



people spaces places

Birmingham City Council Green Spaces Survey

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Appendix A Open Comments

1 Approach and Methodology

Birmingham City Council contracted survey specialists, YouGov, to conduct a survey asking Birmingham residents about their use and perception of local green spaces.

The survey was conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov Plc UK panel of 800,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. Emails were sent to panellists selected at random from the base sample. The email invited them to take part in the survey, providing a generic survey link. Once a panel member clicked on the link, they were sent to the survey that they were most required for, according to the sample definition and quotas.

Invitations to surveys do not expire and respondents can be sent to any available survey. The responding sample is weighted to the profile of the sample definition to provide a representative reporting sample. The profile is normally derived from census data or, if not available from the census, from industry accepted data.

The survey was available online from the 3rd July 2020 to 13th July 2020 and was completed by 611 respondents. This report was produced by CFP and outlines the key findings from the survey, including analysis by respondent demographics.

2 Respondent Demographics

The survey was completed by a total of 611 respondents and all respondents were from Birmingham. The sample has been weighted to reflect the population of Birmingham.

There was a more or less even gender split, with 51.4% of respondents identifying as female. **Table 1** below shows the age profile of respondents. The largest age group represented in the survey respondents were aged over 55 (29.6%), this was followed by those aged 25-34 (20.6%). The smallest age group represented were those aged 41-54 (16.1%).

Table 1 Age profile of survey respondents

Age group	Number	%
18-24	89	16.4
25-34	133	20.6
35-44	106	17.2
45-54	100	16.1
55+	183	29.6
Total	611	100.0

Around three quarters of respondents (74.7%) were White British (**Table 2**). The second largest ethnic group represented the survey was Pakistani (5.3%) followed by Indian (4.5%). Overall, 18.6% of respondents were from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnicities (BAME).

Table 2 Ethnic profile of survey respondents

Ethnic group	Number	%
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	444	74.7
Irish	8	1.3
Any other White background	26	4.4
White and Black Caribbean	8	1.4
White and Asian	5	0.8
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	1	0.2
Indian	26	4.5
Pakistani	31	5.3
Bangladeshi	7	1.2
Chinese	8	1.4

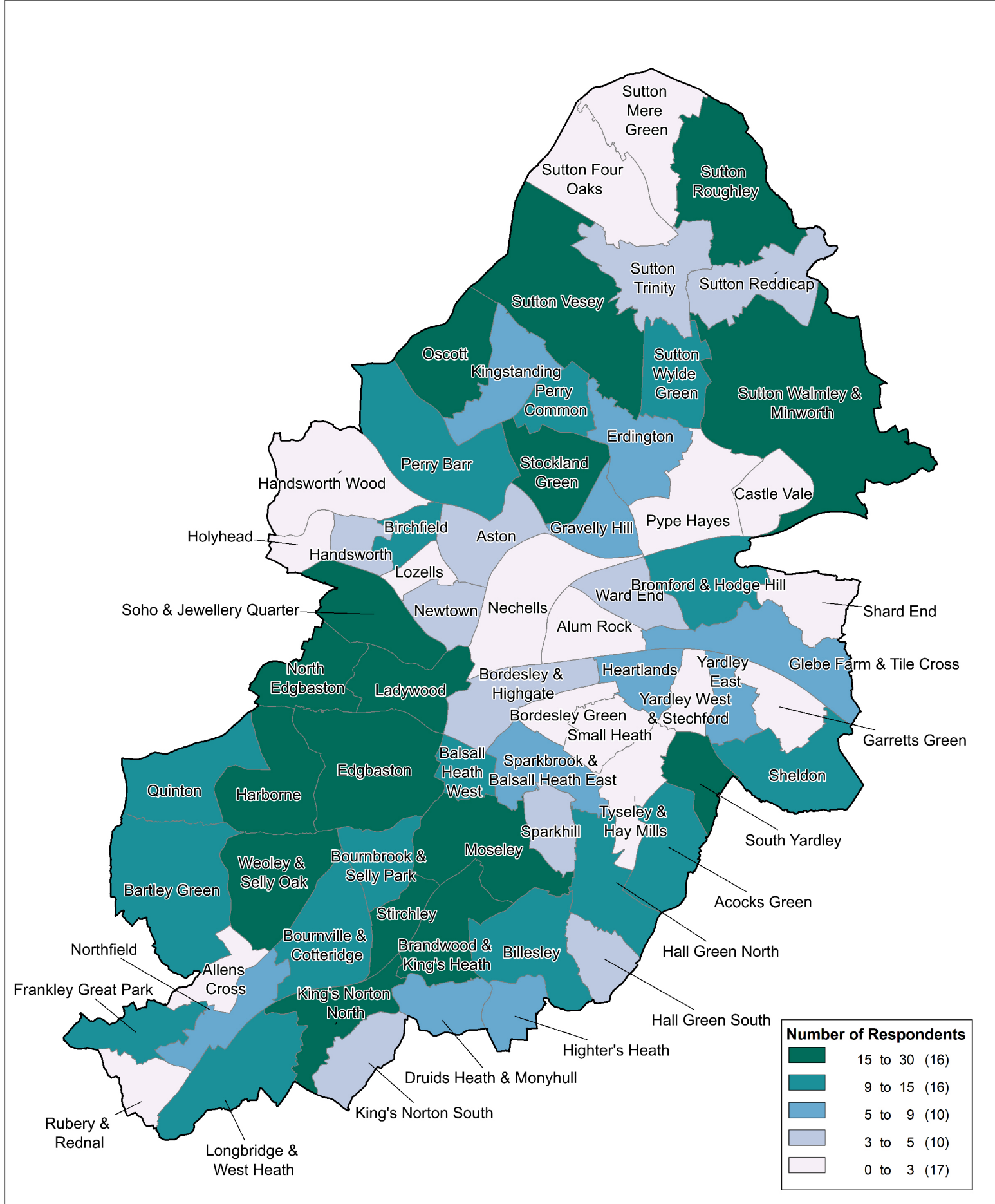
Any other Asian background	4	0.7
African	8	1.4
Caribbean	7	1.1
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	1	0.2
Arab	1	0.2
Any other ethnic group	1	0.2
Prefer not to say	7	1.2
Total	611	100.0

Table 3 below shows the employment status of respondents to the survey. Just over a third (36.2%) of respondents work full-time and around a tenth (11.1%) work part time. Overall, 18.5% of respondents are retired, reflecting the proportion who were over 55. Around one in 13 (8.5%) of respondents were full-time students. This is likely due to the presence of the Birmingham Universities and associated with the 16.4% of respondents aged 18-24.

Table 3 Employment status of respondents

Employment status	Number	%
Working full time (30 hours or more per week)	224	36.2
Working part time (8-29 hours per week)	58	9.5
Working park time (Less than 8 hours per week)	10	1.6
Full time student	45	8.0
Retired	114	18.5
Unemployed	46	7.6
Not working	61	9.9
Other	53	8.7
Total	611	100.0

Respondents were asked if their day-to-day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or expected to last, at least 12 months. One in ten respondents (10.6%) reported their activities being limited a lot, with a further 18.0% reporting being limited a little.



2.1 Respondent Locations

Respondents were asked to provide their postcode in order to ascertain where in Birmingham they live. Overall, 610 respondents provided their postcode, which have been geocoded. **Figure 1** on the previous page shows the number of responses by ward. Respondents tended to be located in the north or south of Birmingham, with fewer from central Birmingham.

The results were also analysed by constituency. **Table 4** below shows the number of respondents from each of the Birmingham constituencies. Note, this sample has been weighted to reflect the population of Birmingham.

Table 4 Respondents by Constituency

Constituency	Number	%
Selly Oak	123	20.1%
Sutton Coldfield	77	12.6%
Edgbaston	72	11.8%
Ladywood	60	9.8%
Hall Green	52	8.5%
Perry Barr	49	8.1%
Yardley	49	8.0%
Northfield	48	7.8%
Erdington	43	7.1%
Hodge Hill	31	5.1%
Other	8	1.3%
Total	611	100.0

Constituencies highlighted indicate those where wards hosting FPA pilot studies are located. These are:

- Children's pilot study: Brandwood & King's Heath ward (Selly Oak / Hall Green)
- Housing pilot study: Stockland Green ward (Erdington)
- Health & Wellbeing: Perry Common (Erdington)
- Employment & Skills pilot study: Ward End (Hodge Hill)

3 Green Spaces

The following section outlines respondents answers to questions relating to green space in Birmingham. The wide range of respondent demographics outlined in the previous section should ensure that responses are representative of the population of Birmingham as a whole.

3.1 Visiting green spaces frequency

Chart 1 below shows the frequency of visit respondents reported before and after the UK went into lock-down on 23rd March 2020. Prior to lock-down, the majority of respondents (59.9%) said they would visit green spaces at least once a week. This has dropped slightly following lock-down, with around half of respondents (51.5%) now visiting at least once a week. Notably, the proportion of respondents who never visit green space has increased from 3.1% before lock-down to 17.7% following lock-down.

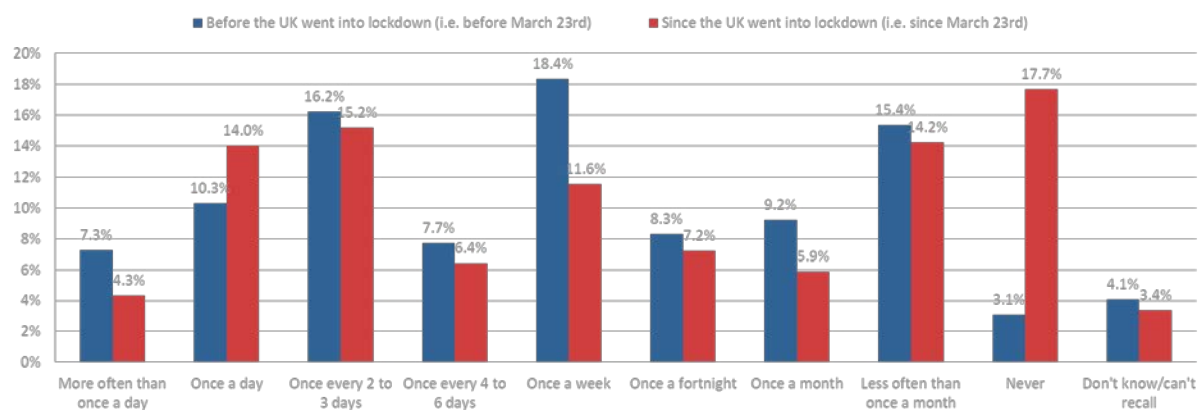


Chart 1 Frequency of green space visits before and after UK lock-down

Further analysis by demographics showed that, prior to lock-down, men tended to use green spaces more frequently than women. Over two thirds of male respondents (67.3%) reported visiting green spaces at least weekly, compared with only 53.0% of female respondents. After lock-down, there was a less significant gender difference, with around half of the male (52.3%) and female (50.9%) respondents visiting at least weekly. However, a higher proportion of male respondents (7.6%) report still visiting more than once a day than female respondents (1.2%).

Prior to lock-down, younger respondents also tended to visit green spaces less frequently; less than half (47.8%) those aged 18-24 visited up to once a week, with a fifth (21.3%) reporting visiting less than once a month. This has remained similar following lock-down, with 46.9% visiting up to once a week in lock-down. Meanwhile other age groups have shown a decrease in the frequency of use following lock-down.

Those with disabilities or long term illnesses tended to visit more frequently prior to lock-down. Over a quarter of respondents (28.6%) who reported their day-to-day activities as being limited a lot visit green spaces at least once a day compared with those who are limited a little (15.9%) or not at all (16.0%). Notably, since lock-down usage has dropped with those with disabilities but those without report using green space more frequently, with a fifth (20.8%) of those without disabilities now visiting once a day.

There was no significant association between ethnicity and frequency of green space usage before or after the UK lock-down.

Before lock-down, usage was most frequent in Hall Green, with a fifth (21%) of respondents visiting more often than once a day. Only around two fifths (42%) of respondents from Hall Green visited less than once a week; much lower compared with many of the other constituencies, where over half of respondents visit less than once a week. Notably, a fifth of respondents (21%) from Erdington visit less than once a month. Usage was lowest in Perry Bar where a tenth (10%) of respondents never visit green space and a quarter (26%) visit less than once a month.

Following lock-down, frequency of visit has reduced but remained high in Hall Green where 45% of respondents continued to visit at least every two-three days. This similar, high-level of use was also recorded in Selly Oak, where 45% of respondents also visit at least every two-three days. Frequency of use in Erdington remains low; almost a third of respondents (30%) reported not visiting green space since lock-down and a quarter (26%) now visit less than once a month. Usage has been similarly low in Hodge Hill, where over half of respondents (51%) either have not visited or visit less than once a month.

3.2 Reasons for using green spaces

The most popular reasons for visiting green spaces are to walk or walk the dog (57.6%) or for peace and quiet and to relax (54.1%) (**Chart 2**). To experience nature and wildlife was also popular with 48.6% of respondents. The least popular reasons given were to volunteer (3.3%) or photography (listed under other).

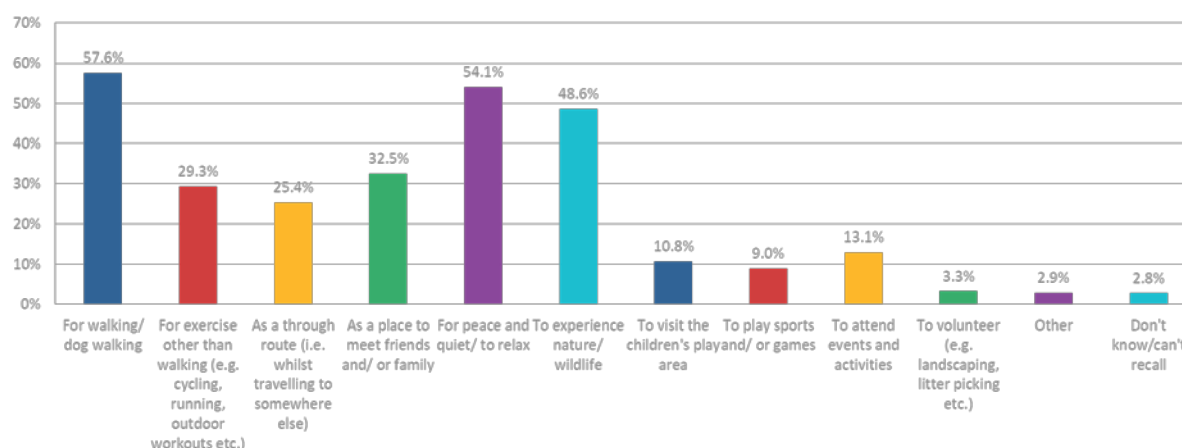


Chart 2 Reasons for using green space

Further analysis showed no significant difference in respondent gender and reasons for using green space.

There was little difference between green space usage and age, other than those aged 55+ were less likely to use it for exercise other than walking (23.3%) or as a through route (16.4%).

Reasons for visiting were similar among those with and without disabilities or a limiting long term illness.

There was also no significant difference among respondents of different ethnicities.

Analysis by constituency indicated little significant difference in reasons for visiting green space. Within all constituencies, the most popular reasons were to walk/walk the dog, for peace and quiet or to experience nature and wildlife.

3.3 Main method of travelling to green spaces

Respondents were asked what their main method of travelling to green spaces was. The vast majority tend to walk (60.9%) with some travelling by car (28.0%) (**Chart 3**).

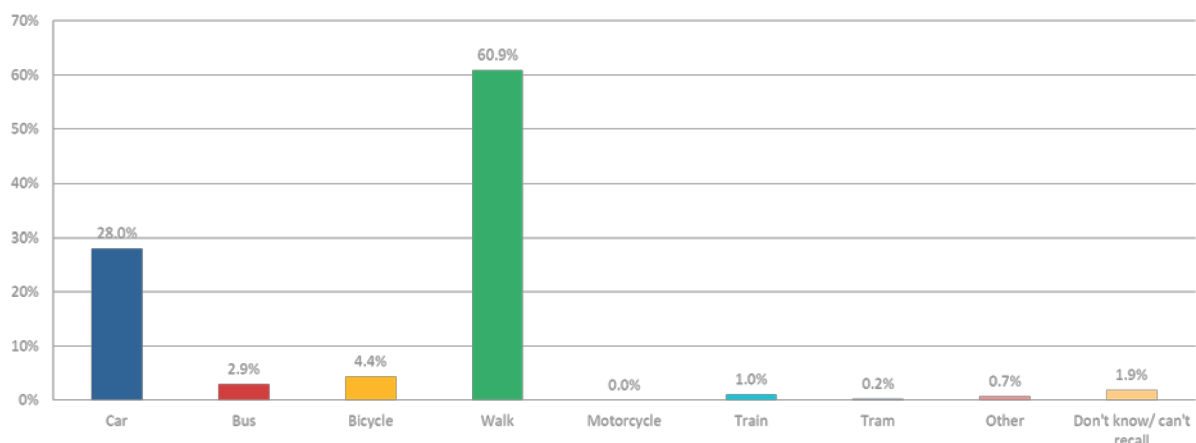


Chart 3 Main method of travelling to green spaces

There was no significant gender difference in method of travel. Both male and female respondents were most likely to travel to green spaces on foot (57.7% and 63.9% respectively).

While respondents were also most likely to travel on foot, regardless of age, further analysis showed that older respondents were the most likely to travel by car, with 39.8% of those aged 55+. In contrast, only 18.5% of those aged 18-24 would travel by car to a green space.

Those who reported their day-to-day activities as being limited a lot were the least likely to travel to a green space on foot (49.4%) however, they were most likely to travel by bus (7.0%) or bicycle (7.1%). Those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little were most likely to travel by car, with a third (34.8%) reporting using it as their main method of travel.

There was no significant association between ethnicity and method of transport.

Across all constituencies, walking was the most popular method of travel; however, car usage varied dramatically. Car usage was lowest in Edgbaston, where only 19% of respondents said they typically travelled by car. On the other hand, in Erdington, respondents were almost as likely to drive (42%) as they were to walk (43%). In Hodge Hill, while around half of respondents (54%) travelled on foot, a third drove (35%). In contrast

to Selly Oak, where 70% walked to green space, only 53% of Hall Green respondents did, despite Brandwood & King’s Heath ward being within both.

3.4 Green space close to home

Almost three quarters of respondents (72.0%) said the green space they visited was the closest to their home (Chart 4).

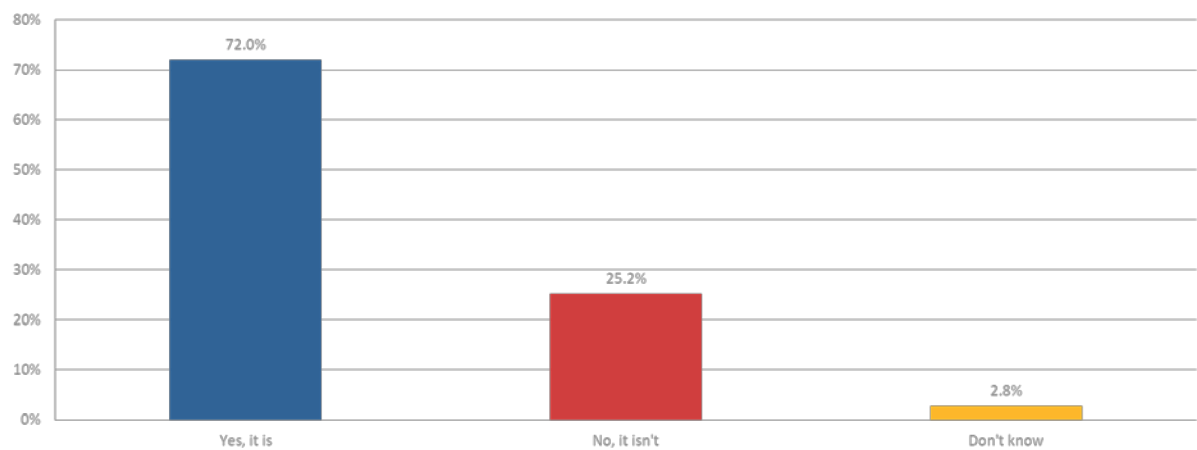


Chart 4 Is the green space that you visit most frequently the green space that is nearest to your home (i.e. the closest distance)?

Generally, male respondents were less likely to use the green space closest to home more frequently (29.1%) compared with female respondents (21.5%).

There was little significant association between age and use of the nearest green space, although it is worth noting that younger respondents were less likely to know if the green space they used was the closest or not.

Those who reported their day-to-day activities as being limited a little were the most likely to use green space that was not the closest to their home (30.1%).

Further analysis of respondent ethnicity and response indicates that those from certain ethnic groups are more likely to use green spaces which are not the closest. For example, Indian respondents were more slightly more likely to visit a green space which was not the closest (47.8%) than closest (44.8%).

Over half of the respondents from all constituencies were more likely to visit their nearest green space most frequently. Respondents from Edgbaston (82%), Hodge Hill (79%) and Hall Green (78%) were the most likely to

visit their nearest space. In contrast, only 57% of respondents from Perry Barr would visit their local space most frequently.

3.5 Put offs from visiting green space

As **Chart 5** shows, the most common put off from visiting green space was lack of time (27.1%) followed by a perception of anti-social behaviour in green spaces (14.8%) or not feeling safe (13.0%). Under other (11.4%) respondents mostly commented on health issues and lack of accessibility, both around and to green spaces. Around a third of respondents (32.6%) reported nothing in particular prevented them from visiting green spaces more often.

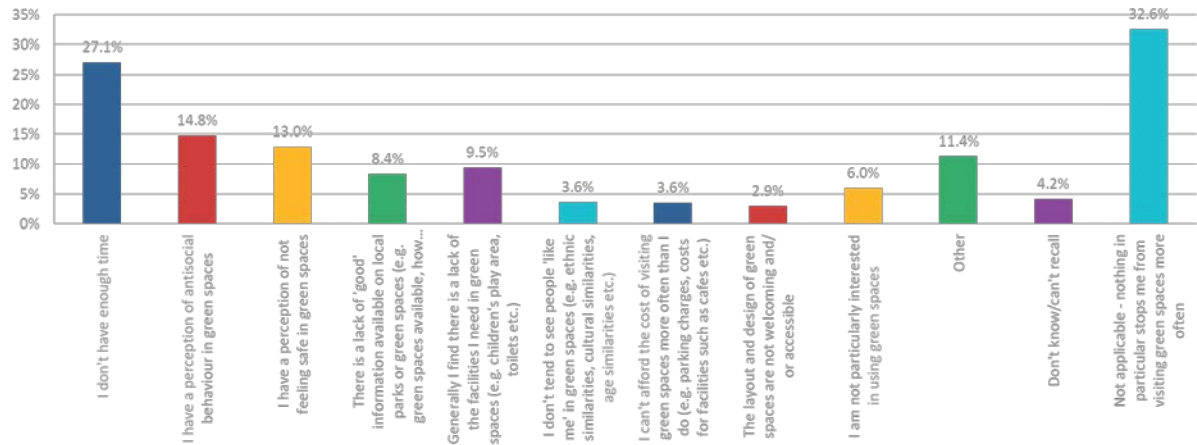


Chart 5 Put offs from visiting green spaces

Respondents who commented that perceptions of anti-social behaviours was a put off were asked to describe the behaviour which they had seen or heard of. Respondents said they had heard off or seen large groups of people taking or dealing drugs, drinking, and playing loud music. They reported feeling intimidated and unsafe, including one respondent who said their girlfriend was followed through a park by a man. Other anti-social behaviour reported included littering, vandalism, lighting fires, defecating in parks, riding around on motorcycles. Others also reported instances of abuse, including stone throwing, bullying (including sexism and racism) and dangerous dogs / dog mess.

Female respondents were more likely to have a perception of not feeling safe in green spaces (16.4%) than male respondents (9.3%).

Regarding respondent age, younger respondents tended to see lack of time as the largest put off, with 33.5% of those aged 18-24 reporting it as a put off. In comparison, fewer older respondents considered it a put off, with

26.0% of those aged 45-54 and 18.0% aged 55+ naming it. Notably, only 2.7% of those aged 55+ named lack of good information available on local parks or green spaces as a put off.

Those with day-to-day activities limited a lot (16.2%) or limited a little (25.2%) were less likely to have nothing in particular stopping them from visiting green spaces compared to those whose activities were not limited (36.4%). While lack of time was less likely to be a put off for those who reported their day-to-day activities as being limited a lot (10.9%) compared to those who not (30.9%), they more likely to report a perception of feeling unsafe (17.5%), a lack of good information (13.8%) and a lack of facilities (17.2%).

Further analysis showed perceptions of put offs varied with the ethnicity of the respondent. While a third (35.1%) of White British respondents commented nothing stopped them from visiting green spaces, only one in five Indian (19.7%), White and Asian (20.4%) or Pakistani (21.8%) said nothing stopped them. Aside from a lack of time, a lack of facilities and good information were the largest put offs reported by these respondents.

Analysis by constituency indicates lack of time is the most common put-off regardless of where respondents were located. Notably, Hodge Hill constituency had the lowest proportion of respondents reporting nothing prevented them from visiting green space. In Hodge Hill, only 13% of respondents said nothing prevented them, compared to an average of 32% across all constituencies. Among all the constituencies, a perception of anti-social behaviour was a significant put-off. This was particularly high in Hodge Hill (19%) and Hall Green (18%). Perceptions of not feeling safe were also a key put-off, particularly in Erdington (23%) and Hodge Hill (22%). In contrast, only 8% of respondents from Ladywood and 10% from Selly Oak perceived green space as unsafe.

3.6 Satisfaction with green spaces

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction regarding different aspects of green spaces. Respondents generally reported being satisfied each aspect, as shown in **Chart 6**. Four fifths (82.5%) were satisfied with the accessibility of green space. Over three quarters were satisfied with the quality of green space (78.0%) and the amount of green space (76.6%). Respondents were less satisfied with the range of activities offered in green spaces, however, over half (57.5%) were still satisfied or very satisfied with the offer.

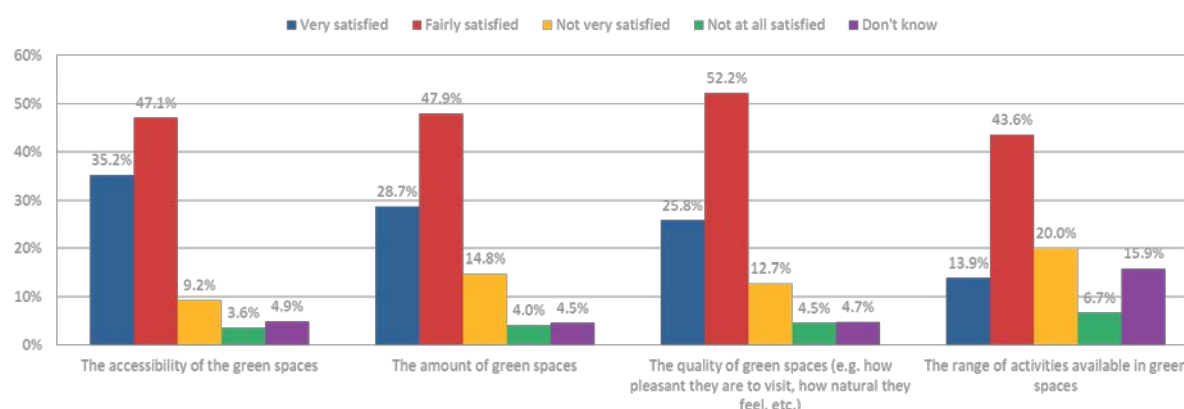


Chart 6 Satisfaction with green spaces

Further analysis showed that female respondents were slightly more likely to be dissatisfied with each aspect, however, this was not significant.

Notably, respondents aged over 55 reported some of the highest levels of satisfaction with each of the aspects; almost nine in ten respondents over 55 were satisfied with green space accessibility and around four fifths were satisfied with the amount (83.1%) and quality (80.4%). In contrast respondents aged 18-24 consistently reported some of the lowest levels of satisfaction. Only around three quarters were satisfied with the accessibility (74.7%), amount (78.0%) or the quality (73.1%) of green space. Levels of satisfaction were similarly low among respondents aged 25-34, indicating younger respondents were more likely to be dissatisfied with green space provision in Birmingham.

Levels of satisfaction were similar between respondents who reported their day-to-day activities as being limited a little or a lot and those who did not regarding the amount of green space and quality. However, over a fifth of respondents (22.4%) whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot were dissatisfied with green space access, compared with a tenth of those with day-to-day activities limited a little (10.4%) or not at all (11.3%).

Those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot (28.1%) or not at all (27.8%) were more or less equally dissatisfied with the range of activities on offer.

Levels of dissatisfaction were higher among some ethnic groups. Indian and Pakistani respondents generally reported higher levels of dissatisfaction in particular, reporting the highest levels of dissatisfaction with green space quality and accessibility. Notably, half of Indian (48.2%) and Pakistani (54.2%), and over half (59.5%) of Bangladeshi respondents were dissatisfied with the range of activities offered.

Levels of satisfaction were consistently low in Ladywood constituency; most notably less than half of respondents (45%) from Ladywood were satisfied with the amount of green space compared with an average of 74% across all the constituencies. Satisfaction with the amount of green space was highest in Sutton Coldfield (93%) and Selly Oak (89%). Satisfaction was similar across the remaining FPA pilot study locations: Erdington (73%), Hall Green (73%), Hodge Hill (70%).

Respondents from Selly Oak and Sutton Coldfield also reported the highest net satisfaction with accessibility (91% and 93%, respectively), quality (91% and 88%) and the range of activities available (65% and 67%).

Of the aspects, the range of activities available in green space had the lowest level of satisfaction; less than half of respondents in Perry Barr (40%), Ladywood (47%) and Hodge Hill (47%) were satisfied. Satisfaction was similarly low in Erdington (59%) and Hall Green (54%).

3.7 Aspects of green spaces

Respondents were asked how valuable different aspects of green spaces were. With almost two thirds (64.3%) of respondents rating it as very valuable, the most valued aspect was providing 'green lungs' for the City (**Chart 7** overleaf). This was followed by somewhere to improve my mental and physical wellbeing (57.5%) and providing contact with nature and wildlife / seasonal change (56.0%). The least valued aspects were a place for learning, volunteering, and developing new skills and green spaces increasing the value of house prices in the area around them. However, at least half of respondents still rated these as very valuable or valuable (with 62.0% and 53.5% respectively).

Further analysis showed female respondents were more likely to value having a space to socialise or meet family or friends, as well as a place for community events and activities. Female respondents were also significantly more likely to value green space as a place for learning, volunteering, and developing new skills (69.9% considered this valuable) compared with male respondents (53.7%).

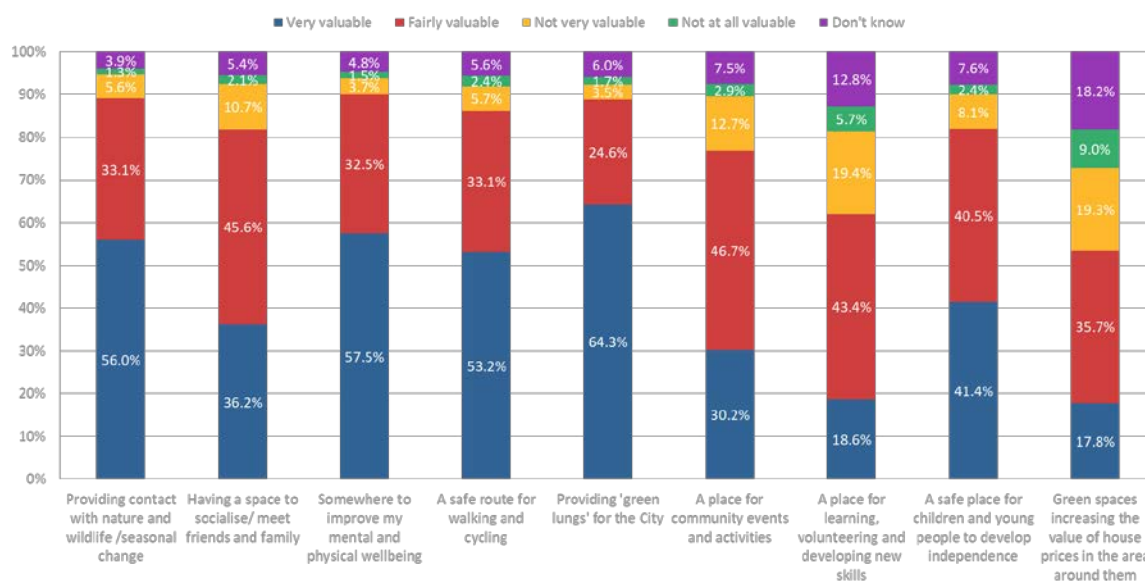


Chart 7 Aspects of green space

Those aged 18-24 consistently rated each aspect of green spaces as less valuable than other age groups. Respondents from this age group were less likely to value green space as a safe place for children and young people (71.8%), a place for community events and activities (69.1%), as 'green lungs' (82.9%), safe walking or cycling route (75.7%), improving mental or physical health (80.3%) or contact with nature (84.2%). While only two fifths (40.0%) valued green space as increasing the value of house prices in the area, compared with over half of the respondents from the other age groups. Markedly, respondents from this age group were some of the most likely to consider green space valuable as a space to socialise.

Generally, those whose day-to-day activities are not limited by a disability or long-term illness placed higher value on the social aspect of green space; over four fifths (84.7%) compared with only around three quarters of those whose day-to-day activities are limited little (76.4%) or a lot (74.3%). They were also more likely to value green space as a safe place for children and young people (85.4% compared with 76.8% and 73.9%, respectively).

The results indicate some significant cultural variations in values and green space. For example, only three quarters of Pakistani respondents valued green space as valuable for providing contact with nature (75.6%) or somewhere to improve mental and physical health (75.8%). Moreover, only 70.4% valued green space as a safe route for walking and cycling and 54.3% as a safe place for children. Regardless of ethnicity, respondents valued green space as increasing the value of nearby house prices and as a place for community events and activities.

Analysis by constituency demonstrated that the value of green spaces as providing contact with nature was consistently high throughout all the constituencies. Respondents in Selly Oak (95%), Edgbaston (92%) and Erdington (90%) valued this the most while only four-fifths of respondents from Hodge Hill (80%) rated this as very or fairly valuable.

Hodge Hill respondents were also the least likely to value green space as having a space to socialise, with only 69%. In contrast, nine in ten respondents from Sutton Coldfield (89%) valued this aspect of green space. The overall level of value was similarly high in Selly Oak (87%) and Hall Green (83%).

Across all constituencies, respondents valued green space as somewhere to improve their mental and physical well-being. In Selly Oak, 99% of respondents valued this aspect. Northfield (96%) and Edgbaston (95%) were similarly high. The constituency where the value of green space for improving mental and physical health was least prevalent was Hodge Hill, with 73% of respondents finding this aspect very or fairly valuable. 90% of respondents from Erdington and 84% from Hall Green valued this aspect.

Respondents in Perry Barr were the least likely to value green space as providing a safe route for walking and cycling, with only 74%. In contrast, 95% of respondents from Selly Oak described this as very or fairly valuable. The value of a safe walking or cycling route was similar across Erdington (81%), Hall Green (82%) and Hodge Hill (79%).

Only three-quarters of Yardley respondents (75%) valued green space as providing green lungs for the City. Constituencies, where this was valued most, were Selly Oak (94%), Edgbaston (91%) and Sutton Coldfield

(92%). Again, the value of green space as green lungs was similar across Erdington (89%), Hall Green (87%) and Hodge Hill (89%).

Around three-quarters of respondents in Hall Green (75%), Hodgehill (74%) and Erdington (72%) valued green space as a place for community events. Meanwhile, only 63% of respondents from Yardley valued this aspect. Constituencies which placed the highest value on green space for community activities were Selly Oak (87%) and Ladywood (84%).

There was little significant variation in the value placed in green space as a place for learning, volunteering and developing new skills. While this was valued the most in Northfield (71%) and Selly Oak (70%), Hodge Hill (64%), Erdington (60%) and Hall Green (57%) were not substantially lower. The only notable exception is Yardley, where only two-fifths (42%) of respondents valued green space as a place for learning, volunteering and developing new skills.

Perry Barr (70%) and Yardley (72%) were the constituencies with the lowest level of value placed on green space as being a safe space for children and young people. Respondents from Erdington (76%) and Hodge Hill (77%) did not value this significantly more. In contrast, almost nine in ten respondents from Selly Oak (88%) considered this very or fairly valuable.

There was considerable variation in the levels of value placed on green space as increasing the value of house prices in the areas around them. Only 28% of respondents from Erdington considered this very or fairly valuable, while two thirds from Sutton Coldfield did. Similar proportions of respondents from Hall Green (66%) and Hodge Hill (67%) considered this valuable. In Selly Oak, 57% of respondents valued green space as increasing the value of house prices in the areas around them, similar to the overall average among all constituencies (53%).

3.8 Organisations to manage green spaces

Respondents were asked which three organisations they thought was the most appropriate to manage parks and green spaces in the future (**Chart 8**). With three quarters (76.4%) of respondents, the organisation considered most appropriate was Birmingham City Council. This was followed by local conservation organisations (46.0%) and local resident groups (33.0%). The organisations considered least appropriate were sports clubs and organisations (6.6%) and private sector companies / developers and contractors (6.6%).

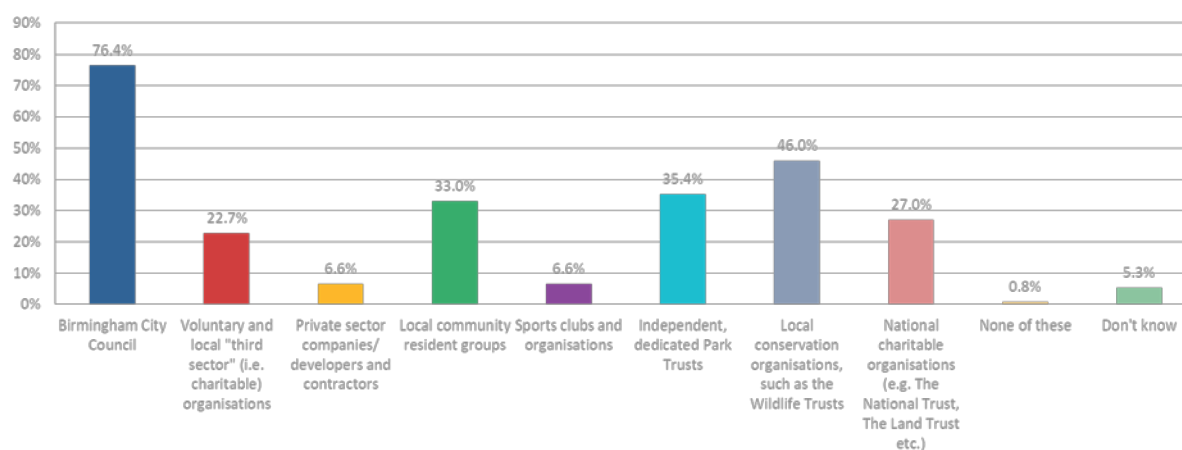


Chart 8 Organisations most appropriate for manage parks and green spaces in the Birmingham area in the future

Regarding respondent gender and the organisations they considered appropriate, there was little significant difference. However, female respondents were more likely to consider local conservation organisations appropriate (49.8%) than male respondents (42.1%) and national charitable organisations less appropriate (23.6%) than male respondents (30.5%).

Notably, more than one in ten (12.1%) of respondents aged 18-24 answered 'Don't know' to this question. There was little significant variation among the age groups, other than younger respondents were less likely to consider local community resident groups appropriate; only 21.8% of those aged 25-34 considered them appropriate compared with 42.5% of those over 55. Meanwhile, those aged 25-34 were more likely to consider independent trusts more appropriate (44.3%) compared with those over 55 (28.0%).

Respondents whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot were the most likely to consider local community resident groups as appropriate (44.3%) compared with only 30.8% whose activities are not limited. Those whose activities are limited a little were least likely to support local conservation organisations, such as the Wildlife Trusts (36.3%).

Compared with other ethnicities, White British respondents were among the least likely to consider sports clubs and organisations as the most appropriate, with only 4.6% of respondents. Meanwhile, 46.0% of White and Black Caribbean and 16.9% of Indian respondents considered them appropriate. Notably, White British respondents were the most likely to consider Birmingham City Council appropriate (79.0%).

Across all of the constituencies, the majority of respondents felt Birmingham City Council were one of the most suitable organisations to manage parks and green spaces. Regardless of the constituency, respondents also felt that private sector companies and sports clubs and organisations were among the least appropriate. There were varying levels of support for local conservation organisations; two-thirds of respondents from Northfield (65%) felt they would be appropriate compared with only 29% from Hodge Hill. Notably, support for local community resident groups was high in Erdington (46%), Hall Green (36%) and Selly Oak (38%).

3.9 Awareness of volunteering opportunities

Respondents were asked if they were aware of any of the volunteering opportunities listed. **Chart 9** below shows that almost half (45.9%) of respondents were not aware of any of the providers of volunteering opportunities in green spaces in Birmingham. Awareness of the Ranger service or the Parks service seemed to be the highest, with 31.5% of respondents. Under other, respondents mentioned local groups, including Thrive.

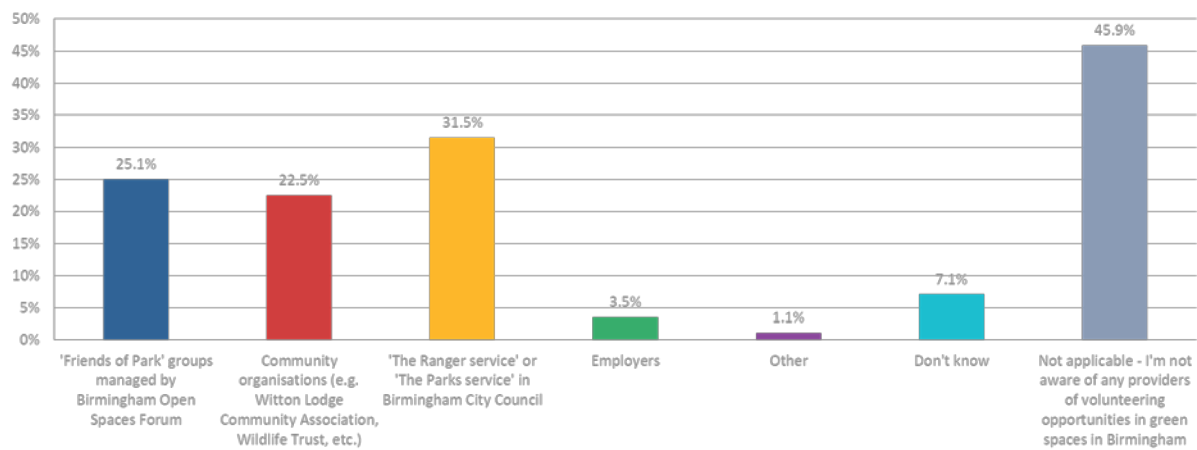


Chart 9 Respondent awareness of volunteering opportunities in green spaces in Birmingham

Female respondents were slightly more likely to have head of Friends of Parks groups and some organisations which they named under 'other'.

Respondents aged 18-24 and 25-34 were the least likely to be aware of volunteering organisations, with 60.7% and 56.5% answering non-applicable, respectively. In particular, they were unlikely to be aware of Friends of

Parks groups, community organisations or the Ranger Service. On the other hand, those other 55 were the most likely to have heard of the Friends of Groups (36.0%), community organisations (31.2%) or the Ranger Service (48.0%).

There was little significant variation among respondents whose day-to-day activities were limited or not. Those whose activities were limited a little were more likely to be aware of the Friends of Park groups (32.2%) than those who activities are not (23.5%).

White British respondents were the most likely to have heard of Friends of Groups (30.7%), community organisations (25.6%) and the Ranger Service (37.3%). Awareness was particularly low among BAME groups; 86.7% of White and Black Caribbean and 84.0% of Chinese respondents were not aware of any groups.

Respondents from Edgbaston and Ladywood were least likely to be aware of volunteering providers in Birmingham green spaces (59% and 57% respectively). Awareness of volunteering opportunities was also low in Erdington (47%) and Hall Green (46%). Moreover, only 16% of respondents from Erdington were aware of a Friends of Park group, compared with around a third of respondents from Hall Green (31%) and Selly Oak (32%) and 28% from Hodge Hill. Awareness of the Ranger Service was much higher. For example, two-fifths of respondents from Hodge Hill (42%) and Sutton Coldfield (43%) were aware of them.

3.10 Interest in types of green space volunteering

Respondents were asked which types of green space volunteering opportunities they would be interested in (**Chart 10**). The most popular opportunities were joining a community group of people in helping to look after nearby parks and green spaces (19.0%) and joining a 'Friends of Parks' group to help look after parks and green space (18.8%).

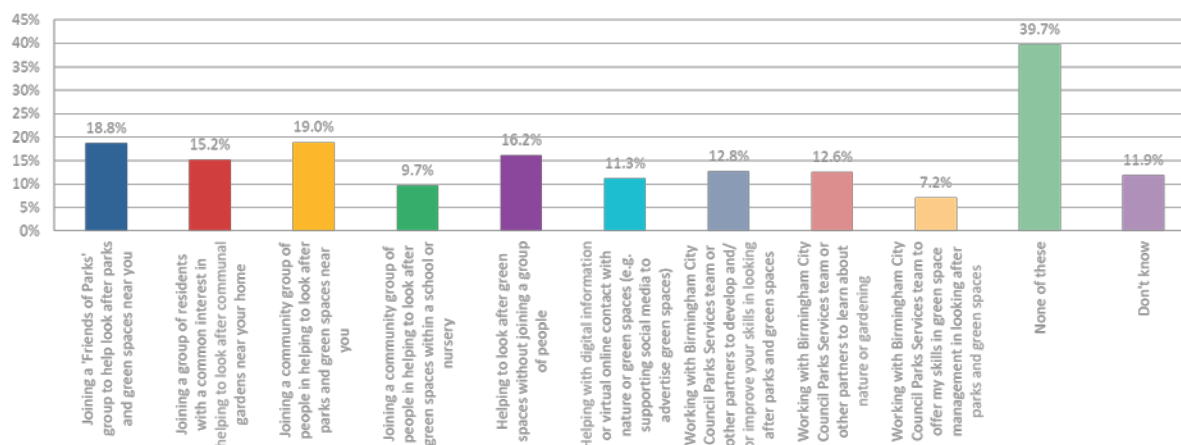


Chart 10 Interest in volunteering opportunities in green spaces in Birmingham

There was little significant difference between male and female respondents. Males were slightly more likely to say they would not be interested in any of the groups (44.2%) than females (35.5%).

Respondents aged 18-24 were the least likely to be interested in joining a Friends of Group (11.8%) or group of residents (6.9%). In comparison 23.0% of those aged over 55 were interested in joining a Friends of Group. Notably, respondents aged 35-44 were significantly more likely to be interested in working with Birmingham City Council Parks Services team or other partners to learn about nature or gardening, with a fifth of respondents from this age group (19.8%) selecting it.

Respondents who did not consider their day-to-day activities as being limited were the most likely to be interested in volunteering at a green space. Most notably, a fifth (19.0%) of those whose activities are not limited would be interested in volunteering without joining a group of people. Fewer than one in 20 (4.6%) of those whose activities are limited a lot would be interested in this.

White British respondents were the most likely to be interested in joining a Friends of Group (20.9%), group of residents (16.3%) or community group who look after green spaces (20.5%). BAME respondents were more likely to be interested in volunteering through helping with digital information or virtual online contact with

nature or green spaces or working with Birmingham City Council Parks Services team to offer my skills in green space management in looking after parks and green spaces.

Constituencies, where respondents were most interested in joining a Friends Group, were Edgbaston (23%), Ladywood (26%), Selly Oak (22%) and Sutton Coldfield (26%). Across all other constituencies, less than a fifth of respondents were interested in joining. Joining a community group was also a popular option in Edgbaston (22%), Hodge Hill (23%), Selly Oak (21%) and Sutton Coldfield (21%). Notably, a fifth (20%) of respondents from Hodge Hill were interested in working with Birmingham City Council Parks Services team or other partners to develop skills in looking after parks and green spaces. Respondents from Erdington constituency were the least interested in volunteering, with 53% saying none of the volunteering opportunities interested them. Respondents from Hall Green showed no significant preference for any form of volunteering.

3.11 Interest in ways of giving time

When asked which way of volunteering would interest them, around a third (35.8%) were interested in being able to 'dip in and out' of scheduled volunteering activities (**Chart 11**). Others were also interested in being able to volunteer on an ad hoc basis; a fifth would like to give their time at a place and time of their choosing (22.0%) or at a one-off event (21.2%).

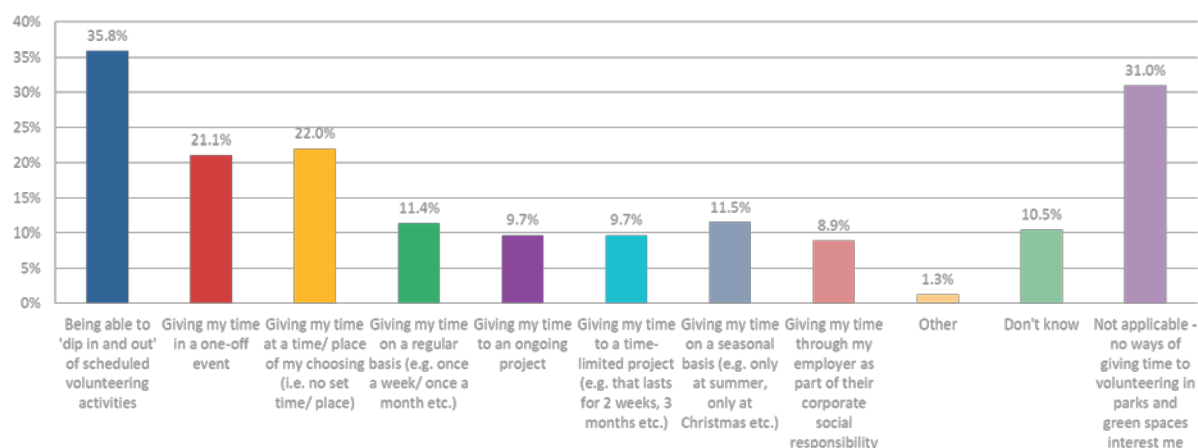


Chart 11 Interest in ways of volunteering time in green spaces in Birmingham

There was little significant difference between male and female respondents regarding volunteering preferences, other than female respondents were more likely to be interested in giving their time on a seasonal basis (14.2%) than male respondents (8.7%).

Similarly, those aged 25-34 were more likely to be interested in volunteering on a seasonal basis as well, with 19.5% of respondents from this age group selecting this option. Those aged 25-34 (14.3%) and 35-44 (17.0%) were also most interested in giving their time through their employer as part of their corporate social responsibility. This is in contrast to those over 55, with only 2.8% being interested in this way of volunteering. Fewer than one in 20 respondents (4.9%) over 55 were interested in giving their time on a seasonal basis, however, only 5.4% were also interested in giving their time to an ongoing project. Notably, around a quarter (26.0%) of respondents aged 45-54 were interested in being able to 'dip in and out' of scheduled volunteering opportunities.

Respondents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot were most likely to comment that there were no ways of giving time to volunteering in parks and green spaces that interested them, with two fifths (40.3%) selecting this option. Those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little were most likely to say do not know (17.4%) in response, possibly indicating a lack of available information on how they could get involved.

There was little significant variation among different ethnicities regarding how they would be interested in volunteering, other than White British respondents were significantly less likely to be interested in volunteering on a seasonal basis.

The option to dip in and out of scheduled volunteering activities was high across all the constituencies. There was some variation regarding the other ways of giving time. Around a quarter of respondents from Hall Green (24%) and Selly Oak (24%) were interested in volunteering at a time/place of their choosing, while 22% of respondents from Hodge Hill were interested in volunteering at a one-off event. Respondents from Erdington were the least likely to volunteer; 44% of respondents said there was no way of giving time to volunteering in parks and green spaces which interested them.

3.12 Reasons for not volunteering more

Lack of time due to work, study or other commitments was the most common reason for not being able to volunteer or volunteer more (**Chart 12**). This was followed by lack of awareness of the opportunities (28.8%). Under other, respondents said they were limited by health issues or disability. Others also commented that they thought any work in green space should be paid for or that they already pay council tax.

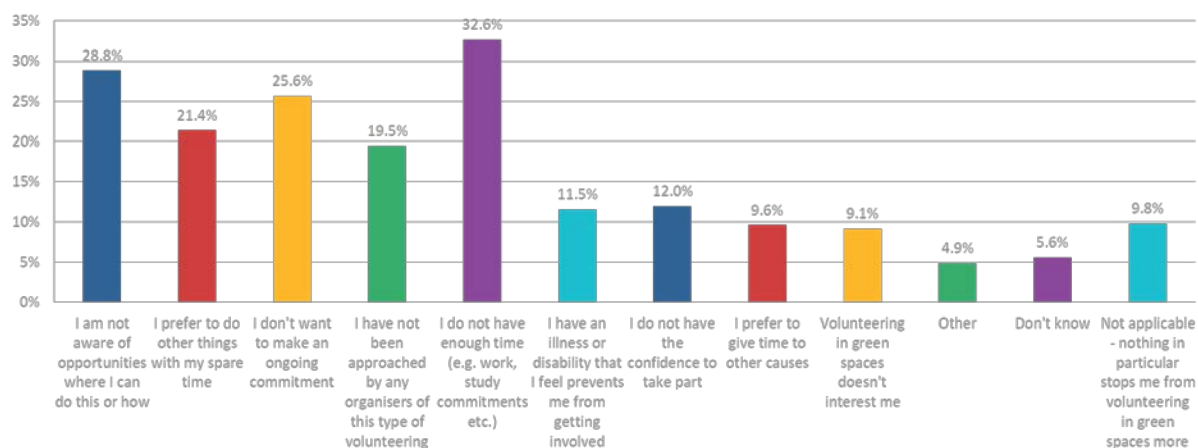


Chart 12 Reasons for not being able to volunteer

Further analysis showed that female respondents were more likely to feel they did not have the confidence to take part (14.9%) than male respondents (8.8%). Meanwhile, preferring to do other things with their time (26.6%) or not wanting to make an ongoing commitment (29.8%) were more likely to be reasons for male respondents.

Reasons for not volunteering varied with respondent age. Those aged 18-24 were most likely to not have the confidence (17.4%) or not be interested in volunteering in green spaces (18.7%). While those aged 25-34 (42.9%) and 35-44 (47.2%) were significantly more likely to not have enough time due to other commitments. Respondents aged 55+ were significantly less likely to put this as a reason for not volunteering (16.4%). On the other hand, older respondents were more likely to have an illness or disability which prevented them (20.8%) or not want to make an ongoing commitment (34.4%).

Those whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot were less likely to not want to make an ongoing commitment (17.2%), prefer to do other things (12.5%) or not be aware of opportunities (16.1%). Instead their illness or disability was the most likely reason they could not get involved in volunteering (56.2%). Those whose day-to-day activities are limited a little were most likely to not want to make an ongoing commitment (37.8%).

Over a third (38.5%) of those who did not identify as having a disability were most likely to not have enough time (38.5%).

There was a little significant difference between respondent answers and their ethnicity.

Lack of awareness and not having enough time were both among the most frequently cited reasons for not volunteering across all the constituencies. In Edgbaston, a third (32%) of respondents said they preferred to do other things with their spare time. This was also a common reason in Erdington (20%), Selly Oak (23%) and Hall Green (26%). A third of respondents from Hall Green (33%) and Selly Oak (31%) also said they did not want to make an ongoing commitment.

There was some variation in responses based on respondent's constituency. For example, only a fifth (19%) of respondents from Hodgehill said they were aware of the opportunities. Instead, 16% said they did not want to make an ongoing commitment or not been approached by volunteering organisers.

Respondents from Perry Barr were the least likely to experience reasons to not volunteer, with a fifth (20%) saying the question was not applicable.

3.13 Frequency of doing things in green spaces

Chart 13 below shows the frequency which respondents reported taking photographs of nature, listened to birdsong, or noticing bees and butterflies in Birmingham parks. Around a tenth (10.1%) of respondents always took photographs of nature every time they were in green space, with a further fifth (22.4%) said they often took photos. Respondents reported listening to birdsong or taking time to notice the bees and butterflies more frequently. Half of respondents said they listened to birdsong (49.9%) or noticing bees and butterflies (50.2%) at least often.

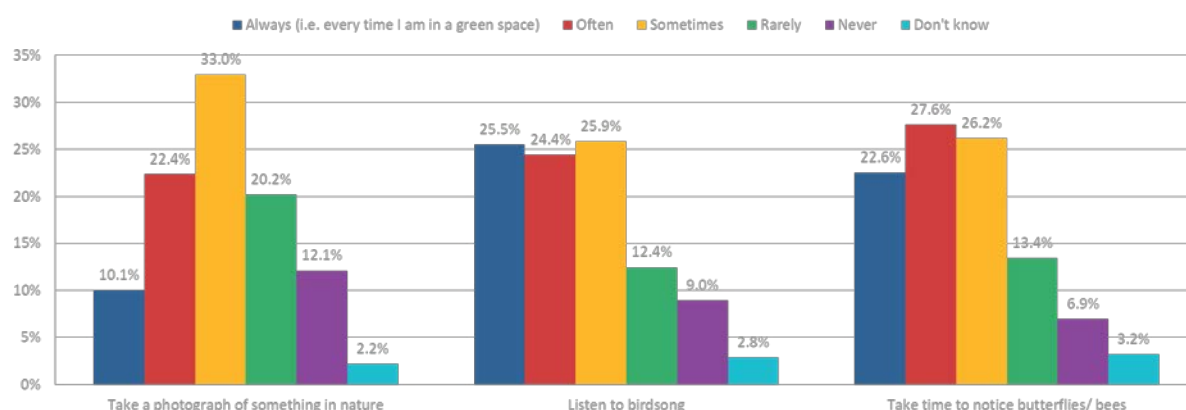


Chart 13 Frequency of doing things in green spaces

Female respondents reported taking photos of something in nature, listening to birdsong or noticing butterflies or bees more frequently than male respondents. For example, 28.9% of female respondents said they always took the time to notice bees and butterflies, compared to only 15.9% of male respondents. Instead a tenth of male respondents (10.7%) never took this time.

Younger respondents were more likely to take photographs of something in nature; a third (32.2%) of those aged 18-24 said they often did this when in green spaces. However, younger respondents were least likely to stop and listen to birdsong (18.4% of those aged 18-24 and 18.1% of those aged 25-34 rarely did this) or take time to notice birdsong (20.4% of those aged 18-24 rarely did this). In contrast, two fifths (41.4%) those over 55 always listened to birdsong in green spaces, and two thirds (67.1%) at least often took time to notice butterflies and bees.

There was little significant difference between those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot and those whose activities were not.

There was little difference between the frequency of stopping to take a photograph of something in nature and respondents ethnicity, however, White British respondents were most likely to listen to birdsong (57.1% reported doing this at least often) and take time to notice bees and butterflies (55.1%).

Respondents from Hall Green and Hodge Hill were the least likely to stop and take a photograph of something natural more frequently, with only 58% of respondents from both saying they would do this at least sometimes. Meanwhile, one in 14 respondents in Yardley (71%) would sometimes stop to take photographs. Frequency of taking photographs was similar in Erdington (66%) and Selly Oak (69%).

Respondents reported listening to bird song or taking time to notice bees and butterflies more frequently; almost a third of respondents from Sutton Coldfield constituency would always listen to birdsong (30%) or notice bees (32%). Regarding the constituencies where FPA pilot projects are taking place, respondents from Hodge Hill were the least likely to stop frequently. Only 22% from Hodge Hill would often stop to listen to birdsong, while two fifths (42%) would take time to notice butterflies and bees. Frequencies in Hall Green and Selly Oak were similarly high; more than half of respondents would listen to birdsong (57% and 59% respectively) or notice bees and butterflies (both 54%). In Erdington, 46% would often listen to birdsong, and 53% would take time to notice butterflies and bees often.

4 Summary

The weighted sample of 611 respondents provides an accurate representation of the opinions of the Birmingham population as a whole. The following conclusions can be drawn from the data:

- Green space usage is high; the majority of respondents would visit green space at least once a week before lock-down. While this has only reduced slightly following lock-down, a higher proportion of respondents are now not visiting green space at all. This is most notable in older age groups and those with disabilities, who are visiting less frequently than they did before lock-down. There was some variation based on respondent constituency; usage was highest in Hall Green both before and after lock-down, while Erdington and Hodge Hill respondents report the lowest levels of usage.
- Walking or walking the dog, peace and quiet or relaxation and to experience nature are the most popular reasons for visiting green spaces in Birmingham. This remained consistent regardless of respondent demographics or constituency.
- Most respondents travel to green space on foot, although older age groups or those with disabilities are more likely to use other methods of transport, including car, bicycle, or bus. Respondents from Erdington were also the most likely to travel by car.
- The vast majority of respondents reported that the green space they used most frequently was the nearest to their home. Although certain demographics are more likely to use a green space which is not the nearest to their home, including male respondents, those with disabilities which limit their day-to-day activities a little, and certain ethnicities, as well as respondents from Perry Barr.
- Although lack of time was the most prevalent put off for respondents visiting green space, anti-social behaviour and not feeling safe were also put offs. Incidents of anti-social behaviour included large groups of people drinking, taking drugs or being abusive to other park users. Female respondents and those with disabilities were more likely to report feeling unsafe as a put off. Lack of time was a bigger put off for younger users and those from BAME groups, alongside a lack of good information. Perceptions of safety and anti-social behaviour also varied across the constituencies. These put-offs were particularly high in Hodge Hill, Hall Green and Erdington.
- Satisfaction with green space was generally high among respondents, particularly with accessibility and the amount of green space. However, respondents consistently rated being less satisfied with the range of activities on offer in green spaces. Younger respondents and those from BAME backgrounds tended to be more dissatisfied with all aspects they were asked to rate, while those with disabilities were more dissatisfied with the accessibility of green spaces. Respondents from Ladywood were consistently less satisfied compared with the other constituencies, particularly satisfaction with the amount of green space. In contrast, respondents from Selly Oak and Sutton Coldfield reported some of the highest levels of satisfaction.

- The most valued aspect of green space was as providing green lungs for the City. Notably, younger respondents, as well as females and those without disabilities were more likely to value green space as a social space. Notably, there were also some significant cultural variations in the value of different green space aspects, as well as variations based on respondent's location.
- Most respondents agreed that Birmingham City Council was the most appropriate organisation to manage parks and green spaces in future. This was especially true for White British respondents, while other ethnicities, especially Indian and White and Black Caribbean respondents, considered sports clubs among the most appropriate.
- Almost half of the respondents were not aware of volunteering opportunities in green spaces in Birmingham, particularly younger and BAME respondents and those from Edgbaston and Ladywood. Meanwhile older, White British respondents were most likely to have heard of opportunities such as Friends Groups, community organisations and the Ranger service.
- When asked what types of green space volunteering they would be interested in, Friends Group and community groups were the most popular options, especially among White British and older respondents, as well as those from Edgbaston, Ladywood, Selly Oak and Sutton Coldfield.
- Most respondents would be interested in volunteer opportunities they would be able to 'dip in and out' of. Female respondents and those aged 25-34 were more likely to be interested in seasonal volunteering opportunities. Two fifths of those with disabilities which limited them a lot said there were no ways of giving time to volunteering in parks and green spaces that interested them. Interest in volunteering was also low in Erdington constituency.
- Lack of time was the most common reason for not being able to volunteer, followed by lack of awareness. Female and younger respondents were more likely to feel they lack confidence to join, while older respondents were more likely to be have other commitments or be limited by a disability or illness.
- Respondents reported often listening to bird song or taking time to notice butterflies and bees. This was especially true for female and White British respondents. Younger respondents were more likely to take photographs while older respondents listened to birdsong or took time to notice bees and butterflies more often.

Appendix A

Open Comments

Which, if any, of the following are reasons for you visiting /using parks or green spaces? - Other
Photography
Take photographs, sit on a bench and write
Allotment
Mental Health
Cultivating allotment
The countryside and especially woodlands is very calming for me. Especially if I can camp there.
Isolating but allowed exercise
Foraging e.g. blackberrying and for heritage exploration of canals
Work at a golf course
walking
Pushed in my wheelchair/photography
Enjoy peaceful walk with partner
Work - as a dog walker
I live on boat
for mindfulness
Running
Photography

Which, if any, of the following are reasons that put you off from visiting green spaces more often? -Other
Out with the city centre where I live
I'm visiting green spaces on average more than once a day. Why do I have to give a reason why I'm not visiting more often?
I already attend quite a lot so more not needed
Bad weather
distance
Virus
Dont like going on my own
rain
Do not go out
Not accessible - generally too far away
My wife's incapacity
toobusy
I'm a wheelchair user.
At the moment I'm shielding so I'm not allowed to. The other reason is the lack of available woodland allowing camping.
travel to the green space
Shielding
It is too far
I can only reach them by car, so my husband has to be available to drive
waiting for knee replacement so too difficult to walk etc
Illness
Bad knees limit walking. Also lazy
I have a lovely garden

Local park has been crowded on sunny days and there has been a distinct lack of social distancing. Park has become dirty either with litter or dog excrement.
My furloughed stepdaughter is now walking our dog
Have to be taken/disabled
covid
bedbound
I don't have enough energy or the weather isn't good
Gets boring
Unruly dogs
Loss of pet dog
I'm not walking and collecting my kids from school due to COVID-19
SELF ISOLATING
Restricted walking ability
Health problems
when the pandemic is over I plan to visit more green places
Having the time because of work
Can't walk that far more often
I live on an estate in Birmingham and only a middle class Guardian Reading Millennial would ask such a question
the lockdown said not to
To far
Disable and isolating
prefer to stay at home
Usually I go to the gym which closed on March 20
Bad weather
Need to isolate for health reasons
I get exhausted walking
Too many people visiting
Accessibility
Dog crap everywhere puts me off
Health holds me back. I'll health
The weather
It's sometimes crowded with people
Lots of rubbish and litter
Gangs are frequently inhabiting it now.
Not close enough
Lack of public toilets
Local green space is small
Weather, people find it weird if you go alone
Health
Rougher area
coronavirus
People not social distancing
Not having the time to
Depression
Moved home - further away
Requires public transport
Too crowded
Coronavirus
Sometimes I'd rather stay inside

You previously said you don't visit green spaces more often because of antisocial behaviour ..What experiences, if any, of antisocial behaviour in green spaces have you had/ seen yourself?
Drug dealing
Groups of people
__DK__
People insult to behave themselves while drinking, also taking drugs and behaving like idiots
Kids fighting, doing drugs, drinking
Gangs of youths lolling about and messing about ,see it regularly, football,dogs on the loose,saw a man physically assaulted blokes peeing.unsavoury behaviour. Have never seen a copper in the park.
Other dog walkers who do not clear up dog mess and also other dog walkers who have their dog running wild off the lead with no control or discipline
__DK__
Groups of teenagers racing around on bikes and verbally abusing people. Groups of young people lighting fires, drinking and playing loud music.
Large groups, loud music, littering, laughing gas
Increasing numbers of groups of people littering and drinking and listening to loud music
Vandalism of fences amenities gives air of poor safety; loud groups drinking; large amounts of litter at times - tend to influence the time of day when I would go alone.
As a cyclist, I read in local newspapers about muggings and anti-social behaviour along the canals in Birmingham which makes me reluctant to cycle along the canals alone.
Youths congregating, drinking, shouting and not adding to the ambience.
Gangs of youths everywhere making you feel intimidated
Nearest park to me I have seen eastern Europeans camping and junkies.
Drug dealing, gangs of teenagers
teenagers and young youths involved in smoking marijuana, fighting, urinating where ever they like and shouting
My girlfriend was followed by a man through the park and it scared her. He kept hiding behind trees to watch her, then followed her.
Fear of being assaulted and robbed.
__DK__
There is human excrement in the bushes, people lighting fires, and theft from people and cars.
Nothing too bad but i find it rather intimidating when on your own and you come across groups of youngsters.
__DK__
__DK__
Litter
Walking well established footpaths being nearly hit by irresponsible mountain bikers.
Gangs of youngsters are reported in the local park regularly causing trouble, so it is not safe .
Large groups of teenagers, litter, large groups hanging around cars playing loud music, smoking weed
Picnicking in large groups, failing to maintain social distancing throughout period of lockdown,
I'm not a person that scares easily, but when I see gangs of youths that could potentially due to the drugs they're using (the smell is awful) try to intimidate or snatch my bag then I really don't feel safe.
Groups of teens normally shouting screaming. Also drinking and drug use
People walking too close to you on the path, groups of teenagers gathering, more families out picnicking, leaving rubbish everywhere for our dog to eat
loud, drinking, disturbing others
Previous stabbing within local park, groups of teenagers commenting on me at twilight when running, littering and drinking. Also reports of dangerous dogs in local Facebook group for the park.
Youths riding bikes very aggressively and dangerously and shouting abuse. Groups of girls blocking the pathway.Individuals lying on the grass drinking and scattering litter
Sometimes teenagers hanging around
Hooded youths hanging around, and unsociable litter on the ground.
Too many youths gathering, playing loud music, being loud, not following distancing rules
__DK__
One of the green spaces I visit had large groups of people drinking. and being very loud and intimidating.

Drug use. Underage drinking
__DK__
Read/heard on the news
I've been shouted at and threatened by groups of people in several occasions . I was chased by a child on a bike. I've also seen people taking and dealing drugs
yobs hanging about in groups and swearing and throwing things
Not seen any.- is a perception from social media and news
__DK__
Large groups of youths that are rowdy and intimidating .. ppl getting drunk and taking drugs. .
__DK__
Teenage idiots hanging around children's playground, making it awkward for me to go there with my young daughter.
Litter, groups blocking paths, cyclists speeding, dog waste on paths, drug taking and drinking
Children, who should be in school damaging signs, trees etc. Dog owners letting their dogs defecate on paths and not clearing it up.
parks need more policing by wardens as i have witnessed antisocial behaviour and crime in my local park which changes the number of times i go there
Smoking, loud music
__DK__
drug use vandalism, large crowds
There has been a lot of antisocial behaviour in my local area in parks involving drugs , alcohol , and general bad behaviour
__DK__
Youths behaving in ways that encroach on privacy and then trying to antagonise people passing by
Swearing/drug-taking/drinking/inappropriate cycling.
__DK__
People taking their dogs off the leash
__DK__
People drinking openly and playing loud music.
There are yobs and thugs everywhere unfortunately
Drinking, littering, playing loud music
I haven't seen any but I read a lot about stories and there are often groups around
Large groups, playing loud music, drink8ng, littering and taking nitrous oxide
Groups of young boys loitering about and drinking
__DK__
Drinking and smoking with loud music
As a wheelchair user I feel extremely vulnerable
Gangs sometimes hang out in park
Graffiti, groups of youths, mugging, verbal abuse
Young groups of boys smoking and drugs
Fighting, shouting, swearing, bullying, drinking alcohol, smoking weed, starting a verbal or physical altercation, sexism, racism
Attempt mugging, stone throwing, verbal abuse, graffiti and other vandalism.
Drugs etc!
gangs, anti social behaviour, drug taking
__DK__
People getting drunk and disorderly.
__DK__
Big groups of people drinking
__DK__
On the phone in a conversation
Teenagers binge drinking
I have seen people ride across on motorbikes at the park closest to me, I've seen NOS canisters on the ground the morning after. Not enough to put me off going but enough to make me uneasy

Littering, youths shouting and fighting each other, playing loud music
Bullying in some spaces

Before taking this survey, which, if any, of the following were you aware provided volunteering opportunities in green spaces in Birmingham? - Other

parkrun

tree wardens

Local group

ON A HARBORNE SITE ON FACEBOOK

Thrive, a charity based in Kings Heath Park

Thrive

Charities such as thrive

Which, if any, of the following ways of giving your time to volunteering in parks and green spaces interest you? - Other

Neighbourhood team

parkrun

I would volunteer for any group teaching/ practicing bushcraft and campcraft

No longer able bodied unfortunately

DISABLED AND NO FEELING DOWN RIGHT SIDE SO IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO JOIN

illness & age

If I get paid

I am not interested because of my previous comment that I have a disability expected to last at least 12 months. This question is not applicable and should have been removed.

Which, if any, of the following are reasons why you don't volunteer in green spaces more? - Other

Criminal record

already volunteer elsewhere

I pay taxes for them to be looked after. I worked in community development and I don't want to spend time with the 'usual suspects' who undertake this type of volunteering

80 and limited

I have carer responsibilities

Only recently gave the time to be able to volunteer

I have a disability that definately prevents me from getting involved

vacation 6 months year

There's just no point. Young gangs hang around 5hem and destroy the areas.

I am 81

Already volunteer 2 days per week in green spaces plus other volunteering on other days

No spare time

Childcare
disability
Old age
I'm a full time unpaid carer
Health problems
Whatever is done by well meaning volunteers in my area is undone by teenage arseholes
not physically able to do a lot
Husband ill
I have no diagnosed health condition, but I know my limits and get tired very easily
Would want to be paid for my time
I believe work in green spaces should always be paid.
Have not felt relaxed with the people when I have done it.
I pay council tax for this!
Disabled
Health
Cv 19 restrictions
I do not 'feel' it prevents me, IT LITERALLY PREVENTS ME
Time