

Open Space Hobart, 2024



Document Purpose

This document summarises engagement done during the first phase of this project. This is a public facing document intended to report back to engagement participants and provide feedback on what was heard and how their input was used.

This report does not include specific mention of every concept we heard; however, care has been taken not to over-generalise. This report does not make assumptions about the reasons why respondents feel the way they do or provide recommendations for the project. This report has been provided to the project team along with raw data of all feedback and responses.

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Overview

1.1 Project Scope

The Open Space Hobart project will help the City of Hobart (City) understand what the community values in green open space in Hobart and what should be prioritised in the future planning and management of this open space to meet our current community's needs.

Green open spaces include a range of different spaces. These cater for passive and active recreation and leisure activities. These spaces play an important role in the health and well-being of our community and environment and include:

- bushlands and reserves
- city and urban parks
- playgrounds
- skate parks
- outdoor gyms
- sportsgrounds
- foreshores
- tracks and trails
- public gardens
- other landscaped areas

Currently, the City manages over 100 parks and reserves, including 56 playgrounds; 4200 hectares of bushland, including over 250 kilometres of tracks and trails; and 21 sportsgrounds.

1.2 Engagement Scope

Community engagement was open on this project for four weeks in February / March 2024. Incentivised engagement opportunities were available on the City of Hobart Your Say website and included:

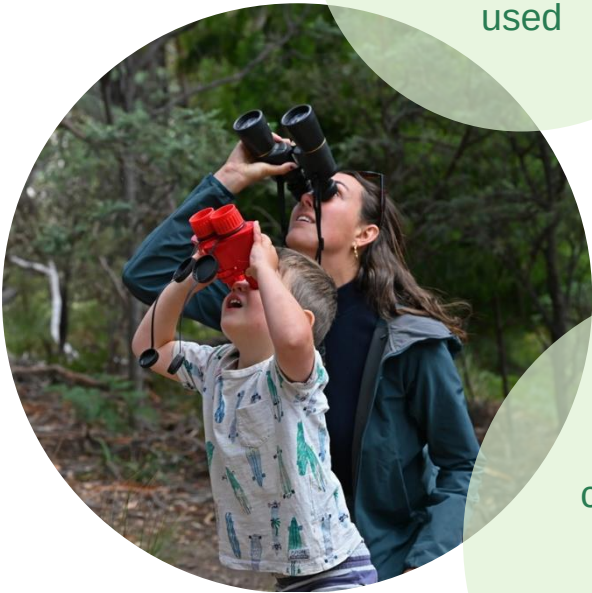
- a survey
- an interactive map for photos, stories and comments

The objectives were to understand:

- how our community use Hobart's open spaces
- what our community value about Hobart's open spaces
- what our community want to see more of in the future of Hobart's open spaces

We also wanted the community to get excited about sharing their favourite open space and to showcase some of Hobart's great open spaces.

What we knew before engagement



Hobart's green
open spaces
are extensively
used



Outdoor recreation and
sporting facilities are
ranked consistently high
in the yearly community
satisfaction survey

Understanding
what our
community wants
will help us plan
and manage
successful open
spaces

People visit from
outside Hobart
to use our open
spaces

How we communicated

We adopted a range of different communication channels to reach as many people as possible about the opportunity to have their say.



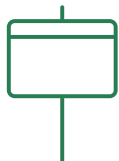
Social media

3 Facebook posts and 1 LinkedIn post as well as a paid social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram promoted the online engagement opportunity



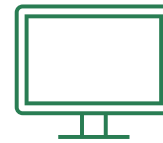
Email

Emails were sent to established lists including registered users of Your Say Hobart, Bushcare and Trackcare volunteers as well as sports and recreational groups promoting the online engagement opportunity



On site

Posters promoting the online engagement opportunity were erected at key green open spaces



Message board

A variable message sign board promoting the online engagement opportunity was set up at the entrance to Wellington Park



Park week

A media opportunity was held at Legacy Park and included the Tasmanian Dog Walkers Association. Surveys were available and promoted at the Picnic at Legacy Park community event



Young people

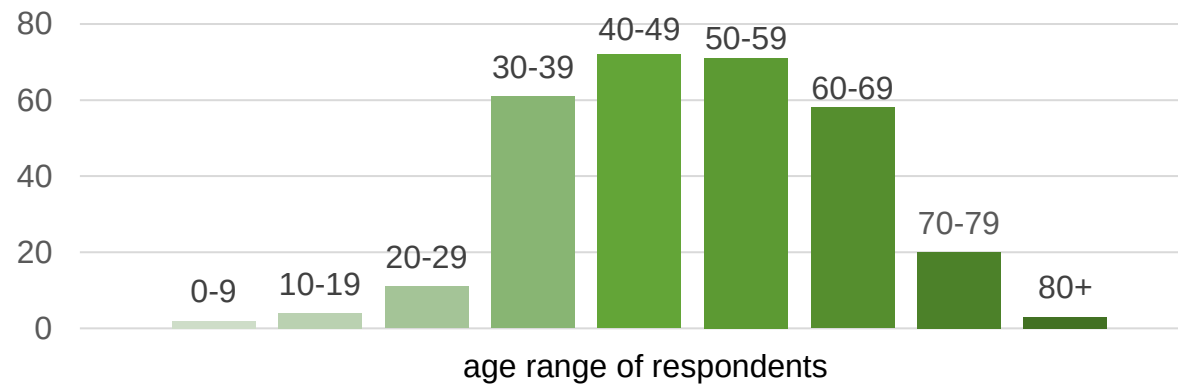
Local schools were notified of the online engagement opportunity and were encouraged to promote this in their school newsletters. Posters were put up at YouthARC and promoted on YouthARC's social media

Who we heard from

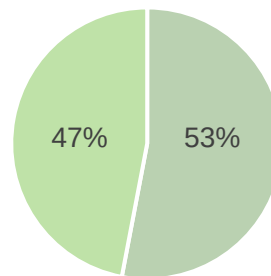
1,488
project page visits

302
survey responses

17
interactive map pins



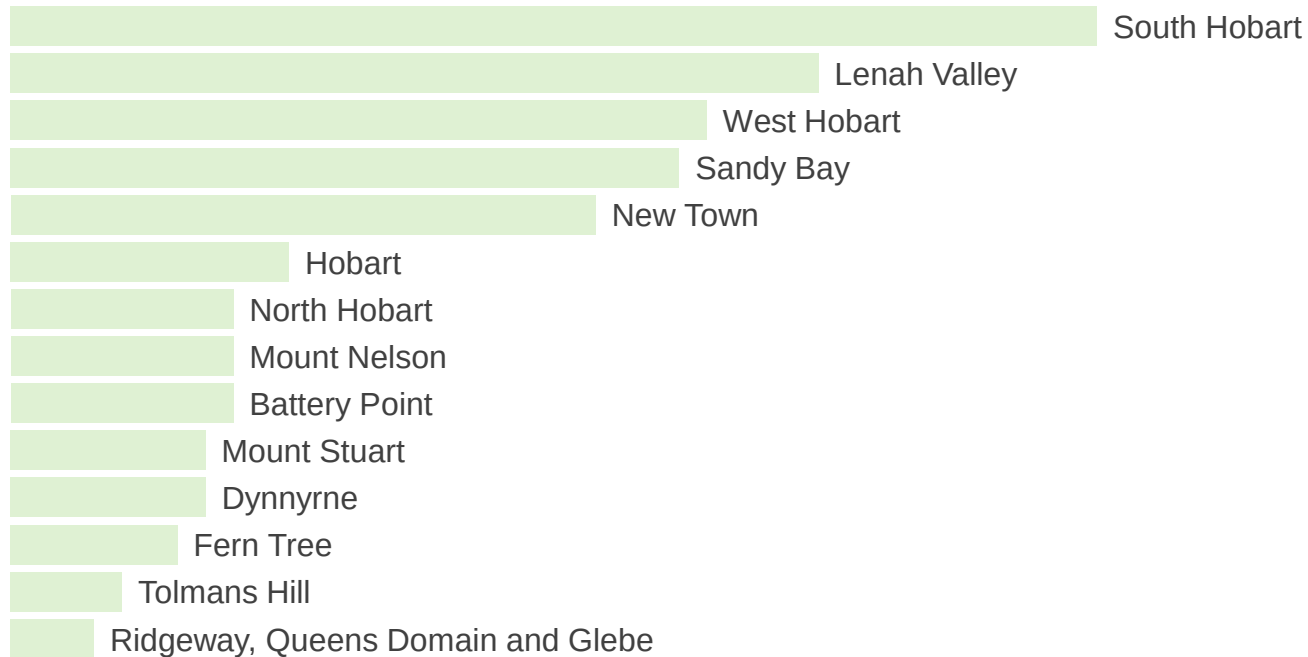
The survey captured responses from individuals across all age groups. The greatest number of responders (47%) fell within the age range of 40 to 59 years old.



53%
have a dog in their household

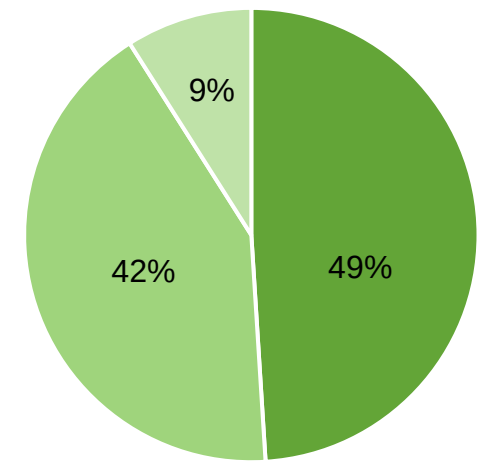


66% of responders live in Hobart



The survey captured responses from residents across all suburbs within Hobart. The largest group of responders were from South Hobart which made up 20% of all the responding residents in Hobart.

How often do you visit green open spaces in Hobart?

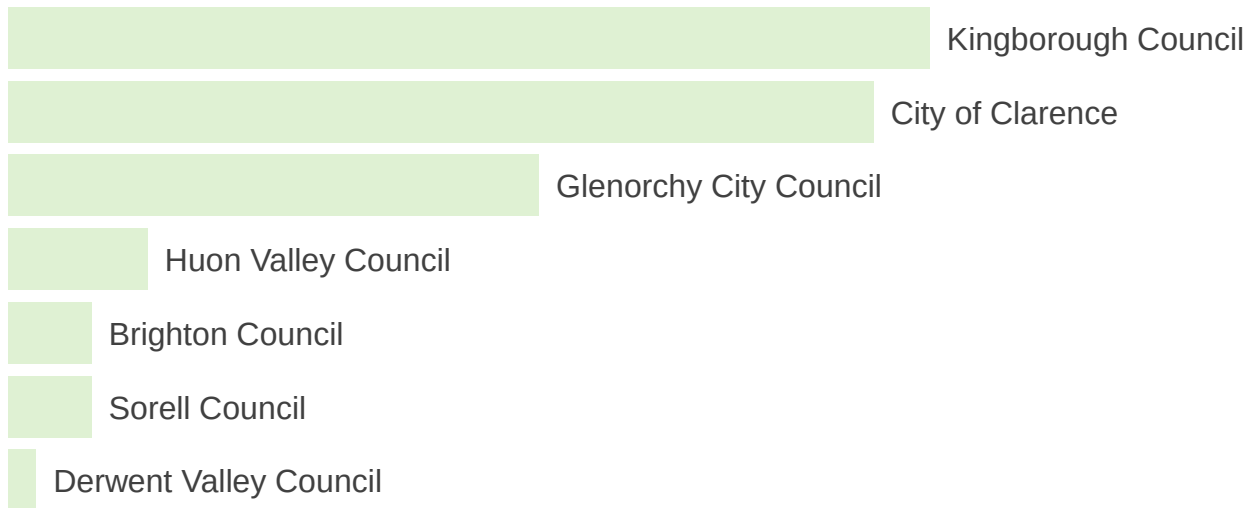


■ daily ■ weekly ■ monthly or less

49% of responders living in Hobart visit green open spaces daily, while 42% visit weekly. 9% visit monthly or less.

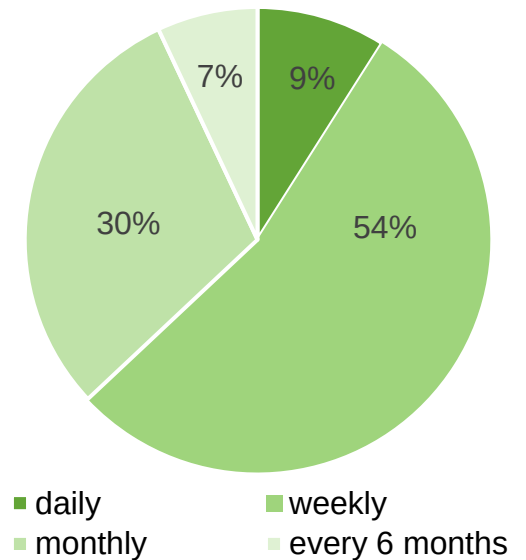


32% of responders live in surrounds areas



The survey captured responses from residents across all surrounding local government areas (LGA). The largest group of responders were from Kingborough Council and City of Clarence. These collectively made up 67% of all the responding residents in surrounding areas.

How often do you visit green open spaces in Hobart?



9% of responders living in surrounds LGAs visit green open spaces daily, while 54% visit weekly. 30% visit monthly and 7% visit once every six months or less.

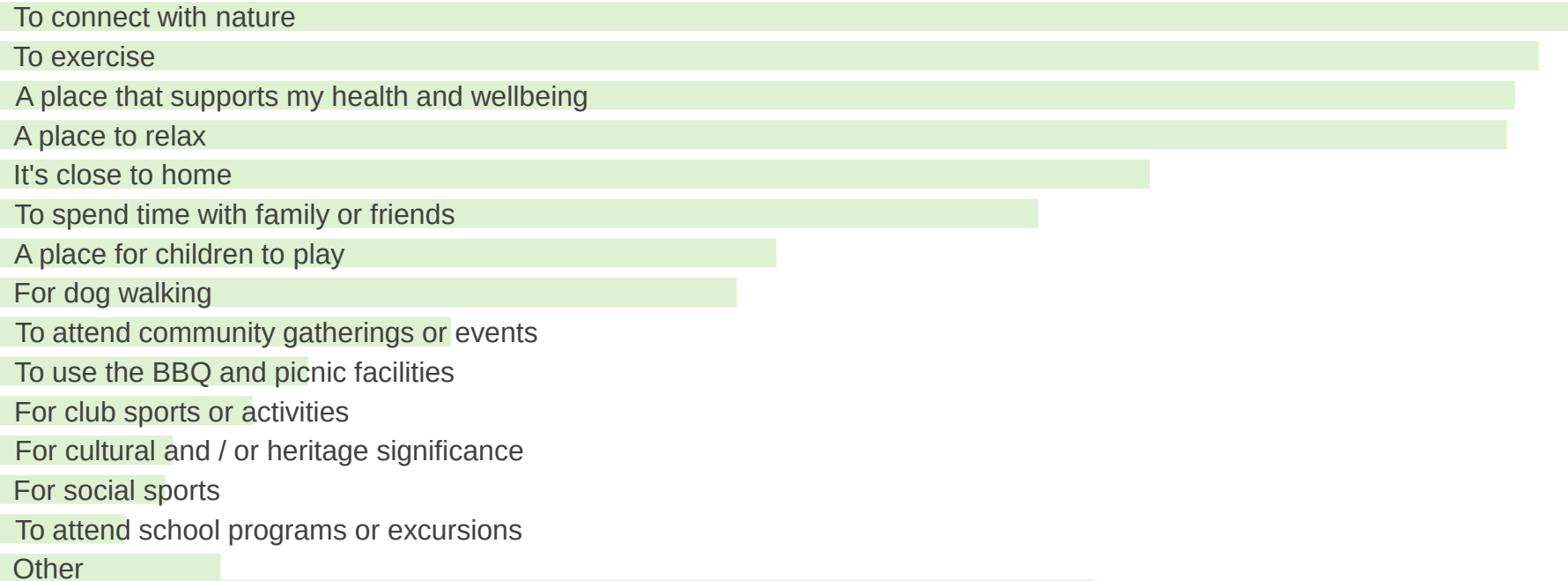


76%

Say Hobart's green open spaces meet their current recreation needs

What we heard

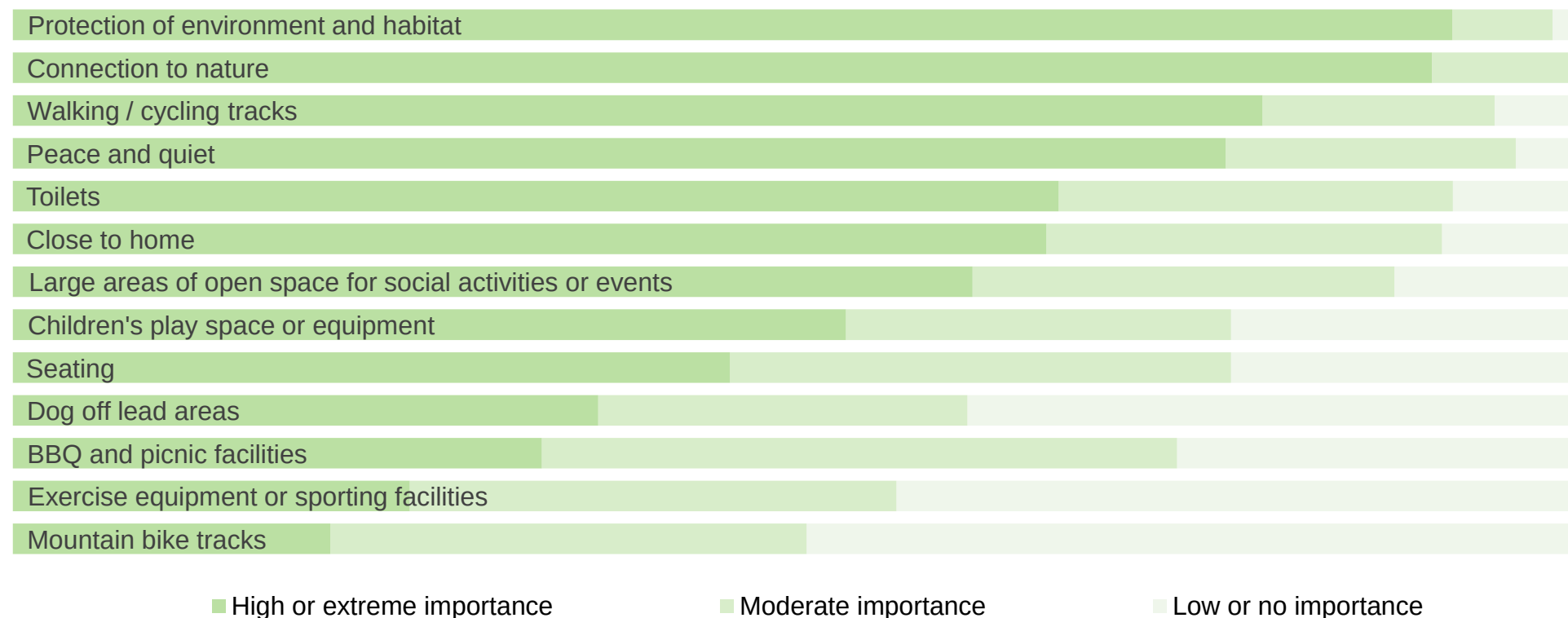
Why our community visit Hobart's green open spaces:



People that responded 'other' mentioned:

- Artwork
- Bushcare activities
- Commuting
- Learning about Hobart's history
- Learning about plants
- Mountain biking
- Opportunity for social interaction
- Park runs
- Seasonal changes
- Swimming
- To see wildlife / birdwatching
- Work and lunch breaks

What is important to our community in their green open spaces:



Protection of environment and habitat was rated the most important option with 92% of participants rating this of high or extreme importance. *Connection to nature* was a close second with 90% of participants rating it of high or extreme importance.

Exercise equipment or sporting facilities and *mountain bike tracks* were rated the least important options with less than one quarter of participants rating these as being of high or extreme importance. Around 30% of participants rated these of moderate importance. Between 40% and 50% of participants rated these as of low or not important in Hobart's green open spaces.

Other things that our community value in their open spaces include:

Access

34 comments were made about the value to access of open spaces. This includes mention of access for all, ease of access, access through open spaces, access to recreation areas for hobbies, family access and that these spaces are free of cost to access.

Maintenance

30 comments were made about the value of how well our open spaces are maintained. This includes mention of bins, lighting, infrastructure such as drinking fountains and the control of weeds and general plant and garden maintenance.

Biodiversity

27 comments were made about the value of having natural habitat including wetlands for birds. Many want to see biodiversity and habitat protected and rehabilitated. Connection to these natural spaces is a common theme in these comments.

Wildlife

21 comments were made about the value to connection to wildlife including birdlife as well as protection of wildlife.

Other common values include:

Mature **trees** and the seasonal variety trees offer (16 comments); the **convenience** of green open spaces and how close they are to the city and home (14 comments); the visual **aesthetics** of spaces and what they add to the character of the city (12 comments); the **diversity** of spaces available (12 comments); places to **walk a dog** (12 comments); how **safe** and welcoming spaces are (12 comments); the **natural qualities** of spaces (11 comments); **social opportunities** and sense of **community** the spaces provide (11 comments); and **shade** the spaces provide (11 comments).

We also heard that our community value the physical and mental **health benefits** (8 comments); the positive impacts to the **climate** (7 comments); how our green open spaces contribute to the positive **identity of Hobart** (7 comments); the benefits to **children** (6 comments); and the great **views** (6 comments).

What our community wants to see more of in their green open spaces:

Places for dogs

23 comments were made about wanting to see more off-lead dog areas, dog parks, bushwalking and trail opportunities and spaces specific to greyhounds. 7 comments were wanting to see less dogs in bushland areas and on sporting grounds with better enforcement for off-lead areas.

Signage

20 comments were made about wanting to see improvements to signage including wayfinding, interpretation, and education. There is also a desire to see more art and artistic interpretation in these comments.

Play

20 comments were made about wanting to see more play spaces and playgrounds for children including 7 comments about nature-based play / bush play and nature programs.

Protection, conservation, and restoration

19 comments were made about wanting more protection, conservation and restoration efforts for environment, habitat, biodiversity, trees and wildlife is needed. These comments also wanted to see our open spaces, views and skylines protected from development.

Toilets

19 comments were made about wanting to see additional toilets, an upgrade to existing toilets and an introduction of composting toilets in bushland areas. Common places these comments mention are Knocklofty Reserve and Hobart Rivulet Park.

Walking tracks and paths

19 comments mention that additional walking tracks and paths would benefit the Hobart open space network.

Cycling and mountain biking

10 comments were made wanting to see improvements to the cycle network and 'greening' of the intercity cycleway. 6 comments were wanting more mountain bike tracks.

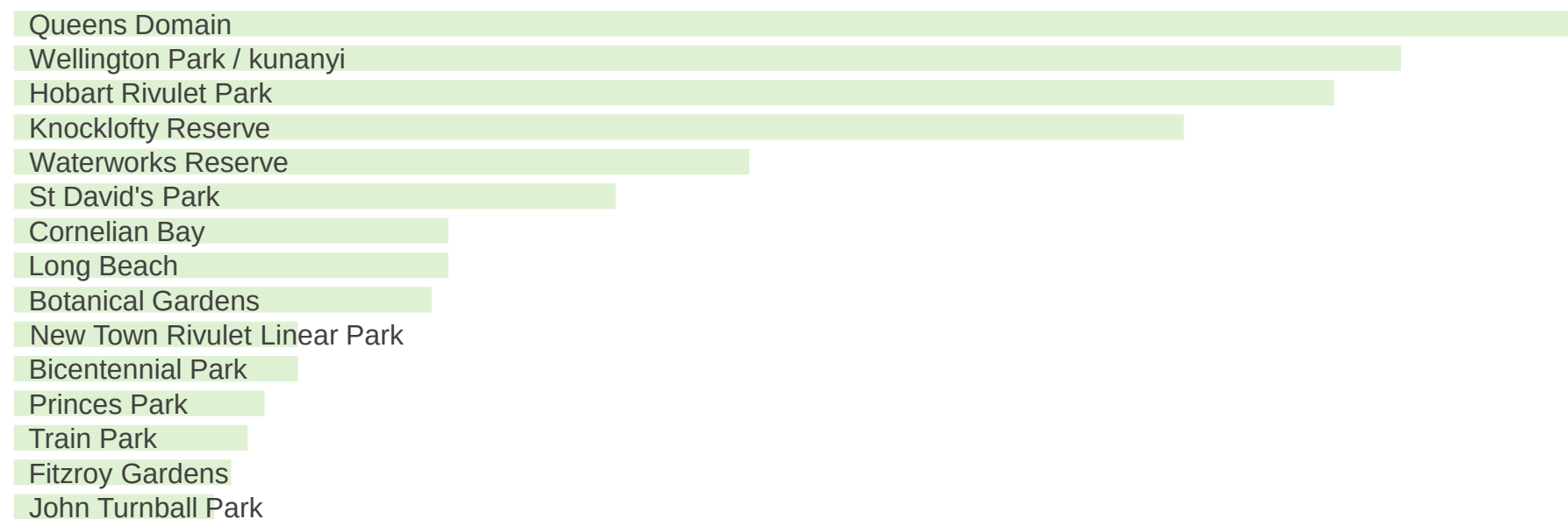
Facilities

Requests for additional facilities included: seating (18 comments); shade (17 comments); drinking water especially for dogs and water bottle filling (16 comments); bins, including for composting and recycling (11 comments); shelters, including picnic and BBQ areas (6 comments); and showers (1 comment).

Other common responses were:

Wanting to see more **native plants** to support biodiversity (11 comments); better **weed control** (8 comments); better **access** into and through open spaces including more **inclusive access** (7 comments); more **events** (7 comments); more opportunities for recreational **sport** including fields for soccer and frisbee golf, half basketball courts, kids sports fields and outdoor climbing in existing open spaces (7 comments); better support for **active transport** to and through open spaces (6 comments); and better **maintenance** including rubbish, lawns, revegetated areas, play equipment, tracks and trails and sporting facilities (6 comments).

Our community's favourite green open spaces in Hobart:



We received 704 entries from respondents with 51 different green open spaces in Hobart nominated. The top 15 are listed in order above and received a collective total of 81% (571) of the votes.

Queens Domain was the clear winner with participants who voted for it mentioning Legacy Park, various sporting facilities, the jogger's loop, the Soldier's Memorial Avenue, and the natural habitat it provides as highlights.

There is a mix of sportsgrounds, bushlands and reserves, parks and playgrounds, beaches, dog exercise areas as well as city parks observed in the top 15 open spaces voted by the participants.

Other things our community wanted to share about Hobart's open spaces:

Appreciation

40% of comments express general appreciation for Hobart's open spaces.

Hobart is extremely lucky to have the amount of open space it has so close.

We are immensely lucky to have an incredible variety and quality of nature and open spaces within easy access of anywhere in the city. Hobart has a deep connection to nature which has a hugely positive impact on our societies, wellbeing and culture.

They are magnificent - thank you for protecting them and looking after them.

We love that kids can interact with nature in Hobart and aren't told to get out of the creek etc. My kids are growing up with such an appreciation for nature.

I really value the accessibility that Hobart has to green spaces - it is one of the best things about living here and is part of our identity as a city.

They are incredibly important to provide a sense of community.

I value Hobart's green spaces highly, particularly the bushland/native areas. They help me maintain my physical and mental health and I love the chance to interact with nature on my doorstep.

How lucky we are! I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

Protect what we have

18 comments want to see our existing open spaces retained and protected for future generations.

They are lovely, please don't get rid of them

We are incredibly lucky to have the green space we have. Holding onto every single piece of it will serve the community well in the future as housing becomes more dense. Public green spaces serve everyone and once gone can never be replaced.

Natural areas are the jewel in Hobart's crown and should have greater protections.

It is important to maintain the expanse of Hobart's green open spaces to sustain balanced environment and Hobart's character.

More open spaces

Our community also wants to see more great open spaces in Hobart (13 comments).

If more can be done, it will be a huge bonus to Hobart and the surrounding areas.

If Hobart residential areas are intended for infill development, there needs to be a lot more quality green open spaces.

I would love to see more of them, especially in the more urban dense places.

Interactive map

An interactive map was available on Your Say Hobart alongside the survey. This map showed Hobart's open spaces categorised into bushlands, parks and sportsgrounds. Participants could add a pin to the map in a specific location within the boundaries of these categories. There were two types of pins:

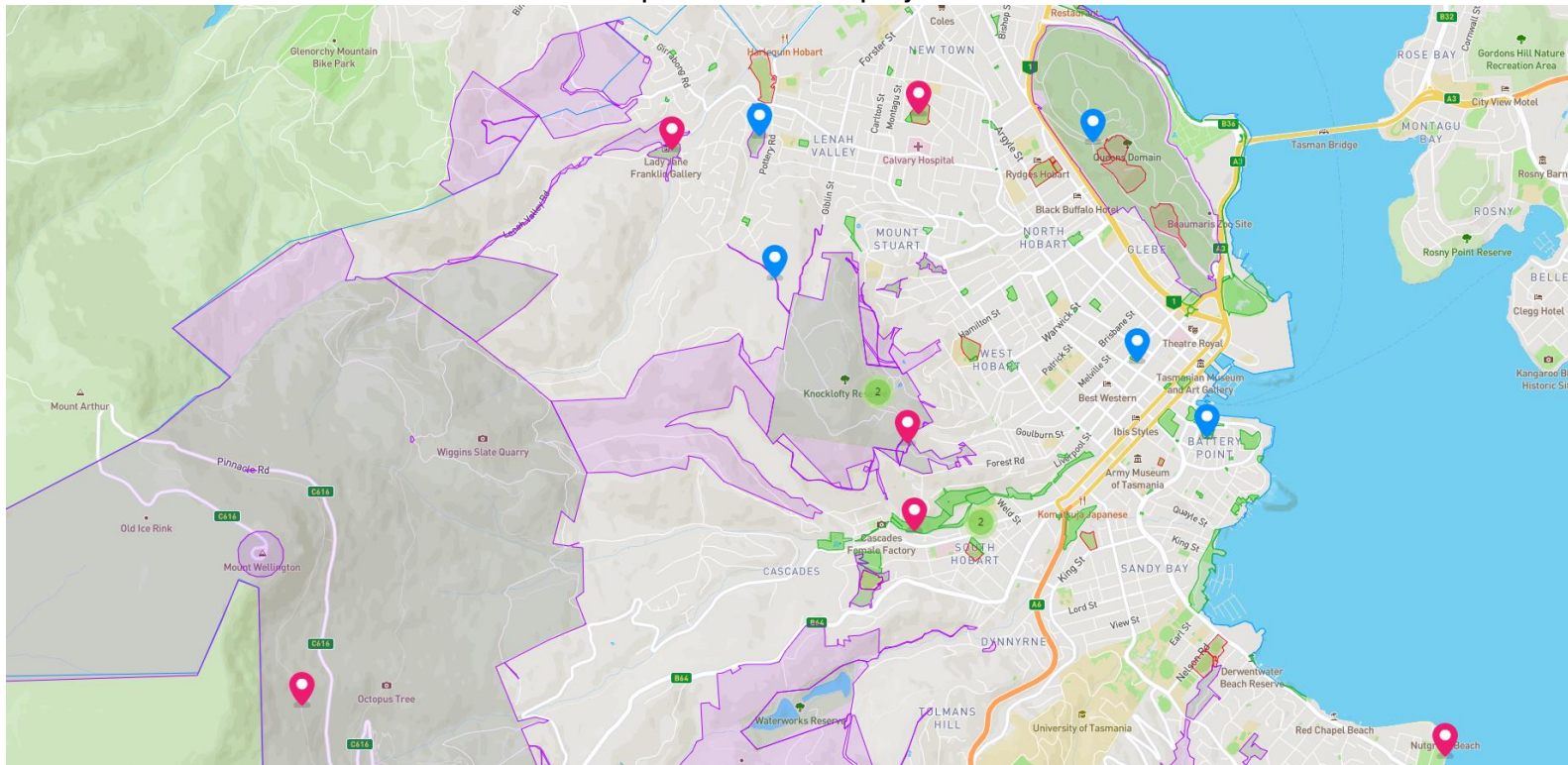
- **My favourite open space**

This was used to run a photo competition. Participants were invited to upload a photo and include a short story. 12 entries were received. The 5 top photos won prizes and were published on City of Hobart's social media.

- **Other comments about Hobart's open spaces**

This allowed place specific comments, ideas, requests or concerns.

5 comments were received which have been provided to the project team.



How we're responding

The City of Hobart (City) will use the survey results to help plan for our green open spaces. This will include specific open space projects.

The City will also write an Open Space Strategy which will be informed by these survey results. This Strategy will be a guide for how we look after the parks and green spaces we are responsible for. The Strategy will prioritise what needs to be done and show how we plan to do it.

The draft version of the Strategy is expected to go to the Hobart City Council in the second half of 2024. The Council will be asked to review and endorse the draft Strategy, which will then go back to the community for their feedback. Everyone who shared their thoughts in the Open Space survey will be invited to give feedback on the draft Open Space Strategy.

In the meanwhile, all feedback from the Open Space Hobart survey will be shared with the rest of the City of Hobart. This means your ideas might help with other City projects too.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts on green open spaces in Hobart.