



Take me to the river project 2025-2026

Consultation April 2025-March 2026



London Borough
of Hounslow



HOUNSLOW THRIVING
COMMUNITIES FUND



Habitats
&
Heritage



LET'S GO
OUTSIDE
AND
LEARN

Initial consultation

June 2024

68 consultees

*How does nature make
you feel?*



Initial consultation

June 2024

68 consultees

What could we do better?

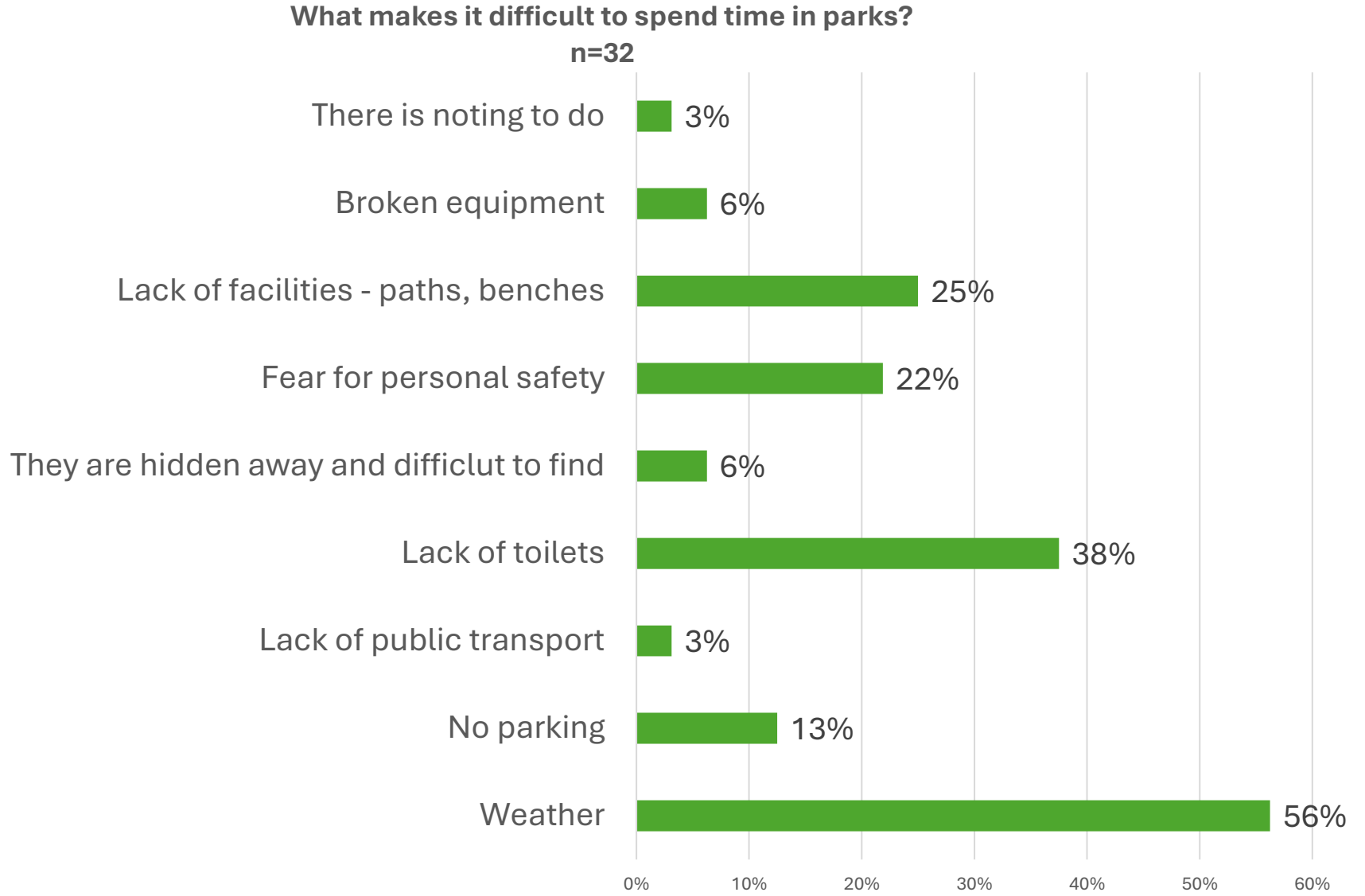
Many of these themes recurred throughout the consultation.



Initial consultation August 2024

32 consultees

*What makes it
difficult to spend time
in parks?*



Consultation April 2025-March 2026

What we did and consultation aims

The aim of the consultation was to understand what residents:

- know about the river corridor,
- how it is used,
- what they like about it,
- what they would like to see changed,
- barriers to use and the impact of these.

How we did it

Paper based &
online
consultations

45 community
events in
Hounslow
attended

38 events outside
parks to
understand
barriers

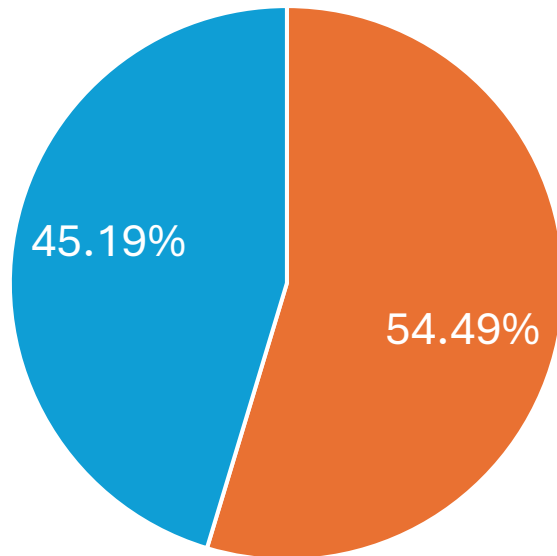
337
Consultation
responses

16 responses
discounted

Consultation April 2025-March 2026

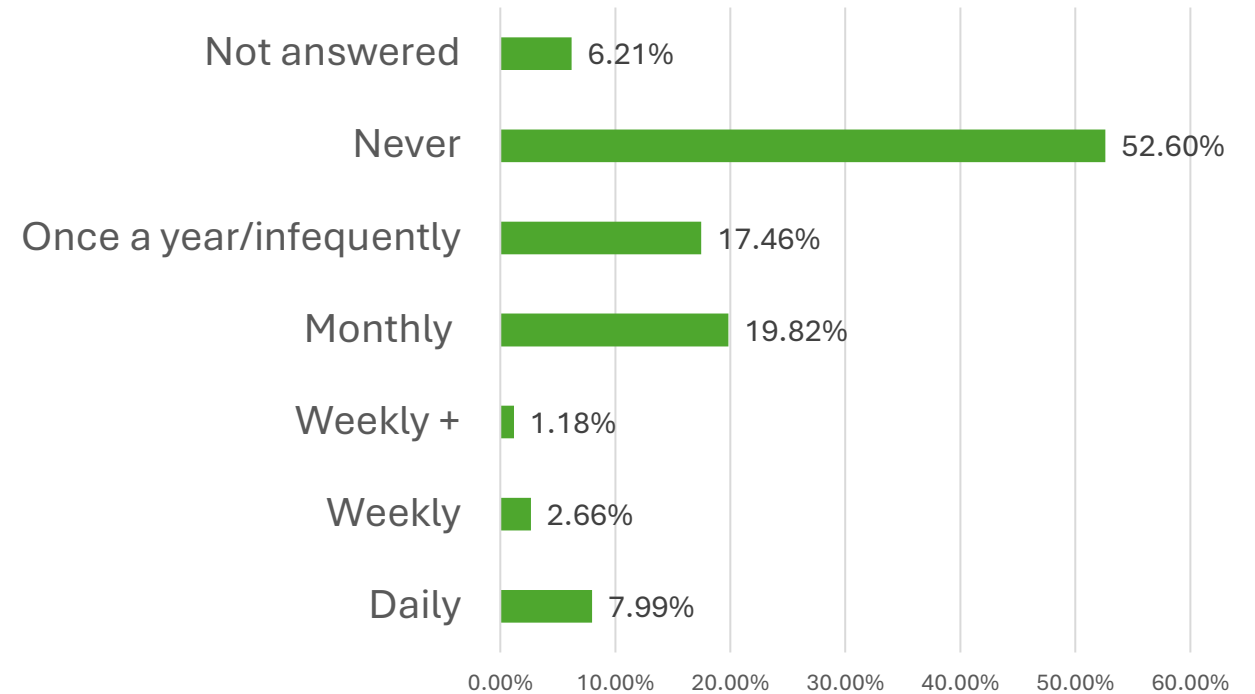
Visits to the River Crane and the green spaces

Have you ever visited the river Crane?



Yes No

How often do you visit?



What do you like about it?

Top 5 likes

1. Relaxing and peaceful 14%
2. The river and river corridor 10%
3. Nature 8%
4. Wildlife and biodiversity 7%
5. I feel close to nature 7%

6-10 likes

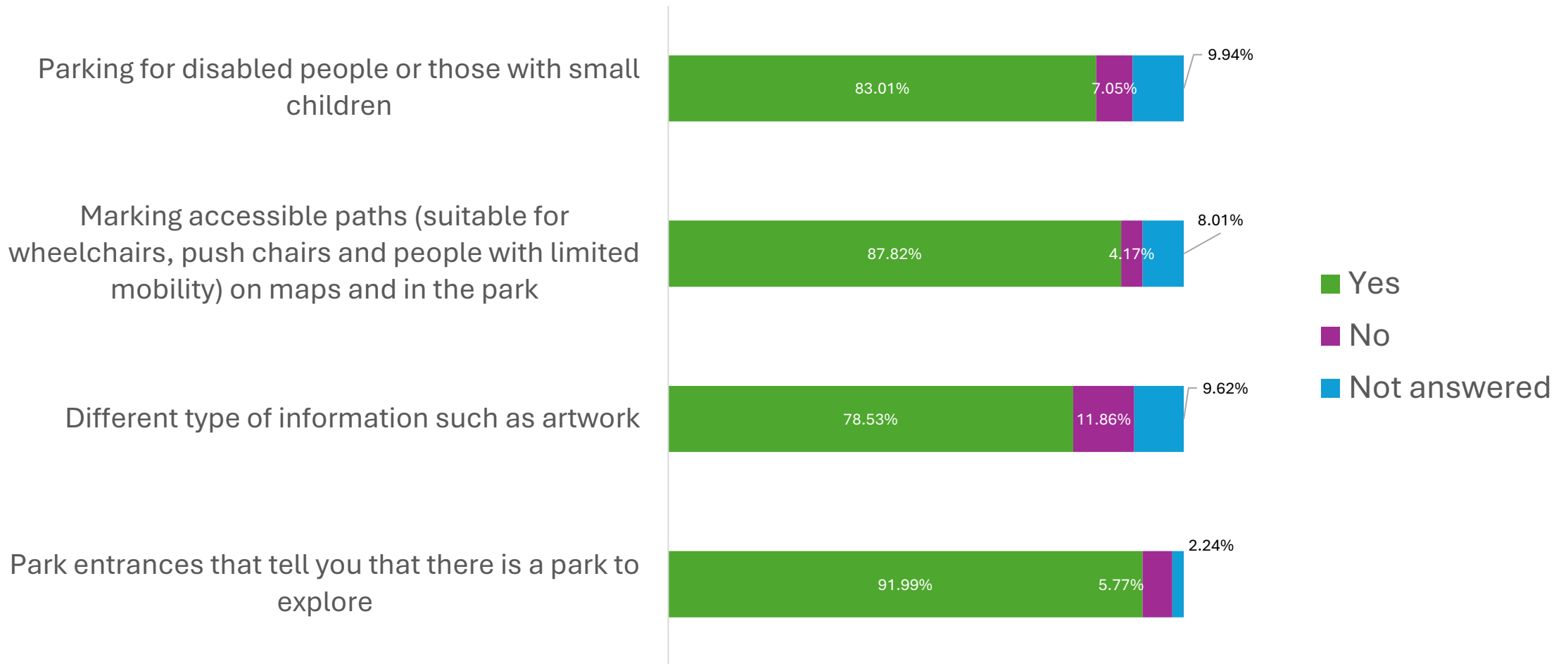
6. Walking and dog walking 7%
7. Quiet and away from roads 6%
8. Feeling of space/open space 6%
9. Clean 4%
10. Views/scenery/ sounds/Place to exercise 3%

Negative comments

- Nothing - it's empty - nothing to do
- I've heard the name many times, so it must be popular for some reason.
- Not enough information of events
- Feel unsafe
- It's getting nicer
- Not accessible or publicised locally
- Never knew such a place existed
- There is a nice river near by, I don't know about until now.

There were 229 different answers to this question (some participants contributed multiple answers). To understand these answers, we picked out key words from the responses to rank the themes.

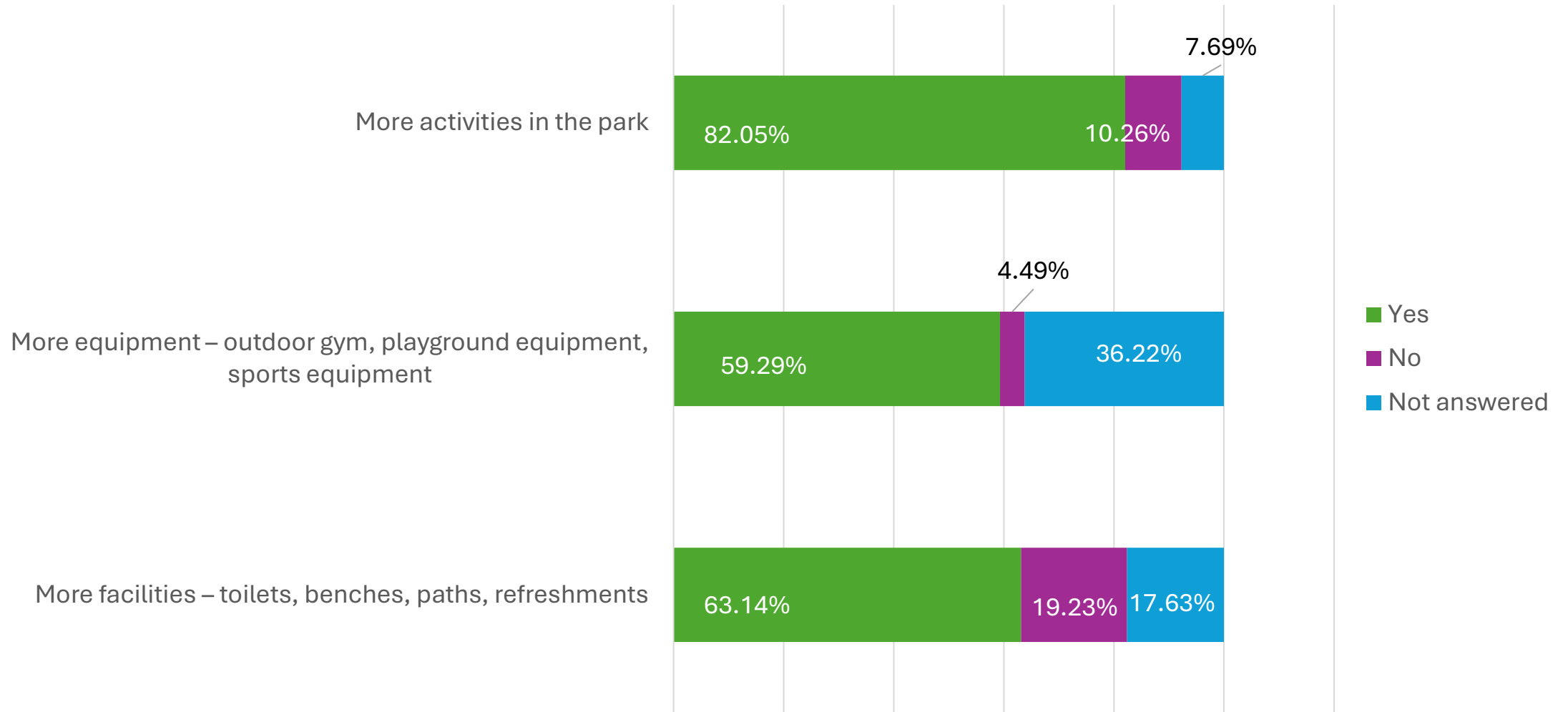
How can we make parks more accessible? - Paths and parking



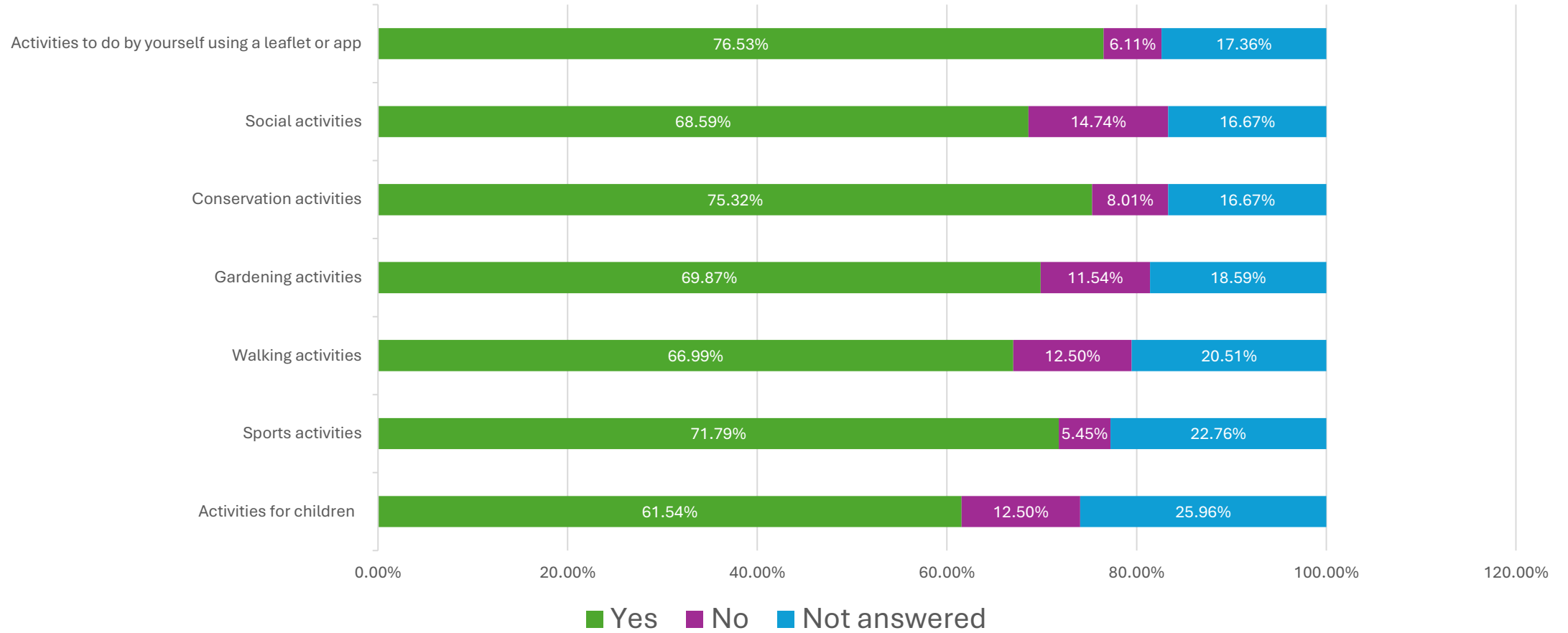
How can we make parks more accessible? Signs and information



What would make you visit more frequently?

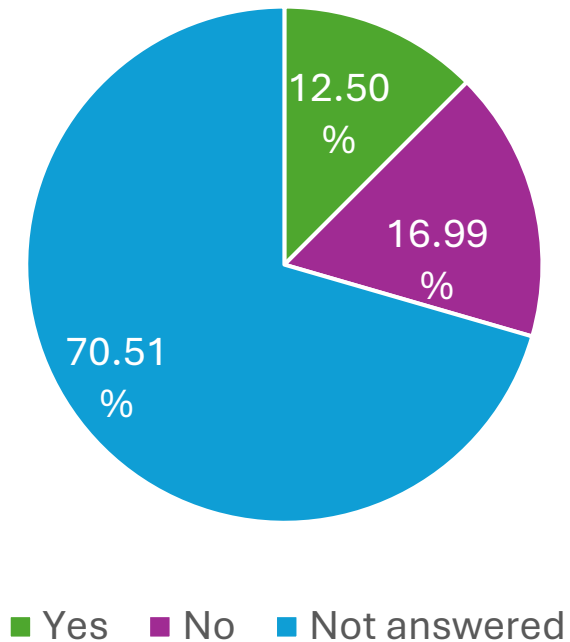


Activities to make the parks more accessible



Disability

Do you consider that you have a disability?



28% of people with disabilities said that they faced no barriers to their access to green spaces

- Others told us that their access was limited by their disability:
“Limits the amount of time I am outside”
- Others told us that they had found a way around the barriers to access that their disability caused:
“Can't go alone, will only go with a group”
“I use Osterley Park, where I can hire a wheelchair”
- Some told us that their disability means that they can't make use of parks:
“Mobility at times/ pain levels stop me”
- People with disabilities told us that there were several factors that acted as barriers to accessing parks and open spaces:
 1. Lack of accessible paths.
 2. Lack of facilities which directly impacted people with disabilities.
 3. Lack of appropriate transport and parking.
 4. Concern for personal safety recorded from people with disabilities.

Community hopes and goals

Suggested next steps (page 1 of 2)

Information at park entrances

- Assess each park entrance to understand which park entrances are badged and have information, where this is located.
- Trial the impact of including park signage outside a park so that it is visible to passers by.

Include accessible paths on maps

- Indicate accessible paths on new signage and in printed leaflets.
- Make use of services such as Accessible to include information about accessibility on a trusted national website.

Parking for disabled people and other groups e.g. parents with children

- Assess options for disabled parking bays at each entrance to parks along the river corridor and trial the impact in a selection of sites.
- Promote the use of blue badges when visiting parks.
- Explore the possibility of including disabled and priority parking bays in the streets close to parks in the green spaces along the river.
- Explore the possibility of including priority bays close to parks.

Community hopes and goals

Page 2 of 2

Develop activities in parks

- Work with Hounslow Council, Friends groups and other organisations to create walking routes that are waymarked or available on an app so that there are plenty of options and choice.
- Promote opportunities for conservation volunteering and community gardens, and activities that bring people together.
- See also the suggestion of path warden volunteering outlined below.
- Develop signposting that lists all available activities in one place. This should be accessible and easy to use. There should be different formats suitable for different communities.

Develop walking and cycling links between green spaces

- Explore the possibility of volunteer path wardens who would have a role inspecting the route, reporting problems, maintaining the route and engaging with visitors.
- Explore the need for and install as appropriate:
 - dual use paths,
 - the identified new routes,
- improved road crossings

Improved facilities for disabled people

- Increase the length of accessible path and include facilities such as benches and signage
- Explore the options for increasing facilities such as toilets and refreshments at parks that act as a node or hub for the trail.

Personal safety

- Encourage greater use of the river path and green spaces to have natural surveillance in the green spaces.
- Keep vegetation clear along paths and sightlines. This is a role that is suitable for volunteers.

Proposal for a Path Warden Scheme

One respondent mentioned that there is a role for volunteer wardens along the route of the river corridor. In Hounslow, volunteer path wardens could act as "eyes and ears" for the Crane River Path, performing routine checks, minor maintenance, and reporting hazards to local authorities or managers and working alongside the council contractor to rectify them.

Similar opportunities exist with organisations like the National Trails, Woodland Trust, and local councils. Examples from other routes suggest that they typically walk assigned sections 3-4 times a year to clear vegetation, check signs, and manage vegetation.

Key Responsibilities of Volunteer Wardens on the North Downs Way include:

- **Inspections:** Walking specific trail sections to check for damaged gates, broken stiles, or broken signs.
- **Maintenance:** Carrying out light tasks such as removing overhanging brambles, cleaning signs, and litter picking.
- **Reporting:** Logging maintenance issues via apps or maps to inform managers.
- **Visitor Engagement:** Providing a friendly, visible presence to advise users on routes and safety

North Downs Way: https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/north-downs-way/volunteering/

This model could be developed in Hounslow and scaled up to the remaining boroughs along the route if successful.

More information

To read the full consultation report see:

<https://www.lgoal.org/get-involved-2/take-me-to-the-river-v2/>

Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC

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