Burley Park

Report on findings of the 2023 public consultation on the Leeds City Council-managed Community Park “Burley Park” and vision plans for it.

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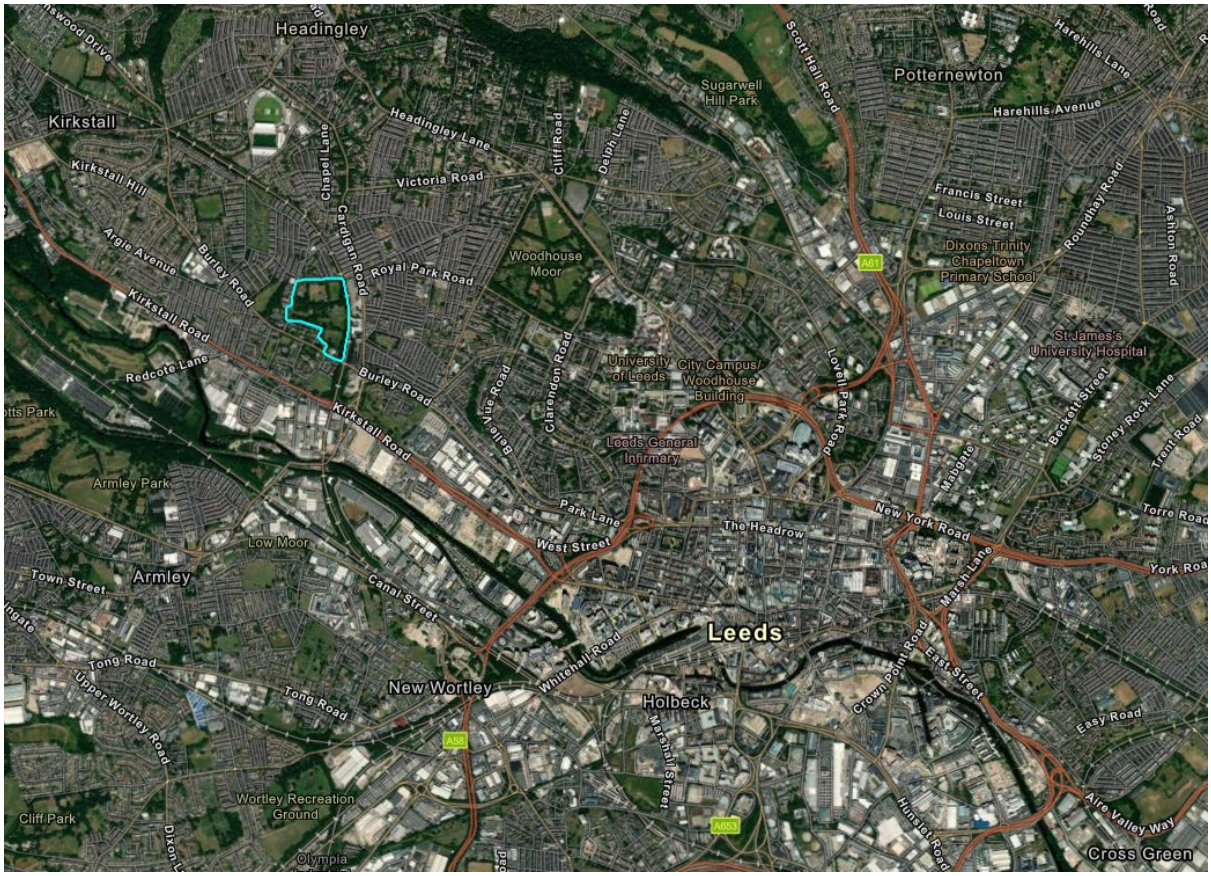
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The Project

As set out in the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, we are working to develop a ‘plan on a page’ for each of our 65 community parks. The aim of the plans is to set out a vision for each of the sites, with the goal of getting all community parks in the city to Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard and delivering the priorities set out in the Parks and Green Spaces strategy such as ‘Quality parks’, ‘Access for All’ and ‘Health and Wellbeing’

Figure 1: Satellite image showing location of Burley Park in Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK



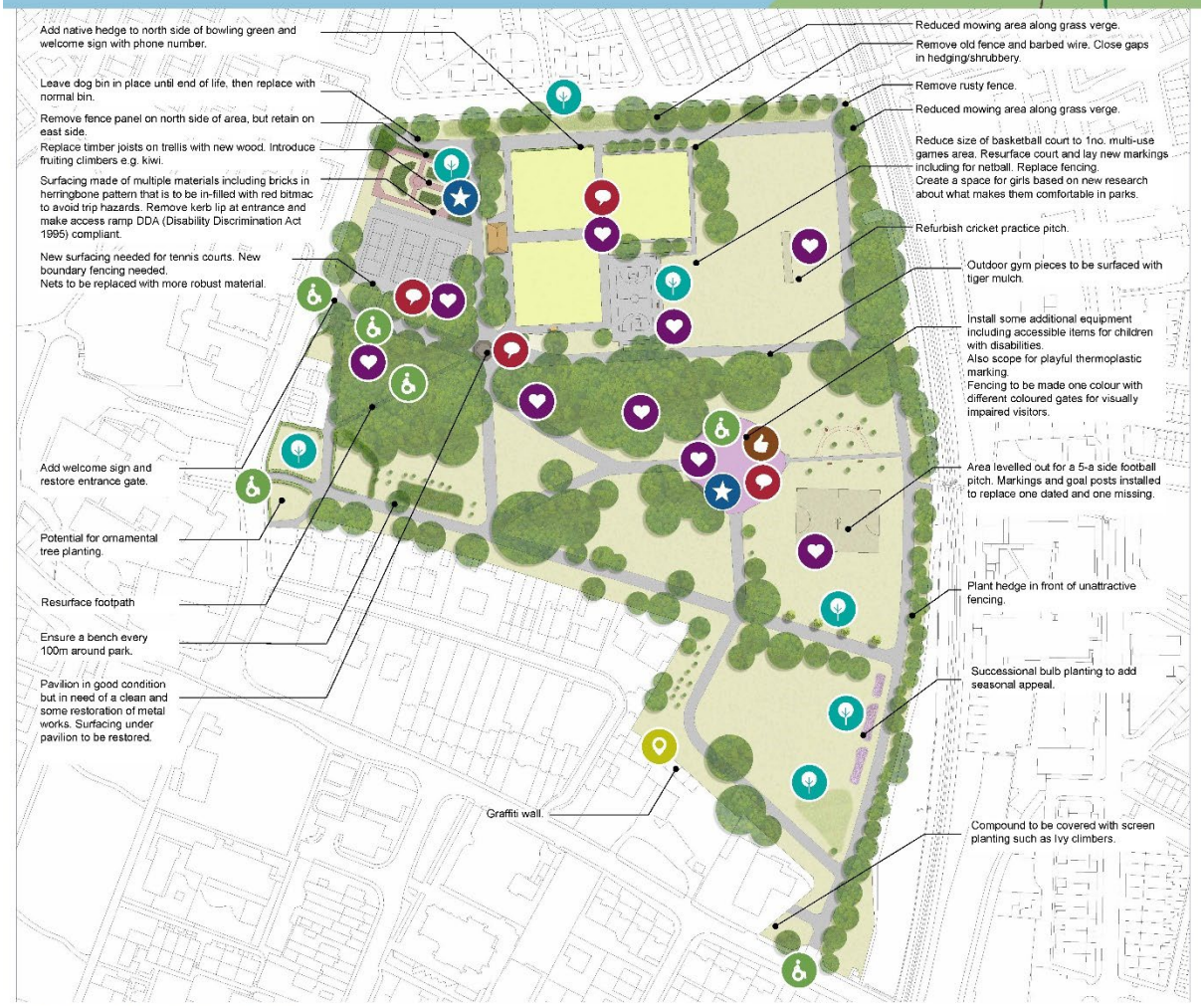
The Vision Plan

The initial proposal shown below was created by expert staff from Leeds City Council Green Spaces Service in collaboration with a team of Landscape Architects from Groundwork West Yorkshire.

Figure 2:(Overleaf) Proposal ‘Plan on a Page’ for Burley Park

BURLEY PARK

WHERE WE WANT TO BE, PLAN ON A PAGE



Parks and Countryside Priorities

Health and Wellbeing
Providing a wide range of opportunities for people to receive the health benefits of spending time in green spaces

Climate and Biodiversity
Increasing wildlife and biodiversity and reducing the impact of climate change.

Culture
Providing exciting, diverse, interesting and enjoyable green spaces that reflect the history and culture of their local communities.

Working with Communities
Having a positive, open, helpful and collaborative approach.

Quality
Providing high quality parks and green spaces.

Access for all
Ensuring that parks and green spaces are accessible to everyone.

Child Friendly
Providing green spaces that children and teenagers love to visit.

Financial Sustainability
Ensuring that good quality public green space is available for the long term.







June 2023

Leeds City Council

The Consultation process

The Initial stage of the process was a site visit with Green Spaces Technical Officers, Area Officers, Site managers, and Groundwork's landscape architects. This resulted in the production of the draft proposal plan. This draft proposal plan was then sent for comments to the 3 ward councillors for the Kirkstall ward in which Burley Park sits.

Following this, a public engagement and consultation process lasting 3 months was undertaken to enable us to get a really good understanding of what local residents think about the site and how it could be improved.

For Burley Park the period of consultation was between 8th Aug and 8th November 2023.

For this period an online survey was available on Commonplace, where it can still be viewed: https://leedscommunityparks.commonplace.is/

Paper surveys were made available and used by some people during on-site sessions and around 4 other people who filled them in in their own time.

The promotional materials (including posters and flyers) provided an option for contacting us by telephone or email to discuss the proposals, request a paper survey or for any further information.

The consultation was promoted as follows:

- Posters in the park noticeboards.
- Where their managers agreed, posters were displayed in shops, food outlets, laundrettes, barbers & other local businesses within 0.5km of the park.
- Direct postal mailout of flyers (like the posters below but printed in black & white) to 900 households close to the park.
- Attendance at 1 existing public event in the park: Burley Park Blossom Event hosted by Love Leeds parks and the National Trust
- Emails were sent to the schools closest to the park with the aim of getting feedback about the park from local children and families.
- The following community groups were identified and emailed links to the online survey, visited with posters & flyers and/or sent paper copies of the survey to share: Left Bank, Hyde Park Source and the Friends of Burley park.
- Promotional posts were put on @leedsparks Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- An email linking to the survey was sent to all Green Spaces staff and paper surveys were made available to parks staff based onsite who cannot always receive email.

To gather input from people who prefer to chat face to face or who don't use the internet, a Parks Officer spent a total of 9 hours on site, over 3 different pre-advertised sessions in a variety of time slots (weekend, morning, afternoon) to be accessible to as many people as possible.

Whilst in the park, we had conversations with around 20 members of the public who preferred not to complete a survey but had opinions they wished to share. Relevant comments from these more informal interactions are listed in appendix 2.

Further to being contacted, some schools forwarded the information to parents/carers telling them about the survey and Kirkstall Valley primary invited us to run a workshop style session with a group of children from their school council. Their input is reported in the 'Children's Perspective' section below.

Figure 3: Promotional poster for the Burley Park Public Consultation



Survey respondents

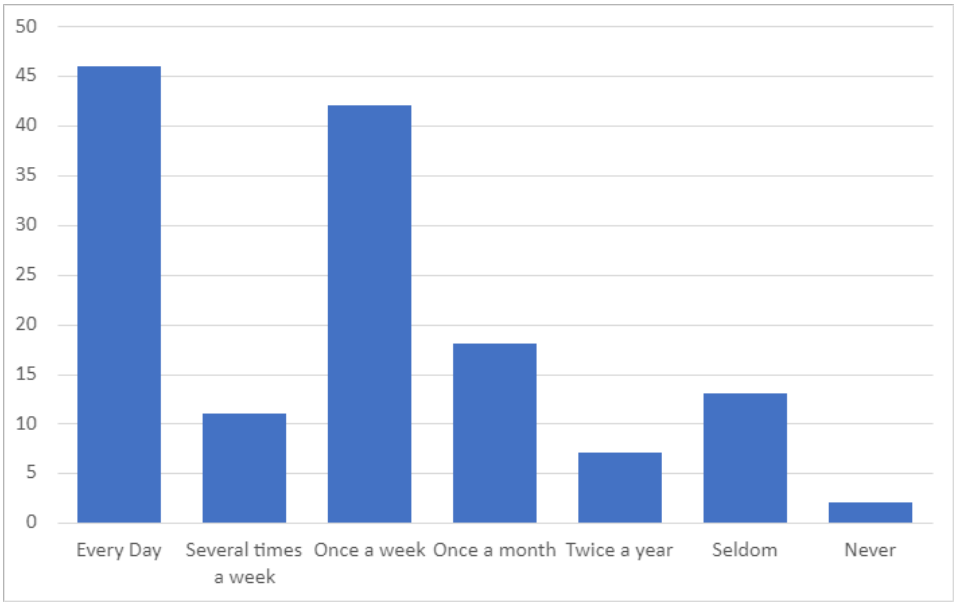
Between 8th Aug and 8th November 133 people completed the online survey. In addition, 10 people completed the survey in the park or completed paper surveys, these responses were added to the online data and incorporated in the information below. Of the total 143 survey respondents, it is worth noting that not all of them answered all of the questions.

Information about the respondents themselves is provided in Appendix 1.

How the Park Gets Used

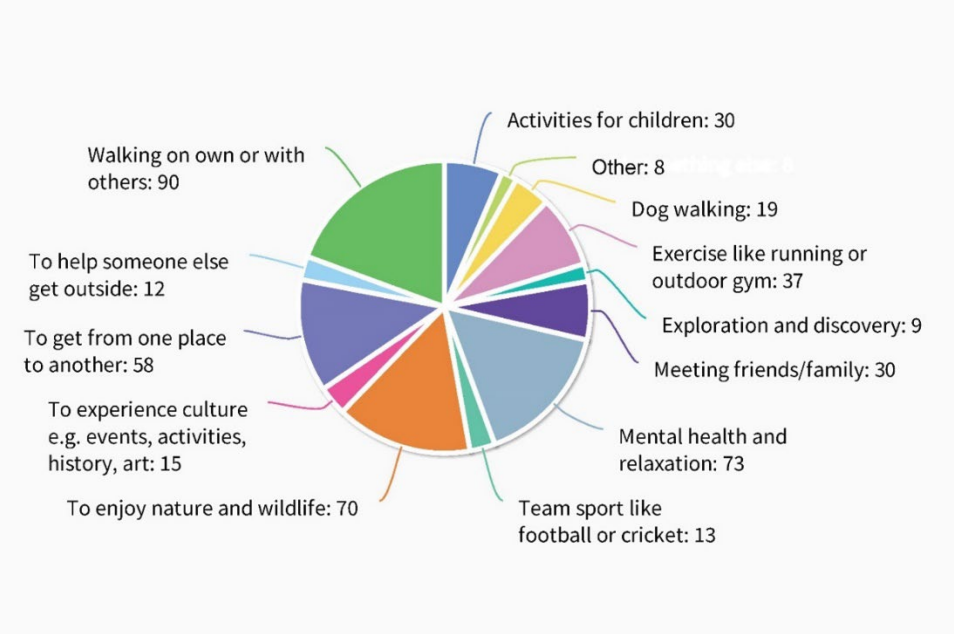
We asked the Question “Approximately how often do you visit Burley park?”

Figure 4: Frequency of visits to the park by survey respondents



We asked “What do you use Burley park for?”

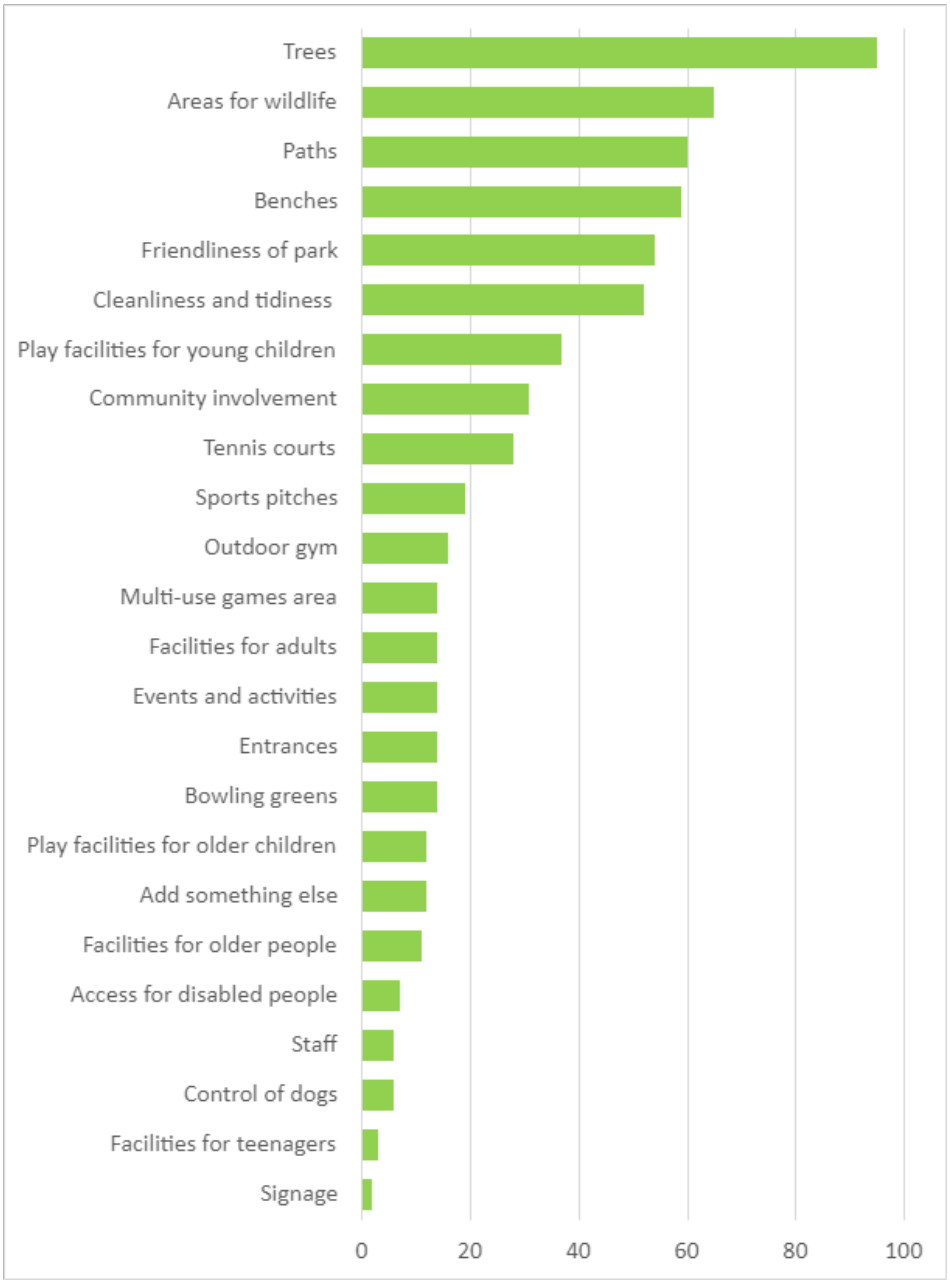
Figure 5: What survey respondents use the park for



Feelings about Burley Park

We asked “What do you like about Burley park?”

Figure 6: What survey respondents like about Burley Park

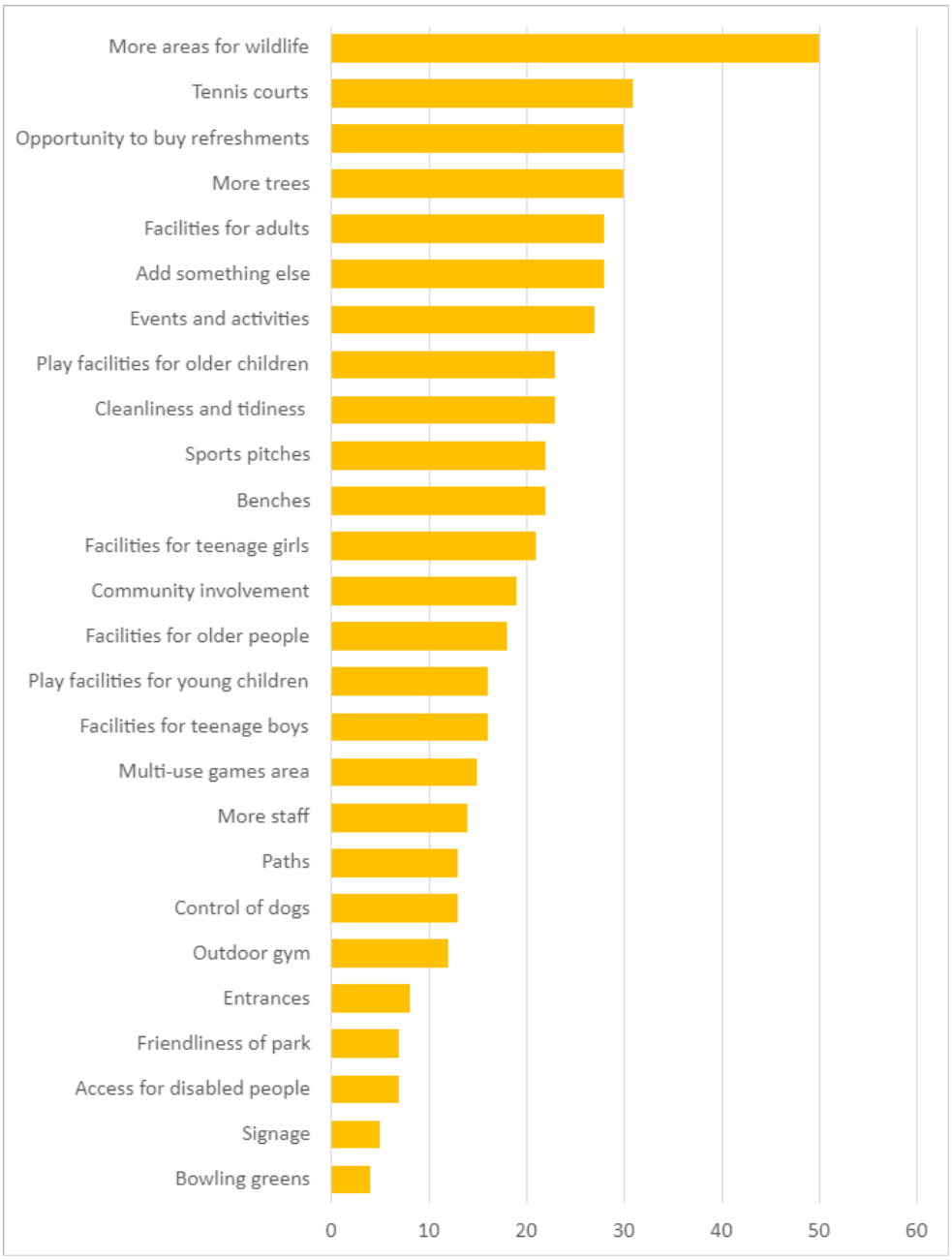


The 5 most popular responses to the question “What do you like about Burley park?” were:

- Trees
- Areas for wildlife
- Paths
- Benches
- Friendliness of park

We asked “Is there anything you think could be improved about Burley park ?”

Figure 7: What survey respondents think could be improved about Burley park



The 5 most popular responses to the question "Is there anything you think could be improved about Burley park?" were:

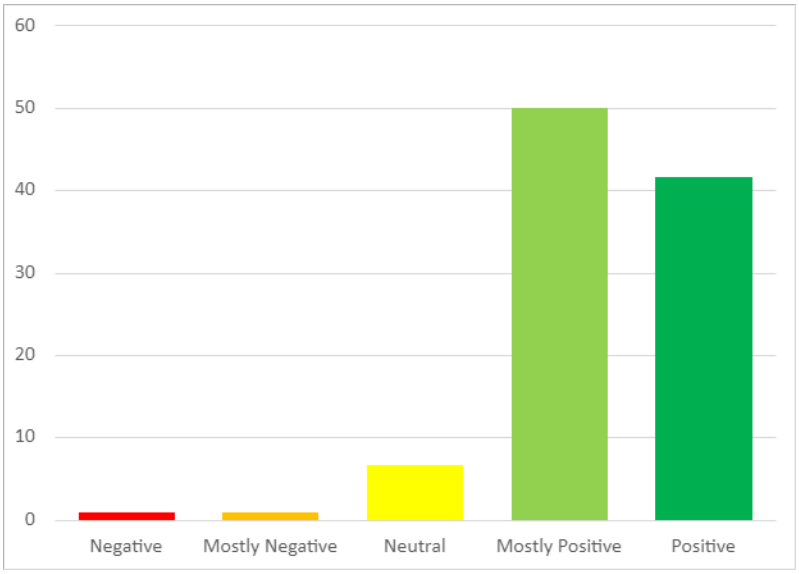
- More areas for wildlife
- Tennis courts
- More trees
- Opportunity to buy refreshments
- Facilities for adults

There was also an option to "add something else" here. These other options have been added to the data in Appendix 2 and summarised together with this data in the "Other ideas and comments" section of this document.

Feedback on the vision plan

140 people answered the question “Overall, what do you think of the plan for Burley Park?”

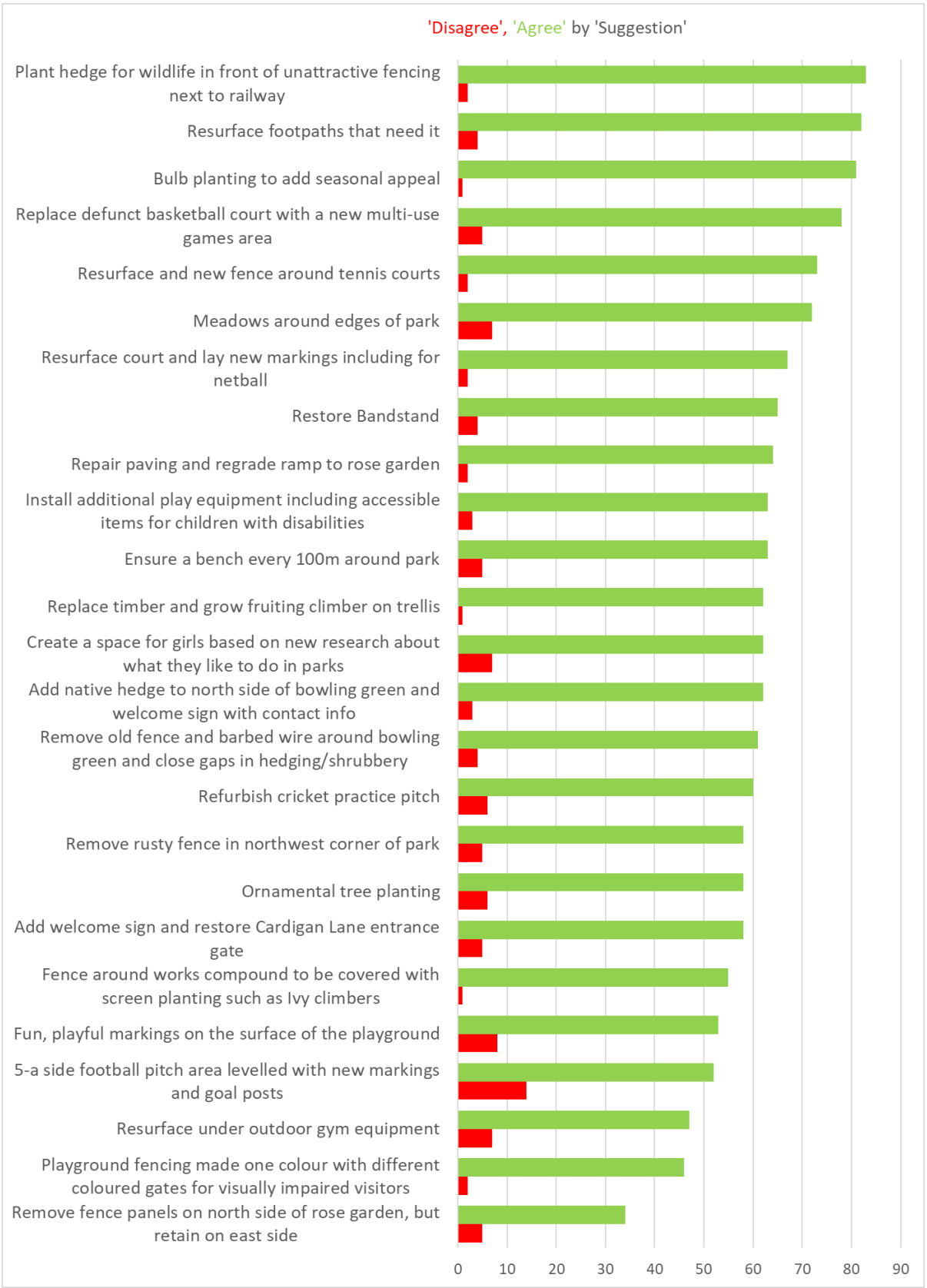
Figure 8: Overall opinions of the plan for Burley Park by percentage of respondents



Almost 92% said they were ‘mostly positive’ or ‘positive’ about the plan.
Less than 2% said they were ‘mostly negative’ or ‘negative’ about the plan.

We specifically asked for thoughts on 25 suggestions of ways we might improve the park which were shown in the proposed plan. The respondents were asked which they agreed with and which they did not.
It was not obligatory to answer this question so, it is assumed that where people didn’t respond, it was because they were indifferent.

Figure 9: Chart showing number of positive and negative responses to the suggestions we made



The 5 proposals with the most agreement were:

- Plant hedge for wildlife in front of unattractive fencing next to railway
- Resurface footpaths that need it
- Bulb planting to add seasonal appeal
- Replace defunct basketball court with a new multi-use games area
- Resurface and new fence around tennis courts

The 5 proposals with the most disagreement (though the numbers of people disagreeing in general was quite low) were:

- 5-a side football pitch area levelled with new markings and goal posts
- Fun, playful markings on the surface of the playground
- Meadows around edges of park
- Create a space for girls based on new research about what they like to do in parks
- Resurface under outdoor gym equipment

However, although there were some people who disagreed with some of the suggestions, there was significantly more support for all of them than disagreement. Below is a graph setting out the ratio of agreement/disagreement for each suggestion. The figure in the graph represents the number of people who agreed with the proposal for every one person who disagreed, for example, the figure 10 means 10/1 ratio (agree/disagree).

Figure 10: What survey respondents think of suggestions of ways we might improve the park, bar chart shows ratio of positive to negative responses, bigger bars meaning more positive.

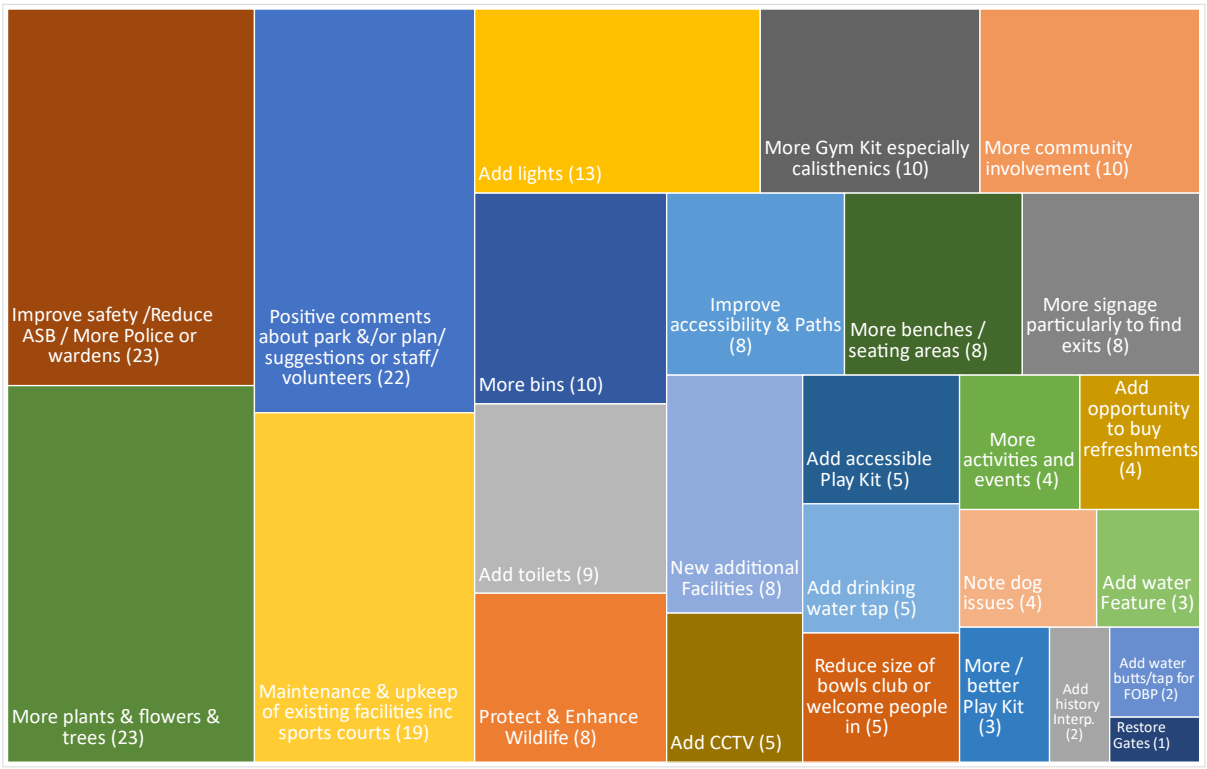


Other ideas and comments

We asked: “Do you have any other ideas for improving Burley Park that you would like to share with us?” and “Do you have any other comments on Burley Park?”

The comments and ideas are summarised in figure 11 below. The size of each block relative to the frequency of mentions the subject received in comments. The full text of comments by respondents can be found in Appendix 2 and data tables in Appendix 3.

Figure 11: Graphical representation of subject matter in comments, size of blocks representing frequency of subject occurring in the ‘other’ comments, graphic including number of occurrences.



Children’s perspective

Input from the school council at Kirkstall Valley Primary school:

Support was given for most suggestions, particularly for the following suggestions:

- Resurface the bumpy paths
- Install a new multi-use games area
- Resurface tennis courts.
- Add a fruiting climber, yes, and add other fruits too.

Also of note:

- Around half the group supported reduced mowing or meadows, the other half did not.
- If repainting the playground fence, please don't make it green or it will not be visible enough compared to the grass.

Other ideas put forward by the children included:

- More accessible equipment in the playground for people with disabilities.
- Free water stations.
- Garden shop.
- Litter Pickers.
- Planting events for kids.
- Café / snack bar.
- Playground for age 5 and under.
- Area for praying / quiet area.
- Scheduled events.
- Car park.
- Security guards.
- Climbing wall in playground.
- Encourage people not to litter!
- Toilets.
- First aid kit.
- Other more elaborate ideas included fields of animals, swimming pools and sleeping areas!

Love Leeds Parks charity community engagement

In addition to the Leeds City Council survey that is the subject of this report, in summer 2023 *Love Leeds Parks* had a number of in-depth conversations with local people to find out their views about Burley park and how it might be used. They had direct interactions with 251 people from organisations such as All Hallows Church, Hyde Park Source (a local charity) and Leeds Beckett University Student Union.

When communities were asked what Burley park means to them, the following 6 themes emerged:

- Health and wellbeing
- The park is my garden (lots of the local houses don't have gardens)
- A place to enjoy nature
- A place to spend time with family and children
- A social space to meet friends
- A place to walk the dog

They identified 6 themes relating to the question 'What do Residents Want to Engage with at Burley Park', these were:

- Live music
- Connecting with nature
- Social gatherings
- Health and wellbeing activities
- Activities for children and young people
- Community art

The following themes emerged from responses to the question – what are the barriers to accessing Burley park:

- Public awareness (a lot of local residents didn't know the park was there)
- Safety (relating to anti-social behaviour)
- Facilities (missing or in poor condition)

A full report on the Love Leeds Parks findings is available on their websitewww.loveleedsparks.org.uk

Conclusions

Summary of findings:

- 143 people filled in the Leeds City Council survey about the proposals for Burley park and we spoke to many more whilst on site and out and about in the community, in drawing the following conclusions we have also taken into account the findings of the Love Leeds Parks research
- The proposed plan was supported by the majority of survey respondents (92%) with only 2% saying they felt 'negative' about the proposals.
- The local community is very fond of this park, would like to share their appreciation for the staff on site and overall have welcomed the proposals for the site.

In response to the findings of the consultations, it is proposed that the following changes are made to the plan:

- The rose garden should be improved as described in the plan and promoted as an area for relaxation, reflection and enjoyment of nature. The fencing around rose garden and in the northwest corner should be refurbished, not removed.
- Add a nature and history trail around the park so visitors can learn about interesting features there.
- Add a sign to the bowling green entrance gates explaining how people can try out/get involved in bowling in the park as it is not currently obvious that it's available to everyone.
- The grass football area won't be further formalised as a pitch as this is also a popular area for picnics.
- Add more outdoor gym equipment (pull up bars were mentioned several times) in level locations (rather than on the hill) and nearer to exits than at present.
- Look at options to stop people on quads and motorbikes (whilst retaining disabled access) using the site and be clear on signage that e-scooters and e-bikes should not be used in the park.
- Review quantity & placement of bins.

Other things to consider:

- The findings of the consultations suggest there are a significant number of people in the local community who aren't aware of the park, so it would be worth considering signage from main roads in the area and/or promotion of the site in local shops and community centres and online.
- There are challenges with drug use, off-road motor vehicles and other antisocial/illegal behaviour in the park with quite a few respondents reporting feeling unsafe there and calling for security patrols, lighting and CCTV to deal with it.

- The community would like to see more public events and activities at the site and, in particular, it would be great to make more use of the bandstand for a range of live music events.
- Look at finding ways to engage more local people with bowling and related facilities in the park – could the bowling pavilion be used to serve refreshments and/or provide public toilets at busy times?

Appendix 1: Demographic data

Information about the survey respondents is shown below.

Figure 12: Chart showing frequency of respondents to survey by age

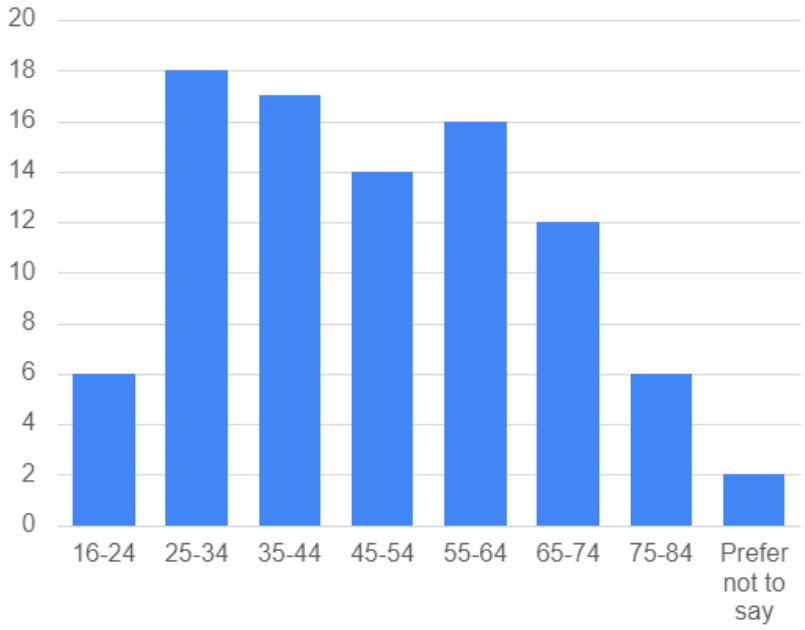


Figure 13: Chart showing employment status of respondents to survey

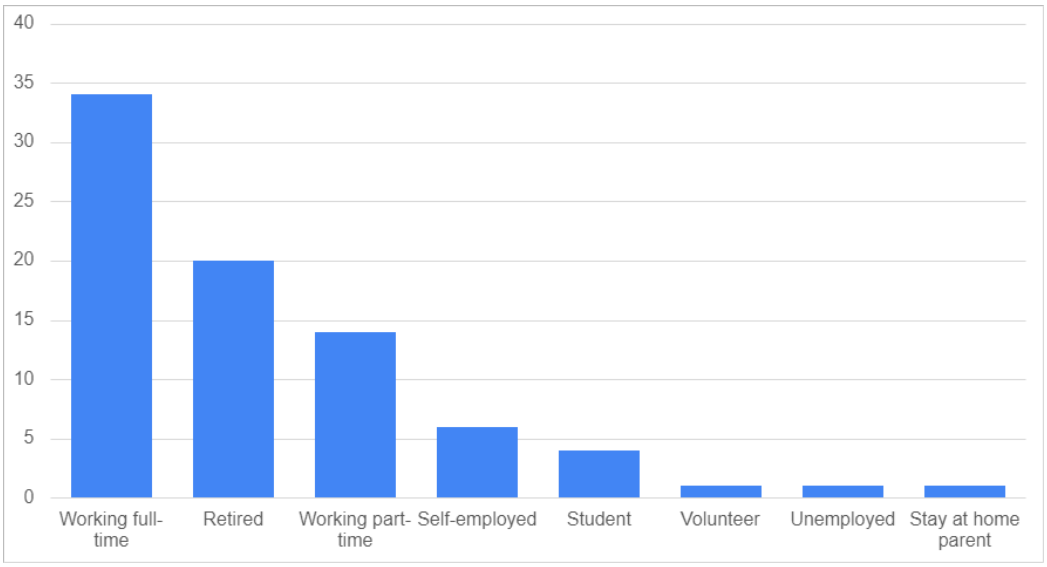


Figure 14: Chart showing how respondents to survey describe their gender

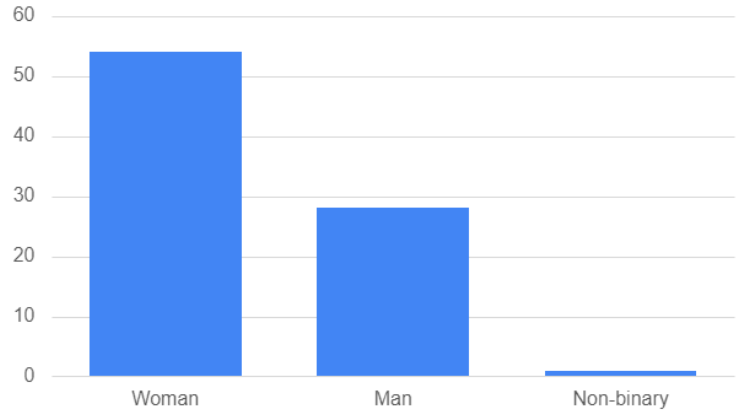


Figure 15: Chart showing how respondents to survey describe their ethnicity

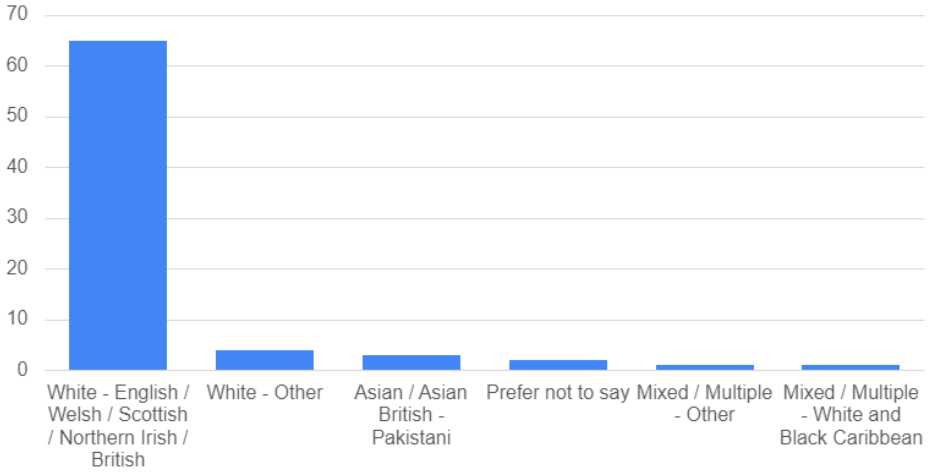
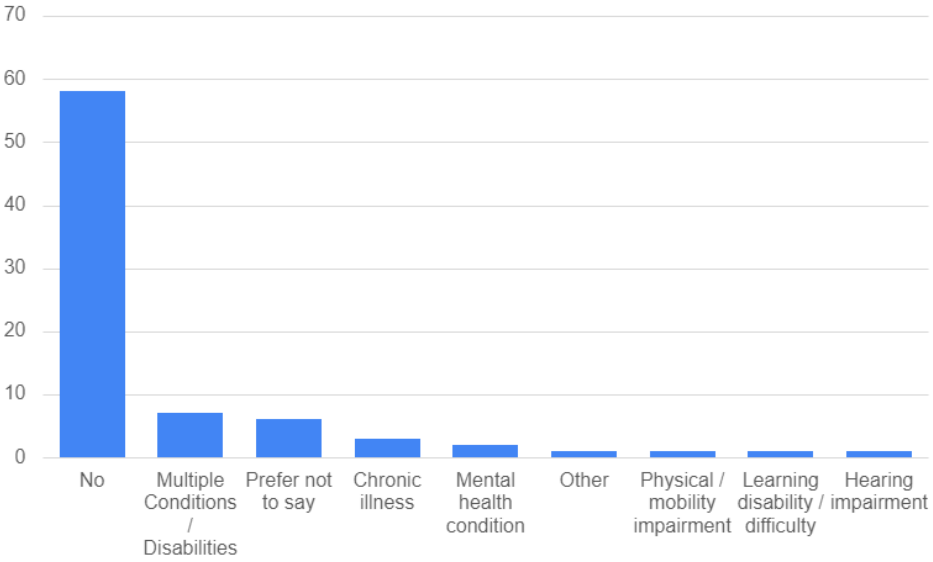


Figure 16: Chart showing number of people who identified as having a type of disability



Appendix 2: Full text of comments by respondents

Responses to the question "Do you have any other ideas for improving Burley Park that you would like to share with us?"

More information available about history and wildlife of park. Focus on protection of mature trees and increased measures for wildlife, e.g. habitat houses, particularly for bats and small mammals.

Add an entrance halfway along the north edge to stop people jumping over the wall it to get in/out, if possible as it is brick. Add flood lights even if just for evening time.

I think burley park is a wonderful place. However, I do feel that more activities and events would be nice for families and children. The band in the park the other week was great. If I remember rightly, we used to have so much more activities going on. Especially for children and families. It would be nice to have these again.

bring back old-fashioned gates for the park like seen in hull east end park.

It's great that the park is finally getting a look at. I've lived in the area over 30 years and don't remember it being and different to what it was now to what it was 30 years ago. The suggestions are great and hope they get done.

I would like to add we would need more police patrol as there is always drug dealing and young lads doing cartwheels on their motor bikes going on around park view road.

There are always cars speeding on the road which is very unsafe for young children who live in the area and also those that use the park.

A suggestion would be to add speed bumps on park view road and have plenty of patrolling in the area to keep it safe.

Although the gym equipment is a good start, I believe that adding a calisthenics equipment area would truly make this park even better. Some pull up and dip bars, maybe adult 'monkey bars'. This would increase activity in the area, make fitness more accessible and reduce teenagers hanging out in the children's play area.

I believe there should be special efforts made for disabled children and play equipment for those children with Special needs. Secondly, there should be cctv cameras dotted around the park for extra security.

I think it could benefit from some seating and relaxation areas that aren't directly alongside paths, just off from the paths, so there's some more secluded and private areas for all ages (but primarily) adults to be able to sit, relax and enjoy the trees, plants and creatures.

Occasional visits from park wardens to stop disposable barbeque usage on grass.

More facilities for children with disabilities. Also improved surfacing for wheelchair users, and better security, lighting and CCTV usage.

The gooseberry bushes, that yielded lots of fruit earlier in the year, seem to have a disease. They need some attention.

Water butts to provide rainwater in times of drought so new trees and fruit trees can be watered.

It would be good if there was more community involvement by the bowling club. Open days etc. Currently seems to be very underused given the space and upkeep needed.

I am unable to visit this park as I have a bladder disorder and there are no toilets. The last time I went to a park with no toilets resulted in my being off work ill, so, although I live 2 miles away from this park I can't use it. The same with Bramley Park which is even closer.

5 a side is a good idea but the location may destroy the informal grass picnic area. Redoing tennis, basketball area well overdue. Possibly another path north south near the trees and bank between cricket area and bowling green?

A water source would be very useful both for plant maintenance and drinking. Restoration of the original fence and gates would greatly enhance nocturnal security.

Would be good to manage the trees a bit more to remove dead branches etc.

More maintenance to keep on top of flower beds and general tidiness of the park.

Liaise more with Burley St Matthias Primary School and other community groups about how they want to use the park.

There is a toilet in Burley Park but it's in the clubhouse and locked behind the bowling green boundary fence. There is essentially therefore NO access to toilets in the park. Bowling club very protective of three pitches and it probably gets used 20x a year. Seems a lot of work goes in to maintaining pitches and keeping non-members out. Club is neither welcoming nor friendly in my experience. That's a big section of the park that is sectioned off and has a lot of time spent maintaining it for a small group of people. One of the pitches could be turned into a workout/yoga/multi-sport use area so more people can make use of it.

It would be wonderful if all the ideas for improving Burley Park were implemented. Even if funding did not stretch to all of them, just doing some is a no brainer. People lead busy, stressful lives and being able to get out and enjoy the park will greatly benefit their mental and physical health. It will also cut down on the pressure the NHS is under having to treat them.

"There should be more bins, everywhere there is a bench area needs a bin nearby. You can walk from the east side of the playground round to the bandstand without encountering a bin once.

The Eastern most path along the railway that goes from cardigan road up to park view should have street lighting so that it can be used by women, vulnerable people and dog walkers after 4pm in the winter when it is dark. Not a single green space in The Hyde park area has street lighting for use after working hours when it is dark for winter and people want access the green space for passage or dog walking.

I think first priority needs to be making sure the park is safe. Adding proper lighting throughout the park and marking routes out of the park is essential. Community events can be encouraged in the park during evenings (yoga classes, amateur dramatics event) and having coffee vans etc can all increase a feeling a safety in the park, as well as having 'help' zones for people.

This needs to be priority before planning to make the park more accessible to discriminated groups like teenage girls and disabled people. Planning to make the park more inclusive is great, but it can only be done successfully if those groups of people feel safe enough to use the park. "

Pull up bars please!!!!

Please improve the playground, it's really dated and not great for kids. Also stop adult men using the play equipment for exercises.

Maybe CCTV and better lighting at night and evenings.

Restoration of the second ornamental flower bed.

I heard there was a pull up bar. It's either been removed or was just that impossible to find. Please add more around the park with the outdoor gym equipment placed less sporadically.

Tennis courts are good and could be improved with better surface and level to avoid pooling of water.

Seats in Bandstand, lights, flowers near benches, security, welcome sign. Bowling needs a welcome to join sign, even after 40 years I thought it was private.

Especially resurface the footpaths that retain water during the rain. Gym equipment needs greasing & upgrading.

YES!!! to creating space for girls. More female areas.

The path that goes from Burley Road up to the north end by park view should have streetlights for vulnerable people & dog walkers after 4pm it's dark in winter. More bins near benches.

Skatepark.

Bigger stuff in playground. Better and safer toddler things.

I am very happy for Burley Park to be restored and improved. It is a much-needed space in a built-up area. I don't tend to use the park as it is not the closest to me but do like to walk through it if we walk into town from Headingley. Perhaps a walking route could be planned to encourage others to do this?

Maybe making the signs brighter colours and large font so it’s accessible, new and having local artists. Maybe holding a market with local stalls charities and friends of burley park.

Having a fresh water tap for humans and dogs, off lead area for dogs. Encouraging young people who live in Leeds (post uni) to be involved in the park in constructive ways.

More blossom trees. Dogs only on leads.

Please could the outdoor exercise area be moved to nearer the park entrance. I would like to use it by myself but don't at the moment as I don't feel comfortable being in the centre of the park by myself. It is was moved to one of the sides I would use it a lot.

The park needs a Teen Shelter & also outdoor gym equipment that can be powered by bluetooth. Also more equipment for toddlers & disabled.

Repair or replace the very old roundabout.

Some large areas of grass to be mown only once a year. Provide a closely mown winding path through the area to observe the wildflowers and insects.

More flowering and scented shrubs/wildflower planting to add colour all year round and attract wildlife

Refurbish bowling pavilion and open to general public for refreshments

Wire brick pillars of pergola and its new timbers so climbers can be attached. Plant scented, thornless flowering climbers and ones for autumn colour on pergola."

More relaxed mowing and allowing the flora to develop or be added to over the next decade.

More benches are definitely needed though I'm not sure they necessarily need to be 100 metres apart. I'm not sure about the provision of litter bins. Does that need to be looked at?

There is definitely a need for more benches in the park though I'm not sure they necessarily need to be 100 metres apart. How effective is the current provision of litter bins? Maybe that would need to be considered along with more seating. The current stock of mature trees must be maintained and preserved as a priority. Maintenance of facilities and paths etc could probably just be done as and when it's needed rather than a complete overhaul. I feel maintaining the park for what people currently use it for is far more important than 'improving' the park. There are always plenty of people out enjoying the park for walking/dog walking, playing cricket, practicing musical instruments etc.

I think it's really missing an opportunity to lean into the vibrant and alternative Burley community, I would love to see roller skating here, live music, additions to make it attractive in the winter time/a destination. Outdoor fire pits/barbecues. Areas of shelter. A pond/water feature would be amazing, more wildlife, I really do appreciate how well kept the park is, very manicured so great for the sports, but in terms of planting it's sparse, would love a more foresty feel at the bottom end.

More areas just for protecting wildlife. Nature boards to teach people/children about animals and wildlife.

Noticeboard with info about forthcoming events, Friends of Burley Park etc.

When the changes are complete, install new map(s) within the park, meanwhile clean up existing maps"

Responses to the question "Do you have any other comments on Burley Park?"

Can feel very unsafe at times especially further on into the day

Great park but in a state. The whole park needs a full refurbish to make it safe for children

Burley park has been neglecting for the last 20 years, I grew up playing in this park and it hurts me seeing the poor state of the park. As we don't have gardens we need a good clean park for the wellness of our mental health.

The congregations at the top of the park, cricket dominating a community resource (it's impossible for me to calmly walk that section of the park for fear of getting clobbered by a rogue ball, let alone the dozen or so men shouting. Always shouting. At all hours) and feel like they impede fully being able to enjoy the park

8/10, calisthenics park would make it a solid 11/10.

I think safety is a key thing missing from this. How are cameras, lighting, staffing and other methods used to keep people safe in and around the park? In the daytime, it feels mostly safe but in the early morning or later at night, it's unlit and doesn't feel the safest

I think the Friends of Burley Park group have done such great work. I love that the parks team are keen to work alongside community groups.

Plans look good.

More trees good but please don't block all the connecting views out eg towards Armley with the church spire on the ridge.

It's a fabulous community asset that deserves to be preserved.

I'm really excited that the Council is planning to upgrade the park. It is such a special place and is a real haven in the middle of a densely populated area. Thank you.

The staff there are terrific. Especially Sam. He takes pride in the park, deals well with the public and is always looking for ways he can help. He is a real credit to you all.

Anti-social behaviour is a big problem, I know four friends who have been subjected to verbal and physical abuse by teenagers in the park, I'm not sure how it can be addressed but thought it important to note. I would love to be able to spend time in the park in the evening as the sun sets but I don't feel safe enough to do so.

I really love Burley Park and have been pleased to see new trees planted and relaxed mowing. The park is very well used and refurbishment of the sports facilities and paths would strengthen ties to the community, and improve health outcomes and accessibility for disabled residents

I think it will repay the money that is hopefully going to be spent. It is already much better used by a wider mix of ages and people than it was even 30 years ago. it will be money well spent, as it's a reasonable size and has many mature trees already.

Much has already been done to improve Burley Park, especially with more tree planting. However, with the student population ever increasing, and more people spending time on the park in summer, more bins are really needed. If that is not possible, a small skip for the busier hot days in summer. Also, there have been no dog bins for quite a few years. These were never replaced when they broke, nor were there any extra normal bins provided to replace them. I really hope Leeds City Council's plans for the park are realised, and will be keeping my fingers crossed. Thank you.

I love seeing people use burley park in weird and wonderful ways. It's a great space for the community and seeing the groundskeepers regularly and that the community want to put effort into it is really lovely.

It would be good to have some sheltered seating areas for teens who have nowhere to go and want to hang out in bad weather. Also some signage banning motorbikes maybe?

The park is lovely I really love the wildflower meadow area near the southwest entrance.

Love the park, we use it regularly with our kids and always have their birthday parties there.

It can be a lovely space and it's great to see this survey and effort being put in by the council to care for it and ensure the community has a voice.

A concern I have about the "meadow " areas is that they will become dog poo areas. today while exercising in the park, I witnessed someone letting their dog poo in one of the overgrown areas and not removing the poo just leaving it there. I think if there are more overgrown areas this will happen

more. Along with the nettles growing in these areas they become hazardous for children playing in the park.

I am happy to have managed meadow areas with wildflowers etc but not areas that are just full of weeds, litter and dog poo.

Needs to be more welcoming of the diverse local population. It is a lovely Park.

Hats off to the team for their every effort in maintaining the park

It's really lovely & I enjoy seeing it taken care of by groundskeepers & used by the community.

Basketball

We need to celebrate our green spaces more and make sure they're used and safe

Where is the 'plan' for Burley Park? All I see are suggestions

I used to go there loads with my small daughter when we lived nearer to it. It's a great park, it needs to be kept nice, with staff about. Is there space for a cafe?

"We like the wildflowers in summer and the fruit orchard stuff is nice too

Top 3 things are paths, playground, basketball "

Nice place and community feel

I'm not sure about levelling 5 aside pitch, how much would that cost as moving earth is an expensive job? Do we need 5 aside pitch as well as the multi-use sports area, could they not be combined? I LOVE the new trees but some have died as council never came back to water them, the large standards need to be watered until established. I enjoy the flowers and fruit trees. Burley Park is very important to me and I'm glad improvements are underway. Ash dieback plan needs considering? Lots of ash trees along the road.

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who work to maintain the park!

Is there a need for intermittent police presence to discourage antisocial behaviour / drug dealing? The plans look great.

Alongside the physical works we collectively need to encourage more diverse events to involve all of the community

We often go for a walk around Burley Park and enjoy it very much but in recent years have been annoyed and sometimes frightened by noisy, fast mopeds and electric bikes speeding through the park both on footpaths and on the grass. This is dangerous especially as there are often children running around and people walking, sometimes with their dogs, young people playing football and cricket and people having picnics or sitting on the grass reading or studying. Last week, just as we were leaving the park, two quadbikes came roaring over the little bridge on Park View Road, did 'wheelies' on the road, then roared into the park, churning up the grass right next to where a group of young lads were playing cricket. They then roared off into the park. It was very dangerous. They had no registration numbers on their vehicles. They entered the park through the little entrance next to the railway bridge on Park View Road. On a brighter note, we particularly enjoy the small jazz bands which sometimes play in the 'bandstand'.

These plans look very ambitious. It seems like someone has already decided what should be done rather than a genuine consultation where you are asking the public for their ideas. How will it be funded during this cost of living crisis? I would mainly like to see the current trees maintained and preserved. The environmental benefits of the mature trees in the park are enormously important. I would like to see more benches too and just to see people be able to continue to use the park in the way that they do now.

It's nice that people care about the park. Some more planting may be nice in places like the formal garden perhaps. These plans are very ambitious however, and it feels more like someone has already decided the plans rather than have a genuine, meaningful consultation with the public to ask for ideas. How will these plans be funded during this cost of living crisis? It is vitally important that the park's mature trees are maintained and properly managed with the aim of preserving them and that no more of these trees are needlessly chopped down. The environmental benefits of the park's mature trees for the wider area as a whole are enormously important. I would simply like to see some more benches and that the park is maintained as much as possible for the activities people currently enjoying using it for.

it is my local green space and I'm delighted it's getting some love and investment

Ask PCSO's to keep an eye on it when they walk through, especially re: BBQ's on grass.

Some further comments from more informal conversations with users of Burley Park:

I like the park and all the suggestions, add a water fountain, there is an antisocial behaviour problem. The park needs bigger bins.

Needs a drinking water source & a disabled toilet. I think the park is great.

I think park is fine as it is.

Should have a website with more history of park also more trees & toilets needed.

There used to be a fountain, vandals are a problem, plant more bushes to screen off the streets. I would like more wild areas.

More gym equipment but on a level bit of ground not up or down hill & together so more sociable. I think it is a nice park.

Needs more stuff to do for youths like the sports drop in at Alexander Park & youth stuff in Wakefield. We do love our park.

Comments from the "add something else" option of the question "What do you like about Burley Park?"

In that picture it looks great but I'm reality it run down. the park has been neglecting for the last 20 years. We don't have gardens, so I park is an essential for us.

The ethnic and age diversity of people who enjoy it.

Birdsong and wildflower meadow. I haven't watched anyone playing in the bandstand but have occasionally heard that from home.

It's a great park because it offers a variety of options for many different user groups.

Whilst it is good there is still a bowling green, more marketing of it could be done to attract more people to join and use it.

The variety of plants.

Gardens.

Rose garden.

Orchards and the herbaceous beds.

The fact that plenty of people are using it and local people play cricket on it.

Burley Park has a bit of something for everyone and I enjoy seeing folk use the sports and play areas, having a picnic or walking their dogs.

Thankfully, it's not mistreated in the ways Woodhouse Moor is - eg: 4.20, drinking/BBQ use (which is obviously illegal, but lack of enforcement makes it a problem - with lasting damage to grass).

Comments from the "add something else" option of the questions "Is there anything you think could be improved about Burley Park?" and "If you don't visit Burley Park very often, why is that?":

The cricket can get overbearing, especially since loud games are played early on the weekends (7:30am this past weekend) and late into the evening. Also, I've noticed teens causing trouble in the park this past few months (police chased them through the park last night), and people using the top of the park as a congregation point for their quads, dirt bikes and excessively loud 4x4s can get tiresome.

There needs to be more facilities for disabled and special needs kids. The current facilities are relatively dangerous for such children. There also needs to be improved security in the park lighting at night, police patrols and CCTV.

Play facilities for disabled children. Compost bins to create compost from park green waste and teach local people about composting.

There needs to be more bins or bigger bins - especially on a hot day when a lot of people sit out. We take our rubbish home, but not everyone does.

TOILETS!

Access to refreshment/toilet facilities (even if only on weekend afternoons in summer, for example).

The corner area with the pergola has got a bit neglected planting wise. This forms a semi private garden a bit detached from the rest. I'm also concerned about possible future loss of the view along Airedale and sunset light if redevelopment on Cardigan Lane is tall.

More bins ideally rodent proof. Maintain the very well used basketball court. We NEED access to toilets.

Upgrade basketball courts. Sort out trees next to basketball pitch which are causing ground to lift.

Manage trees a bit more - many of them need dead branches removing etc. Reinstate grass 5 aside pitch.

Problems with graffiti - suggest perhaps a mural to dissuade vandals (e.g. on wall of building close to orchard)

With global warming and summers getting hotter, providing a drinking fountain in the park would be much appreciated. With people being advised to keep hydrated, it would also cut down on plastic bottles. The park had one many many years ago, so shouldn't be too hard to install another one.

There needs to be more bins. You can walk from one side to the other and not encounter a bin, not good for dog walkers or in general. If there's a bench there should be a bin nearby

Better lighting and safety

Love this park but the exercise machines are rubbish. Pull up bars would really improve the facilities and should be cheap/simple to install.

It's not always safe to go walking there alone. I know dog owners who have had teenagers physically harm their dogs and intimidate women and older people.

Lights & more benches.

More bins are needed.

The basketball court is a shambles.

Remove graffiti.

Accessible signage, fireworks and rubbish, people quad biking or motor biking on footpaths, community notice board that people can add to, art mural.

Street lighting would make the park a safer place to go through during darker times. Right now, I keep away from the park when it's getting dark because I do not feel safe enough for a walk.

Public toilet.

Toilets.

Water feature(s).

More benches, football pitch is missing, rat control -we see more and more rats running around, in broad day light; some run after us sometimes....
Climbing plants to form a hedge to hide the ugly metal fence beside the railway embankment.

Tennis courts, Tennis courts, Tennis & basketball courts are pretty dire and in need of refurbishment - very difficult to use.

More musical performances in the bandstand, we only get one summer concert from the Leeds City Council programme. Having said that, it was nice to see a group of musicians using the space informally one time.

I visit regularly with my disabled niece. But it's a real struggle to manoeuvre her wheelchair around the park.

Difficult to spend a long stretch of time there with kids as no nearby toilet facilities. Lack of refreshment facilities means it's not really somewhere you'd suggest to meet a friend for a walk/visit.

I will avoid it as a route to get from one place to another, even if quicker. This is especially true when walking alone, I feel unsafe as a young woman, so have to exercise caution, despite it sometimes being the fastest route. I don't think this is something that can be solved by the park design though.

In the winter when it's dark from 4pm there is no street lighting so vulnerable people and dog walkers cannot use the area at all after work.

Fear of loose dogs and dog fouling at night / after 3pm in winter.

I would go there more often if there were events or activities that appealed to me.

Woodhouse Moor is nearer. (I normally go there every day, as soon as I get up, to get the "green space" around my head!) I've had student neighbours who prefer Burley Park because it's quieter, esp in hot weather.

Appendix 3: Current Analysis of Burley Park

Figure 17: Analysis plan of Burley Park



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