

## Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve survey results

March 2022

The Committee developed a survey using Survey Monkey comprising 11 questions in multiple choice format. Three questions related to demographic characteristics and the remaining eight questions examined use of the park, likes and dislikes and suggestions for improvement.

The survey was open from 6 February until 13 March 2022. The survey was made available online through the park's website and facebook page and was promoted by placement of fliers with a QR code and strategic locations throughout the town. Paper copies of the survey were made available at both the park's clubrooms and at Gordon Public Hall. The survey was completed by 56 respondents, 54 of whom completed it online.

### Characteristics of respondents

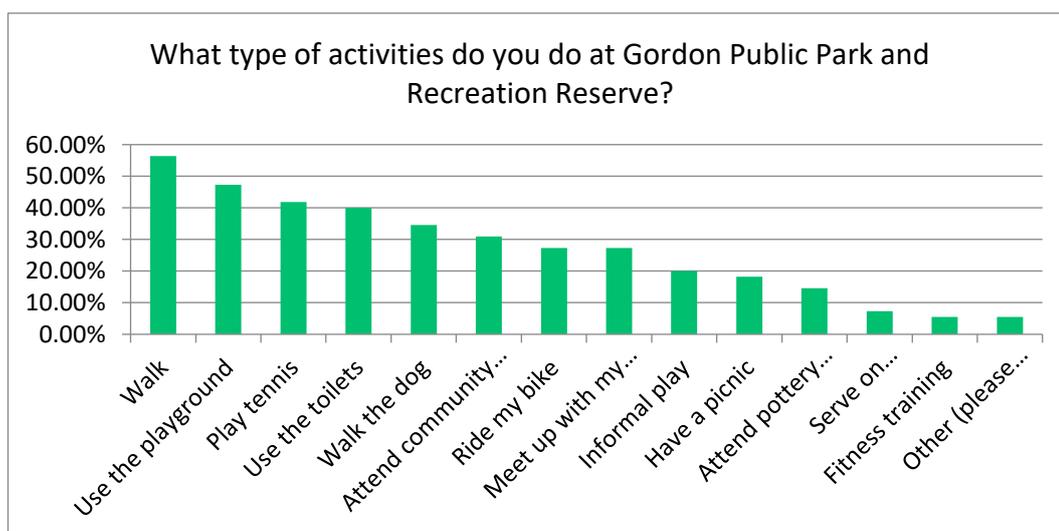
Fifty-six respondents completed the survey. Over 85% (n=48) of respondents were Gordon residents and over 71% (n=38) were female. More than 60% (n=34) of respondents were in the 30 to 49 age bracket.

### Responses to questions

Question 1: What type of activities do you do at Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve?

The most popular activities included walking (56.4%) followed by using the playground (47.3%), playing tennis (41.8%), using the toilets (40.0%) and walking the dog (34.6%).

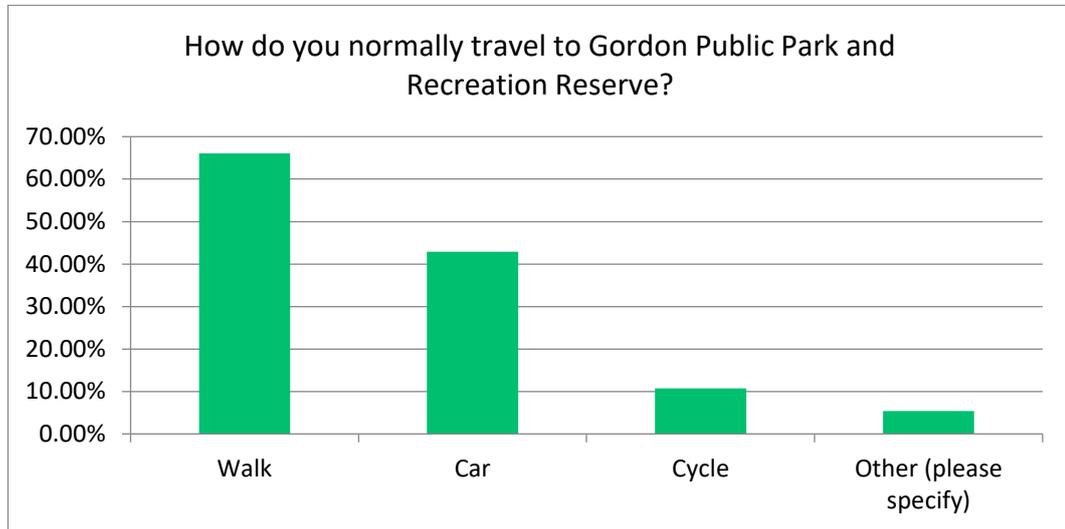
Figure 1



**Question 2: How do you normally travel to Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve?**

Reflecting responses to Q1, the majority of respondents (66.1%) walked to the park, 42.9% drove, and just over 10.7% cycle.

Figure 2

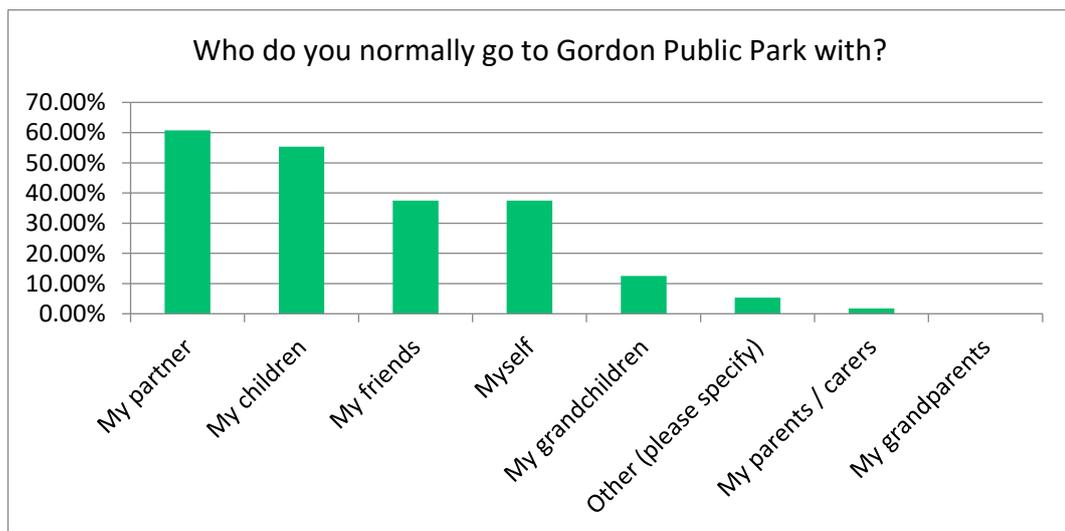


Note that responses cannot be added as many respondents indicated that they used more than one mode of travel to the park.

**Question 3: Who do you normally go to Gordon Public Park with? Please check all that apply.**

Most respondents go to the park with family or friends. Over a third go to the park alone.

Figure 3

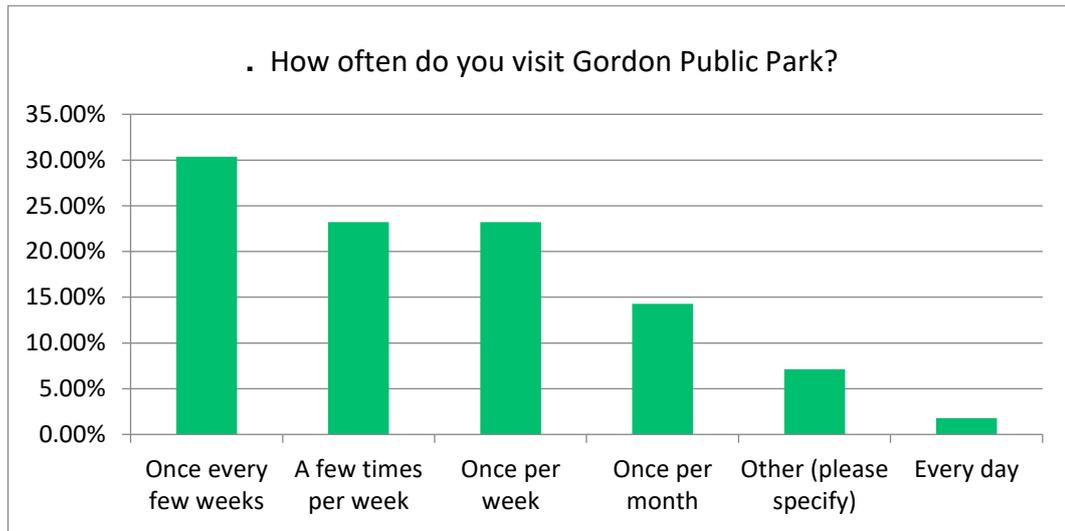


Note that responses cannot be added as many respondents indicated that they visited the park with their partner, children and/or friends.

**Question 4: How often do you visit Gordon Public Park?**

Answers to this question indicate that respondents are regular and frequent visitors to the park, with almost half indicating that they visit the park once a week or more often. Given that two thirds of respondents walk to the park (see Q3) this indicates that it is mainly local residents, living nearby who are regular visitors.

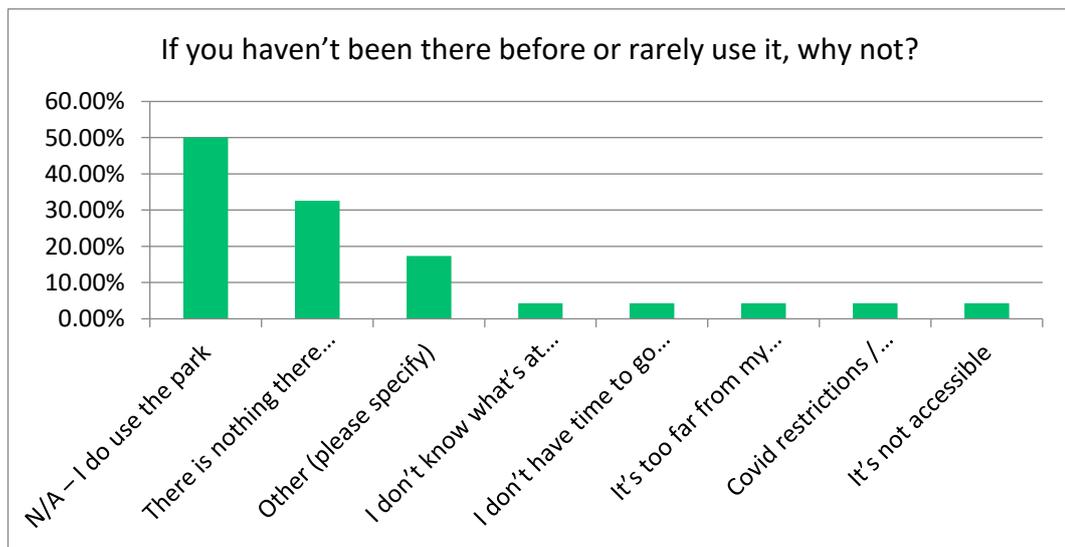
Figure 4



**Question 5: If you haven't been there before or rarely use it, why not?**

Responses included comments about the dated nature of facilities; the need for footpaths and better accessibility; a new playground; and lack of shade.

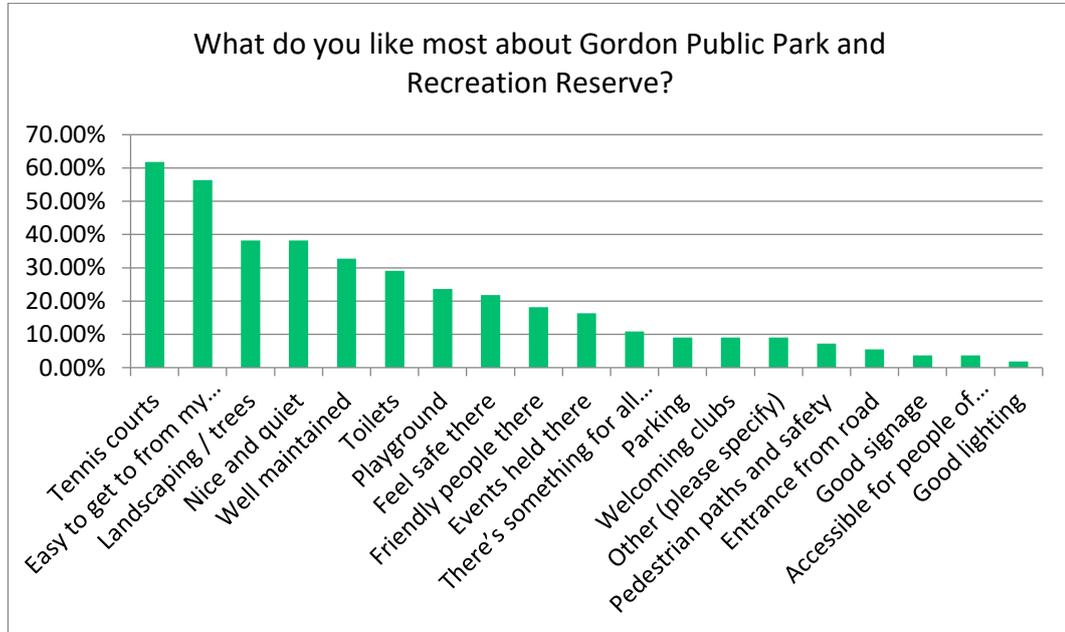
Figure 5



**Question 6: What do you like most about Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve?**

The most popular feature of the park is the tennis courts (61.8%), followed by its location, landscaping and trees, and quiet and safe nature.

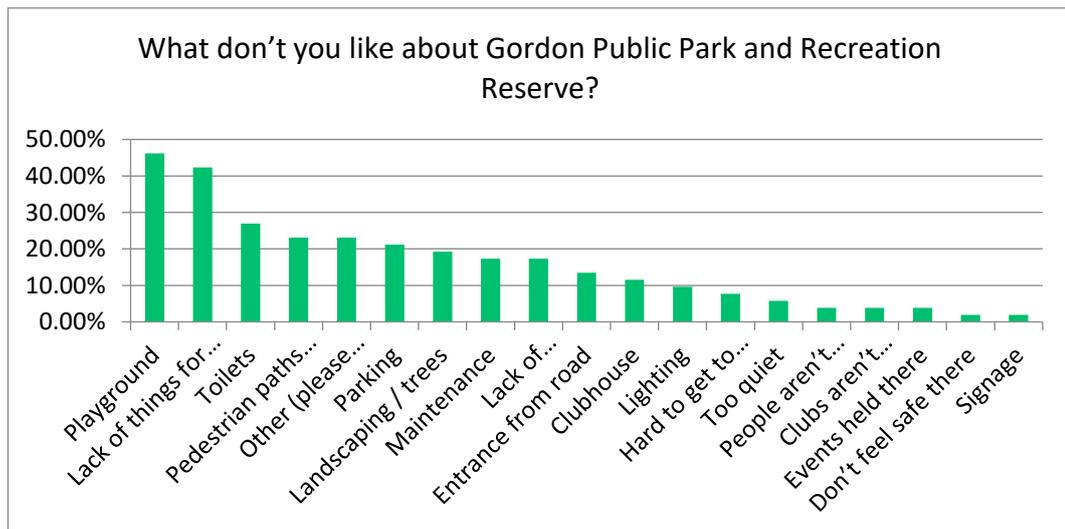
Figure 6



**Question 7: What don't you like about Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve?**

Interestingly, while the playground is one of the most used features of the park it is also one of the most disliked. A lack of all ages activities, the toilets and also featured amongst the top four dislikes.

Figure 7



## Question 8 What are your ideas to improve Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve?

Forty-eight people responded to this question. Note that respondents provided multiple responses which are grouped below.

Respondents:

- expressed support for existing or planned facilities
- suggested improvements to existing facilities; and
- proposed additional programs and facilities

Figure 8

space Lack New playground<sup>new</sup> courts equipment BBQ facilities  
playground access area s better seating park  
Upgraded skate park<sup>skate</sup> basketball court<sup>paths</sup> garden  
activities ages kids

### Support for existing or planned facilities

There was strong support for the planned skatespace and basketball court, but there was also some concern expressed.

One person responded with a suggestion for a water drink station, not realising, perhaps, that one was installed several years ago on the eastern boundary of the park.

### Improvement to existing facilities

Respondents also proposed improvements to existing facilities with a majority calling for a **new playground**, especially one with an all-abilities nature based one potentially with an Indigenous theme

A new playground that is appropriate for all ages and abilities. With various equipment eg swings, slides, wizzy dizzy's, flying foxes, climbing walls etc A water play area would be fantastic too with an indigenous theme

There was also a call for **upgrades to the clubhouse** to improve access and amenity.

If you had some funding to do you the clubhouse, you could make it into a beautiful space and something that would be hired out regularly- paint the brick, put in some bifold doors and a deck, and it would be great for events and gives the tennis spectators more of a spot to sit.

There was strong support for **improved paths** to improve access – especially if these paths link to footpaths on Main St. Recommendations also included **improved picnic facilities and outdoor seating** and the provision of **increased shade**.

Concern about safety was raised with suggestions for **fencing** to stop children from running on the road and a call for the **open drain / ditch to be cleaned up** and the erection of a fence on the western boundary. A **crossing on Main St** was also suggested to enable safe access to the park.

Respondents also called for more **clearly defined parking areas**.

**Improved toilet facilities** were also recommended.

Additional facilities and programs

Respondents also suggested additional facilities, including:

- **Additional programs and facilities**, such as an after-school program, with one respondent observing

I think expanding the parameters of use for children aged 12-18 would provide a place for community engagement- perhaps alongside the older generation from whom they could learn - and provide a space for exercise where they feel they also have a place. That age can be very isolating and confusing and having a place where they feel they are also included would be beneficial to the entire community.

- a **street library**; and
- **better management of off-leash dogs**
- Art and **signage**, including signage on Main St and **public artwork**, with a respondent noting that there is 'a real opportunity to celebrate Wadawurrung culture'
- **Landscaping and plantings** to maximise aesthetic appeal, provide **shade** and celebrate local Indigenous culture
- Other suggestions included **active recreation spaces** to allow for bikes, scooters, skate boards; the installation fitness equipment could also be incorporated to encourage a broad range of community members to use the facilities; and a **rebound wall** for kids.