Brighton Council

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

June 2025

Form planning + projects

Brighton Council

Summary

Brighton Council's draft Open Space Strategy (OSS) was open for community consultation from 7th April to 27th April 2025. Brighton Council established a "Have Your Say" page for the Project directing the community to provide feedback through a survey, interactive mapping tool and submissions via email.

The Have Your Say page was promoted through posters, social media, direct mail/email and community pop-up events. The Have Your Say page was visited 358 times and 29 surveys were completed and 74 social map contributions were provided.

Survey results

The survey captured responses from individuals across all age groups, except for people under 24. The majority of respondents were female (69%) and the majority of respondents were from Brighton (38%) and Old Beach (24%).

Respondents visited open space frequently, with 35% visiting open spaces daily, and 41% visit weekly. It was nearly a 50/50 split between how people travelled to open space, with nearly 53% of respondents driving, while 47% walking or riding.

Respondents most frequently visited Ted Jeffries Memorial Park (25%), closely followed by the Jordan River Walking Trail in Brighton (18%).

The main activities people use open space in Brighton for is walking or running (58%), playgrounds (51%), spending time with family (33%) or walking the dog (25%). People valued their open space as a free activity (68%) for the family and for peace and quiet that benefits mental wellbeing. Open spaces were also valued for social cohesion and children's development.

The majority of respondents have open space within a 5 or 10-minute walk from their home (82%) and more than three quarters of respondents (76%) are satisfied with the availability of open spaces in their area. People were most satisfied with the Foreshore trails, and how accessible and well-maintained open space areas are.

Most respondents thought protection and expansion of open spaces in the community was very important. Some respondents indicated they would like to see the open space network expanded with more parks, trails and equipment.

Over 75% of respondents believed that open spaces were accessible to everyone and the major barriers for visiting open space was the weather, lack of time and safety. People were generally satisfied with parking available at open spaces.

Respondents indicated their preferred sustainability initiatives were for more tree planting and shaded areas with native species preferred.

Improving safety continued to be a key theme throughout the survey with respondents indicating it should be Council's top priority to improve its open space network. More seated and shaded areas was also a priority. Walkability, improved highway crossings, better maintenance and more equipment were other key themes.

Social Map

74 contributions were provided on the Social Map with the most "pins" dropped in Old Beach (46%), Bridgewater (23%) and Brighton (16%). The majority of comments were about existing facilities, with a strong focus on the larger parks in each suburb.

Broadly, residents of the Brighton Council area value their parks and open spaces but see opportunities for improvement. The strongest themes are the need for upgraded and inclusive play equipment, better amenities and maintenance, enhanced safety, and more facilities for all age groups. There is also a clear desire for environmental improvements and better connectivity between open spaces

More specifically, residents in Old Beach liked the foreshore walking track, but would like to see improved seating and shelter along the path. Residents were keen to see improvements to Lennox Park to bring it up to the standard of other parks in the municipality and across Greater Hobart.

The focus in Bridgewater was the need for improving cleanliness and maintenance of parks. Safety was also raised an ongoing concern, with improved lighting a suggestion. A dog park in the area was also desirable.

Brighton residents hope to see improvements to Ted Jeffries Memorial Park and more things to do for older kids. The new dog park was strongly supported and people would like to see more walking tracks.

Gagebrook and Herdsmans Cove residents were happy with the new upgrades to Cris Fitzpatrick Park and suggestions for ongoing improvements included better toilets, and more equipment.

Key stakeholders

The key themes to come out of each of the submissions from key stakeholders was that they're supportive of the draft Brighton OSS and encourage early and ongoing dialogue with Council about actions in the OSS that relate to their assets. Some stakeholders offered suggestions to improve the legibility of the document.

Alignment with Draft OSS

The feedback from the community consultation confirmed that quality open space and their ongoing improvement remains an important priority for Brighton residents. Brighton Council can be satisfied that the work they have undertaken to date is enjoyed by the community, and open space is generally accessible.

The feedback aligned strongly with the draft OSS goals to address gaps in the open space network and improve the quality of open space. The sustainability initiatives for more native tree plantings was well supported by the community.

The draft OSS priority actions for park upgrades generally aligned with the priorities for the community and key stakeholders, namely Lennox Park and Ted Jeffries Memorial Park. However, it is suggested that Ted Jeffries Memorial Park be upgraded from a Medium to Short term priority Action.

Improvements to the foreshore and East Derwent Highway walking trails in Old Beach are proposed to be new actions and it is recommended to make safety and maintenance a higher priority.

1. Background

1.1. Project Scope

Brighton Council is developing a new Open Space Strategy (OSS) to provide Council with an overarching framework to guide the planning and management of open spaces in Brighton over the next ten years and beyond.

The draft OSS sets out principles and priority actions to guide the development of a high-quality, accessible and sustainable open space network into the future.

Brighton Council are aware that open spaces are important to our community for lots of reasons, including the critical role they play in connecting people and helping our community to stay healthy and active.

1.2. Engagement Scope

The community's voice will play a pivotal role in the development of the new OSS. Consultation on the draft OSS was open from 7 April to 27 April 2025.

The objectives were to understand:

- How our communities use Brighton's open spaces;
- What our community values about Brighton's open spaces;
- How accessible are Brighton's open spaces;
- What our community wants to see more of in the future for Brighton's open spaces and what are their priorities.
- Whether the draft OSS reflected the communities views.

2. How we communicated

Tool	Reach/Participants
Have Your Say website	A Have Your Say website was created to host the Project and included links to the draft OSS, a survey and location-based mapping tool. The website had 358 views and 157 unique visitors. The draft OSS summary document was downloaded 45 times. The full draft OSS was downloaded 25 times.
Survey	29 completed
Social map	74 contributions
Email submissions	1
Corflute Posters	9 Posters with a QR code promoting the online engagement opportunity were erected at key green open spaces across the Brighton Municipality. 47 visits to the Have Your Say Page came through the QR code.
Social Media	3 Facebook posts 80 visits to the Have Your Say page were referred from Facebook.
Key stakeholder letters	Letters were sent to key stakeholders, including: • Department of Education, Children and Young People • Jordan River Learning Federation (including East Derwent, HC, Gagebrook, and Bridgewater Senior School); • Northern Christian School • St Pauls Catholic School • Brighton High School • Brighton Primary School • Department of Natural Resources and Environment • New Bridgewater Bridge Project • Homes Tasmania • Department of State Growth • TasRail, • TasWater

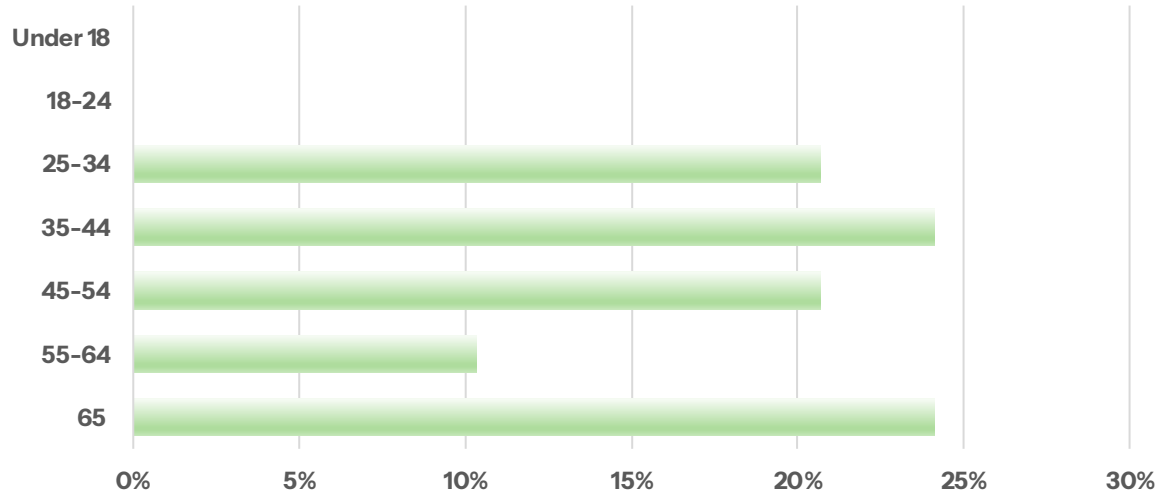
Face-to-face engagement sessions	Four face-to-face engagement sessions were held as follows: • Lennox Park, Old Beach, Thursday 10 April 7:45am – 10.30am • Cove Hill Plaza, Bridgewater, Thursday 10 April, 11am – 1.30pm • Brighton Town Square, Brighton, Thursday 17 April, 11am – 1.30pm • Bond Place, Gagebrook, Thursday 17 April, 2pm – 4.30pm 64% of survey and social map contributions were captured on the days of these sessions.
Brighton Alive Newsletter	187 respondents on the list, 127 have opened the newsletter, no-one clicked on the OSS link.

3. Who we heard from

3.1. Survey

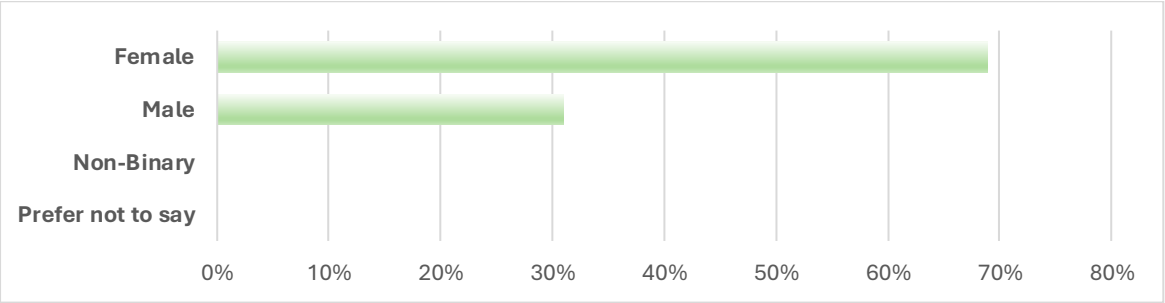
There were 29 surveys completed and 74 interactive map pins.

1. *What is your age group? (optional)*



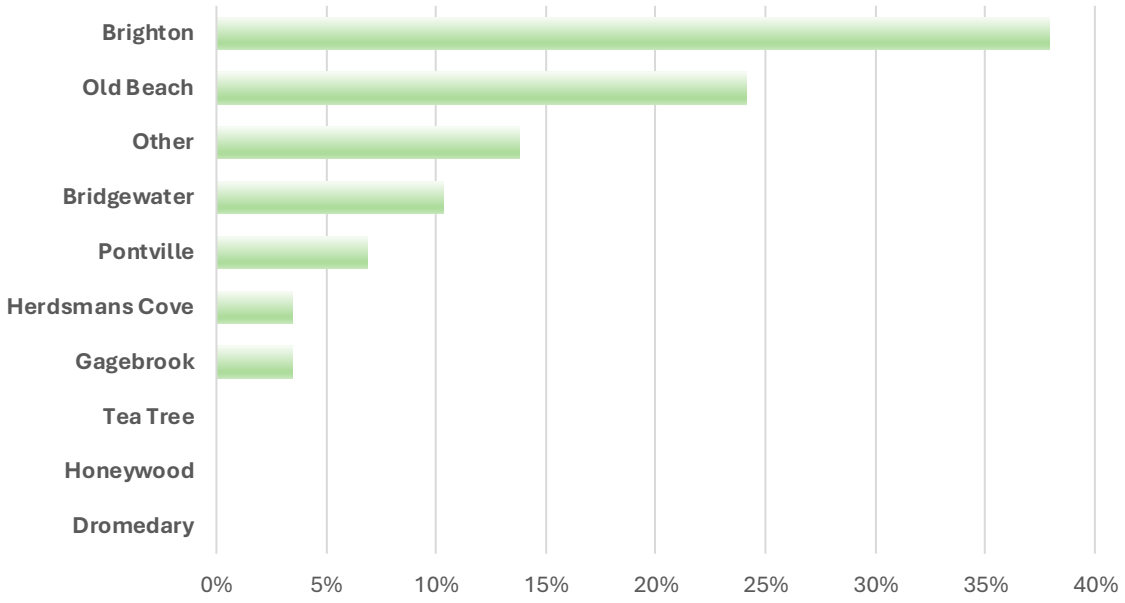
The survey captured responses from individuals across all age groups. However, there were no responses from individuals under 24 years of age.

2. *What is your gender? (optional)*



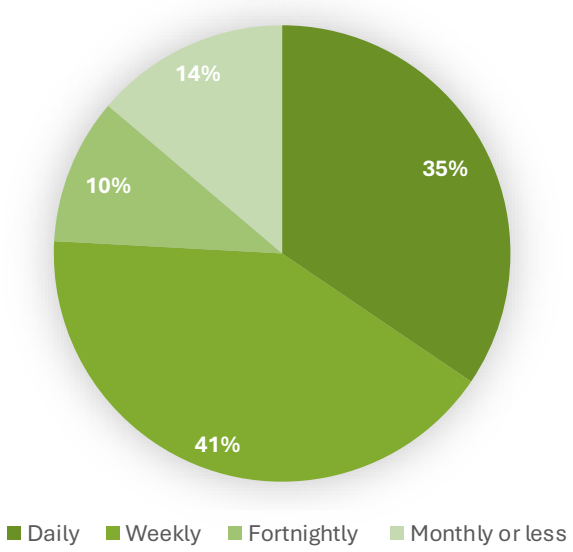
Sixty-nine percent (69%) of survey respondents were female.

3. *Where do you live?*



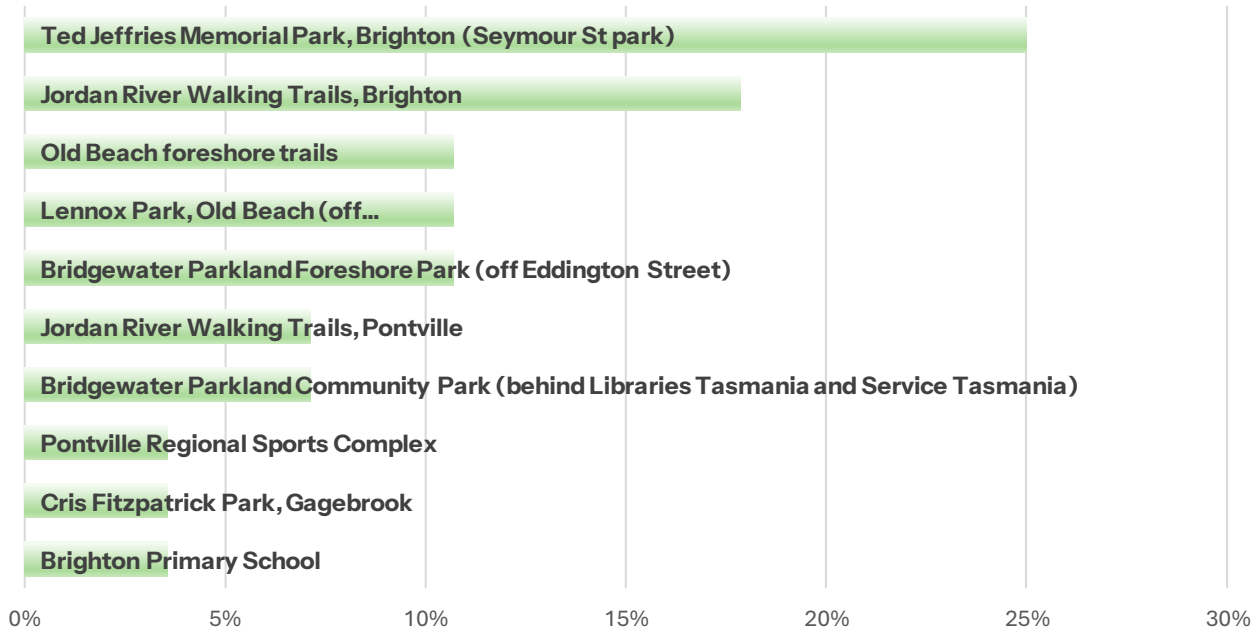
The survey captured responses from residents across all of Brighton's urban suburbs, with the majority of respondents from Brighton (38%) and Old Beach (24%).

4. *Generally speaking, how often do you visit an open space (e.g. local playground, park, reserve, walking trail, sportsground, etc) in the Brighton municipality?*



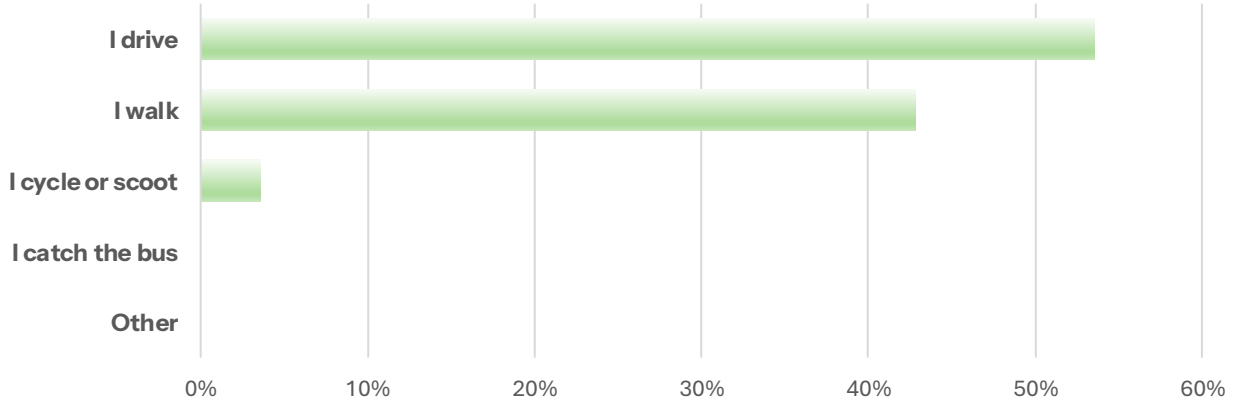
Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents visit open spaces daily, while 41% visit weekly and 10% fortnightly. Only 14% visit monthly or less.

5. *What open space area do you visit most frequently?*



Respondents most frequently visited Ted Jeffries Memorial Park (25%), closely followed by the Jordan River Walking Trail in Brighton (18%).

6. *What is the main way you travel to your local open space area?*



53% of respondents drove to open space, while 42% walk and 3.5% scoot or ride.

3.2. Social Map

74 contributions were provided on the Social Map with “pins” dropped in the locations as follows:

Location	Total Contributions	% Contributions
7017, Old Beach, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	34	45.95%
7030, Bridgewater, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	17	22.97%
7030, Brighton, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	12	16.22%
7030, Gagebrook, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	8	10.81%
7030, Pontville, Tasmania, Australia	2	2.7%
7030, Herdsmans Cove, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	1	1.35%

In Old Beach, the majority of pins were clustered around Lennox Park and the Old Beach Foreshore trail:

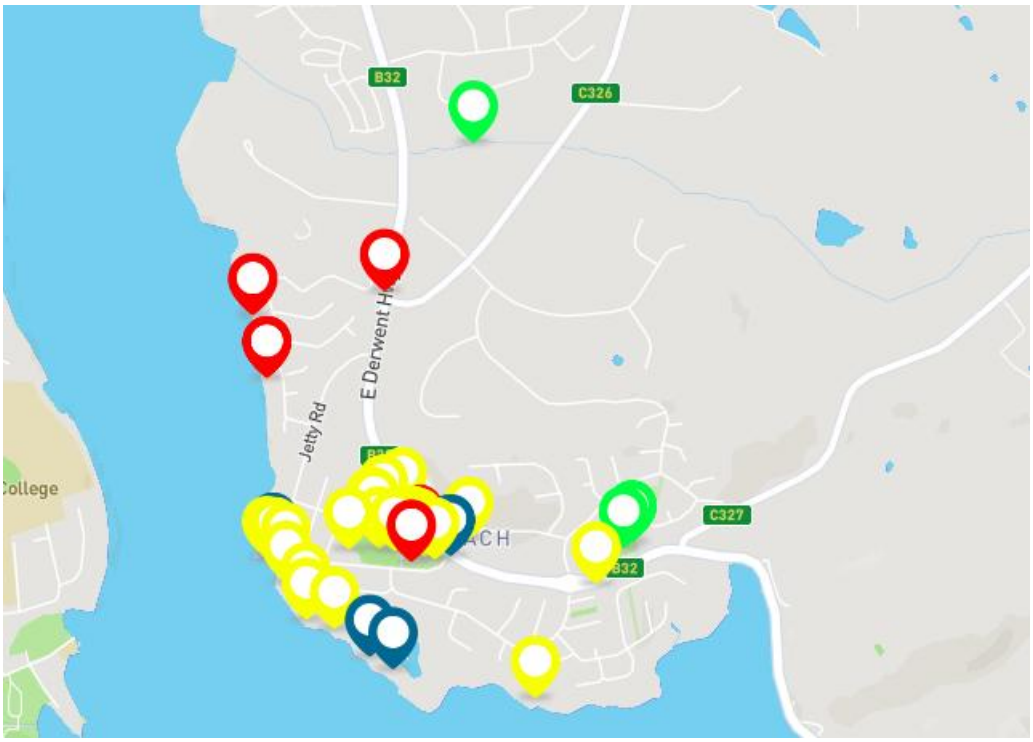


Figure 1: Old Beach Social Map

In Herdsmans Cove the majority of pins were dropped at Cris Fitpatrick Park.

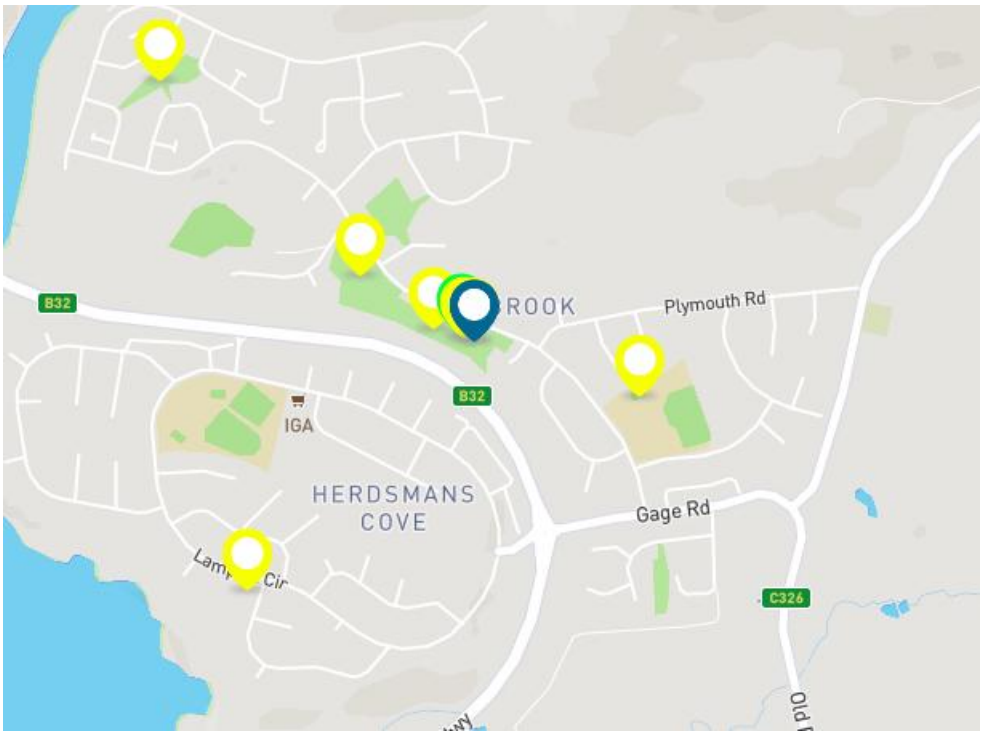


Figure 2: Gagebrook and Herdsmans Cove Social Map

In Bridgewater, the majority of pins were dropped at the Bridgewater Parklands.

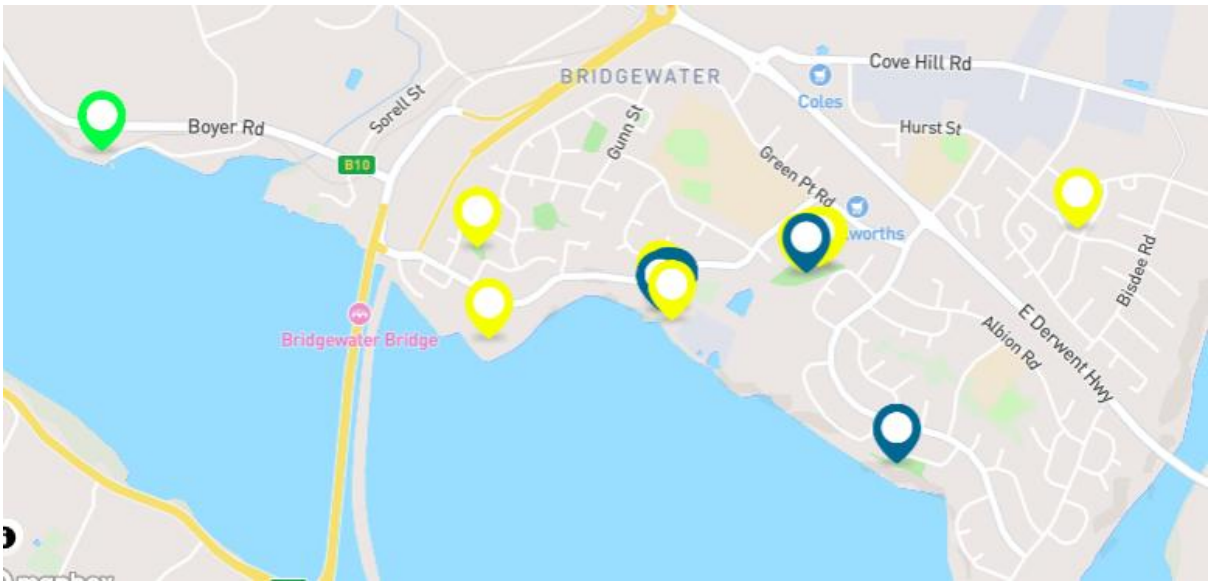


Figure 3: Bridgewater Social Map

In Brighton, the majority of pins were dropped at Ted Jeffries Memorial Park.

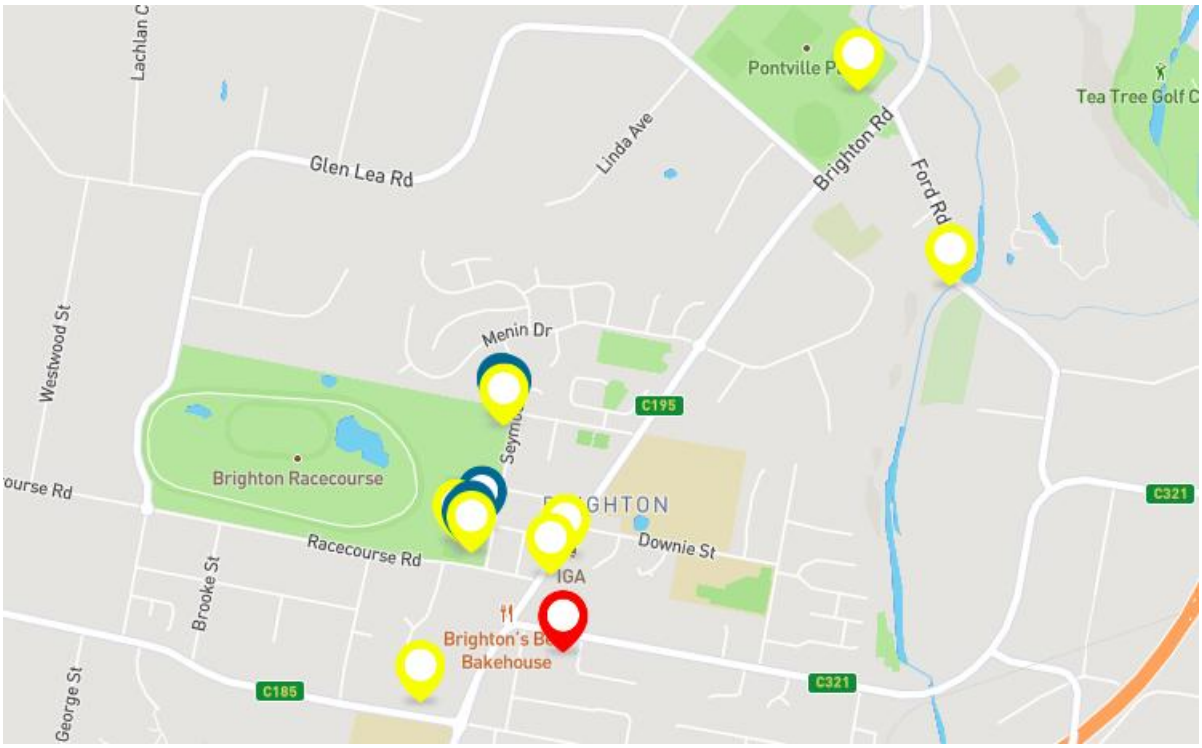


Figure 4: Brighton/Pontville Social Map

3.3. Key stakeholders

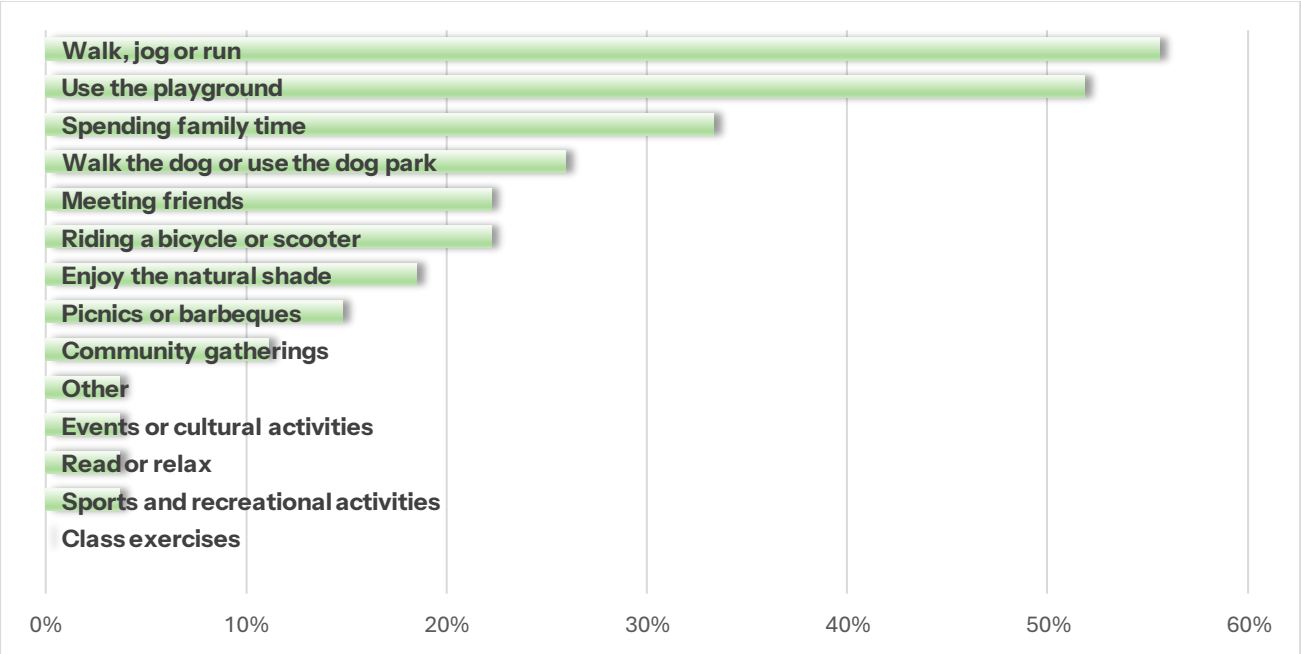
Submissions were received from the following key stakeholders:

- TasRail
- Department of State Growth (DSG)
- Herdsmans Cove Primary School
- Homes Tasmania

4. What we heard

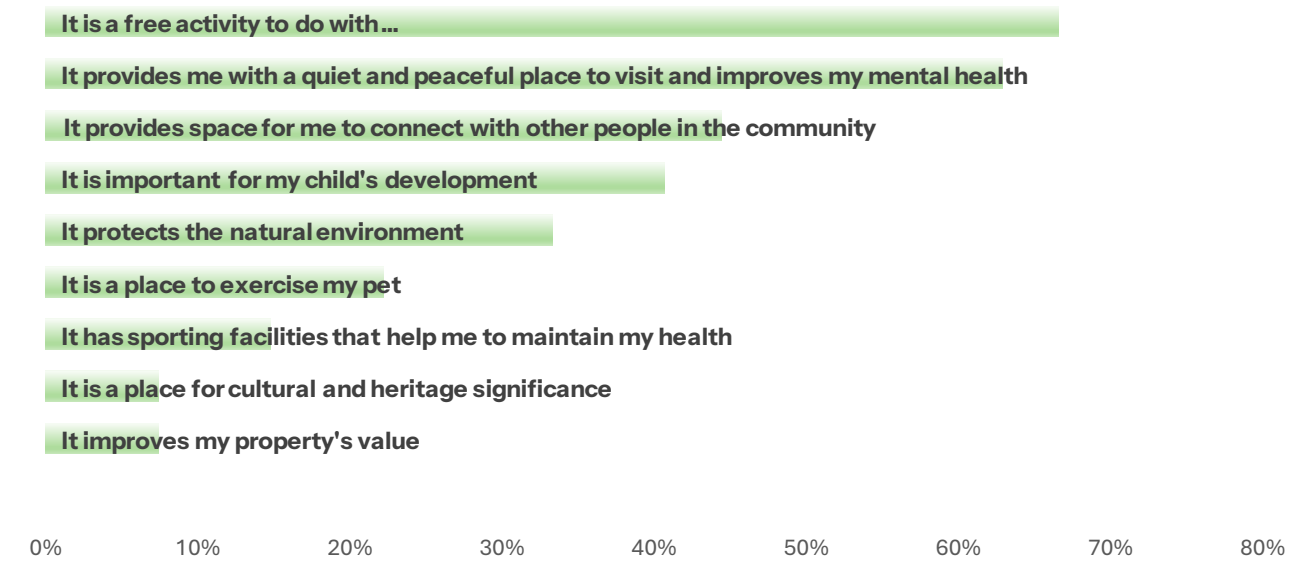
4.1.Survey

7. What is the main activity you usually do at open spaces?



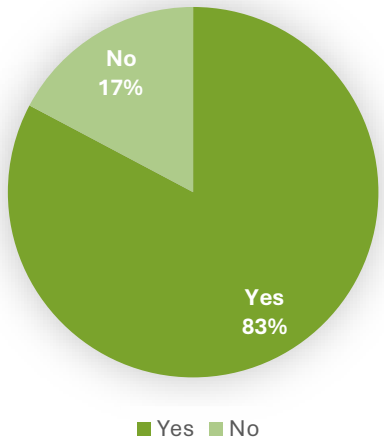
55% of respondents walked, jogged or ran and 51% used the playground. 33% of respondents visited open space to spend time with family and 25% went to walk the dog or use the dog park.

8. Tell us what you value most about your local playground, park, or reserve?



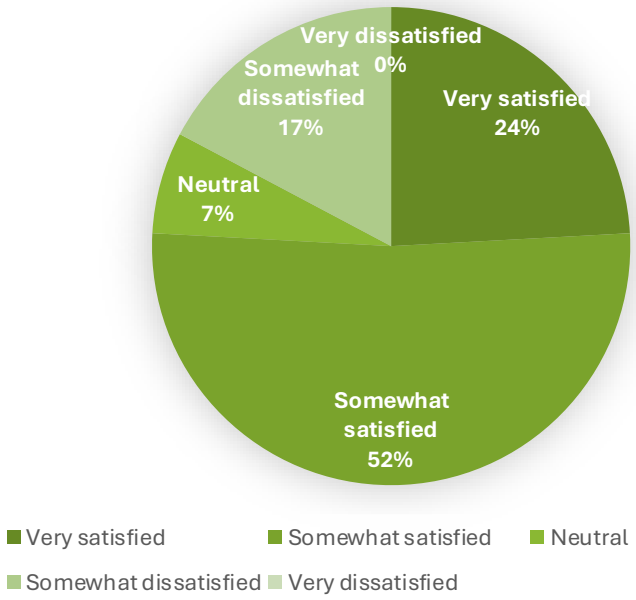
66% of respondents value that visiting open spaces is a free activity to do with the family. 63% of respondents value the peace and quiet that benefits their mental wellbeing.

9. *Do you have a playground, park, or reserve within a 5 to 10 minute walk of your home?*



The majority of respondents have an open space within a 5 to 10 minute walk from their home.

10. *How satisfied are you with the availability of open spaces in your area?*



More than three quarters of respondents (76%) are satisfied with the availability of open spaces in their area.

11. *Please tell us why you think that?*



Feature contributions:

Find river walk relaxing, Also, good to take grandchildren to playgrounds. Grandchildren very much enjoy the water feature outside new IGA.

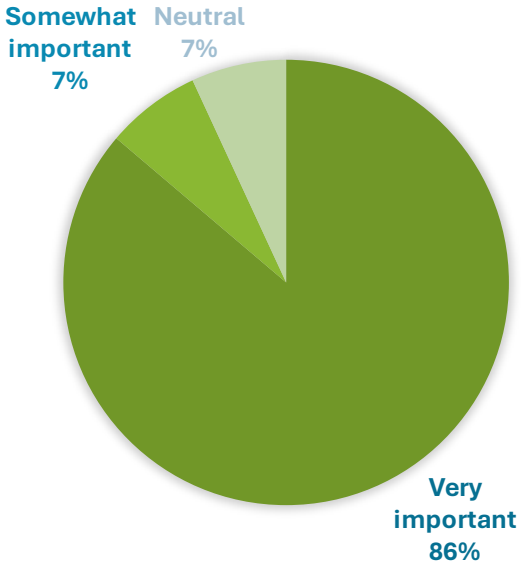
Could be more little parks around the area.

Accessibility clean, walk safely, good facilities

The park is in a great area, but urgently needs upgrades for all ages. Bike tracks are great for the kids, but more nature play, swings and equipment. More BBQ area and adequate shelter as it gets very breezy.

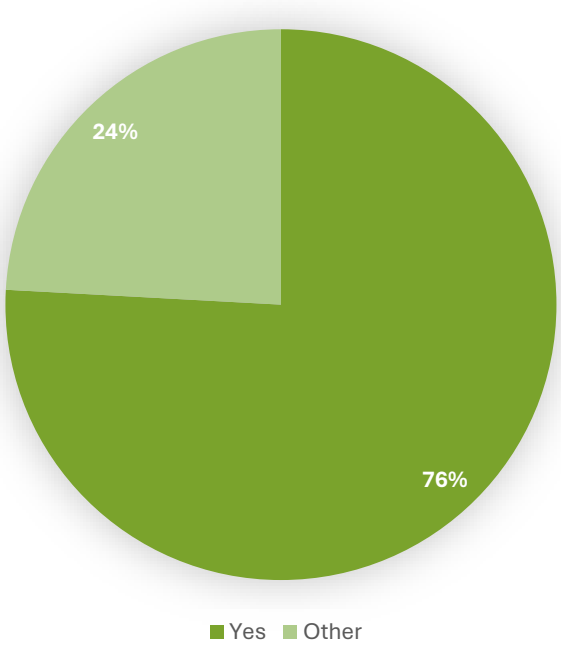
I like that around Brighton you have the pathways along the rivers that you can walk and do a bit loop of Brighton

12. *How important do you think it is to protect and expand open spaces in our community?*



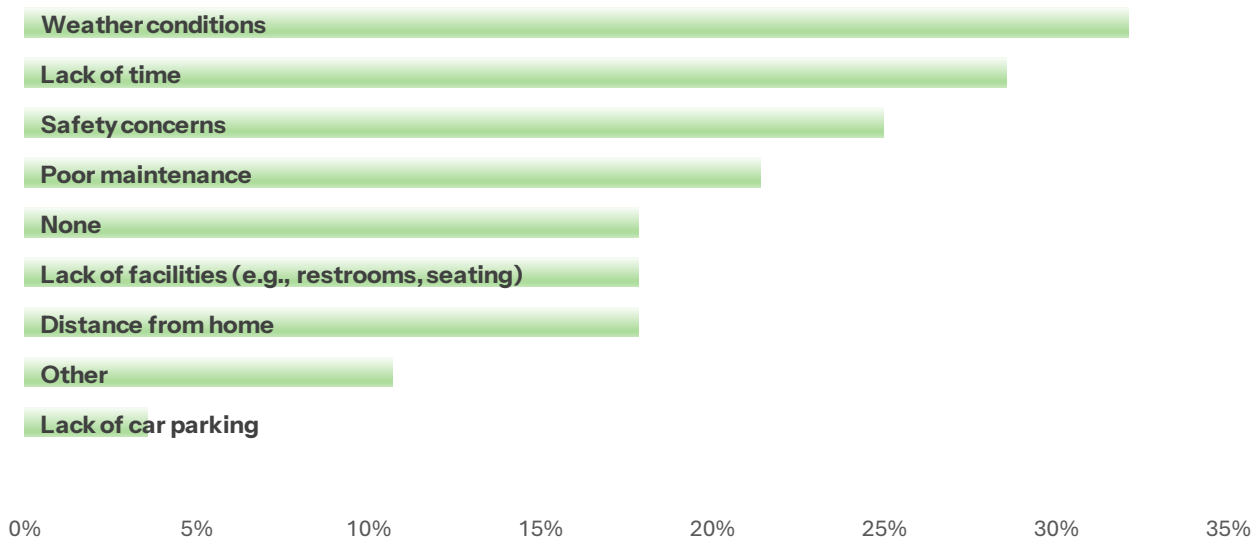
The majority of respondents think it is important to protect and expand open spaces in our community.

13. *Do you feel that open spaces in your community are accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities, seniors and young children?*



Most respondents feel that open spaces are accessible to everyone (76%).

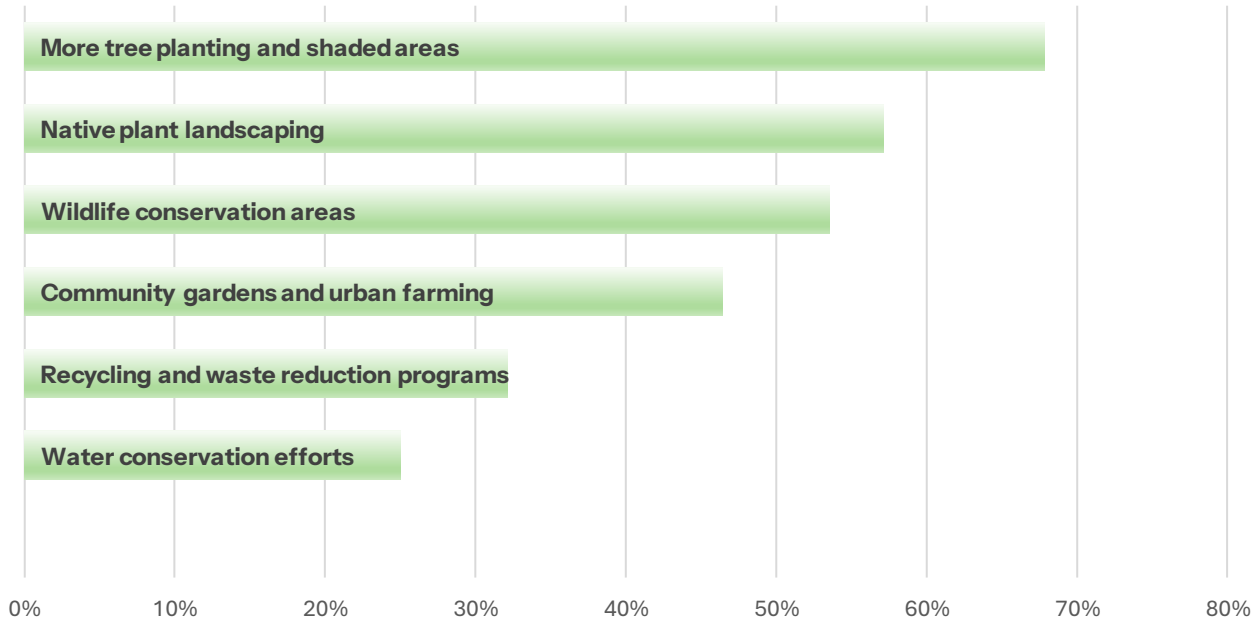
14. *What barriers, if any, prevent you from using open spaces more often?*



Weather conditions were seen as a the largest barrier to visiting open space (32%), followed by lack of time (29%) and safety concerns (25%). Poor maintenance, Distance from home and lack of facilities were also a barrier.

Lack of car parking was not seen as a barrier.

15. *What sustainability initiatives would you like to see in open spaces?*



Respondents would like to see more tree planting (68%), and 57% favoured native planting and 53% were interested in wildlife conservation initiatives. 43% would like to see community gardens and urban faming initiatives.

16. *What do you like most about playgrounds, parks or reserves in the Brighton municipality?*



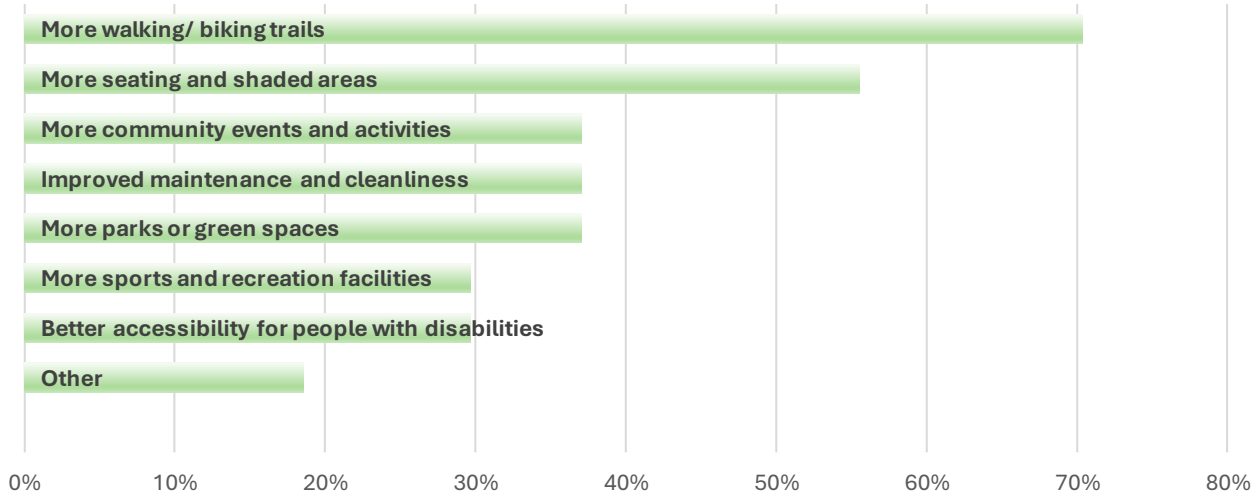
Key themes from what people like about open space in Brighton were good facilities, lots of space, accessibility and people were happy with the improvements and playground equipment.

<u>Featured contributions:</u>

- *The Council is making an effort to present the open spaces in a natural way which I appreciate.*
- *The playgrounds are well maintained, when we find damage, it is quickly repaired. Rubbish, and grass well controlled.*
- *Bridgewater has some great parks that have been redeveloped, Brighton urgently needs some upgrades with the amount of families with young children.*

- *The parks in the municipality over the past 5-6 to years have improved out of sight…well done Brighton council.*
- *That they exist and are expanding! We love them, and the connection to the community they bring.*

17. *What improvements would make open spaces more enjoyable for you? (select all that apply)*



Over 70% of respondents would like to see more walking and bicycle trails and 55% would like to see more seating and shaded areas. More parks or green spaces, improved maintenance and cleanliness and more community events all got 37%.

18. *What do you think Brighton Council's top priorities should be to improve its open space network?*



Respondents suggested that safety should be Brighton's top priority for its open space network. Motorbikes were frequently mentioned as an issue. Walkability, improved maintenance and more equipment were other key themes.

Featured Contributions

- *I think Lennox Park really needs rethinking. Currently underutilised as a park and is poorly planned to encourage utilisation. Very uninviting playground, and accessibility of oval limited.*

- *Safety in design. Improve maintenance to ensure it is safe to use. We need splash park. We are supporting the idea of selling excess open space and use that fund for more park amenity.*
- *Fix broken equipment more quickly. Cleaning BBQs and making sure gas is in them. Need to focus on the smaller neighbourhood parks more.*
- *Glen Lea Road needs a footpath - lots of people walk around there. Unsafe with traffic and at night.*
- *More walking trails, particularly in Old Beach, connecting to Herdsmans cove.*
- *I think that Brighton Council does open space networks well. I also really enjoy the Riverside Drive walkway. The only thing that would be good is to limit motor bike access to these trails as they are dangerous when walking with kids.*

19. *Let us know if there is anything else you want us to know about the open space in Brighton municipality?*



Featured contributions

- *Be bold and don't be constrained by past approaches or approaches that other Tasmanian Councils take. Look to models overseas.*
- *More lighting around open space to make them safer.*
- *More facilities with more sensory equipment, e.g. trampoline with bells, water play, pine bark*
- *I personally use the basketball facilities at Ted Jeffries quite a bit. It would be nice to see an upgrade to this. I find the dog park was an amazing addition to the local area. Would love to see more climbing fixtures and play equipment around Brighton for toddlers and young children as I feel the variety is lacking.*
- *I'd love to see the open area at the Old Beach East Derwent Highway roundabout utilised more or the planning for the future of this space made aware to the public. I'd like to connect Lennox Park safely to the East Derwent Highway or to the far end of Jetty Rd to access it from an alternative route, not just Jetty Rd or fence hopping!*

4.2. Social Map

The majority of contributors to the Social Map indicated that the open space they were commenting on “needs some work” (63.5%), followed by “my favourite park” (22%).



Broadly, residents of the Brighton Council area value their parks and open spaces but see significant opportunities for improvement. The strongest themes are the need for upgraded and inclusive play equipment, better amenities and maintenance, enhanced safety, and more facilities for all age groups. There is also a clear desire for environmental improvements and better connectivity between open spaces.

The most frequently requested improvements to open space across the municipality are summarised below:

Improvement Area	Example Requests
Play Equipment	Climbing frames, zip lines, musical instruments, sandpits
Accessibility	Disability swings, accessible paths, dog parks
Safety & Maintenance	Lighting, repairs, regular cleaning, waste collection
Amenities	Toilets, BBQs, seating, water fountains, shade
Activities for All Ages	Teen spaces, pump tracks, sports courts, dog parks
Environmental Upgrades	Tree maintenance, grass, landscaping
Connectivity	Walking loops, foreshore trails, linking tracks

The key themes that came through from the Social Map contributions for each suburb are outlined below:

Old Beach

- **Foreshore trail:** The majority of comments along the foreshore trail related to the need for improved seating and shelter. Kayak launching facilities were requested.
- **Lennox Park:** Feedback generally mentioned that Lennox Park needed updating with better equipment, seating, family-friendly features, and improvements inspired by recent upgrades to parks in other suburbs. The poor condition of the courts received several mentions.
- **East Derwent Highway:** Comments included the need to create defined walking trails along the East Derwent Highway and safer pedestrian crossings, notably at the Clives Avenue roundabout.
- **Childs Drive Park:** Comments were positive about Clives Drive Park and appreciated that it was well-maintained.

Bridgewater

- **Maintenance and cleanliness:** Concerns about the general upkeep of parks, including fixing broken equipment, replacing gas for barbecues, cleaning up rubbish, and maintaining cleanliness.
- **Safety and security:** Requests for improved safety measures such as lighting, security (guard dogs), and addressing antisocial behaviour.
- **Dog parks:** Support for dog parks and facilities for dog owners, as well as requests for dog waste bags.

Brighton & Pontville

- **Park upgrades:** There was a recurring focus on the need to upgrade existing parks to make them more interactive and engaging, particularly Ted Jeffries Memorial Park. Suggestions include musical instruments, interactive sculptures, sandpits, and climbing nets, indicating a desire for diverse recreational options.
- **Older kids:** Many comments mention the need for more activities or equipment for children, especially older kids. Suggestions included fenced basketball half-courts, volleyball and pickleball nets.
- **Dog park:** Several comments highlight the value of dog parks and trails for dog walking.
- **Walking Loops and Trails:** The need for walking loops or trails in the area is mentioned multiple times. One comment mentions the need for more walking loops in the south of Brighton.

Gagebrook & Herdsmans Cove

- **Cris Fitzpatrick Park –** Strong support for the recent upgrades to the Park, with some comments suggesting upgrades to toilets and equipment would help.
- **More parks -**A request for additional parks "up the hill" would improve local accessibility.

4.3. Written submission(s)

One detailed written submission was received recommending that a kayak launching facility be established at the eastern end of the Old Beach foreshore trail, including improved access through Council owned land at 29 Eaves Court and provision of a kayak wash down station.

4.4. Key stakeholders

The key themes to come out of each of the submissions from key stakeholders was that they're supportive of the draft Brighton OSS and encourage early and ongoing dialogue with Council about actions in the OSS that relate to their assets. More specific comments are outlined below:

- **Rail assets:** Both DSG and TasRail identified that actions associated with land near, or crossing, the rail corridor, require decisions from the State Government to be able to proceed.
- **Bridgewater Waterfront land ownership:** DSG identified that the area shown in Figure 5 has been removed from the Tasmanian Rail Network and has been transferred to Crown ownership, which is encouraging for the implementation of Action BW01.



Figure 5: Land identified in the blue polygon is no longer part of the Tasmanian Rail Network (Source: DSG).

- **State Highways:** Active transport corridors are supported, but specific measures relating to pedestrian crossings should be discussed further with DSG;
- **Organised Sport:** Suggested there is very little opportunity to engage in organised sport in Bridgewater, Herdsmans Cove and Gagebrook and given the disadvantage experienced in these areas, ways to improve access should be included in the OSS. Herdsmans Cove Primary School would donate land for a project like this.
- **Tasmanian Housing Strategy 2023-2043 –** Homes Tasmania hope to see this Strategy included in the 'relevant state and regional context'.
- **Rezoning and redevelopment of open space –** Homes Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to be actively involved, particularly when they own multiple adjoining parcels.
- **Public open space contributions –** Council should engage further with Homes Tasmania regarding public open space contributions in the Brighton LGA.
- **Accessibility of OSS document:** Homes Tasmania provided feedback that the document could be more accessible if it included more maps referencing assets, particularly in Section 2.0 "Our Achievements, and suggested other minor amendments to improve legibility.

5. Alignment with Draft OSS

The feedback from the community consultation will be used to finalise the draft OSS and to ensure that it aligns with priority actions and strategies.

The feedback confirmed that quality open spaces and their ongoing improvement remains an important priority for Brighton residents. Whilst residents generally thought open space in Brighton was accessible, they also thought ongoing expansion and protection of open space was very important. This feedback aligns with the draft OSS goals to address gaps and improve the quality of open space.

The feedback also confirmed that the benefits of open space were being experienced by the community, including improvements to mental wellbeing and social cohesion. Open space is also providing a free activity to do with the family. These open space benefits are important as they support the changing demographics in Brighton, including population with lower median incomes, high percentage of one parent family households and growth in multiple dwellings.

The feedback was also consistent with recent national trends in open space which is seeing a shift away from organised sports to self-directed activities, such as walking & running.

There was general appreciation for Brighton Council's recent open space upgrades with lots of positive feedback about upgrades to Bridgewater Parklands, Cris Fitzpatrick Park and Childs Drive Park. Feedback for these parks were more focused on ongoing maintenance, safety and ongoing improvements.

Favoured sustainability initiatives related to increase in tree planting and shade using native species. This aligns with Brighton's Greening Strategy and a number of site specific actions outlined in the draft OSS.

Utility providers and Government agencies were also supportive of the draft OSS but encouraged Council to engage with them about actions relating to their assets. This broadly aligns with action

"LGA11 Relationships and Partnerships" which recognises the importance of maintaining strong relationships with external stakeholders to implement the Strategy.

Broadly, the community feedback was well aligned with the draft OSS, however, the following changes to the strategy are recommended:

Action	Change	Rationale
BPO4 Continue to deliver the Ted Jeffries Memorial Park Master plan prioritising the upgrade and extension of the existing playground.	Update from a Medium Priority to a Short to Medium Priority for Brighton	There was clear community feedback that the existing playground heavily used, but looked tired and needs an upgrade.
NEW Continue to maintain the foreshore walking trail and enhance with landscaping, shelters and seating. Consider kayaking launching locations. Monitor impacts from coastal inundation and erosion.	New Medium Priority action for Old Beach.	The Old Beach Foreshore trails is heavily used and some additional infrastructure would be proportionate to its use.
NEW Formalise walking trails along the East Derwent Highway and investigate suitable locations for safe pedestrian crossings, particularly near Old Beach Road and Clives Avenue	New Medium Priority Action for Old Beach.	The EDH was recognized as a barrier and community feedback included the need to improve trails and crossing along the East Derwent Highway.
BP09 Ensure future open space areas, including walking trails, identified in the South Brighton Development Precinct are acquired and developed commensurate with release of land.	Maintain as an ongoing opportunity for Brighton, but add "including walking trails" to Action.	Walking trails and loops in the South of Brighton were identified as a gap.
LGA 09	Update from Ongoing action to Short term action.	Safety was a key theme from community feedback.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)		
LGA 11 Relationships and Partnerships.	Add a reference to “getting the necessary approvals”.	A number of key stakeholders identified that some actions required approvals from the Crown, TasRail, etc. to be able to implement actions.
LGA 14 Maintenance Guidelines	Update from a Medium Priority to Short term priority for LGA-Wide Actions	Maintenance and cleanliness were identified as key issues from community feedback.
Document improvement	Include a list of the properties relating to each “open space number” for each suburb.	Allows the reader to easily identify each open space without having to refer to the Appendix.