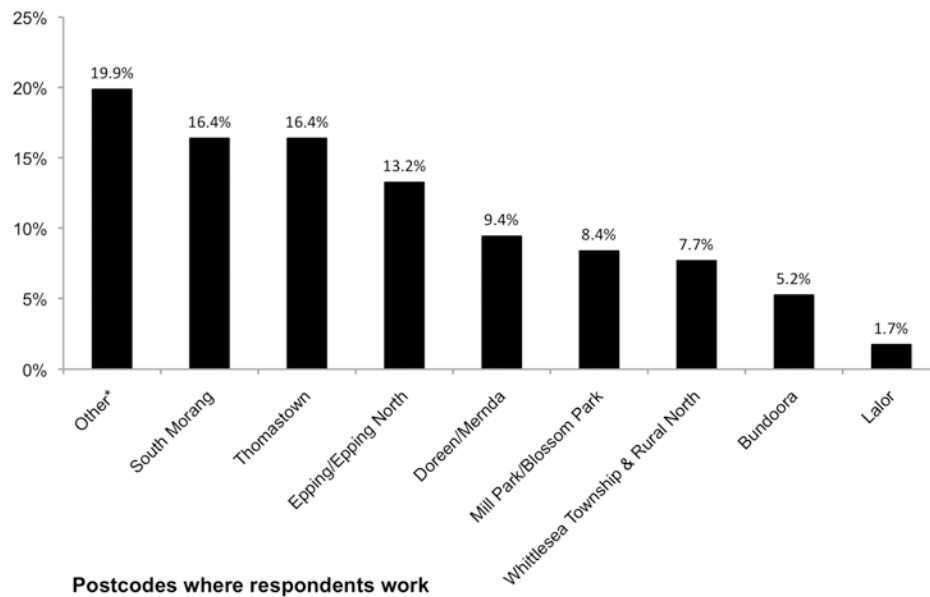
2.8 Worker population use of open space

2.8.1 Do you live and work in the City of Whittlesea?

210 (33%) per cent of the total number of survey respondents work in the City of Whittlesea. 151 (72%) both live and work in the City of Whittlesea. 59 (28%) of respondents indicate they only work in the City of Whittlesea and do not live in the municipality.

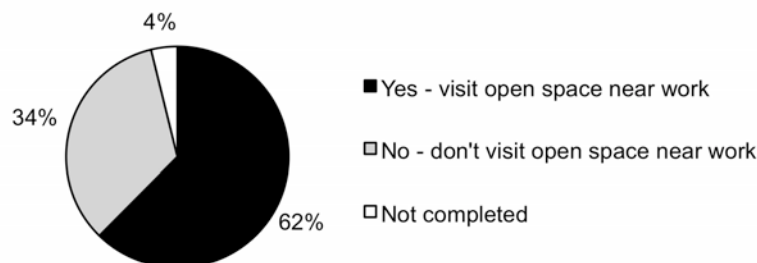
2.8.2 What is the postcode where you work?

36 per cent of respondents confirmed their workplace location within the City of Whittlesea and there were no responses from workers in Woodstock or Yan Yean.



2.8.3 If you work in the City of Whittlesea, do you visit open space near your workplace?

62 per cent of the 210 respondents who indicated they work in the City of Whittlesea also visit open space near their workplace at question 15.



2.8.4 Can you give the reason/s why you visit the open space near your workplace?

49 per cent of respondents visit open space near their workplace to be outdoors as a break from work. 37 per cent of respondents indicated they use open space near work for informal fitness/exercise activities. Socialising and club-based sport were less popular reasons to visit open space near work.

%	Reasons workers visit open space
49%	Being outdoors as a break from work
37%	Fitness/exercise (informal)
21%	Cycling/jogging/walking to and from work via the open space network (rather than road)
18%	Socialising
14%	Other*
3%	Sport (club-based)

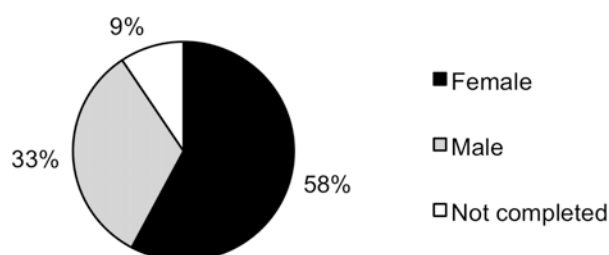
* Other reasons include dog walking (5), teacher- take students (4), psychological wellbeing (3), already work in open space (2), lunch (2), and relaxation (2).

2.9 Who completed the survey

630 respondents completed the survey. 571 indicated that they live in the City of Whittlesea and 59 respondents indicated they only work and don't live in the municipality. The survey was defined such that the workers only answered questions related to open space near their workplace. These are summarised in Section 2.8 of this report. All other questions were answered by those living in the City of Whittlesea (571).

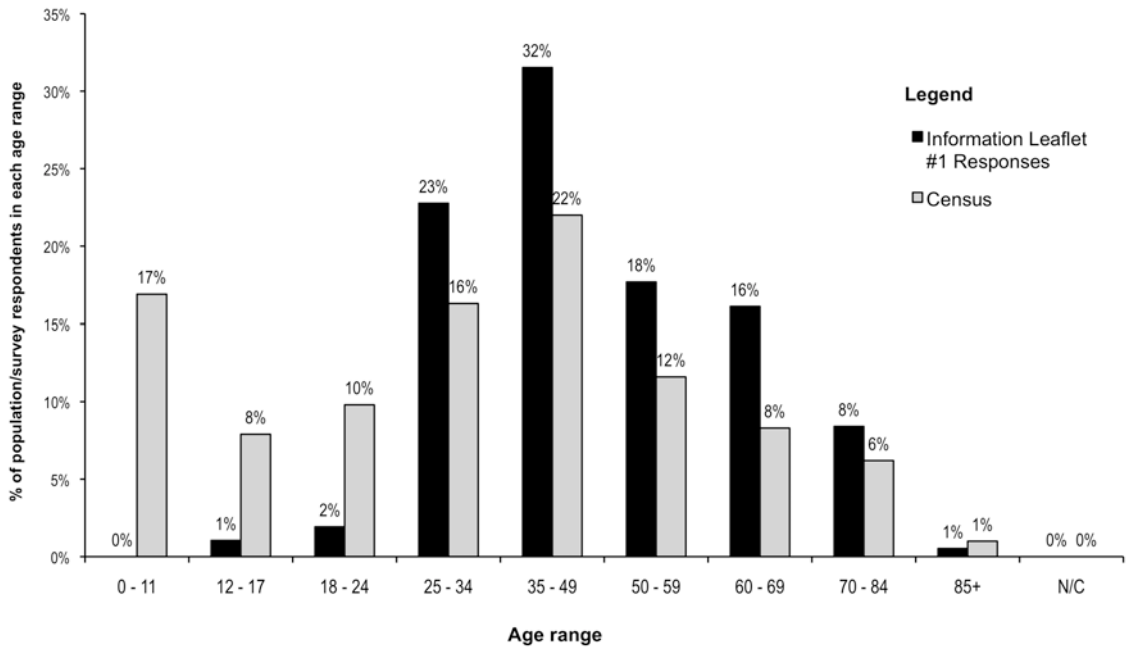
2.9.1 Gender

Approximately 58 per cent of respondents were female and 33 per cent male. The 2011 Census data for the City of Whittlesea indicates 49.6 per cent of residents were female and 50.4 per cent male. 9 per cent of respondents did not complete this question.



2.9.2 Age Range

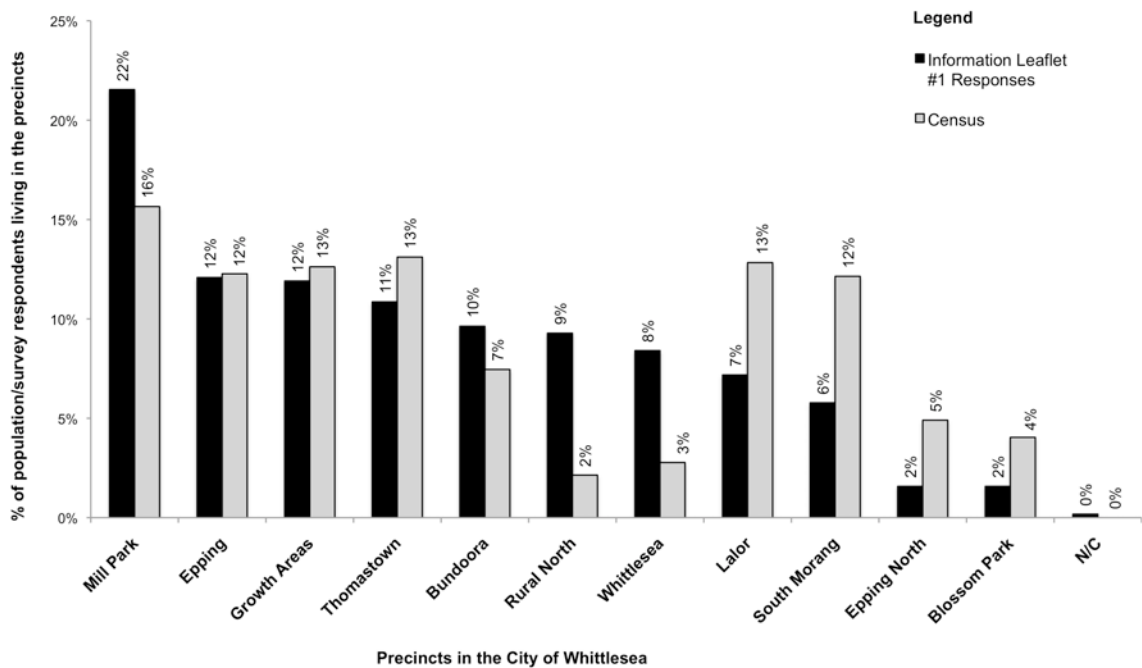
All age ranges are represented in the survey. As expected a lower number of children and young adults complete them. Respondents do answer to some extent on behalf of their children so some responses will reflect this age group.



2.9.3 Precincts

Surveys were received from the following areas:

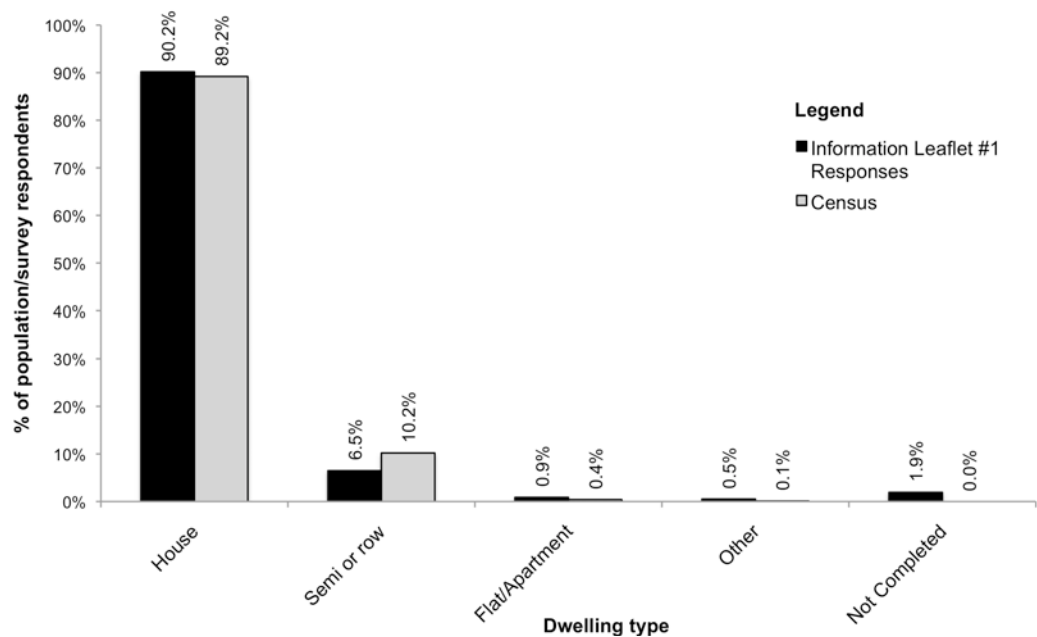
Completed surveys were received from all precincts in the City of Whittlesea. Refer to Section 3 of this report for analysis of individual precinct responses.



2.9.4 Dwelling type

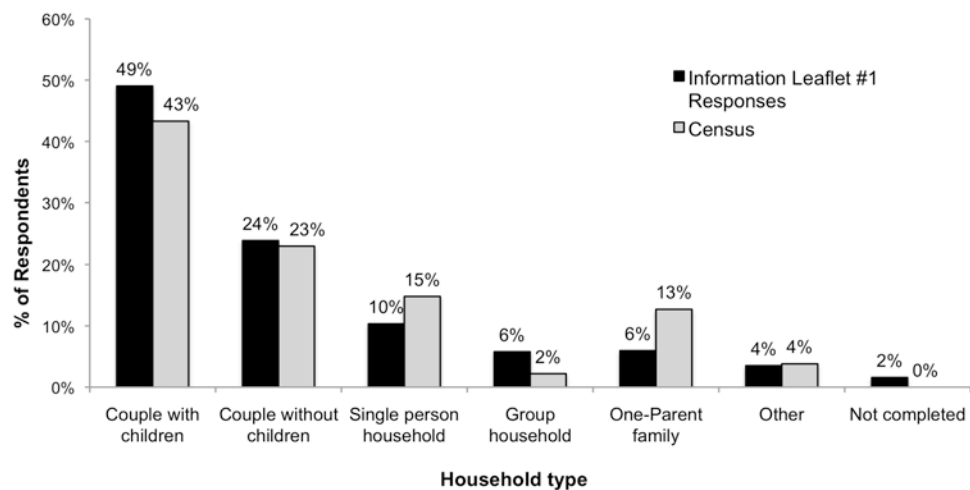
The quantity of private open space available to residents can influence their use of open space. Generally, detached dwellings have more private open space available than semi-detached dwellings or apartments, and changes in this can influence the usage patterns and level of demand for public open space.

More than 90 per cent of respondents live in detached houses, followed by semi or row (6.5%), with only a small proportion of respondents living in a flat/apartment or other type of housing. This is consistent with the census data meaning there is a good representation from each dwelling type in the survey outcomes.



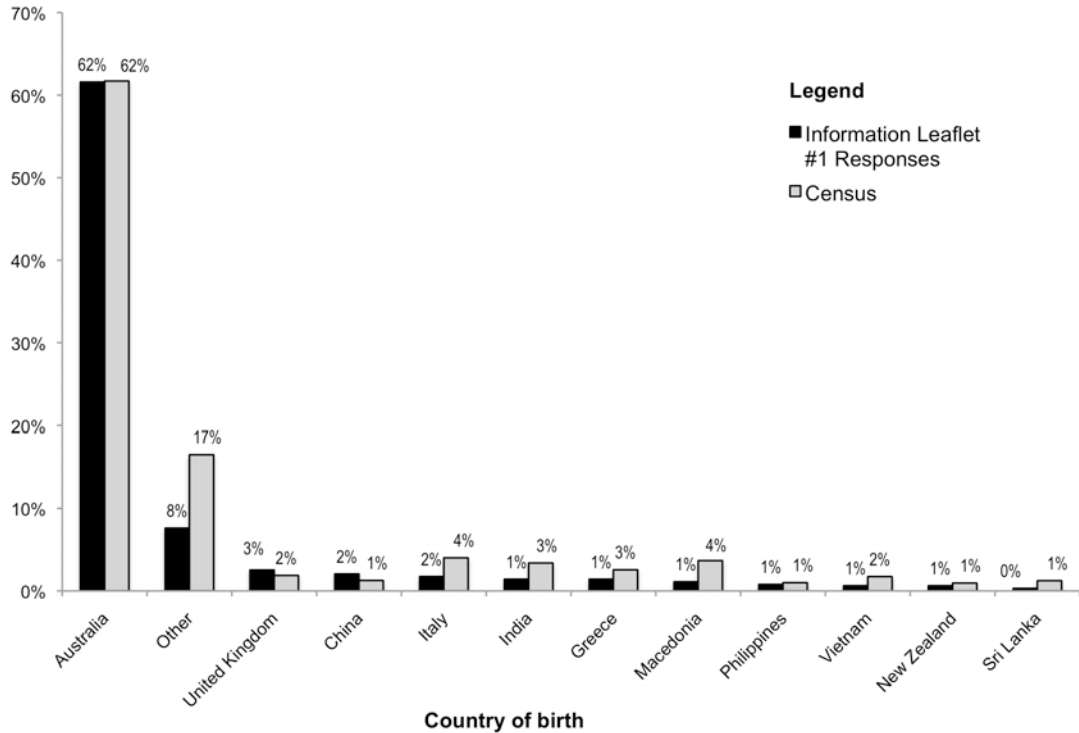
2.9.5 Household type

Couples with children (49%) are the most common household type, followed by couples without children (24%). This is consistent with the census data, with single person households and one-parent families being slightly under-represented in the survey outcomes compared with the 2011 Census data.



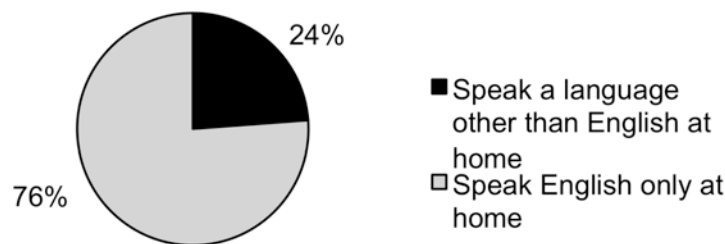
2.9.6 Country of birth

The responses are generally consistent with the 2011 Census data with a slight under representation of respondents born in Greece, Macedonia, Italy and India.

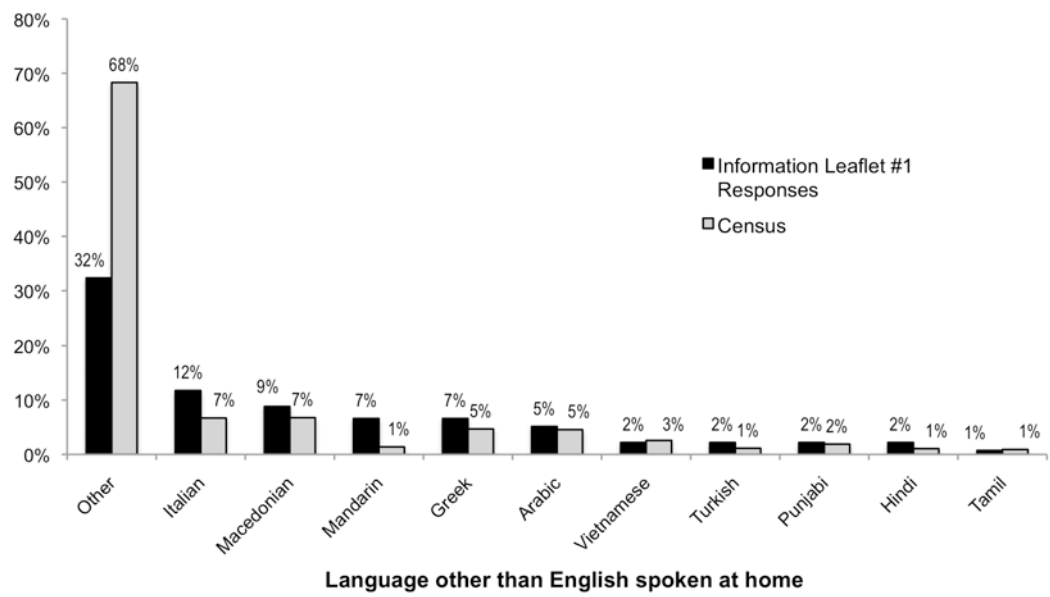


2.9.7 Language spoken at home

76 per cent of respondents speak English only at home and this is a slightly higher proportion of the population when compared to the Census data.



2.9.7 Language spoken at home (continued)



The ten most common language groups are represented in the survey outcomes.

3. Individual precinct summary

3.1 Overview

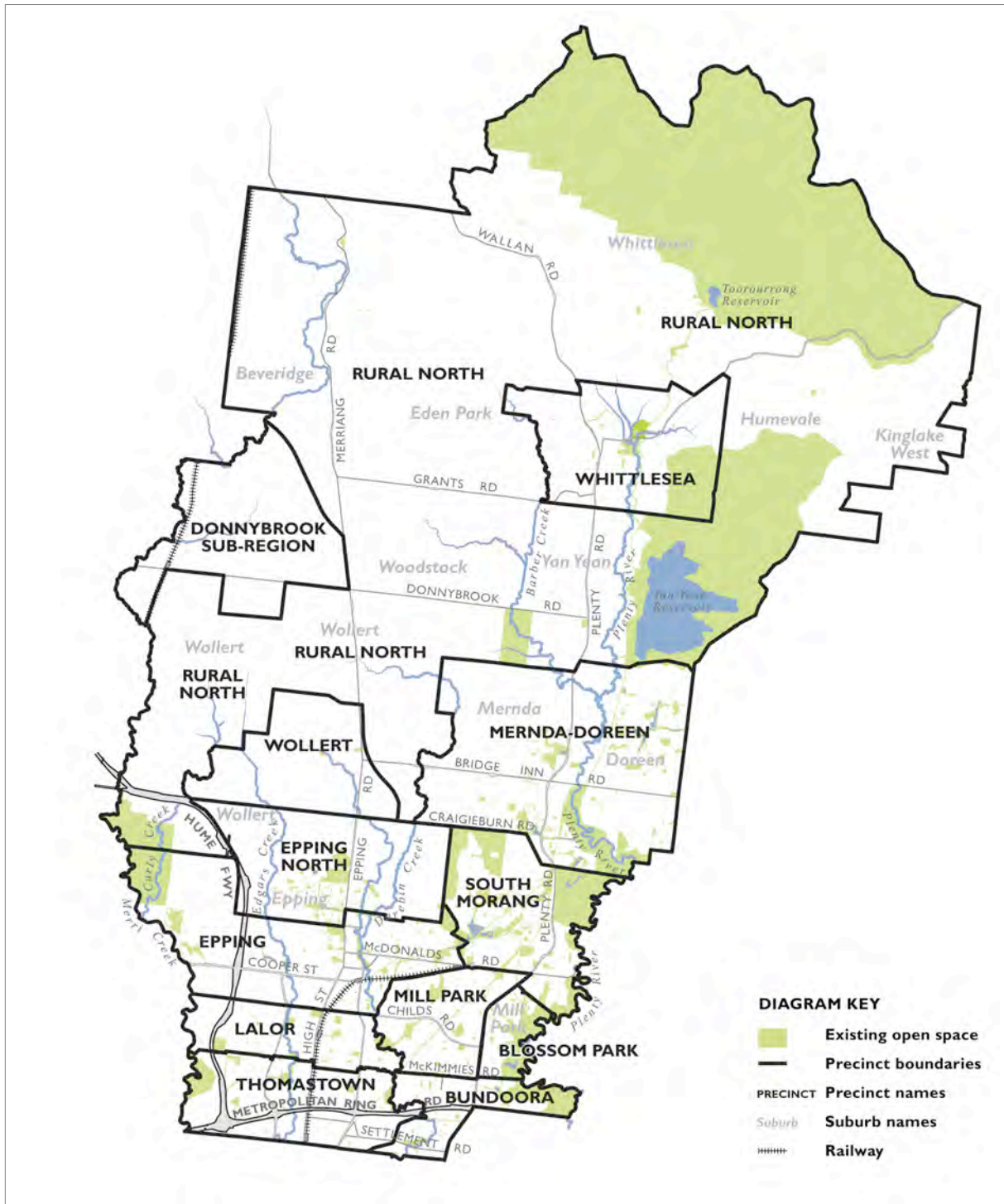
The outcomes of the completed surveys have been summarised by precinct. The precincts names and areas are consistent with the precincts from the City of Whittlesea Community Profile.

The Open Space Strategy makes recommendations for the future provision, design and management of open space in the established urban and rural areas of the municipality, excluding the growth areas. Therefore, the survey distribution was targeted to the established urban and rural areas of the municipality. Only precincts that have either wholly or partially established urban and rural areas in them have been summarised separately and included in this section of the consultation report.

These precinct summaries inform the precinct analysis and recommendations contained in the City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy. The precincts are listed in alphabetical order, which correlates to the order in which they are presented in the Strategy.

Refer to the Precinct Diagram on the following page for the spatial location and physical boundaries of each precinct.

3.1a City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy Precincts



3.2 Blossom Park

Number of respondents

9 respondents indicated they live in Blossom Park. This represents 1 per cent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate that 4 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population is from Blossom Park.

3.2.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Blossom Park, 9. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

%	Value
100%	Place to relax and unwind
100%	Spacious
89%	Quiet
89%	Trees
89%	Flowers/garden beds
89%	Habitat for native plants and animals
89%	Natural bushland character
78%	Escape from buildings and roads
67%	Just being outside
67%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
67%	Accessible
67%	Green character
67%	Historical character
67%	Health and wellbeing
67%	Place for kids to play
56%	Meeting people/friends
56%	Fitness
44%	The diversity of open space
44%	Cultural activities and events
44%	Playing casual games
33%	Playing sport
22%	Watching activity
11%	Knowledge that it's there

3.2.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.2.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

No.	Open space within walking distance
4	Kelynack Recreation Reserve
2	Bundoora Park
2	Janefield Wetland
1	Ancillary open space*
1	Grevillea Park
1	Other open space outside the Municipality
1	Plenty Gorge Park
1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
1	Whittlesea Showgrounds

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.2.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Blossom Park

The following table lists the reasons why Blossom Park respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Kelynack Recreation Reserve 4	Reasons	
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Exercising
	1	Fitness equipment
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - green character
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	Improvements	
	1	BBQs - more required
	1	Exercise equipment - more required
1	Paths - provide more unsealed Track e.g. 'The Tan'	
1	Soccer facilities - provide more	
1	Sporting facilities - provide more	
Janefield Wetland 2	Reasons	
	2	Birdlife - watching
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Paths
1	Waterbody	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular mowing required
Bundoora Park 2	1	Reasons Activities - diverse
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Improvements Ambience - improvements to general ambience required
	1	Cafe/kiosk - upgrade/improvement required
Whittlesea Showgrounds 1	1	Reasons Community hub/meeting place
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Wildlife watching
	1	Improvements Signage - interpretive/information required
Plenty Gorge Park 1	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Wildlife watching
	1	Improvements Seating - provide more
Ancillary open space (including shopping plazas, streetscapes and school ground etc) 1	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Improvements Exercise equipment - more required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1	Reasons Access - close to public transport
	1	Open space - grassed areas
	1	Improvements Access - improvements required
	1	Swimming pool adjoining the park required
Grevillea Park 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Rubbish bins - more required

3.2.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.2.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

No.	Open space beyond walking distance
4	Other open space outside the Municipality
1	Creek Park
1	Peppercorn Park
1	University Hill Offset Site

No.	Open space beyond walking distance
1	Yan Yean Reservoir Park

3.2.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Blossom Park respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Other open space outside the Municipality 4	2 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty BBQs Open space - diversity of spaces Paths Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Vegetation - diversity of vegetation Improvements Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet Picnics Improvements Shelters - provide more
University Hill Offset Site 1	1 1	Reasons Fitness Walking
Peppercorn Park 1	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons BBQs Facilities Family friendly Nature Improvements Seating - provide more
Mernda Creek Park 1	1	Reasons Dog socialising

3.2.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

Two per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to.

Two Blossom Park respondents indicated the reason for not visiting open space was due to the lack of public transport. Other reasons were travel distance, lack of time, personal safety and open space being too remote.

The 'other' reason a respondent did not visit open space generally, or a specific open space was because it was closed. The specific open space not visited was Plenty Gorge Park.

3.2.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Blossom Park.

The percentages are calculated based on the 9 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include the never and not completed columns. The percentages on the right hand side indicate the frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
89%	Major regional parklands	0%	11%	11%	11%	56%	0%
89%	Large parks and gardens	0%	11%	22%	22%	33%	0%
89%	Medium sized parks	0%	11%	44%	22%	11%	0%
89%	Local streets exercise	44%	22%	0%	0%	22%	0%
78%	Small local parks	22%	11%	0%	0%	44%	11%
67%	Sporting reserves	0%	0%	11%	22%	33%	0%
56%	Plenty River	0%	0%	22%	11%	22%	33%
44%	Urban squares	0%	11%	0%	0%	33%	22%
33%	Merri Creek	0%	0%	0%	11%	22%	33%
33%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	11%	0%	22%	44%
22%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	44%

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
67%	Local streets exercise	44%	22%	0%
56%	Medium sized parks	0%	11%	44%
33%	Large parks and gardens	0%	11%	22%
33%	Small local parks	22%	11%	0%
22%	Major regional parklands	0%	11%	11%
22%	Plenty River	0%	0%	22%
11%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	11%
11%	Sporting reserves	0%	0%	11%
11%	Urban squares	0%	11%	0%
0%	Merri Creek	0%	0%	0%
0%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	0%

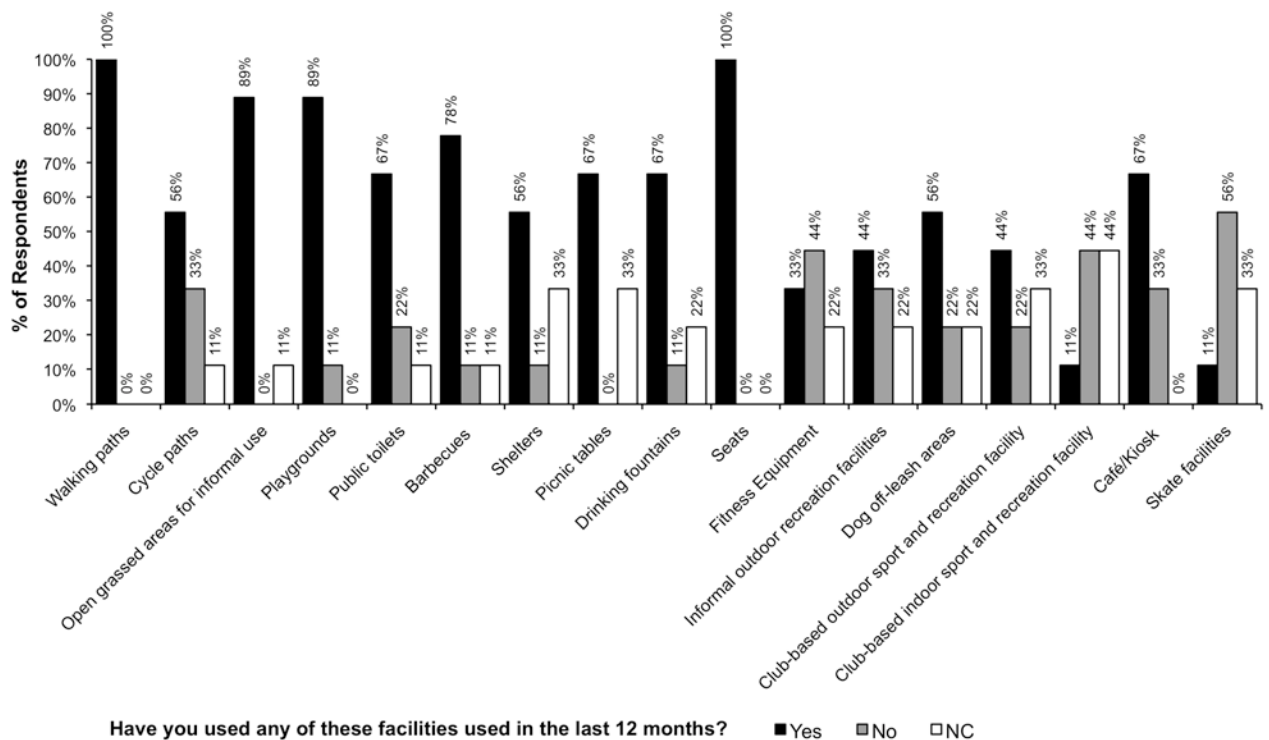
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by medium sized parks and the third being large parks and gardens. The daily use of local streets for exercise is very high compared with the Municipal average. This could be partly explained by the comparatively lower number of smaller open spaces in Blossom Park. 22 per cent is allocated to Plenty River and major regional parklands suggesting that even though Plenty Gorge Park is the major open space in this precinct, it is not well used due to limited path/trail access points to it.

3.2.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.2.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Blossom Park, 9.

- Walking paths, seats, open grassed areas for informal use and playgrounds were the most popular facilities used in the last 12 months, consistent with the Municipal average.
- Higher levels of use of public toilets, picnic tables, drinking fountains, and cafe/kiosk by Blossom Park respondents was due to the lower number of total responses.



3.2.6b Provision of facilities in open space

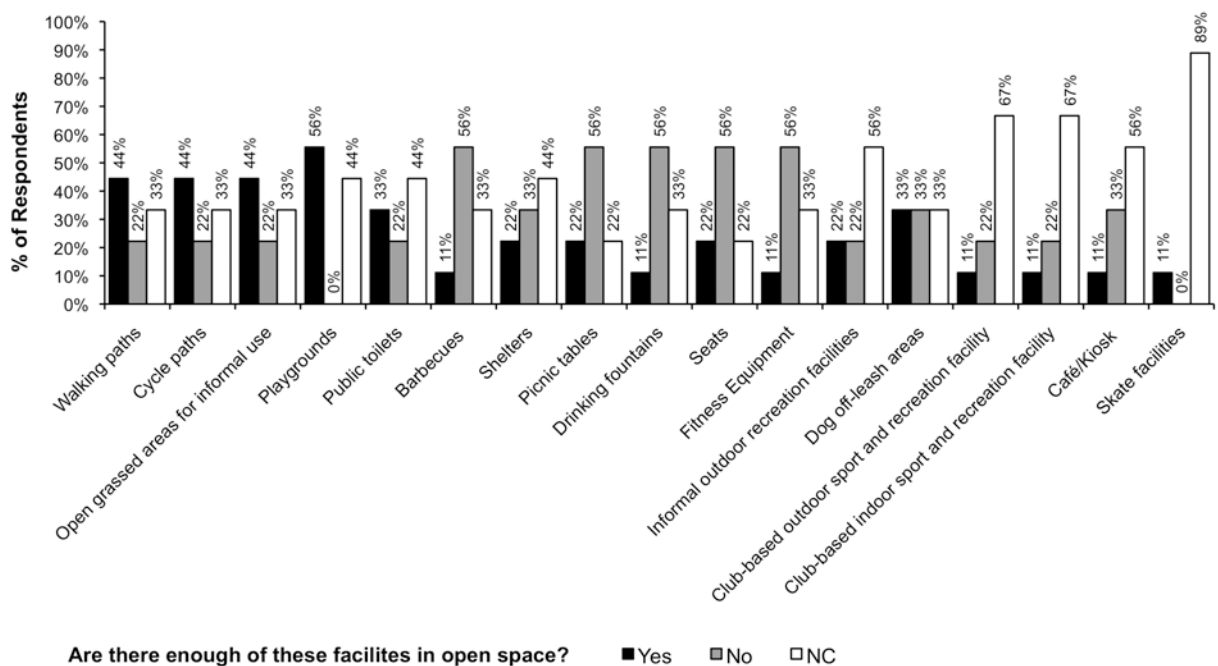
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Blossom Park surveys received, 9.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Barbecues, picnic tables, drinking fountains, seats and fitness equipment
- Shelters, dog-off leash areas, cafe/kiosk
- Walking paths, cycle paths, open grassed areas for informal use, public toilets, informal outdoor recreation facilities, club-based outdoor sport and recreation facilities and club-based indoor sport and recreation facilities

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

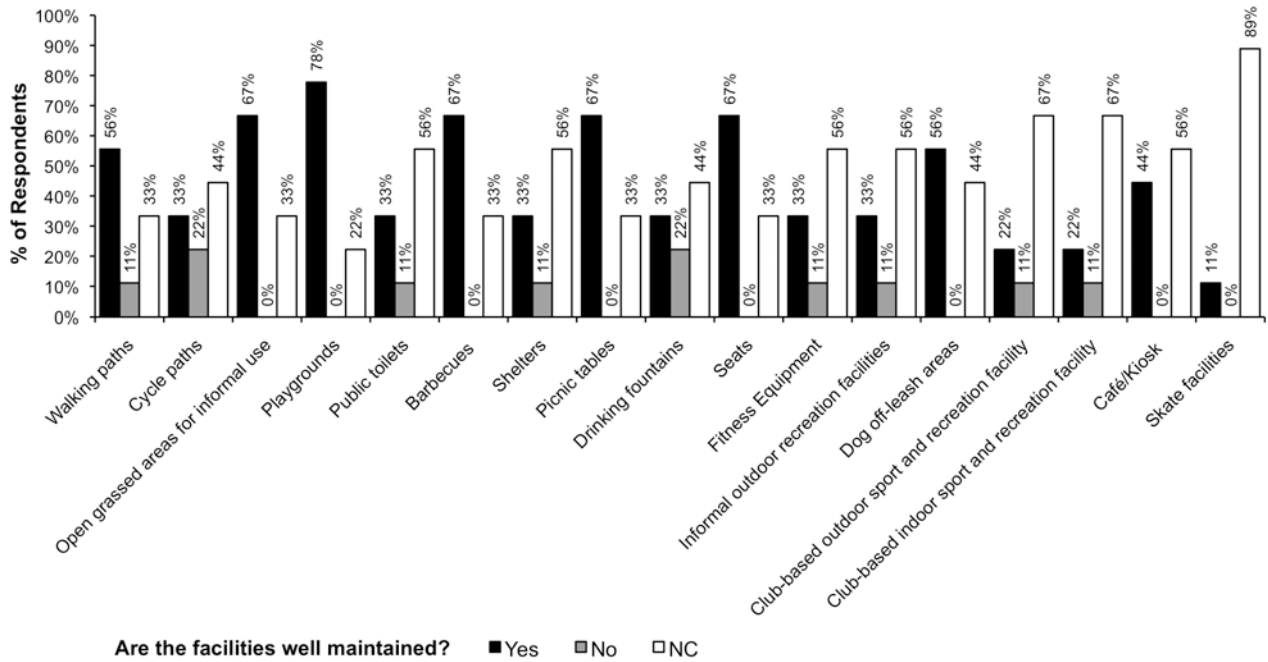
- Blossom Park respondents' general level of satisfaction with the provision of facilities is in accordance with the Municipal average.



3.2.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Blossom Park surveys returned, 9.

- Blossom Park respondents' level of satisfaction with maintenance of facilities was generally higher than the Municipal average.



3.2.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Blossom Park respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Open Space
1	Open space - well maintained
1	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire Municipality
1	Open space - additional required
1	Open space - additional multi use spaces
	Sport and Recreation Facilities
2	Exercise equipment - more required
	Other
1	Public transport - community bus trips for elderly/disabled
1	Development - adjoining open space maintain height restrictions
	Paths
1	Cycle paths - off-road cycle links required Park Infrastructure
1	BBQs - more required
	Maintenance
1	Dog off-lead areas, additional required

3.3 Bundoora

Number of respondents

55 respondents indicated they live in Bundoora. This represents 9 per cent of the total surveys received. Census data figures indicate that 7 per cent of the City of Whittlesea is from Bundoora.

3.3.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Bundoora, 55. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

73 per cent of Bundoora respondents consider the opportunity to relax and unwind as the most valued feature of open space, consistent with the Municipal average. This is followed by trees at 58 per cent, open space as an escape from traffic noise and movement at 53 per cent, and fitness at 49 per cent. The last two are 10 and 12 per cent higher the Municipal average respectively.

%	Value
73%	Place to relax and unwind
58%	Trees
53%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
53%	Habitat for native plants and animals
53%	Health and wellbeing
53%	Place for kids to play
49%	Fitness
45%	Escape from buildings and roads
44%	Just being outside
42%	Flowers/garden beds
38%	Spacious
35%	Natural bushland character
33%	Green character
31%	Quiet
29%	Accessible
29%	Meeting people/friends
25%	Knowledge that it's there
24%	Playing sport
20%	Cultural activities and events
18%	Historical character
18%	Playing casual games
16%	The diversity of open space
7%	Other
4%	Watching activity

Two Bundoora respondents selected the other category and indicated that they value fresh air and dog walking.

3.3.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 55 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.3.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
38%	21	Norris Bank Parklands
24%	13	Botanica Park
18%	10	Bundoora Park
9%	5	Darebin Creek
9%	5	Hibiscus Park
9%	5	Taunton Park
7%	4	University Hill Offset Site
5%	3	Ancillary open space*
5%	3	Plenty Gorge Park
4%	2	Janefield Wetland
4%	2	Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail
4%	2	Tasman Drive Neighbourhood Park
2%	1	Benjamin Close Park
2%	1	Cabernet Park
2%	1	Edward Park
2%	1	Hendersons Creek Shared Path
2%	1	Mill Park Library Complex
2%	1	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Mimosa Park
2%	1	Nathan Park
2%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
2%	1	Plenty Gorge River
2%	1	Princeton Park
2%	1	Rodger Court Park
2%	1	Satin Park
2%	1	Silky Oak Park
2%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
2%	1	Yan Yean Reservoir
2%	1	Yan Yean Reservoir Park

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.3.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Bundoora

The following table lists the reasons why Bundoora respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements	
Norris Bank Parklands 21		Reasons	
	10	Walking	
	3	Cycling	
	3	Dog walking	
	2	Access - close to home	
	2	Exercising	
	2	Fitness	
	2	Jogging/running	
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet	
	2	Play - take children to the park	
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	
	1	Access - accessible by bike	
	1	Access - passing through/shortcut	
	1	BBQs	
	1	Birdlife - watching	
	1	Natural character - environmental values	
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty	
	1	Open space - clean	
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space	
	1	Play - safe for children	
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park	
	1	Relaxation	
	1	Tennis	
	1	Trees	
	1	Wildlife watching	
			Improvements
	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required	
	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required	
	1	Dog - off-lead, personal safety concerns	
	1	Dog - on-lead enforcement required	
	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs	
1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required		
1	Drinking fountains - provide more		
1	Lighting - provide lighting along paths in open space		
1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks		
1	Open space - reduce adjoining development impacts on open space		
1	Paths - connecting path/s required		
1	Playgrounds - improvements required		
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups		
1	Seating - provide more bench seats		

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Botanica Park 13		Reasons
	3	Access - close to home
	3	Birdlife - feeding
	3	Birdlife - watching
	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	3	Walking
	1	Dog walking
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Sport - spectating
	1	Waterbody
		Improvements
	2	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	2	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
	1	Access - improvements required
	1	Dog - on-lead enforcement required
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Pest control - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - provide shade
	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Rubbish bins - recycling bins to be installed
	1	Traffic - noise intrusive
	1	Trees - replace trees that are dying
Bundoora Park 10		Reasons
	3	Views and vistas
	3	Walking
	2	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Festivals and markets
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Sport - playing
		Improvements
	2	BBQs - more required
	1	Fencing - more required
	1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Taunton Park 5		Reasons
	1	Access - easy to access
	1	Basketball
	1	Dog walking
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Playground and equipment

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
		Improvements
	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	1	Open space - improve grass quality
	1	Pest control - improvements required
	1	Security - provide more
Hibiscus Park 5		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Tai Chi
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Relaxation
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	3	Access - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Seating - provide more in shaded areas
Darebin Creek 5		Reasons
	2	Fitness
	2	Cycling
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Dog walking
	1	Relaxation
	1	Waking
		Improvements
	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Security - provide more
University Hill Offset Site 4		Reasons
	1	Football - training/playing
	1	Golf
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Sunshine / Vitamin D
		Improvements
	1	Open space - develop it
	1	Open space - provide additional
Plenty Gorge Park 3		Reasons
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
		Improvements
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
Ancillary open space (including shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds etc) 3		Reasons
	2	Walking
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
Tasman Drive Neighbourhood Park 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Dog walking

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Improvements Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail 2	1	Reasons Walking
	1	Improvements Garden beds - improvement required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Janefield Wetland 2	1	Reasons Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Improvements Basketball ring/half court - required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 2	1	Reasons Community hub/meeting place
	1	Relaxation
	1	Views and vistas
	1	Improvements Carpark - additional required
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Opening hours - to be extended
	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1	1	Reasons Picnics
	1	Walking
Silky Oak Park 1	1	Reasons Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Improvements Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
Satin Park 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Improvements BBQs - more required
	1	Playgrounds - provide more
Rodger Court Park 1	1	Reasons Tennis
Princeton Park 1	1	Improvements Trees - additional required
	1	Vegetation - more flowers and colour required
Plenty Gorge River 1	1	Reasons Open space - escape from the built environment
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1	Reasons Health and wellbeing

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Nathan Park 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
Mimosa Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play - variety of spaces
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Basketball
Mill Park Library Complex 1	1 1 1	Reasons Leisure Reading Improvements Signage - directional required
Edward Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Hendersons Creek Shared Path 1	1 1 1	Reasons Cycling Dog walking Improvements Paths - widen
Cabernet Park 1	1 1	Reasons Fitness equipment Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Benjamin Close Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Improvements Dog - owners to clean up after dogs

3.3.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 55 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.3.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
29%	16	Bundoora Park
4%	2	Janefield Wetland
4%	2	Kinglake National Park
4%	2	Other open space outside the Municipality
4%	2	Redleap Recreation Reserve

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
4%	2	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
2%	1	Ancillary open space*
2%	1	Darebin Creek
2%	1	Edwards Lake Park
2%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
2%	1	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Norris Bank Parklands
2%	1	Partridge Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Plenty Gorge Park
2%	1	Plenty Gorge River
2%	1	Taunton Park
2%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
2%	1	University Hill Offset Site
2%	1	University Park
2%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.3.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Bundoora respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Bundoora Park		Reasons
16	6	Walking
	3	Festivals and markets
	2	BBQs
	2	Dog off-lead area
	2	Playground and equipment
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Events
	1	Facilities
	1	Family friendly
	1	Golf
	1	Open space - being outdoors/outside
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Open space - none within walking distance
	1	Picnics
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
		Improvements
	1	Access - provide more entry points to open space
	1	BBQs - gas instead of electric
	1	Carpark - additional required
	1	Open space - provide additional
	1	Open space - provide for a variety of needs

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Shelters - with BBQs required
	1	Trees - more shade trees required
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 2	1	Reasons Facilities
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Picnics
	1	Improvements Picnic tables - provide more
Redleap Recreation Reserve 2	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Play - variety of spaces
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Other open space outside the Municipality 2	1	Reasons Café and kiosk facilities
	1	Open space - clean
	1	Playground and equipment
Kinglake National Park 2	1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Walking
Janefield Wetland 2	2	Reasons Historic character
Whittlesea Public Gardens 1	1	Reasons Dog off-lead area
	1	Improvements Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
University Park 1	1	Reasons Football - training/playing
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
University Hill Offset Site 1	1	Reasons Shopping
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular mowing required
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1	1	Reasons Picnics
	1	Walking
Taunton Park 1	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Plenty Gorge River 1	1	Reasons Trees
	1	Waterway
Plenty Gorge Park 1	1	Reasons Historic character
	1	Relaxation
	1	Visitors - take them to the park

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Improvements Events - provide more
Partridge Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Sport - spectating Improvements Seating - provide more in shaded areas
Ancillary open space 1	1	Reasons Relaxation
Norris Bank Parklands 1	1 1	Reasons Activities - diverse Open space - diversity of spaces
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Exercising
Hendersons Creek Wetland 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet Walking
Edwards Lake Park 1	1	Reasons Open space - clean
Darebin Creek 1	1 1	Reasons Community involvement Improvements Community - encourage community involvement in open space design/management

3.3.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

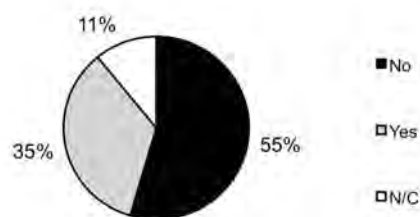
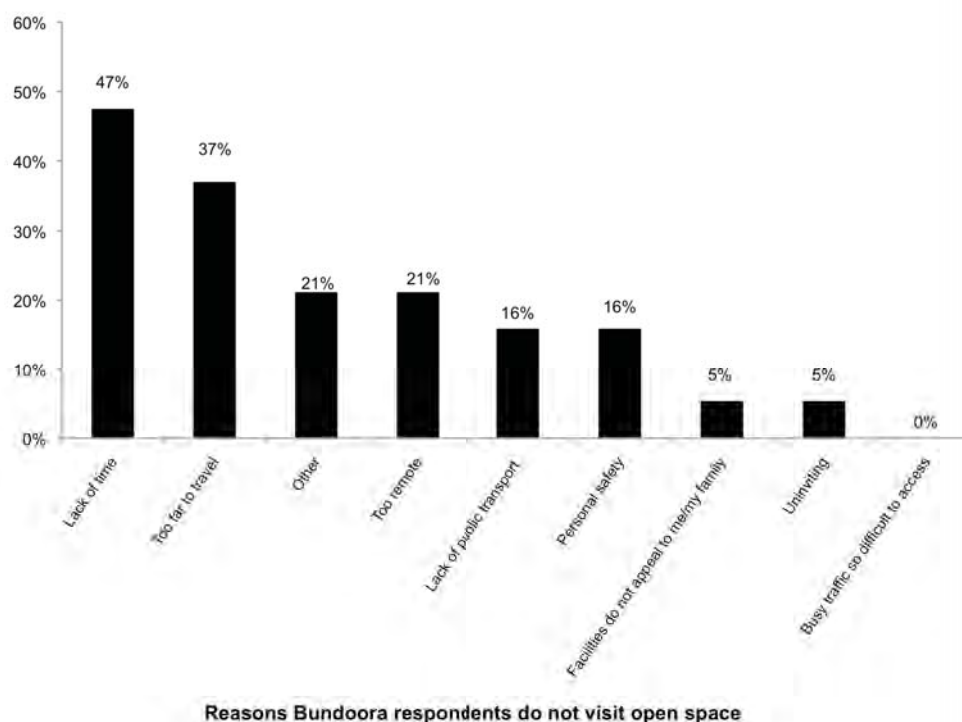
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 55 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 19 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

35 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is slightly higher than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.

**Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:**

The most frequent reason for not visiting open space was lack of time at 47 per cent, consistent with the Municipal average. This was followed by travel distance at 37 per cent and the open space being too remote at 21 per cent. Both these reasons were 4 per cent below the Municipal average. Poor accessibility to open space due to busy traffic was not selected as a reason for not visiting open space by Bundoora respondents.

21 per cent of Bundoora respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included lack of information/knowledge (2), additional dog off-lead areas - required (1), and too far to travel (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

35 per cent of Bundoora respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 9 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 24 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
15%	2	Plenty Gorge Park
15%	2	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
8%	1	Darebin Creek
8%	1	Delacombe Park
8%	1	Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve
8%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens

3.3.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Bundoora.

The percentages are calculated based on the 55 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
89%	Large parks and gardens	11%	20%	11%	20%	27%	7%
85%	Local streets exercise	24%	29%	15%	18%	0%	0%
76%	Small local parks	5%	15%	13%	27%	16%	7%
65%	Major regional parklands	2%	0%	7%	7%	49%	22%
65%	Medium sized parks	0%	18%	9%	24%	15%	22%
42%	Darebin Creek	2%	7%	13%	15%	5%	38%
38%	Merri Creek	2%	5%	5%	0%	25%	42%
38%	Urban squares	0%	7%	5%	13%	13%	35%
31%	Plenty River	0%	2%	4%	7%	18%	44%
20%	Sporting reserves	0%	2%	5%	4%	9%	56%
16%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	4%	2%	11%	60%

Large parks and gardens are the most frequently used type of open space by Bundoora respondents, which is 19 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 85 per cent of Bundoora respondents also utilise local streets for exercise, 3 per cent higher than the Municipal average.

65 per cent of Bundoora respondents use medium sized parks, which is 16 per cent higher than the Municipal average, while Darebin Creek is used 13 per cent more than the overall Municipality. The use of sporting reserves was 27 per cent lower in Bundoora compared to the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
67%	Local streets exercise	24%	29%	15%
42%	Large parks and gardens	11%	20%	11%
33%	Small local parks	5%	15%	13%
27%	Medium sized parks	0%	18%	9%
22%	Darebin Creek	2%	7%	13%
13%	Merri Creek	2%	5%	5%
13%	Urban squares	0%	7%	5%
9%	Major regional parklands	2%	0%	7%
7%	Sporting reserves	0%	2%	5%
5%	Plenty River	0%	2%	4%
4%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	4%

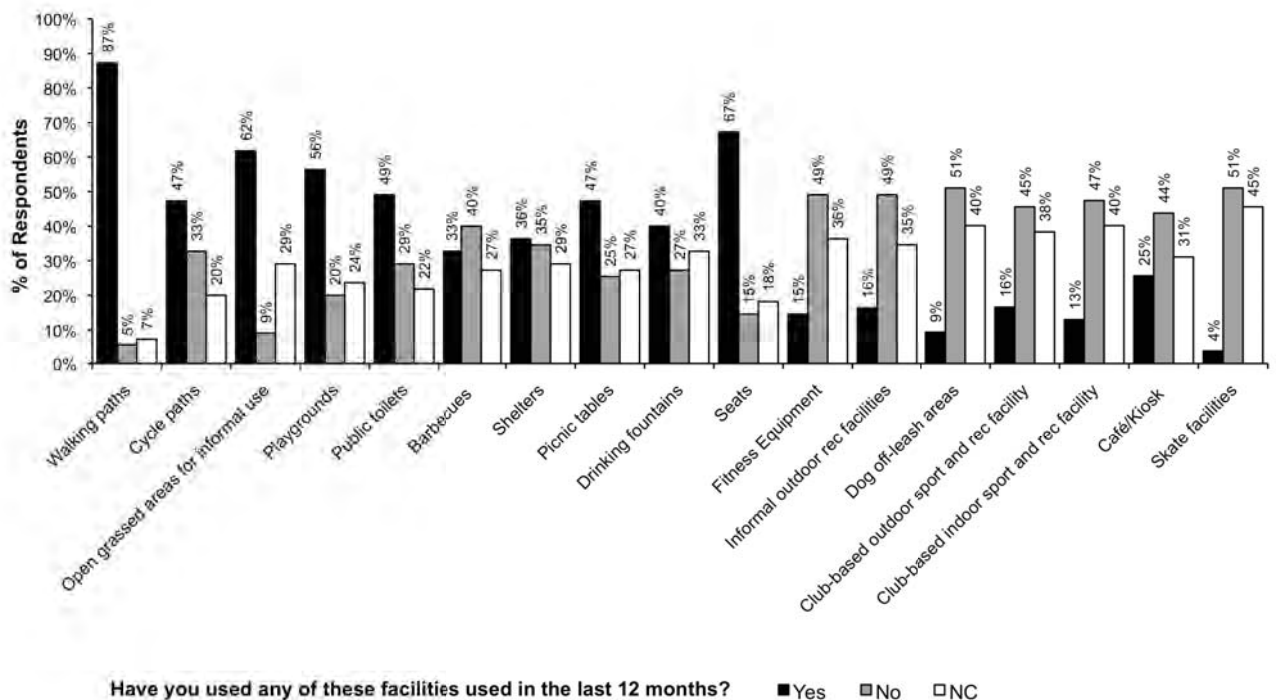
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by large parks and gardens and the third being small local parks. Major regional parklands, sporting reserves and Plenty River all received less than 10 per cent levels of use, while large parks and gardens received higher levels of frequent use when compared with the Municipal average.

3.3.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.3.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Bundoora, 55.

- 87 per cent of respondents indicated walking paths are the most popular facility, 5 per cent more than the overall Municipal average.
- 67 per cent used seats, consistent with the Municipal average, and 62 per cent of Bundoora respondents indicated they used open grassed areas for informal use.
- Only 9 per cent of Bundoora respondents used dog off-leash areas in the last 12 months, 14 per cent lower than the overall Municipality.
- Use of club-based sport and recreation, informal outdoor recreation and fitness equipment were all slightly lower than the Municipal average.



3.3.6b Provision of facilities in open space

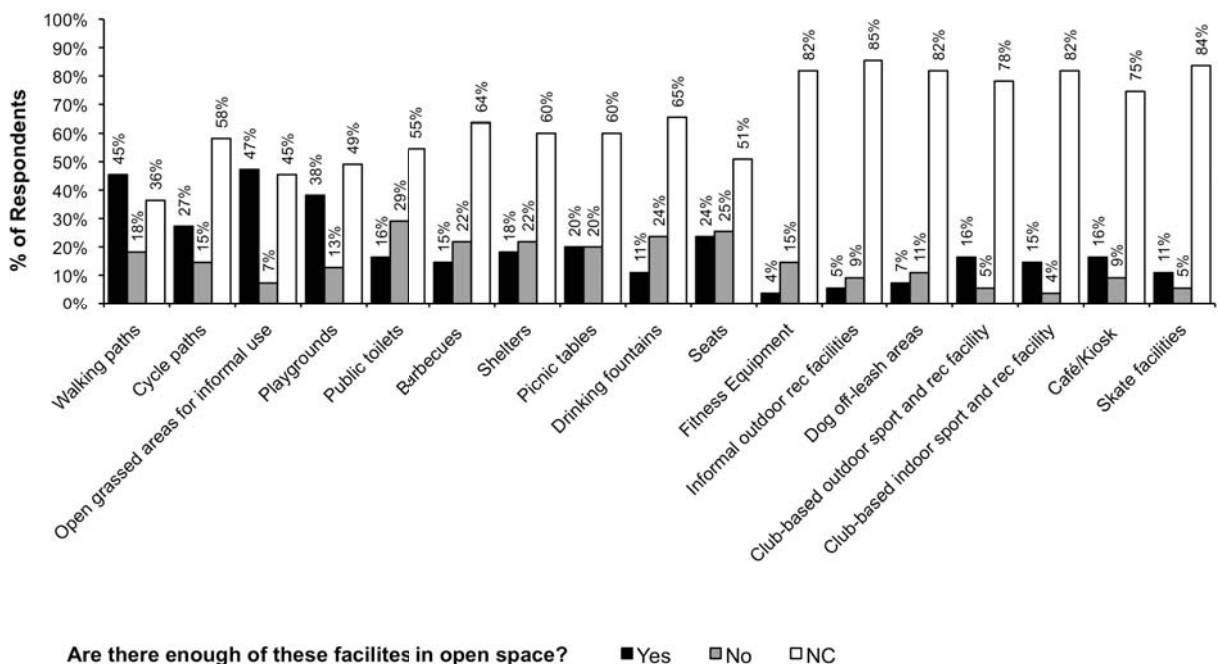
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Bundoora surveys received, 55.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Public toilets
- Seats
- Drinking fountains
- Barbecues and shelters

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

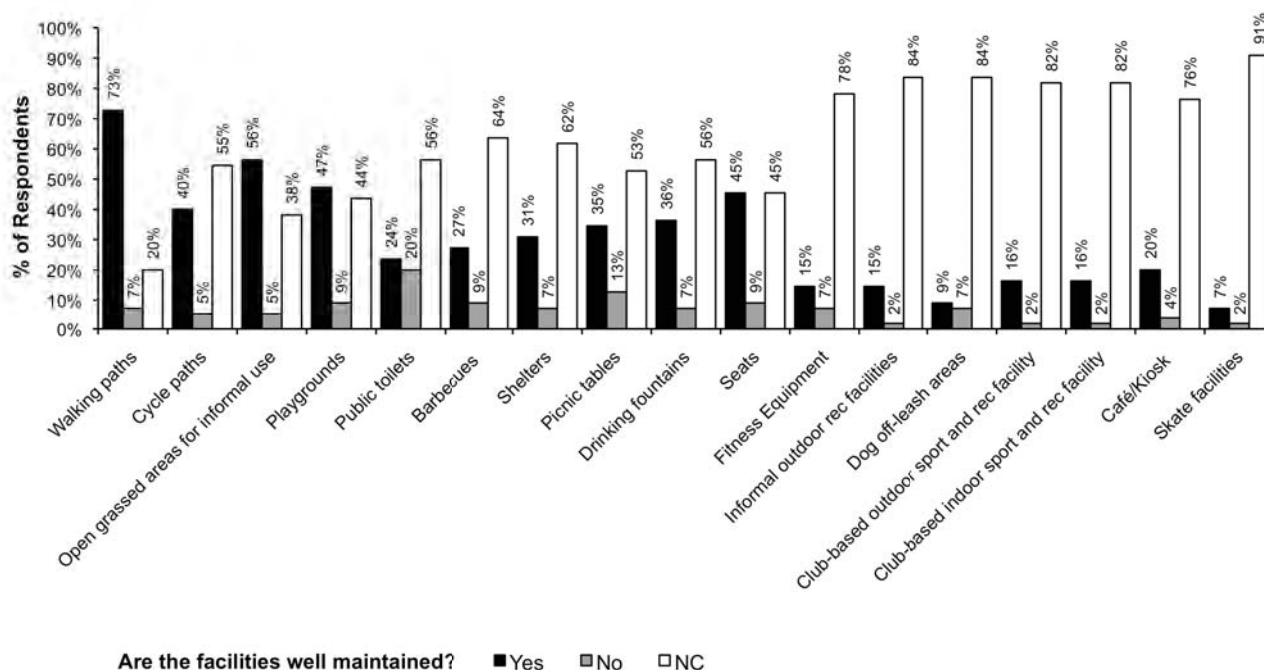
- Although there is a high level of use of walking paths in Bundoora, only 45 per cent of Bundoora respondents consider walking paths well provided for. This is however 6 per cent more than the Municipal average.



3.3.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Bundoora surveys returned, 55.

- Overall, Bundoora respondents are generally more satisfied with the level of maintenance of facilities in open space compared with the Municipal average.
- 73 per cent of Bundoora respondents were satisfied with the level of maintenance of walking paths, which is 16 per cent above the Municipal average.
- 56 per cent of Bundoora respondents were satisfied with the maintenance level of open grassed areas for informal use, 7 per cent above the Municipal average.
- 9 per cent of respondents considered dog off-leash areas well provided for, 9 per cent lower than the Municipal average.
- Satisfaction with the maintenance level of informal outdoor recreation facilities, dog off-leash areas, club-based indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities, and cafe/kiosk facilities were all lower than the Municipal average.



3.3.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Bundoora respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Management and maintenance
4	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
2	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
1	Security - increase lighting
1	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
1	Mowing - regular mowing required
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Maintenance - appreciate existing maintenance
1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
1	Dog - drinking facilities, more required
	Open space
1	Open space - well maintained
1	Open space - value close proximity to home
1	Open space - improve design and layout
1	Open space - ensure they are well maintained
1	Open space - enjoy using open space
1	Open space - enjoy the ambience
1	Open space - contributes to liveability
1	Open space - additional multi use spaces
1	Ambience - general ambience needs improvement
	Paths
2	Cycle paths - off-road cycle links required
2	Cycle paths - improve connecting paths into linear trails from adjoining areas
1	Shared paths - improve sightlines
1	Shared paths - better lighting for safety
1	Shared paths - address gaps in shared paths so they are continuous
1	Paths - improve path surface
1	Paths - address gaps in linear paths so they are continuous
	Park infrastructure
1	Shelters - with BBQs required
1	Seating - provide more
1	Rubbish bins - more required
1	Public toilets - improve maintenance and cleaning
1	Lighting - additional required
1	Drinking fountains - provide more
1	BBQs - more required
	Sport and recreation facilities
1	Sport - oval required
1	Playgrounds - provide more
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment for a range of age groups

No.	General comments
Other	
1	Traffic - noise intrusive
1	Development - concerns about impact on open space
Trees and vegetation	
1	Retain grasslands/habitat value
Cultural Heritage events and arts	
1	Festivals - more required
Access	
1	Traffic - noise intrusive

3.4 Epping

Number of respondents

69 respondents indicated they live in Epping. This represents 11 per cent of the total surveys received. Census figures indicate that 12 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population live in Epping.

3.4.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Epping, 69. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

62 per cent of respondents indicated that open space as a place for kids to play is the most valued feature of open space in Epping, consistent with the Municipal average. 58 per cent of respondents also consider the opportunity to relax and unwind in open space important however this is 14 per cent below the Municipal average. Over 50 per cent of respondents consider trees as a valuable feature of open space however this is 11 per cent less than the Municipal average.

%	Value
62%	Place for kids to play
58%	Place to relax and unwind
51%	Trees
49%	Habitat for native plants and animals
46%	Health and wellbeing
45%	Natural bushland character
43%	Escape from buildings and roads
42%	Just being outside
41%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
35%	Accessible
35%	Fitness
35%	Green character
35%	Meeting people/friends
33%	Flowers/garden beds
33%	Quiet
32%	Spacious
25%	Knowledge that it's there
23%	Playing casual games
19%	Playing sport
17%	The diversity of open space
16%	Historical character
14%	Other
10%	Cultural activities and events
9%	Watching activity

The other category included a range of comments with the most frequent being dog walking and dog parks.

3.4.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 69 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.4.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
20%	14	Darebin Creek
12%	8	Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve
9%	6	Peppercorn Park
9%	6	Winchester Park
7%	5	Lowalde Recreation Reserve
6%	4	Epping Recreation Reserve
6%	4	Findon Creek Park
6%	4	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
6%	4	Narina Park
6%	4	Quarry Hills Park
4%	3	Ancillary open space*
4%	3	Carlisle Drive Neighbourhood Park
4%	3	Lyndarum Park
4%	3	Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve
3%	2	Kalman Park
3%	2	Nathan Park
3%	2	Supply Park
1%	1	Dalton Road Neighbourhood Park
1%	1	Dransfield Park
1%	1	Duffy Street Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Epping Community Activity Centre Surrounds
1%	1	Guila Court Park
1%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Eastern Arm)
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Shared Path
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
1%	1	Holburn Way Park
1%	1	Lalor Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Laurimar Recreation Reserve Sportsfield
1%	1	Longwood Park
1%	1	Mansfield Park
1%	1	Merri Creek
1%	1	Narina Way Walkway
1%	1	Other Open Space outside Municipality
1%	1	Partridge Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Plenty Gorge Park

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
1%	1	Red Gum Park
1%	1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Tarcoola Close Park
1%	1	V.R. Michael Reserve
1%	1	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.4.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Epping

The following table lists the reasons why Epping respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Darebin Creek 14	Reasons	
	7	Dog walking
	5	Access - close to home
	4	Walking
	3	Cycling
	1	Access - passing through/shortcut
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Natural character - waterway
	1	Open space - clean
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - green character
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Waterway
	Improvements	
	2	BBQs - more required
	2	Trees - dead and dangerous ones to be removed from open space
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
	1	Playgrounds - provide more
1	Public toilets - provide more	
1	Seating - install over benches for elderly	
1	Trees - additional required	
1	Vegetation - improve weed control	
1	Vegetation - more flowers and colour required	
1	Vegetation - more screen planting required	
1	Vegetation - provide more	
1	Vegetation - provide more to perimeter of park	
1	Lighting - provide to allow use in evening/early	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	morning during winter Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve 8	3	Reasons Access - close to home
	3	Dog walking
	1	Events
	1	Facilities
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Open space - safe
	1	Play - take children to the park
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Seating - provide more in shaded areas
	1	Security - improve surveillance
Winchester Park 6	2	Reasons Access - close to home
	2	Dog walking
	2	Open space - large space
	2	Relaxation
	1	Access - close to school
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - openness
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Vegetation - provide more to perimeter of park
Peppercorn Park 6	2	Reasons Access - close to home
	2	Dog walking
	2	Walking
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - clean
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
		Improvements
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Lowalde Recreation Reserve		Reasons

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
5	2	Walking
	1	Ball games
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog walking
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Playground and equipment
		Improvements
	3	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Golf - Stop golfing use
	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Seating - provide more
1	Seating - upgrade/maintenance required	
Quarry Hills Park		Reasons
4	2	Views and vistas
	2	Wildlife watching
	1	Exercising
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Sunshine / Vitamin D
		Improvements
	1	Cycle paths - more required
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
1	Wildlife - native wildlife needs protection	
Narina Park		Reasons
4	2	Access - close to home
	1	Access - close to school
	1	Dog walking
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Park boundaries - resolve private/public
	1	Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
1	Vegetation - pruning required	
1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned	
Mill Park Recreation Reserve		Reasons
4	2	Walking
	1	Dog walking
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Sport - playing
		Improvements
	1	Carpark - additional required
1	Dog - on-lead enforcement required	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
Findon Creek Park 4		Reasons
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Public toilets - provide more
		Improvements
	2	Walking
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Health and wellbeing
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
Epping Recreation Reserve 4		Reasons
	2	Walking
	1	Cricket training
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Football - training/playing
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Lighting - maintenance required
	1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
Hendersons Creek Wetland 4		Reasons
	2	Health and wellbeing
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Dog walking
	1	Nature
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
		Improvements
	2	Paths – connecting path/s required
	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
Ancillary open space 3		Reasons
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Birdlife - feeding
	1	Facilities
	1	Open space - fresh air
		Improvements
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Waterbody - potential risk to children
Lyndarum Park 3		Reasons
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Exercising
	1	Open space - fresh air
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - maintenance required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Carlisle Drive Neighbourhood Park 3	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park Access - close to home Open space - away from busy roads and traffic Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Fencing - more required Open space - upgrade required Playgrounds - improvements required Playgrounds - provide more Rubbish bins - more required
Supply Park 2	2 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Open space - peaceful/quiet Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups Shelters - with BBQs required Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required Trees - more shade trees required
Nathan Park 2	1 1 1	Reasons Dog walking Improvements BBQs - more required Drainage - improvements required
Kalman Park 2	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Playground and equipment Improvements BBQs - more required Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Open space - enjoy using open space Walking Improvements Seating - provide more Vegetation - more shrubs required
V.R. Michael Reserve 1	1 1 1	Reasons Exercising Improvements Paths - Improve path sightlines Security - improve surveillance
Tarcoola Close Park 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet Improvements Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
Redleap Recreation Reserve 1	1 1 1	Reasons BBQs Birdlife - feeding Play (equipment not specifically nominated)

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Improvements BBQs - improvements required
	1	BBQs - regular maintenance required
Red Gum Park 1	1	Reasons Native vegetation
	1	Improvements Vegetation - improve weed control
Plenty Gorge Park 1	1	Reasons Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Wildlife watching
Partridge Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Open space - green character
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Signage - regulatory required
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Improvements Seating - provide more
	1	Vandalism - an issue
	1	Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife
Narina Way Walkway 1	1	Reasons Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Merri Creek 1	1	Reasons Walking
Mansfield Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
Longwood Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Rubbish - regular removal required
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
Laurimar Recreation Reserve Sportsfield 1	1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Sport - spectating
	1	Improvements Sporting facilities - clubroom upgrade/maintenance required
Lalor Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Improvements Rubbish bins - more required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Holburn Way Park 1	1	Reasons Access – close to home
Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Eastern Arm) 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to public transport Improvements Lighting - provide lighting along paths in open space
Hawstowe Recreation Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Facilities Open space - peaceful/quiet Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Guila Court Park 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Dog walking Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Epping Community Activity Centre Surrounds 1	1	Improvements Paths - connecting path/s required
Duffy Street Recreation Reserve 1	1 1 1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Walking Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Dransfield Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Hendersons Creek Shared Path 1	1 1 1	Improvements Vegetation - more flowers and colour required Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned Waterway - bank maintenance/re-vegetation required
Dalton Road Neighbourhood Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Facilities Improvements Cafe - allow cafe to have chairs and tables on footpaths

3.4.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 69 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.4.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists the open spaces visited beyond walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
9%	6	Other open space outside Municipality
6%	4	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
6%	4	Ancillary open space*
6%	4	Lyndarum Wetland
4%	3	Redleap Recreation Reserve
4%	3	Bundoora Park
3%	2	Lyndarum Park
3%	2	Quarry Hills Park
1%	1	Barry Road Park
1%	1	Epping Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Findon Creek Linear Park
1%	1	Findon Creek Park
1%	1	Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area
1%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Shared Path
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
1%	1	Huskisson Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Janefield Wetland
1%	1	Main Street Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Mernda Creek Park
1%	1	Mernda Villages Wetland
1%	1	Merri Creek
1%	1	Mill Park Community Centre
1%	1	Norris Bank Parklands
1%	1	Peppercorn Park
1%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.4.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Epping respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Other open space outside the Municipality 6		Reasons
	1	Activities - diverse
	1	Natural character
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Picnics
	1	Soccer
	1	Waterbody
	1	Wildlife watching
		Improvements

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	1	Rubbish bins - recycling bins to be installed
	1	Sporting facilities - clubroom upgrade/maintenance required
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 4		Reasons
	2	Relaxation
	2	Wildlife watching
	1	BBQs
	1	Natural character
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Open space - large space
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Open space - additional large green spaces
	1	Public toilets - to be open daily
Ancillary open space 4		Reasons
	1	Cycling - paths
	1	Natural character
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Vegetation - diversity of vegetation
	1	Waterbody
		Improvements
	1	Cycle paths - more required
	1	Signage - improve quality
Lyndarum Wetland 4		Reasons
	3	Dog socialising
	1	Dog off-lead area
		Improvements
	2	Seating - provide more
	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	1	Dog - provide dog 'agility'/exercise equipment
	1	Dog - waste bins, empty regularly
	1	Exercise equipment - maintenance needed
	1	Remove - overhead powerlines
	1	Shade - provide more
	1	Trees - maintenance required
Redleap Recreation Reserve 3		Reasons
	2	Walking
	1	Basketball training
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Paths - walking
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
		Improvements
	1	Public toilets - provide more
Bundoora Park 3		Reasons
	1	Activities - diverse
	1	Facilities
	1	Natural character
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Open space - safe
	1	Shelter
		Improvements
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Shelters - provide more
Quarry Hills Park 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Dog walking
	1	Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Views and vistas
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - maintenance required
Lyndarum Park 2		Reasons
	1	Fitness
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Whittlesea Public Gardens 1		Reasons
	1	Dog socialising
Peppercorn Park 1		Improvements
	1	Walking
	1	Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
Norris Bank Parklands 1		Reasons
	1	Activities - diverse
	1	Play - variety of spaces
Mill Park Community Centre 1		Reasons
	1	Access - close to work
Merri Creek 1		Reasons
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Mernda Villages Wetland 1		Reasons
	1	Playground and equipment
Main Street Recreation Reserve 1		Reasons
	1	Fitness
	1	Sport - playing
		Improvements
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
Janefield Wetland 1		Reasons
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Photography
	1	Waterbody
		Improvements
	1	Open space - reduce adjoining development impacts on open space
	1	Open space - retain as is

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Huskisson Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Sport - playing
	1	Improvements Lighting - maintenance required
	1	Public toilets - maintenance and cleaning required
	1	Sporting facilities - upgrade existing
Hendersons Creek Wetland 1	1	Reasons Birdlife - watching
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife
Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area 1	1	Reasons Golf
	1	Wildlife watching
Findon Creek Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Garden beds - improvement required
Findon Creek Linear Park 1	1	Reasons BBQs
	1	Cycling - paths good quality
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Cycle paths - connecting paths required
	1	Signage - interpretive/information required
Epping Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Sport - spectating
Hendersons Creek Shared Path 1	1	Improvements Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Mernda Creek Park 1	1	Reasons Dog socialising
	1	Improvements Gates - provide more
Barry Road Park 1	1	Reasons Dog socialising

3.4.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

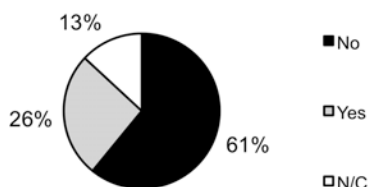
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

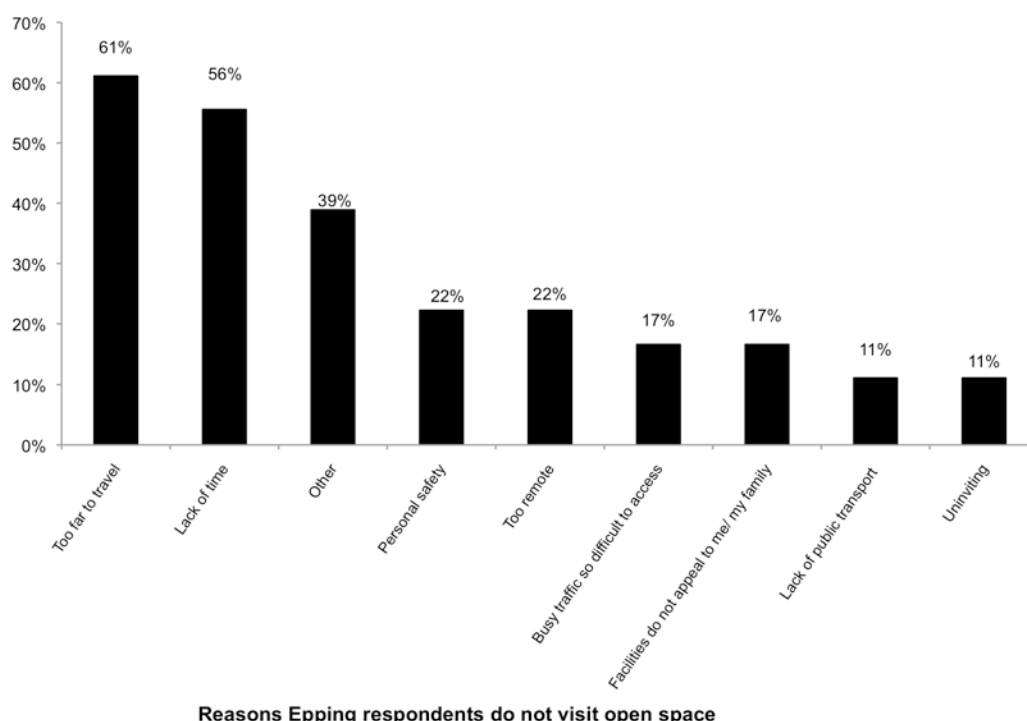
The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 69 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 18 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

26 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is slightly lower than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



The most frequent reasons for not visiting open space were travel distance at 61 per cent, followed by lack of time at 56 per cent. These are 20 per cent and 8 per cent above the Municipal average respectively. 22 per cent of Epping respondents indicated personal safety concerns as a reason, however this is 7 per cent below the Municipal average. Lack of public transport and open space being uninviting were also cited as reasons by 11 per cent of respondents. These were 12 and 11 per cent below the Municipal average respectively.

39 per cent of Epping respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included facilities do not appeal to me or my family (2), lack of information/knowledge (2) and lack of footpath (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

26 per cent of Epping respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 16 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 13 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space. There are lower than the Municipal average. The following table indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
27%	3	Whittlesea Public Gardens
18%	2	Plenty Gorge Park
18%	2	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
9%	1	Ancillary open space*
9%	1	Betula Park
9%	1	Bundoora Park

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.4.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Epping.

The percentages are calculated based on the 69 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
83%	Small local parks	4%	17%	20%	28%	13%	4%
81%	Local streets exercise	25%	19%	22%	10%	6%	7%
70%	Major regional parklands	0%	1%	1%	10%	57%	19%
62%	Large parks and gardens	1%	1%	3%	16%	41%	17%
59%	Darebin Creek	13%	7%	9%	13%	17%	28%
54%	Sporting reserves	4%	6%	7%	13%	23%	30%
48%	Urban squares	1%	7%	7%	13%	19%	26%

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
46%	Medium sized parks	3%	4%	3%	14%	22%	33%
36%	Merri Creek	0%	1%	7%	14%	13%	45%
26%	Edgars Creek	0%	3%	3%	6%	14%	51%
23%	Plenty River	1%	1%	0%	4%	16%	48%

Small local parks are the most frequently used type of open space by Epping respondents, 3 per cent above the Municipal average, and with 28 per cent using them monthly. 81 per cent of Epping respondents also utilise local streets for exercise, consistent with the Municipal average. Large parks and gardens were used by 62 per cent of Epping respondents, 8 per cent lower than the Municipal average.

59 per cent of Epping respondents use Darebin Creek, which is 30 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Merri Creek was used by 7 per cent more Epping respondents compared with the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
65%	Local streets exercise	25%	19%	22%
42%	Small local parks	4%	17%	20%
29%	Darebin Creek	13%	7%	9%
17%	Sporting reserves	4%	6%	7%
16%	Urban squares	1%	7%	7%
10%	Medium sized parks	3%	4%	3%
9%	Merri Creek	0%	1%	7%
6%	Edgars Creek	0%	3%	3%
6%	Large parks and gardens	1%	1%	3%
3%	Major regional parklands	0%	1%	1%
3%	Plenty River	1%	1%	0%

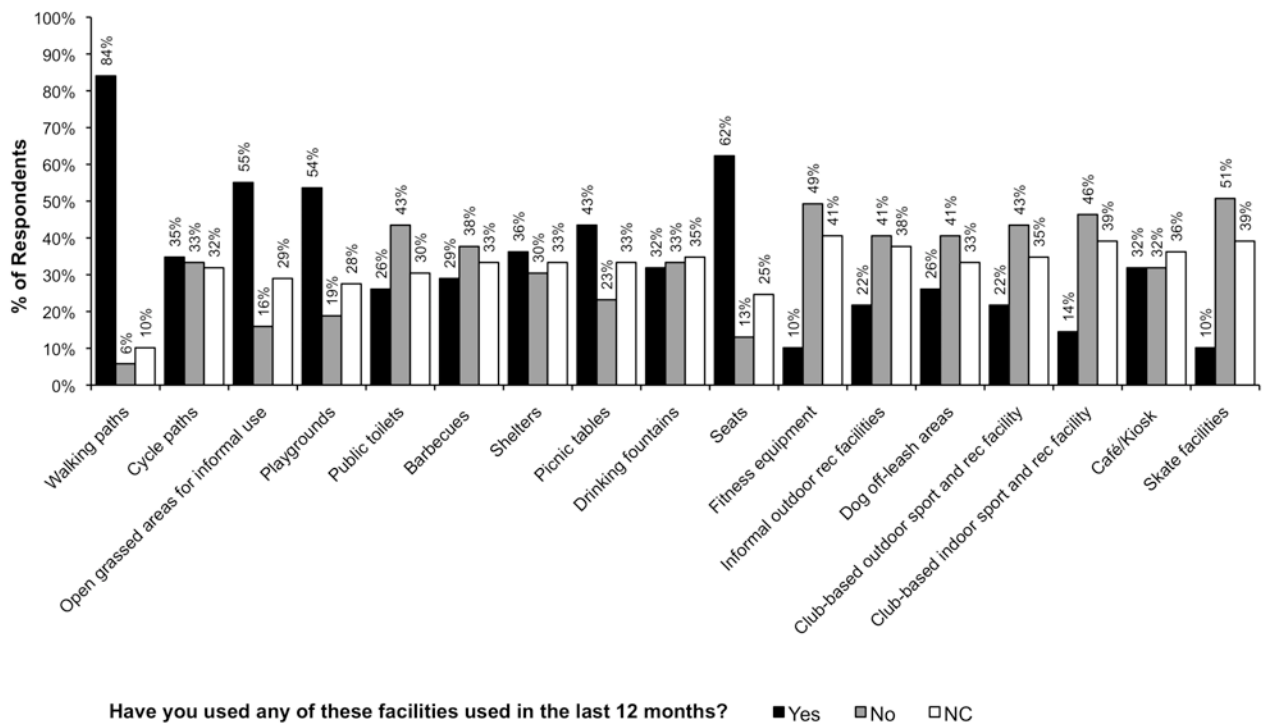
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being Darebin Creek. Darebin Creek is the key linear open space close to the residential population, while Edgars Creek passes through the non-residential land in this precinct explaining its lower level of use.

3.4.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.4.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Epping, 69.

- Epping respondents indicated walking paths are the most popular facility being used by 84 per cent of respondents, consistent with the Municipal average.
- Seats were used by 62 per cent of Epping respondents in the last twelve months, 4 per cent less than the overall Municipality.
- Open grassed areas for informal use and playgrounds were used by over 50 per cent of respondents however this is approximately 5 per cent lower than the Municipal average.
- Public toilets were used 23 per cent less by Epping respondents than the Municipal average of 49 per cent.



3.4.6b Provision of facilities in open space

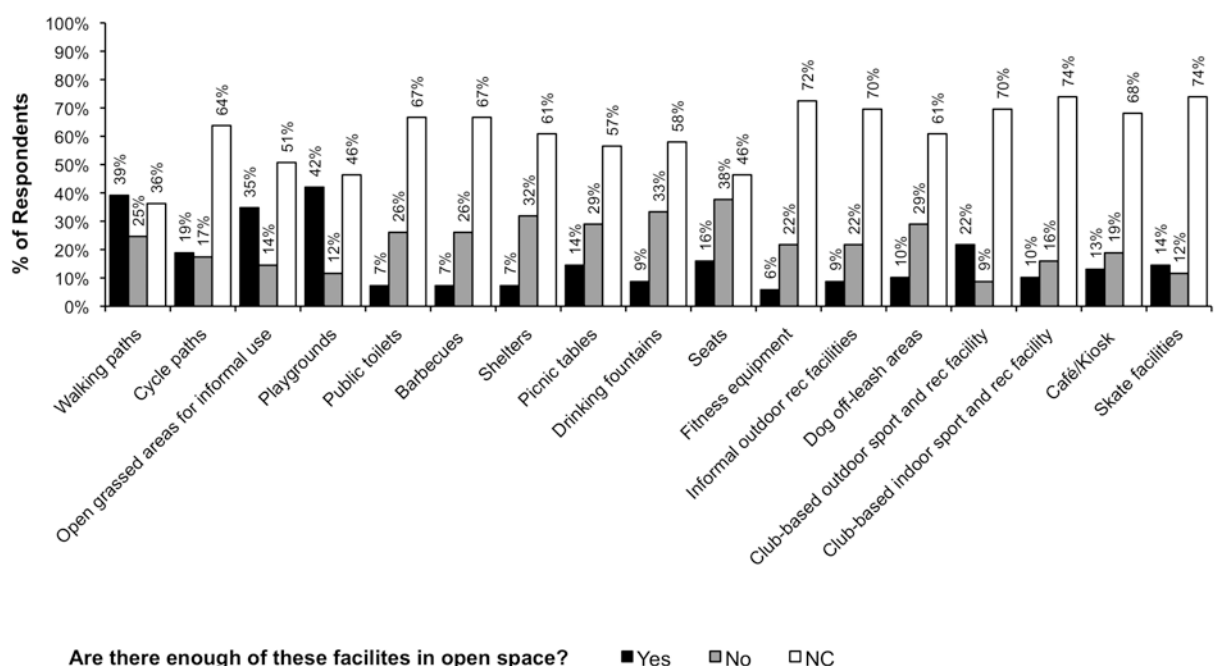
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Epping surveys received, 69.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Seats
- Drinking fountains
- Shelters
- Picnic tables and dog off-leash areas
- Barbecues and public toilets
- Walking paths
- Fitness equipment and informal outdoor recreation facilities

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

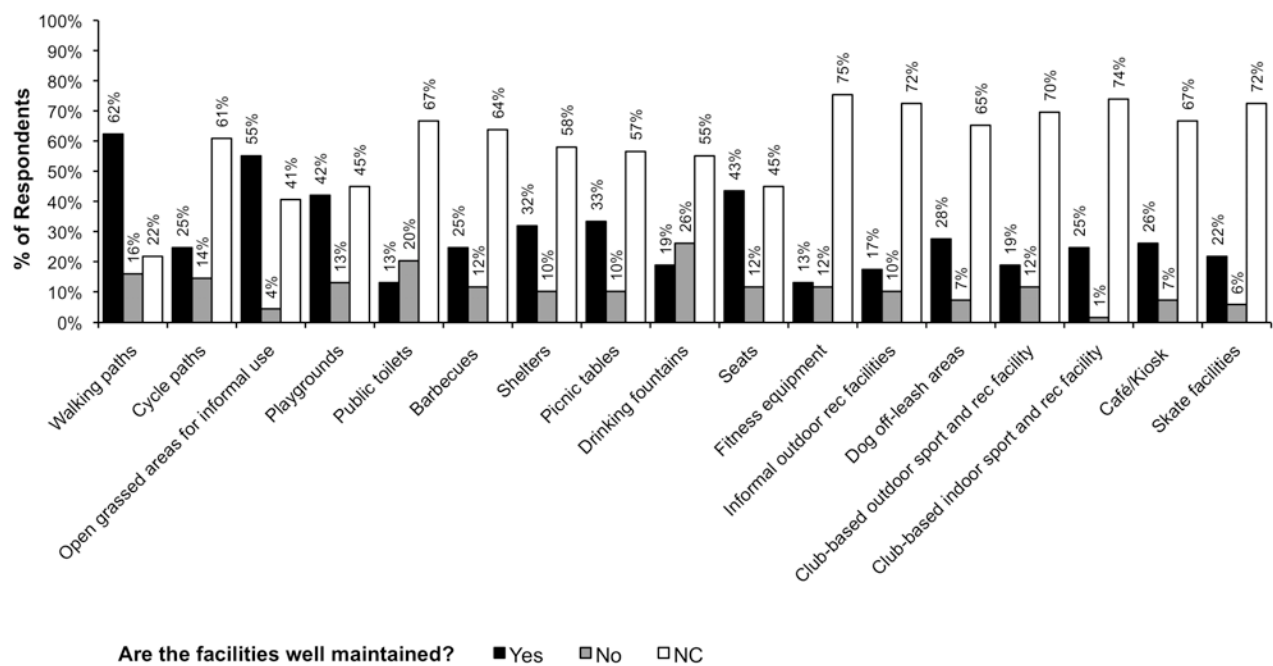
- Epping respondents indicated they were generally less satisfied with the provision of open space facilities including BBQs, shelters, drinking fountains, seats, informal outdoor recreation facilities and dog off-leash areas than the rest of the Municipality. The level of dissatisfaction in Epping for provision of these facilities was approximately 10 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- Playgrounds are considered the best provided for facility in Epping by 42 per cent of respondents, which is 9 per cent more than the overall Municipality.



3.4.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Epping surveys returned, 69.

- 62 per cent of Epping respondents were satisfied with the maintenance level of walking paths, 5 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- Open grassed areas for informal use are considered well maintained by 55 per cent of respondents, 6 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- Respondents were most dissatisfied with the maintenance level of drinking fountains at 26 per cent, 14 per cent higher than the Municipal average.



3.4.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Epping respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Management and maintenance
4	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
2	Vandalism - an issue
2	Rubbish - remove litter in open space
1	Waterways - to be regularly cleaned
1	Security - increase lighting
1	Security - improve surveillance
1	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
1	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
1	Mowing - regular mowing required
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance and cleaning required
1	Maintenance - continue to maintain
1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
1	Dog - provide dog 'agility'/exercise equipment
	Open Space
3	Open space - contributes to liveability
2	Open space - additional required
1	Waterways - improve overall character and facilities along Darebin Creek
1	Opening hours - to be extended
1	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire Municipality
1	Open space - important to create a sense of community
1	Open space - ensure council distributes funds equally across the Municipality
1	Open space - enjoy using open space
1	Open space - enjoy the ambience
1	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
1	Natural character - bushland feel valued
	Park infrastructure
2	Lighting - additional required
2	Drinking fountains - provide more
2	BBQs - more required
1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
1	Shelters - provide more
1	Rubbish bins - more required
1	Public toilets - provide more
1	Fencing - more required
1	Fencing - around playground for safety
1	Cafe/kiosk facilities - more required
	Other
3	Development - concerns about impact on open space
2	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available

No.	General comments
1	Public transport - community bus trips for elderly/disabled
1	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase awareness
1	Community - introduce more community involvement in the maintenance/upkeep of open space
Sport and recreation facilities	
1	Sporting facilities - provide more
1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment for a range of age groups
1	Facilities - more required for teenagers
1	Exercise equipment - more required
1	Basketball ring/half court - required
Paths	
1	Paths - improvements required
1	Paths - improve connecting paths into open space from adjoining areas
1	Cycle paths - more required
1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails so they are continuous
Trees and vegetation	
2	Retain grasslands/habitat value
1	Vegetation - provide more
1	Trees - plant in avenue
Sustainability	
1	Wildlife - native wildlife needs protection
1	Wildlife - important to protect
1	Sustainability - need additional programs in parks

3.5 Lalor

Number of respondents

41 respondents indicated they live in Lalor. This represents 7 per cent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate that 13 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population is from Lalor.

3.5.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Lalor, 41. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

88 per cent of respondents value open space as a place to relax and unwind which is 16 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 66 per cent of respondents value open space as a habitat for native plants and animals, 12 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 63 per cent of Lalor respondents consider trees and a place for kids to play as valued features in open space consistent with the Municipal average. Over 50 per cent of respondents consider open space important as an escape from buildings and roads and for flowers/garden beds, more than 10 per cent higher than the Municipal average.

%	Value
88%	Place to relax and unwind
66%	Habitat for native plants and animals
66%	Place for kids to play
63%	Trees
54%	Escape from buildings and roads
54%	Health and wellbeing
51%	Flowers/garden beds
49%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
46%	Fitness
44%	Accessible
44%	Spacious
41%	Just being outside
41%	Quiet
37%	Natural bushland character
34%	Green character
34%	The diversity of open space
29%	Playing sport
27%	Meeting people/friends
24%	Knowledge that it's there
20%	Cultural activities and events
17%	Historical character
17%	Playing casual games

%	Value
5%	Other
5%	Watching activity

3 respondents selected the other category and indicated that they value the natural contrast, dog walking and dog parks.

3.5.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 41 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.5.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
17%	7	V.R. Michael Reserve
15%	6	Lorne Park
15%	6	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve
12%	5	Ancillary open space*
12%	5	Whittlesea Public Gardens
10%	4	Huskisson Recreation Reserve
5%	2	Bundoora Park
5%	2	Edgars Creek
5%	2	Lalor Recreation Reserve
5%	2	Gilwell Park
5%	2	Partridge Recreation Reserve
5%	2	Rosemary Drive Neighbourhood Park
2%	1	Darebin Creek
2%	1	Edwards Lake Park
2%	1	Findon Creek Park
2%	1	Kingsway Park
2%	1	Stockade Park
2%	1	Sycamore Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Vasey Avenue Park
2%	1	Whittlesea Park
2%	1	Ziebell's Farmhouse & Lutheran Church Land

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.5.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Lalor

The following table lists the reasons why Lalor respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
V.R. Michael Reserve 7		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	1	BBQs
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Gardens
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - variety of spaces
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Exercise equipment - more required
	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Shelters - with BBQs required
	1	Vegetation - provide more
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 6		Reasons
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Activities - diverse
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Football - training/playing
	1	Health and wellbeing
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Open space - green character
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Safe
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Seating - provide more
Lorne Park 6		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Sitting
		Improvements
	1	Basketball ring/half court - improvements required
	1	BBQs - more required
	1	Carpark - additional required
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Seating - provide more
Whittlesea Public Gardens 5		Reasons
	3	Access - close to home
	1	Dog off-lead area
	1	Fitness
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - away from busy roads and traffic
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Ambience - improvements to general ambience required
	1	CCTV required
	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Reduce unsavoury activities near toilets
	1	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
Ancillary open space (including shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds etc) 5		Reasons
	2	Dog walking
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Relaxation
	1	Shopping
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Paths - provide distance markers
	1	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
Huskisson Recreation Reserve 4		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Pedestrian bridge - requires maintenance
	1	Waterway - bank maintenance/re-vegetation required
	1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Rosemary Drive Neighbourhood Park 2		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	1	Activities - diverse
		Improvements
	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
Partridge Recreation Reserve 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Sport - spectating
	1	Walking

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
		Improvements 1 Seating - provide more 1 Trees - plant more native/indigenous trees 1 Vegetation - more flowers and colour required 1 Vegetation - provide more 1 Vegetation - pruning required
Gilwell Park 2		Reasons 2 Access - close to home 1 Access - close to public transport Improvements 1 BBQs - more required 1 Vegetation - provide more 1 Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
Lalor Recreation Reserve 2		Reasons 1 Exercising 1 Golf 1 Walking Improvements 1 Access - provide more entry points to open space 1 Access - provide safer places to cross major roads 1 Playgrounds - safety fencing required 1 Playgrounds - safety improvements required
Edgars Creek 2		Reasons 1 Cycling 1 Jogging/running Improvements 1 Cycle paths - connecting paths required 1 Paths - connecting path/s required
Bundoora Park 2		Reasons 1 Open space - peaceful/quiet 1 Play (equipment not specifically nominated) 1 Shelter Improvements 1 Garden beds - provide more 1 Open space - improve grass quality
Ziebell's Farmhouse & Lutheran Church Land 1		Reasons 1 Open space - peaceful/quiet 1 Walking Improvements 1 Open Space - need more parks close to Lalor Shopping Centre/shop/cafes
Whittlesea Park 1		Reasons 1 Dog walking 1 Walking Improvements 1 Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
Vasey Avenue Park 1		Reasons 1 Dog walking Improvements 1 Open space - upgrade required 1 Vegetation - provide more to perimeter of park
Sycamore Recreation Reserve		Reasons

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
1	1	Access - close to home
		Improvements
	1	BMX - facilities required
	1	Exercise equipment - more required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Shade - provide more
Stockade Park		Reasons
1	1	Access - close to home
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Playgrounds - provide shade
Kingsway Park		Reasons
1	1	Dog walking
		Improvements
	1	Waterway - bank maintenance/re-vegetation required
Edwards Lake Park		Reasons
1	1	Walking
	1	Waterbody
Darebin Creek		Reasons
1	1	Cycling
	1	Open space - away from busy roads and traffic
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Pedestrian crossing - more required

3.5.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 41 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.5.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
2%	1	Bundoora Park
2%	1	Epping Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
2%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
2%	1	Kinglake National Park
2%	1	Merri Creek
2%	1	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Norris Bank Parklands
2%	1	Other Public Open Space
2%	1	Stockade Park

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
2%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
2%	1	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
5%	2	Edgars Creek
5%	2	Other open space outside municipality
5%	2	Plenty Gorge Park
5%	2	Whittlesea Public Gardens
7%	3	Barry Road Park
7%	3	Edwards Lake Park

3.5.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Lalor respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Edwards Lake Park 3	1	Reasons Community hub/meeting place
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Paths - good quality
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Open space - retain as is
Barry Road Park 3	1	Reasons Cycling
	1	Dog walking
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Shade - provide more
Whittlesea Public Gardens 2	2	Reasons Walking
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Sport - playing
Plenty Gorge Park 2	1	Reasons Health and wellbeing
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Improvements Access - improve access to river
	1	BBQs - more required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Other open space outside the Municipality 2		Reasons
	1	Café and kiosk facilities
	1	Natural character
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - large space
		Improvements
	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
Edgars Creek 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Cycling
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
		Improvements
	2	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 1		Reasons
	1	BBQs
	1	Picnics
		Improvements
	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 1		Reasons
	1	Cricket
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1		Reasons
	1	BBQs
	1	Picnics
Stockade Park 1		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Open space - improve grass quality
Other Public Open Space 1		Reasons
	1	Cycling
		Improvements
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
Norris Bank Parklands 1		Reasons
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Views and vistas
		Improvements
	1	Dog - waste bins, empty regularly
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 1		Reasons
	1	Ball games
		Improvements
	1	Sporting facilities - upgrade existing
Hendersons Creek Wetland 1		Reasons
	1	Football - spectating
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Merri Creek 1	1	Reasons Playground and equipment
Kinglake National Park 1	1 1	Reasons Picnics Relaxation
Hawstowe Recreation Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons BBQs Open space - ambience, beauty Improvements Playgrounds - provide more
Epping Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Exercising
Bundoora Park 1	1	Reasons Open space - enjoy using open space

3.5.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

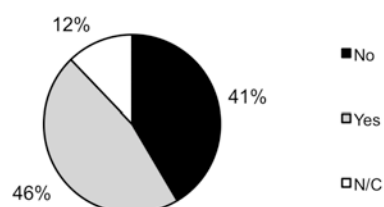
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

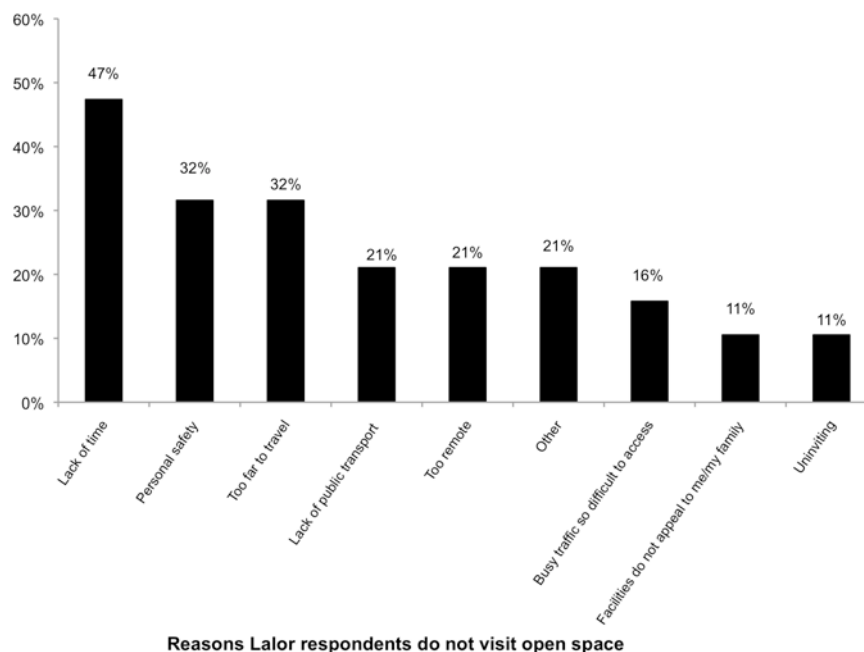
Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 41 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 19 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

46 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is significantly higher than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:

The most frequent reason for not visiting open space is lack of time at 47 per cent. This is followed by personal safety at 32 per cent, 3 per cent higher than the Municipal average, and too far to travel, also at 32 per cent. Lack of public transport, the remoteness of open space, and access constraints from busy traffic were also important factors. Fewer Lalor respondents nominated unappealing or uninviting as reasons they don't visit open space compared with the Municipal average.

21 per cent of Lalor respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. Reasons include facilities do not appeal to me or my family (1), lack of information/knowledge (1), lack of public transport (1), and lack of time (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

46 per cent of Lalor respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 20 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, and 20 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space. These are lower than the Municipal average.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
38%	3	Kinglake National Park
13%	1	Edwards Lake Park
13%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
13%	1	Mosaic Recreational Reserve
13%	1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
13%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
13%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens

3.5.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Lalor.

The percentages are calculated based on the 41 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
88%	Local streets exercise	27%	29%	17%	10%	5%	2%
76%	Large parks and gardens	0%	10%	15%	22%	29%	10%
76%	Sporting reserves	2%	5%	22%	24%	22%	15%
76%	Small local parks	5%	15%	29%	20%	7%	5%
73%	Urban squares	2%	12%	27%	20%	12%	17%
61%	Medium sized parks	2%	2%	10%	22%	24%	24%
59%	Major regional parklands	0%	0%	5%	5%	49%	34%
37%	Merri Creek	2%	2%	5%	15%	12%	49%
34%	Plenty River	0%	0%	0%	15%	20%	51%
34%	Edgars Creek	0%	2%	10%	0%	22%	44%
29%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	15%	7%	2%	54%

Local streets for exercise and large parks and gardens are the most frequently used type of open space by Lalor respondents, 6 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Lalor respondents use sporting reserves and urban squares more than the Municipal average.

12 per cent more Lalor respondents used Edgars Creek, when compared with

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
73%	Local streets exercise	27%	29%	17%
49%	Small local parks	5%	15%	29%
41%	Urban squares	2%	12%	27%
29%	Sporting reserves	2%	5%	22%
24%	Large parks and gardens	0%	10%	15%
20%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	15%
15%	Medium sized parks	2%	2%	10%
12%	Edgars Creek	0%	2%	10%
10%	Merri Creek	2%	2%	5%
5%	Major regional parklands	0%	0%	5%
0%	Plenty River	0%	0%	0%

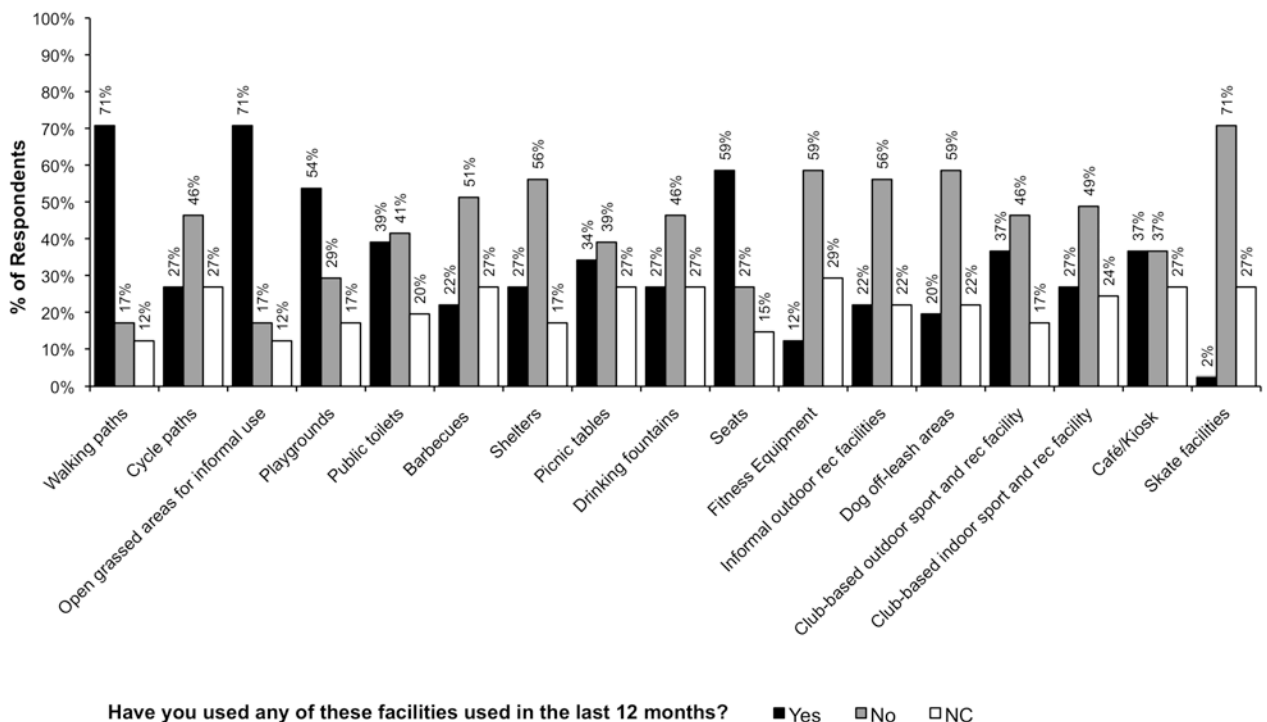
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being urban squares. The waterway corridors including Darebin Creek and Edgars Creek are not fulfilling their potential role as important linear open spaces, with lower levels of use for these in comparison with other spaces.

3.5.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.5.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Lalor, 41.

- When compared with the Municipal average, Lalor respondents generally did not use facilities and features in open space as frequently in the last 12 months, except for open grassed areas for informal use which was 9 per cent higher.
- The use of club based indoor sport and cafe/kiosk facilities was also slightly higher than the Municipal average.
- The use of walking paths and cycle paths in Lalor was approximately 10 per cent lower than the Municipal average.
- Over 50 per cent of respondents indicated they had not used BBQs, shelters, fitness equipment, informal outdoor recreation facilities and dog off-leash areas. These were higher than the Municipal average by an average of 20 per cent.



3.5.6b Provision of facilities in open space

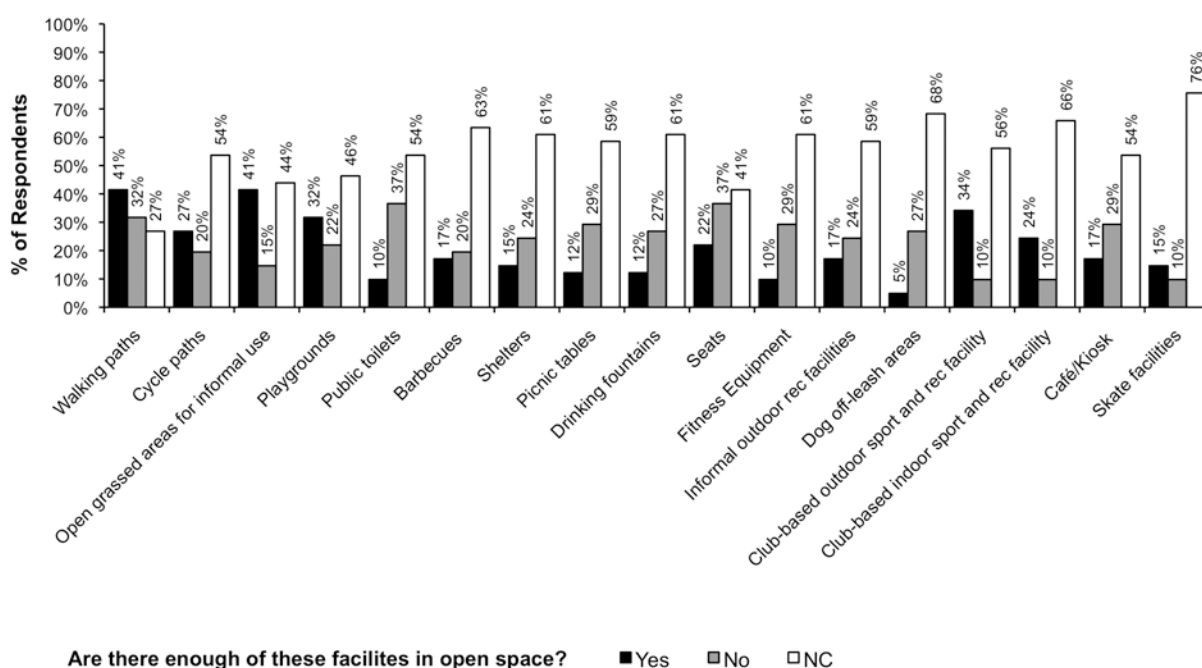
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Lalor surveys received, 41.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Seats and public toilets
- Walking paths
- Fitness equipment, picnic tables, cafe/kiosk
- Dog off-leash areas and drinking fountains
- Shelters and informal outdoor recreation facilities
- Playgrounds

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

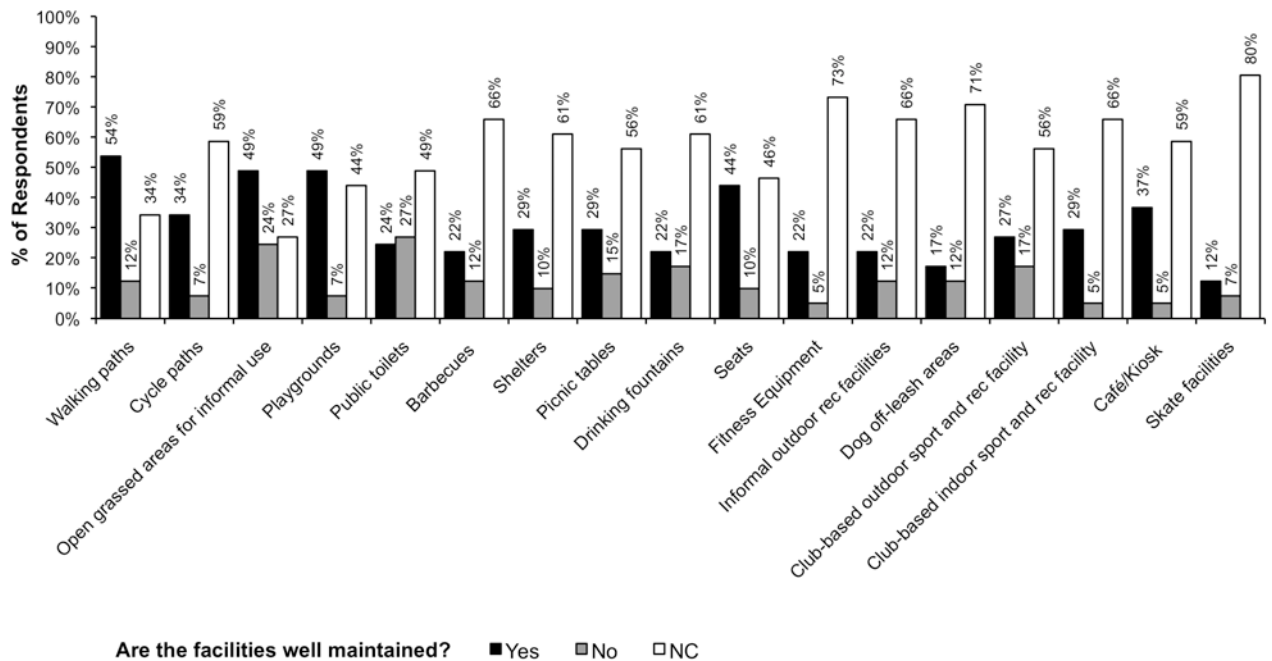
- Lalor respondents generally indicated that facilities in open space are slightly less well provided for when compared to the Municipal average.
- 32 per cent of respondents indicated that walking paths are not well provided for, 11 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- The level of satisfaction with the provision of club-based outdoor and indoor facilities in Lalor was higher than the Municipal average by 13 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.



3.5.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Lalor surveys returned, 41.

- 24 per cent of respondents indicated they were not satisfied with the maintenance level of open grassed areas, 17 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- Lalor respondents were satisfied with the maintenance of club-based indoor sport facilities and cafe/kiosk, at 10 per cent and 12 per cent higher than the Municipal average respectively.
- 27 per cent of respondents were not satisfied with the maintenance level of public toilets, a 10 per cent increase compared with the Municipal average.



3.5.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Lalor respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Management and maintenance
4	Security - improve surveillance
3	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
2	Maintenance - regular maintenance and cleaning required
1	Security - increase lighting
1	Rubbish - remove litter in open space
1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Maintenance - continue to maintain
1	Maintenance - regular pruning of vegetation required
1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	Open space
2	Open space - ensure they are well maintained
1	Safety - improve safety
1	Open space - well maintained
1	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire Municipality
1	Open space - keep / retain what there is
1	Open space - improve maintenance
1	Open space - improve design and layout
1	Open space - happy with existing
1	Open space - enjoy using open space
1	Open space - don't use it
1	Open space - at capacity
1	Open space - adequate amount of open space provided
1	Open space - additional small open spaces required
1	Open space - additional required as density increases
1	Open space - additional multi use spaces
	Park infrastructure
2	Public toilets - provide more
1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
1	Seating - provide more
1	Rubbish bins - more required
1	Lighting - additional required
1	Cafe/kiosk facilities - more required
1	BBQs - more required
	Other
2	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase awareness
1	Management - Council to provide a contact number to report concerns about open spaces
1	Landscape design - improvement/upgrade needed

No.	General comments
1	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available
1	Events - more activities for Seniors
1	Development - concerns about impact on open space
	Sport and recreation facilities
1	Sporting facilities - provide more
1	Playgrounds - upgrade/maintenance required
1	Playgrounds - provide more
1	Netball facilities - more required
1	Exercise equipment - more required
1	Basketball ring/half court - required
	Paths
1	Paths - improve sightlines
1	Paths - improve connecting paths into open space from adjoining areas
1	Cycle paths - more required
1	Cycle paths - improvements required
	Trees and vegetation
1	Vegetation - more streetscape planting required
1	Vegetation - increase native planting
1	Gardens - more colourful plantings

3.6 Mill Park

Number of respondents

123 respondents indicated they live in Mill Park. This represents 20 per cent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate that 16 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population lives in Mill Park.

3.6.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Mill Park, 123. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

80 per cent of respondents consider the opportunity to relax and unwind as the most valued feature of open space, which is 8 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Over 50 per cent of respondents consider open space important for trees, as a place for kids to play, as a habitat for native plants and animals, and for health and wellbeing, consistent with the Municipal average.

%	Value
80%	Place to relax and unwind
63%	Trees
57%	Place for kids to play
54%	Habitat for native plants and animals
53%	Health and wellbeing
45%	Just being outside
44%	Flowers/garden beds
41%	Escape from buildings and roads
41%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
41%	Natural bushland character
37%	Quiet
37%	Spacious
36%	Accessible
36%	Green character
32%	Fitness
28%	Meeting people/friends
25%	The diversity of open space
24%	Knowledge that it's there
24%	Playing sport
19%	Historical character
18%	Playing casual games
16%	Cultural activities and events
12%	Watching activity
5%	Other

The other category included a range of comments including dog walking and bushwalking.

3.6.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 123 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.6.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
43%	53	Redleap Recreation Reserve
16%	20	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
10%	12	Mimosa Park
6%	7	Prince of Wales Park
6%	7	Ancillary open space*
6%	7	Findon Recreation Reserve
5%	6	Centenary Park
4%	5	Betula Park
4%	5	Botanica Park
4%	6	Hendersons Creek Wetland
3%	4	Belmont Park
3%	4	Coventry Park
3%	4	Freeman Park
2%	3	Bundoora Park
2%	3	Dr Harry Jenkins Park
2%	2	Ester Park
2%	2	Hurlstone Crescent Park
2%	2	Kelynack Recreation Reserve
2%	2	Pipe Track Reserve
2%	2	Plenty Gorge Park
2%	2	Roycroft Avenue Park
2%	3	Sycamore Recreation Reserve
2%	3	University Hill Offset Site
2%	2	Wenden Road Park
1%	1	Betula Ave Walkway
1%	1	Buckmaster Drive Park
1%	1	Diosma Park
1%	1	Epping Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Findon Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Golf Links Drive Walkway
1%	1	Grevillea Park
1%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
1%	1	Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Eastern Arm)
1%	1	Hinkler Park
1%	1	Jacaranda Park

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
1%	1	Lalor Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Lowalde Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail
1%	1	Mill Park Community Centre
1%	1	Norris Bank Parklands
1%	1	Quarry Hills Park
1%	1	South Morang Recreation Reserve
1%	1	University Park
1%	1	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Watery Gully Park
1%	1	Woodvale Park
1%	1	Yan Yean Reservoir Park

**Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.*

3.6.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Mill Park

The following table lists the reasons why Mill Park respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Redleap Recreation Reserve 53		Reasons
	10	Birdlife - watching
	9	Access - close to home
	9	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	8	Walking
	6	Relaxation
	6	Waterbody
	5	Dog walking
	5	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	5	Wildlife watching
	4	Birdlife - feeding
	4	Fitness
	4	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	3	Exercising
	2	Community hub/meeting place
	2	Family friendly
	2	Play - take children to the park
	1	Access - close to school
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Activities - diverse
	1	BBQs
1	Cycling	
1	Facilities	
1	Open space - ambience, beauty	
1	Open space - enjoy using open space	
1	Paths - good quality	
1	Photography	
1	Picnics	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Sport - playing
		Improvements
	4	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	2	Access - improvements required
	2	Exercise equipment - more required
	2	Graffiti - removal required
	2	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	2	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	2	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Waterbody - raise island/refuge for birdlife/winter
	1	BBQs - more required
	1	Cycle paths - more required
	1	Fencing - more required
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Lighting - provide to allow use in evening/early morning during winter
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Restrict commercial fitness training in open space
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Seating - provide more bench seats
	1	Signage - interpretive/information required
1	Vandalism - an issue	
1	Waterbody - improvements required	
1	Waterbody - structure in lake to be removed/maintained	
1	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned	
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 20		Reasons 5 Dog walking 5 Walking 2 Access - close to home 1 Ball games 1 BBQs 1 Cycling - paths 1 Dog friendly 1 Fitness 1 Open space - fresh air 1 Open space - green character 1 Open space - large space 1 Paths 1 Play - take grandchildren to the park 1 Play (equipment not specifically nominated) 1 Relaxation 1 Sport - spectating 1 Trees - native Improvements 1 Access - improvements required 1 Dog - off-lead areas, additional required 1 Dog - on-lead enforcement required 1 Drinking fountains - provide more 1 Graffiti - maintenance required 1 Information - more information about open space and facilities/activities available

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - provide shade
	1	Safety - improve safety
	1	Seating - provide more
Mimosa Park 12		Reasons
	6	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	4	Access - close to home
	2	Play - take children to the park
	1	Basketball
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Kite flying
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Open space - value
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	2	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Shelters - with BBQs required
	1	BMX - facilities required
	1	Cycle paths - more required
	1	Football - install goalposts
	1	Graffiti - removal required
	1	Open space - keep uncluttered
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Skate parks - provide more
Prince of Wales Park 7		Reasons
	4	Access - close to home
	2	Dog walking
	2	Walking
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	3	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Drainage - improvements required
	1	Open space - provide for a variety of needs
	1	Park furniture - improvements required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Public toilets - provide more
Ancillary open space 7		Reasons
	2	Walking
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Cycling
	1	Exercising
	1	Jogging/running

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Paths - good quality Play - take grandchildren to the park Improvements Carpark - additional required Maintenance - regular mowing required Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan Open space - retain as is Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment Playgrounds - safety fencing required Seating - provide more Trees - do not remove Trees - maintenance required
Findon Recreation Reserve 7	3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Dog walking Fitness Cricket Exercising Football - training/playing Shopping Waking Improvements AFL goal post needed Drainage - improve on ovals Drainage - improvements required Paths - maintenance/improvements required Safety - improve safety Security - improve surveillance Vegetation - provide more
Centenary Park 6	2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play - take children to the park Play - take grandchildren to the park Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups Playgrounds - provide shade Public toilets - provide more Shade - provide more Shelters - with BBQs required Trees - more shade trees required
Hendersons Creek Wetland 6	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Exercising Birdlife - watching Natural character Open space - peaceful/quiet Open space – diversity of spaces Paths - good quality Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Trees Walking Waterbody

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Wildlife watching
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains – maintenance required
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Public toilets – maintenance and cleaning required
	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Shelters – with tables and seats, additional required
Botanica Park 5		Reasons
	1	BBQs
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Cycling - paths
	1	Dog walking
	1	Family friendly
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Waterbody - raise island/refuge for birdlife/winter
	1	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
Betula Park 5		Reasons
	3	Access - close to home
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - green character
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Sitting
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required
Freeman Park 4		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Seating - provide more
Coventry Park 4		Reasons
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Trees
		Improvements
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Seating - install over benches for elderly

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Belmont Park 4	3 2 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Drinking fountains - provide more Park facilities - provide more Rubbish bins - more required Seating - provide more
University Hill Offset Site 3	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Walking Access - close to home Access - close to shops/cafes Community hub/meeting place Facilities Improvements Events - improve organisation Paths - connecting path/s required Public art - provide more Water feature - provide more
Sycamore Recreation Reserve 3	2 1 1 1	Reasons Fitness Dog walking Jogging/running Improvements Paths - surface needs improvements
Dr Harry Jenkins Park 3	2 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play - take children to the park Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Cycling - provide secure facility Drinking fountains - maintenance required
Bundoora Park 3	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Community hub/meeting place Exercising Festivals and markets Lunch Native vegetation Open space - fresh air Improvements Carpark - additional required
Wenden Road Park 2	2 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Open space - grassed areas Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Garden beds - provide more Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required Trees - additional required
Roycroft Avenue Park 2	2	Reasons Access - close to home

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Play - safe for children
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
	1	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	1	Traffic - noise intrusive
Plenty Gorge Park 2		Reasons
	1	Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Signage - improve quality
Pipe Track Reserve 2		Reasons
	1	Dog off-lead area
		Improvements
	2	Paths - more required
Kelynack Recreation Reserve 2		Reasons
	1	Dog walking
	1	Jogging/running
Hurlstone Crescent Park 2		Reasons
	1	Birdlife - breeding refuge for birdlife
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Walking
Ester Park 2		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide near playground
	1	Fencing - more required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 1		Reasons
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
Woodvale Park 1		Reasons
	1	Play - take children to the park
		Improvements
	1	Mulch - mulching required
	1	Open space - provide all ability access and facilities
Watery Gully Park 1		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
		Improvements
	1	Ambience - improvements to general ambience required
	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 1		Reasons
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Vegetation - improve weed control
University Park 1		Reasons
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Exercising
		Improvements
	1	Seating - provide more
South Morang Recreation		Improvements

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Reserve 1	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
Quarry Hills Park 1	1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Improvements Open space - retain as is
Norris Bank Parklands 1	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Nature
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Improvements Shelters - provide more
Mill Park Community Centre 1	1	Reasons Open space - being outdoors/outside
	1	Relaxation
Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail 1	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Improvements Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Lowalde Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Fitness equipment
	1	Public art
	1	Improvements Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Lighting - maintenance required
Lalor Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Dog walking
	1	Relaxation
	1	Improvements Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
Jacaranda Park 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Improvements Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife
Hinkler Park 1	1	Reasons Kite flying
	1	Playground and equipment
Hawstowe Recreation Park 1	1	Reasons Open space - green character
	1	Wildlife watching
	1	Improvements Rubbish bins - more required
Grevillea Park 1	1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park
Golf Links Drive Walkway 1	1	Reasons Play - take children to the park
Epping Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Play - take children to the park
		Improvements

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs
Diosma Park 1	1	Reasons Fitness
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Seating - upgrade/maintenance required
Buckmaster Drive Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Betula Ave Walkway 1	1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups

3.6.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 123 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.6.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists the open spaces visited beyond walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
11%	13	Bundoora Park
9%	11	Redleap Recreation Reserve
8%	10	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
5%	6	Hawstowe Recreation Park
4%	5	Ancillary open space *
4%	5	Kinglake National Park
3%	4	Hendersons Creek Wetland
3%	4	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
3%	4	Quarry Hills Park
2%	2	Botanica Park
2%	2	Delacombe Park
2%	3	Norris Bank Parklands
2%	3	Other open space outside Municipality
2%	2	Plenty Gorge Park
1%	1	Arthur Park
1%	1	Barry Road Park
1%	1	Edwards Lake Park
1%	1	Lalor Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Mernda Creek Park

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
1%	1	Mernda Villages Wetland
1%	1	Merri Creek
1%	1	Mimosa Park
1%	1	Oaklands Tree Reserve
1%	1	Plenty Gorge River
1%	1	Sycamore Recreation Reserve
1%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
1%	1	Whittlesea Park
1%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens
1%	1	Woodlands Place Park

**Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.*

3.6.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Mill Park respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Bundoora Park 13		Reasons
	3	Facilities
	2	Community hub/meeting place
	2	Picnics
	2	Walking
	1	BBQs
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog off-lead area
	1	Events
	1	Family friendly
	1	Festivals and markets
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces
	1	Open space - safe
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Public toilets - provided
		Improvements
	1	Park furniture - improvements required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Public toilets - provide more
Redleap Recreation Reserve 11		Reasons
	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Activities - diverse
	2	Birdlife - feeding
	2	Dog walking
	2	Walking
	2	Waterbody

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Access - close to shops/cafes Fitness Playground and equipment Wildlife watching Improvements Cycle paths - more required Rubbish bins - more required Seating - provide more
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 10	4 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1	Reasons Views and vistas BBQs Historic character Open space - peaceful/quiet Picnics Dog walking Family friendly Open space - ambience, beauty Open space - large space Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Sitting Walking Waterbody Improvements Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs Cafe/kiosk - more required Shelters - provide more
Hawstowe Recreation Park 6	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty Exercising Family friendly Natural character Natural character - bushland environment Open space - being outdoors/outside Open space - fresh air Open space - large space Picnics Views and vistas Walking along waterway Improvements Access - improve access to river Fencing - more pedestrian barrier fencing required Paths - more required
Ancillary open space 5	3 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Shopping Lighting - provided Open space - peaceful/quiet Views and vistas Walking Improvements Open space - retain as is

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Kinglake National Park 5	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Natural character - bushland environment BBQs Birdlife - watching Facilities Open space - ambience, beauty Open space - large space Photography Relaxation Walking Improvements Open space - retain as is Picnic tables - provide more
Quarry Hills Park 4	2 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Views and vistas Dog walking Fitness Walking Improvements Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required Vegetation - more smaller plants/native grasses required
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 4	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Ball games Cycling - paths Historic character Relaxation Improvements Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment Playgrounds - safety fencing required Trees - additional required Vegetation - hedge required
Hendersons Creek Wetland 4	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Views and vistas Birdlife - feeding Birdlife - watching Dog walking Exercising Open space - peaceful/quiet Walking Waterbody Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required Trees - additional required Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
Other open space outside the Municipality 3	1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Exercising Golf Natural character Open space - grassed areas Wildlife watching Improvements BBQs - more required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Norris Bank Parklands 3	1 1 1	Reasons BBQs Cycling - paths good quality Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1 1	Improvements BBQs - improvements required Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Plenty Gorge Park 2	1 1	Reasons Picnics Wildlife watching
	1	Improvements Shelters - provide more
Delacombe Park 2	2	Reasons Dog socialising
	1 1	Improvements Open space - retain as is Seating - provide more in shaded areas
Botanica Park 2	1 1	Reasons Birdlife - feeding Dog walking
	1 1 1 1	Improvements Ambience - improvements to general ambience required Drainage - improve on ovals Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required Vandalism - an issue
Woodlands Place Park 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty Playground and equipment
Whittlesea Public Gardens 1	1	Reasons Dog off-lead area
	1	Improvements Fencing - improvement/upgrade required
Whittlesea Park 1	1	Reasons BBQs
	1	Improvements Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1	1	Reasons BBQs
	1	Improvements Informal recreational facilities - provide more
Sycamore Recreation Reserve 1	1	Improvements Security - improve surveillance
Plenty Gorge River 1	1	Reasons Walking along waterway
	1 1	Improvements Access - improvements required Cycle paths - connecting paths required
Oaklands Tree Reserve 1	1	Reasons Trees
Mimosa Park		Reasons

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
1	1	BBQs
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Merri Creek 1	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Open space - being outdoors/outside
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Improvements Pedestrian crossing - more required
Mernda Villages Wetland 1	1	Reasons Playground and equipment
	1	Reasons Ball games
Lalor Recreation Reserve 1	1	Improvements Cricket - facilities, improvement required
	1	Reasons Open space - clean
Edwards Lake Park 1	1	Waterbody
	1	Reasons Dog socialising
Mernda Creek Park 1	1	Reasons Dog walking
	1	Improvements Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Reasons Cricket

3.6.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

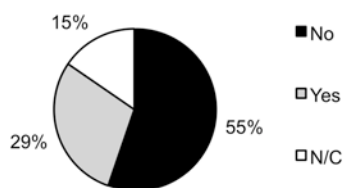
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

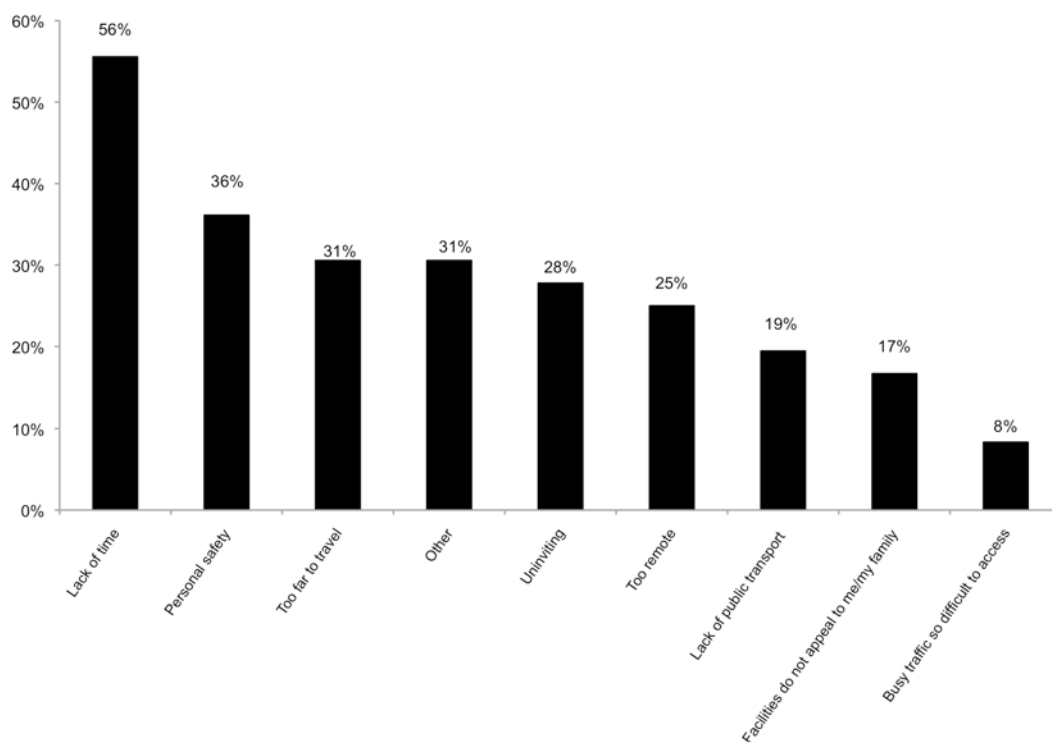
The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 123 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 36 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

29 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is slightly lower than the Municipal average, 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



Reasons Mill Park respondents do not visit open space

The most frequent reason for not visiting open space was due to lack of time at 56 per cent, 8 per cent above the Municipal average. 36 per cent of Mill Park respondents were concerned with personal safety, 7 per cent more than the Municipal average. These reasons were followed by travel distance to open space at 31 per cent; open space being uninviting at 28 per cent; and open space being remote at 25 per cent. Compared to the Municipal average, 10 per cent less respondents in Mill Park considered travel distance to open space as an issue. 6 per cent more Mill Park respondents indicated open space being uninviting as a reason for not visiting open space. Constraints from busy traffic was only cited by 8 per cent of respondents, which is 7 per cent below the Municipal average.

31 per cent of Mill Park respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included lack of information/knowledge (3), access - closed (1), additional dog

off-lead areas required (1), facilities do not appeal to me or my family (1), lack of car parking (1), lack of footpath (1), lack of signage (1), and unclean - graffiti (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

29 per cent of Mill Park respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 19 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 9 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space. This is lower than the Municipal average.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
14%	3	Plenty Gorge Park
14%	3	Quarry Hills Park
9%	2	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
5%	1	Barry Road Park
5%	1	Findon Creek Park
5%	1	Hendersons Creek Wetland
5%	1	Sycamore Recreation Reserve

3.6.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Mill Park. The percentages are calculated based on the 123 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
91%	Local streets exercise	33%	23%	17%	12%	7%	4%
84%	Large parks and gardens	7%	6%	14%	28%	29%	11%
81%	Small local parks	11%	15%	18%	22%	15%	11%
74%	Major regional parklands	1%	0%	5%	17%	51%	18%
54%	Medium sized parks	2%	6%	8%	14%	25%	28%

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
50%	Urban squares	1%	3%	14%	11%	20%	38%
44%	Sporting reserves	1%	4%	8%	11%	20%	45%
37%	Plenty River	0%	1%	3%	9%	24%	50%
31%	Merri Creek	0%	1%	3%	6%	21%	53%
27%	Darebin Creek	1%	2%	3%	6%	15%	56%
16%	Edgars Creek	0%	1%	2%	4%	9%	65%

Local streets for exercise are the most frequently used type of open space by 91 per cent of Mill Park respondents, 9 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 84 per cent of respondents utilise large parks and gardens, which is 14 per cent higher than the Municipal average.

Respondents also used medium sized parks 5 per cent more frequently than the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Type of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
72%	Local streets exercise	33%	23%	17%
44%	Small local parks	11%	15%	18%
27%	Large parks and gardens	7%	6%	14%
18%	Urban squares	1%	3%	14%
15%	Medium sized parks	2%	6%	8%
13%	Sporting reserves	1%	4%	8%
6%	Major regional parklands	1%	0%	5%
6%	Darebin Creek	1%	2%	3%
4%	Merri Creek	0%	1%	3%
4%	Plenty River	0%	1%	3%
3%	Edgars Creek	0%	1%	2%

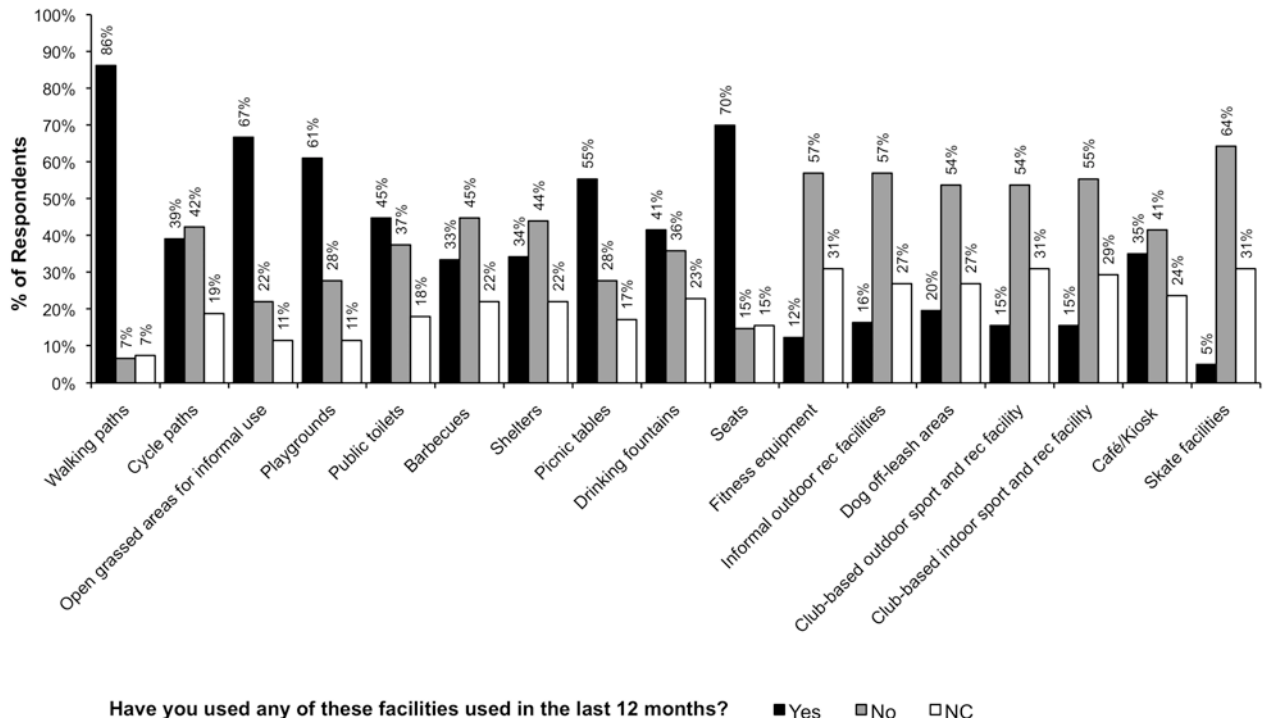
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being large parks and gardens. This generally reflects that the open space network is nearby and easily accessible in Mill Park.

3.6.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.6.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Mill Park, 123.

- Mill Park respondents indicated that walking paths, seats and open grassed areas were the most popular facilities used in the last 12 months, approximately 5 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- The use of picnic tables and drinking fountains was also slightly higher in Mill Park when compared with the Municipal average.
- A slightly higher percentage of Mill Park respondents indicated they did not use fitness equipment, informal outdoor recreation facilities, dog off-leash areas, and club-based indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, when compared with the Municipal average.
- 8 to 10 per cent more Mill Park respondents indicated they did not use cycle paths, public toilets and barbeques when compared with the Municipal average.



3.6.6b Provision of facilities in open space

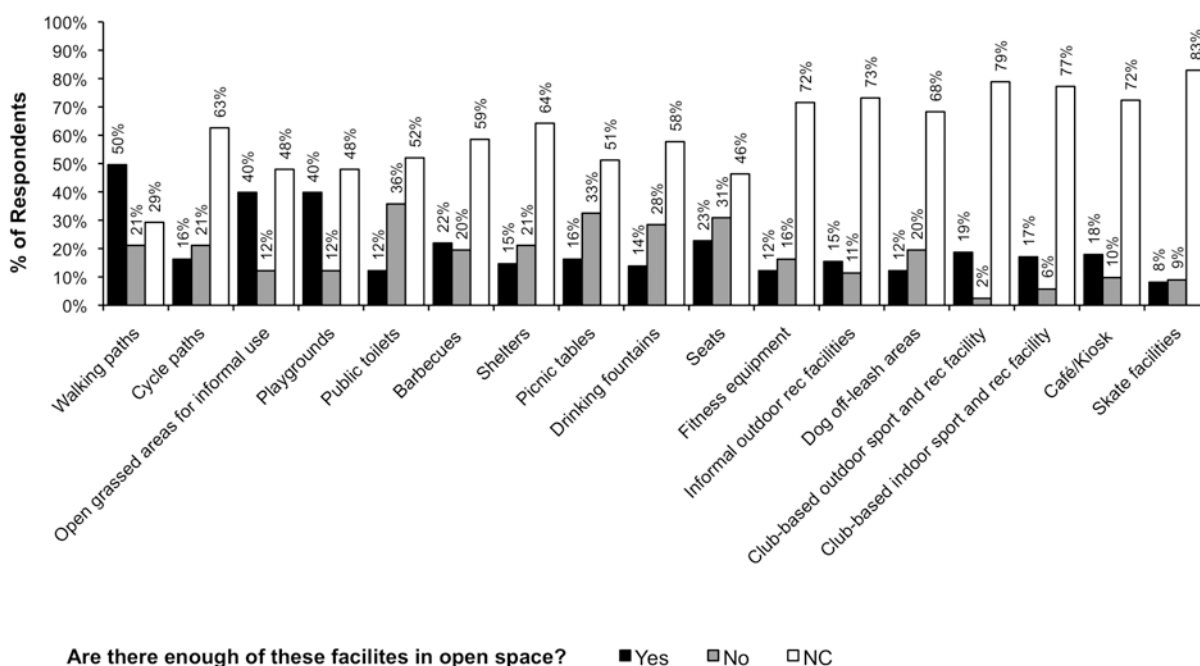
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Mill Park surveys received, 123.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Public toilets
- Picnic tables
- Seats
- Walking paths and cycle paths
- Dog off-leash areas

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

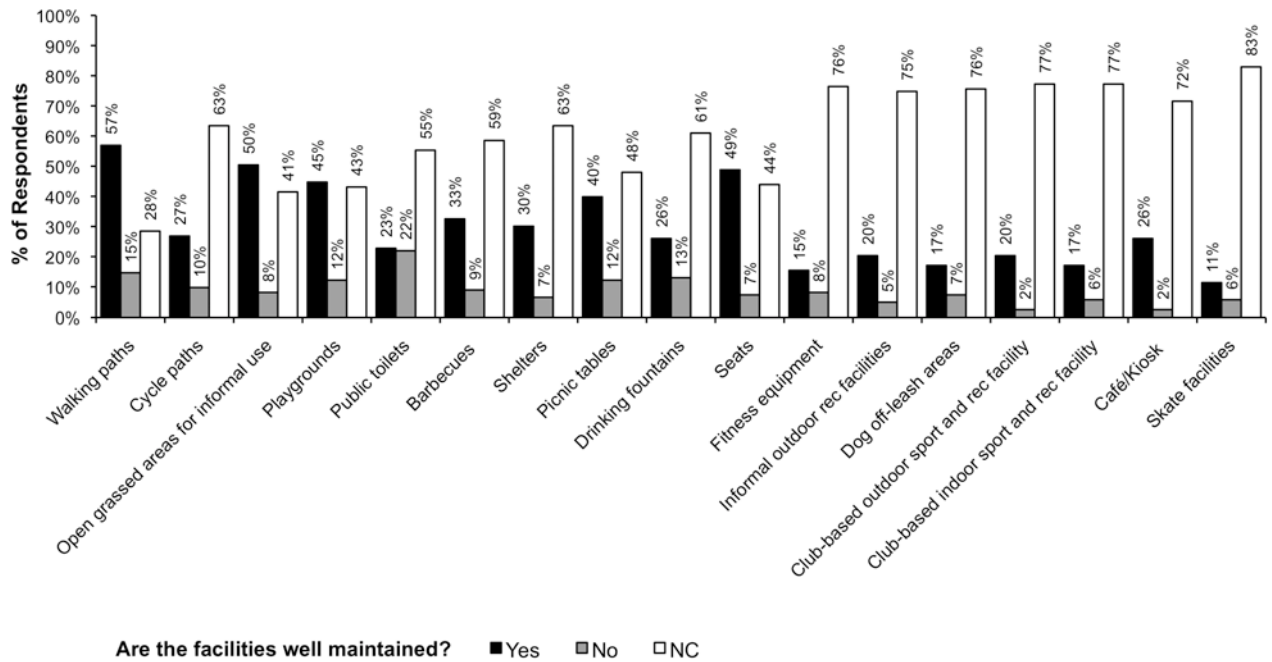
- 50 per cent of respondents indicated they are satisfied with the provision of walking paths in Mill Park, which is 11 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- 40 per cent of Mill Park respondents indicated open grassed areas for informal use and playgrounds are well provided for, which is slightly higher than the Municipal average.
- Mill Park respondents were generally less satisfied with the provision of picnic tables, public toilets, drinking fountains, cycle paths and seats than the Municipal average.



3.6.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Mill Park surveys returned, 123.

- Mill Park respondents were generally equally satisfied with the maintenance level of facilities in open space compared with the Municipal average.



3.6.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Mill Park respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Open space
4	Open space - enjoy the ambience
3	Open space - well maintained
3	Open space - enjoy using open space
3	Open space - contributes to liveability
3	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
3	Open space - adequate amount of open space provided
3	Open space - additional required
2	Open space - maintain existing character
2	Open space - improve design and layout
2	Open space - important to create a sense of community
2	Open space - happy with existing
1	Open space - value close proximity to home
1	Open space - improve maintenance
1	Open space - don't use it
1	Open space - appreciate improvements
1	Open space - additional required for flora/fauna protection
1	Open space - additional required as density increases
1	Ambience - general ambience needs improvement
	Management and maintenance
4	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
4	Maintenance - appreciate existing maintenance
3	Security - improve surveillance
3	Maintenance - regular maintenance and cleaning required
3	Graffiti - maintenance required
2	Security - increase lighting
2	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
1	Rubbish - remove litter in open space
1	Mowing - regular mowing required
	Park infrastructure
4	Rubbish bins - more required
3	Public toilets - provide more
2	Seating - provide more
2	Drinking fountains - provide more
1	Signage - informative, instructional and navigational signage required
1	Seating - provide more in shaded areas
1	Drinking fountains - provide near playground
	Other
3	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available
3	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase

No.	General comments
	awareness
2	Development - concerns about impact on open space
1	Public transport - improve network
1	Landscape design - improvement/upgrade needed
1	Development - adjoining open space maintain height restrictions
1	Council rates - too high
1	Community - introduce more community involvement in the maintenance/upkeep of open space
1	Community - continue to seek community feedback
	Paths
2	Cycle paths - improve connecting paths into linear trails from adjoining areas
1	Shared paths - maintain sightlines
1	Paths - ongoing maintenance required
1	Paths - more required
1	Paths - improvements required
1	Paths - improve sightlines
1	Paths - convert old railway line to walking/cycling link
1	Cyclists - conflicts with pedestrians on shared paths
1	Cycle paths - off-road cycle links required
1	Cycle paths - more required
1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails so they are continuous
	Sport and recreation facilities
4	Exercise equipment - more required
1	Sport - restrict/reduce formal sporting club use
1	Skate parks - provide more
1	Facilities - more required for teenagers
	Trees and vegetation
2	Retain grasslands/habitat value
1	Vegetation - increase native planting
1	Vegetation - important to protect
1	Trees - falling limbs are a personal safety concern
1	Garden beds - improvement required
	Access
2	Links - improve links to open space
2	Access - provide more entry points to open space
1	Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs
	Sustainability
1	Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife

3.7 Rural North

Number of respondents

53 respondents indicated they live in the Rural North part of the Municipality. Surveys were received from the following suburbs: Beveridge (3), Eden Park (35), Humevale (8), Kinglake West (2), Wollert (1), Woodstock (1), and Yan Yean (3). The respondents from the Rural North represent 8 per cent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate 2 per cent of the City of Whittlesea lives in the Rural North.

3.7.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Rural North, 53. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

62 per cent of respondents indicated that trees are the most valued feature of open space in Rural North, which is consistent with the Municipal average. 58 per cent of respondents also consider the opportunity to relax and unwind in open space as important, however this is 14 per cent lower than the Municipal average. 57 per cent indicated they value open space as a habitat for native plants and animals, followed by 53 per cent choosing natural bushland character as a value. 34 per cent value the diversity of open space, which is 8 per cent above the Municipal average. 26 per cent value being outside in open space, and this is 19 per cent below the Municipal average.

%	Value
62%	Trees
58%	Place to relax and unwind
57%	Habitat for native plants and animals
53%	Natural bushland character
51%	Place for kids to play
43%	Quiet
40%	Health and wellbeing
38%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
38%	Flowers/garden beds
36%	Escape from buildings and roads
34%	The diversity of open space
30%	Accessible
30%	Knowledge that it's there
30%	Spacious
28%	Green character
26%	Fitness
26%	Just being outside
23%	Playing sport

%	Value
19%	Meeting people/friends
17%	Historical character
15%	Cultural activities and events
13%	Playing casual games
9%	Watching activity
4%	Other

The other category included a range of comments including park facilities and natural contrast to built form.

3.7.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 53 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.7.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
8%	4	Ancillary open space*
8%	4	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
6%	3	Whittlesea Showgrounds
4%	2	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
4%	2	Whittlesea Park
2%	1	460W Towts Rd
2%	1	690W Glenburnie Road
2%	1	Bundoora Park
2%	1	Doreen Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Glenburnie Tree Reserve
2%	1	Lions Club Park
2%	1	Merri Creek
2%	1	Merriang Road Rest Stop
2%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
2%	1	Stoneyfield Park
2%	1	Whittlesea Football Ground

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.7.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Rural North

The following table lists the reasons why Rural North respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Ancillary open space 4	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Dog socialising Open space - none within walking distance Walking Improvements Dog - off-lead areas, additional required Dog - waste bags/bins, more required Paths - more required Seating - provide more
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 4	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Dog walking Access - close to home BBQs Exercising Historic character Picnics Visitors - take them to the park Walking Improvements Access - provide more entry points to open space Opening hours - to be extended Paths - more required
Whittlesea Showgrounds 3	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Festivals and markets Community hub/meeting place Exercising Facilities Sport - spectating Improvements Open space - enlarge/extend this open space Paths - more required Seating - provide more
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 2	1 1 1 2	Reasons BBQs Dog walking Picnics Improvements Opening hours - to be extended
Whittlesea Park 2	2 1 1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Open space - none within walking distance Improvements Playgrounds - improvements required
690W Glenburnie Road 1	1 1	Reasons Walking Improvements Vegetation - provide more
Bundoora Park 1	1	Reasons Café and kiosk facilities

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Doreen Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Fitness
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Glenburnie Tree Reserve 1	1	Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Safety - improve safety
Lions Club Park 1	1	Reasons BBQs
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Merri Creek 1	1	Reasons Activities - diverse
	1	Improvements Vegetation - improve weed control
Merriang Road Rest Stop 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1	Reasons Lunch
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Paths - more required
Stoneyfield Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - provide more
Whittlesea Football Ground 1	1	Reasons Fitness
	1	Improvements Lighting - provide to allow use in evening/early morning during winter

3.7.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 53 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.7.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists the open spaces visited beyond walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
30%	11	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
21%	5	Kinglake National Park
9%	5	Whittlesea Park
9%	3	Ancillary open space*
6%	2	Whittlesea Showgrounds

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
4%	1	460W Towts Rd
2%	1	A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Bundoora Park
2%	1	Darebin Creek
2%	1	Lions Club Park
2%	1	Mernda Villages Wetland
2%	1	Plenty Gorge Park
2%	1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Scrubby Creek Reserve
2%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
2%	1	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.7.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Rural North respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 11		Reasons
	4	BBQs
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Facilities
	2	Open space - ambience, beauty
	2	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	2	Walking
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Exercising
	1	Photography
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Relaxation
		Improvements
	1	Opening hours - to be extended
	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Shade - provide more
	1	Trees - dead and dangerous ones to be removed from open space
Kinglake National Park 5		Reasons
	1	Lack of open space in local area
	1	Natural character
	1	Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Views and vistas
	1	Wildlife watching

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
		Improvements
	1	Paths - more required
	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
Whittlesea Park 5		Reasons
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Open space - being outdoors/outside
	1	Paths - walking
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Skateboarding
		Improvements
	1	Carpark - maintenance required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
Ancillary open space (including shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds etc) 3		Reasons
	1	Dog walking
	1	Paths - walking
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
Whittlesea Showgrounds 2		Reasons
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Festivals and markets
	1	Football - spectating
	1	Playground and equipment
460W Towts Rd 1		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Lack of open space in local area
A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve 1		Reasons
	1	Cricket
		Improvements
	1	Open space - retain as is
Bundoora Park 1		Reasons
	1	Café and kiosk facilities
Darebin Creek 1		Reasons
	1	Family friendly
		Improvements
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
Lions Club Park 1		Reasons
	1	BBQs
	1	Dog walking
	1	Lack of open space in local area
	1	Play - take children to the park
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Mernda Villages Wetland 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Plenty Gorge Park 1	1	Reasons Relaxation
Redleap Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Events
Scrubby Creek Reserve 1	1 1	Reasons Wildlife watching Improvements Maintenance - regular mowing required
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Improvements Opening hours - to be extended
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 1	1 1	Reasons Cricket Improvements Cricket - facilities, improvement required

3.7.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

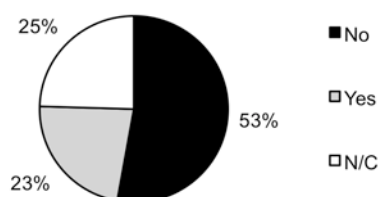
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

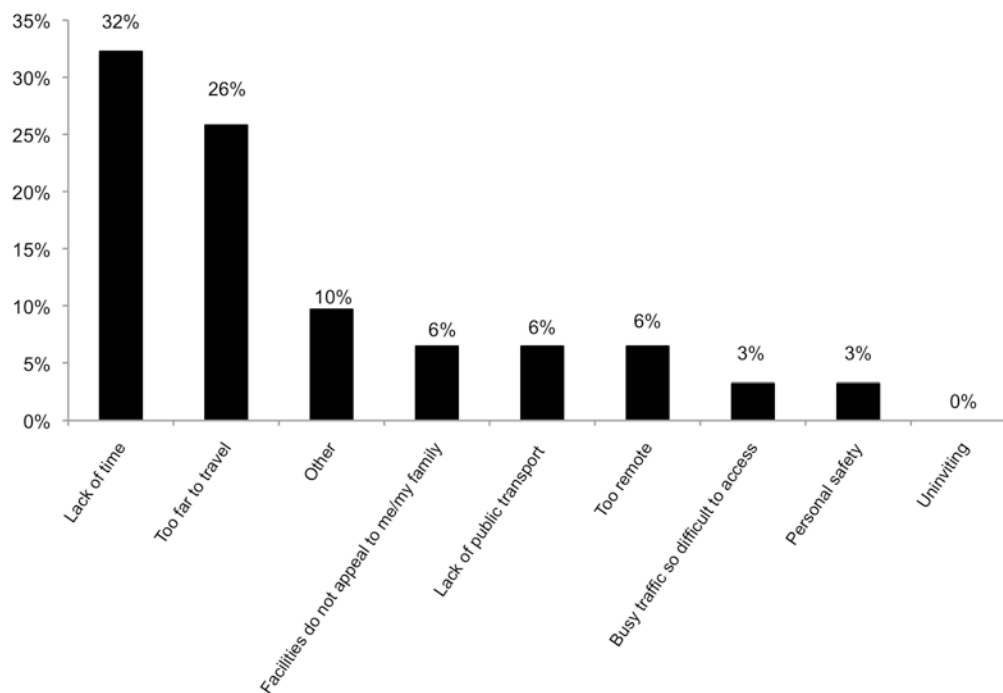
Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 53 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 12 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

23 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is lower than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:**Reasons Rural North respondents do not visit open space**

The most frequent reasons for not visiting open space were lack of time at 32 per cent and travel distance at 26 per cent, which were 16 and 15 per cent lower than the Municipal average respectively. Responses to this question were generally significantly lower in Rural North compared to the overall Municipality. Concerns about personal safety and open space being too remote were 26 and 19 per cent below the Municipal average respectively. There were no Rural North respondents who found open space uninviting.

10 per cent of Rural North respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included poor health - unable to visit open space (2), safety - used needles/syringes in open space (2), access - not open to public (1), lack of car parking (1), lack of knowledge that it's there (1), and feeling unsafe - lack of passive surveillance.

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

23 per cent of Rural North respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. Of these, 73 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 27 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
50%	4	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
13%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
13%	1	Lions Club Park
13%	1	Plenty Gorge Park
13%	1	Quarry Hills Park

3.7.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Rural North.

The percentages are calculated based on the 53 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
75%	Major regional parklands	0%	2%	12%	13%	48%	15%
52%	Large parks and gardens	0%	6%	8%	19%	19%	25%
50%	Small local parks	0%	6%	15%	12%	17%	29%
46%	Local streets exercise	10%	12%	15%	6%	4%	31%
38%	Sporting reserves	0%	6%	8%	12%	13%	33%
37%	Plenty River	2%	0%	6%	6%	23%	38%
23%	Urban squares	0%	4%	2%	8%	10%	46%
17%	Merri Creek	2%	0%	4%	0%	12%	52%
12%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	2%	0%	10%	60%
12%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	2%	0%	10%	58%
12%	Medium sized parks	0%	0%	0%	6%	6%	58%

Major regional parklands are the most commonly used type of open space by Rural North respondents, with the majority of users visiting 1 to 2 times a year. Open space use in the Rural North is significantly lower than the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
37%	Local streets exercise	10%	12%	15%
21%	Small local parks	0%	6%	15%
13%	Major regional parklands	0%	2%	12%
13%	Large parks and gardens	0%	6%	8%
13%	Sporting reserves	0%	6%	8%
8%	Plenty River	2%	0%	6%
6%	Merri Creek	2%	0%	4%
6%	Urban squares	0%	4%	2%
2%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	2%
2%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	2%
0%	Medium sized parks	0%	0%	0%

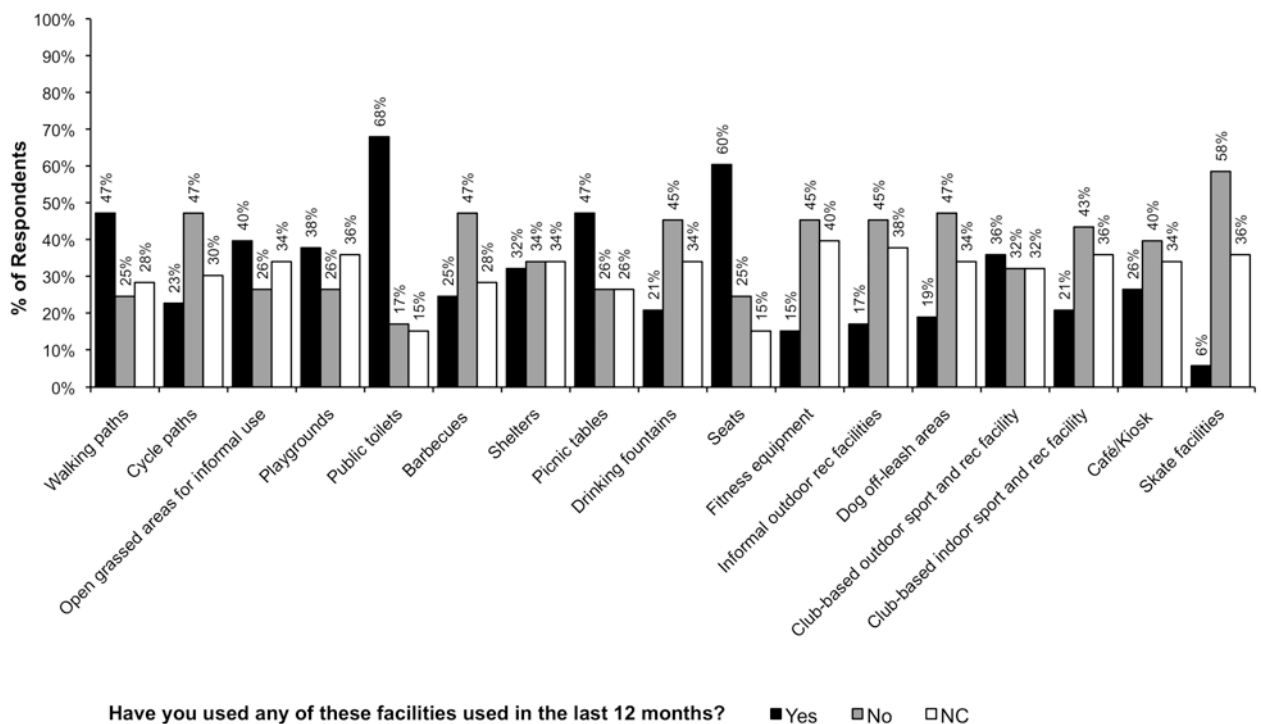
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being major regional parklands. The higher level of use in the major regional parklands reflects the proximity of major open space to Rural North including Yan Yean and Toorourrong Reservoirs.

3.7.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.7.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space used over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Rural North, 53.

- Rural North respondents indicated public toilets are the most popular facility and are used by 68 per cent of respondents, 19 per cent more than the overall Municipal average.
- This is followed by seats which were used by 60 per cent of Rural North respondents in the last twelve months, consistent Municipal wide.
- Walking paths were used by only 47 per cent of respondents from the Rural North, 35 per cent lower than the Municipal average.
- 40 per cent of respondents used open grassed areas for informal use and 38 per cent used playgrounds. These facilities were used 22 per cent less than the Municipal average.
- 36 per cent of Rural North respondents used club-based outdoor recreation facilities and 21 per cent used club-based indoor recreation facilities, slightly more than the Municipal average.



3.7.6b Provision of facilities in open space

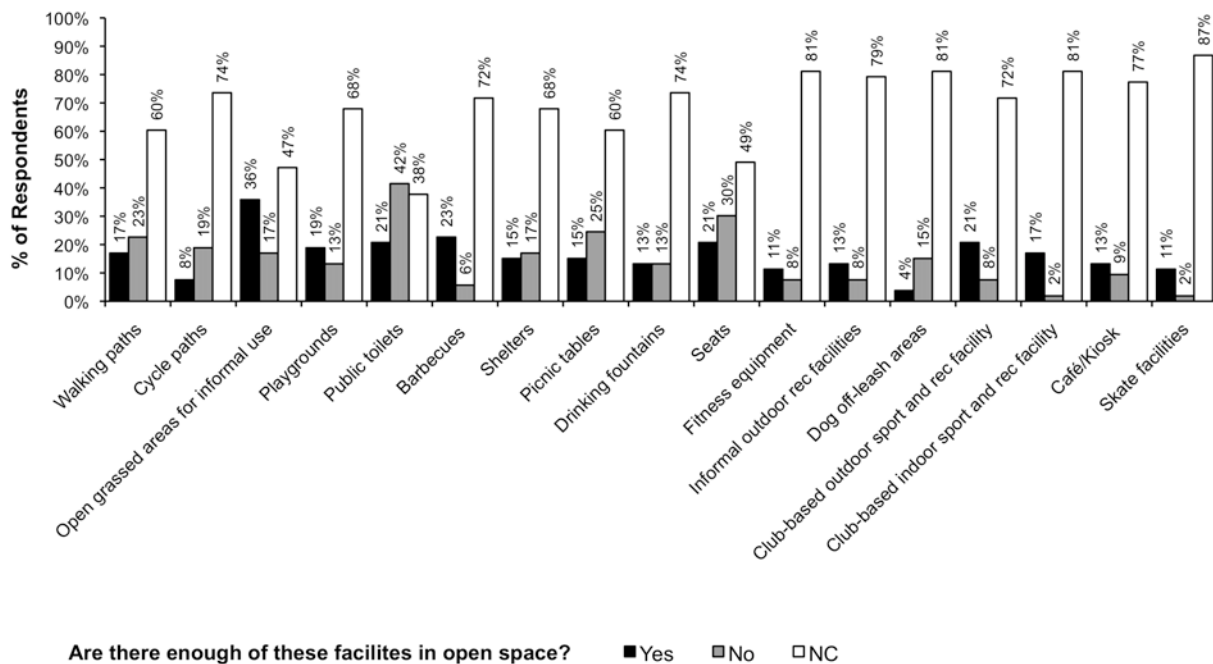
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Rural North surveys received, 53.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Public toilets
- Seats
- Picnic tables
- Walking paths

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

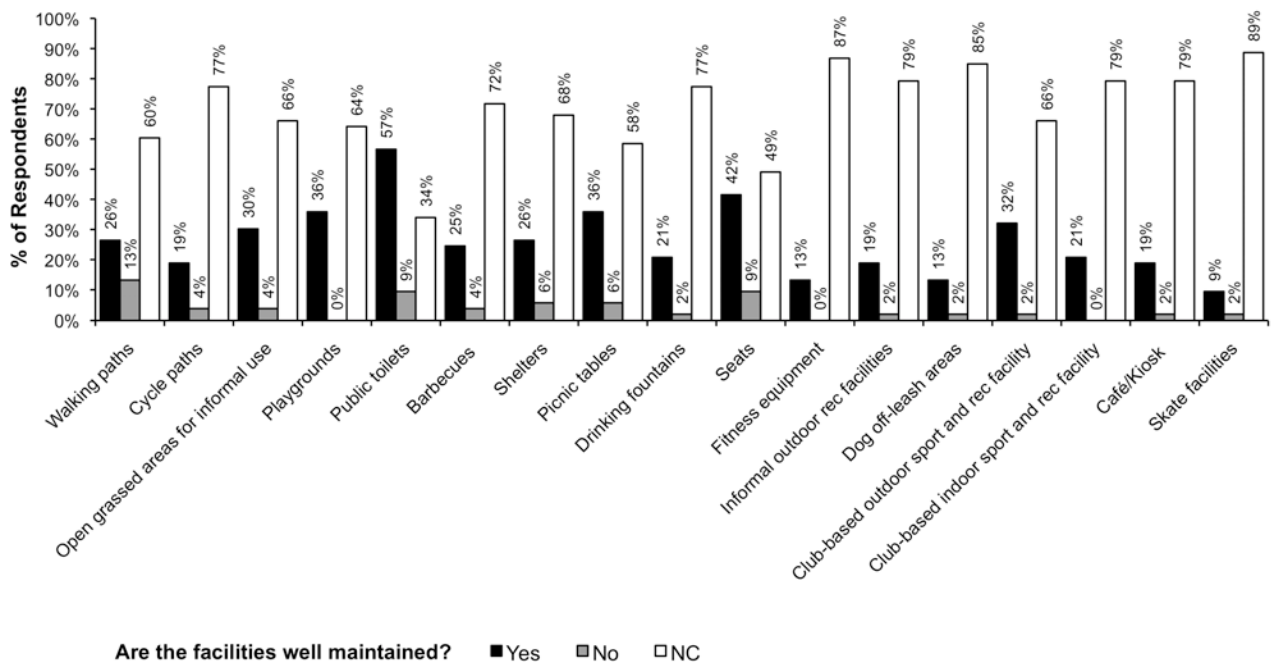
- 42 per cent of respondents do not consider public toilets to be well provided for, 12 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- Only 17 per cent of Rural North respondents consider walking paths well provided for, which is 22 per cent lower than the Municipal average.
- 19 per cent of Rural North respondents are satisfied with the provision of playgrounds, 14 per cent lower than the Municipal average.



3.7.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Rural North surveys returned, 53.

- Public toilets are considered the best maintained facility in Rural North at 57 per cent, 31 per cent higher than the Municipal average.
- 26 per cent of Rural North respondents are satisfied with the maintenance level of walking paths, 28 per cent lower than the overall Municipality.
- 32 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the maintenance level of club-based outdoor recreation facilities, 12 per cent higher than the Municipal average.



3.7.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Rural North respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Open space
3	Open space - additional required
3	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire Municipality
2	Opening hours - to be extended
1	Natural character - bushland feel valued
1	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
1	Open space - don't use it
1	Open space - enjoy using open space
1	Open space - ensure council distributes funds equally across the Municipality
1	Open space - improve maintenance
1	Open space - open and uncluttered character important
1	Open space - well maintained
	Paths
3	Cycle paths - off-road cycle links required
2	Cycle paths - more required
1	Cycle paths - connecting paths required
1	Cycle paths - improve connecting paths into linear trails from adjoining areas
1	Cycle paths - widen
1	Paths - improvements required
1	Paths - maintain sightlines
1	Paths - more required
	Other
2	Development - concerns about impact on open space
2	Overall strategy - Council doing a good job
2	Public transport - improve network
2	Re-open Toorourrong Reservoir
1	Don't waste ratepayers money
	Management and maintenance
1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
1	Dog - provide fenced off-lead areas
1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
1	Maintenance - continue to maintain
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance and cleaning required
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Pest control - improvements required
	Park infrastructure
2	Public toilets - provide more
1	Carpark - additional required
1	Fencing - more required
1	Public toilets - improve maintenance and cleaning

No.	General comments
Sustainability	
2	Wildlife - improve wildlife corridor
1	Wildlife - native wildlife needs protection
Trees and vegetation	
3	Retain grasslands/habitat value
Access	
1	Access - improve links across railway lines
Sport and recreation facilities	
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment for a range of age groups

3.8 South Morang

Number of Respondents

33 respondents indicated they live in South Morang. This represents 5 per cent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate 12 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population lives in South Morang.

3.8.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for South Morang, 33. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

79 per cent of South Morang respondents consider the opportunity to relax and unwind in open space as the most valued feature of open space, 7 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Open space as a place for kids to play is valued by 76 per cent of respondents, 13 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Respondents also valued open space for its spaciousness, for meeting people/friends, and for playing sport. These were all more than ten per cent higher the Municipal average.

%	Value
79%	Place to relax and unwind
76%	Place for kids to play
61%	Trees
58%	Habitat for native plants and animals
55%	Spacious
52%	Health and wellbeing
52%	Just being outside
48%	Natural bushland character
45%	Meeting people/friends
42%	Escape from buildings and roads
39%	Accessible
39%	Fitness
39%	Green character
39%	Playing sport
36%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
36%	Quiet
33%	Flowers/garden beds
30%	Playing casual games
24%	Knowledge that it's there
24%	Other
18%	Historical character
18%	The diversity of open space

%	Value
15%	Cultural activities and events
15%	Watching activity

The other category included a range of comments including dog walking, fresh air and park facilities.

3.8.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 33 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.8.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
21%	8	Hendersons Creek Wetland
21%	7	Hawstowe Recreation Park
12%	4	Plenty Gorge Park
9%	3	Ancillary open space*
9%	3	Redleap Recreation Reserve
9%	3	South Morang Recreation Reserve
6%	2	Delacombe Park
6%	2	Hillsview Recreation Reserve
6%	2	Jardier Park
6%	2	Quarry Hills Park
3%	1	Allan Avenue Park
3%	1	Centenary Park
3%	1	Conelly Park
3%	1	Greenhills Park
3%	1	Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Northern Arm)
3%	1	Huntingfield Park
3%	1	Monica Court Park
3%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
3%	1	Plenty Gorge River
3%	1	Reid Street Park
3%	1	Rippon Lea Park
3%	1	Riverdale Park
3%	1	Riverside Community Activity Centre
3%	1	Stanley Jones Walkway
3%	1	Trinity Park
3%	1	Vincent Park
3%	1	Whittlesea Public Gardens

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.8.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in South Morang

The following table lists the reasons why South Morang respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Hendersons Creek Wetland 8	Reasons	
	4	Walking
	2	Birdlife - feeding
	1	Ball games
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Dog walking
	1	Picnics
	1	Play – take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
	1	Waterbody
	Improvements	
	3	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Birds - ban feeding
	1	Open space – retain as is
	1	Public toilets - provide more
1	Seating - provide more	
1	Traffic - noise intrusive	
Hawstowe Recreation Park 7	Reasons	
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Cycling
	1	Fitness
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - clean
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Relaxation
	1	Walking
	1	Wildlife watching
	Improvements	
	1	BBQs - to be located near playgrounds
	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
1	Paths - surface needs improvements	
1	Playgrounds - improvements required	
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups	
1	Public toilets - provide more	
Plenty Gorge Park 4	Reasons	
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Dog walking
	1	Health and wellbeing
1	Open space - ambience, beauty	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Seating - provide more
South Morang Recreation Reserve 3		Reasons
	1	Exercising
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Redleap Recreation Reserve 3		Reasons
	1	Birdlife - feeding
	1	Paths - walking
	1	Walking
	1	Waterbody
		Improvements
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Seating - upgrade/maintenance required
Ancillary open space 3		Reasons
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Access - close to home
		Improvements
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
Quarry Hills Park 2		Reasons
	1	Exercising
	1	Health and wellbeing
		Improvements
	1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
Jardier Park 2		Reasons
	1	Football - training/playing
	1	Play - take children to the park
		Improvements
	2	Park facilities - provide more
	1	Basketball ring/half court - required
	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
Hillsview Recreation Reserve 2		Reasons
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Soccer
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
Delacombe Park 2		Reasons
	2	Dog socialising
		Improvements
	1	Drinking fountains - maintenance required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Seating - provide more

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Shade - provide more
Whittlesea Public Gardens 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home BBQs - more required Open space - upgrade required Picnic tables - provide more
Vincent Park 1	1 1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Trinity Park 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Stanley Jones Walkway 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Jogging/running Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Picnic tables - provide more Rubbish bins - more required
Riverside Community Activity Centre 1	1 1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Playgrounds - improvements required
Riverdale Park 1	1 1	Reasons Golf Improvements Maintenance - regular mowing required
Rippon Lea Park 1	1 1	Reasons Fitness Improvements Drainage - improvements required
Reid Street Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to shops/cafes Improvements Picnic tables - provide more
Plenty Gorge River 1	1 1 1 1	Reasons Cycling Wildlife watching Improvements Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails Cycling - provide secure facility
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1 1	Reasons Paths - walking Improvements Paths - connecting path/s required
Monica Court Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Nature Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Playgrounds - provide shade
Huntingfield Park 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Improvements Information - more information about open space and facilities/activities available
Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Northern Arm) 1	1 1 1	Reasons Access - passing through/shortcut Dog walking Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
Greenhills Park 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty Improvements Playgrounds - improvements required
Conelly Park 1	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Cycling Dog walking Play - take grandchildren to the park Improvements BBQs - improvements required Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
Centenary Park 1	1 1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park Wildlife watching
Allan Avenue Park 1	1 1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park Improvements Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required

3.8.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 33 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.8.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
9%	3	Hendersons Creek Wetland
9%	3	Mernda Creek Park
9%	3	Redleap Recreation Reserve
6%	2	Bundoora Park
6%	2	Hawstowe Recreation Park
6%	2	Quarry Hills Park
6%	2	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
3%	1	Ancillary open space*
3%	1	Kinglake National Park
3%	1	Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve
3%	1	Mill Park Library Complex
3%	1	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
3%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
3%	1	Pipe Track Park

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
3%	1	Sycamore Recreation Reserve
3%	1	University Hill Offset Site
3%	1	W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.8.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why South Morang respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open Space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Redleap Recreation Reserve 3	1	Reasons Activities - diverse
	1	Football - training/playing
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Hendersons Creek Wetland 3	1	Reasons Birdlife - watching
	1	Dog walking
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Improvements Open space - upgrade required
Mernda Creek Park 3	2	Reasons Dog socialising
	1	Dog off-lead area
	1	Improvements Dog - provide dog 'agility'/exercise equipment
	1	Drainage - improvements required
	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	1	Open space - retain as is
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 2	1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Picnics
	1	Improvements BBQs - more required
	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Seating - provide more
Quarry Hills Park 2	1	Reasons Birdlife - watching
	1	Exercising
	1	Fitness
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Hawstowe Recreation Park 2	2	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Walking Improvements

Open Space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Access - provide more entry points to open space
	1	Seating - provide more
Bundoora Park 2	1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park
	1	Playground - fenced
	1	Improvements Open space - additional large green spaces
W.A. Smith Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Cycling
	1	Improvements Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
University Hill Offset Site 1	1	Reasons Open space - being outdoors/outside
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space
	1	Improvements BBQs - more required
	1	Seating - provide more
Sycamore Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Events
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Improvements Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
	1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
	1	Public toilets - provide more
Pipe Track Park 1	1	Reasons Walking
	1	Improvements Seating - provide more
Ancillary open space 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1	Reasons Walking
	1	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Play - take children to the park
Mill Park Library Complex 1	1	Reasons Relaxation
Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve 1	1	Reasons Jogging/running
	1	Improvements Opening hours - to be extended
Kinglake National Park 1	1	Reasons Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Walking

3.8.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

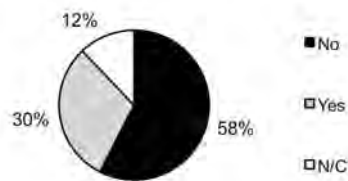
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

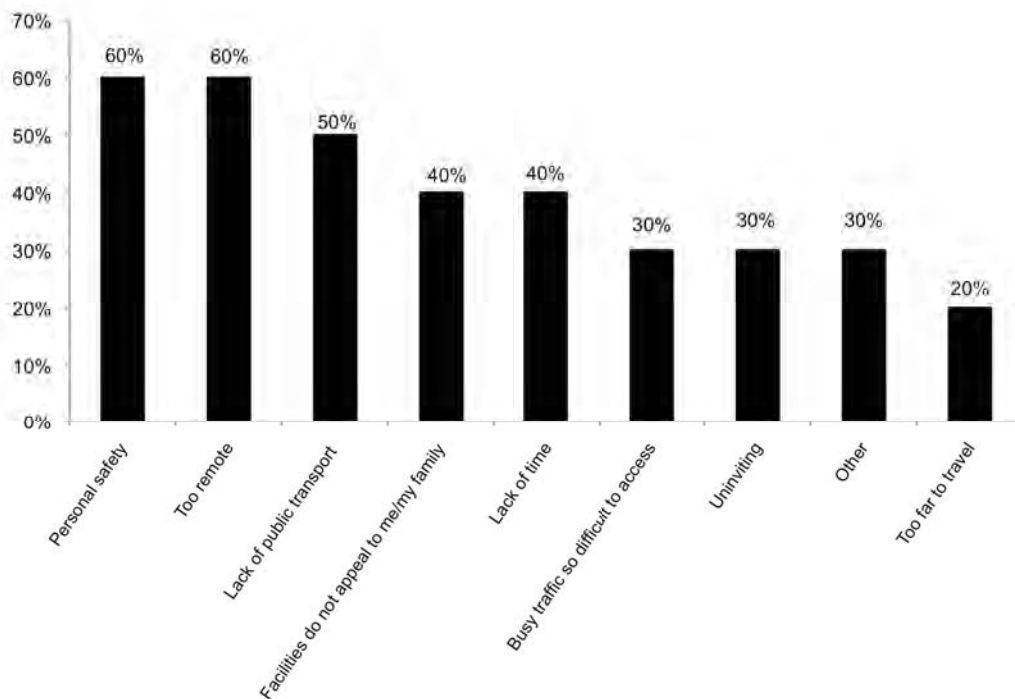
The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 33 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 10 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

30 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is slightly lower than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



Reasons South Morang respondents do not visit open space

The most frequent reasons for not visiting open space were personal safety concerns and remoteness of open space at 60 per cent. South Morang respondents were concerned with personal safety 31 per cent less than the Municipal average and concerned with remoteness of open space 35 per cent more. 50 per cent of respondents indicated the lack of public transport as a reason not to visit open space, followed by 40 per cent finding open space facilities unappealing. These were above the Municipal average by 27 and 17 per cent respectively. 30 per cent of South Morang respondents cited access constraints from busy traffic and open space being uninviting as important factors. These were above the Municipal average by 15 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. Travel distance to open space was less influential in South Morang, with only 20 per cent selecting it, compared to 41 per cent Municipal wide.

30 per cent of South Morang respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included lack of footpath (1), and personal safety (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

30 per cent of South Morang respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 71 per cent of these indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 29 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space.

The table below indicates the specific open spaces not visited by respondents.

%	No.	Open space you don't visit
20%	1	Doreen Recreation Reserve
20%	1	Yan Yean Reservoir
40%	2	Hawstowe Recreation Park
40%	2	Plenty Gorge Park

3.8.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in South Morang.

The percentages are calculated based on the 33 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
94%	Local streets exercise	39%	27%	18%	3%	6%	0%
88%	Small local parks	6%	33%	27%	12%	9%	3%
79%	Major regional parklands	3%	3%	12%	6%	55%	12%
73%	Large parks and gardens	0%	3%	15%	18%	36%	15%
61%	Sporting reserves	0%	0%	24%	18%	18%	27%
55%	Medium sized parks	0%	0%	9%	15%	30%	30%
48%	Plenty River	6%	3%	9%	6%	24%	39%
39%	Urban squares	0%	9%	15%	3%	12%	48%
33%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	12%	0%	21%	55%
24%	Merri Creek	0%	9%	3%	0%	12%	70%
15%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	3%	6%	6%	70%

94 per cent of respondents indicated local streets for exercise are the most frequently used type of open space, 12 per cent higher than the Municipal average. This is followed by 88 per cent using small local parks, 8 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 79 per cent of respondents use major regional parklands, 7 per cent above the Municipal average. This type of open space is used mostly once or twice a year, consistent with the Municipal average.

61 per cent of respondents use sporting reserves, which is 14 per cent higher than the Municipal average, while Plenty River is used 13 per cent more compared with the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
85%	Local streets exercise	39%	27%	18%
67%	Small local parks	6%	33%	27%
24%	Sporting reserves	0%	0%	24%
24%	Urban squares	0%	9%	15%
18%	Major regional parklands	3%	3%	12%
18%	Plenty River	6%	3%	9%
18%	Large parks and gardens	0%	3%	15%
12%	Merri Creek	0%	9%	3%
12%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	12%
9%	Medium sized parks	0%	0%	9%
3%	Edgars Creek	0%	0%	3%

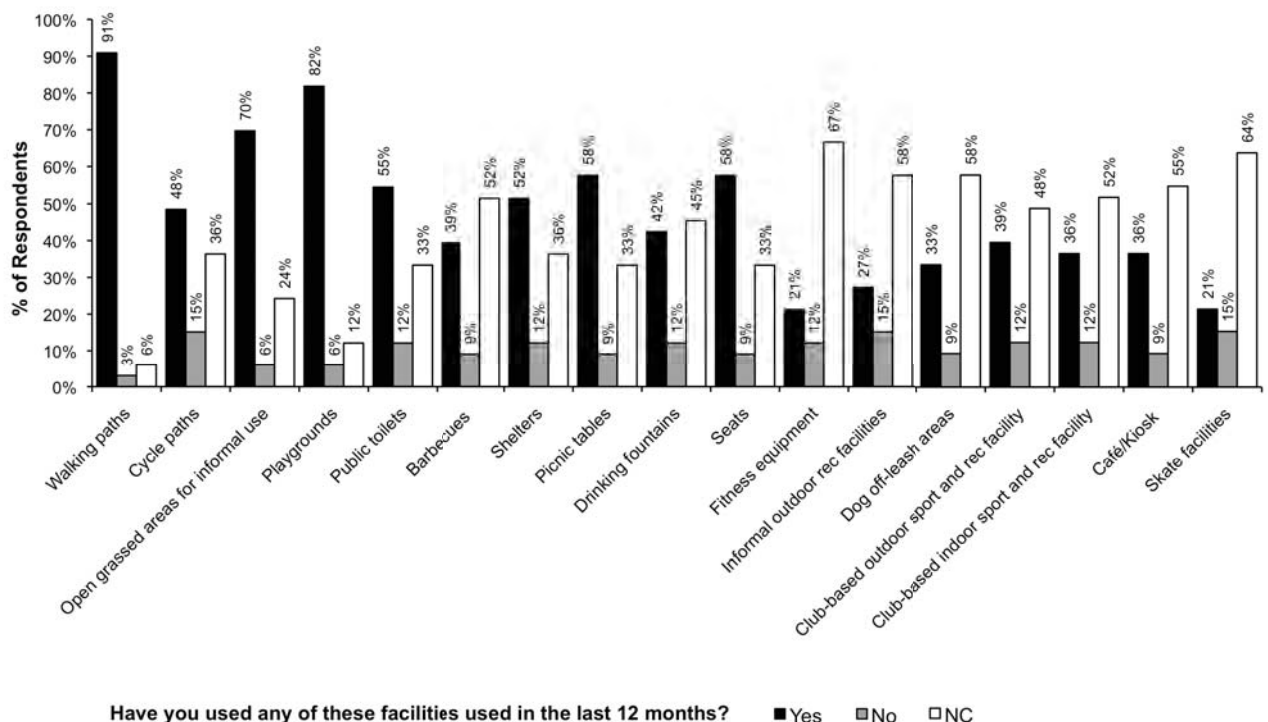
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being sporting reserves. The results generally consistent with the open space available in this precinct.

3.8.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.8.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from South Morang, 33.

- South Morang respondents' use of the facilities is generally higher than the overall Municipality, with the most frequently used facilities being walking paths, playgrounds, and open grassed areas for informal use.
- South Morang respondents indicated walking paths are the most popular facility used in the last twelve months being used by 91 per cent of respondents, 9 per cent more than the overall Municipal average.
- Playgrounds were used by 82 per cent of South Morang respondents in the last twelve months, 22 per cent higher than the overall Municipal average.
- Club-based outdoor and indoor recreation facilities were used more in South Morang, at 15 per cent and 20 per cent higher than the Municipal average respectively.
- 52 per cent of South Morang respondents used shelters, a 14 per cent increase compared to the Municipal average.
- The use of cycle paths, open grassed areas, public toilets, BBQs and picnic tables was generally 10 per cent higher than the Municipal average.



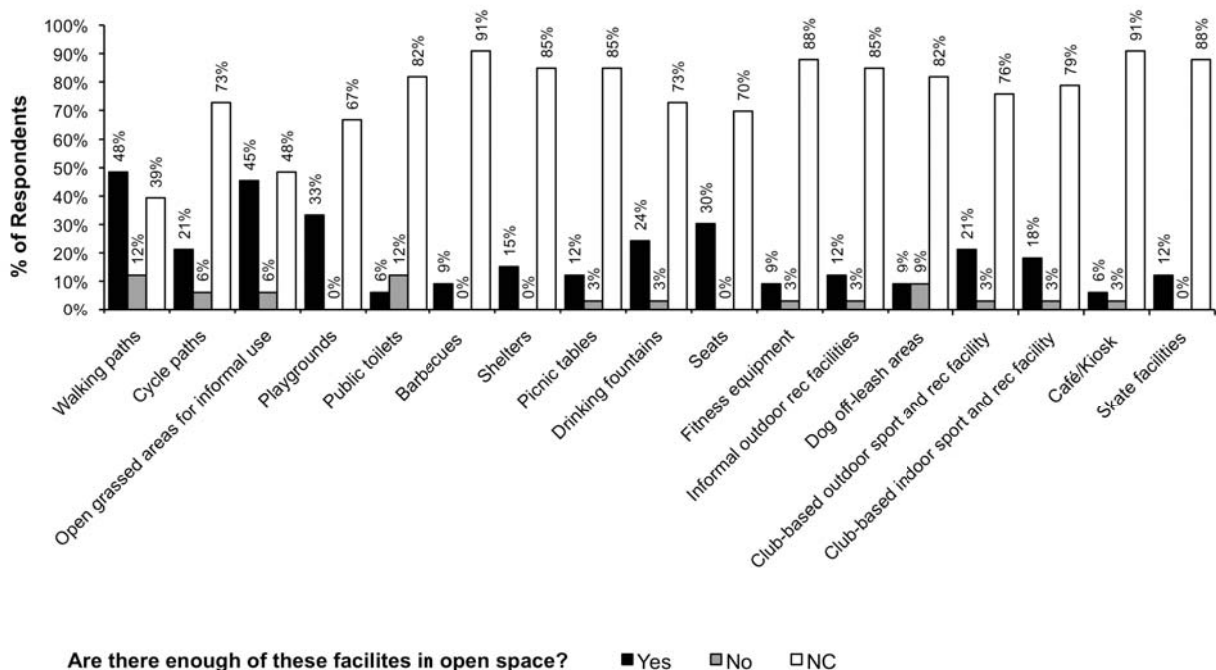
3.8.6b Provision of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of South Morang surveys received, 33.

Interpretation of these results indicates that survey respondents are generally satisfied with the provision of facilities in open space in South Morang.

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

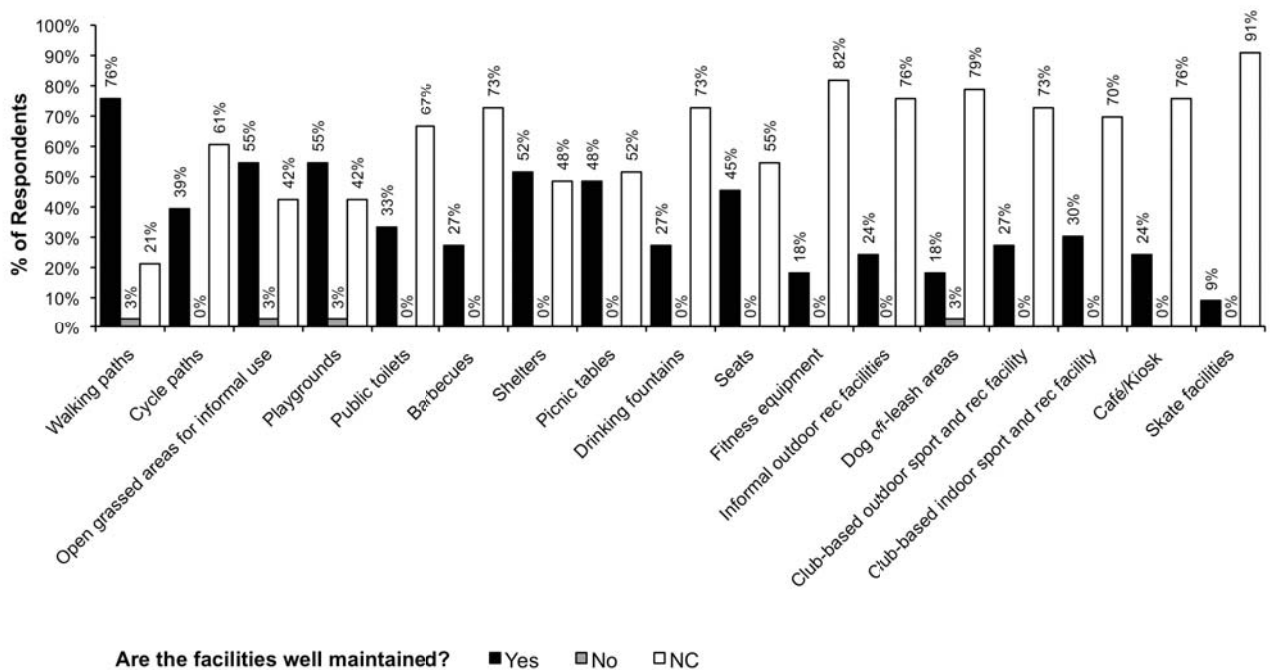
- 48 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the provision of walking paths in South Morang, which is 9 per cent higher than the overall Municipal average.
- 45 per cent of South Morang respondents consider open grassed areas for informal use well provided for, which is 9 per cent higher than the Municipal average.



3.8.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance level of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of South Morang surveys returned, 33.

- Overall, South Morang respondents are generally more satisfied with the level of maintenance of facilities in open space compared with the Municipal averages.
- 76 per cent of South Morang respondents indicated that walking paths are well maintained, 19 per cent above the Municipal average.
- 55 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the maintenance of playgrounds and open grassed areas for informal use, over 15 per cent higher than the Municipal averages.
- The level of satisfaction with maintenance of shelters in South Morang was 24 per cent higher than the Municipal average.



3.8.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from South Morang respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Management and maintenance
2	Rubbish - remove broken glass in open space
2	Maintenance - continue to maintain
1	Waterways - to be regularly cleaned
1	Vandalism - an issue
1	Security - improve surveillance
1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Dog - off-lead areas, require enforcement
1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	Open space
3	Open space - additional multi use spaces
2	Open space - enjoy using open space
1	Open space - additional required
1	Natural character - bushland feel valued
	Sport and recreation facilities
2	Sporting facilities - provide more
1	Sport - oval required
1	Playgrounds - provide more
1	Facilities - more required for teenagers
1	Basketball ring/half court - required
	Park infrastructure
2	Public toilets - provide more
1	Shelters - with BBQs required
1	Seating - provide more
1	Park infrastructure - provide more
	Other
2	Overall strategy - Council doing a good job
	Access
1	Links - improve links to open space
	Paths
1	Shared paths - address gaps in shared paths so they are continuous
	Trees and vegetation
1	Retain grasslands/habitat value
	Cultural heritage events and arts
1	Events - provide more

3.9 Thomastown

Number of respondents

62 respondents indicated they live in Thomastown. This represents 10 percent of total surveys received. Census figures indicate 13 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population lives in Thomastown.

3.9.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their Municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Thomastown, 62. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

68 per cent of respondents consider trees as the most valued features of open space in Thomastown, this is 6 per cent higher than the Municipal average. Open space for being outside, flowers/garden beds, and fitness are also all valued more highly by Thomastown respondents when compared with the Municipal average.

%	Value
68%	Place to relax and unwind
68%	Trees
60%	Place for kids to play
52%	Just being outside
50%	Flowers/garden beds
50%	Fitness
47%	Health and wellbeing
45%	Escape from buildings and roads
45%	Habitat for native plants and animals
40%	Spacious
40%	Quiet
40%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
39%	Accessible
39%	Green character
35%	Meeting people/friends
35%	Natural bushland character
32%	Playing sport
27%	The diversity of open space
26%	Historical character
24%	Knowledge that it's there
23%	Cultural activities and events
23%	Playing casual games
21%	Watching activity
10%	Other

The other category included a range of comments including walking and the environmental benefits of open space.

3.9.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 62 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.9.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

The following table lists the open spaces visited within walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
23%	14	Main Street Recreation Reserve
21%	13	Barry Road Park
13%	8	Ancillary open space*
10%	6	Nick Ascenzo Park
10%	6	Pandora Park
8%	5	Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail
6%	4	Whittlesea Public Gardens
5%	3	Edgars Creek
5%	3	Thomas Street Recreation Reserve
5%	3	Victoria Park
3%	2	Dalton Road Neighbourhood Park
3%	2	Lorne Park
2%	1	Bundoora Park
2%	1	Chantal Park
2%	1	Edwards Lake Park
2%	1	Oaklands Tree Reserve
2%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
2%	1	R.G.C. Cook Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Stonehaven Drive Park
2%	1	Symon Park
2%	1	Woodlands Place Park

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.9.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Thomastown

The following table lists the reasons why Thomastown respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Main Street Recreation Reserve	4	Reasons Dog walking

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
14	2	Ball games
	2	Exercising
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Football - spectating
	1	Golf
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Open space - uncrowded
	1	Paths - good quality
	1	Relaxation
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Sport - spectating
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Access - improve access to river
	1	Basketball ring/half court - improvements required
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Sporting facilities - upgrade existing
	1	Vegetation - more screen planting required
Barry Road Park 13		Reasons
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Fitness
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	2	Relaxation
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog off-lead area
	1	Dog socialising
	1	Exercising
	1	Natural character
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Open space - fresh air
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	2	BBQs - more required
	2	Drainage - improve on ovals
	2	Exercise equipment - more required
	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Fence - safety fence around lake required
1	Gates - provide more	
1	Lighting - additional required	
1	Open space - upgrade required	
1	Playgrounds - improvements required	
1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups	

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1 1 1 1 1 1	Seating - provide more Security - improve surveillance Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required Sporting facilities - clubroom upgrade/maintenance required Vegetation - more flowers and colour required Waterbody - provide more
Ancillary open space 8	3 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Relaxation Shopping Walking Exercising Play - take children to the park Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups Paths - provide more unsealed Track e.g. 'The Tan' Playgrounds - improvements required Vegetation - pruning required
Pandora Park 6	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Access - passing through/shortcut Dog socialising Dog walking Fitness Open space - grassed areas Open space - peaceful/quiet Play - take children to the park Play - take grandchildren to the park Playground and equipment Walking Improvements Park facilities - provide more Playgrounds - improvements required Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups Playgrounds - safety improvements required Rubbish bins - more required Trees - more shade trees required Vegetation - more flowers and colour required
Nick Ascenzo Park 6	4 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	Reasons Walking Access - close to home Open space - peaceful/quiet Open space - being outdoors/outside Paths - walking Play - take grandchildren to the park Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Vegetation - more flowers and colour required Drinking fountains - provide more

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Public toilets - maintenance and cleaning required
	1	Trees - additional required
Metropolitan Ring Rd Trail 5	2	Reasons Cycling
	2	Walking
	1	Dog walking
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Vegetation - native
	1	improvements Cyclists - conflicts with pedestrians on shared paths
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Paths - provide more unsealed Track e.g. 'The Tan'
	1	Security - improve surveillance
Whittlesea Public Gardens 4	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Dog socialising
	1	Dog walking
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Park facilities - provide more
	1	Park furniture - improvements required
Victoria Park 3	2	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - safety improvements required
Thomas Street Recreation Reserve 3	1	Reasons Exercising
	1	Golf
	1	Relaxation
	1	Sport - playing
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Lighting - additional required
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Vegetation - more screen planting required
Edgars Creek 3	1	Reasons Access - close to home
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Motorbikes - do not allow in parks

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Lorne Park 2	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Picnics Improvements Ambience - improvements to general ambience required BBQs - improvements required Shelters - upgrade/repair required
Dalton Road Neighbourhood Park 2	1 1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Fencing - more required
Woodlands Place Park 1	1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet
Symon Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Access - easy to access
Redleap Recreation Reserve 1	1 1	Reasons Birdlife - feeding Improvements Paths - surface needs improvements
R.G.C. Cook Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Sport - playing
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1 1	Reasons Jogging/running Open space - fresh air
Oaklands Tree Reserve 1	1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park
Edwards Lake Park 1	1 1	Reasons Walking Improvements Security - improve surveillance
Chantal Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Play - take grandchildren to the park Improvements Shade - provide more Trees - more shade trees required
Bundoora Park 1	1 1	Reasons Fitness Improvements Security - improve surveillance

3.9.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 62 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.9.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

The following table lists the open spaces visited beyond walking distance of home.

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
13%	8	Edwards Lake Park
8%	5	Other open space outside the Municipality
8%	5	Whittlesea Public Gardens
6%	4	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
5%	3	Ancillary open space*
5%	3	Mill Park Recreation Reserve
3%	2	Bundoora Park
3%	2	Thomastown East Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Barry Road Park
2%	1	H.R. Uren Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Lalor Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Main Street Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Mernda Villages Wetland
2%	1	Plenty Gorge River
2%	1	Redleap Recreation Reserve
2%	1	V.R. Michael Reserve

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.9.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Thomastown respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
Edwards Lake Park		Reasons
8	2	Fitness equipment
	2	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	BBQs
	1	Birdlife - breeding refuge for birdlife
	1	Birdlife - feeding
	1	Exercising
	1	Jogging/running
	1	Lighting - provided
	1	Open space - away from busy roads and traffic
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Views and vistas
	1	Walking
	1	Waterbody
		Improvements
	1	CCTV required
	1	Events - provide more

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	1	Public toilets - to be open daily
	1	Security - improve surveillance
Whittlesea Public Gardens 5		Reasons
	1	Dog off-lead area
	1	Dog socialising
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Relaxation
		Improvements
	2	Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Gates - provide more
	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Trees - plant more exotic/deciduous trees
	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Waterbody - improvements required
Other open space outside the Municipality 5		Reasons
	2	Dog walking
	1	Natural character - bushland environment
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Paths - walking
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	Events - provide more
	1	Protection from wind required
	1	Vegetation - more shrubs required
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 4		Reasons
	2	Views and vistas
	1	BBQs
	1	Facilities
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Picnics
	1	Relaxation
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	1	BBQs - more required
Ancillary open space		Reasons
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Exercising
	1	Shopping
		Improvements
	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
	1	Paths - more required
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 3		Reasons
	1	BBQs
	1	Cycling - paths
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Paths - walking

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Signage - directional required
Thomastown East Recreation Reserve 2	1	Reasons Tennis
	1	Improvements Carpark - maintenance required
	1	Security - improve surveillance
Bundoora Park 2	1	Reasons Facilities
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Open space - retain as is
V.R. Michael Reserve 1	1	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	improvements Playgrounds - provide more
Redleap Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Picnics
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - improvements required
Plenty Gorge River 1	1	Reasons Jogging/running
	1	Improvements Cyclists - conflicts with pedestrians on shared paths
Mernda Villages Wetland 1	1	Reasons Facilities
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Public toilets - provide more
Main Street Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Lack of open space in local area
	1	Improvements Playgrounds - provide more
Lalor Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Walking
H.R. Uren Recreation Reserve 1	1	Reasons Access - close to public transport
	1	Improvements Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
Barry Road Park 1	1	Reasons Dog socialising
		Improvements

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Shelters - provide more

3.9.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

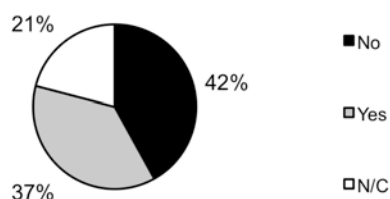
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

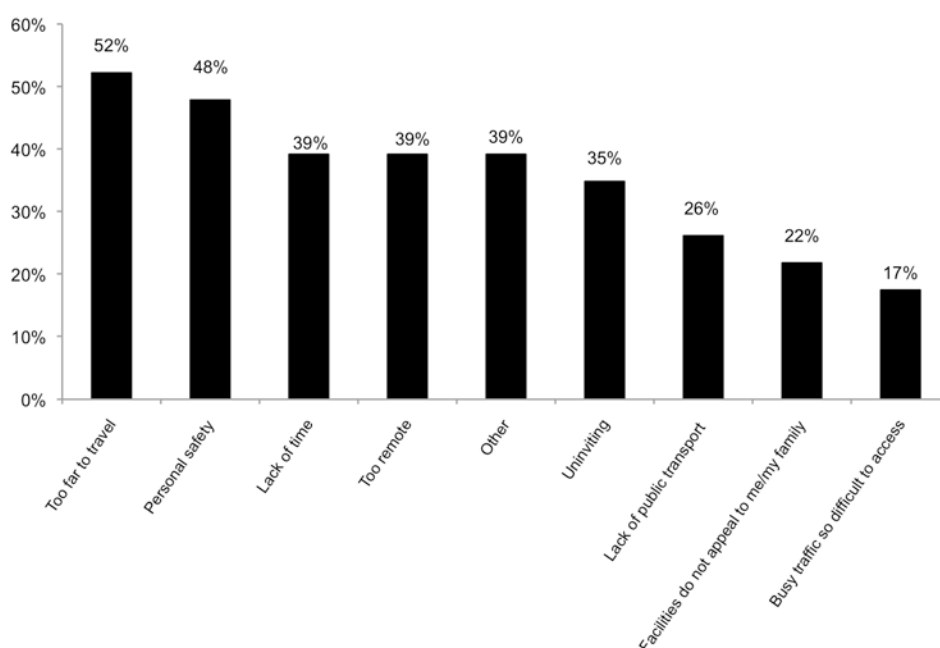
The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 62 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 23 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

Part 1 Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

37 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is higher than the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



Part 2 The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



Reasons Thomastown respondents do not visit open space

The most frequent reason for not visiting open space was travel distance at 52 per cent, followed by personal safety at 48 per cent. These were an 11 per cent and 19 per cent higher respectively when compared to the Municipal average. 39 per cent of Thomastown respondents do not visit open space due to remoteness, 14 per cent above the Municipal average. 39 per cent of respondents also identified lack of time as a reason, however this is 9 per cent below the Municipal average. These were followed by the reason that open space was uninviting at 35 per cent, which is above the Municipal average of 22 per cent.

39 per cent of Thomastown respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included lack of information/knowledge (4), as well as facilities do not appeal to me or my family (1), health issues (1), lack of footpath (1), and personal safety concerns (1).

Part 3 Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

37 per cent of Thomastown respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 27 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 5 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space. The specific open space not visited by respondents was Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

3.9.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Thomastown.

The percentages are calculated based on the 62 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
79%	Local streets exercise	40%	23%	5%	8%	3%	6%
68%	Small local parks	11%	16%	21%	6%	13%	16%
65%	Urban squares	8%	11%	18%	11%	16%	23%
61%	Sporting reserves	13%	10%	8%	15%	16%	21%
58%	Large parks and gardens	5%	6%	8%	11%	27%	24%
56%	Edgars Creek	16%	6%	16%	6%	11%	31%
53%	Major regional parklands	0%	2%	3%	6%	42%	34%
45%	Medium sized parks	5%	3%	11%	3%	23%	37%
34%	Merri Creek	3%	6%	3%	3%	18%	50%
24%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	6%	3%	11%	60%
19%	Plenty River	2%	0%	3%	3%	11%	61%

Local streets for exercise are the most commonly and frequently used type of open space by Thomastown respondents. While the total use is slightly lower than the Municipal average, 40 per cent of Thomastown respondents use local streets for exercise daily, which is 11 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 68 per cent of Thomastown respondents also utilise small local parks with 21 per cent of respondents using them at least once a week.

65 per cent of respondents use urban squares and 61 per cent use sporting reserves. These are 18 and 14 per cent above the Municipal average respectively. 53 per cent of respondents visit major regional parklands, 19 per

cent less than the overall Municipality. At 56 per cent, Edgars Creek is used more frequently in Thomastown when compared to the Municipal average of 22 per cent.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
68%	Local streets exercise	40%	23%	5%
48%	Small local parks	11%	16%	21%
39%	Edgars Creek	16%	6%	16%
37%	Urban squares	8%	11%	18%
31%	Sporting reserves	13%	10%	8%
19%	Large parks and gardens	5%	6%	8%
19%	Medium sized parks	5%	3%	11%
13%	Merri Creek	3%	6%	3%
10%	Darebin Creek	2%	2%	6%
5%	Major regional parklands	0%	2%	3%
5%	Plenty River	2%	0%	3%

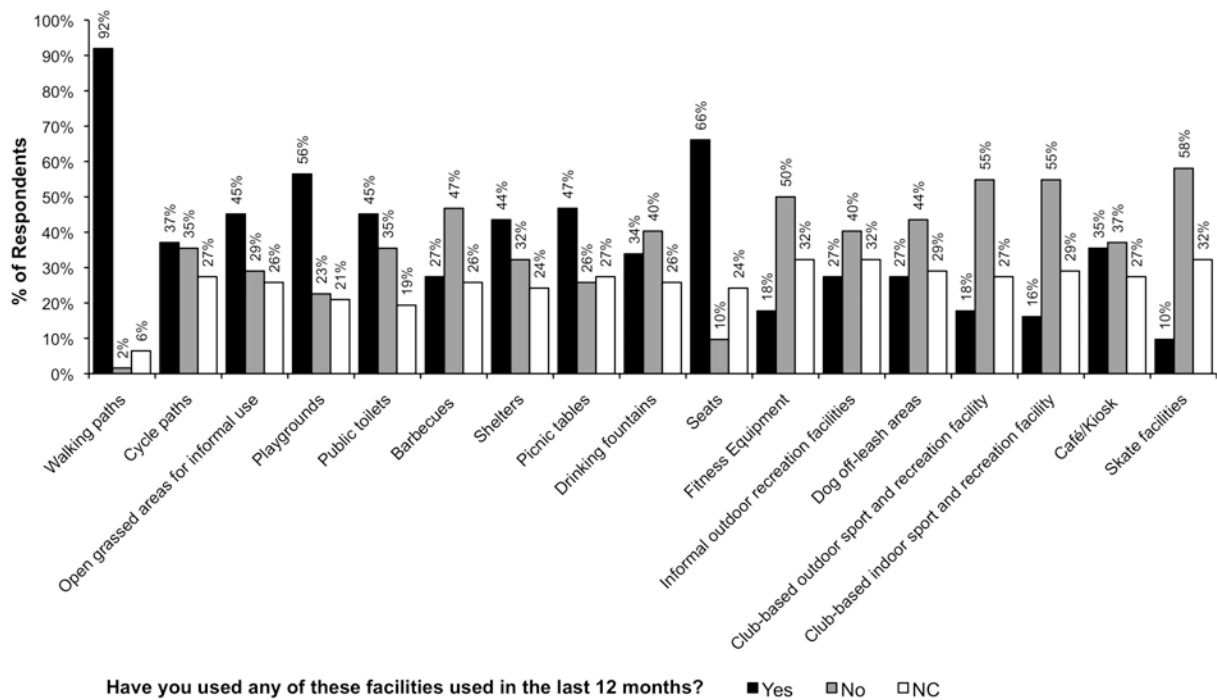
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise is the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being Edgars Creek. The use of sporting reserves and urban squares is significantly higher than the Municipal average.

3.9.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.9.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Thomastown, 62.

- Thomastown respondents indicated walking paths are the most popular facility used in the last twelve months being used by 92 per cent of respondents, 10 per cent more than the overall Municipal average.
- Thomastown respondents use open grassed areas for informal use 17 per cent less than the Municipal average.
- At 55 per cent, a higher percentage of Thomastown respondents do not use club based indoor and outdoor recreation facilities when compared to the Municipal average of 42 and 38 per cent respectively.



3.9.6b Provision of facilities in open space

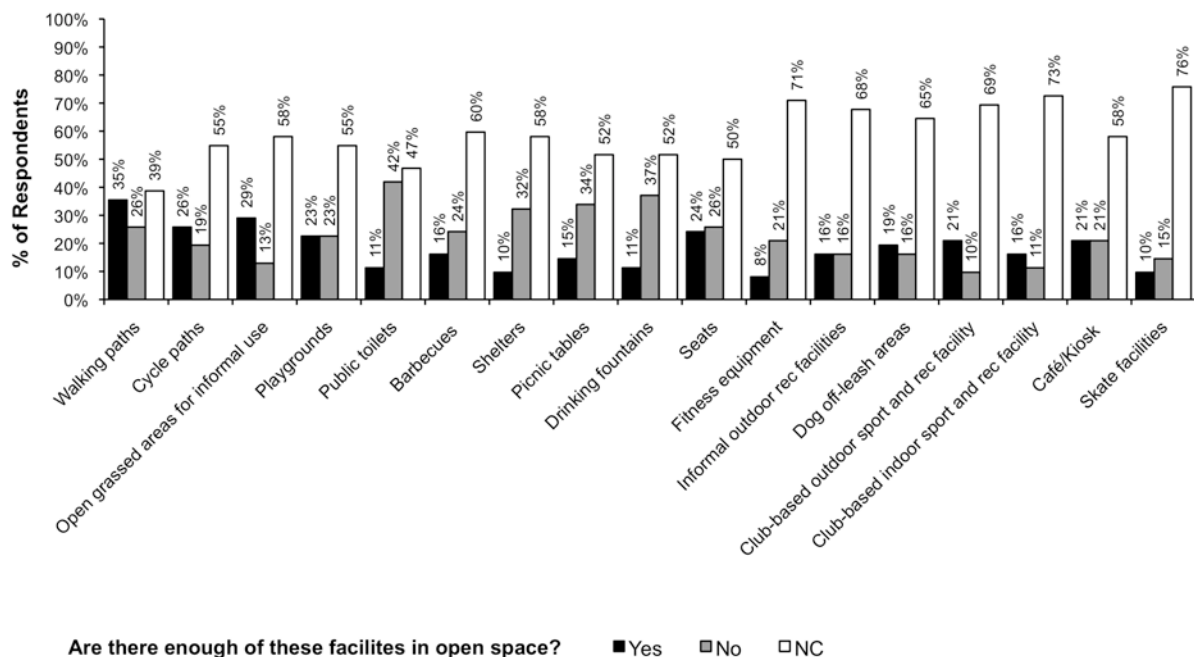
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Thomastown surveys received, 62.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Public toilets
- Drinking fountains
- Picnic tables
- Shelters
- Walking paths and seats
- Barbecues
- Playgrounds
- Fitness equipment and cafe/kiosk

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

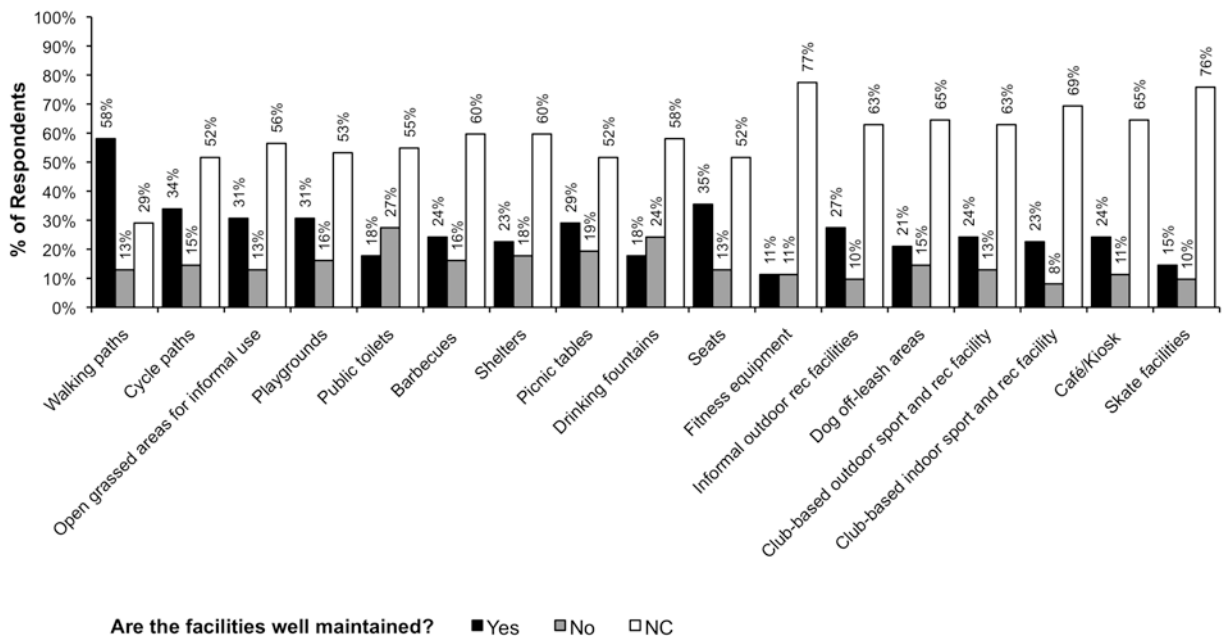
- 42 per cent of respondents were not satisfied with the provision of public toilets in Thomastown, 12 per cent above the Municipal average.
- Approximately 10 per cent of Thomastown respondents consider picnic tables, drinking fountains, and shelters to be less well provided for compared with the Municipal average.



3.9.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Thomastown surveys returned, 62.

- Only 31 per cent of respondents consider playgrounds as well maintained, 13 per cent below the Municipal average.
- Only 31 per cent of survey respondents consider open grassed areas for informal use to be well maintained, 18 per cent below the Municipal average.
- Public toilets, shelters, picnic tables, and drinking fountains were considered less well maintained in Thomastown, approximately 10 per cent below the Municipal average.



3.9.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the Municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Thomastown respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Open space
2	Ambience - general ambience needs improvement
2	Open space - additional multi use spaces
2	Open space - additional required
2	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
1	Open space - ensure council distributes funds equally across the Municipality
1	Open space - important to create a sense of community
1	Open space - improve design and layout
1	Open space - improve maintenance
	Sport and recreation facilities
2	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment for a range of age groups
2	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
1	Exercise equipment - more required
1	Playgrounds - provide more creative/diverse character
1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
1	Tennis - facilities more required
1	Waterway use - improvements required
	Park infrastructure
2	Public toilets - provide more
1	Cafe/kiosk facilities - more required
1	Lighting - additional required
1	Park infrastructure - provide more
1	Rubbish bins - more required
1	Seating - provide more
1	Shelters - provide more
1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	Management and maintenance
2	Security - improve surveillance
2	Vandalism - an issue
1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
1	Maintenance - continue to maintain
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance and cleaning required
1	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
1	Security - increase lighting
	Trees and vegetation
1	Garden beds - improvement required
1	Trees - additional required
1	Trees - important for shade
1	Trees - more street tree planting required
1	Trees - plant more exotic trees

No.	General comments
1	Vegetation - improve maintenance
1	Vegetation - more shrubs required
1	Vegetation - more streetscape planting required
	Other
1	Development - adjoining open space maintain height restrictions
1	Development - concerns about impact on open space
1	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase awareness
1	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available
	Paths
1	Cycle paths - more required
1	Paths - address gaps in linear paths so they are continuous
1	Shared paths - address gaps in shared paths so they are continuous
	Access
1	Access - improve driver awareness of pedestrians in open space
1	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
1	Links - improve links to open space
	Cultural heritage events and arts
1	Events - provide more
1	Festivals - more required

3.10 Whittlesea

Number of respondents

48 respondents indicated they live in Whittlesea. This represents 8 per cent of the total surveys received. Census figures indicate that 3 per cent of the City of Whittlesea population live in Whittlesea.

3.10.1 Values of open space

Respondents were asked to indicate what they valued most about the open spaces in their municipality and were invited to select any of the twenty-three values listed, with an option to add additional values under the 'other' category.

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the total number of returned surveys for Whittlesea, 48. The table below illustrates the information, listing the twenty-three values in priority order.

69 per cent of respondents consider the opportunity to relax and unwind as the most valued feature of open space, 3 per cent lower than the Municipal average. This is followed by 65 per cent of respondents who value trees 3 per cent above the Municipal average. Over 54 per cent of Whittlesea respondents consider open space important as a place for kids to play, however this is almost 10 per cent lower than the Municipal average. Whittlesea respondents value open space for natural bushland character and as a quiet place 9 per cent above the Municipal average. Open space to escape from traffic and noise, and for playing sport were less valued, being 14 per cent below the Municipal average.

%	Value
69%	Place to relax and unwind
65%	Trees
54%	Place for kids to play
52%	Habitat for native plants and animals
52%	Natural bushland character
48%	Health and wellbeing
48%	Quiet
44%	Accessible
44%	Spacious
42%	Just being outside
40%	Escape from buildings and roads
38%	Meeting people/friends
33%	Knowledge that it's there
29%	Escape from traffic noise and movement
29%	The diversity of open space
27%	Fitness
27%	Flowers/garden beds
23%	Green character
21%	Historical character
15%	Playing casual games
13%	Cultural activities and events
13%	Watching activity

%	Value
10%	Other
10%	Playing sport

The other category included a range of comments with the most frequent being dog walking.

3.10.2 Open space within walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 48 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.10.2a Most frequently visited open spaces

%	No.	Open space within walking distance
21%	10	A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve
13%	6	Ancillary open space*
13%	6	Whittlesea Showgrounds
13%	6	Willow Park
10%	5	Lions Club Park
8%	4	55 Church Street
8%	4	Whittlesea Park
4%	2	460W Towts Rd
4%	2	Crystal Views Wetland
4%	2	Scrubby Creek Reserve
2%	1	105 Bruces Creek Whittlesea (Scouts)
2%	1	115 Capstone Dr Whittlesea
2%	1	Bundoora Park
2%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
2%	1	Toorourrong Reservoir Park
2%	1	Walker Tree Reserve
2%	1	Whittlesea Football Ground
2%	1	Yangoora Wells Wetland

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.10.2b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements to open space within walking distance in Whittlesea

The following table lists the reasons why Whittlesea respondents visit open space within walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve 10		Reasons
	5	Dog walking
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Walking

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Health and wellbeing
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Playground and equipment
	1	Wildlife watching
		Improvements
	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Seating - provide more
	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Open space - develop it
	1	Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
	1	Public toilets - to be located near playgrounds
Ancillary open space 6		Reasons
	3	Dog walking
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes
	1	Open space - grassed areas
	1	Open space - large space
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Walking
		Improvements
	2	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Open space - additional large green spaces
	1	Rubbish bins - more required
Whittlesea Showgrounds 6		Reasons
	2	Exercising
	2	Festivals and markets
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Dog walking
		Improvements
	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
Willow Park 6		Reasons
	4	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Access - close to home
	1	Access - easy to access
	1	Open space - grassed areas
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take children to the park
	1	Trees - significant
		Improvements
	2	Picnic tables - provide more
	2	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
Lions Club Park 5		Reasons
	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
	2	Access - close to home
	2	Community hub/meeting place
	1	BBQs
	1	Picnics
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park
		Improvements
	3	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Access - improvements required
	1	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
55 Church Street 4		Reasons
	2	Access - close to shops/cafes
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Playground and equipment
		Improvements
	1	Picnic tables - provide more
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Seating - provide more
Whittlesea Park 4		Reasons
	2	Walking
	1	Cycling
	1	Dog walking
	1	Exercising
	1	Native vegetation
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
460W Towts Rd 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Open space - retain as is
Crystal Views Wetland 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Playground and equipment
		Improvements
	1	Drainage - improvements required
	1	Protection from wind required
Scrubby Creek Reserve 2		Reasons
	1	Access - close to home
	1	Natural character
		Improvements
	2	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
	1	Trees - plant more native/indigenous trees

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvements
105 Bruces Creek Whittlesea (Scouts) 1	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Family friendly Fitness Horse riding Play - take children to the park Walking Improvements Vegetation - improve weed control
115 Capstone Dr Whittlesea 1	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Family friendly Horse riding Natural character - bushland environment Play - take children to the park Walking Improvements Paths - maintenance/improvements required
Bundoora Park 1	1 1	Reasons Dog walking Exercising Improvements Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
Hawstowe Recreation Park 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - ambience, beauty Paths - good quality Improvements Information - more information about open space and facilities/activities available
Toorourrong Reservoir Park 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home Improvements Cycle paths - connecting paths to the main trail required
Walker Tree Reserve 1	1	Reasons Access - close to home Improvements Drainage - improve on ovals
Whittlesea Football Ground 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Open space - clean Improvements Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required Open space - retain as is
Yangoora Wells Wetland 1	1 1	Reasons Open space - peaceful/quiet Views and vistas Improvements Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups

3.10.3 Open space beyond walking distance

In the following table, the percentage is calculated on the total 48 surveys received. The number is the total number of survey responses for each specific open space, and they are listed in priority order.

3.10.3a Most frequently visited open space beyond walking distance

%	No.	Open space beyond walking distance
13%	6	Yan Yean Reservoir Park
10%	5	Mernda Villages Wetland
8%	4	Mernda Creek Park
6%	3	Bundoora Park
6%	3	Laurimar Creek Reserve
4%	2	Plenty Gorge River
4%	2	Whittlesea Park
2%	1	Ancillary open space*
2%	1	Breadalbane Redgum Reserve
2%	1	Hawstowe Recreation Park
2%	1	Hill Top Park
2%	1	Kinglake National Park
2%	1	Laurimar Hill Park
2%	1	Laurimar Wetlands
2%	1	Lions Club Park
2%	1	Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve
2%	1	Mernda Recreation Reserve
2%	1	Other open space outside the Municipality
2%	1	Whittlesea Showgrounds
2%	1	Willow Park

*Ancillary open space includes shopping plazas, streetscapes and school grounds, etc.

3.10.3b Reasons for visiting and suggested improvements

The following table lists the reasons why Whittlesea respondents visit open space beyond walking distance along with any suggested improvements, and are listed in priority order. The numbers underneath the park names are the total number of respondents who reported visiting that specific open space.

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvement
Yan Yean Reservoir Park		Reasons
6	2	Open space - ambience, beauty
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	2	Picnics
	2	Waterbody
	1	Dog walking
	1	Facilities
	1	Historic character
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Trees
	1	Views and vistas

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvement
		Improvements
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Cycle paths - connection paths where required
	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Vegetation - improve weed control
Mernda Creek Park 4	4	Reasons Dog socialising
	2	Improvements Drainage - improve on ovals
	1	Dog - drinking facilities, more required
	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Open space - retain as is
Mernda Villages Wetland 5	2	Reasons Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	2	Playground and equipment
	1	Birdlife - watching
	1	Open space - none within walking distance
	1	Waterbody
	2	Improvements Public toilets - provide more
	1	Open space - provide additional
	1	Seating - provide more
Bundoora Park 3	1	Reasons Dog walking
	1	Family friendly
	1	Festivals and markets
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
Laurimar Creek Reserve 3	1	Reasons Birdlife - watching
	1	Trees - native
	1	Views and vistas
	1	Walking
	1	Improvements Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Paths - more required
Plenty Gorge River 2	1	Reasons Kite flying
	1	Views and vistas
	1	Improvements Paths - more required
Whittlesea Park 2	1	Reasons Birdlife - breeding refuge for birdlife
	1	Community hub/meeting place
	1	Horse riding
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)
	1	Sport - spectating
	1	Improvements Pedestrian bridge - requires maintenance
	1	Seating - provide more

Open space	No.	Reasons to visit and suggested improvement
Breadalbane Redgum Reserve 1	1 1 1	Reasons Picnics Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Hawstowe Recreation Park 1	1	Reasons Picnics
Hill Top Park 1	1 1 1 1 1	Reasons Open space - diversity of spaces Open space - grassed areas Paths - walking Play (equipment not specifically nominated) Improvements Open space - additional large green spaces
Kinglake National Park 1	1	Reasons Playground and equipment
Laurimar Hill Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Family friendly Open space - ambience, beauty Improvements Public toilets - provide more
Laurimar Wetlands 1	1 1	Reasons Cycling Improvements Cycle paths - more required
Lions Club Park 1	1 1 1	Reasons Playground and equipment Improvements Pedestrian crossing - more required Public toilets - provide more
Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve 1	1 1	Reasons Athletics Improvements Seating - provide more in shaded areas
Mernda Recreation Reserve 1	1	Improvements Sporting facilities - provide more
Other open space outside the Municipality 1	1 1	Reasons Sport - spectating Improvements Seating - provide more
Whittlesea Showgrounds 1	1	Reasons Open space - enjoy using open space
Willow Park 1	1 1	Reasons Access - close to home Improvements Exercise equipment - more required

3.10.4 Open space not visited

This question was asked to find out what issues currently limit the use of existing open space by respondents. The question included some of the common reasons why people may not use open space. The reasons can apply either to a specific open space or more broadly to open space in general.

The question has been analysed below in 3 parts:

Part 1 – whether there is open space they would like to visit but are unable to.

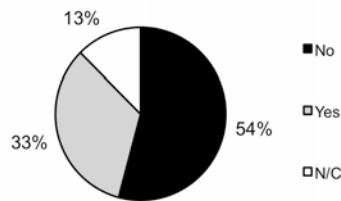
Part 2 – the reasons they are unable to visit open space.

Part 3 – specific open spaces they are unable to visit.

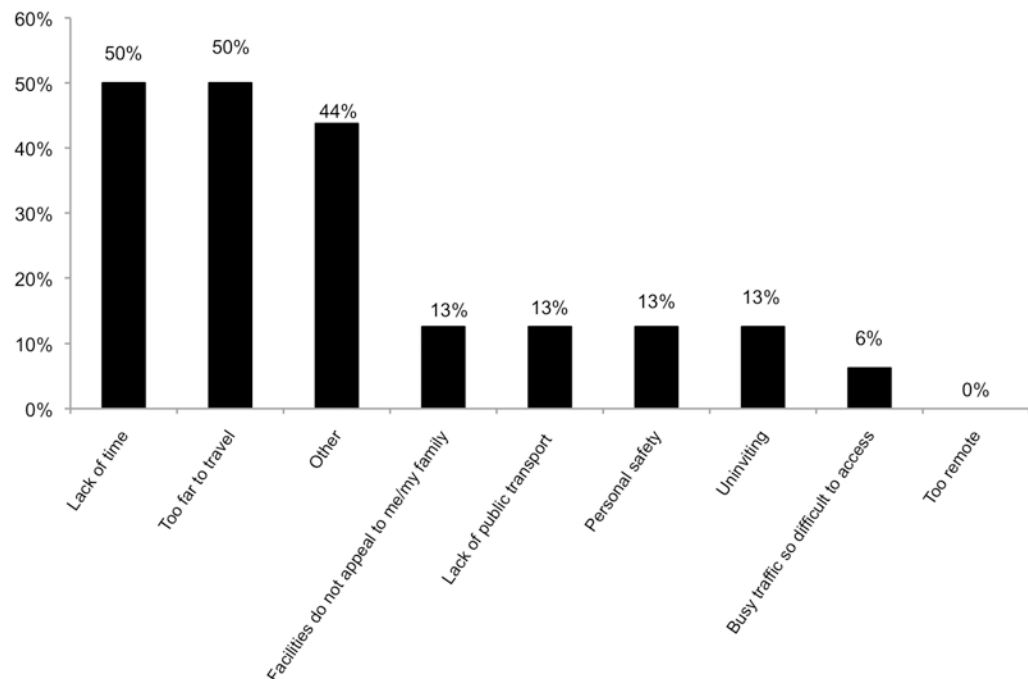
The percentages nominated in Part 1 are a proportion of the total 48 surveys received. The percentages nominated in Part 2 are a percentage of the 16 respondents who answered yes to the first part of the question.

3.10.4a Is there open space you would like to visit but are unable to?

33 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to visit open space but are unable to. This is consistent with the Municipal average of 32 per cent.



3.10.4b The reasons why you are unable to visit open space:



Reasons Whittlesea respondents do not visit open space

The most frequent reasons for not visiting open space were travel distance and lack of time at 50 per cent. Whittlesea respondents were concerned with travel

distance 9 per cent more than the Municipal average and concerned with lack of time 2 per cent more. Only 13 per cent of Whittlesea respondents selected personal safety concerns as a reason for not visiting open space in Whittlesea, 16 per cent below the Municipal average. No respondents selected open space being uninviting as a reason. The remaining reasons for not visiting open space were 9 to 10 per cent below the Municipal average.

44 per cent of Whittlesea respondents selected the 'other' category and listed other reasons they don't visit open space generally, or a specific open space. These included lack of information/knowledge (4), access - closed (1), busy traffic so difficult to access (1), lack of shade/tress (1), and lack of waterway maintenance (1)

3.10.4c Specific open spaces that you would like to visit but are unable to:

33 per cent of Whittlesea respondents said they would like to visit open space but are unable to. 23 per cent indicate they don't visit open space in general, while 4 per cent indicate they don't visit a specific open space.

The specific open spaces not visited by respondents were Barry Road Park (1), Plenty Gorge Park (1), and Yan Yean Reservoir Park (1).

3.10.5 Types of open space visited and frequency of use

The following table shows the frequency of use of different types of open space in Whittlesea.

The percentages are calculated based on the 48 completed surveys. The total percentage column shown on the left hand side of the table is the sum of total use and does not include never and not completed responses. The percentages on the right hand side indicate frequency of use. The percentages in Table A below have been highlighted using shades of colour to assist with interpretation of the results.

	0% to 9%
	10% to 19%
	20% to 29%
	30% to 39%
	40% and over

Table A Types of open spaces used in priority order.

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly	Monthly	1 to 2 times p/a	Never
88%	Small local parks	8%	25%	19%	21%	15%	8%
83%	Major regional parklands	0%	0%	6%	15%	63%	8%
69%	Local streets exercise	25%	21%	10%	8%	4%	21%
48%	Large parks and gardens	2%	0%	4%	15%	27%	40%
42%	Plenty River	2%	0%	4%	8%	27%	44%
42%	Medium sized parks	0%	4%	0%	17%	21%	46%
40%	Sporting reserves	2%	2%	4%	8%	23%	52%
35%	Urban squares	2%	2%	6%	13%	13%	50%
17%	Merri Creek	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%	73%
15%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	73%
13%	Edgars Creek	0%	2%	0%	0%	10%	71%

Small local parks are the most frequently used type of open space by Whittlesea respondents at 88 per cent. This is 8 per cent higher than the Municipal average. 83 per cent of Whittlesea respondents utilise major regional parklands, with 63 per cent of respondents visiting them 1 to 2 times a year. This is an increase of 10 per cent on the Municipal average. Local streets for exercise are the most frequently used on a daily basis, however the overall use average was 6 per cent lower than the Municipal average.

42 per cent of Whittlesea respondents use Plenty River, which is a 7 per cent increase compared with the Municipal average. Large parks and gardens were used less in Whittlesea, 22 per cent less the Municipal average. The Merri Creek and Darebin Creek were also used less in Whittlesea, over 10 per cent below the Municipal average.

Table B Frequently visited types of open spaces in priority order

Total	Types of Open Space	Daily	2/3 week	Weekly
56%	Local streets exercise	25%	21%	10%
52%	Small local parks	8%	25%	19%
10%	Urban squares	2%	2%	6%
8%	Sporting reserves	2%	2%	4%
6%	Major regional parklands	0%	0%	6%
6%	Plenty River	2%	0%	4%
6%	Large parks and gardens	2%	0%	4%
4%	Medium sized parks	0%	4%	0%
2%	Edgars Creek	0%	2%	0%
0%	Merri Creek	0%	0%	0%
0%	Darebin Creek	0%	0%	0%

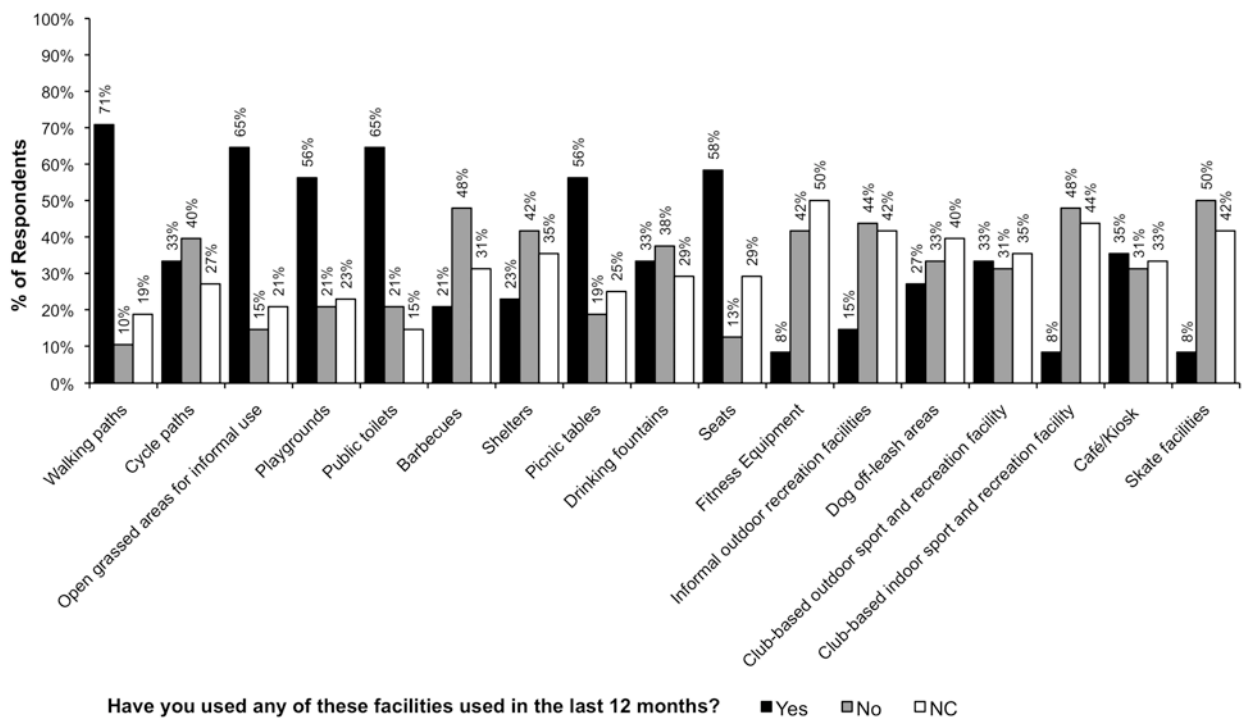
In terms of the most frequently used open space, local streets for exercise are the most popular followed by small local parks and the third being urban squares.

3.10.6 Facilities and features in open space

3.10.6a Use of facilities and features in open space

The following table indicates use of facilities in open space over the last twelve months. The percentages are calculated on the number of returned surveys from Whittlesea, 42.

- 65 per cent of Whittlesea respondents indicated they used public toilets, 16 per cent above the Municipal average.
- Use of club-based outdoor sport and recreation facilities was also higher in Whittlesea compared with the Municipal average.
- Use of fitness equipment, informal outdoor sport and recreation facilities, walking paths, cycle paths, playgrounds, BBQs and shelters were all slightly lower than the Municipal average.



3.10.6b Provision of facilities in open space

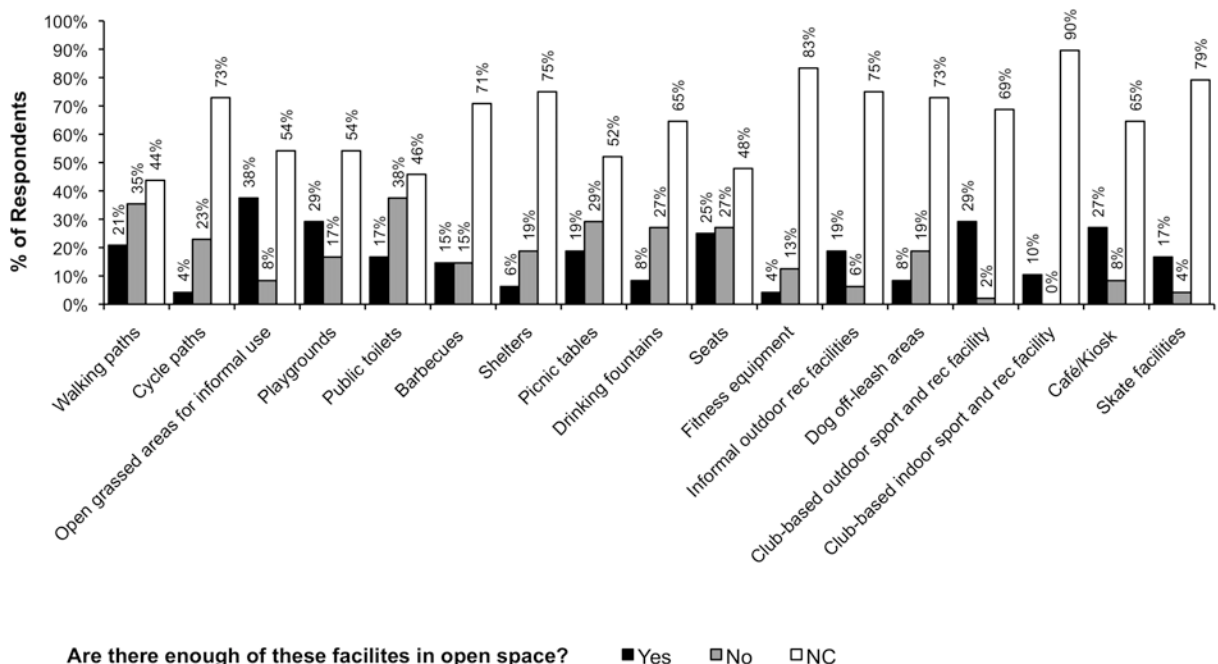
The following graph illustrates the percentage of respondents that consider the various facilities within open space either are or are not adequately provided for. Percentages are calculated on the total number of Whittlesea surveys received, 42.

Interpretation of these results indicates that there is scope to improve facility provision in open space to encourage greater use. This includes the following facilities in priority order where 20 per cent or more responded they are not well provided for:

- Public toilets
- Walking paths
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountains and seats
- Cycle paths

A summary of other comments on the graph includes:

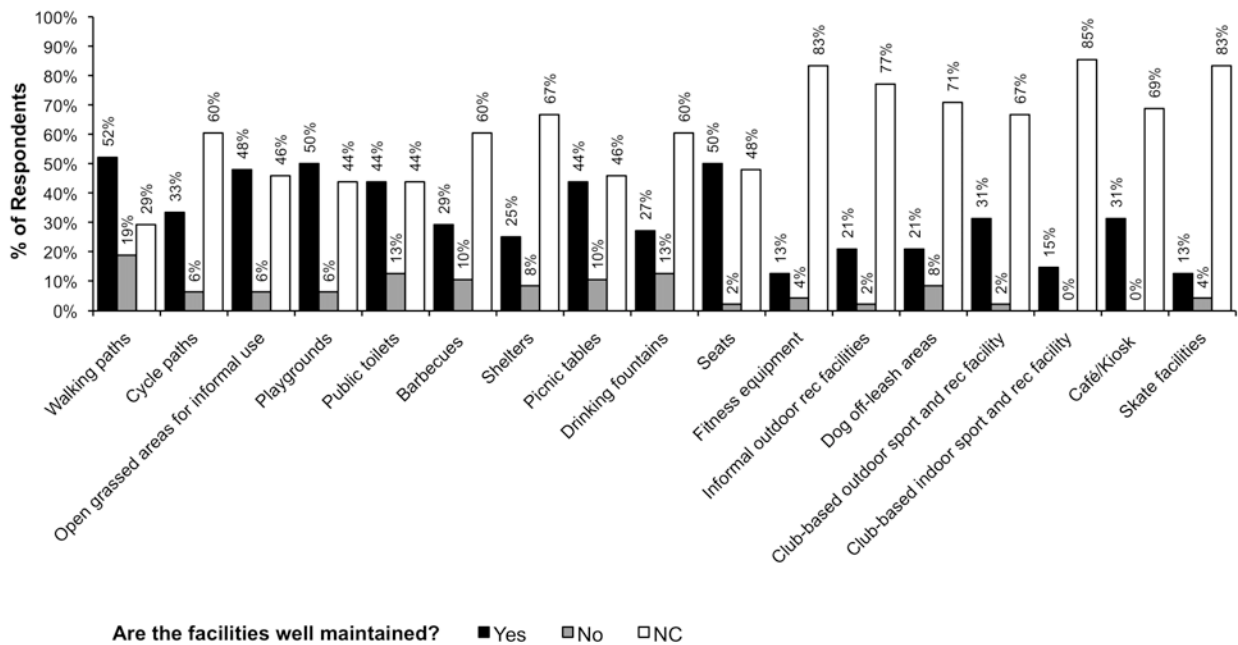
- Open grassed areas for informal use are considered the best provided for facility in Whittlesea by 38 per cent of respondents, consistent with the Municipal average.
- Only 21 per cent of respondents that used walking paths indicated these were well provided for, 18 per cent below the Municipal average.
- 38 per cent of Whittlesea respondents indicated that public toilets are not well provided for, 8 per cent above the Municipal average.
- Approximately 10 per cent more respondents consider club-based outdoor sport and recreation facilities and cafe/kiosk well provided for when compared with the Municipal average.



3.10.6c Maintenance of facilities in open space

The following graph illustrates the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of open space facilities. The percentages are calculated on the total number of Whittlesea surveys returned, 42.

- Whittlesea respondents are generally more satisfied with the level of maintenance of facilities in open space, compared with the Municipal average.
- Compared to the Municipal average, 18 per cent more Whittlesea respondents are satisfied with the maintenance level of public toilets.
- 50 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the maintenance of playgrounds and seats, 6 per cent above the Municipal average.



3.10.7 General comments on open space

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to write any additional comments on the open space within the municipality and their local area. The following is a summary of these comments from returned surveys from Whittlesea respondents which have been grouped together into topics and assembled in priority order.

No.	General comments
	Open space
3	Open space - additional multi use spaces
3	Open space - additional required
3	Open space - additional required as density increases
2	Open space - enjoy the ambience
1	Open space - beneficial to health and wellbeing
1	Open space - ensure council distributes funds equally across the municipality
1	Open space - improve design and layout
1	Open space - should be easily accessible to the entire municipality
1	Open space - well maintained
	Management and maintenance
4	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
3	Maintenance - regular maintenance of streetscape required
2	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
1	Rubbish - remove litter in open space
1	Pest control - improvements required
1	Security - improve surveillance
	Paths
3	Cycle paths - more required
1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails so they are continuous
1	Cycle paths - better lighting for safety
1	Cycle paths - improve connecting paths into linear trails from adjoining areas
1	Paths - address gaps in linear paths so they are continuous
1	Paths - improve connecting paths into open space from adjoining areas
1	Paths - Improve safety at intersections
1	Paths - improvements required
1	Paths - more required
1	Paths - ongoing maintenance required
	Other
3	Development - concerns about impact on open space
1	Information - more information about the range of open space and facilities available
1	Information - Council to publish a map of open spaces in Whittlesea to increase awareness
1	Traffic - provide buffer to open space
1	Community - continue to seek community feedback
	Access
2	Links - improve links to open space
1	Access - provide more entry points to open space
1	Traffic - difficult to reach open space due to busy roads
1	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads

No.	General comments
Sport and recreation facilities	
3	Playgrounds - provide more
1	Sport - more indoor sport facilities required
1	Playgrounds - upgrade/maintenance required
Park infrastructure	
1	Seating - provide more
1	Public toilets - to be located near playgrounds
1	Park infrastructure - provide more
1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
1	Public toilets - provide more
Sustainability	
1	Wildlife - improve wildlife corridor
1	Wetlands - provide more
Trees and vegetation	
1	Retain grasslands/habitat value

Appendix A

Information Leaflet and Open Space Survey August–September 2013



Open Space Survey

Information leaflet and survey

August-September 2013

Open space includes parks, gardens, reserves, waterways and urban plazas. The aim of this survey is to understand what you currently value about open space and how you use open space in the City of Whittlesea. Council will use this information to inform the Draft Open Space Strategy. Please return this survey free of charge by 15 September 2013.

What is the Open Space Strategy?

The Open Space Strategy will guide the future provision, design and management of public open space in the City of Whittlesea over the next 10 years. This includes assessing the existing open space, understanding what you value about it and any issues that limit your current use or value of it. It also includes planning ahead for the provision and design of open space to meet the needs of our growing community. An understanding of your needs and use of open space will help us develop a more responsive strategy.

How can you be involved?

- Complete this survey and return it free of charge.
- Fill in your name and address at the end of the survey to go into the draw to win an iPad Mini.
- Complete the survey online by visiting Council's website at <http://communityvoice.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/open-space-strategy>
- Contact Council on 9401 0534 or parks@whittlesea.vic.gov.au if you have any queries.



Win an iPad Mini Wi-Fi (16GB)

Please see website for full terms and conditions

Survey starts here

If you live in the City of Whittlesea, please tick this box and go to question 1

If you only work in the City of Whittlesea (and don't live here), please tick this box and go to question 14



Free Telephone Interpreter Service

عربي 9679 9871
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Hrvatski 9679 9872
Ελληνικά 9679 9873

Italiano 9679 9874
Македонски 9679 9875
普通话 9679 9876

Türkçe 9679 9877
Việt-ngữ 9679 9878
Other 9679 9879

Q1. Thinking about open space (including parks, gardens, reserves and urban plazas) what do you value most about them? (Please place a tick in the appropriate box(es) below)

<input type="checkbox"/> Place to relax and unwind	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical character
<input type="checkbox"/> Spacious	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting people/friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness
<input type="checkbox"/> Quiet	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural activities and events	<input type="checkbox"/> Playing sport
<input type="checkbox"/> Just being outside	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching activity
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge that it's there	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers/garden beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellbeing
<input type="checkbox"/> The diversity of open space	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for native plants & animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Playing casual games
<input type="checkbox"/> Escape from buildings & roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural bushland character	<input type="checkbox"/> Place for kids to play
<input type="checkbox"/> Escape from traffic noise & movement	<input type="checkbox"/> Green character	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Q2. Please list up to two open spaces that you regularly visit in your local area (within walking distance of home) and the reasons why you visit them?

Open space	Reasons why you visit it	Any suggested improvements?
1.		
2.		

Q3. Please list the main open space that you visit beyond walking distance of home, and the reasons why you visit it?

Open space	Reasons why you visit it	Any suggested improvements?
1.		

Q4. Is there any open space in the City of Whittlesea that you don't visit but would like to? (Note this can apply to either a specific open space or a number of them).

Yes (Please complete remainder of this question below) No (Go to question 5)

Open space	Reasons you don't visit open space
<input type="checkbox"/> A number of open spaces and open space in general <i>and/or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Specific open space – please name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Too far to travel <input type="checkbox"/> Too remote – lack of people around, so feel unsafe <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of time <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities do not appeal to me/my family's needs <input type="checkbox"/> Uninviting <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of public transport <input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety <input type="checkbox"/> Busy traffic so difficult to access <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): _____

Q5. Please indicate how frequently you use each type of open space listed below?

(Please place a tick in the appropriate location below)

Type of open space	Frequency of use					
	Daily	2 to 3 times a week	Weekly	Monthly	Once or twice a year	Never
Major regional parklands, for example Plenty Gorge Park, Kinglake National Park and Yan Yean Reservoir Park						
Open space along Merri Creek						
Open space along Plenty River						
Open space along Darebin Creek including Findon Creek and Hendersons Creek/Drain						
Open space along Edgars Creek						
Large parks and gardens (non-sporting areas), for example Whittlesea Public Gardens Lalor, Norris Bank Parklands Bundoora and Redleap Recreation Reserve Mill Park						
Sporting reserves, for example Epping Recreation Reserve, Main Street Recreation Reserve Thomastown and WA Smith Recreation Reserve Lalor						
Medium sized parks, for example Mimosa Park Mill Park, Botanica Park Bundoora, Lorne Park Lalor and Winchester Avenue Reserve Epping						
Small local parks						
Urban squares/plazas, for example Lalor Library forecourt						
Local streets for exercise						

Q6. The City of Whittlesea has a range of facilities within its open space. Please indicate whether you have used any of the facilities in the last 12 months, whether they are adequately maintained and whether there are enough of them? (Please place a tick in the appropriate columns below)

Facilities	Used in the last 12 months?		Adequately maintained?		Are there enough?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Walking paths						
Cycle paths						
Open grassed areas for informal use						
Playgrounds and playspaces						
Public toilets						
Barbecues						
Shelters						
Picnic tables						
Drinking fountains						
Seats						
Fitness equipment						
Informal outdoor recreation facilities (for example multi-purpose courts, cricket nets, goal posts)						
Dog off-leash areas						
Club-based outdoor sport and recreation facility						
Club-based indoor sport and recreation facility						
Cafe/Kiosk						
Skate facilities						
If other please specify:						

Q7. Where do you live? (Please tick one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Beveridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Epping North	<input type="checkbox"/> Thomastown
<input type="checkbox"/> Blossom Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Humevale	<input type="checkbox"/> Whittlesea Township
<input type="checkbox"/> Bundoora	<input type="checkbox"/> Kinglake West	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donnybrook	<input type="checkbox"/> Lalor	<input type="checkbox"/> Whittlesea
<input type="checkbox"/> Doreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mernda	<input type="checkbox"/> Wollert
<input type="checkbox"/> Eden Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Mill Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodstock
<input type="checkbox"/> Epping	<input type="checkbox"/> South Morang	<input type="checkbox"/> Yan Yean

Q8. Gender (Please tick appropriate box)

Female Male

Q9. Age range (Please tick appropriate box)

<input type="checkbox"/> 0–11	<input type="checkbox"/> 25–34	<input type="checkbox"/> 60–69
<input type="checkbox"/> 12–17	<input type="checkbox"/> 35–49	<input type="checkbox"/> 70–84
<input type="checkbox"/> 18–24	<input type="checkbox"/> 50–59	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+

Q10. Please indicate the type of dwelling you live in (Please tick one box)

Separate house Semi-detached house/townhouse/unit

Flat or apartment Other

Q11. Which of the following applies to your household: (Please tick appropriate box)

Speak English only at home

Speak a language other than/in addition to English at home

If so, which language: _____

Q12. What is your country of birth?

Q13. Household type: (Please tick appropriate box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Couple with children	<input type="checkbox"/> Single person household
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple without children	<input type="checkbox"/> Group household
<input type="checkbox"/> One-parent family	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Q14. Do you work in the City of Whittlesea?

Yes (Go to question 15) No (Go to question 18)

Q15. If you work in the City of Whittlesea, do you visit open space near your workplace?

Yes No If not, why? _____

Q16. What is the postcode where you work? (if applicable)

Q17. Can you give the reason(s) why you visit the open space near your workplace?

- Being outdoors as a break from work
- Socialising
- Fitness/exercise (informal)
- Sport (club-based)
- Cycling/jogging/walking to/from work via the open space network (rather than road)
- Other (please describe): _____

Q18. Any further comments about open space that can help us provide for your needs in the City of Whittlesea?

The information requested in this survey will be used to assess the difference in open space use and requirements across age groups, genders, areas of the municipality, household makeup and dwelling types. Identifying these differences will greatly assist in future planning for the different neighbourhoods across the municipality. **If you would like to be kept informed about the Whittlesea Open Space Strategy and go into the draw to win an iPad Mini Wi-Fi (16GB), please provide your contact details:**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode:

Email (if applicable):

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please fold in accordance with the diagram below, hold it closed with a small piece of tape (no staples please) and return free of charge via post by **15 September 2013**.

Note: your name and address will be entered onto a separate database and will not be linked to the information contained in this survey.

The personal information requested on this form is being collected by the City of Whittlesea for the purpose of understanding community views about open space provision in the municipality. The personal information will be used solely by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes.

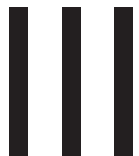


Delivery Address:
 Locked Bag 1
 Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

FOLD DIAGRAM
 Once completed fold survey as shown:



No stamp required if posted in Australia



Reply Paid 60758
 City of Whittlesea
 Parks & Open Space Department
 Locked Bag 1
 Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

first fold over

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Appendix B

Visitation to individual open spaces – Municipal-wide summary

B1 Open space within walking distance of home

The following table lists the existing open spaces within walking distance visited by 10 people or more, with the reasons why the visit and suggested improvements for the Municipal-wide results. The numbers underneath the open space names are the total number of respondents who visited that specific open space.

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
Redleap Recreation Reserve 59	10	Birdlife - watching	5	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	10	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Access - improvements required
	9	Access - close to home	2	Exercise equipment - more required
	9	Walking	2	Graffiti - removal required
	7	Birdlife - feeding	2	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	7	Waterbody	2	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	6	Relaxation	2	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	6	Wildlife watching	2	Public toilets - provide more
	5	Dog walking	2	Signage - interpretive/information required
	5	Play - take grandchildren to the park	2	Waterbody - raise island/refuge for birdlife/winter
	4	Fitness	1	BBQs - improvements required
	4	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	BBQs - more required
	3	Exercising	1	BBQs - regular maintenance required
			1	Cycle paths - more required
	2	BBQs	1	Fencing - more required
	2	Community hub/meeting place	1	Lighting - additional required
	2	Family friendly	1	Lighting - provide to allow use in evening/early morning during winter
	2	Play - take children to the park	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Access - close to school	1	Restrict commercial fitness training in open space
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes	1	Rubbish bins - more required
1	Activities - diverse	1	Seating - provide more bench seats	
1	Cycling	1	Seating - upgrade/maintenance required	
1	Facilities	1	Vandalism - an issue	
1	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Waterbody - improvements required	
1	Open space - enjoy using open space	1	Waterbody - structure in lake to be removed/maintained	

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Paths - good quality	1	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
	1	Paths - walking		
	1	Photography		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Sport - playing		
Ancillary open space 47	12	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	5	Public toilets - provide more
	10	Walking	3	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	6	Dog walking	3	Playgrounds - improvements required
	5	Relaxation	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	4	Access - close to home	2	Open space - retain as is
	3	Exercising	2	Paths - more required
	3	Play - take children to the park	2	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	3	Shopping	2	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	2	Access - close to shops/cafes	2	Seating - provide more
	2	Community hub/meeting place	1	Carpark - additional required
	2	Facilities	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	2	Open space - fresh air	1	Exercise equipment - more required
	1	Access - easy to access	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required
	1	Birdlife - feeding	1	Open space - additional large green spaces
	1	Cycling	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	1	Dog socialising	1	Open Space - need more parks close to Lalor Shopping Centre/shop/cafes
	1	Fitness	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Jogging/running	1	Paths - provide distance markers
	1	Open space - grassed areas	1	Paths - provide more unsealed Track e.g. 'The Tan'
	1	Open space - large space	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Open space - none within walking distance	1	Rubbish - regular removal required
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Paths - good quality	1	Seating - additional near playground
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park	1	Trees - do not remove
	1	Playground and equipment	1	Trees - maintenance required
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 26	8	Walking	2	Dog - on-lead enforcement required
	6	Dog walking	1	Access - improvements required
	2	Access - close to home	1	Carpark - additional required
	1	Ball games	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Basketball	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	BBQs	1	Graffiti - maintenance required

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Cycling - paths	1	Information - more information about open space and facilities/activities available
	1	Dog friendly	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	1	Fitness	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Open space - fresh air	1	Playgrounds - provide shade
	1	Open space - green character	1	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	1	Open space - large space	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Paths	1	Rubbish bins - recycling bins to be installed
	1	Paths - good quality	1	Safety - improve safety
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Sport - playing		
	1	Sport - spectating		
	1	Trees - native		
Norris Bank Parklands 23	10	Walking	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	3	Cycling	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	3	Dog walking	1	Dog - off-lead, personal safety concerns
	3	Exercising	1	Dog - on-lead enforcement required
	2	Access - close to home	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	2	Fitness	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	2	Jogging/running	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	2	Open space - clean	1	Lighting - provide lighting along paths in open space
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
	2	Play - take children to the park	1	Open space - reduce adjoining development impacts on open space
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Access - accessible by bike	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Access - passing through/shortcut	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	BBQs	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Seating - provide more bench seats
	1	Natural character - environmental values	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Nature		
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty		
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Open space - uncrowded		

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Play - safe for children		
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Tennis		
	1	Trees		
	1	Wildlife watching		
Bundoora Park 21	3	Community hub/meeting place	2	BBQs - more required
	3	Views and vistas	2	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
	3	Walking	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Exercising	1	Ambience - improvements to general ambience required
	2	Festivals and markets	1	Cafe/kiosk - upgrade/improvement required
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Carpark – additional required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Fencing - more required
	1	Access - close to home	1	Garden beds - provide more
	1	Activities – diverse	1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
	1	Café and kiosk facilities	1	Open space - improve grass quality
	1	Dog walking	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Fitness	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Lunch	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Native vegetation		
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty		
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Shelter		
	1	Sport - playing		
Hendersons Creek Wetland 21	7	Walking	3	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	3	Birdlife - watching	3	Seating - provide more
	3	Open space - peaceful/quiet	2	Open space - retain as is
	2	Birdlife - feeding	1	Birds - ban feeding
	2	Dog walking	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	2	Exercising	1	Drinking fountains - maintenance required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	For a range of groups
	2	Waterbody	1	Garden beds - improvement required
	1	Access - close to home	1	Mulch - mulching required
	1	Ball games	1	Paths - connecting paths required
	1	Health and wellbeing	1	Public toilets - maintenance and cleaning required
	1	Natural character	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Nature	1	Shelter - with tables and seats, additional required
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces	1	Traffic - noise intrusive

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Paths - good quality		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Play – take children to the park		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Trees		
	1	Wildlife watching		
Botanica Park 18	4	Birdlife - watching	3	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
	4	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	4	Walking	1	Access - improvements required
	3	Access - close to home	1	Dog - on-lead enforcement required
	3	Birdlife - feeding	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	2	Dog walking	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	BBQs	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Cycling - paths	1	Pest control - improvements required
	1	Family friendly	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Playgrounds - provide shade
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Play - take children to the park	1	Rubbish bins - recycling bins to be installed
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Relaxation	1	Traffic - noise intrusive
	1	Sport - spectating	1	Trees - replace trees that are dying
1	Waterbody	1	Waterbody - raise island/refuge for birdlife/winter	
Darebin Creek 14	5	Dog walking	2	BBQs - more required
	3	Access - close to home	2	Trees - dead and dangerous ones to be removed from open space
	3	Cycling	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Walking	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Access - passing through/shortcut	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Cycling - paths	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Dog socialising	1	Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
	1	Jogging/running	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Natural character - waterway	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Open space - clean	1	Seating - install over benches for elderly
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces	1	Trees - additional required
	1	Open space - green character	1	Vegetation - improve weed control
	1	Open space - uncrowded	1	Vegetation - more flowers and colour required
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Vegetation - more screen planting required
	1	Relaxation	1	Vegetation - provide more
1	Walking along waterway	1	Vegetation - provide more to perimeter of park	

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Waterway	1	Waterway - to be regularly cleaned
Main Street Recreation Reserve 14	4	Dog walking	1	Access - improve access to river
	2	Ball games	1	Basketball ring/half court - improvements required
	2	Exercising	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Access - close to home	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Football - spectating	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Golf	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Jogging/running	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Open space - fresh air	1	Sporting facilities - upgrade existing
	1	Open space - uncrowded	1	Vegetation - more screen planting required
	1	Paths - good quality		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Sport - playing		
	1	Sport - spectating		
	1	Walking		
Plenty Gorge Park 14	5	Walking	3	Paths - connecting path/s required
	3	Natural character - bushland environment	3	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Playground and equipment	2	A - Not Completed
	2	Wildlife watching	2	Seating - provide more
	1	Access - close to home	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Community hub/meeting place	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
	1	Dog walking	1	Signage - improve quality
	1	Exercising		
	1	Health and wellbeing		
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty		
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)		
Barry Road Park 13	2	Access - close to home	2	BBQs - more required
	2	Fitness	2	Drainage - improve on ovals
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet	2	Exercise equipment - more required
	2	Relaxation	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Cycling	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Dog off-lead area	1	Fence - safety fence around lake required
	1	Dog socialising	1	Gates - provide more
	1	Exercising	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Natural character	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Open space - fresh air	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Picnics	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Play - take children to the	1	Security - improve surveillance

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
		park		
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	1	Walking	1	Sporting facilities - clubroom upgrade/maintenance required
			1	Vegetation - more flowers and colour required
			1	Waterbody - provide more
Mimosa Park 13	6	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Public toilets - provide more
	5	Access - close to home	2	Shelters - with BBQs required
	2	Play - take children to the park	1	BMX - facilities required
	1	Basketball	1	Cycle paths - more required
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Football - install goalposts
	1	Kite flying	1	Graffiti - removal required
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Open space - keep uncluttered
	1	Open space - value	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park	1	Skate parks - provide more
	1	Play - variety of spaces		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Walking		
Hill Top Park 12	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Carpark - additional required
	3	Playground and equipment	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Access - close to home	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required
	2	Dog walking	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	2	Facilities	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	BBQs	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Community hub/meeting place	1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
	1	Family friendly	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	1	Festivals and markets	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Play - take children to the park	1	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
	1	Views and vistas	1	Shelters - provide more
Findon Creek Park 11	4	Dog walking	1	AFL goal post needed
	2	Exercising	1	Drainage - improve on ovals
	2	Fitness	1	Drainage - improvements required
	2	Walking	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	1	Cricket	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Cycling	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Football - training/playing	1	Safety - improve safety
	1	Health and wellbeing	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Vegetation - provide more
	1	Shopping		

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
Hawstowe Recreation Park 11	2	Access - close to home	2	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	BBQs - to be located near playgrounds
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Information - more information about open space and facilities/activities available
	2	Wildlife watching	1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	1	Community hub/meeting place	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Cycling	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	1	Facilities	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Fitness	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Open space - clean		
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces		
	1	Open space - green character		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Paths - good quality		
	1	Play - take grandchildren to the park		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Walking		
Mernda Villages Wetland 11	2	Access - close to home	6	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Play - take grandchildren to the park	2	Signage - interpretive/information required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	BBQs - regular maintenance required
	2	Playground and equipment	1	BBQs - to be located near playgrounds
	1	BBQs	1	Birds - ban feeding
	1	Birdlife - feeding	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Cycling	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	1	Play - take children to the park	1	Seating - additional near playground
	1	Relaxation	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	1	Walking		
Open space outside the Municipality 11	3	Walking	1	Access - improvements required
	2	Open space - grassed areas	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Access - close to home	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Access - close to public transport	1	Open space - upgrade required
	1	Athletics	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Ball games	1	Paths - more required
	1	BBQs	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Dog walking	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Health and wellbeing	1	Swimming pool adjoining the park

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
				required
	1	Jogging/running	1	Vandalism - an issue
	1	Lunch	1	Wildlife - plant more native/indigenous vegetation to attract wildlife
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Paths - walking		
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Waterbody		
Quarry Hills Park 11	3	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Cycle paths - address gaps in linear trails
	2	Exercising	1	Cycle paths - more required
	2	Views and vistas	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Wildlife watching	1	Information - more info about open space and facilities/activities available
	1	Cycling	1	Open space - develop it
	1	Health and wellbeing	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Natural character - environmental values	1	Park facilities - provide more
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space	1	Paths - connecting path/s required
	1	Open space - fresh air	1	Paths - more required
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	1	Sunshine / Vitamin D	1	Wildlife - native wildlife needs protection
	1	Walking		
A. F. Walker Recreation Reserve 10	5	Dog walking	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Seating - provide more
	2	Walking	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Open space - develop it
	1	Health and wellbeing	1	Paths - surface needs ongoing maintenance
	1	Not Completed	1	Public toilets - to be located near playgrounds
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Play - take children to the park		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Wildlife watching		
Whittlesea Public Gardens 10	5	Access - close to home	2	Open space - upgrade required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Ambience - improvements to general ambience required
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes	1	BBQs - more required
	1	Dog off-lead area	1	CCTV required
	1	Dog socialising	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	1	Dog walking	1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
	1	Fitness	1	Dog - owners to clean up after dogs
	1	Jogging/running	1	Dog - waste bags/bins, more required

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement	
	1	Open space - away from busy roads and traffic	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space	
	1	Walking	1	Park facilities - provide more	
				1	Park furniture - improvements required
				1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
				1	Picnic tables - provide more
				1	Reduce unsavoury activities near toilets
				1	Rubbish bins - to be emptied more frequently
Whittlesea Showgrounds 10	4	Festivals and markets	2	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required	
	3	Exercising	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space	
	2	Community hub/meeting place	1	Paths - more required	
	1	Access - close to home	1	Seating - provide more	
	1	Dog walking			
	1	Facilities			
	1	Sport - playing			
	1	Sport - spectating			

B2 Open space beyond walking distance of home

The following table lists the existing open spaces beyond walking distance visited by 10 people or more, with the reasons why the visit and suggested improvements for the Municipal-wide results. The numbers underneath the open space names are the total number of respondents who visited that specific open space.

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
Bundoora Park 47	9	Walking	2	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	6	Facilities	1	BBQs - gas instead of electric
	5	Festivals and markets	1	Carpark - additional required
	4	Picnics	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	3	Community hub/meeting place	1	Open space - additional large green spaces
	3	Dog off-lead area	1	Open space - provide additional
	3	Family friendly	1	Open space - provide for a variety of needs
	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Open space - retain as is
	3	Playground and equipment	1	Park furniture - improvements required
	2	BBQs	1	Paths - maintenance/improvements required
	2	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Paths - more required
	2	Open space - safe	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Café and kiosk facilities	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Cycling	1	Shelters - with BBQs required
	1	Dog walking	1	Trees - more shade trees required
	1	Events		
	1	Golf		
	1	Jogging/running		
	1	Natural character		
	1	Open space - being outdoors/outside		
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces		
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space		
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Open space - none within walking distance		
	1	Play - take children to the park		
1	Play - take grandchildren to the park			
1	Playground - fenced			
1	Public toilets - provided			
1	Shelter			

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
Yan Yean Reservoir Park 46	12	Picnics	2	BBQs - more required
	11	BBQs	2	Seating - provide more
	8	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Access - ensure crossings accessible for prams/wheelchairs
	8	Views and vistas	1	Access - improvements required
	7	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Cafe/kiosk - more required
	6	Walking	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	5	Facilities	1	Drinking fountains - provide more
	4	Relaxation	1	Open space - additional large green spaces
	3	Historic character	1	Open space - retain as is
	3	Open space - large space	1	Opening hours - to be extended
	3	Waterbody	1	Paths - surface needs improvements
	2	Access - close to home	1	Picnic tables - provide more
	2	Dog walking	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	2	Play - take grandchildren to the park	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	2	Wildlife watching	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	A - Not completed	1	Public toilets - to be open daily
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Shade - provide more
	1	Community hub/meeting place	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Exercising	1	Signage - interpretive/information required
	1	Family friendly	1	Trees - dead and dangerous ones to be removed from open space
	1	Natural character	1	Vegetation - improve weed control
	1	Not Completed	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
	1	Open space - alternative space to visit	1	Cycle paths - connecting paths required
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment	1	Not Completed
	1	Photography	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Play - take children to the park		
	1	Public toilets - provided		
	1	Sitting		
	1	Trees		
1	Open space - peaceful/quiet			
1	Walking			
1	Waterbody			
Open space outside the Municipality 36	4	Open space - ambience, beauty	4	Open space - retain as is
	3	BBQs	1	Events - provide more
	3	Dog walking	2	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
	3	Natural character	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	3	Natural character - bushland environment	1	Public toilets - provide more

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	3	Walking	1	Access - provide more entry points to open space
	3	Waterbody	1	BBQs - more required
	2	Activities - diverse	1	Graffiti - removal required
	2	Café and kiosk facilities	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	2	Open space - clean	1	Open space - upgrade required
	2	Open space - diversity of spaces	1	Protection from wind required
	2	Open space - large space	1	Rubbish bins - recycling bins to be installed
	2	Paths - walking	1	Seating - provide more
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Sporting facilities - clubroom upgrade/maintenance required
	2	Playground and equipment	1	Vegetation - more shrubs required
	2	Sport - spectating		
	2	Wildlife watching		
	1	Dog off-lead area		
	1	Dog off-lead area, fenced		
	1	Dog socialising		
	1	Events		
	1	Exercising		
	1	Facilities		
	1	Family friendly		
	1	Festivals and markets		
	1	Golf		
	1	Open space - grassed areas		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Paths		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Play - take children to the park		
	1	Playground - fenced		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Soccer		
	1	Sport - participate		
	1	Vegetation - diversity		
Redleap Recreation Reserve	6	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	2	Public toilets - provide more
23	4	Activities - diverse	1	Cycle paths - more required
	4	Walking	1	Festivals - provide more
	2	Access - close to shops/cafes	1	Playgrounds - improvements required
	2	Birdlife - feeding	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	2	Dog walking	1	Seating - provide more
	2	Waterbody	1	Seating - provide more bench seats
	1	Access - close to home		
	1	Basketball training		
	1	Community hub/meeting place		
	1	Events		
	1	Fitness		
	1	Football - training/playing		

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Natural character - environmental values		
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Paths - walking		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Play - take children to the park		
	1	Play - variety of spaces		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Wildlife watching		
Ancillary open space 20	4	Shopping	2	Paths - connecting path/s required
	3	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Cycle paths - more required
	2	Walking	1	Open space - enlarge/extend this open space
	1	Access - close to shops/cafes	1	Open space - retain as is
	1	Cycling	1	Paths - more required
	1	Cycling - paths	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity of equipment/features for a range of age groups
	1	Dog walking	1	Playgrounds - safety improvements required
	1	Exercising	1	Signage - improve quality
	1	Lighting - provided		
	1	Natural character		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Paths - walking		
	1	Relaxation		
	1	Vegetation - diversity		
	1	Views and vistas		
1	Waterbody			
Kinglake National Park 18	5	Natural character - bushland environment	1	Open space - retain as is
	4	Walking	1	Paths - more required
	2	Facilities	1	Picnic tables - provide more
	2	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
	2	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	2	Relaxation		
	2	Wildlife watching		
	1	BBQs		
	1	Birdlife - watching		
	1	Exercising		
	1	Lack of open space in local area		
	1	Natural character		
	1	Not Completed		
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces		

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Open space - enjoy using open space		
	1	Open space - escape from the built environment		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Photography		
	1	Picnics		
	1	Play - take children to the park		
	1	Playground and equipment		
	1	Views and vistas		
Mernda Villages Wetland 16	8	Playground and equipment	6	Public toilets - provide more
	5	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Carpark - additional required
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Open space - provide additional
	1	Facilities	1	Playgrounds - increase diversity
	1	Open space - none within walking distance	1	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	1	Trees - significant	1	Public toilets - improvements required
	1	Waterbody	1	Seating - provide more
	Edwards Lake Park 10	2	Fitness equipment	1
2		Jogging/running	1	Events - provide more
2		Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Lighting - additional required
2		Open space - large space	1	Open space - retain as is
2		Walking	1	Public toilets - improvements required
1		Activities - diverse	1	Public toilets - to be open daily
1		BBQs	1	Security - improve surveillance
1		Birdlife - breeding refuge for birdlife		
1		Birdlife - feeding		
1		Community hub/meeting place		
1		Exercising		
1		Facilities		
1		Lighting - provided		
1		Open space - away from busy road and traffic		
1		Open space - clean		
1		Open space - peaceful/quiet		
1		Path - good quality		
1		Play (equipment not specifically nominated)		
1		Views and vistas		
1		Waterbody		
Mernda Creek Park 12	10	Dog socialising	3	Drainage - improve on ovals
	2	Dog off-lead area	2	A - Not Completed
			2	Open space - retain as is
			1	Access - provide safer places to cross major roads
			1	Dog - drinking facilities, more required
			1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
			1	Dog - off-lead, fenced area required
			1	Dog - provide dog 'agility'/exercise equipment
			1	Drainage - improvements required
			1	Gates - provide more
			1	Open space - continue implementation of Masterplan
Hawstowe Recreation Park 12	5	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Access - improve access to river
	2	Picnics	1	Access - provide more entry points to open space
	1	BBQs	1	Cycle paths - connecting paths required
	1	Cycling	1	Fencing - more pedestrian barrier fencing required
	1	Exercising	1	Paths - more required
	1	Family friendly	1	Playgrounds - provide more
	1	Natural character	1	Seating - provide more
	1	Natural character - bushland environment	1	Vegetation - more native/indigenous planting required
	1	Open space - being outdoors		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Open space - large space		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Views and vistas		
	1	Walking		
	1	Walking along waterway		
	1	Wildlife watching		
	1	Wildlife watching		
Mill Park Recreation Reserve 10	2	Ball games	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Cycling - paths	1	Maintenance - regular mowing required
	1	BBQs	1	Playgrounds - provide more challenging equipment
	1	Exercising	1	Playgrounds - safety fencing required
	1	Historic character	1	Public toilets - provide more
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Rubbish bins - more required
	1	Paths - walking	1	Signage - directional required
	1	Play - take children to the park	1	Sporting facilities - upgrade existing
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Trees - additional required
	1	Relaxation	1	Vegetation - hedge required
	1	Walking		
Quarry Hills Park 11	4	Views and vistas	1	Drinking fountains - maintenance required
	2	Dog walking	1	Motorbikes - do not allow in parks
	2	Exercising	1	Public toilets - provide more
	2	Fitness	1	Shelters - with tables and seats, additional required
	1	Access - close to home	1	Trees - additional required
	1	Birdlife - watching	1	Vegetation - more smaller plants/native grasses required

Open Space	No.	Reasons to Visit	No.	Suggested Improvement
	1	Cycling		
	1	Natural character - bushland environment		
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet		
	1	Walking		
Henderson Creek Wetland 11	3	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	2	Birdlife - watching	1	Open space - upgrade required
	2	Dog walking	1	Trees - additional required
	2	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Waterbody - to be regularly cleaned
	2	Views and vistas		
	2	Walking		
	1	Ball games		
	1	Birdlife - feeding		
	1	Cricket		
	1	Exercising		
	1	Football - spectating		
	1	Open space - fresh air		
	1	Waterbody		
Whittlesea Public Gardens 10	3	Dog off-lead area	2	Drainage - improve on ovals
	2	Dog socialising	1	Dog - off-lead areas, additional required
	2	Walking	1	Fencing - improvement/upgrade required
	1	Open space - ambience, beauty	1	Gates - provide more
	1	Open space - diversity of spaces	1	Lighting - additional required
	1	Open space - peaceful/quiet	1	Maintenance - regular maintenance & cleaning required
	1	Play (equipment not specifically nominated)	1	Security - improve surveillance
	1	Relaxation	1	Shelters - provide more
	1	Sport - playing	1	Trees - plant more exotic/deciduous trees
			1	Vegetation - provide more
			1	Waterbody - improvements required

Appendix C

Assumptions made during the data entry process

The responses to the survey were entered into a relational Microsoft Access database and are summarised on a municipality-wide basis in this report. This information will inform the development of the Whittlesea Open Space Strategy. The relational database allows analysis of the survey data on a more detailed level as required during the Strategy. For example, surveys completed by specific age groups or from specific cultural backgrounds can be queried separately if this is required. The data will also be queried and analysed on a suburb or precinct basis to inform the more detailed analysis process that will occur in the next stage of the project.

The following is a summary of some of the assumptions made in entering the data from the surveys into the database.

- Some respondents did not provide the name of the open space they visited, instead listing the name of surrounding streets or buildings/landmarks that were used to help identify the park or reserve they were referring to. If this occurred, the following method was used:
 - If the open space could be identified using the street names or buildings/landmarks provided and was located within the municipality, the response would be attributed to the appropriate open space.
 - If the open space was identified but located outside the municipality and was not one of the nearby open spaces in adjoining municipalities, the response was placed into the category of 'Other open space' and information about its use was documented accordingly.
 - If the open space was identified but located outside the municipality and was one of the nearby open spaces in adjoining municipalities the response was placed into the category of 'Other open space outside the municipality' and information was documented accordingly.
 - If the open space visited was not included at all, i.e. the field left blank, it was recorded as 'Not completed'. Information about its use and suggested improvements were documented accordingly.
 - If the open space visited was unable to be identified or outside of the municipality, it was placed in the category of 'Other open space' and information about its use was documented accordingly.
 - Shopping plazas (e.g. Lalor Shopping Centre), local school grounds, adjoining properties and other types of space not covered in the strategy were placed in the category as 'Ancillary open space'. Information about its use and suggested improvements were documented accordingly.
- Darebin Creek was used where people referred to Darebin Creek Parklands and Darebin Creek Trail.
- When respondents included comments in relation to a specific open space in the 'General Comments' section, this information was entered into the specific open space in the question regarding local open space visited, rather than in the General Comments Section.

- When respondents used question marks in the Facilities Section of the questionnaire, they were not recorded and were counted as not completed. All other forms of marking boxes were recorded.
- When respondents provided suggested improvements as a response to the question 'reasons why you visit [open space]', these were entered as suggested improvements and not as reasons for visiting.
- When respondents provided a specific open space as a response to the question 'reasons why you visit [open space]', these were entered as open space visited.
- When respondents included a written submission with the survey leaflet, any responses to survey questions were recorded, and the survey was then processed as a written submission.