

Aberdeen Open Space Audit: 2024 Public Survey Report



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WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

Open and green blue spaces are critical for our quality of life. Aberdeen has a variety of green blue and open spaces that benefit both people and nature. These include open areas of land in and around communities, and include parks, gardens, playing fields, woodlands, play areas, allotments and civic spaces as well as water features such as ponds, burns and rivers.

Open spaces provide multiple health, well-being, economic, and environmental benefits. Open space gives the people of Aberdeen opportunities to connect with nature and each other, tackle the global climate-nature crisis, promote nature recovery, and make positive environmental changes.

Aberdeen's open and green blue spaces are managed by Aberdeen City Council, partners, community groups, volunteers, businesses and other organisations.

The [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) broadly defines open space as space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas. Parks, public gardens, allotments, woodlands, play areas, playing fields, green blue corridors, paths, churchyards and cemeteries, natural areas, and institutional land as well as civic spaces are all forms of open space.

- **Open space** means space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green infrastructure or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function.
- **Green networks** are connected areas of green infrastructure and open space.
- **Green infrastructure** are features of the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services (social, economic & environmental benefits).

Green infrastructure can include greenspaces like parks, woodlands and open space, but also includes street trees, green/living roofs, and blue infrastructure such as water courses, wetlands and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

SURVEY OVERVIEW

The [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) requires planning authorities to carry out an audit of open space provision and to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy as well as assess the opportunities for play in their area. The audit process should also identify community views on the value of open spaces.

This report presents the findings from the Aberdeen Open Space Survey which sought to collect the views of residents and visitors on how they use and perceive Aberdeen's open and green / blue spaces. The survey results will be analysed alongside audit data to inform a future revision of the [Natural Environment Strategy](#).

The results are available for anyone to use to inform the shaping of policy action, including future revisions of the Council's Climate Plan and allied initiatives, along with the citywide [Net Zero Aberdeen](#) place based strategies such as the [Natural Environment Strategy](#) and other initiatives. The findings can be used by professionals across a range of fields, community organisations and city partners to aid in their own approaches to open space.

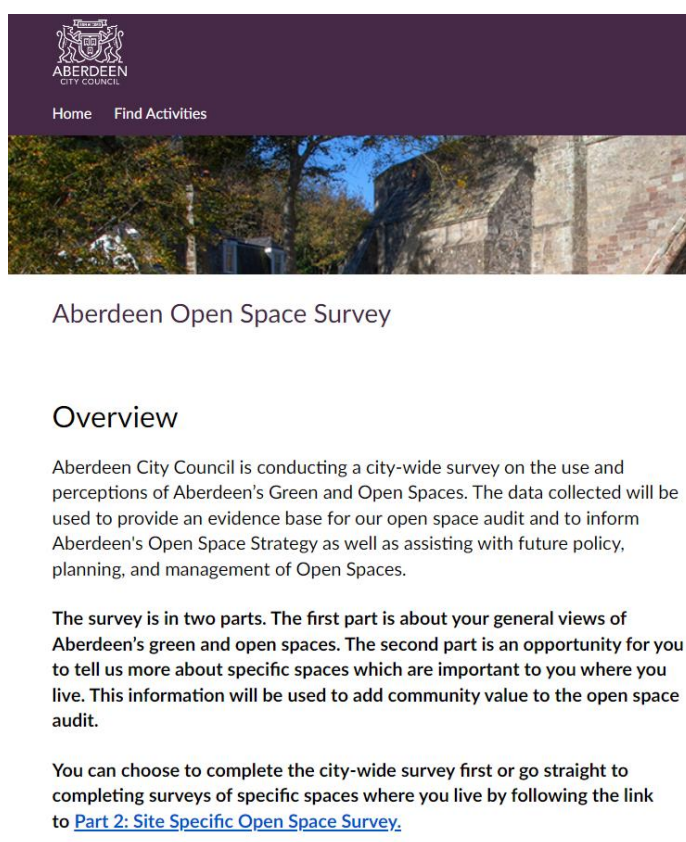
Different methods were used to engage and consult with the community to find out how they value open spaces. This engagement focused on two areas: the first part was a citywide Aberdeen Open Space Survey, the second part was a spatial Geographical Information System (GIS) map-based survey where residents could use an interactive map to say more about what they enjoyed or what could be better about specific spaces. Residents were also asked to help identify spaces that could potentially be managed for wildlife or used for food growing in the future.

Residents and visitors to the city were invited to take part in the online survey which between 7-10 minutes to complete and was delivered via [Citizen Space](#), a digital engagement platform widely used for policy consultation and resident surveys.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions being in place during the survey period the majority of engagement and promotion was carried out online via social media, through the use of QR codes, press releases, through Community Planning Aberdeen and partners, Community Councils and various community and Friends of Parks groups.

Paper copies were also made available for completion in person in the Marischal College Customer Service Centre and in public libraries.

The survey was open from 08/02/2022 to 20/03/2022 with a total of 580 responses to the citywide survey and 783 responses to the spatial survey. Analysis of the spatial GIS map-based survey is ongoing.



Aberdeen Open Space Survey

Overview

Aberdeen City Council is conducting a city-wide survey on the use and perceptions of Aberdeen's Green and Open Spaces. The data collected will be used to provide an evidence base for our open space audit and to inform Aberdeen's Open Space Strategy as well as assisting with future policy, planning, and management of Open Spaces.

The survey is in two parts. The first part is about your general views of Aberdeen's green and open spaces. The second part is an opportunity for you to tell us more about specific spaces which are important to you where you live. This information will be used to add community value to the open space audit.

You can choose to complete the city-wide survey first or go straight to completing surveys of specific spaces where you live by following the link to [Part 2: Site Specific Open Space Survey](#).

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

A total of 580 responses to the citywide survey were received.

CITYWIDE OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION

79% of respondents reported being satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of Aberdeen's greenspace and open space areas however some open space types had a lower satisfaction rating than others.

Allotments and community food growing spaces, walking and cycling routes and amenity spaces had the lowest citywide satisfaction rates reported by respondents:

- Allotments and community food growing spaces: 65%
- Walking/cycling routes: 64%
- Amenity spaces: 64%

Parks, woodlands and natural or semi-natural areas had the highest citywide satisfaction rates reported by respondents:

- Parks: 86%
- Woodlands: 82%
- Natural or semi-natural areas: 82%

75% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with children's play areas.

LOCAL OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION

When respondents were asked about local spaces approximately 400 meters (or a 5-minute walk) from their home satisfaction was broadly similar to citywide satisfaction with open space areas.

Allotments and community food growing spaces, walking and cycling routes and amenity spaces had the lowest satisfaction rates and parks, woodlands, and natural or semi natural areas had the highest satisfaction rates.

VALUE OF OPEN SPACE

Respondents were asked the top three reasons why they use, visit or enjoy the city's open spaces. The most common reasons given were:

1. Physical exercise or health reasons (e.g. walking or jogging etc.)	75%
2. To be in nature	71%
3. To meet friends or family or to socialise	53%
4. To get out of the house or office (e.g. for a break)	47%
5. For mental health reasons	31%

95% of respondents said local greenspace and open space areas were important or extremely important during Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and that they helped relieve stress, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and helped them to appreciate nature.

IMPROVING OPEN SPACE

When asked what would encourage respondents to use or visit Aberdeen’s greenspace or open spaces more often the most common reasons given were:

1. If they had better facilities (e.g. benches or toilets)	49%
2. If they were better managed for wildlife (e.g. wildlife enhancements such as tree and wildflower planting, long grass, wetlands, shrubs etc.)	45%
3. If there were more adequate paths for walking or cycling	36%
4. If they had less or no dog fouling	30%
5. If they were better connected to other spaces	25%
6. If they had less or no litter	25%
7. If there was better information about them (e.g. information panels or signage)	20%
8. If they had better lighting	19%

When asked what would encourage respondents to use or visit local greenspace or open spaces more often the most common reasons given were:

1. If it had better facilities (e.g. benches or toilets)	40%
2. If it was better managed for wildlife (e.g. wildlife enhancements such as tree and wildflower planting, long grass, wetlands, shrubs etc.)	36%
3. If there was less or no dog fouling	28%
4. If it had adequate paths for walking or cycling	25%
5. If there was less or no litter	24%
6. If it had more bins	18%
7. If it was better connected to other spaces	17%
8. If they had better lighting	15%

MANAGING SPACES FOR NATURE

- 82% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to see more greenspaces managed in a more natural way for the benefit of wildlife and nature.
- 49% of respondents said they would be encouraged to visit spaces more often if they were managed for wildlife and nature.

FOOD GROWING

- 54% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to see more food-growing opportunities within green and open spaces across Aberdeen.
- 65% of respondents reported being satisfied with the quality of allotments and community food growing spaces.

This is the third lowest satisfaction rate of all the open space types and could be attributed to the current high demand and long waiting lists for allotments.

OPEN SPACE USE

- On average 41% of respondents visited greenspace and open space areas several times a week, 19% visited once a day and 15% visited once a week.
- 59% of people stayed on average for 1-2 hours, 26% for less than one hour and 15% for more than 2 hours.

OPEN SPACE TRAVEL

- 76% of respondents walked and 51% used a motorized vehicle to travel to open spaces. 13% cycled and 11% used public transport.
- On average 31% of respondents spent 11-20 minutes travelling to spaces, 30% spent 6-10 minutes travelling and 23% spent 5 minutes or less.

EQUALITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Respondents were asked about any needs around open spaces in relation to disability, medical condition or age. Some respondents expressed need for better lighting, security and toilet facilities in greenspaces, particularly at night.

The issue of accessibility for people with disabilities or mobility problems was expressed, with the need for more hard surfaced paths and better maintained surfaces, suitable for wheelchair users, to improve accessibility highlighted. A need for more seating for rest including wheelchair accessible benches and handrails was also expressed.

The desire for access to exercise equipment and outdoor adult gym equipment and a variety of exercise equipment was also expressed.

VOLUNTEERING

66% of respondents if given the opportunity would be interested in volunteering in green and open spaces.

GENERAL OPEN SPACE COMMENTS

COMMON THEMES AND SUGGESTIONS: Some of the common themes and suggestions that emerged from general comments were: reducing the use of chemicals and petrol equipment used for maintaining open spaces, preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and natural beauty of spaces, providing more facilities such as toilets, bins, cafes, play areas, and cycle routes, improved maintenance and listening to local community's opinions and needs.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON GREENSPACES: A number of comments from respondents expressed views on what was liked and appreciated about green and open spaces in Aberdeen. Some of the aspects that were praised were the beach and riverside areas, the biodiversity and natural beauty of spaces, and Aberdeen's parks and gardens.

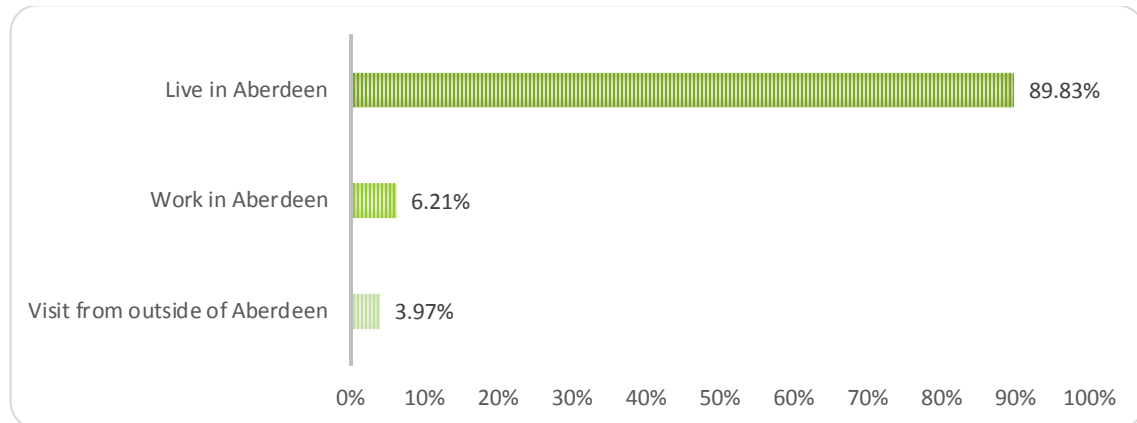
PROTECTING OPEN SPACES FROM DEVELOPMENT: A number of responses expressed a desire for open spaces to be protected from development. A number of concerns were also raised around the potential development of areas of St Fittick's Park, which respondents felt was a vital green space and wetland area for the residents of Torry and the wildlife that inhabits it.

SURVEY RESULTS

RESIDENT STATUS

1: DO YOU LIVE, WORK OR VISIT ABERDEEN?

There were 580 responses to this part of the question.

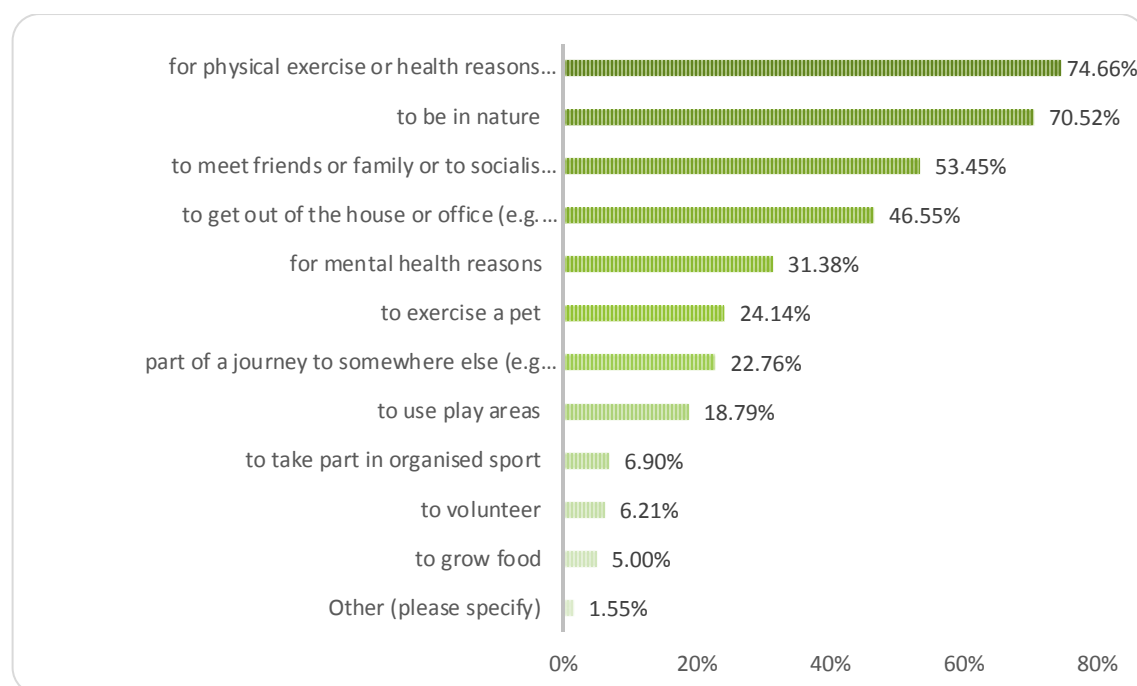


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Live in Aberdeen	521	89.83%
Work in Aberdeen	36	6.21%
Visit from outside of Aberdeen	23	3.97%

USE OF OPEN SPACE

2: WHY DO YOU USE, VISIT OR ENJOY THE CITY'S OPEN SPACES? PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR TOP THREE REASONS YOU USE, VISIT OR ENJOY OPEN SPACES:

There were 580 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
for physical exercise or health reasons (e.g. walking or jogging etc.)	433	74.66%
to be in nature	409	70.52%
to meet friends or family or to socialise	310	53.45%
to get out of the house or office (e.g. for a break)	270	46.55%
for mental health reasons	182	31.38%
to exercise a pet	140	24.14%
part of a journey to somewhere else (e.g. walking or cycling)	132	22.76%
to use play areas	109	18.79%
to take part in organised sport	40	6.90%
to volunteer	36	6.21%
to grow food	29	5.00%
Other (please specify)*	9	1.55%

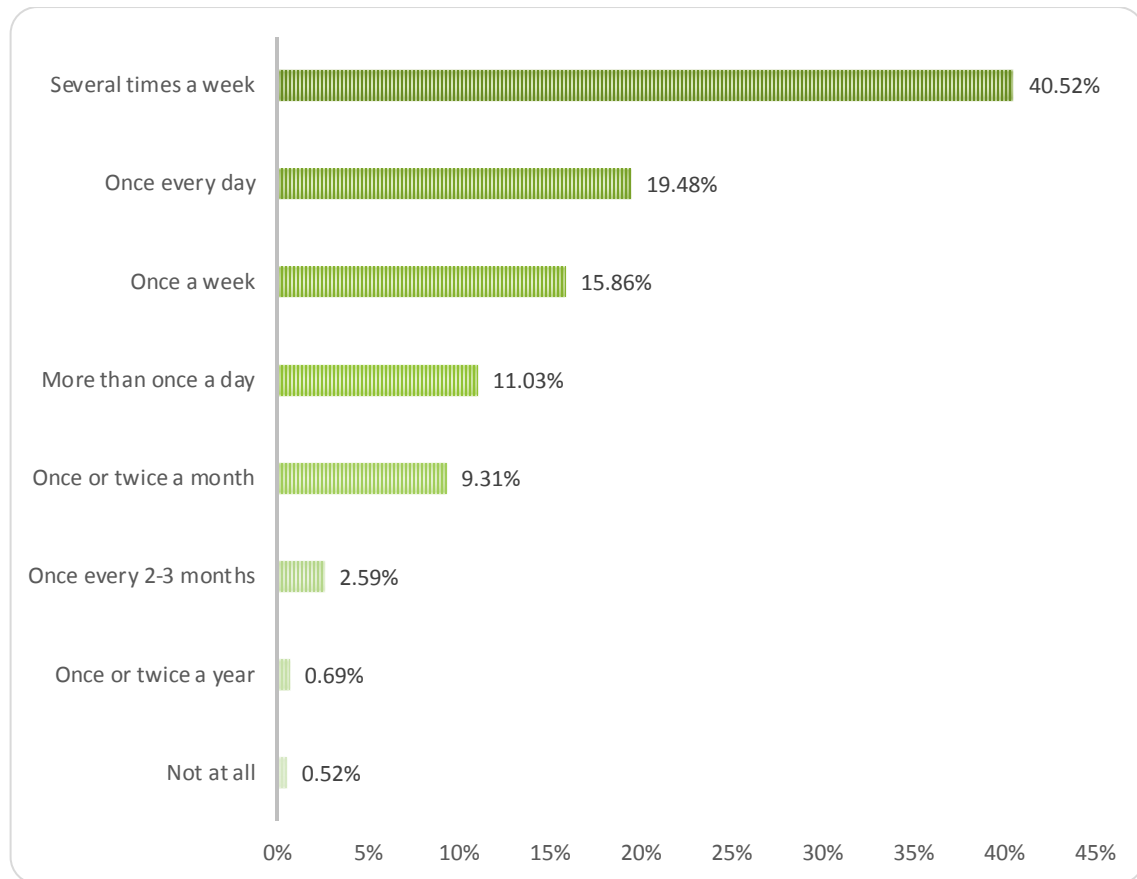
OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other reasons people used, visited or enjoyed the city's open spaces were birdwatching (3), for school (3), for work (2) or relaxation (2)

*Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response.

FREQUENCY OF USE

3: HOW OFTEN ON AVERAGE DO YOU USE OR VISIT ANY OF ABERDEEN'S GREENSPACE AREAS OR OPEN SPACES?

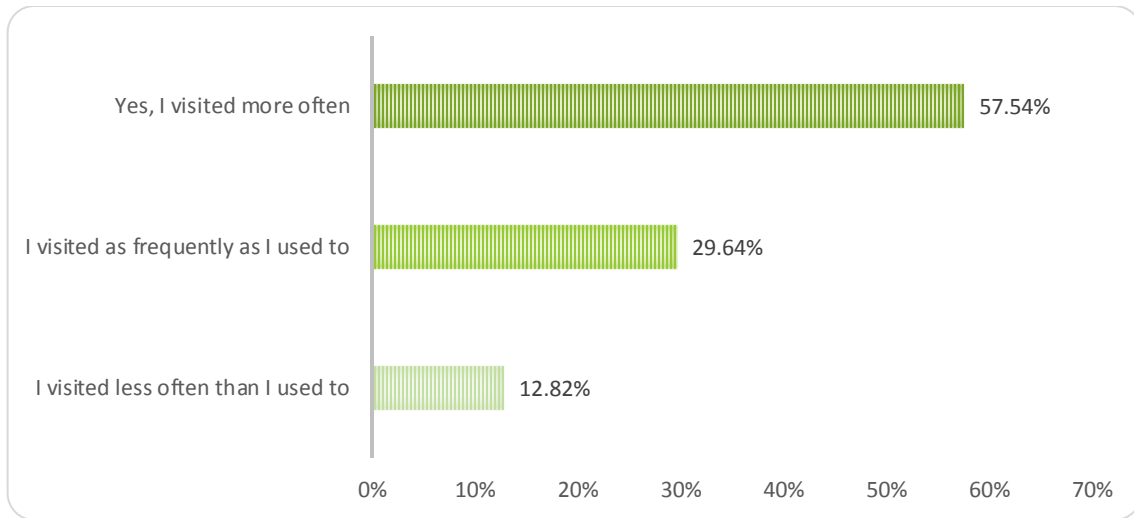
There were 580 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Several times a week	235	40.52%
Once every day	113	19.48%
Once a week	92	15.86%
More than once a day	64	11.03%
Once or twice a month	54	9.31%
Once every 2-3 months	15	2.59%
Once or twice a year	4	0.69%
Not at all	3	0.52%

4: DID YOU VISIT THE CITY’S GREEN OR OPEN SPACES MORE OFTEN DURING THAN BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

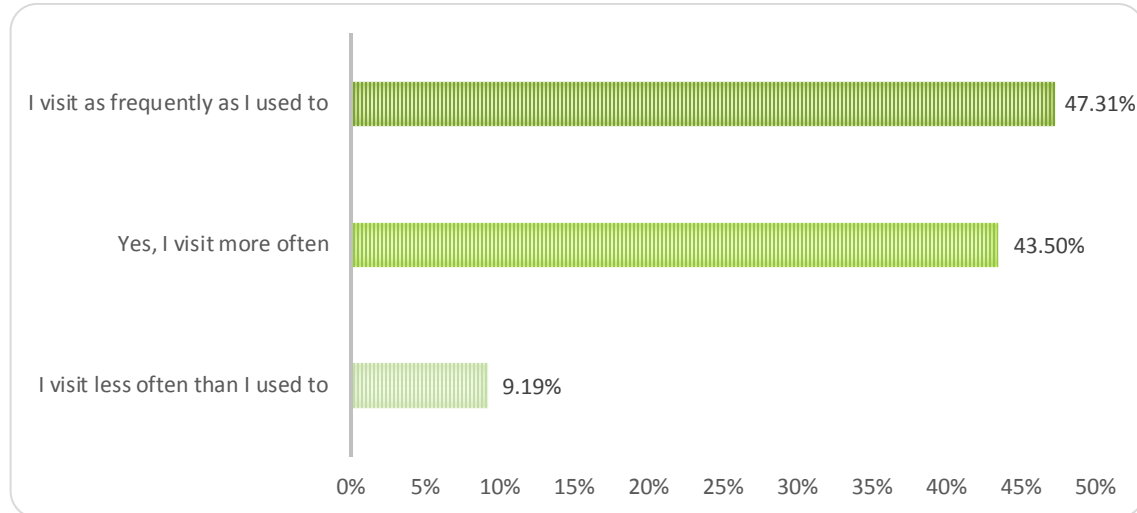
There were 577 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Yes, I visited more often	332	57.54%
I visited as frequently as I used to	171	29.64%
I visited less often than I used to	74	12.82%

5: DO YOU VISIT THE CITY’S GREEN OR OPEN SPACES MORE OFTEN NOW THAN BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BEGAN?

There were 577 responses to this part of the question.

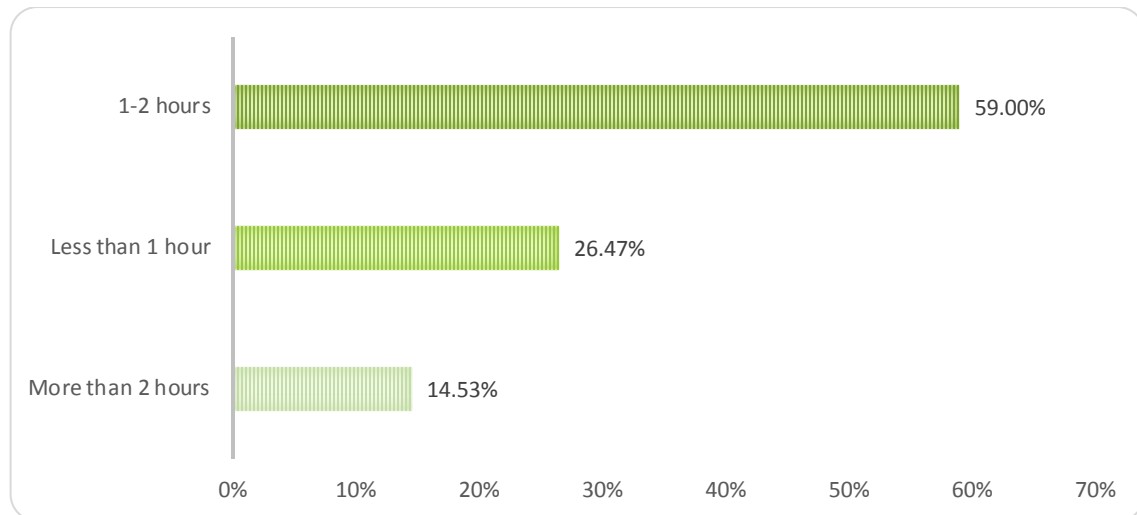


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
I visit as frequently as I used to	273	47.31%
Yes, I visit more often	251	43.50%
I visit less often than I used to	53	9.19%

LENGTH OF STAY

6: ON AVERAGE HOW LONG DO YOU STAY IN GREENSPACE OR OPEN SPACES WHEN YOU VISIT?

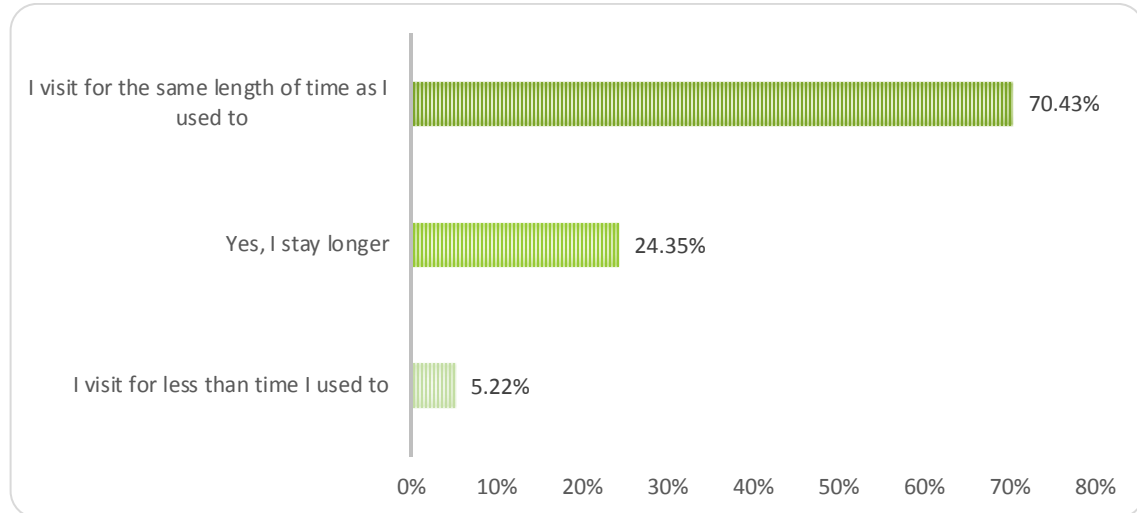
There were 578 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
1-2 hours	341	59.00%
Less than 1 hour	153	26.47%
More than 2 hours	84	14.53%

7: WHEN YOU VISIT GREEN OR OPEN SPACES NOW DO YOU STAY FOR LONGER THAN BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BEGAN?

There were 575 responses to this part of the question.

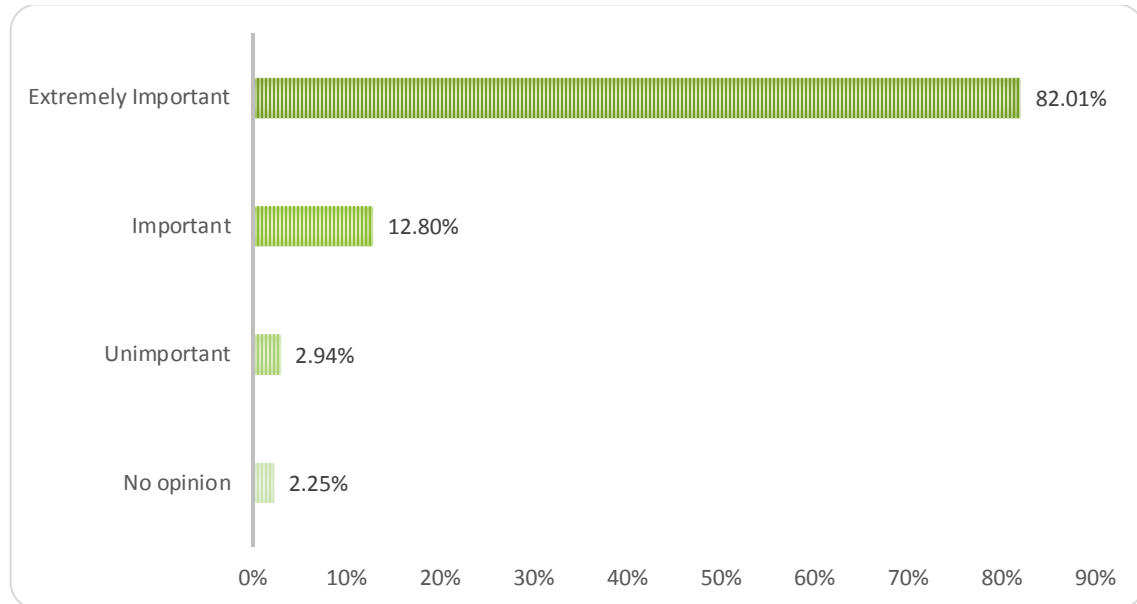


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
I visit for the same length of time as I used to	405	70.43%
Yes, I stay longer	140	24.35%
I visit for less than time I used to	30	5.22%

VALUE OF OPEN SPACE

8: HOW IMPORTANT WAS YOUR LOCAL GREEN OR OPEN SPACE TO YOU DURING LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS IN TERMS OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

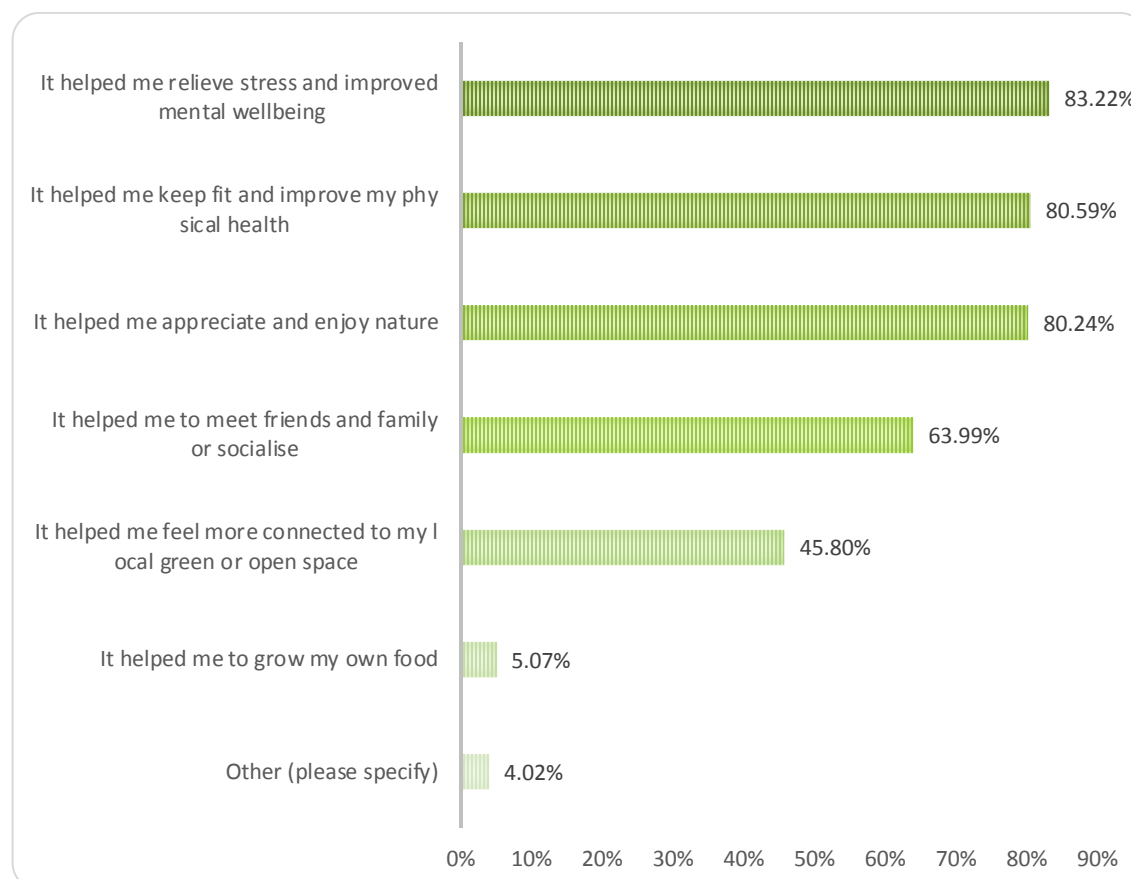
There were 578 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Extremely Important	474	82.01%
Important	74	12.80%
Unimportant	17	2.94%
No opinion	13	2.25%

9: WHAT BENEFITS DID YOU GAIN FROM ACCESS TO YOUR LOCAL GREEN OR OPEN SPACE DURING CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS?

There were 572 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
It helped me relieve stress and improved mental health	476	83.22%
It helped me keep fit and improve my physical health	461	80.59%
It helped me appreciate and enjoy nature	459	80.24%
It helped me to meet friends and family or socialise	366	63.99%
It helped me feel more connected to my local green or open space	262	45.80%
It helped me to grow my own food	29	5.07%
Other (please specify)*	23	4.02%

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other benefits gained from access to local green or open space during Coronavirus restrictions were socializing and feeling less isolated (4), children's activities (3), work/work meetings (2), being able to leave the house (2) and exercising pets (2).

3 respondents highlighted that some open spaces were closed during coronavirus restrictions or that they didn't feel safe to use the spaces.

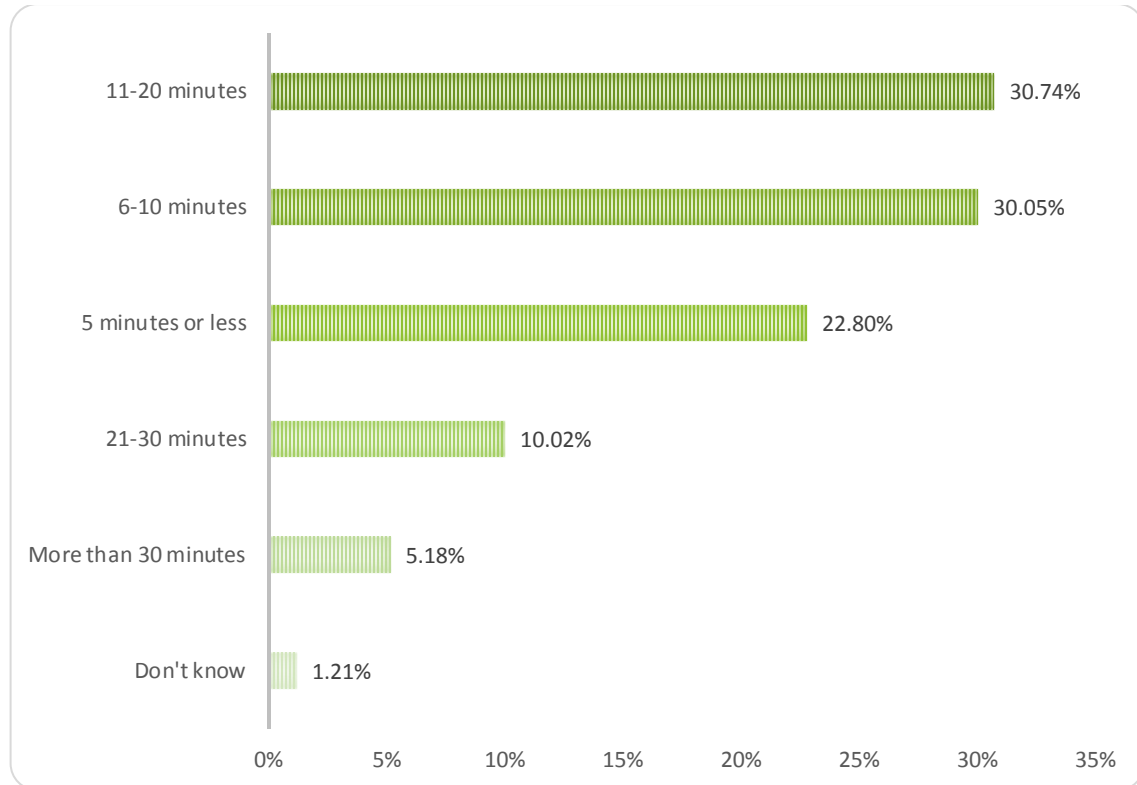
*Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response .

OPEN SPACE TRAVEL

10: ON AVERAGE HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND TRAVELLING ON AN OUTWARD JOURNEY TO USE, VISIT OR ENJOY OPEN SPACES IN THE CITY?

(In this question we would like you to estimate the time it would take from your home or workplace to your most used green or open space.)

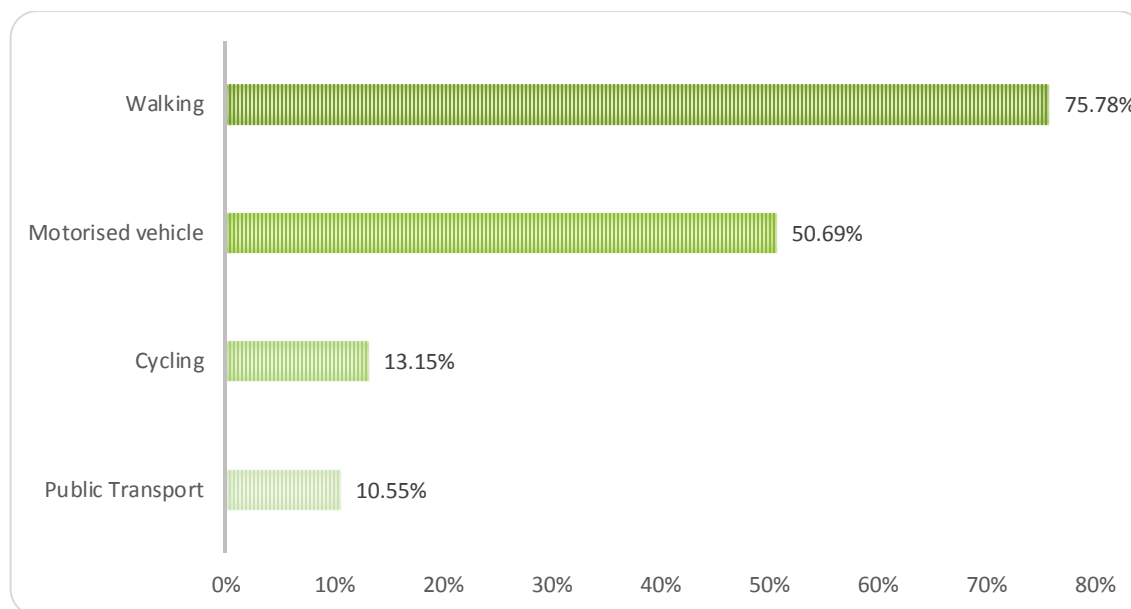
There were 579 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
11-20 minutes	178	30.74%
6-10 minutes	174	30.05%
5 minutes or less	132	22.80%
21-30 minutes	58	10.02%
More than 30 minutes	30	5.18%
Don't know	7	1.21%

11: PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL SUCH AS WALKING, CYCLING, MOTORISED VEHICLE OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT. TICK MORE THAN ONE BOX IF MORE THAN ONE MODE IS USED.

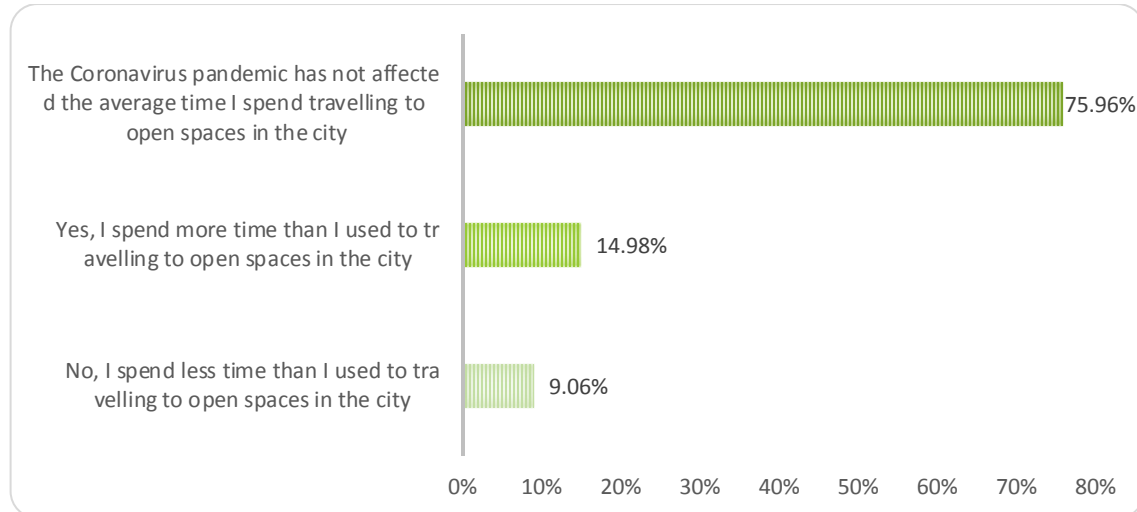
There were 578 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Walking	438	75.78%
Motorised vehicle	293	50.69%
Cycling	76	13.15%
Public Transport	61	10.55%

12: HAS THE AVERAGE TIME YOU WOULD SPEND TRAVELLING ON AN OUTWARD JOURNEY TO USE, VISIT OR ENJOY OPEN SPACES IN THE CITY CHANGED COMPARED TO BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BEGAN?

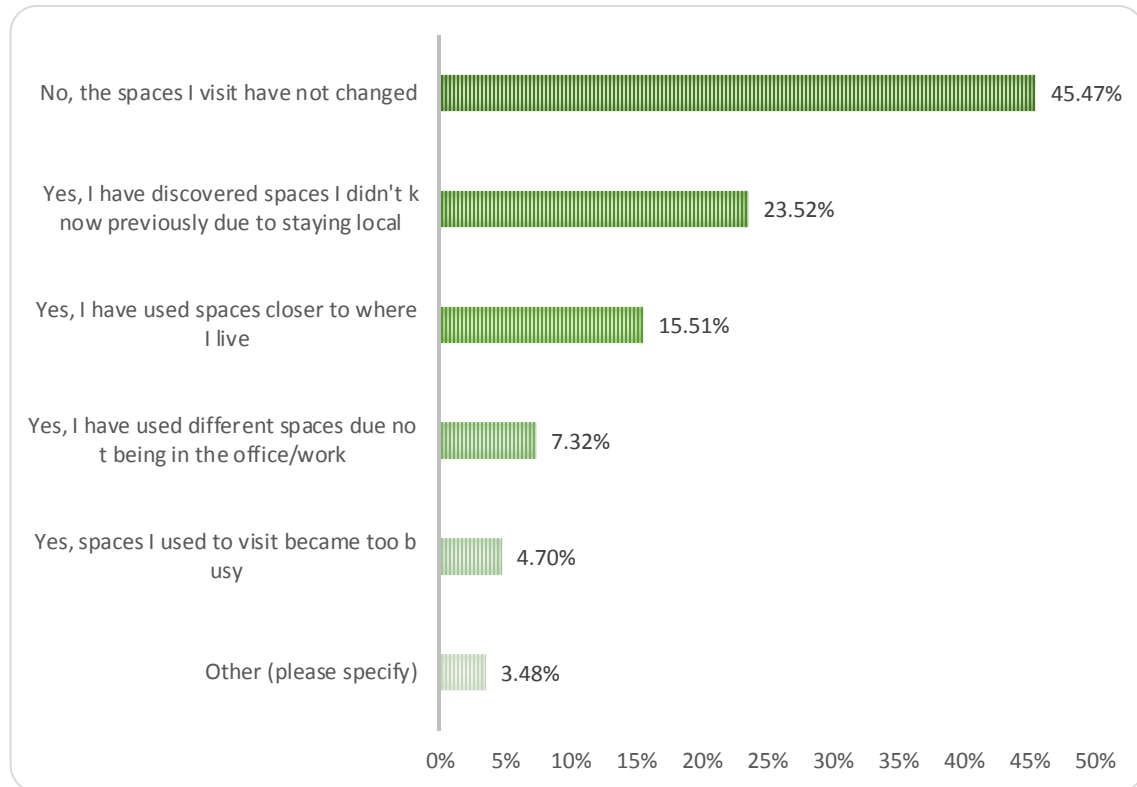
There were 574 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
The Coronavirus pandemic has not affected the average time I spend travelling to open spaces in the city	436	75.96%
Yes, I spend more time than I used to travelling to open spaces in the city	86	14.98%
No, I spend less time than I used to travelling to open spaces in the city	52	9.06%

13: SINCE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAVE YOU CHANGED WHICH GREEN OR OPEN SPACES YOU VISIT AT ALL AND IF SO WHY

There were 574 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
No, the spaces I visit have not changed	261	45.47%
Yes, I have discovered spaces I didn't know previously due to staying local	135	23.52%
Yes, I have used spaces closer to where I live	89	15.51%
Yes, I have used different spaces due to not being in the office/work	42	7.32%
Yes, spaces I used to visit became too busy	27	4.70%
Other (please specify)*	20	3.48%

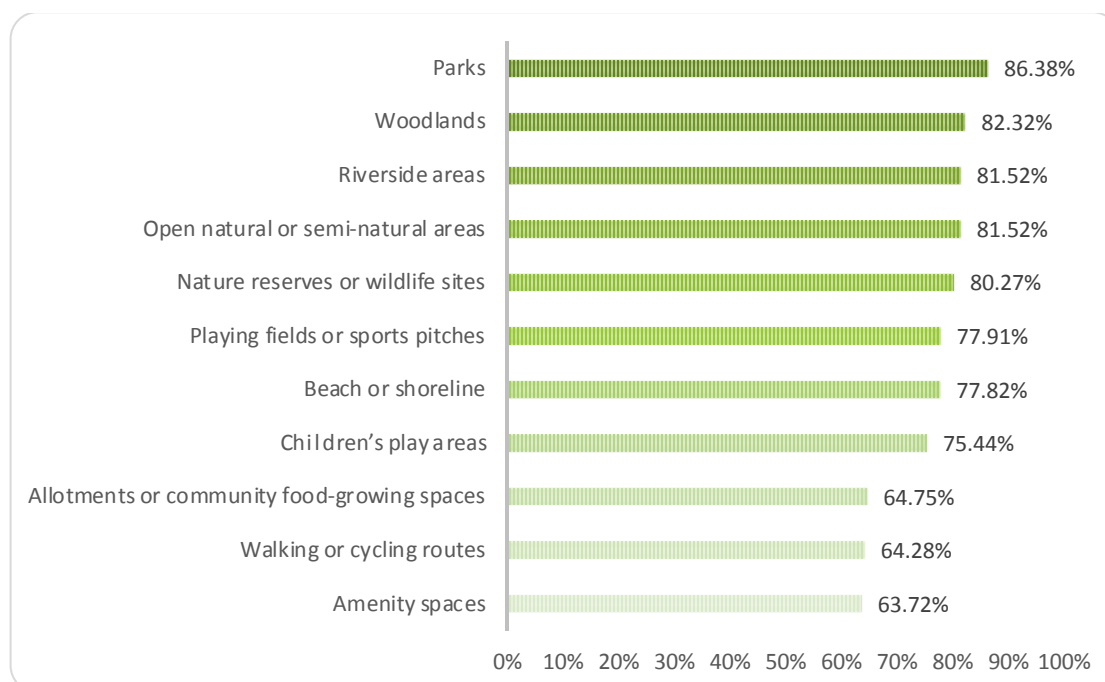
OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common 'other reason' why since the Covid-19 pandemic people changed which green or open spaces they visited was due to moving home (6), exploring new spaces (3), lack of seating in some spaces (2) and spaces being too busy (2)

*Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response.

OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION

14: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ABERDEEN'S GREENSPACE AREAS OR OPEN SPACES?

Respondents were asked to give their overall satisfaction with the quality of the different greenspace areas and open space types in the city.



OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION	%	RANK
Parks (These can be small neighbourhood parks or large major parks e.g. Duthie park)	86.38%	1
Woodlands	82.32%	2
Open natural or semi-natural areas	81.52%	3
Riverside areas	81.52%	4
Nature reserves or wildlife sites	80.27%	5
Playing fields or sports pitches	77.91%	6
Beach or shoreline	77.82%	7
Children's play areas	75.44%	8
Allotments or community food-growing spaces	64.75%	9
Walking or cycling routes	64.28%	10
Amenity spaces (small informal spaces around residential or business areas)	63.72%	11

79% of respondents reported being satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of Aberdeen's greenspace and open space areas however some open space types had a lower satisfaction rating than others.

Allotments and community food growing spaces, walking/cycling routes and amenity spaces had the lowest citywide satisfaction rates reported by respondents:

- Allotments and community food growing spaces: 65%
- Walking/cycling routes: 64%
- Amenity spaces: 64%

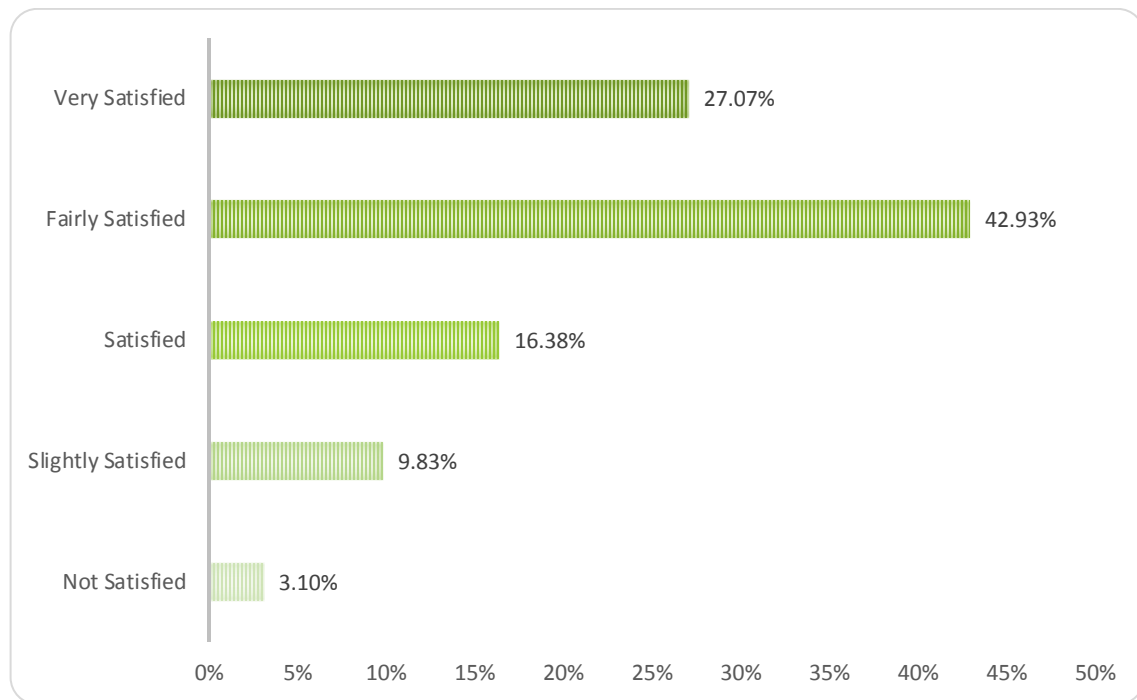
Parks, woodlands and natural or semi-natural areas had the highest citywide satisfaction rates reported by respondents:

- Parks: 86%
- Woodlands: 82%
- Natural or semi-natural areas: 82%

75% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with children's play areas.

PARKS (THESE CAN BE SMALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS OR LARGE MAJOR PARKS E.G. DUTHIE PARK)

There were 576 responses to this part of the question.

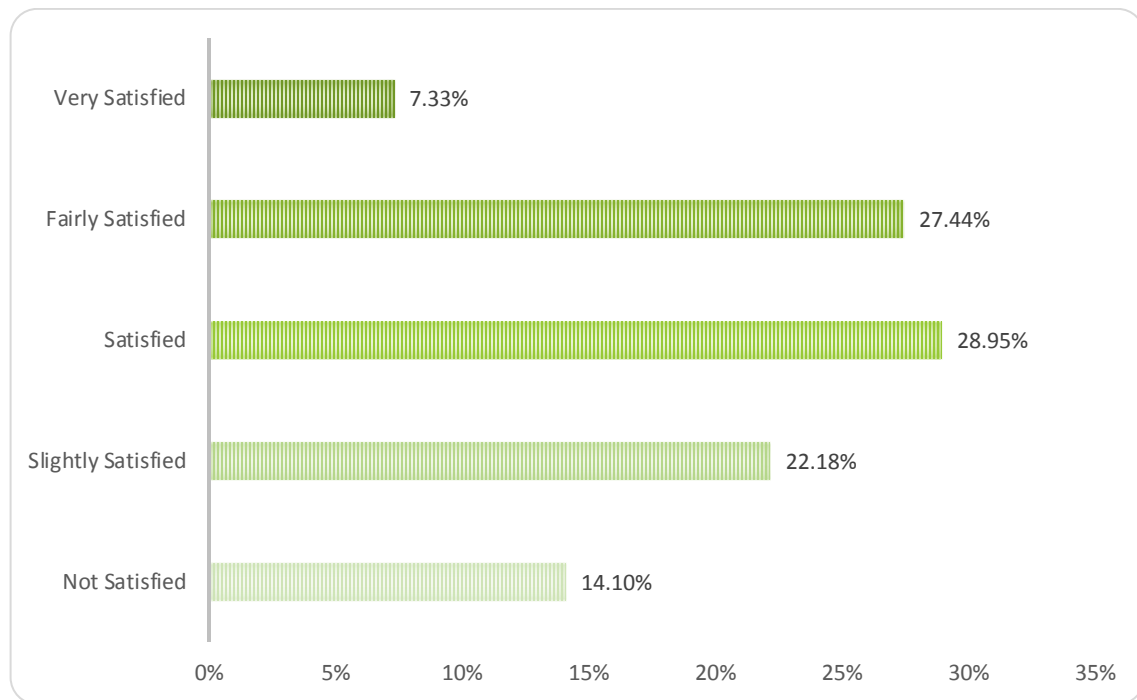


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	157	27.07%
Fairly Satisfied	249	42.93%
Satisfied	95	16.38%
Slightly Satisfied	57	9.83%
Not Satisfied	18	3.10%

86.38% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local parks.

AMENITY SPACES (SMALL INFORMAL SPACES AROUND RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS AREAS)

There were 532 responses to this part of the question.

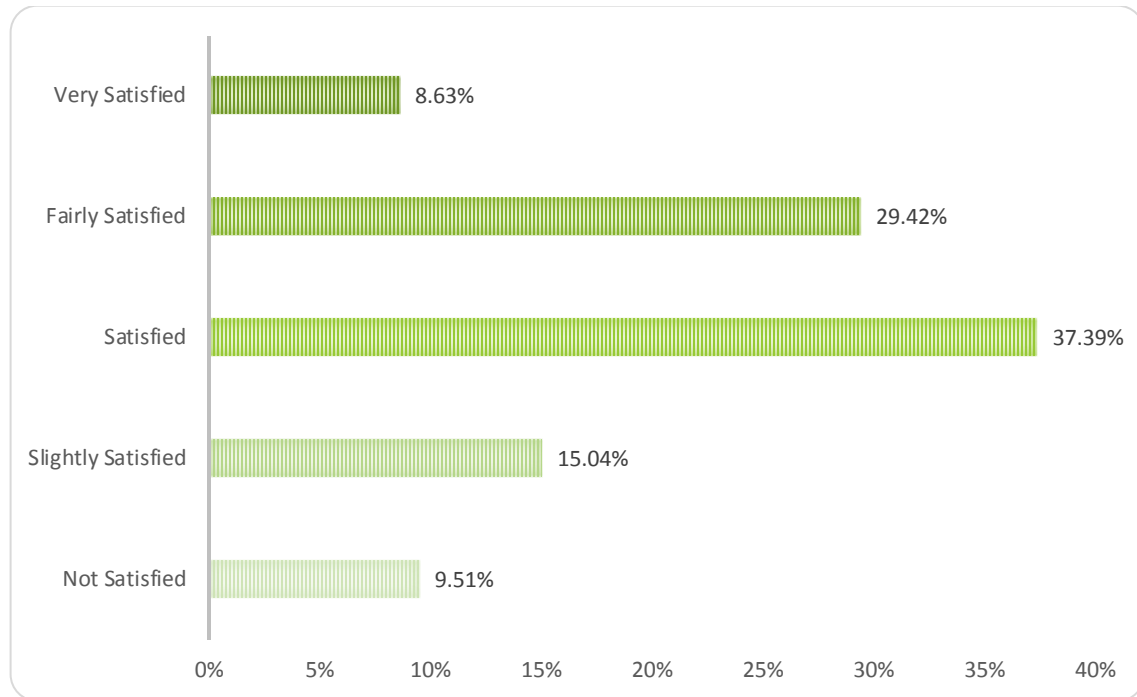


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	39	7.33%
Fairly Satisfied	146	27.44%
Satisfied	154	28.95%
Slightly Satisfied	118	22.18%
Not Satisfied	75	14.10%

63.72% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with amenity spaces.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

There were 452 responses to this part of the question.

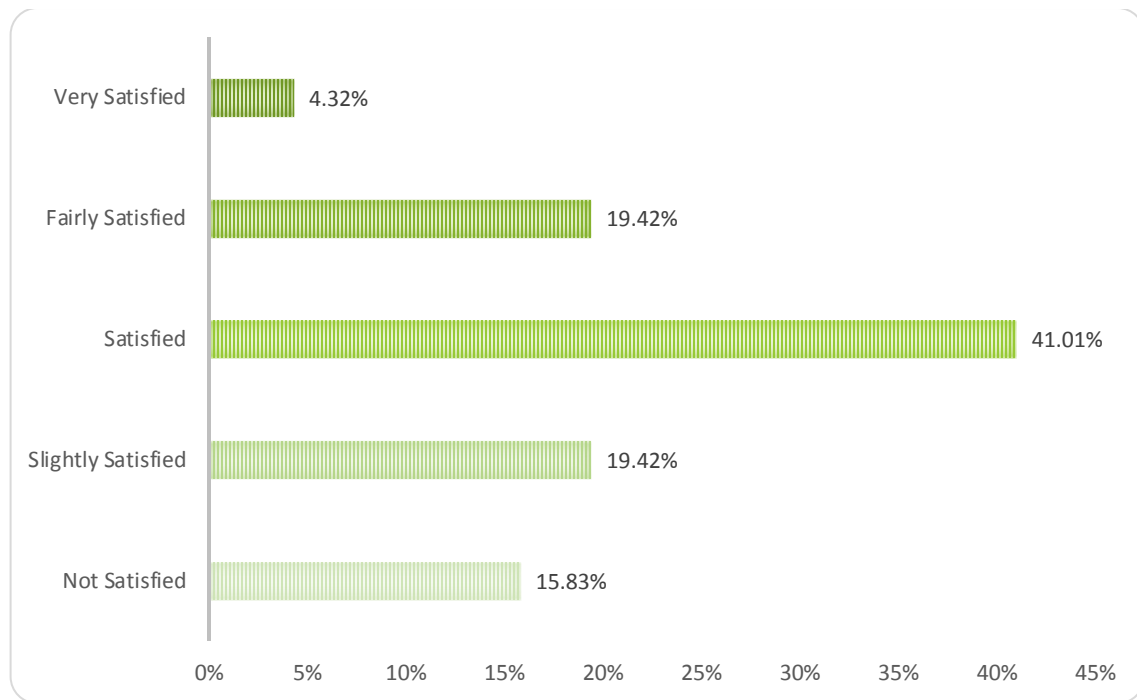


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	39	8.63%
Fairly Satisfied	133	29.42%
Satisfied	169	37.39%
Slightly Satisfied	68	15.04%
Not Satisfied	43	9.51%

75.44% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with children's play areas.

ALLOTMENTS OR COMMUNITY FOOD-GROWING SPACES

There were 417 responses to this part of the question.

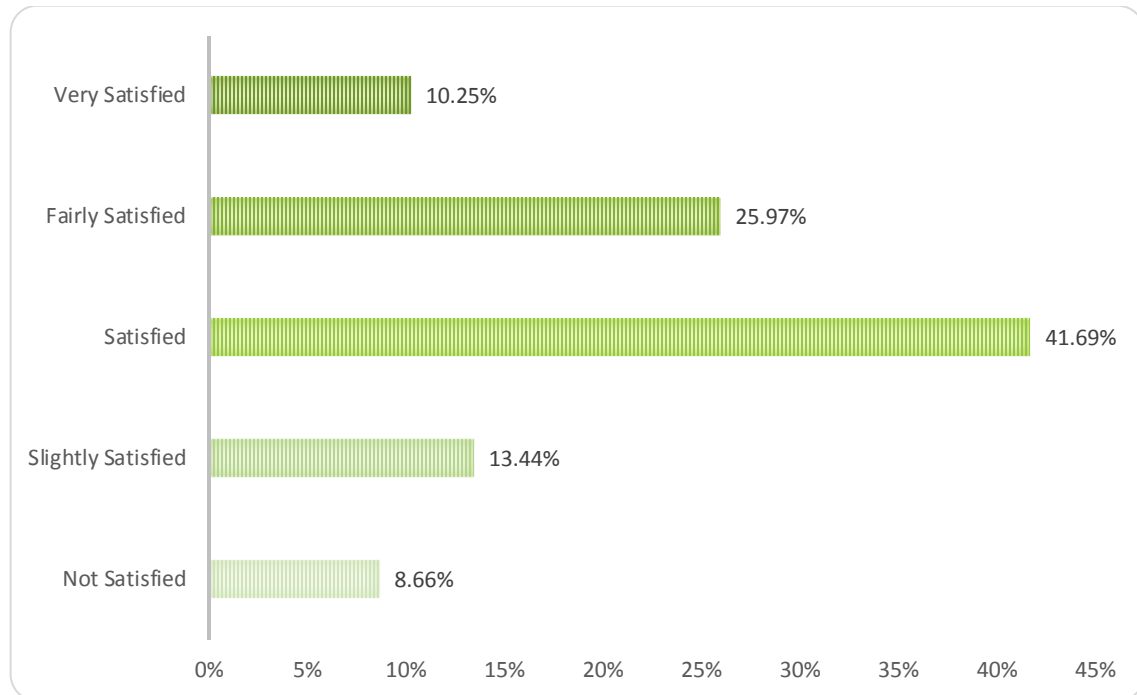


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	18	4.32%
Fairly Satisfied	81	19.42%
Satisfied	171	41.01%
Slightly Satisfied	81	19.42%
Not Satisfied	66	15.83%

64.75% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with allotments and community food-growing spaces.

PLAYING FIELDS OR SPORTS PITCHES

There were 439 responses to this part of the question.

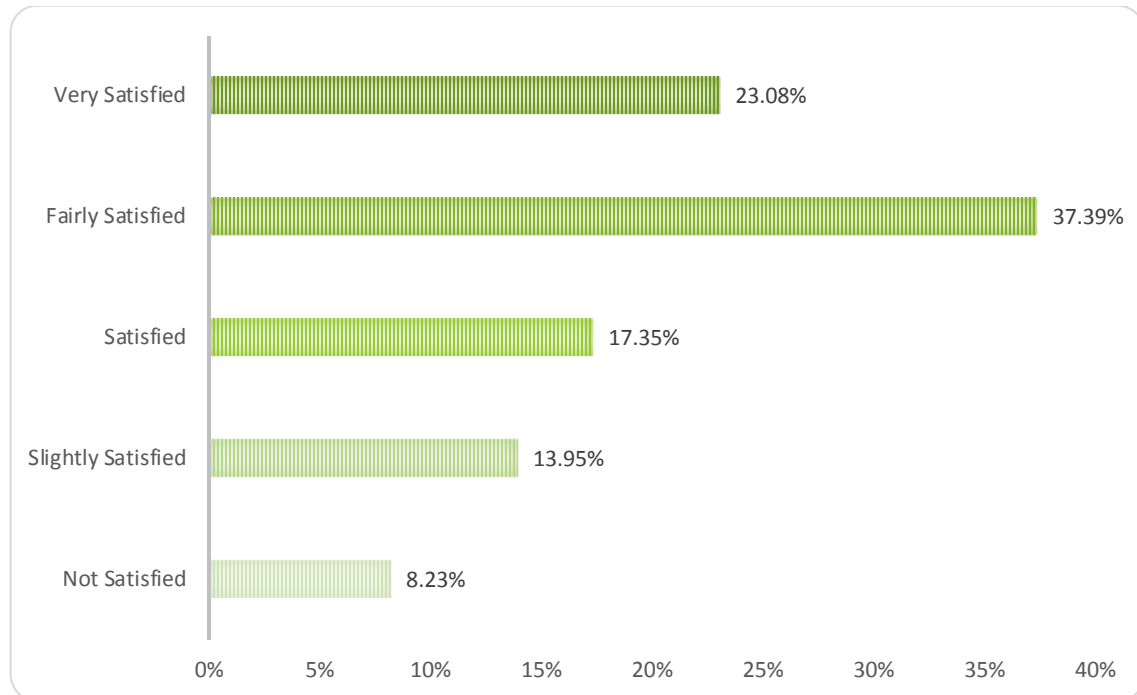


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	45	10.25%
Fairly Satisfied	114	25.97%
Satisfied	183	41.69%
Slightly Satisfied	59	13.44%
Not Satisfied	38	8.66%

77.91% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with playing fields or sports pitches.

BEACH OR SHORELINE AREAS

There were 559 responses to this part of the question.

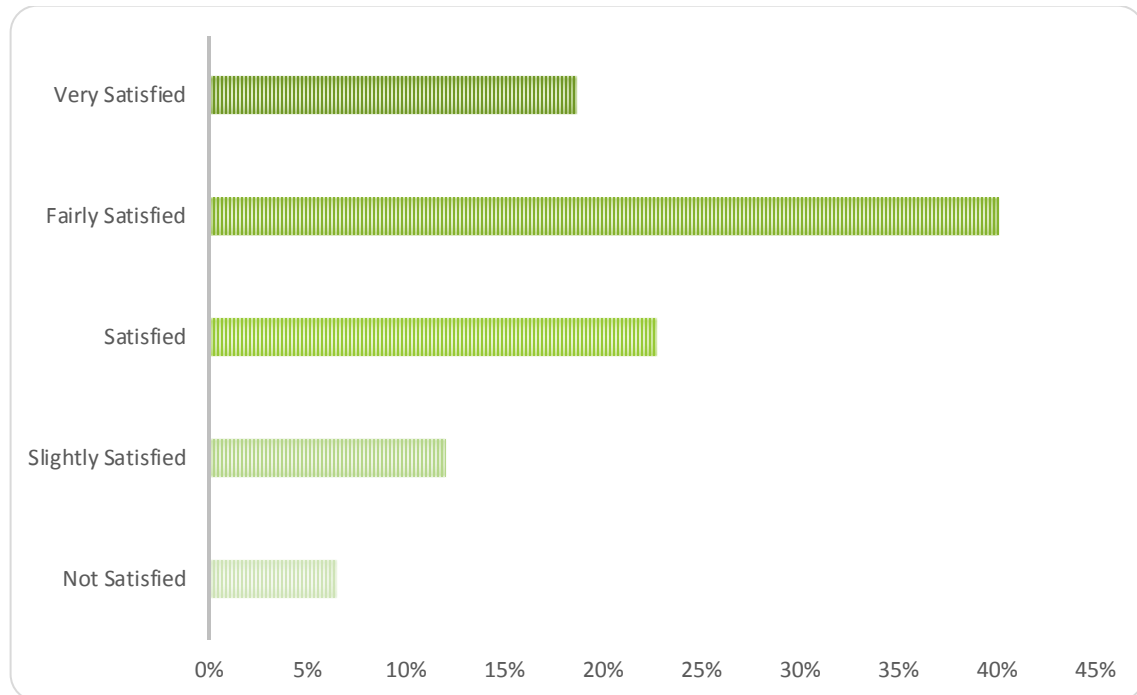


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	129	23.08%
Fairly Satisfied	209	37.39%
Satisfied	97	17.35%
Slightly Satisfied	78	13.95%
Not Satisfied	46	8.23%

77.82% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with beach and shoreline areas.

OPEN NATURAL OR SEMI-NATURAL AREAS

There were 541 responses to this part of the question.

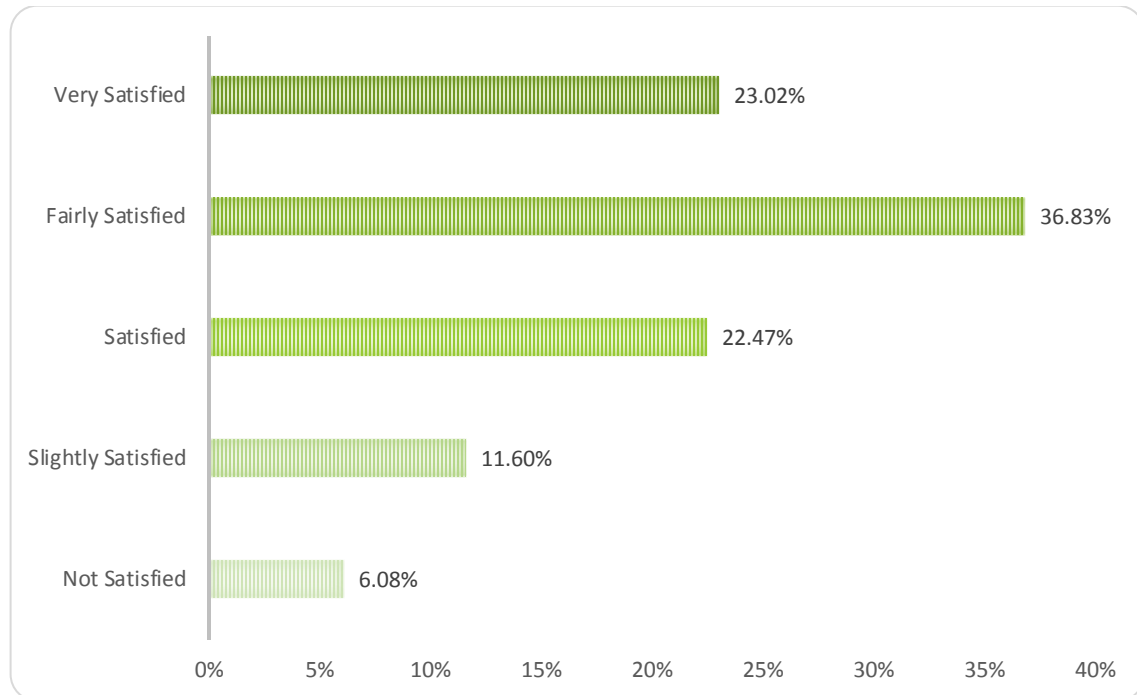


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	101	18.67%
Fairly Satisfied	217	40.11%
Satisfied	123	22.74%
Slightly Satisfied	65	12.01%
Not Satisfied	35	6.47%

81.52% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with open natural and semi-natural areas.

WOODLANDS

There were 543 responses to this part of the question.

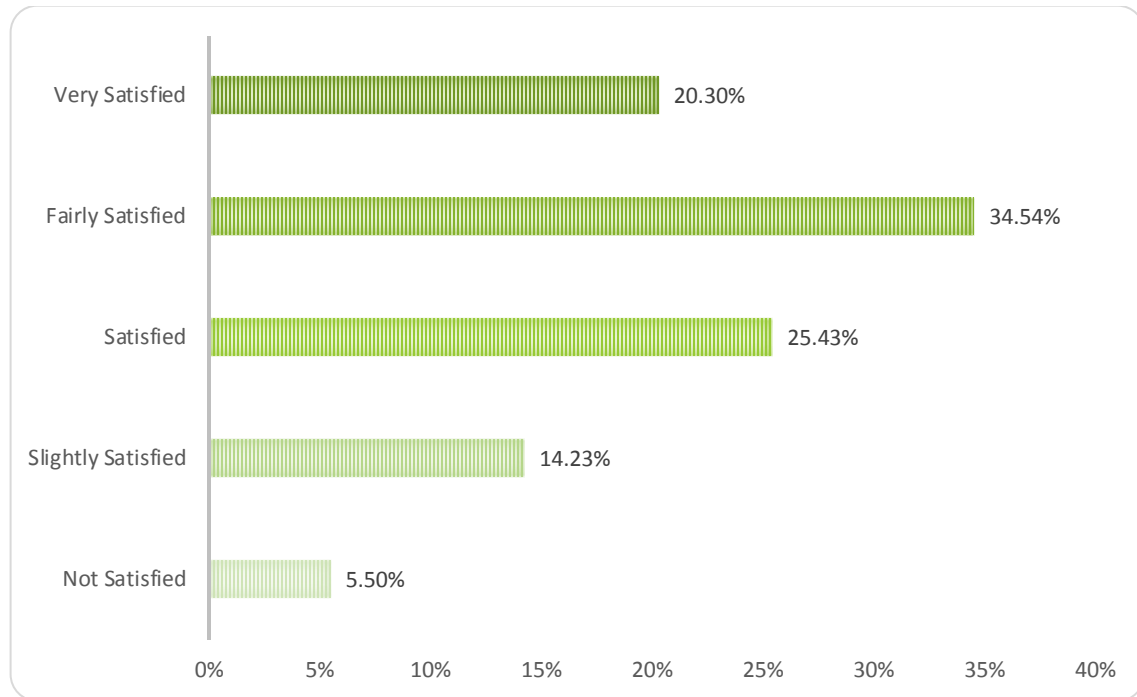


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	125	23.02%
Fairly Satisfied	200	36.83%
Satisfied	122	22.47%
Slightly Satisfied	63	11.60%
Not Satisfied	33	6.08%

82.32% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with woodland areas.

NATURE RESERVES OR WILDLIFE SITES

There were 527 responses to this part of the question.

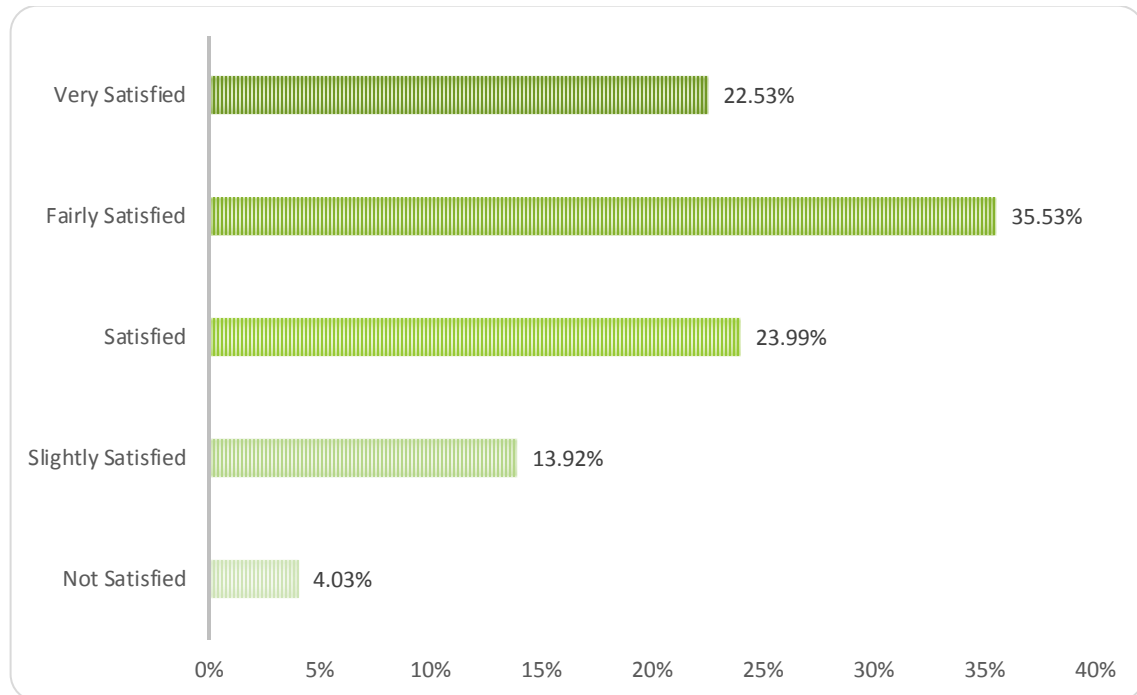


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	107	20.30%
Fairly Satisfied	182	34.54%
Satisfied	134	25.43%
Slightly Satisfied	75	14.23%
Not Satisfied	29	5.50%

80.27% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with nature reserves or wildlife sites.

RIVERSIDE AREAS

There were 546 responses to this part of the question.

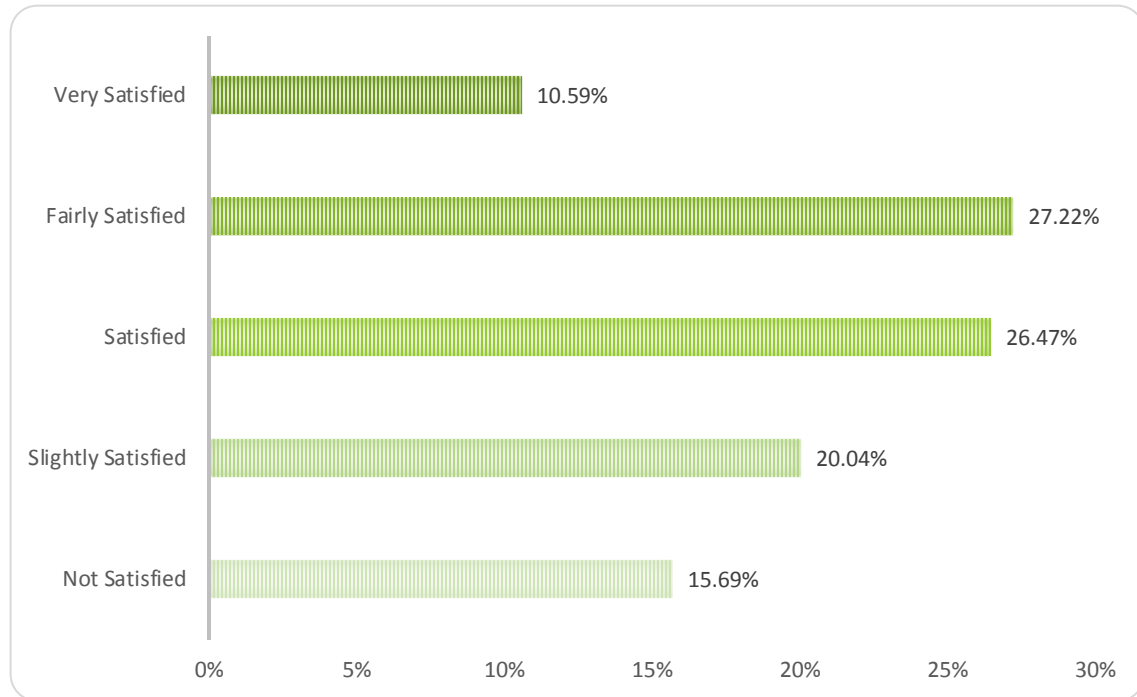


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	123	22.53%
Fairly Satisfied	194	35.53%
Satisfied	131	23.99%
Slightly Satisfied	76	13.92%
Not Satisfied	22	4.03%

81.52% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with riverside areas.

WALKING OR CYCLING ROUTES

There were 529 responses to this part of the question.

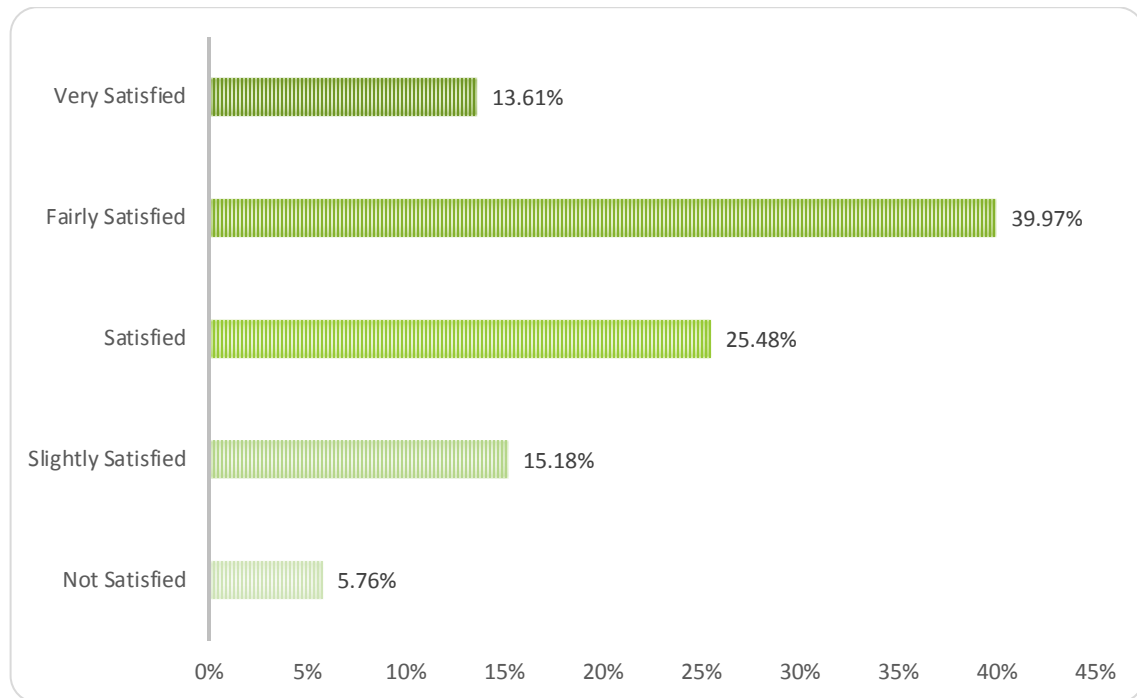


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	56	10.59%
Fairly Satisfied	144	27.22%
Satisfied	140	26.47%
Slightly Satisfied	106	20.04%
Not Satisfied	83	15.69%

64.28% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with walking or cycling routes.

15: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE OVERALL QUALITY OF ABERDEEN'S GREENSPACE AND OPEN SPACES GENERALLY? - OVERALL SATISFACTION

There were 573 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	78	13.61%
Fairly Satisfied	229	39.97%
Satisfied	146	25.48%
Slightly Satisfied	87	15.18%
Not Satisfied	33	5.76%

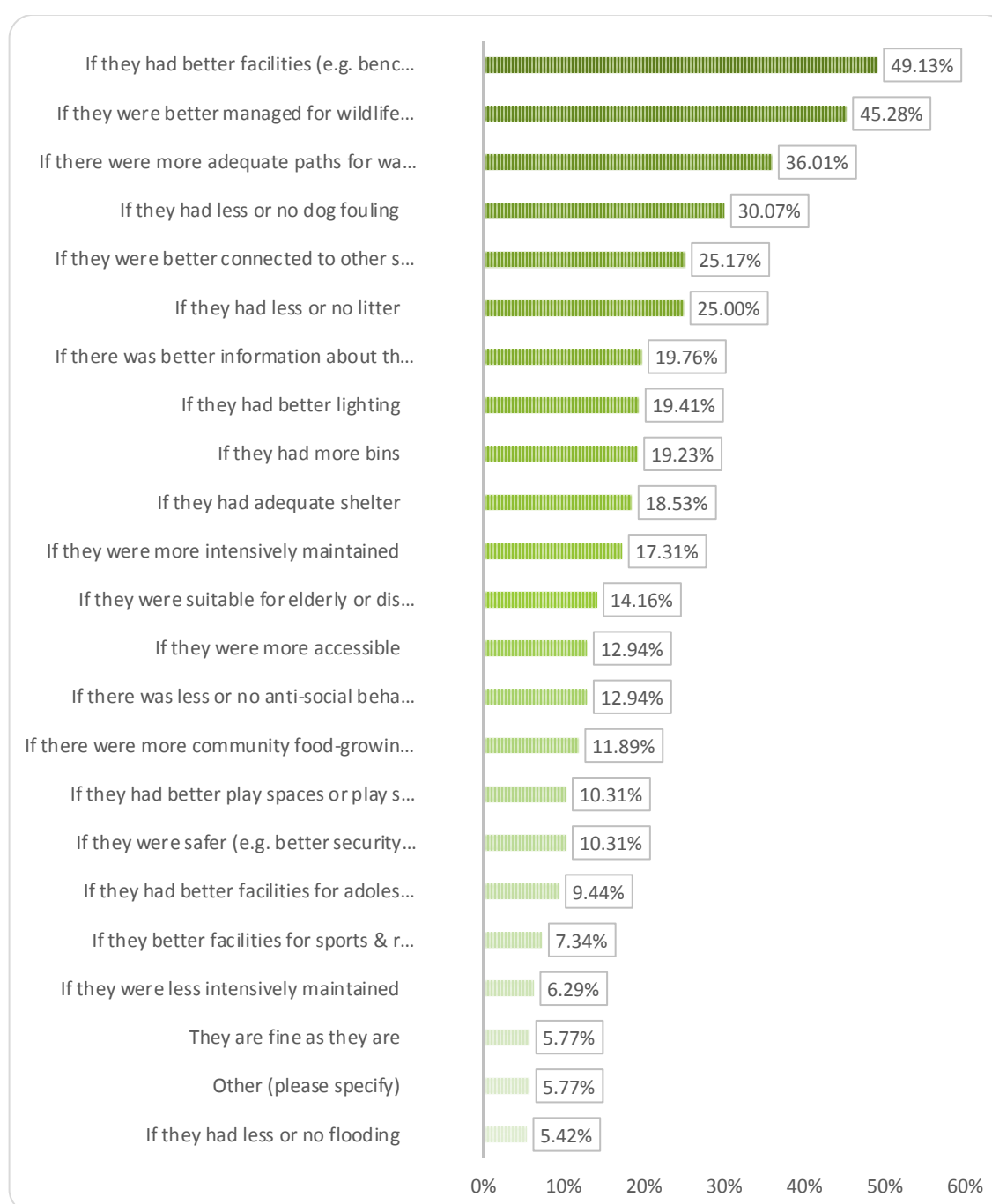
79.06% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of Aberdeen's greenspace and open space areas.

IMPROVING OPEN SPACE

16: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE OR VISIT ABERDEEN CITY'S GREENSPACE OR OPEN SPACES MORE OFTEN?

(Please choose a maximum of 3 choices from the list below)

There were 572 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT	RANK
If they had better facilities (e.g. benches or toilets)	281	49.13%	1
If they were better managed for wildlife (e.g. wildlife enhancements such as tree and wildflower planting, long grass, wetlands, shrubs etc.)	259	45.28%	2
If there were more adequate paths for walking or cycling	206	36.01%	3
If they had less or no dog fouling	172	30.07%	4
If they were better connected to other spaces	144	25.17%	5
If they had less or no litter	143	25.00%	6
If there was better information about them (e.g. information panels or signage)	113	19.76%	7
If they had better lighting	111	19.41%	8
If they had more bins	110	19.23%	9
If they had adequate shelter	106	18.53%	10
If they were more intensively maintained	99	17.31%	11
If they were suitable for elderly or disabled people	81	14.16%	12
If they were more accessible	74	12.94%	13
If there was less or no anti-social behaviour	74	12.94%	14
If there were more community food-growing facilities	68	11.89%	15
If they had better play spaces or play space provision	59	10.31%	16
If they were safer (e.g. better security)	59	10.31%	17
If they had better facilities for adolescents (e.g. skateparks, multi-use games areas)	54	9.44%	18
If they better facilities for sports & recreation	42	7.34%	19
If they were less intensively maintained	36	6.29%	20
They are fine as they are	33	5.77%	21
Other (please specify)*	33	5.77%	22
If they had less or no flooding	31	5.42%	23

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other responses specified were comments around dogs with a total of 12 responses in this category as follows: increased provision of dedicated dog parks (4), If dogs were under better control (3), more dog free zones (2), reduced dog fouling (2) more dog bins (1).

The other common responses specified were more protection of green and open spaces from development (7), improved bus links (4), increased café provision in parks (4), better segregation of cyclists and pedestrians (4), increased activities in parks (3), better lighting in parks (3), reduced use of herbicides/pesticides (2) improved parking provision (2), providing

more outdoor adult exercise equipment (2), removal of trees after storm damage (2) and providing larger open spaces (2).

*Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response.

MOST VISTED OPEN SPACES

17: WHICH GREENSPACE AREA OR OPEN SPACE IN ABERDEEN CITY DO YOU VISIT MOST? (PLEASE SPECIFY UP TO TWO PLACES E.G. NAME OF A PARK OR WOODLAND OR THE STREET NAME WHERE THE GREEN/OPEN SPACE IS LOCATED.)

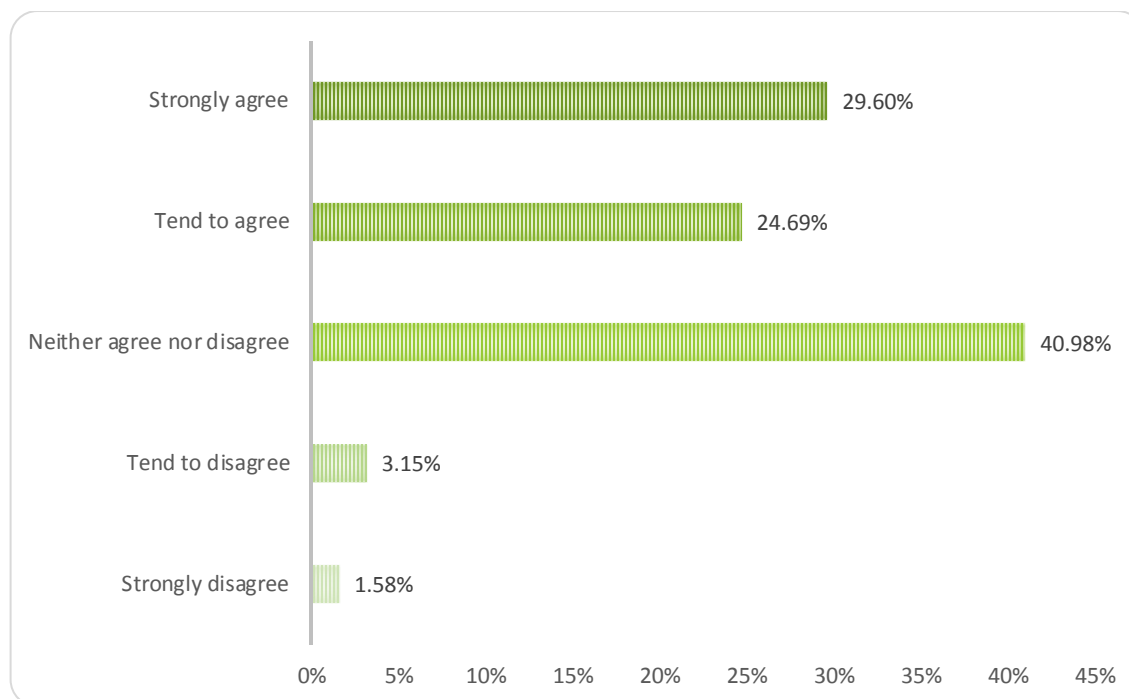
The top 10 greenspace and open space areas identified as being most visited by respondents were as follows:

GREENSPACE / OPEN SPACE AREA	TOTAL	RANK
Duthie Park	183	1
Aberdeen Beach	144	2
Hazlehead Park	125	3
Seaton Park	96	4
St Fittick's Park	50	5
Westburn Park	39	6
Victoria Park	35	7
Deeside Way	29	8
Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve	19	9
Torry Battery	9	10

FOOD GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

18: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE FOOD-GROWING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN GREEN AND OPEN SPACES ACROSS ABERDEEN?

There were 571 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Strongly agree	169	29.60%
Tend to agree	141	24.69%
Neither agree nor disagree	234	40.98%
Tend to disagree	18	3.15%
Strongly disagree	9	1.58%

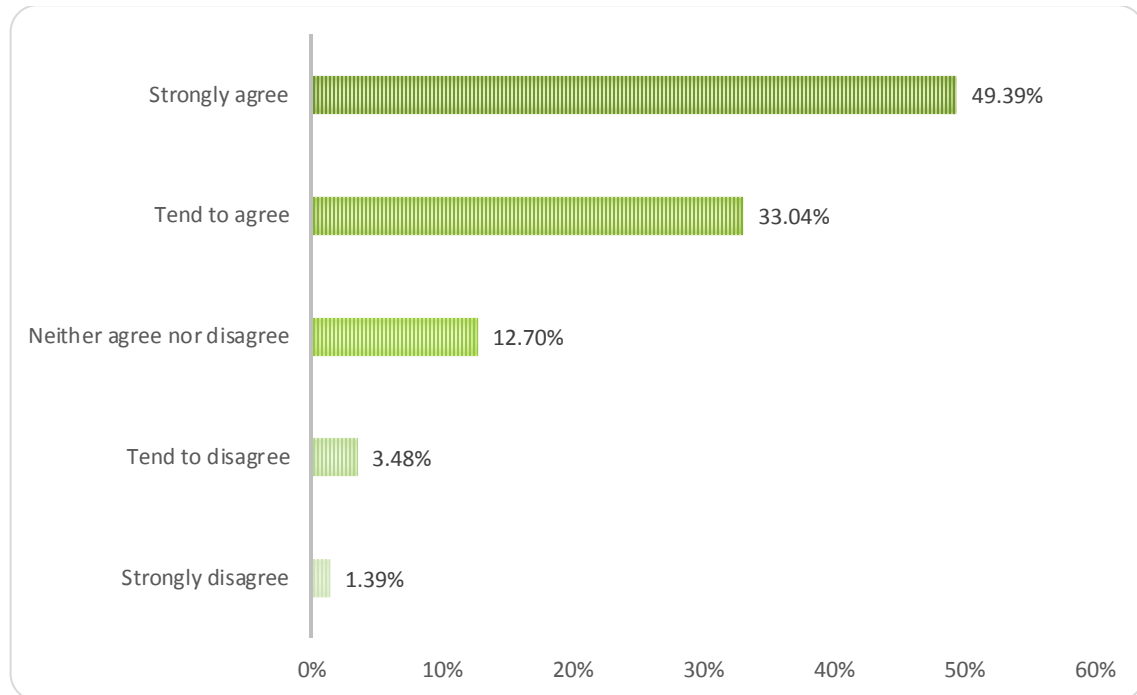
54.29% of respondents would like to see more food-growing opportunities within green and open spaces across Aberdeen.

Respondents were also asked for any suggestions of spaces which could be used for food-growing with 68 responses to this part of the question.

MANAGING SPACES FOR NATURE

19: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE GREEN SPACES MANAGED IN A MORE NATURAL WAY FOR THE BENEFIT OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE? - TELL US IF YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE

There were 575 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Strongly agree	284	49.39%
Tend to agree	190	33.04%
Neither agree nor disagree	73	12.70%
Tend to disagree	20	3.48%
Strongly disagree	8	1.39%

82.43% of respondents would like to see more green spaces managed in a more natural way for the benefit of wildlife and nature.

Respondents were also asked for any suggestions of spaces which could be managed for the benefit of wildlife and nature with 105 responses to this part of the question.

GENERAL OPEN SPACE COMMENTS

20: IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER GENERAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO MAKE ABOUT ABERDEEN'S GREEN AND OPEN SPACES PLEASE USE THE SPACE BELOW:

There were 249 responses to this part of the question.

GENERAL OPEN SPACE COMMENTS

COMMON THEMES AND SUGGESTIONS: Some of the common themes and suggestions that emerged from general comments were: reducing the use of chemicals and petrol equipment used for maintaining open spaces, preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and natural beauty of spaces, providing more facilities such as toilets, bins, cafes, play areas, and cycle routes, improved maintenance and listening to local community's opinions and needs.

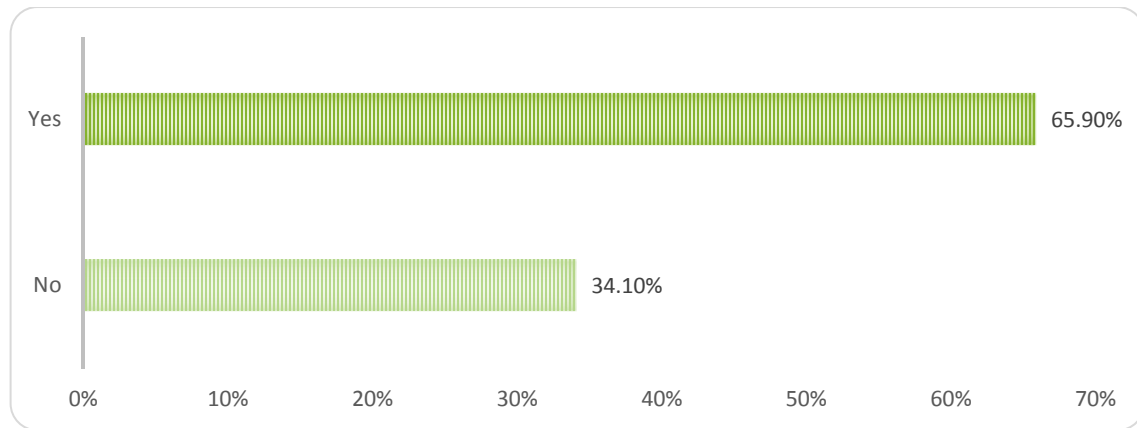
POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON GREEN SPACES: A number of comments from respondents expressed views on what was liked and appreciated about green and open spaces in Aberdeen. Some of the aspects that were praised were the beach and riverside areas, the biodiversity and natural beauty of spaces, and Aberdeen's parks and gardens.

PROTECTING OPEN SPACES FROM DEVELOPMENT: A number of responses expressed a desire for open spaces to be protected from development. A significant number of concerns were also raised around the potential development of areas of St Fittick's Park, which respondents felt was a vital green space and wetland area for the residents of Torry and the wildlife that inhabits it.

VOLUNTEERING IN OPEN SPACES

21: IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING IN GREEN AND OPEN SPACE AREAS?

There were 566 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Yes	373	65.90%
No	193	34.10%

65.90% of respondents if given the opportunity would be interested in volunteering in green and open space areas.

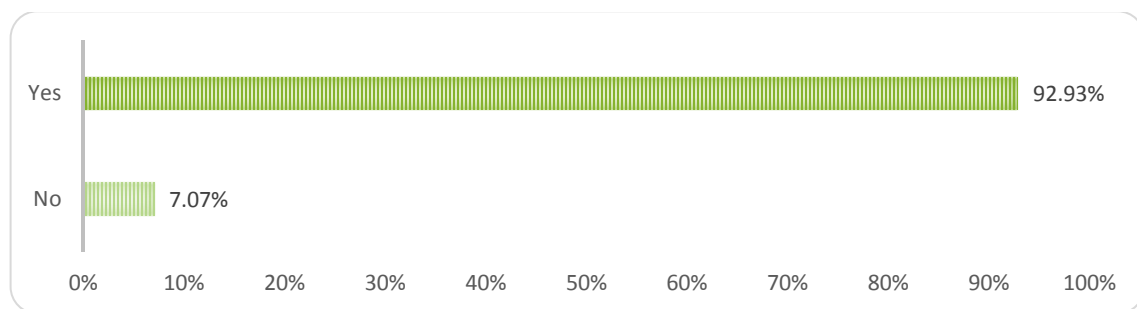
LOCAL OPEN SPACES

The following questions were about greenspace areas and open spaces in the respondent's local area – this can refer to any greenspace or open space in the area around where they live within approximately 400 meters or a 5-minute walk from their home.

Note respondents only answered the satisfaction question for each specific type of greenspace or open space if they had access to these in their local area.

22: ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY GREENSPACE OR OPEN SPACES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

There were 580 responses to this part of the question.

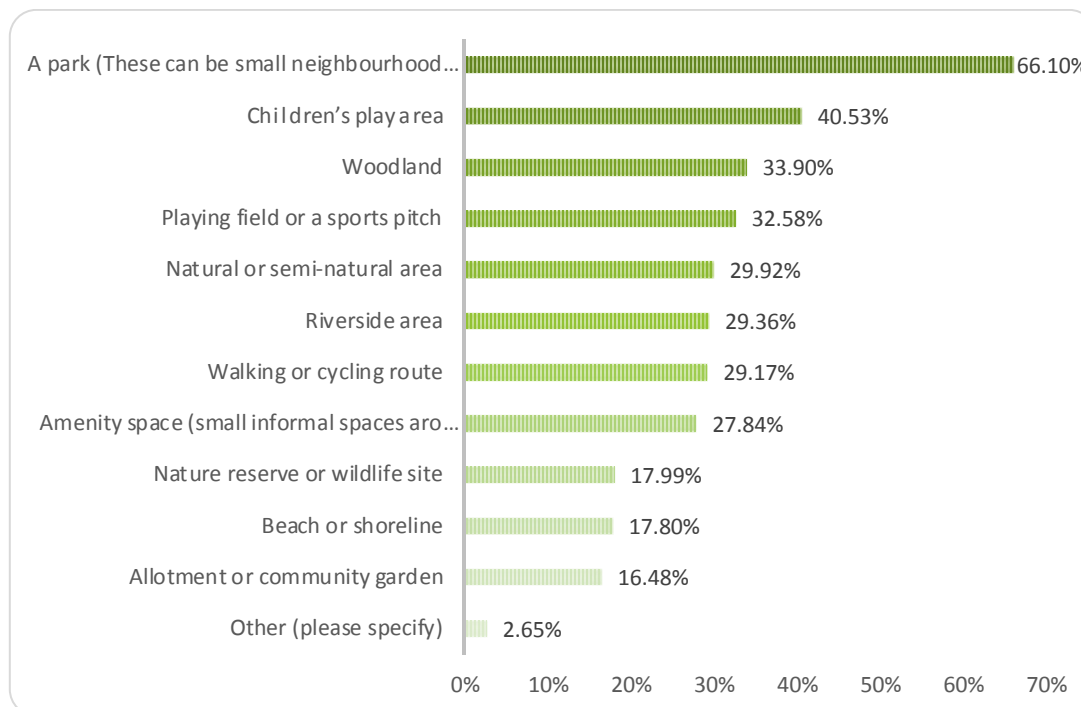


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Yes	539	92.93%
No	41	7.07%

92.93% of respondents were aware of greenspace areas and open spaces in their local area.

23: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE GREENSPACE AREA OR OPEN SPACE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

There were 528 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
A park (These can be small neighbourhood parks or large major parks e.g. Duthie park)	349	66.10%
Children's play area	214	40.53%
Woodland	179	33.90%
Playing field or a sports pitch	172	32.58%
Natural or semi-natural area	158	29.92%
Riverside area	155	29.36%
Walking or cycling route	154	29.17%
Amenity space (small informal spaces around residential or business areas)	147	27.84%
Nature reserve or wildlife site	95	17.99%
Beach or shoreline	94	17.80%
Allotment or community garden	87	16.48%
Other (please specify)*	14	2.65%

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other spaces specified were The Deeside Way and Cemeteries. *Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response.

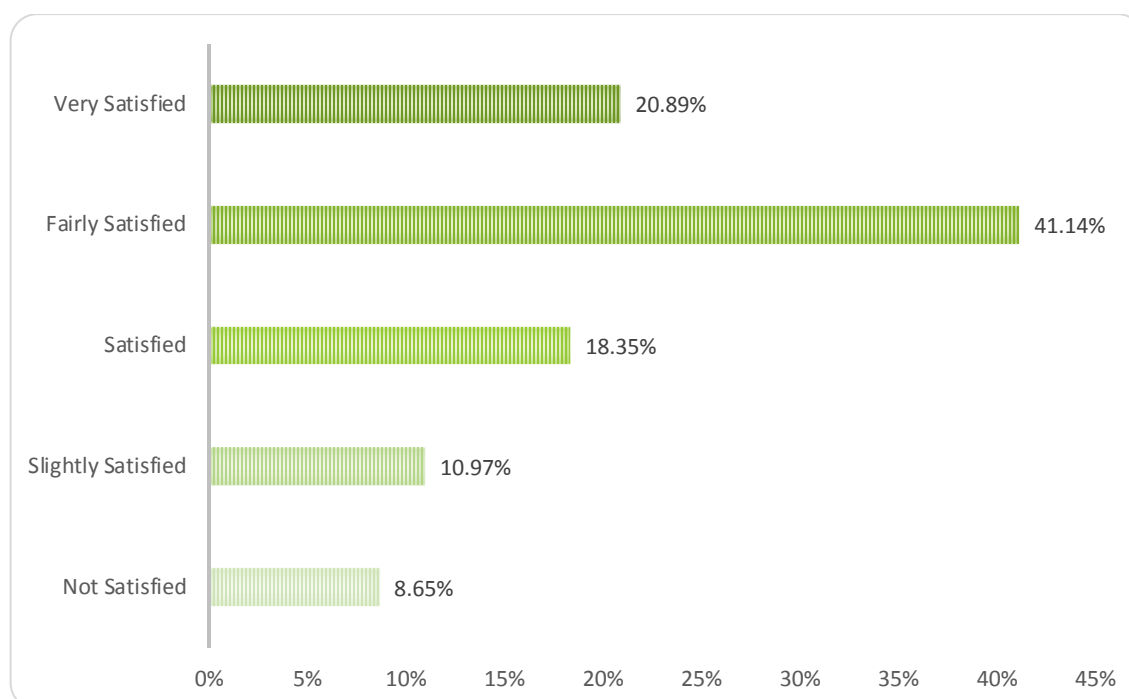
LOCAL OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION

24: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR LOCAL GREENSPACES OR OPEN SPACES NEAREST TO YOU?

This can refer to any greenspace or open space in the area around where you live within approximately 400 meters or a 5-minute walk from your home.

PARKS (THESE CAN BE SMALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS OR LARGE MAJOR PARKS E.G. DUTHIE PARK)

There were 474 responses to this part of the question.

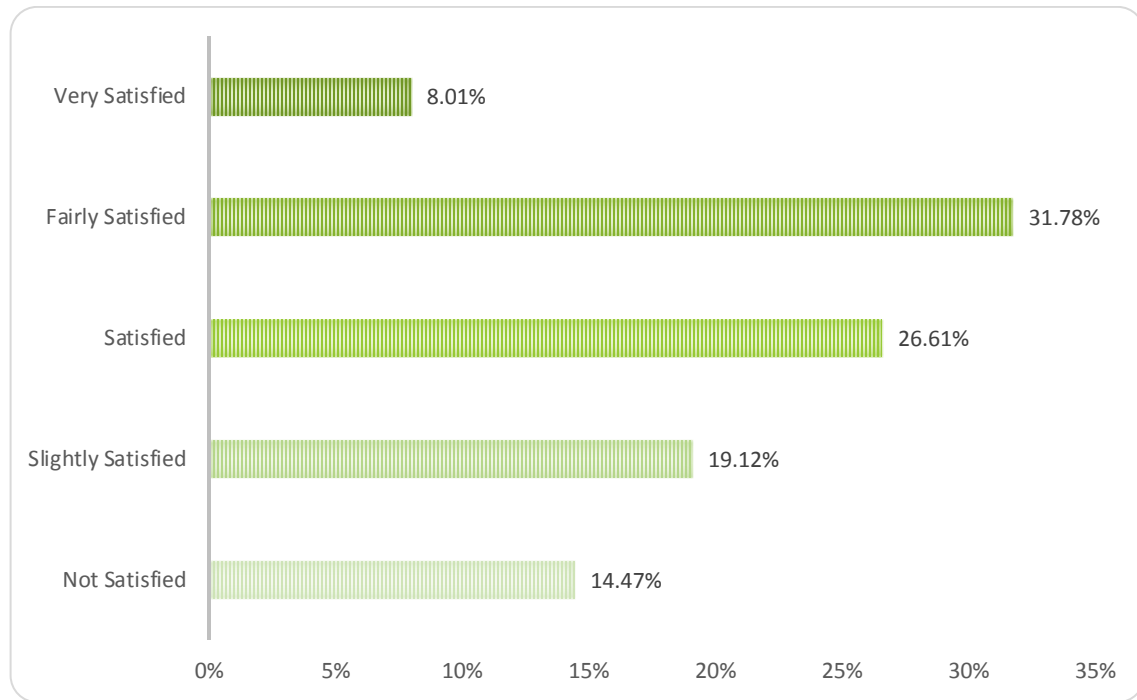


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	99	20.89%
Fairly Satisfied	195	41.14%
Satisfied	87	18.35%
Slightly Satisfied	52	10.97%
Not Satisfied	41	8.65%

80.38% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of local parks.

AMENITY SPACES (SMALL INFORMAL SPACES AROUND RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS AREAS)

There were 387 responses to this part of the question.

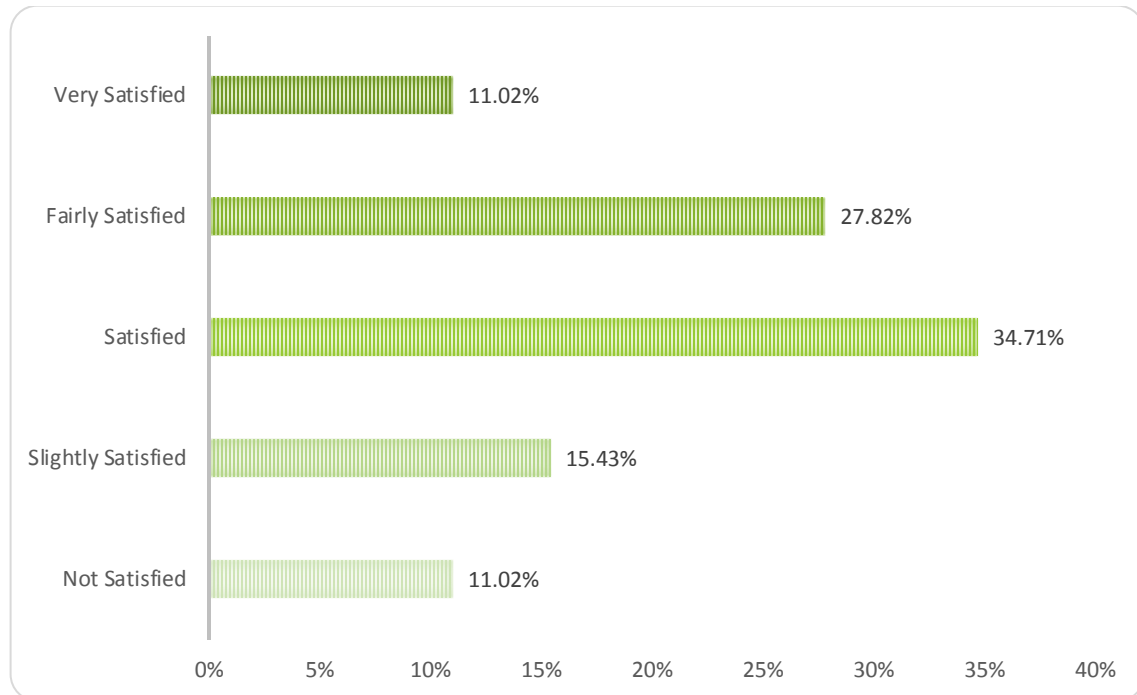


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	31	8.01%
Fairly Satisfied	123	31.78%
Satisfied	103	26.61%
Slightly Satisfied	74	19.12%
Not Satisfied	56	14.47%

66.40% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local amenity space areas.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

There were 363 responses to this part of the question.

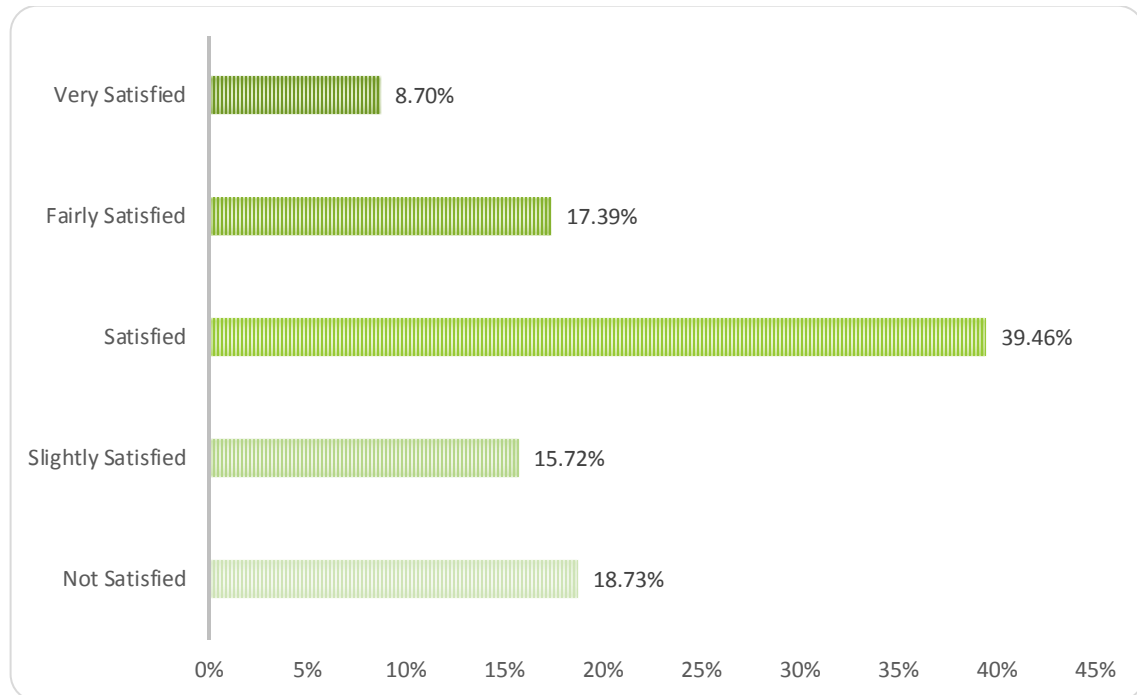


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	40	11.02%
Fairly Satisfied	101	27.82%
Satisfied	126	34.71%
Slightly Satisfied	56	15.43%
Not Satisfied	40	11.02%

73.55% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local children's play areas.

ALLOTMENTS OR COMMUNITY GARDENS

There were 299 responses to this part of the question.

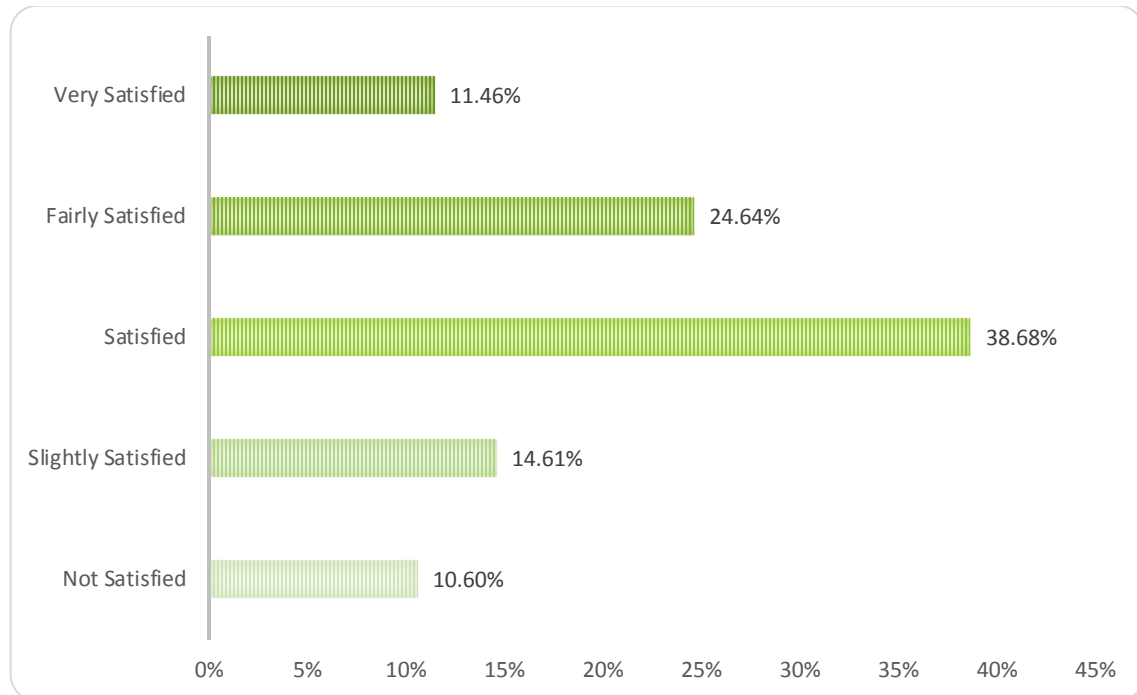


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	26	8.70%
Fairly Satisfied	52	17.39%
Satisfied	118	39.46%
Slightly Satisfied	47	15.72%
Not Satisfied	56	18.73%

65.55% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local allotment or community garden areas.

PLAYING FIELD OR SPORTS PITCH AREAS

There were 349 responses to this part of the question.

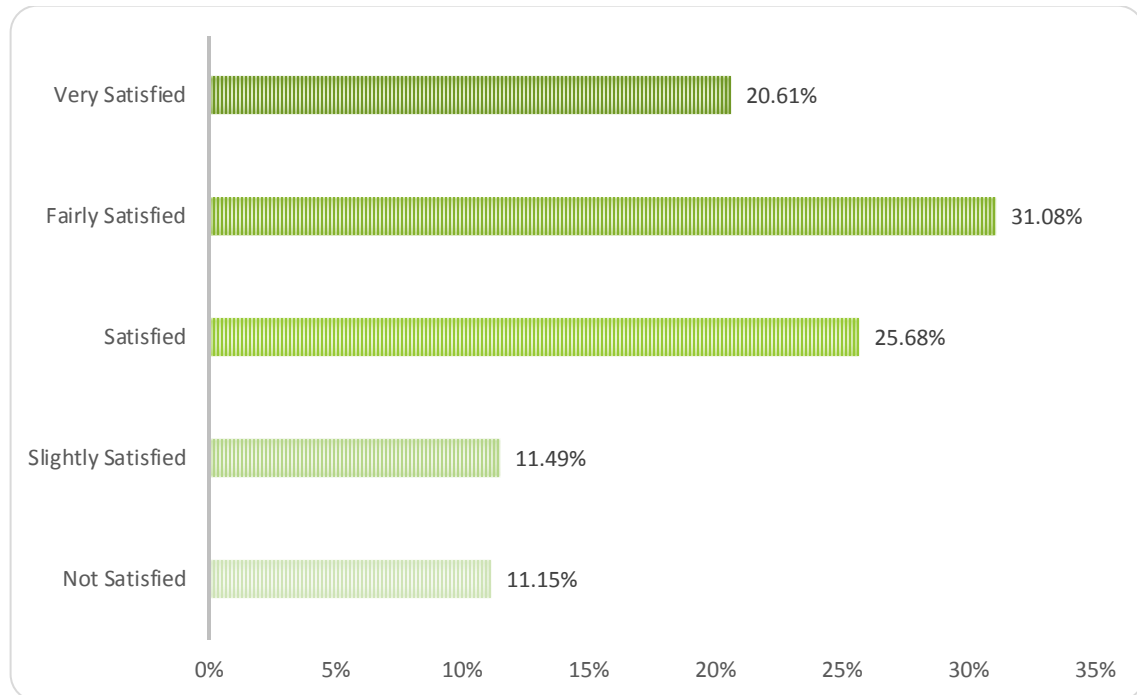


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	40	11.46%
Fairly Satisfied	86	24.64%
Satisfied	135	38.68%
Slightly Satisfied	51	14.61%
Not Satisfied	37	10.60%

74.78% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local playing field or sports pitch areas.

BEACH OR SHORELINE AREAS

There were 296 responses to this part of the question.

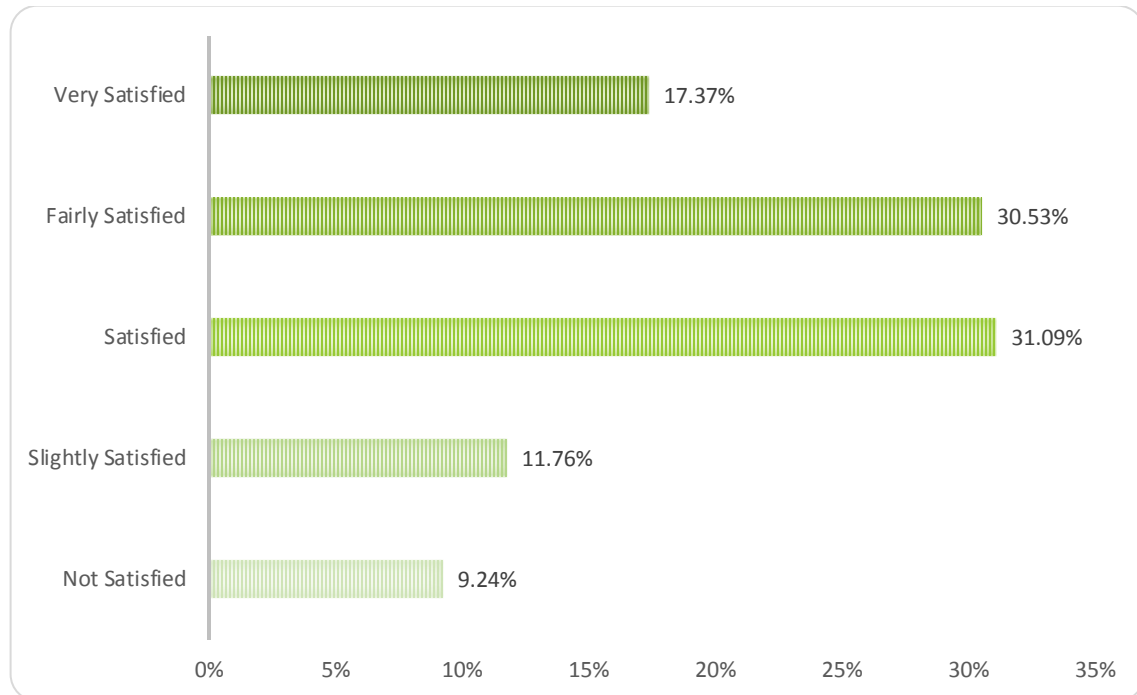


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	61	20.61%
Fairly Satisfied	92	31.08%
Satisfied	76	25.68%
Slightly Satisfied	34	11.49%
Not Satisfied	33	11.15%

77.37% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local beach or shoreline areas.

NATURAL OR SEMI-NATURAL AREAS

There were 357 responses to this part of the question.

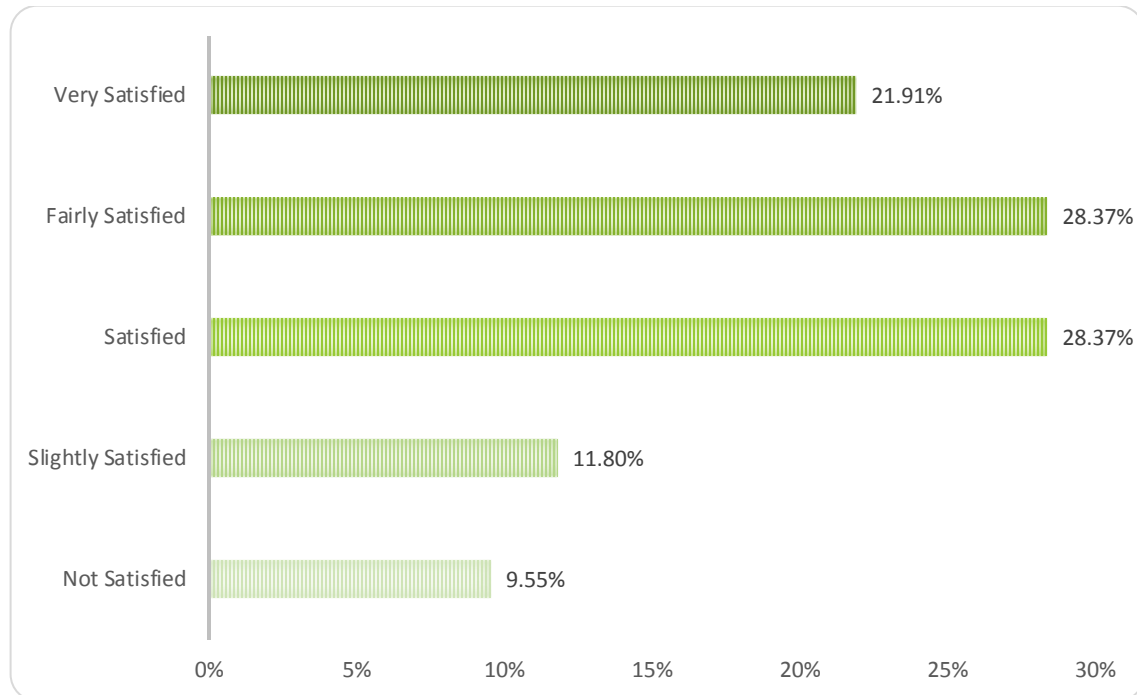


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	62	17.37%
Fairly Satisfied	109	30.53%
Satisfied	111	31.09%
Slightly Satisfied	42	11.76%
Not Satisfied	33	9.24%

78.99% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local natural or semi-natural areas.

WOODLANDS

There were 356 responses to this part of the question.

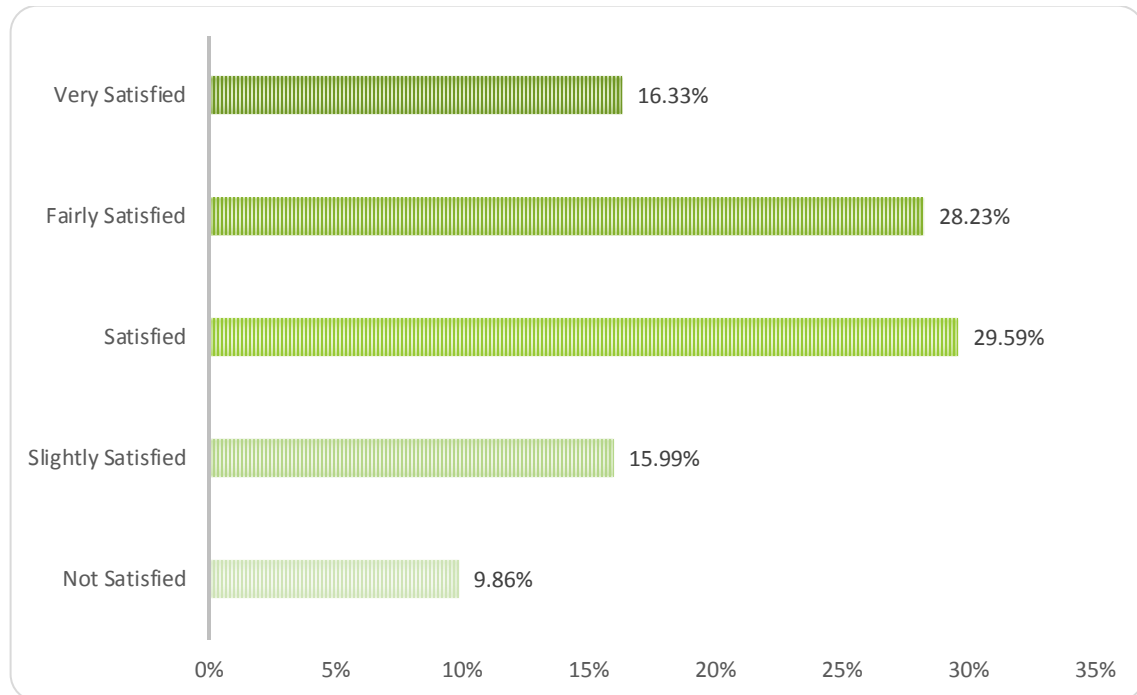


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	78	21.91%
Fairly Satisfied	101	28.37%
Satisfied	101	28.37%
Slightly Satisfied	42	11.80%
Not Satisfied	34	9.55%

78.65% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local woodland areas.

NATURE RESERVES OR WILDLIFE SITES

There were 294 responses to this part of the question.

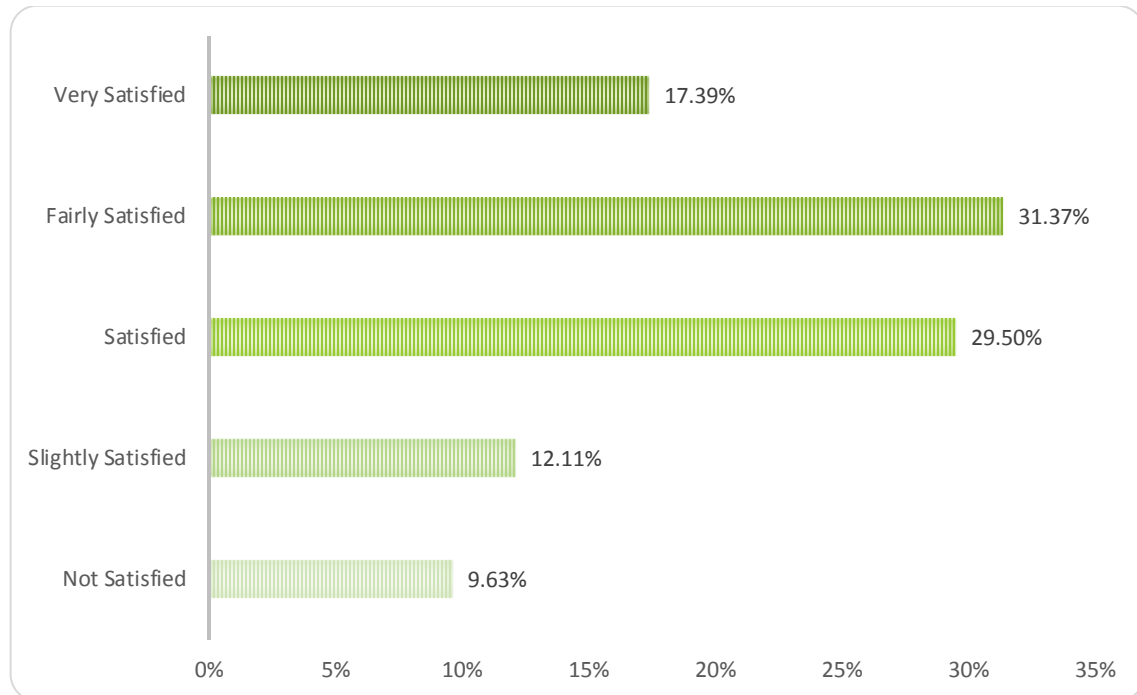


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	48	16.33%
Fairly Satisfied	83	28.23%
Satisfied	87	29.59%
Slightly Satisfied	47	15.99%
Not Satisfied	29	9.86%

74.15% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local nature reserve or wildlife areas.

RIVERSIDE AREAS

There were 322 responses to this part of the question.

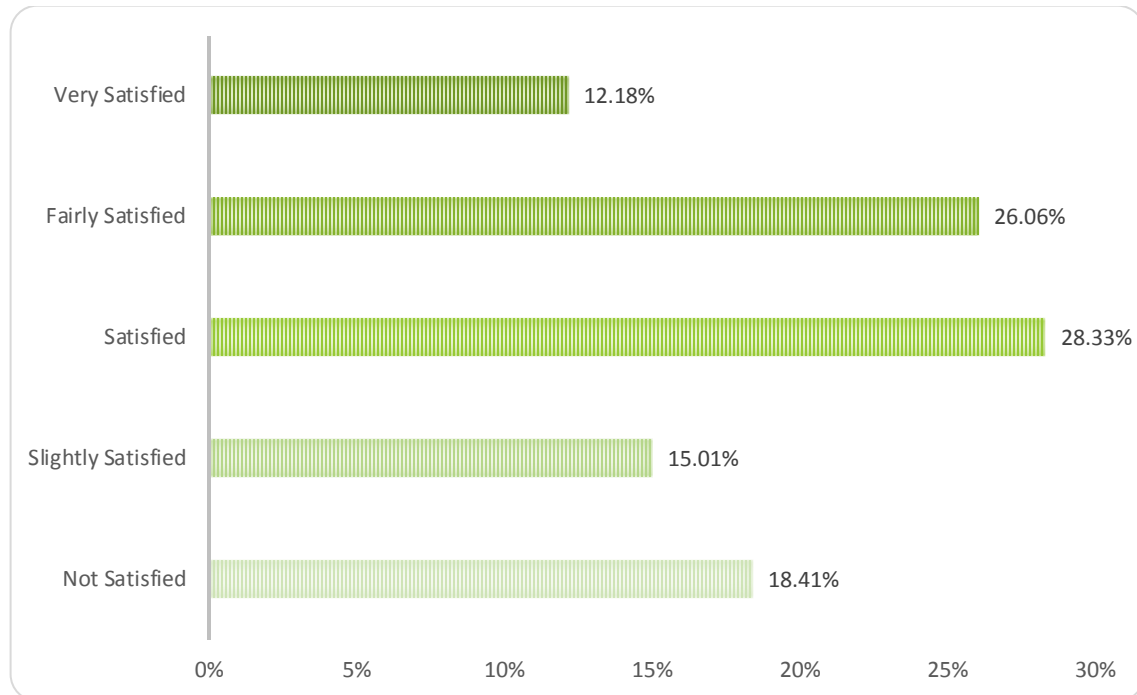


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	56	17.39%
Fairly Satisfied	101	31.37%
Satisfied	95	29.50%
Slightly Satisfied	39	12.11%
Not Satisfied	31	9.63%

78.26% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local riverside areas.

WALKING OR CYCLING ROUTES

There were 353 responses to this part of the question.

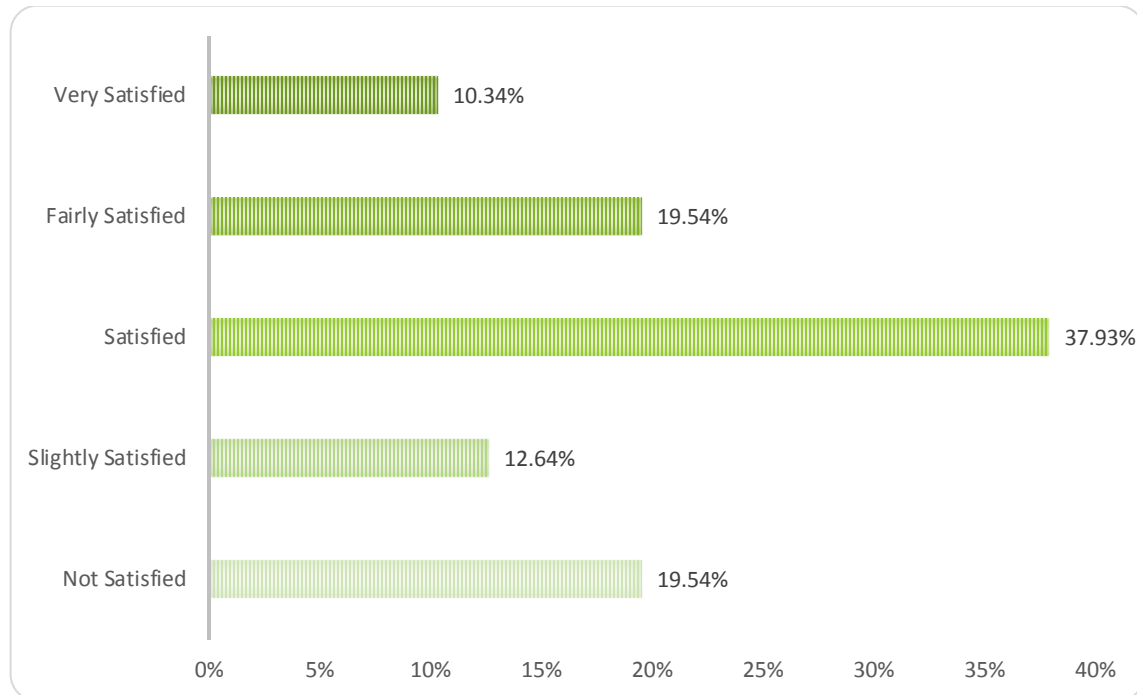


SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	43	12.18%
Fairly Satisfied	92	26.06%
Satisfied	100	28.33%
Slightly Satisfied	53	15.01%
Not Satisfied	65	18.41%

66.57% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with local walking or cycling routes.

OTHER LOCAL GREENSPACE AND OPEN SPACES AREAS

There were 87 responses to this part of the question.



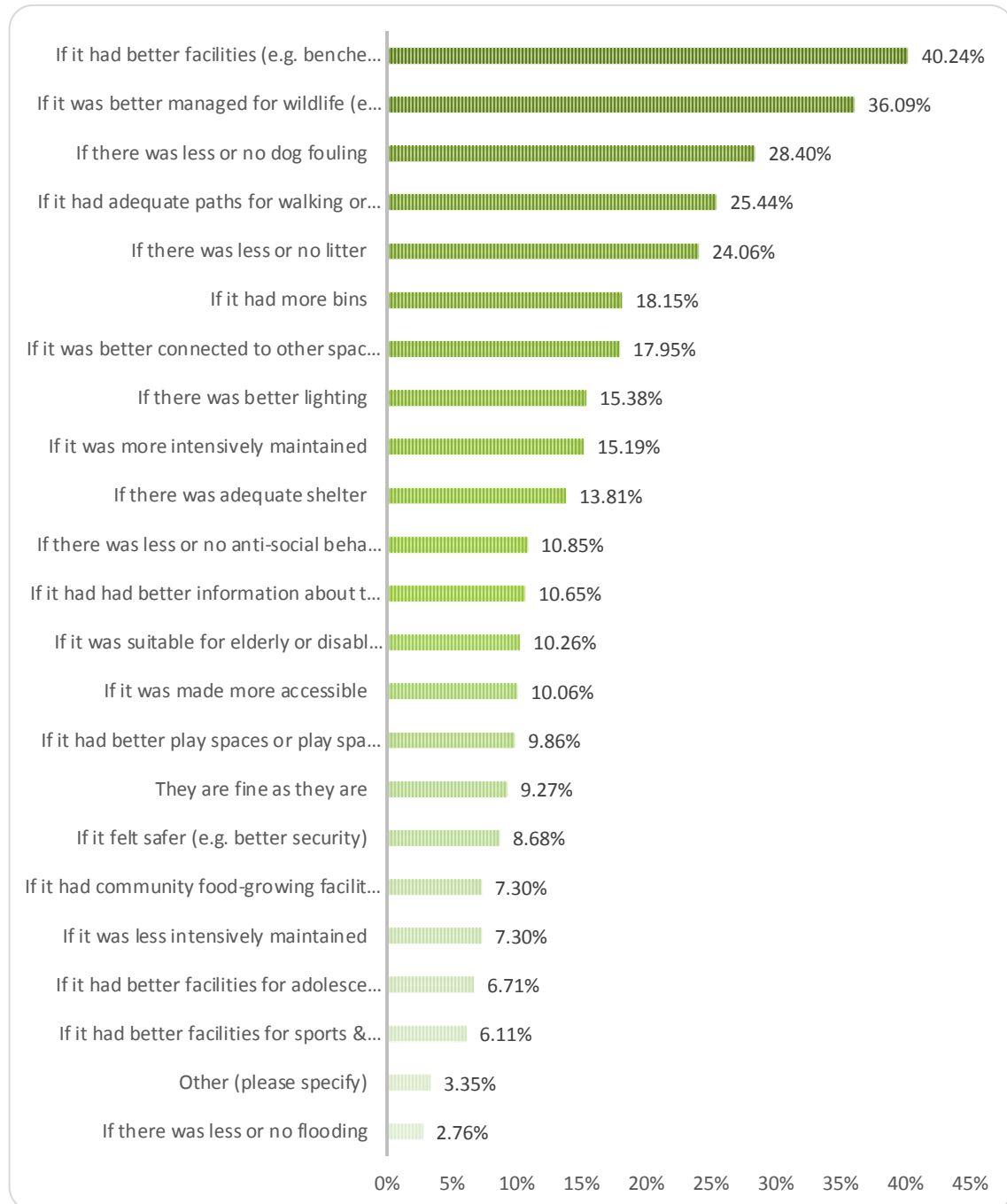
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Very Satisfied	9	10.34%
Fairly Satisfied	17	19.54%
Satisfied	33	37.93%
Slightly Satisfied	11	12.64%
Not Satisfied	17	19.54%

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other open space type specified were Green Access Routes, specifically The Deeside Way.

66.57% of respondents were satisfied, fairly satisfied or very satisfied with other local greenspace and open spaces areas.

25: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL GREENSPACE AREAS OR OPEN SPACES MORE OFTEN?

There were 507 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT	RANK
If it had better facilities (e.g. benches or toilets)	204	40.24%	1
If it was better managed for wildlife (e.g. wildlife enhancements such as tree and wildflower planting, long grass, wetlands, shrubs etc.)	183	36.09%	2
If there was less or no dog fouling	144	28.40%	3
If it had adequate paths for walking or cycling	129	25.44%	4
If there was less or no litter	122	24.06%	5
If it had more bins	92	18.15%	6
If it was better connected to other spaces	91	17.95%	7
If there was better lighting	78	15.38%	8
If it was more intensively maintained	77	15.19%	9
If there was adequate shelter	70	13.81%	10
If there was less or no anti-social behaviour	55	10.85%	11
If it had had better information about the space (e.g. information panels or signage)	54	10.65%	12
If it was suitable for elderly or disabled people	52	10.26%	13
If it was made more accessible	51	10.06%	14
If it had better play spaces or play space provision	50	9.86%	15
They are fine as they are	47	9.27%	16
If it felt safer (e.g. better security)	44	8.68%	17
If it had community food-growing facilities	37	7.30%	18
If it was less intensively maintained	37	7.30%	19
If it had better facilities for adolescents (e.g. skateparks, multi-use games areas)	34	6.71%	20
If it had better facilities for sports & recreation	31	6.11%	21
Other (please specify)*	17	3.35%	22
If there was less or no flooding	14	2.76%	23

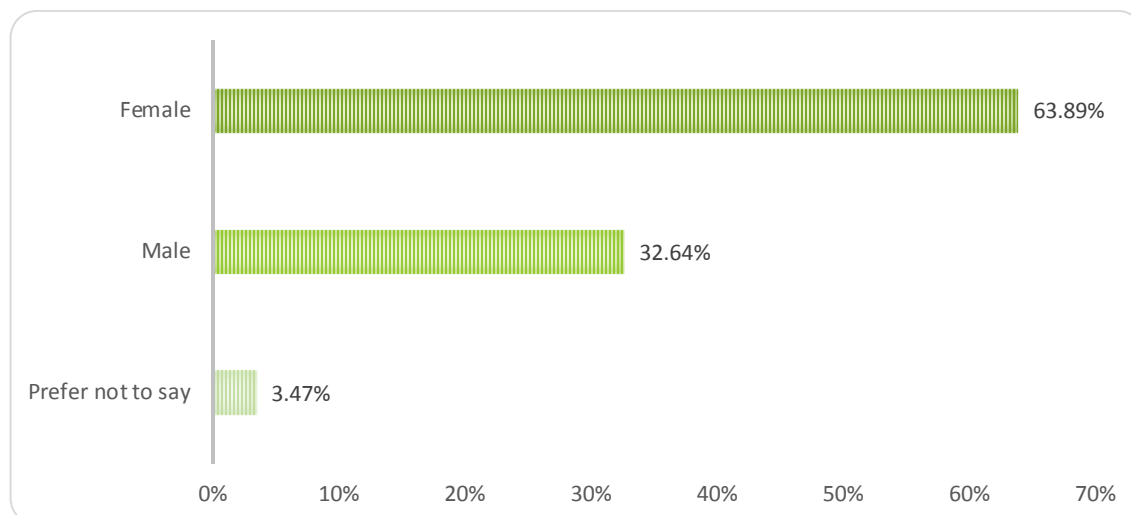
There were 36 responses to this part of the question.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: The most common other options identified that would encourage respondents to use or visit local greenspace areas or open spaces more often were having more spaces available with respondents highlighting that a lack of available spaces nearby was a barrier to access. Protecting greenspace and open space areas from development to enable them to continue to be used as open spaces was also highlighted.

*Note some respondents selected other but didn't specify an associated other response.

26: WHAT IS YOUR SEX?

There were 576 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Female	368	63.89%
Male	188	32.64%
Prefer not to say	20	3.47%
Intersex	0	0.00%

Please tell us if you have any requirements around open spaces in relation to your sex.

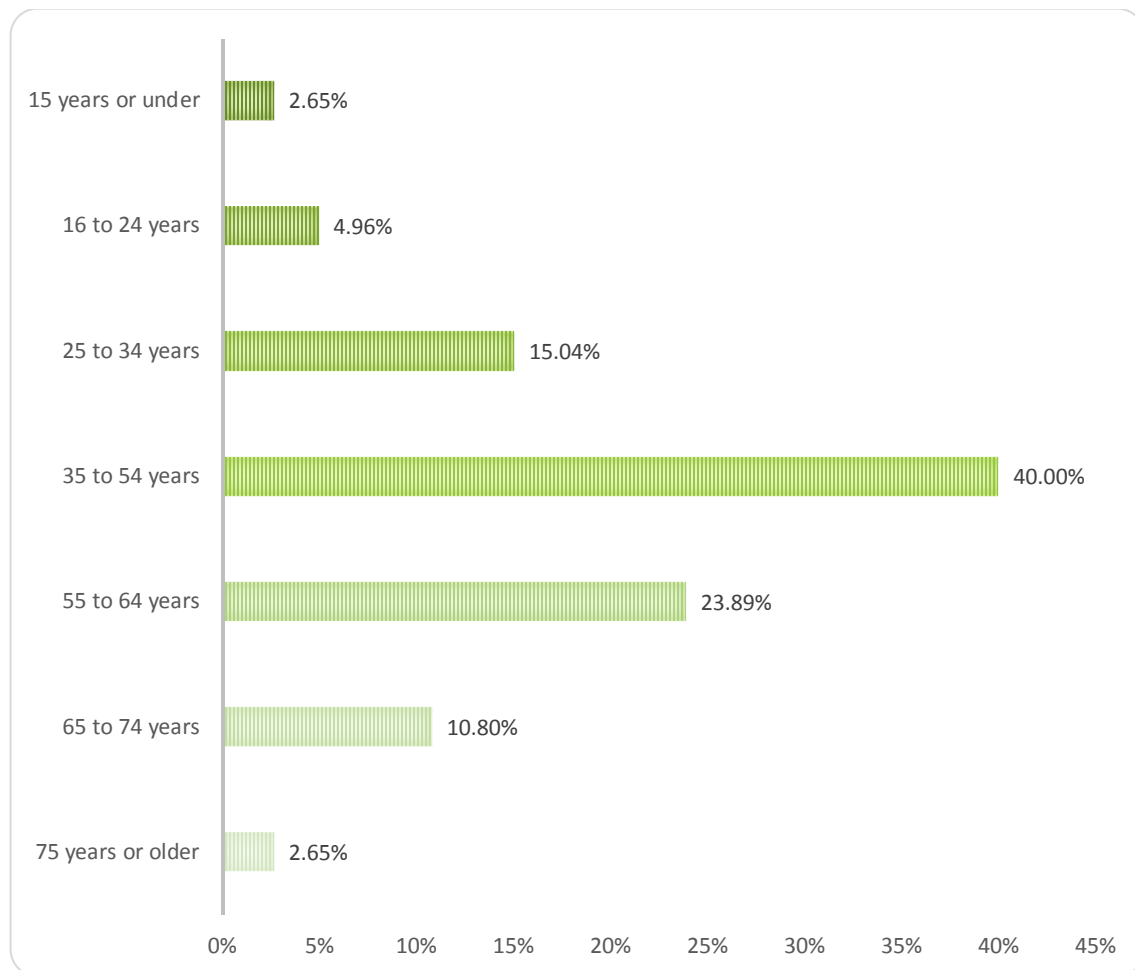
There were 18 responses to this part of the question.

COMMON THEMES AND SUGGESTIONS:

Some respondents expressed the need for better lighting, security and toilet facilities in green spaces, particularly at night.

27: WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP?

There were 565 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
15 years or under	15	2.65%
16 to 24 years	28	4.96%
25 to 34 years	85	15.04%
35 to 54 years	226	40.00%
55 to 64 years	135	23.89%
65 to 74 years	61	10.80%
75 years or older	15	2.65%
15 years or under	15	2.65%

Please tell us if you have any requirements around open spaces in relation to your age.

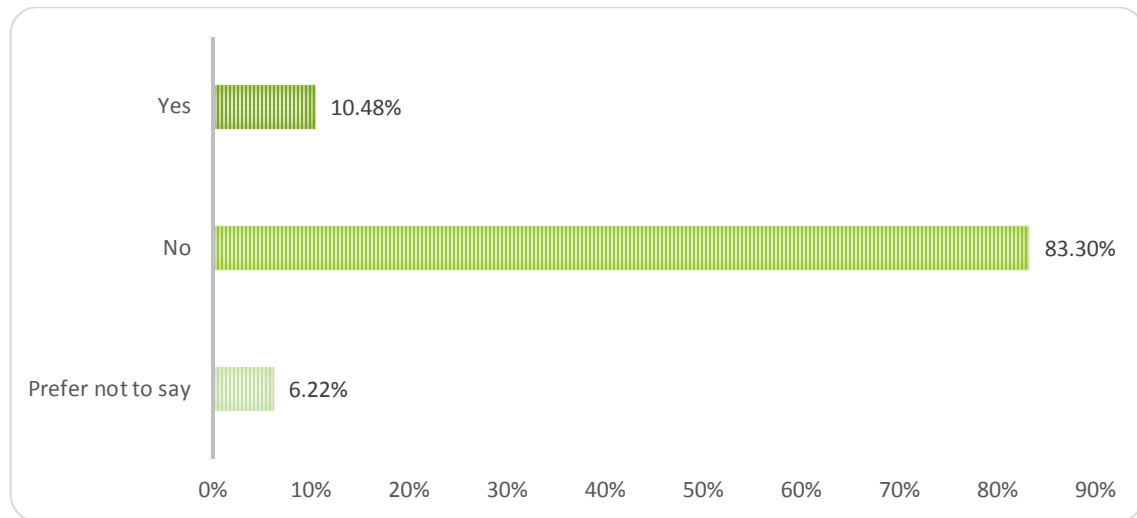
There were 35 responses to this part of the question.

COMMON THEMES AND SUGGESTIONS:

The need for more toilet facilities was highlighted by a number of respondents. The desire for exercise equipment and access to outdoor adult gym equipment and a variety of exercise equipment was expressed. Some respondents raised the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities or mobility problems, with more hard surfaced paths and better maintained surfaces that are suitable for wheelchairs users requested along with the need for more seating and benches for rest.

28: DO YOU HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION OR DISABILITIES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR CHOICE OR USE OF GREENSPACE OR OPEN SPACES AREAS?

There were 563 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Yes	59	10.48%
No	469	83.30%
Prefer not to say	35	6.22%

Please tell us if you have any suggestions or needs around open spaces in relation to your disability or medical condition.

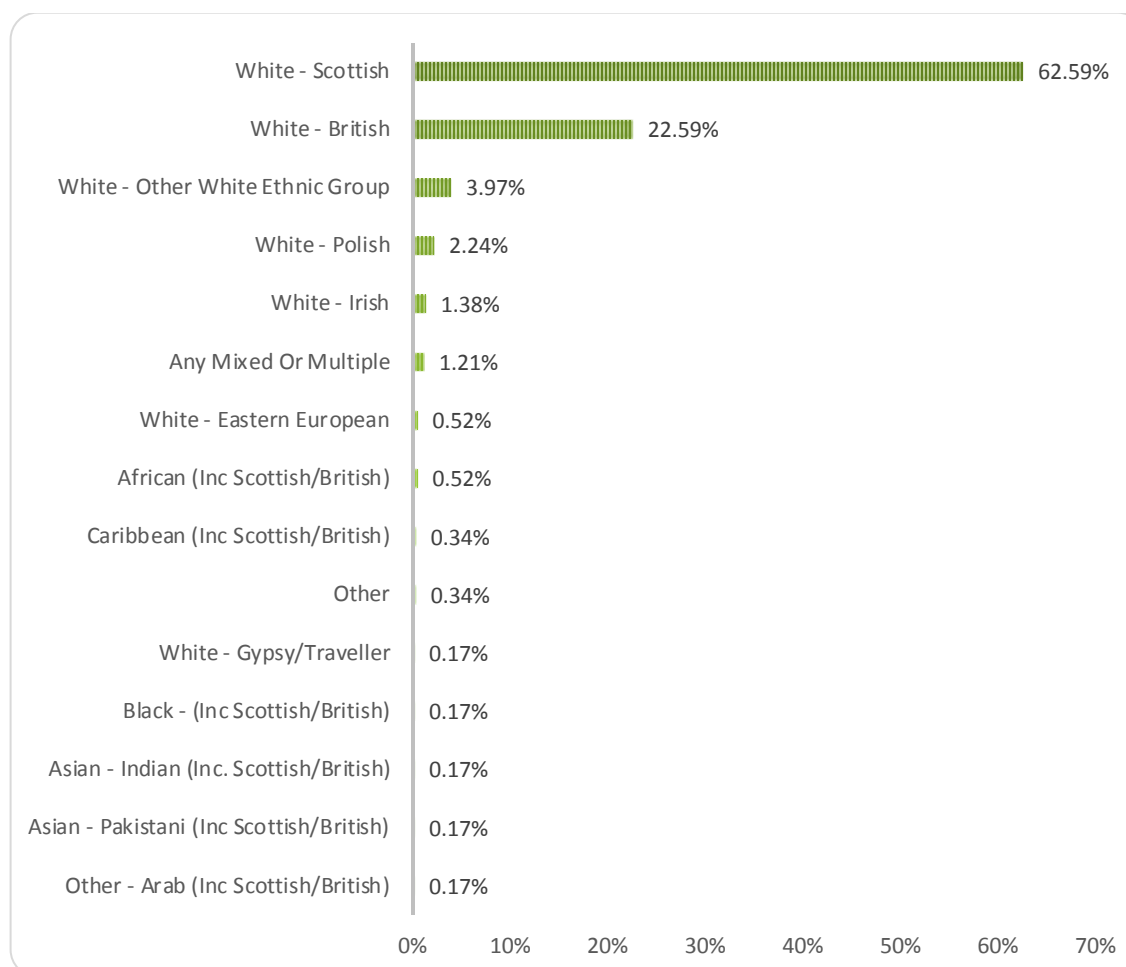
There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

COMMON THEMES AND SUGGESTIONS:

Respondents mention several barriers that prevent them from accessing or enjoying green spaces, such as lack of public toilets, benches, handrails, lights and paths. The need for more toilet facilities, seating, wheelchair accessible benches and good quality well maintained paths to improve accessibility was also highlighted.

29: WHAT IS YOUR ETHNIC GROUP?

There were 560 responses to this part of the question.



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
White - Scottish	363	62.59%
White - British	131	22.59%
White - Other White Ethnic Group	23	3.97%
White - Polish	13	2.24%
White - Irish	8	1.38%
Any Mixed or Multiple	7	1.21%
White - Eastern European	3	0.52%
African (Inc Scottish/British)	3	0.52%
Caribbean (Inc Scottish/British)	2	0.34%
Other	2	0.34%
White - Gypsy/ Traveller	1	0.17%
Black - (Inc Scottish/British)	1	0.17%

Asian - Indian (Inc. Scottish/British)	1	0.17%
Asian - Pakistani (Inc. Scottish/British)	1	0.17%
Other - Arab (Inc. Scottish/British)	1	0.17%

There were no suggestions or needs around open spaces in relation to ethnicity identified.

30: WHAT IS YOUR POST CODE?

There were 434 valid responses to this part of the question.

ELECTORAL WARD NAME	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Airyhall / Broomhill / Garthdee	38	8.8%
Bridge of Don	54	12.4%
Dyce / Bucksburn / Danestone	24	5.5%
George St / Harbour	25	5.8%
Hazlehead / Queens Cross / Countesswells	48	11.1%
Hilton / Woodside / Stockethill	18	4.1%
Kincorth / Nigg / Cove	33	7.6%
Kingswells / Sheddocksley / Summerhill	16	3.7%
Lower Deeside	31	7.1%
Midsocket / Rosemount	41	9.4%
Northfield / Mastrick North	10	2.3%
Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen	24	5.5%
Torry / Ferryhill	72	16.6%
Total Respondents	434	100.0%

Note these are estimated figures due to instances where postcodes can cover multiple wards and instances of incorrect postcodes being provided which had to be excluded from the results.



Climate & Environment Policy Service

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