



# POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF TWO CHINATOWN INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT PARKS **Donnie Chin International Children's Park & Hing Hay Park**





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Parks and open spaces are an important asset to any neighborhood, particularly in a dense urban environment. In Seattle's Chinatown-International District, they also represent the efforts of generations of community members and volunteers in making the neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play. This report is dedicated to all those who have participated in the creation of these important social spaces that continue to serve the community for generations to come.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the results from a Post-Occupancy Evaluation of two neighborhood parks in Seattle's Chinatown-International District (CID) – Donnie Chin International Children's Park and Hing Hay Park. Opened in 2012 and 2017 respectively after renovation and expansion, the two parks belong to a series of recent neighborhood improvement projects completed in the district in recent years. As completed projects that have been in use for some time, the two parks offer excellent opportunities for examining how the design is performing to support social and recreational activities in the neighborhood. As projects with extensive community outreach and engagement during the planning and design process, it is also important to examine how the parks are meeting the community expectations and design intentions.

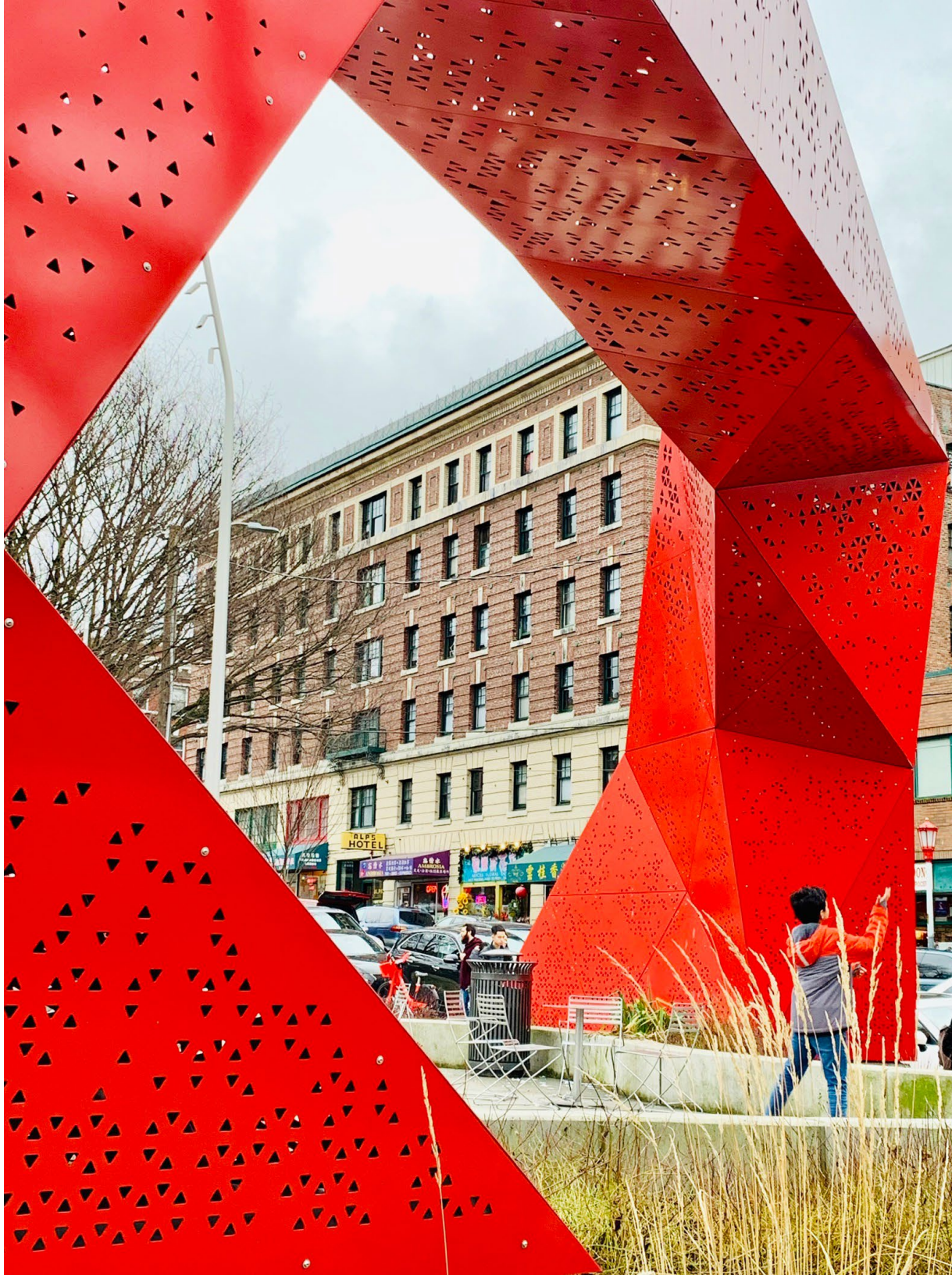
Supported with a grant from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, the data collection for this project was carried out in autumn 2018, followed by interview transcription, map production, and data analysis in the early months of 2019. Preparation for this report was completed in the summer of 2019. To gather different types of data and allow for triangulation, a combination of research methods were used in this study, including timed site observations, mapping, online and paper surveys, structured individual interviews, and interactive visual boards at community events. Details of the data collection process and results are presented in this report, including the appendices.

In summary, both Donnie Chin International Children's Park and Hing Hay Park were viewed very favorably by survey respondents and interviewed individuals, and as evident in site observations and mapping. Both are also performing to the general expectations and design intentions. In particular, the renovated Donnie Chin International Children's Park is attracting users of all ages as intended. By supporting intergenerational uses, it provides an important amenity not only for children but also for parents and predominantly elderly residents in the community as well as visitors. For Hing Hay Park, the new expansion has greatly improved the functionality for the entire 0.64-acre park, allowing activities small and large to spread out across the site. Furthermore, the data show that it is functioning primarily as a social space and attracting visitors and residents alike.

Located in the city center, both parks do have their share of issues and challenges, specifically with safety in the neighborhood remaining a key concern even though the majority of the respondents feel safe inside the parks. Ongoing maintenance and cleanliness were identified as key to a sense of safety. Active programming is also ranked highly as an area of improvement for both parks. With the completion of Hing Hay Park expansion, some children especially older youths have preferred going to Hing Hay Park over the Children's Park – an issue that may require further monitoring and discussion. For Hing Hay Park, the low usage of the exercise equipment may also require further actions.

In terms of community engagement, interview data show that participants in both projects were generally pleased with the process and outcomes. Some even suggest the process as a model for further projects. Aspects of capacity-building and sustained engagement in addition to data collection were highlighted as key contributions of the projects beyond the design itself. In sum, the findings from these two parks offer insights on how to design successful open spaces in the neighborhood in the future.





Photograph by Jeff Hou

# OVERVIEW

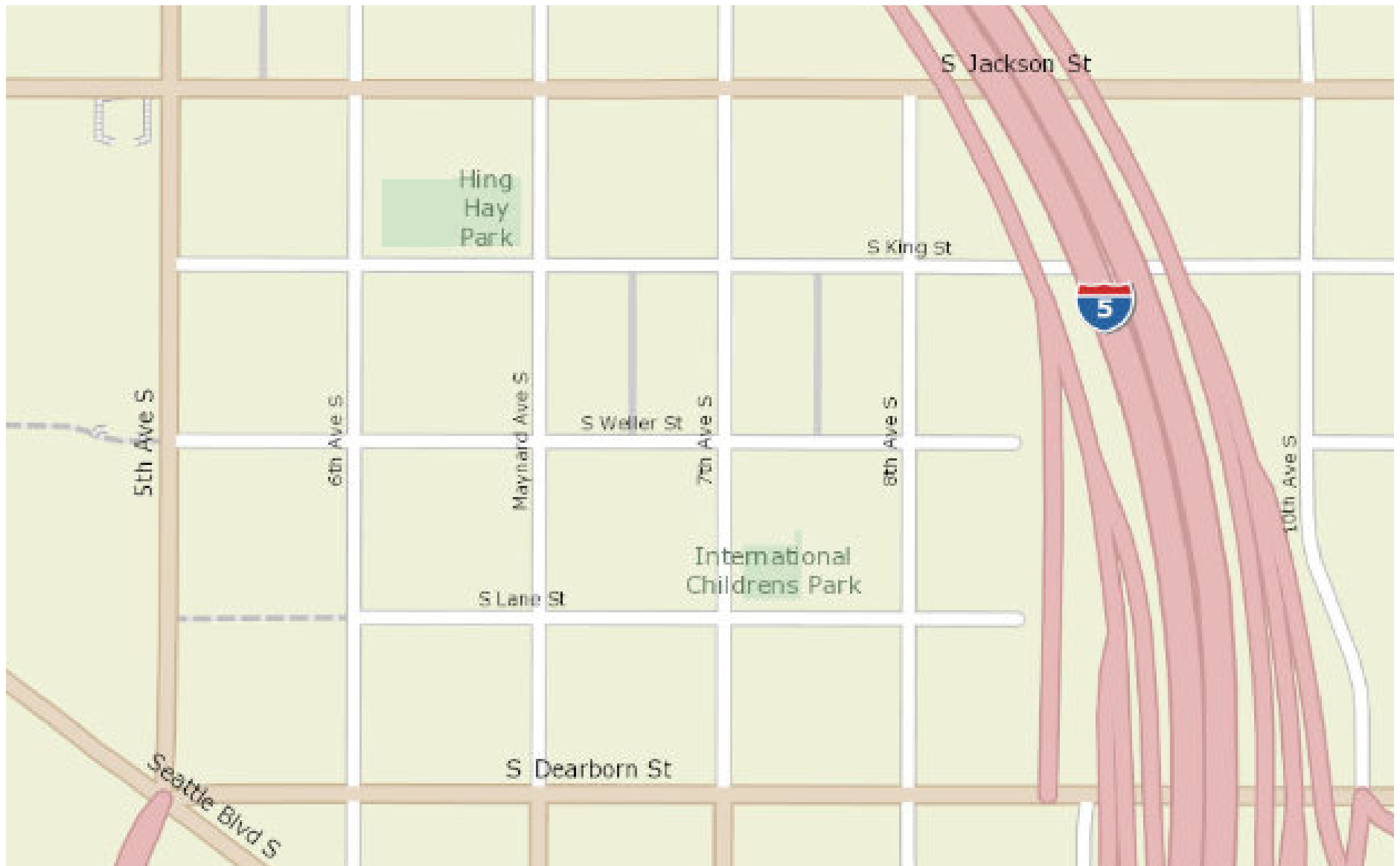
## Project Background

Over the last decade or so, the Chinatown-International District in Seattle has been the site of a series of neighborhood improvement projects. These include streetscape and sidewalk improvements, renovation and expansion of existing parks, façade improvements, and alleyway activations. Many of these projects are the result of extensive community outreach and engagements, and represent a new generation of projects for the community. Efforts like these appear to have contributed to the recent revival of the neighborhood and an elevated sense of public participation and community ownership. However, actual evidence to support these claims remains anecdotal which suggests a need for empirical studies. As improvement projects like these continue to be pursued in the neighborhood, a better understanding of how these projects are performing, including their community engagement processes, will be useful for future projects not only in CID but also communities experiencing similar kinds of challenges.

Two of these projects, the renovation of Donnie Chin International Children's Park and the expansion of Hing Hay Park, seem ripe for such study. The projects were completed in 2012 and 2017 (Gateway installed in 2018) respectively, and have been subjects of generally positive comments since their completion. In Donnie Chin International Children's Park, neighbors and visitors have commented on active uses of the park by children and adults. Similarly, Hing Hay Park has been well used since the completion of the new expansion and has received rave reviews by design critics and online commenters.<sup>1</sup> The Friends of Hing Hay Park was chosen to receive a Community Enhancer Award by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways in 2019 for the success of the project. Having had significant use by the public and having gone through extensive community engagement processes, the two projects are poised for post-occupancy evaluation (POE). An in-depth study would allow us to understand how the parks have been performing, how they serve different users, including residents, visitors, and different age groups in particular, and what the continued challenges are, as well as areas for improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Hinshaw, M. (2017) <https://crosscut.com/2017/08/hing-hay-park-seattle-international-district-chinatown>, and Johnson, P. (2018) <https://howsyourmorale.com/2018/09/19/excellence-in-cityness-hing-hay-park/>.



**Figure 1.1a** Location of Hing Hay Park and Donnie Chin International Children's Park



This project is intended to serve this purpose. With the support of a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small Sparks grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON), the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) hired two student interns for this project. With the help of other volunteers, the two interns together with the project manager An Huynh carried out the data collection in autumn of 2018. The extensive involvement of the interns, volunteers, and SCIDpda staff was intended to build capacity in the community so that they can take on similar projects in the future.

The research questions, methods, and scope were vetted by an advisory committee consisting of community members and Parks staff. The analysis and preparation for this report were then carried by Jeff Hou who volunteered his time for the project. Altogether, the two student Interns worked for a total of 278 hours. Also, approximately 70 volunteer hours were accounted for data collection and transcription of interviews.

## **Project Goals**

The primary goals for this project are as follows:

- To learn about the current uses of the two parks.
- To learn about what works well and what doesn't in the two parks.
- To examine whether the uses of the parks meet the original expectations and intention.
- To understand what specific improvements may be needed.

## **Key questions**

Key questions for this post-occupancy evaluation include:

- Who uses the park? (age, gender, ethnicity, individuals vs. groups, etc.)
- Where do they tend to gravitate? (Seating? Particular locations or subareas, etc.?)
- What are they primarily doing? (Eating, talking, sitting, exercising, watching, etc.? sedentary vs. moving?)
- When do these activities/uses occur?

Also, we are interested in:

- What works well? What areas or features seem successful?
- What works poorly? What areas or features seem problematic?
- What can be improved?
- Has the design process contributed to community capacity building?

## Methods

To answer the questions above, this project undertook a mixed-method approach in order to gather different types of data and allow for a more thorough analysis and cross-examination.

1. **Site observations** – Timed observations of the two parks were conducted on weekdays and weekends from mid-September to early November to record how the parks are used at different times during the day and in different months. Recorded data included: types of activities and uses, and characteristics of users in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, etc.
2. **Mapping** – Additional data were collected during site observations that include locations of activities inside the park and movement/circulation of users. These data were mapped to visualize specific patterns and characteristics.
3. **Survey questionnaire** – To collect data from broader user groups concerning their uses and perception of the two parks, a questionnaire (available in both English and Chinese) was distributed to residents, community members, and visitors. Both paper copies and online surveys were available. The results were then analyzed to identify broader patterns and trends.
4. **Individual interviews** – To collect detailed information from those who are familiar with the two parks on how they have been used and the community engagement process, individual interviews were conducted with those who had specific knowledge about the parks, and/or have participated in the park planning, design, and development process.
5. **Community Events** – To take advantage of ongoing community events for data collection, interactive visual boards were set up at the Autumn Moon Festival for International Children's Park (September 14) and at the C-ID Night Market for Hing Hay Park (September 8) that allowed the visitors to provide input on general and specific features of the park.

POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATIONS	2018							2019
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Research planning for POE and intern hiring								
Onboarding intern								
Setting up interviews, organizing focus groups, and creating observation schedule								
Data Collection: includes one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and behaviour mapping, and demographics			Park 1	Park 2	Park 1	Park 2		
Research analysis and report writing*								
Report share out								
	Intern	SCIDpda		Intern & SCIDpda		* Jeff Hou assisting in analysis and report writing		

**Figure 1.1b** Project timeline.

## Limitations

As with all research projects, there are certain limits to data gathering, interpretation, and possible generalization. One major limitation for this project was the time frame in which data collection was conducted. The decision to focus on mid-September through early November was largely due to the time frame for the DON grant, specifically when the funds for the interns were available. But we were also interested in seeing how the two parks performed as the weather changed from summer to autumn. In Seattle, parks tend to be better used during the summertime when the weather is dry and with plenty of sunshine. As such, it would be more critical to observe how the parks performed outside the peak summer season. As such, the data are not meant to be representative of park activities in all seasons.

While the project has benefited from the support of students interns and community volunteers, we are limited by their actual availability. For site observations, we were not able to have consistent time slots for observations. Some data were lacking for certain time frames such as weekend mornings. As such, we have tried to avoid making comparisons across inconsistent datasets and instead focus only on the ones with available data. We believe that the available data are still remarkably telling and useful for interpretation. However, any analysis or interpretation of the data would need to take the above limitations into account. During the report-back sessions for this project, we have received additional feedback from community members about specific aspects of the park, including activities in the evenings in Hing Hay Park. As park activities and uses may evolve over time, it is important to take them into account when considering future improvements.



# **DONNIE CHIN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PARK**







## Background

Located at the corner of Lane Street and 7th Avenue South, the Donnie Chin International Children's Park was the last of three neighborhood parks developed in the district in the 1970s and 1980s. The original park was designed by architect and community member Joey Ing. When completed in 1981, the small, 0.2-acre park provided a much-needed open space for recreation and outdoor activities in this dense, inner-city neighborhood. With a neon pavilion, a dragon sculpture, a rockery, and a Ying-Yang-inspired sandpit, the design reflects the strong cultural character of the community.

Over the years, however, various elements of the park have fallen into disrepair, and the park was often avoided by residents. Factors such as poor visibility into the park and the presence of transients have contributed to its negative perception. The lack of flexibility in the design also limited opportunities for programming that could have brought more positive uses to the park.

In 2006, an effort to renovate the park emerged in the community with support from the CID Community Center staff and several residents. In collaboration with the WILD program (then part of the International District Housing Alliance), students in a design studio in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington in autumn 2007 first explored options for redesign through community workshops and a community open house. With results from the studio and strong evidence of community participation and engagement, community advocates successfully lobbied the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Committee to include the project in the levy. Approved by Seattle voters in 2008, funding was available for the renovation of the park, and landscape architect Karen Kiest was selected to be the designer for the park renovation.

With support from the newly formed Friends of International Children's Park, additional community meetings were conducted to deliberate different design options. The friends group also engaged in fundraising for the park. Construction for the renovation was completed in 2012. In 2016, the park was renamed Donnie Chin International Children's Park in honor of Donnie Chin, a long-time volunteer in the neighborhood who passed away in a tragic incident. The renovated park includes a large lower plaza that provides better access and visibility to and from the street. A lawn in the center of the park provides a flexible space for programs, events,

and impromptu uses. A series of program elements, including play structures, rockery, the original dragon structure, vegetation, and the parasol shelter and seating area frame the back of the park and are accessible from a path that circles the lawn.

Based on community inputs, the original design considerations include:

- **Public safety** – visibility, clear sightlines, activation, positive uses
- **Expanded play space**
- **Design for multiple users and uses** – serving children, teens, adults, and older adults; programming flexibility
- **Other considerations** (brought up in the planning phase but not a focus in design phase)
  - Cultural expressions and activities, natural learning, potential connections with existing services and programs in the neighborhood.

## Site Observations

Site observations at the Donnie Chin International Children’s Park took place from the week of September 2, 2018, to the week of November 4, 2018. Site activities were recorded for a total of 20 times in the mornings, noon/early afternoons, late afternoons, and evenings on both weekdays and weekends (see **Appendix A** for details). Altogether, 504 samples (individual users) were recorded.

In terms of primary activities,<sup>2</sup> the majority of users were simply walking and passing through the park. Although this seems to contradict the intended use of the site as a children’s park, the usage is actually intended as part of the design (the lower plaza in particular) as a way to bring more people into the park and thus make it safer for everyone. The observation data show that many people not only walked through the park but also stopped to talk with friends. This shows a successful use of the lower plaza space to bring more positive uses and encourage social interactions (see mapping analysis).

Apart from walking and passing through, playing represents the most frequent use of the park which is the main intended use of the site. Observation data showed that almost all

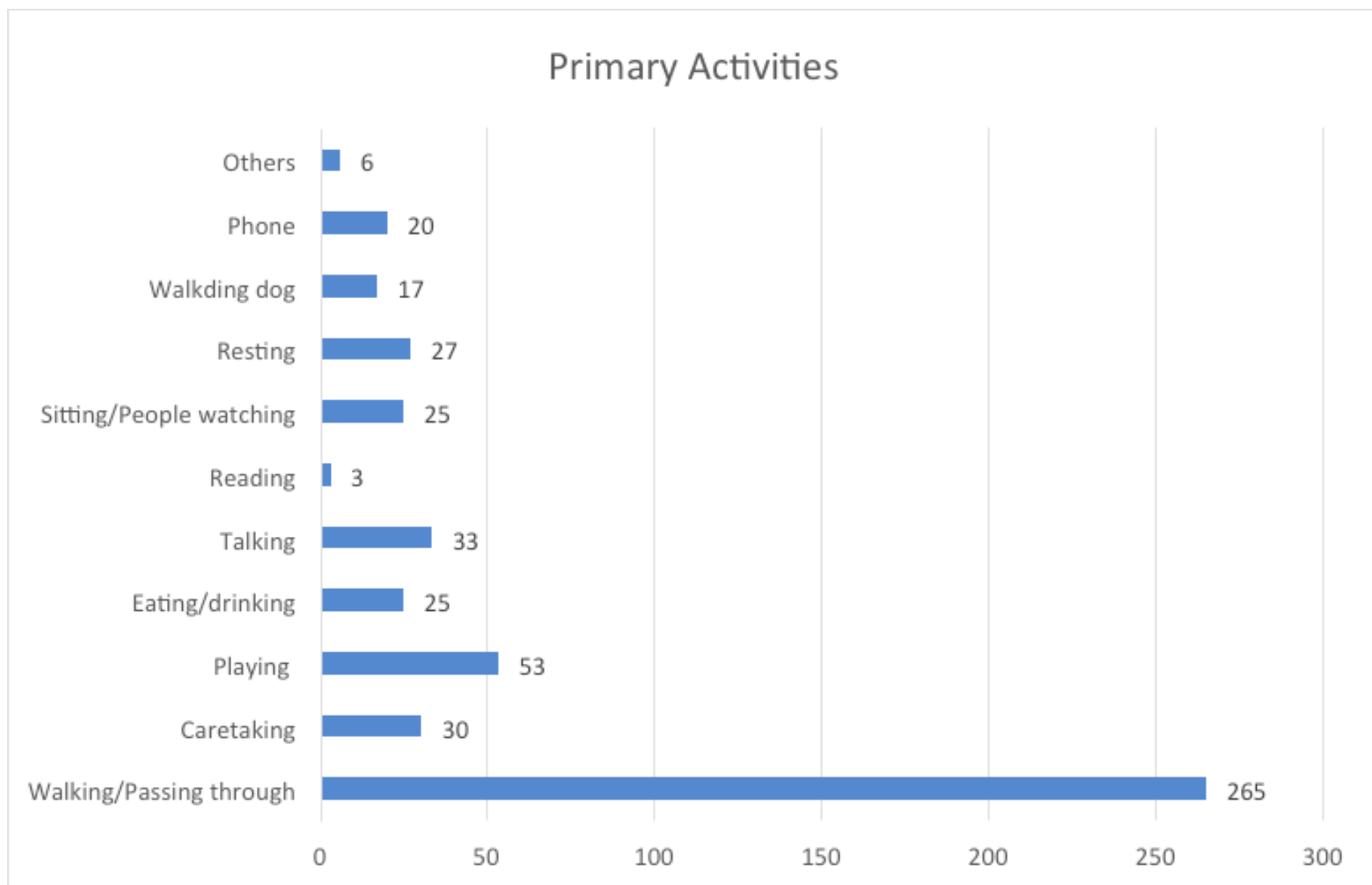
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<sup>2</sup> Some users were engaged in multiple activities such as eating and talking. For analysis, we chose what appeared to be the primary activities engaged by the users.

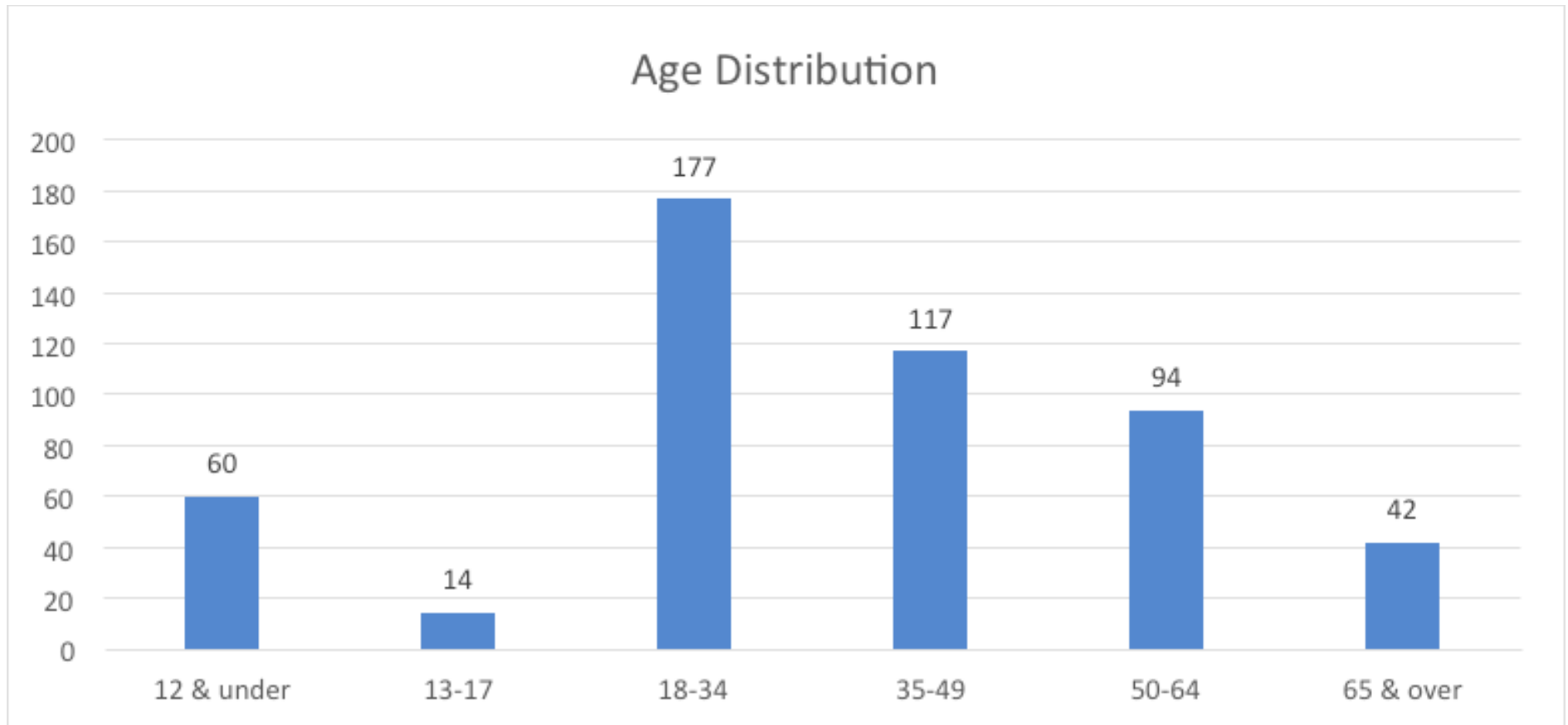
children were accompanied by adult caretakers, including parents and grandparents. This also reflected the early analysis that contributed to the design, particularly the intention for multigenerational uses even though the primary audience is children. The other uses are more or less evenly distributed among talking, eating/drinking, sitting/people watching, resting, and looking at phones. This suggests that the park supports a good range of personal and social activities. It is also interesting that the park attracts use by dog owners. This specific need did not come up in previous community meetings and might indicate changing demographics in the neighborhood.

Despite being a small percentage of overall uses, the observation data do show the presence of transient populations that utilize the benches and water fountain for drinking and washing. These activities, however, did not seem to prevent others from using the park, as the observation data showed that other activities occurred in the park at the same time. Aside from the identified categories, there are some additional activities including stretching and exercising, drinking from the water fountain, and maintenance work by Parks employees. These are included in “others.”

In terms of age distribution, the groups with age between 18 and 34 have the highest percentage. However, data show that this group along with those who are older includes many who were walking through the park. On the other hand, the data show relatively few teenagers. It is possible that many of them now go to Hing Hay Park instead after the new expansion opened in 2017 (see interview data). The most important finding again appears to be that many children were accompanied by adult caretakers, including a significant number of older adults. This shows that the park is supporting intergenerational activities in the neighborhood. For a neighborhood with a predominantly older population, the park is providing an important function that enriches their life.



**Figure 2.1** Primary activities recorded in Donnie Chin International Children's Park (September to November 2018).



**Figure 2.2** Age distribution of users in Donnie Chin International Children's Park (September to November 2018).



## Mapping Analysis

The data from site observations have been used to generate maps that help visualize how the park is used spatially and where activities tend to occur in the park. It's important to note that only two data points occurred in November due to the limited availability of volunteers. As such, the data may not accurately represent the typical uses in the park in November.

Even with these factors taken into account, a few important patterns become apparent. First, different parts of the park may be used at different times. While the lower plaza is used at all times, with primarily people walking through the park, other parts of the park have been used more prominently on weekday and weekend afternoons. These include the playground, the seating area under the shelter, a dragon sculpture, the rockery, and the lawn. Scattered uses were recorded on weekday and weekend mornings. On weekend afternoons, the seat wall in the lower plaza appeared to function as a social space.

In terms of other patterns, in the lower plaza, more instances were recorded at the entrances along the streets. The two benches in the lower plaza also appear to be well used. As for age distribution, older adults appear to use the shelter areas and the lower plaza more while younger users are concentrated in the playground, the lawn, and the rockery.

Overall, based on the data, it appears that the park has very much been used as intended with different areas serving different users or different age groups, and with the open lower plaza serving as a way to bring more people into the park. With all the data combined, it seems like no area has been underutilized or neglected. In other words, the park has been performing in the way it has been intended.

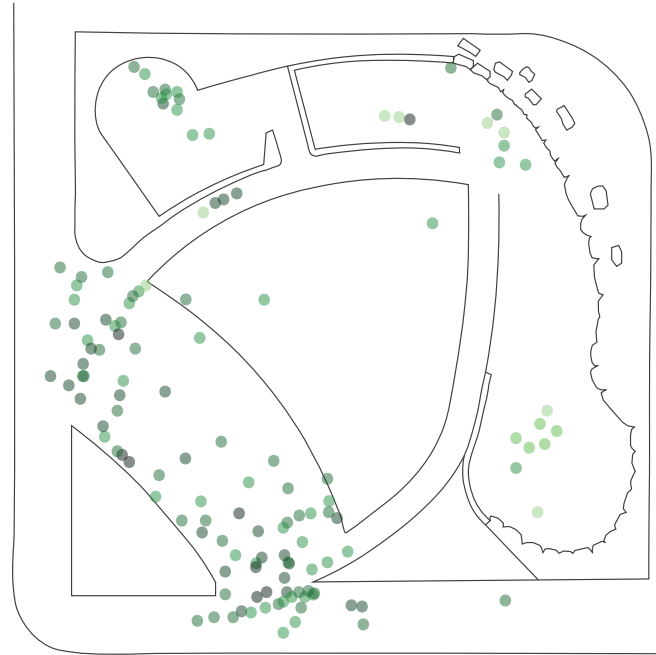
From the movement maps, aside from the obvious presence of people walking through the park, there is a significant amount of movements between program elements inside the park, including the playground, the rockery, the dragon sculpture, the lawn, and the shelter area. This is another intended use of the park, and the design appears to be performing accordingly.

- [F] OVER 65
- [E] 51-65
- [D] 35-50
- [C] 19-34
- [B] 13-18
- [A] UNDER 12

SEPTEMBER USER GROUPS

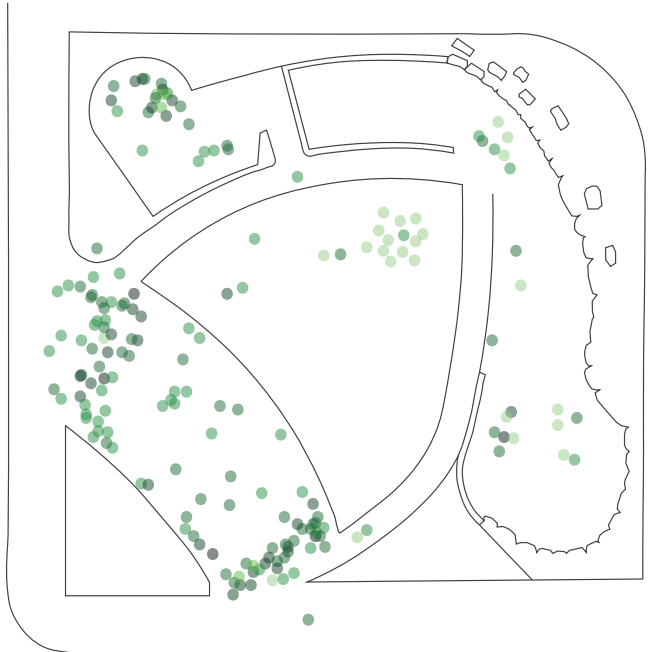


OCTOBER USERGROUPS PART 1: 10/1 - 10/15

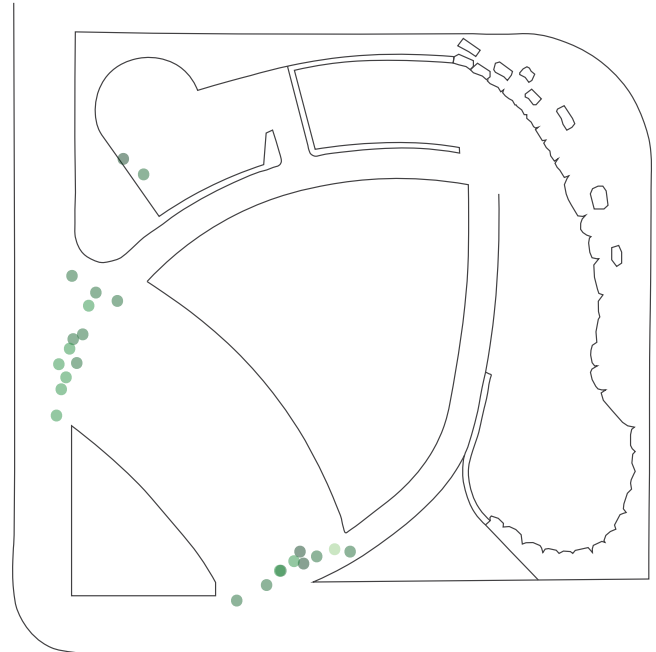


OCTOBER USERGROUPS PART 2: 10/16 - 10/31

- [F] OVER 65
- [E] 51-65
- [D] 35-50
- [C] 19-34
- [B] 13-18
- [A] UNDER 12



NOVEMBER USER GROUPS



**Figure 2.3** Composite maps showing locations of activities based on data from late September (upper-left), early October (upper-right), late October (lower-left), and early November (lower-right), 2018.

SEPTEMBER WEEK DAY MORNINGS

- [F] OVER 65
- [E] 51-65
- [D] 35-50
- [C] 19-34
- [B] 13-18
- [A] UNDER 12



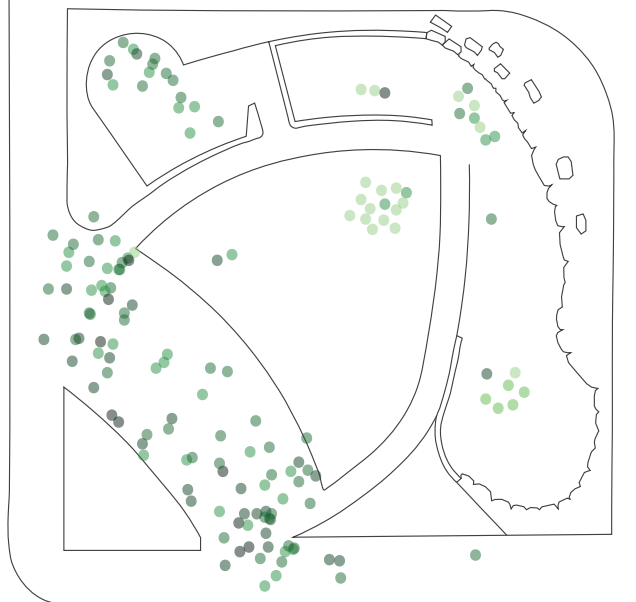
SEPTEMBER WEEKEND MORNINGS



**Figure 2.4** Park uses on weekday and weekend morning in September 2018.

OCTOBER WEEK DAY AFTERNOONS

- [F] OVER 65
- [E] 51-65
- [D] 35-50
- [C] 19-34
- [B] 13-18
- [A] UNDER 12



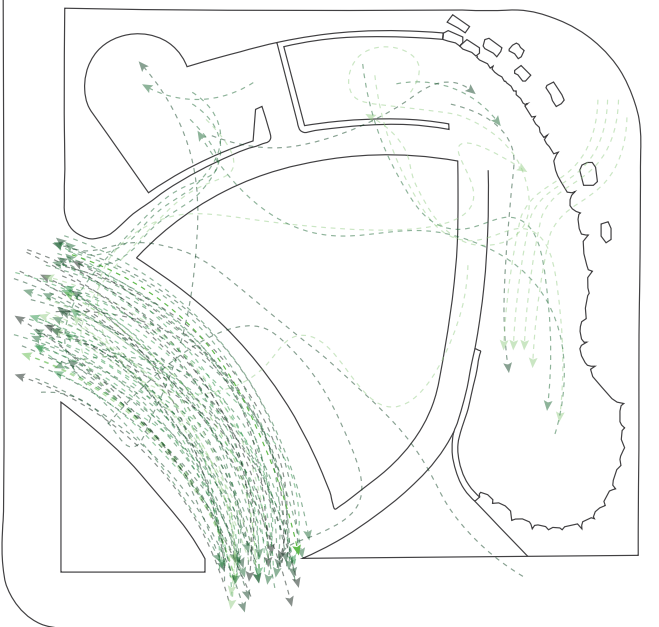
OCTOBER WEEKEND AFTERNOONS



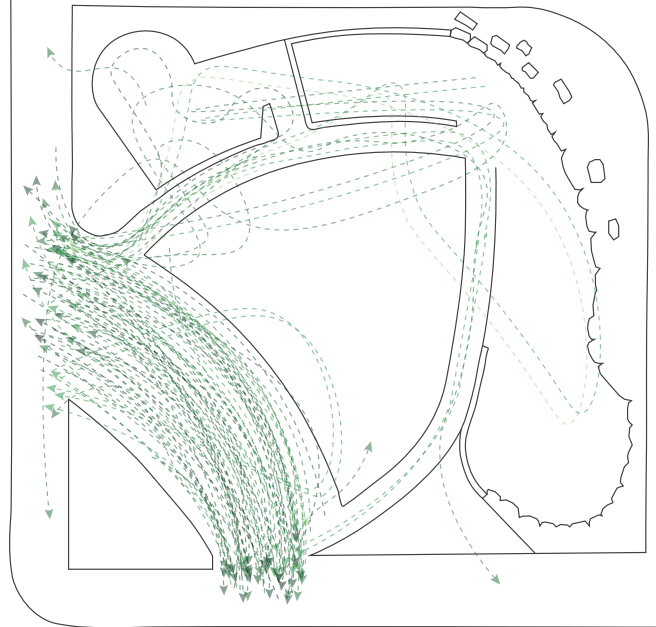
**Figure 2.5** Park uses on weekday and weekend afternoons in October 2018.

— [F] OVER 65  
 — [E] 51-65  
 — [D] 35-50  
 — [C] 19-34  
 — [B] 13-18  
 — [A] UNDER 12

SEPTEMBER MOVEMENTS MAP

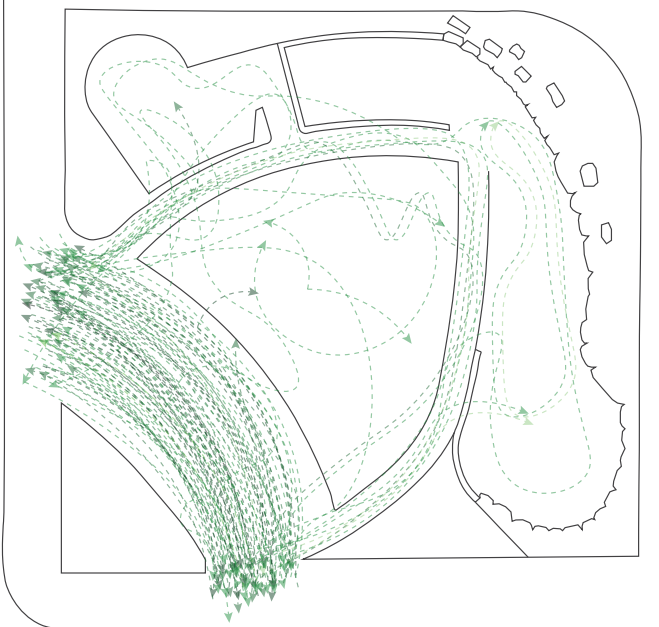


OCTOBER MOVEMENTS 10/1-10/15

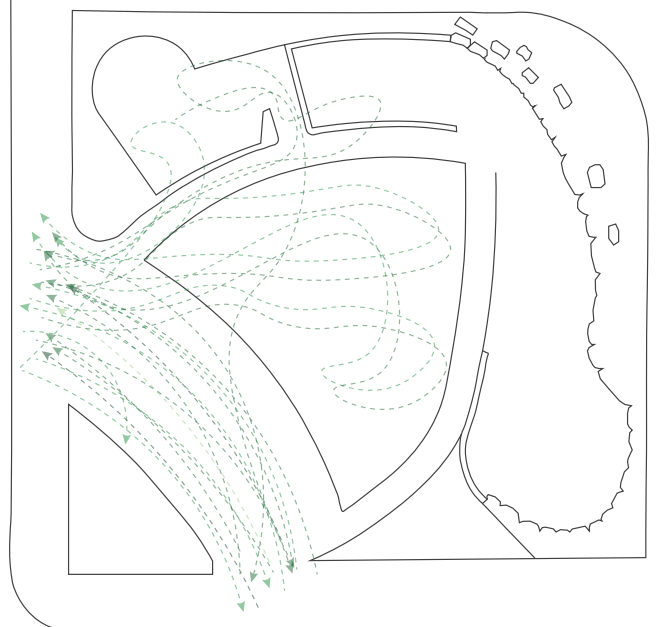


OCTOBER MOVEMENTS 10/16-10/31

— [F] OVER 65  
 — [E] 51-65  
 — [D] 35-50  
 — [C] 19-34  
 — [B] 13-18  
 — [A] UNDER 12



NOVEMBER MOVEMENTS MAP



**Figure 2.6**  
 Composite maps showing movements of park users based on data from late September (upper-left), early October (upper-right), late October (lower-left), and early November (lower-right), 2018.

## Survey Results

To collect input directly from park users and neighborhood residents, a survey was conducted through both online and paper questionnaires. Altogether 73 questionnaires were completed, including 53 paper questionnaires (37 in Chinese and 16 in English). From the survey, the majority (60.3%) are daily and frequent (several times a month) users. 68% were residents. The full results are available in **Appendix C**. The following highlights the key findings.

The vast majority of the respondents appear to hold a favorable view of the park based on their experience (64% very favorable and 27% somewhat favorable). A large majority of respondents walk to the park, followed by public transportation, driving, and biking. The majority of respondents also visit the park with young children (55%) or with family and/or friends (52%) (multiple choices are allowed). A significant portion (29%) also visit by themselves.

Among the activities engaged by the respondents (**Figure 2.7**), the highest was enjoying the outdoor space (55%), followed by participating in programmed events (49%), and talking or spending time with friends or family (45%). This suggests the importance of outdoor space for residents and visitors as well as the importance of programmed events in activating the park and how the park functions as a family and social space.

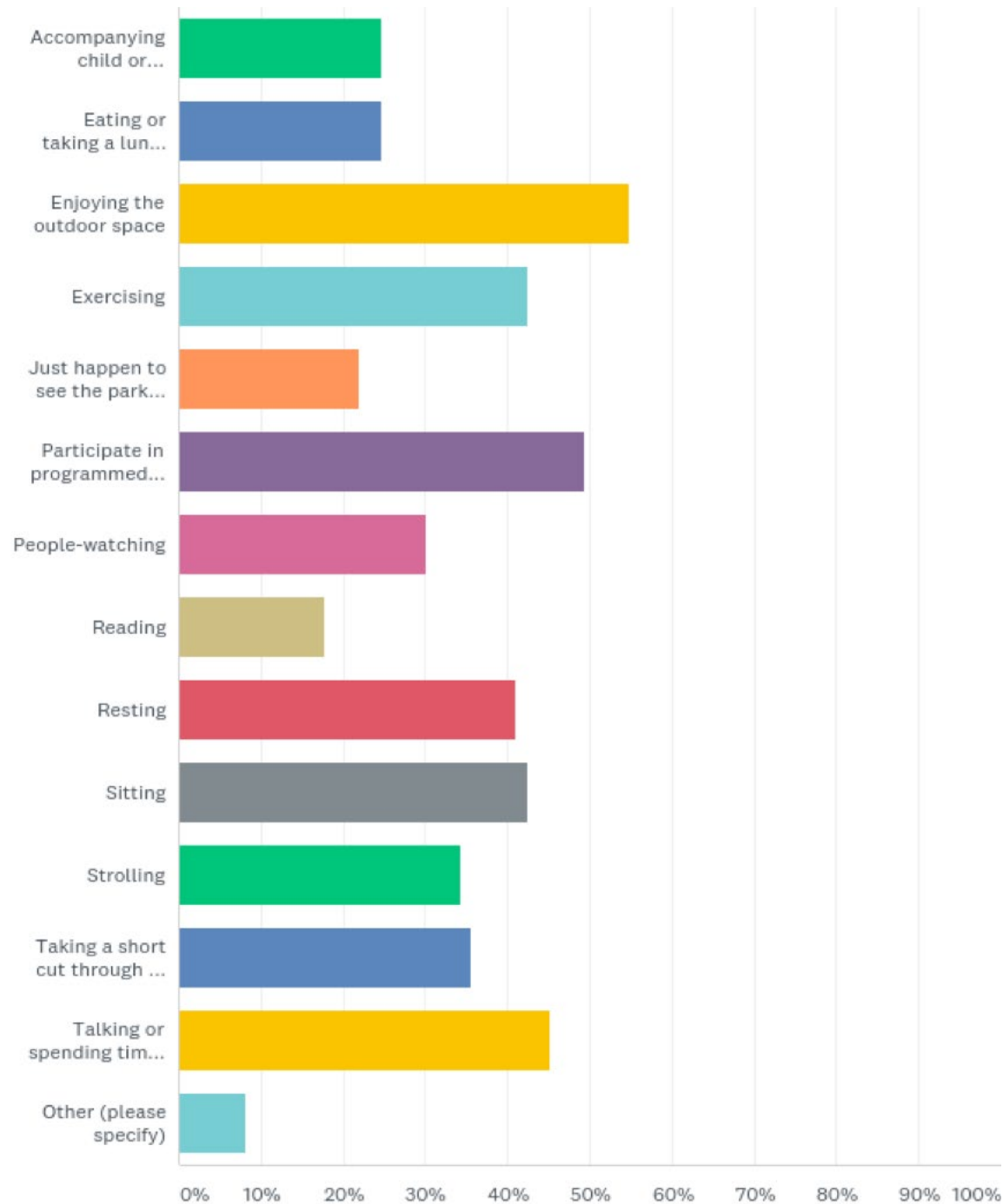
Aside from taking a short cut through the park (36%), other significant activities include exercising (42%) and strolling (34%) which suggests the importance of the park in contributing to the active living and health of residents. The survey also identifies other activities including eating or taking a lunch break (25%), people-watching (40%), resting (41%). This suggests how the park supports a variety of activities which in turn contribute to positive uses in the park. It's also significant that 22% of respondents selected "just happen to see the park and stop by" which suggests how the park encourages visitors and residents to pause and stay outdoor or in the neighborhood for a longer period of time.

In terms of features used by the respondents (**Figure 2.8**), almost all features presented in the survey receive high uses (between 61% to 74%). Even the lowest-ranked feature, the water fountain, has 46%. This suggests that they have all been well used.

In terms of what respondents find most attractive about the park, “a place to bring kid(s)” was ranked the highest at 74%, followed by “a place to sit and enjoy outdoors.” This echoes the results from other questions in the survey. Among other results, it’s clear that the vast majority of the respondents feel that the park is welcoming to everyone – an important intention of the design to serve multiple generations of users.











It’s also clear that most respondents find the park to be safe (**Figure 2.9**), which was a top concern during the planning and design process. Among the different factors, “cleanliness” matters to the respondents the most (68%), followed by “good visibility” (67%) and “activities in the park” (62%) (which suggests the importance of positive use), and lighting (45%).

In terms of what can be improved about the park (**Figure 2.10**), it is informative and remarkable that, rather than physical improvements, “more programs and activities” is ranked highest at 64%, over “more exercise and play equipment” at 54% and “better lighting” at 48%. Also, interestingly, although most people find the park to be safe, “safety and security” is ranked very high at 57%. This suggests continued attention is needed. Although ranked lower, better maintenance is still needed as well as the desire for more vegetation.



**Figure 2.7** What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (check all that apply) (n=73)



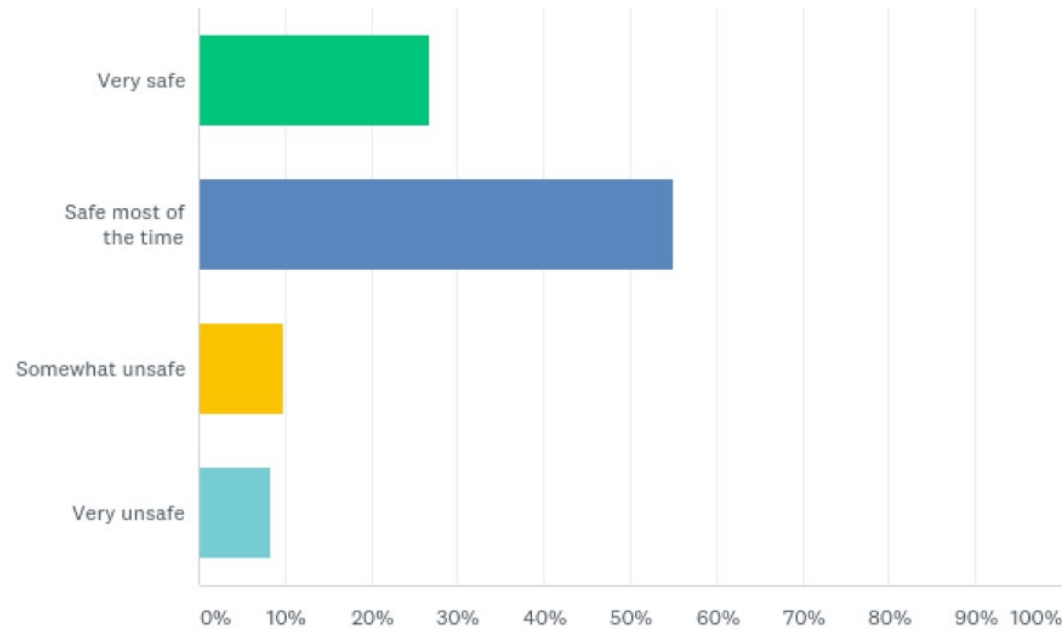
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
	74.29%	52
	77.14%	54
	72.86%	51
	45.71%	32
	62.86%	44
	64.29%	45
	64.29%	45
	54.29%	38
	61.43%	43
	58.57%	41
Other (please specify)	4.29%	3
Total Respondents: 70		

**Figure 2.8** What features of the park do you use? (Check all apply) (n=70)

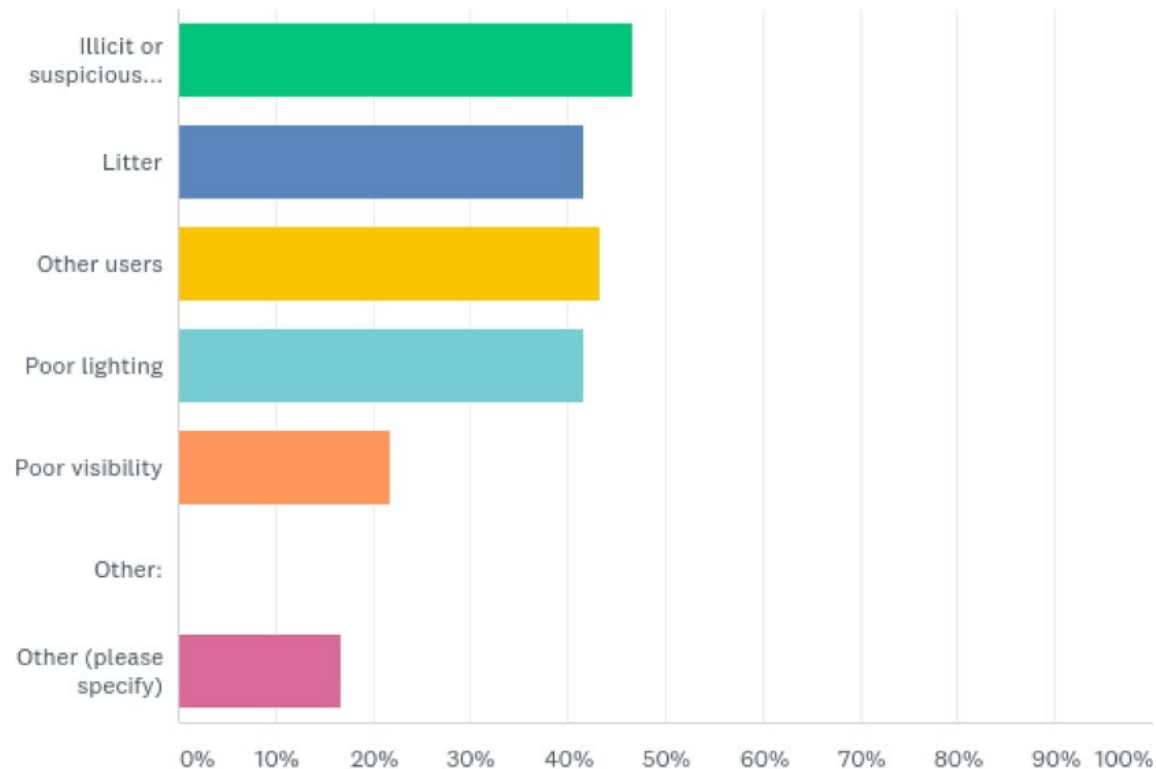
The survey provided additional opportunities for respondents to comment on what they like and dislike about the park. The positive impressions mostly echo those expressed in other parts of the survey specifically in terms of greater visibility, more active presence of a variety of users, the dragon sculpture, and the play area. One individual also appreciated the preservation of elements from the old park.

Though not specific to the park, some negative comments were directed toward the presence of homeless, litter, and drug in the neighborhood as a whole. One individual pointed out the presence of needles in the vegetation. This may explain that although most respondents indicate that they feel safe in the park, safety remains a top concern.

And for comparing the park before and after the renovation, for those who remember or have experienced the old park, the general consensus is that the renovated park is far more successful in terms of safety, cleanliness, aesthetics, and functionality.



**Figure 2.9** How safe do you feel in the park? (n=7)



**Figure 2.10** What can be improved about the park? (Check all apply) (n=69)

## Interview Findings

For the interview portion of the study, we interviewed eight individuals who represent residents and those who have participated in the project as interns, volunteers, members of the Friends group, and staff of community organizations and city agencies (not Seattle Parks). The findings are organized based on the structured questions asked during the interviews (see **Appendix E**).

### **What do you see as the primary goals of the project? Do you think the goals have been met?**

Interviewees all indicated that the primary goals of the project have been met although there were some differences in terms of what they identified as the primary goals. For the majority of interviewees, activating the park and bringing the children back to the park represent the primary goal. A member of the Friends group commented, “We had a really simple goal. Our motto was bringing the children back to the children’s park. We just didn’t see children playing anymore.” A former intern commented, “[...] now you really see more kids in the park, [and] not just kids but [also] a lot of seniors..., and also just kind of seeing a lot of events hosted at the park as well...”

A resident commented, “There were a lot of goals. Sitting in the park, a lot of old trees, trees are lower, so it’s sad, the lights don’t look bright enough so it doesn’t feel so safe. It was dirty. It’s changing. It’s opening. Very neat. People feel much better and comfortable.” On the issue of public safety, it appears that the improvements have addressed this primary concern which was also key to activating the park and bringing children back.

### **What aspects of the project have been the least successful and the most?**

In terms of the most successful aspects, a range of aspects were brought up by the interviewees, such as public safety, visibility, and the presence of a variety of users including children, parents, seniors, and even people who just use it as a shortcut. A former intern commented, “...even foot traffic, like cutting the corner, it’s a good way to keep the park activated, and the more foot traffic [...] can help facilitate positive activities and positive natural programming.” A city staff commented, “[...] as a frequent visitor to the neighborhood,

I see there are often people using the park, including users of all ages [...] users who are all representative of folks who are in the neighborhood.”

Among the most successful aspects of the project, community engagement was brought up multiple times by different interviewees. One former intern commented, “I do feel that the community engagement piece was very big in this project. Probably one of the most successful one I have worked on in the neighborhood, in terms of getting people on board.” “I think it’s a great model for engaging the community from beginning to end. From planning and construction and engagement and fundraising all the way to continuing year-to-year activation,” said a staff of a community organization.

Capacity-building was another related aspect. A member of the Friends group commented, “One of the unique showcases is that a lot of the interns have continued to work in the community due to their involvement with the project.” A former intern commented, “I think it’s hard to talk about just one project in isolation and not connect it with other things that it has impacted or affected. And I think that it is what makes this project great.”

Interviewees had very few things to say about the least successful aspects of the park. One resident did comment that the park was still too small and not as fun as the newly completed Hing Hay Park expansion. “Not too much fun. Maybe because Hing Hay park getting more fun so I think that the kids love to [go there],” said the resident.

### **How does the park contribute to the neighborhood?**

In terms of how the park contributes to the neighborhood, most interviewees commented on having a place to be outdoor, socialize, and exercise as the key contributions. One staff of a community organization stated, “It provides another community space for folks to come together and utilize [...] there’s only so many usable spaces in the neighborhood that’s free and open to everyone [...] and the park is one of those so it’s a big asset for the neighborhood.” A city staff commented, “I think having particularly a space for youth to have some physical contact with green space, and in a safe space, is really a benefit even though it’s such a small space.” Lastly, a resident said, “I always can see some people [sitting] on the bench. [...] Yeah,



sometimes other students come from other schools or organizations and use it, is good. People even use the table to eat something, talk with each other, that's good. Because it's clean."

**If participated in the design process, how was the quality of community engagement in the project? How can it be improved?**

It was a general consensus that the quality of community engagement has been great. A city staff commented, "There seemed to be real active involvement from the friends of international children's park. There seemed to be an engaged group of community members through the friends of group that had a lot of input into the park process and the design process and the activation of the park through different events over the course of the year."

In terms of improvements needed, one former staff of a community organization commented, "Overall, the community engagement was good but something we could have improved on was parental engagement as time (availability) and language differences made it more challenging to get their feedback." Similar, another staff commented, "I think every engagement process we could have involved more youth and families in it. I think we did a good job compared to other projects but there can always be room for improvement for more feedback."

### **Feedback from Community Events**

The result from the interactive activity at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival shows clear preference and at the same time a fairly even distribution of uses among different features in the park, with seating receiving the most vote (11), followed immediately by the multi-use play structure (10), the dragon sculpture (9) and the lower plaza (8). Other elements represent a second-tier use, with lawn and shelter each receiving 7 votes and the rockery and Mary Go-around each getting 5 votes. In terms of what park features would one change, add, or improve, a small number of comments included a request for a better form of seating to support conversation (see **Fig. 2.11**).

## Key Findings

- Survey respondents hold positive views toward the park (64% very favorable and 27% somewhat favorable).
- There has been a significant increase in use and visibility after the renovation.
- A vast majority of survey respondents feel safe in the park. Cleanliness, visibility, and activities in the park are cited as key factors, followed by lighting.
- The park is functioning in ways intended by the design, with different areas serving different users and specific age groups; foot traffic and short-cut through the park contributing to increased activities and impromptu social interactions, etc.
- The park provides opportunities for intergenerational interactions in the neighborhood and enriches the lives of elderly residents.
- Almost all young users have been accompanied by adult caretakers. As such, having the park serve different age groups is important.
- The park is important to active living in the neighborhood.
- Minor presence of transient population has not prevented others from using the park.
- More programming is ranked highest as an area of improvement, followed by safety and security, and then more exercise and play equipment. It shows that public safety remains a top priority.
- The completion of Hing Hay Park expansion, with a much larger area and a variety of features, seems to draw some young users away from the park.
- Community participation in the project serves as a model for the neighborhood by focusing on capacity building.

(Next page) **Figure 2.11**  
Interactive board used  
during the Mid-Autumn  
Moon Festival to collect  
input in the park.

# DONNIE CHIN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PARK

700 S Lane St,  
Seattle, WA 98104

- What park features do you **USE**? Put a sticker on it!
- What park features would you **CHANGE, ADD, or IMPROVE**? Tell us on a sticky note!



# **HING HAY PARK EXPANSION**







## Background

Built in 1973, the original Hing Hay Park sits on a 0.33-acre site located in the heart of CID. Designed by landscape architect Don Sakuma, the original park includes an open, brick-paved plaza surrounded by steps and seating elements. A traditional Chinese-style pavilion donated by the City of Taipei was added in 1975. Designed by artist Hai Ying WU, chess benches were later added. The park has long served as a popular venue for various community events, including Lunar New Year celebrations and summer festivals. The name “Hing Hay” (慶喜) translates as “Celebrating Happiness” in Chinese.

The recent expansion was a result of a long process that lasted more than a decade. Over the years, the site has been a topic of many community discussions and design exploration, with support from the UW Department of Landscape Architecture and Architects without Border Seattle Chapter. The Pro Parks Levy, passed by Seattle voter in 2000, first provided the fund to purchase the adjacent property to the West, formerly occupied by the International District Station Post Office. The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces provided the fund for actual development.

In 2013, the team of Beijing-based Turenscape and Seattle-based MIG SvR was selected to carry out the design process. The Friends of Hing Hay Park was formed at the same time to engage the community, support the project, and guide the design process. With help from the WILD program, now with Inter\*Im Community Development Association, the design team conducted substantial community outreach, in addition to the public meetings required by Seattle Parks. Based on community input, the following design considerations were prepared by the design team:

- **A place for everyone** – all ages, all cultures, all abilities
- **A place for celebrating** – diverse activities and events, overcoming negative with positive
- **A place for the future** – innovation, sustainability, cultural renewal

Also, the following issues were identified as priorities.

- Inclusivity
- Public safety
- Event space
- Accommodating a variety of activities
- Complementarity with the existing park

Construction began in 2016, and the new expansion was opened in 2017, bringing the total area to 0.64 acres. After considerable delay, the installation of the new gateway was completed in 2018. Aside from the signature gateway that represents the community's "future," the new expansion features a large plaza for flexible programming and everyday gathering, planted terraces and pathways, and a series of red stairs that connect the different levels and provide additional seating and access. A bamboo grove frames the northern edge of the site, with areas for exercise equipment, and a potential food truck. The planted terraces are intended to echo the rice terraces found in all East Asian countries and as a gesture of cultural inclusiveness.

## Site Observations

Site observations at Hing Hay Park also took place from the week of September 2, 2018, to the week of November 4, 2018. Site activities were recorded for a total of 32 times in the mornings, noon/early afternoons, late afternoons, and evenings on both weekdays and weekends (see **Appendix A** for details). Altogether, 1655 samples (individual users) were recorded. This included a programmed event (CID Night Market) in the park attended by approx. 300 people.

In terms of primary activities, the park appears to support a remarkable range of activities from “eating/drinking” and individual enjoyment (for example, “reading” and “listening to music”) to socializing, playing and watching others play. In particular, “talking” to friends and family members has the highest percentage of all uses. This shows that the park is functioning well as a social space.

This is followed by “walking through” the park which at first may not seem particularly significant. But in fact, it shows that even though the park is surrounded by sidewalks on three sides, people still choose to walk through the park in part perhaps to enjoy it on their way to places in the neighborhood. The opposite might well be the case in which people would avoid going into the park for a variety of reasons including concerns for safety. But the data show that it is not the case for Hing Hay Park at least during the time that activities have been recorded.

The third highest use for the park (aside from the night market event) is “playing.” This includes playing and watching others play, and also young users running around the park with their friends and family members. The data show many people using the ping pong table, playing bean bags, Jenga, and large-size chess. This suggests the importance of having these games available in the park and the extent to which they have been actively used by the park users.

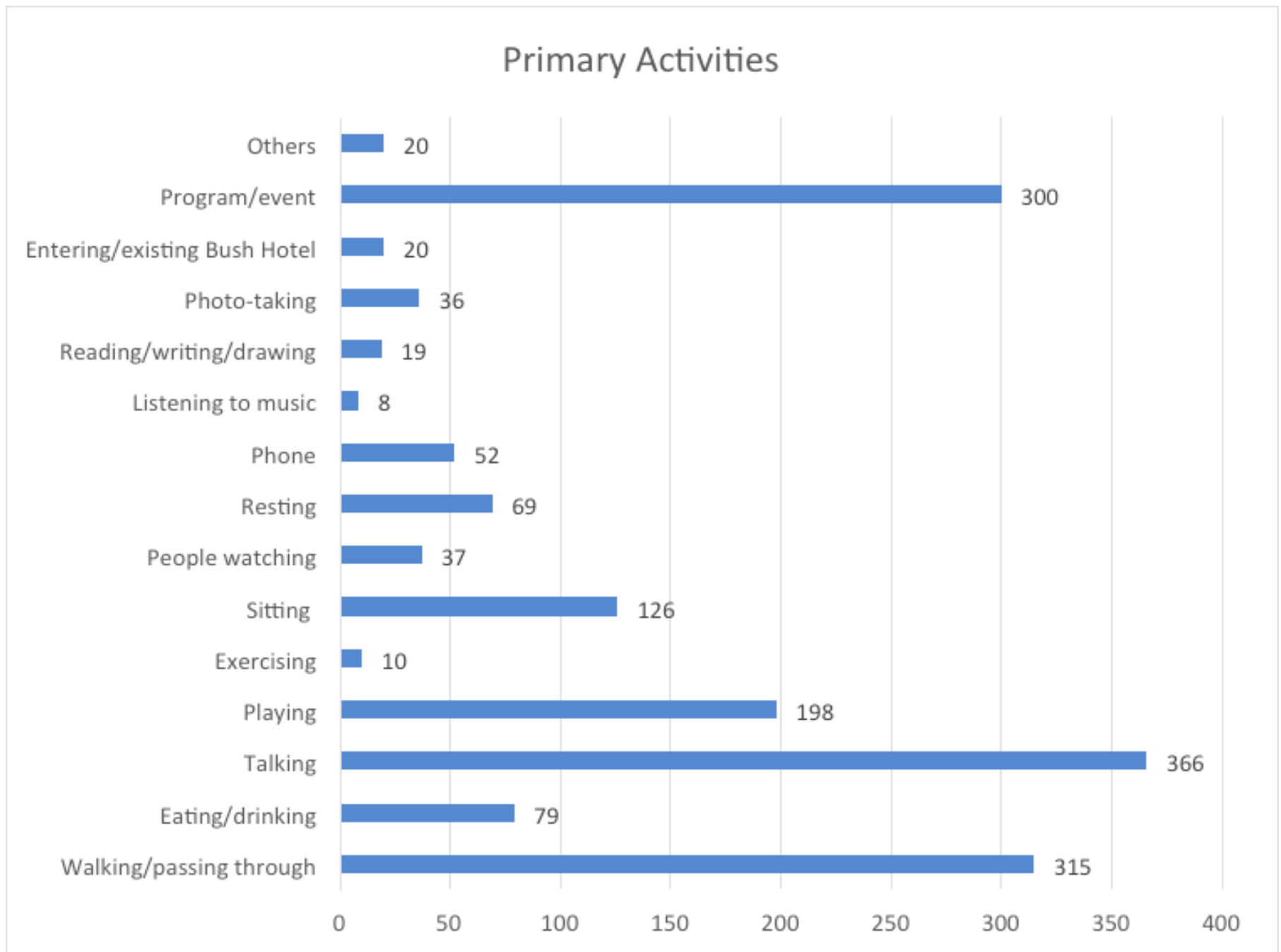
Other significant uses include a high percentage of people who are “sitting.” If combined with relatively high uses of eating/drinking, resting, looking on the phone, reading/writing/drawing, listening to music, people watching, and even talking, this would constitute the largest category (756 out of 1655) of uses in the park. This suggests the importance of having places for people to sit in the park, including bistro chairs, seat walls, the iconic red step seating, and the Pavilion, that allow people to socialize, enjoy the park, and stay for a longer period of time.

Though relatively small in number, another significant use was “taking photos” (including shooting videos) which suggests how the park was perceived by the users and deemed worthy for picture taking as a background for photographs. Aside from the identified categories, additional activities were also recorded, including asking for directions, looking at the bulletin boards, feeding pigeons, and maintenance work by Parks employees. These are included in “others.”

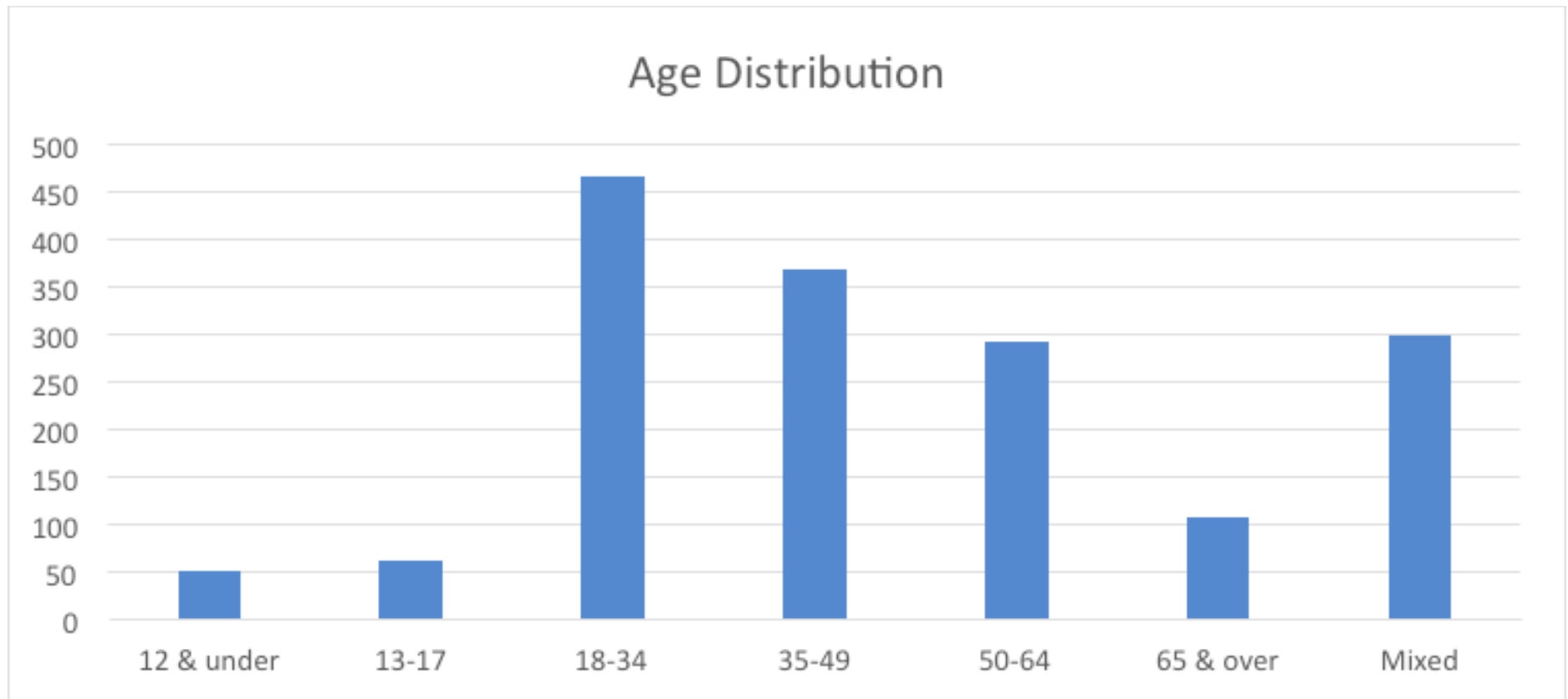
Among all the uses, “exercising” seems relatively low despite the presence of the exercise equipment. This suggests a low usage of the equipment, an issue that will appear again in the interview data. The data also shows the presence of transients who are sitting, resting, or socializing. Like the Children’s Park, the data suggest that their presence does not seem to deter others from using the park at least during the time the data were recorded.

In terms of age distribution, the park seems to attract a high number of young adults, vis-à-vis older adults who represent the majority of residents in the neighborhood. This suggests that the park has been frequented possibly by visitors and those who work in the district. Although relatively small in number, the park still attracts a significant number of children and teens. Similar to International Children’s Park, almost all children are accompanied by adult caretakers. There was even a grandma playing frisbees with her grandchildren.

It’s important to note that the data here include the programmed event as mentioned before. This is labeled “Mixed” in **Figure 3.2** because of the variety of age groups in the audience.



**Figure 3.1** Primary activities recorded in Hing Hay Park (September to November 2018).



**Figure 3.2** Age distribution of users in Hing Hay Park (September to November 2018).



## Mapping Analysis

Before discussing the analysis, as indicated before, a major community event (CID Night Market) was recorded in September which skewed the results (**Figure 3.3**). It's important to keep this in mind when reviewing the maps.

First, the park appears to be more heavily used in the afternoons than mornings on both weekdays and weekends in both September and October (see **Figures 3.4a** and **3.4b**). In September, the eastside (original site) of the park is less used in the mornings than in the afternoon (see **Figure 3.4a**). It's possible that shadow from the building across the street to the east might be a factor. Based on the data, it's clear that there are a few popular "hotspots" in the park with the presence of more users. These include the area around the ping pong table, the Pavilion, the area with movable chairs, the new gateway, some of the seat walls, the large chessboard, and the chess benches along Maynard Avenue. It is clear from the different maps that the park appears to function well by providing different areas for different users, even as the number of total users expands and contracts. When combined, the data show that park almost all spaces in the park are used. Even the back area with the bamboo groves and exercise equipment gets some uses especially the park appears to be busy.

One of the most interesting findings is how the activities spread out throughout the entire park with no strong distinction between the old site and the new expansion at different times during the day and on weekdays and weekends. One of the concerns during the planning and design process for the new expansion was that the old park might become neglected since all the improvements would be located in the expanded area.

It appears that the new expansion has benefited the old site by allowing different activities to spread out throughout the park, and by providing better sightlines, circulation, and more positive uses overall. This is particularly evident in the use of the Pavilion. Now overlooking the new expansion with clear sightlines from all angles, it has been used by more and a wider variety of users. The popularity of the ping pong table adjacent to the Pavilion also makes the Pavilion a popular spot to watch people play.

In terms of age distribution, there is not a clear distinction between the different age groups and where they occupy. In September weekday mornings, there are more older adults in the

old part of the park. But on weekend afternoons in October, there were more older adults in the new expansion and under the Pavilion. During the CID night market, the new expansion seemed to serve as a breakout area for younger users. Aside from these instances, there was no clear distinction between the different age groups. It appears that the park is serving people of all ages.

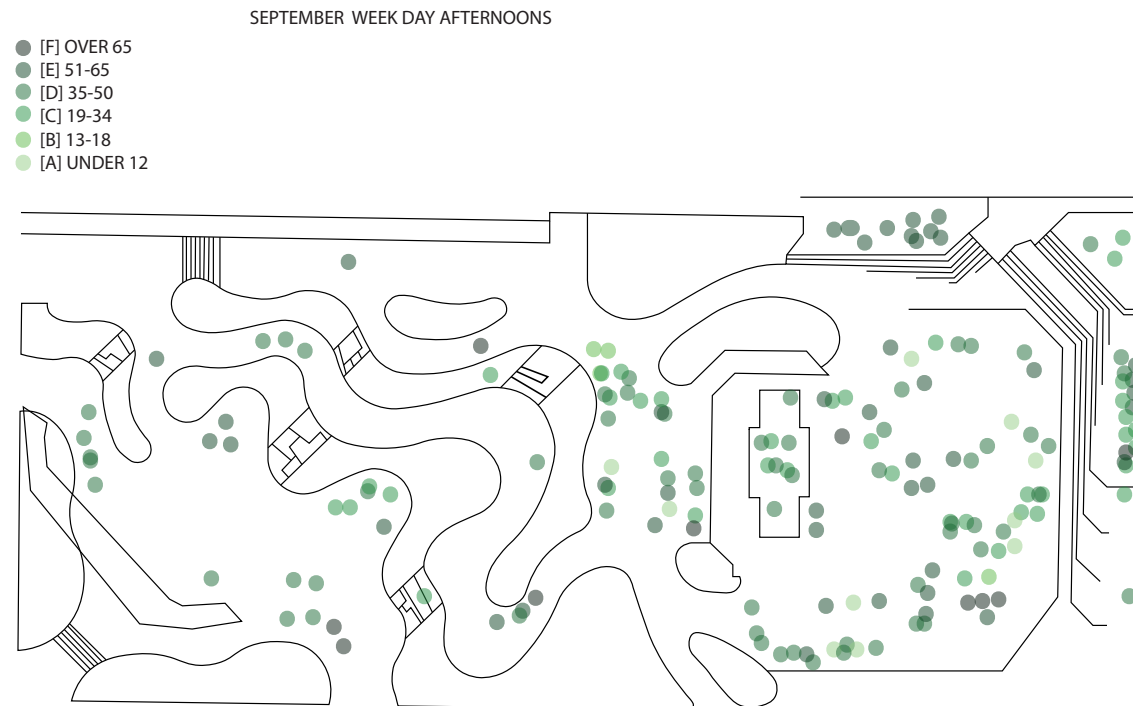
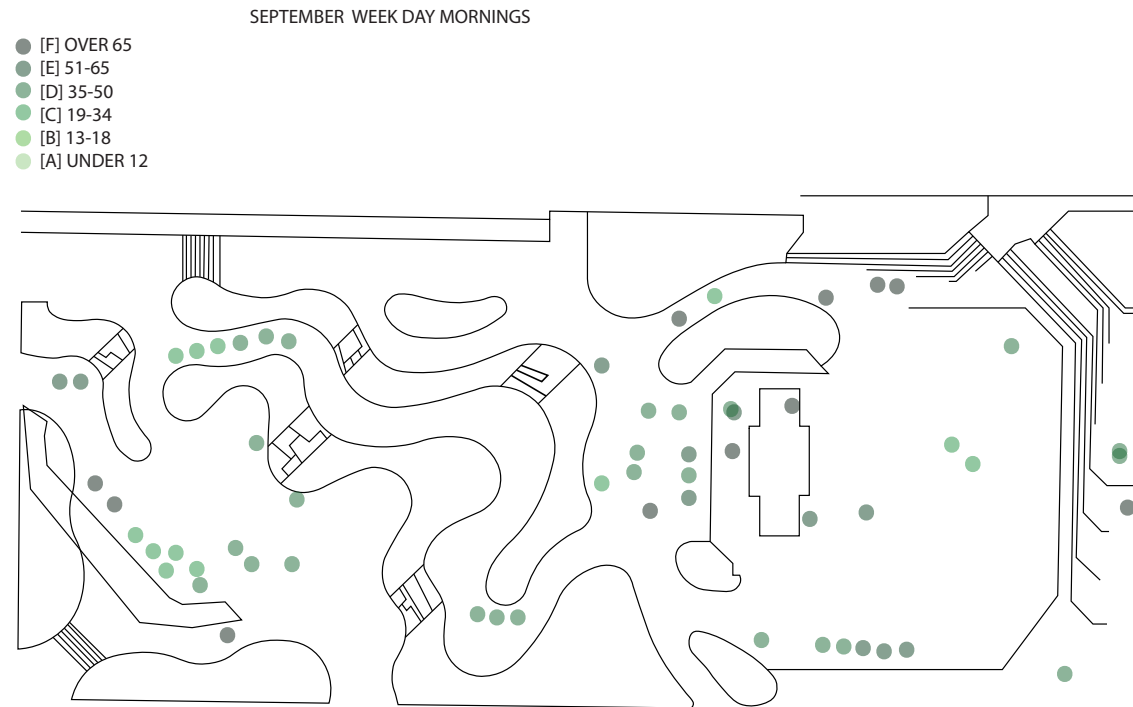
In terms of movements, similar to activities, there have been more in the afternoons and even evenings than mornings. Overall, the multiple paths and entries seem to provide a variety of ways for people to enter and go through. The west and southwest entries in the new expansion seem particularly well used. The red steps also appear to connect the lower and upper levels of the park and provide additional ways users can go through the park. Based on the movement, the Pavilion also seems to serve as a destination.

### SEPTEMBER USER GROUPS

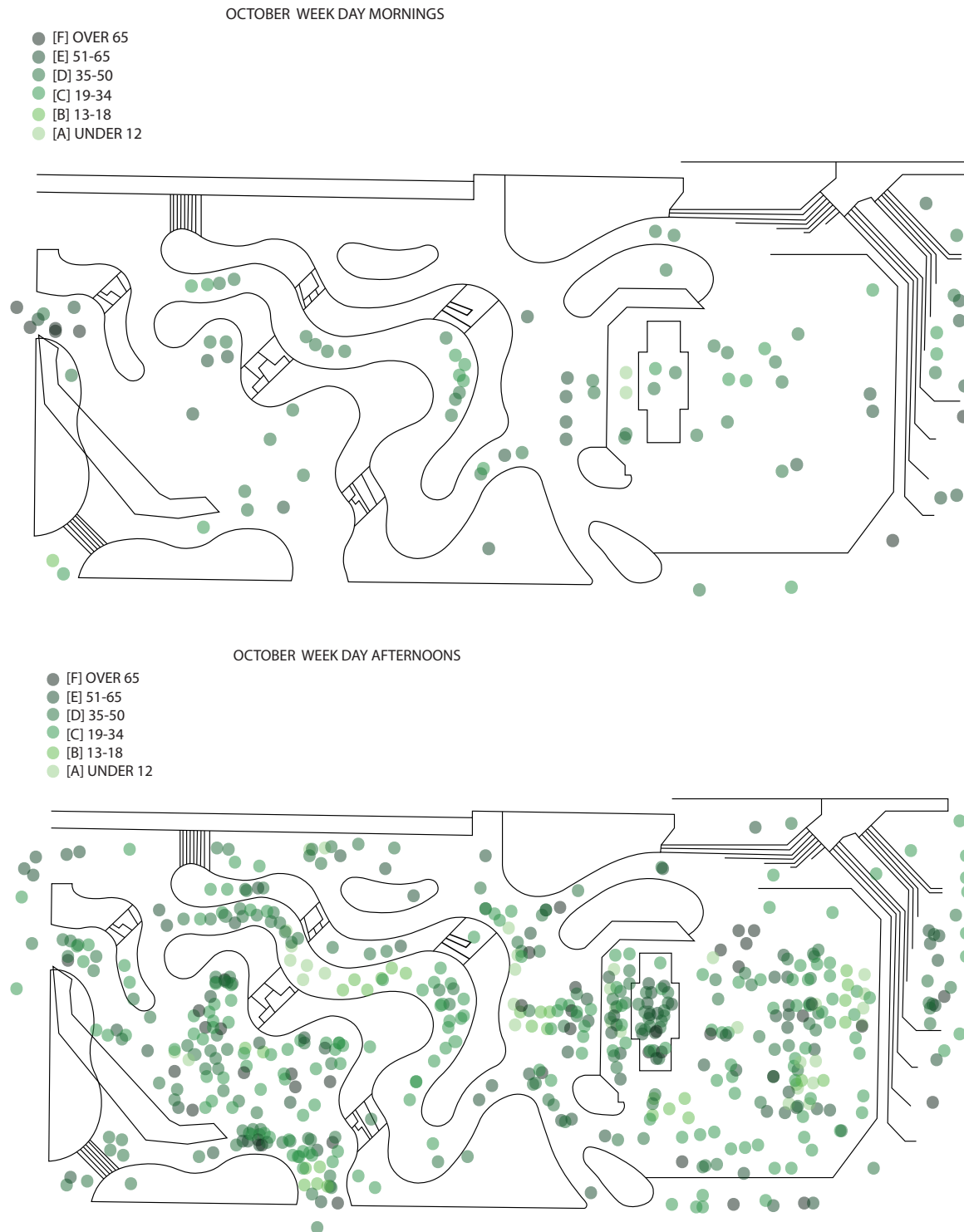
- [F] OVER 65
- [E] 51-65
- [D] 35-50
- [C] 19-34
- [B] 13-18
- [A] UNDER 12



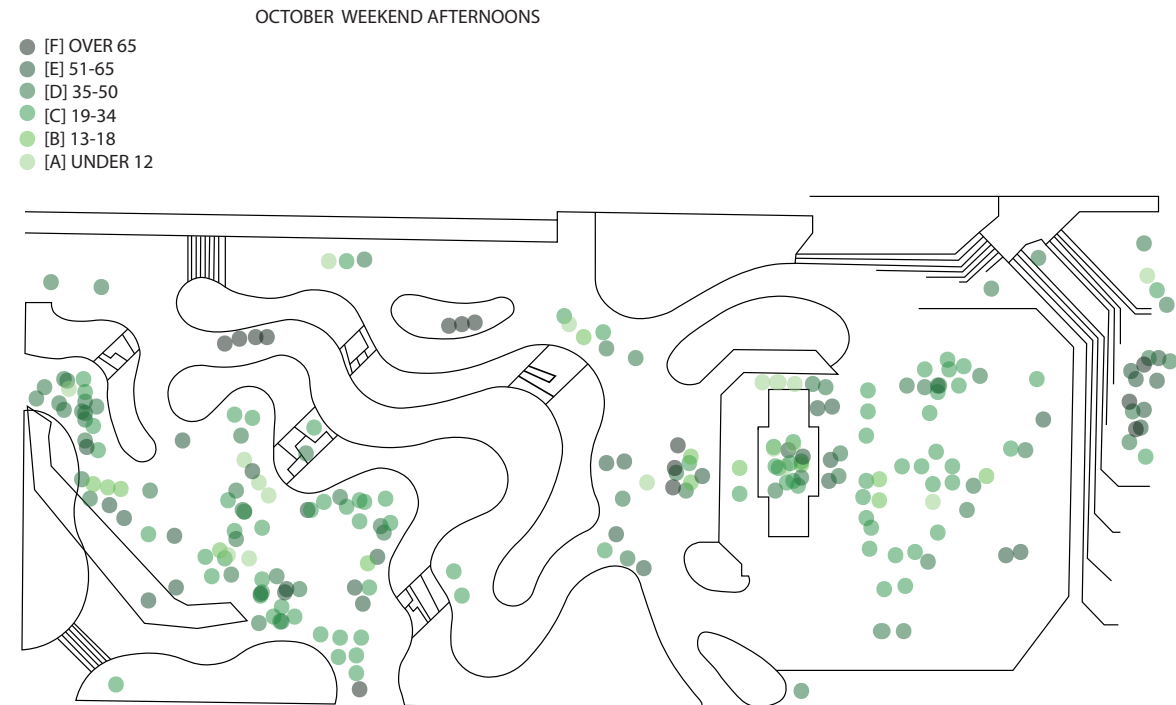
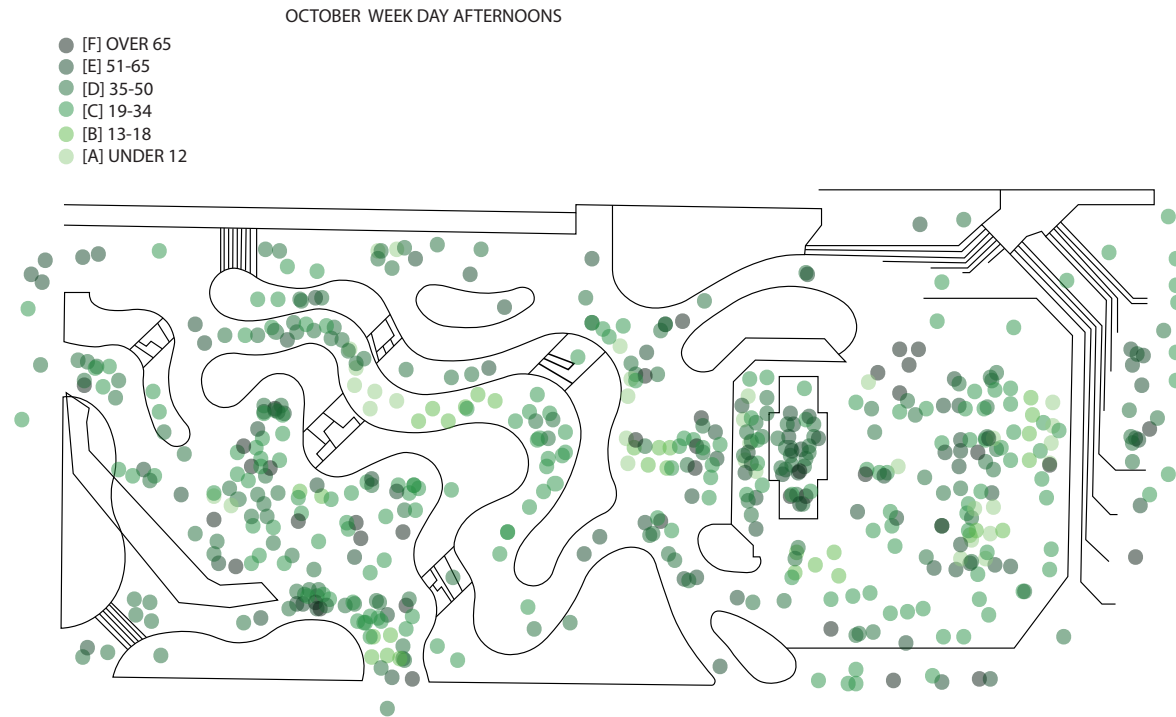
**Figure 3.3** Composite maps showing locations of activities based on data from September 2018, including the Night Market event focusing on the East side of the park.



**Figure 3.4a** Park uses on weekday mornings and afternoons in September 2018.

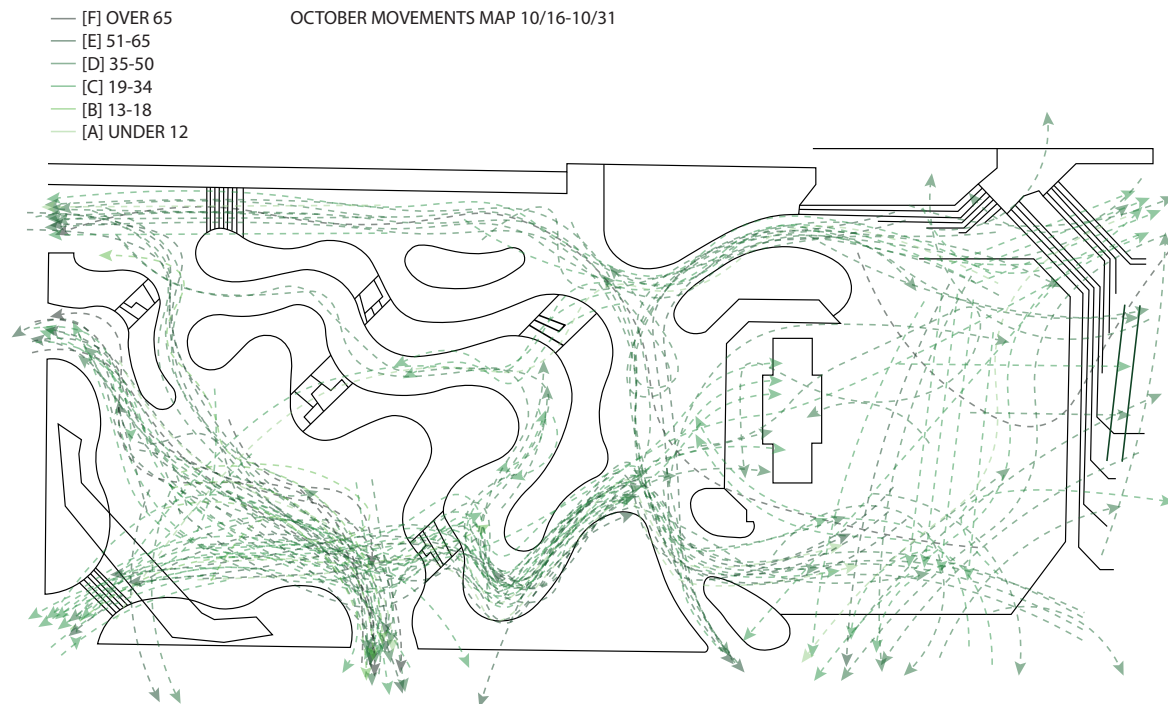
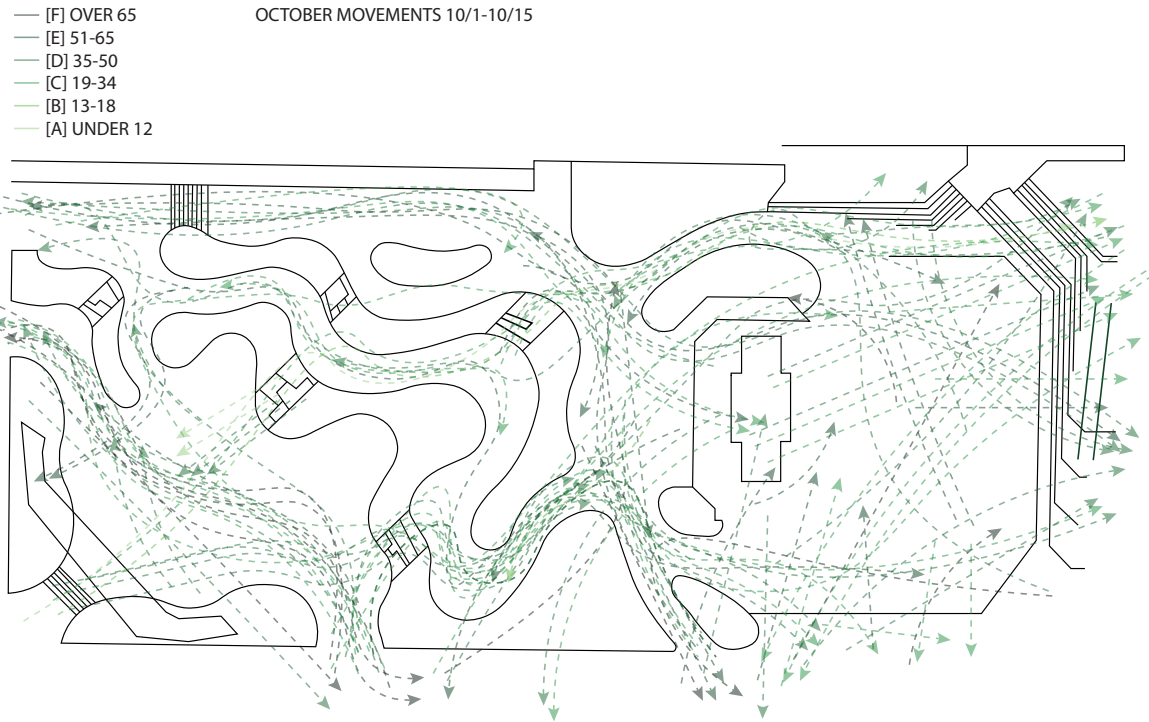


**Figure 3.4b** Park uses on weekday mornings and afternoons in October 2018.



**Figure 3.5** Park uses on weekday and weekend afternoons (October 2018)





**Figure 3.6**  
Composite maps  
showing movements  
of park users  
based on data from  
October 2018.

## Survey Results

To collect input from park users and neighborhood residents, a survey was conducted through both online and paper questionnaires. Altogether 72 questionnaires were completed, including 33 paper questionnaires (29 in Chinese and 4 in English). From the survey, the majority (51%) are daily and frequent (several times a month) users. In contrast to International Children's Park, only 23% were residents. The full results are available in **Appendix D**.

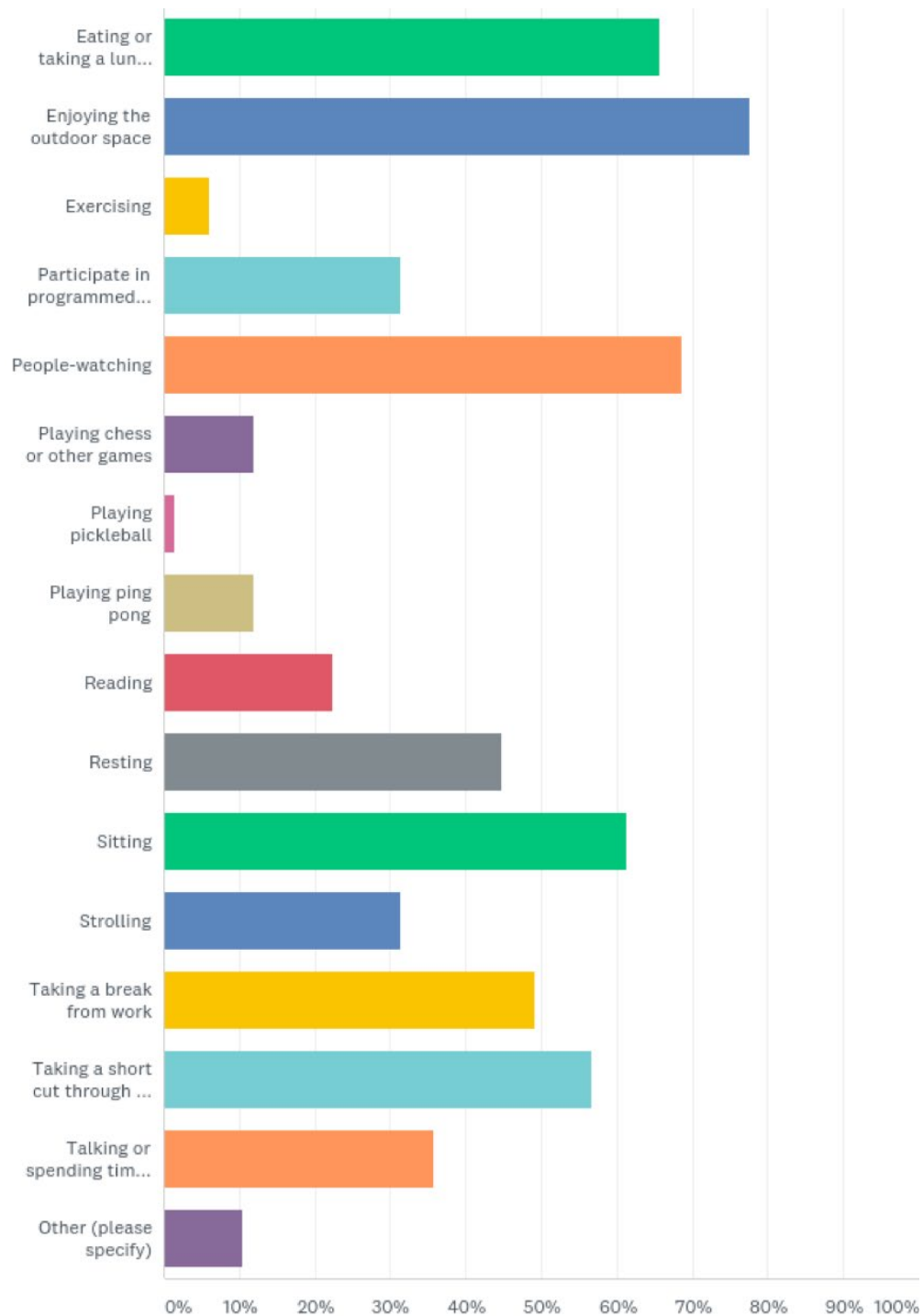
Similar to the Donne Chin International Children's Park, the vast majority of the respondents hold a favorable view of the park based on their experience (64% very favorable and 33% somewhat favorable). Only a very small percentage of respondents have an unfavorable view of the park. Even though most of the respondents are not residents, a majority still walk to the park, followed by public transportation, driving, and biking. In contrast to the International Children's Park, however, there is a higher percentage (70%) of people who visit Hing Hay Park by themselves although a significant percentage (61%) of people do visit with their friends and/or families, and even young children (13%).

In terms of activities engaged by the respondents when they visit the park (**Figure 3.7**), "enjoying the outdoor space" is ranked the highest at 78%, followed by "people-watching" (69%), and "eating or taking a lunch break" (66%). Perhaps because the majority of the respondents are not residents, it seems like many visit the park on a more casual basis, including "taking a short cut through the park" (57%), "taking a break from work" (49%). This shows that the park is serving a much wider range of users beyond the residents. Although we do not have data to suggest that these users contribute to the local economy, it's clear that they do contribute to positive uses in the park and improve overall park safety. Again, the high percentage of respondents engaged in "sitting" and "resting" together with other uses such as eating, talking, reading, etc., suggest the importance of places for users to sit to support different uses.











In terms of features in the park used by the respondents (**Figure 3.8**), the movable chairs were ranked the highest at 85%, followed by terraced paths (67%), red step seating (66%), chess benches (47%), and seat walls (50%) in the new expansion. This suggests that the features in

the old park and the new expansion are both being used, and the features in the new expansion are contributing to the functionality of the old park. It's interesting to note that a significant portion of the respondents (39%) (higher than the new kiosk 13%) continue to use the bulletin board in the Southeast corner despite the lack of repair.

In terms of what the respondents find attractive in the park (**Figure 3.9**), “a place to sit and enjoy outdoors” is ranked the highest at 92%, followed by “a place to meet with friends” at 70% and “greenery and vegetation” at 59%. This suggests the critical importance of open, green, social space in downtown neighborhoods. Other significant features include events and programs (56%), which echoes the results for International Children’s Park. It’s important to note how the new features in the new expansion have been received, with the red step seating at 51%, artistic lighting at 43%, and the new gateway at 38%. It’s also important to note how the Pavilion still ranks very highly among the respondents at 48%.



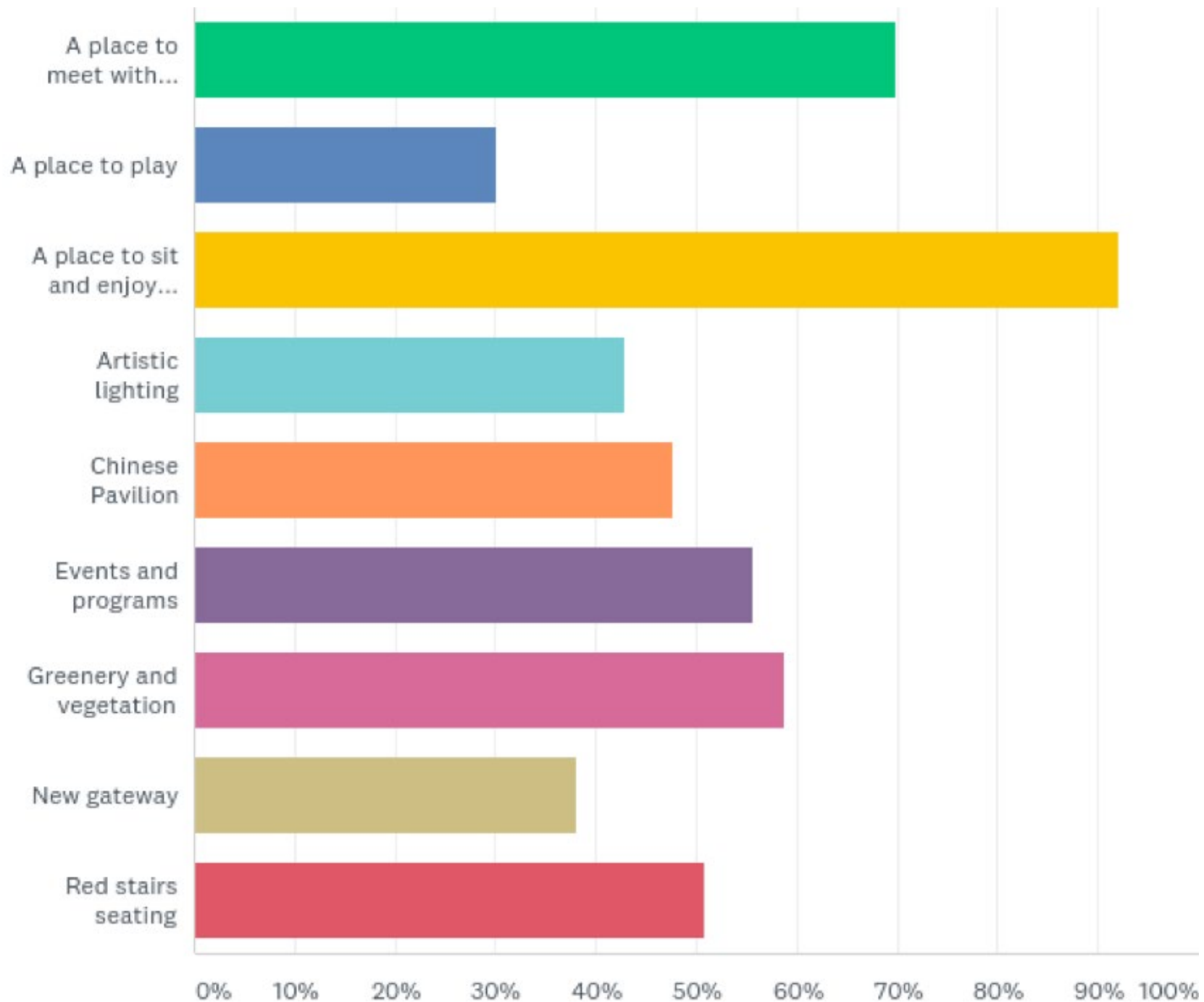
**Figure 3.7** What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (check all that apply) (n = 67)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
	85.48%	53
	46.77%	29
	43.55%	27
	50.00%	31
	14.52%	9
	12.90%	8
	30.65%	19
	66.13%	41
	67.74%	42
	38.71%	24
Other (please specify)	3.23%	2
Total Respondents: 62		

**Figure 3.8** What features of the park do you use? (Check all apply) (n=62)

Other important findings include a strong majority of the respondents (83%) who find the park to be welcoming to everyone, a key intention in the design for the new expansion, and that a majority find the park to be either “very safe” (24%) or “safe most of the time” (59%). Among the factors contributing to park safety, “good visibility” is ranked the highest at 78%, followed by activities in the park (75%). This again demonstrates the importance of physical design, combined with positive uses of the park, to improve and ensure park safety. Obviously, cleanliness (71%) and lighting (66%) remain as important factors. At the same time, the top factor that makes one feel unsafe is the presence of illicit or suspicious activities (78%), followed by litter (48%). This suggests the importance of continued maintenance together with public safety watch and police presence.



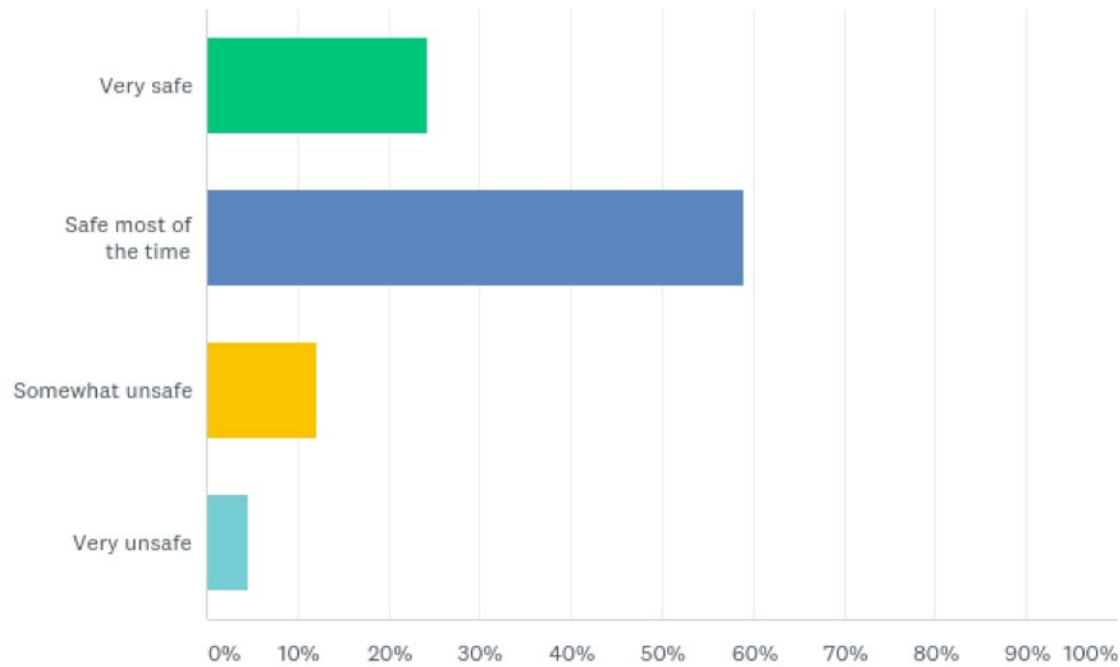


**Figure 3.9** What do you find attractive in the park? (n = 63)

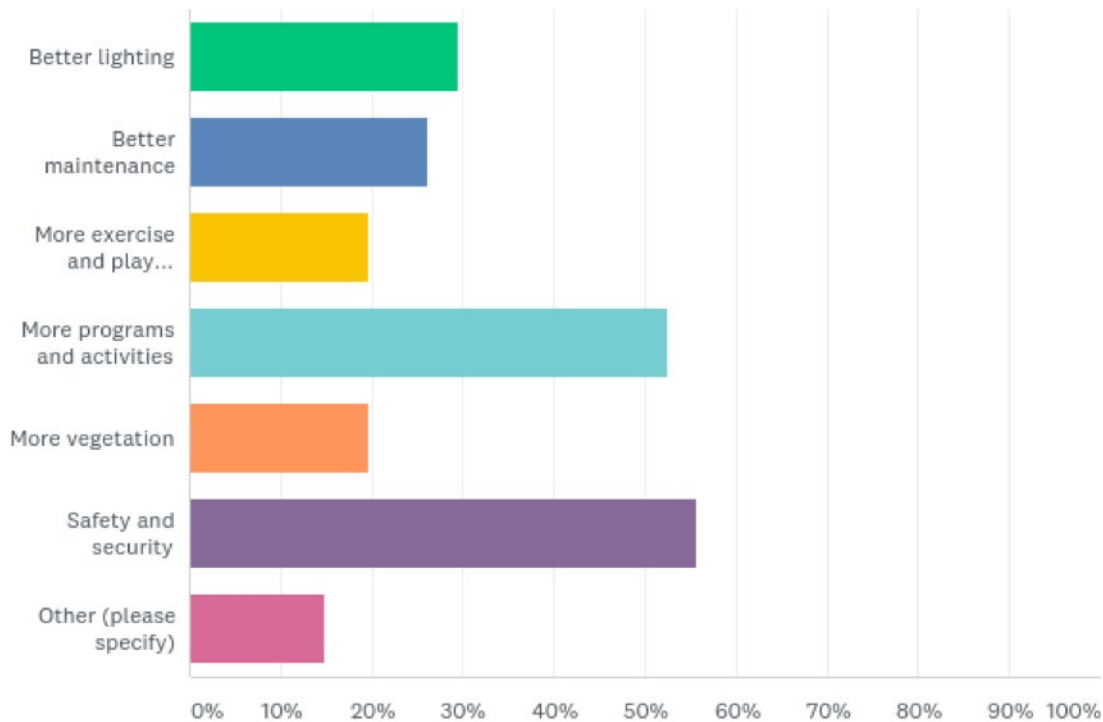
In terms of what can be improved about the park (**Figure 3.11**), "safety and security" are ranked the highest. Similar to International Children's Park, although the majority of respondents find the park to be safe, safety and security remain a top concern. This may suggest a general challenge facing the neighborhood and the continued attention and vigilance needed to keep the park safe.

Similar to Donnie Chin International Children's Park, rather than physical improvement, "more program and activities" is ranked the highest (52%) behind "safety and security." At 30% and 26% respectively, "better lighting" and "better maintenance" are identified as areas for further improvement. A significant portion of the respondents also selected "more exercise and play equipment" (20%) and "more vegetation" as areas of improvement.

As for additional comments on what respondents like or dislike about the park, the positive comments are generally about the active uses of the park, the open space, ping pong table, and how the park serves as a community space. There are also positive comments about the gateway and the red seating. In contrast, most negative comments are directed toward concerns for safety, presence of homeless, "unsavory characters," and need for more greenery. See **Appendix D** for full comments.



**Figure 3.10** How safe do you feel in the park? (n = 66)



**Figure 3.11** What can be improved about the park? (Check all apply) (n = 61)

## Interview Findings

**“I’m just really pleased with the whole results and how we got there you know there was a long, a lot of people put in a lot of their time to make it happen and all those people that were involved should be thanking all of them because, without all of their help, none of this would have happened.” (A community volunteer)**

For this study, we interviewed twelve individuals who represent residents and those who have participated in the project as residents, community volunteers, members of the Friends group, designers, staff of community organization, city staff, and a member of the International Special Review Board who reviewed the project. The findings are organized based on the main questions asked during the interviews.

### **What do you see as the primary goals of the project? Do you think the goals have been met?**

Most interviewees commented on creating a gathering space and a space for events as the primary goal for the project. The ISRB member commented, “Better use of public space – that serves the community more specifically; more space to engage in recreation – having a place for people to be.” A staff of a community organization echoed, “I think to have a central meeting and gathering play place for the neighborhood, and a central identity for the neighborhood, and something that was supposed to be more of an icon for the neighborhood, and a place to have events.”

Several people also mentioned community input and reflecting community identity as additional goals. A community volunteer commented, “The project itself had process goals, in terms of making sure that the voices of the community and the different users were integrated.” Another community volunteer commented, “To expand the existing and do it with community input.” A member of the Friends group summed it up, “Oh! It’s all of those, active living, cultural identity, economic development, attracting more visitors to the district, but it can’t lose its spirit of community, diverse community, collective community governance, and input.”

On whether the project has met its goals, there were conflicting opinions. Some were very positive in their view of the park. One community volunteer commented, “What I really love

about the Hing Hay expansion is that is that you have an established Hing Hay Park that people know is a gathering place, where a community comes together in times of sadness and times of joy, for the fair.” She continued, “The way it is designed, in terms of having little spaces for different activities, is really good. So you have people just out there sitting around, you have games, a couple of exercising you do, and in many ways, it really resonates for me for what I saw in China when I traveled, in terms of how the locals use their parks as almost like their backyard and extended house. I really love that park.”

Others are more reserved. One member of a community organization commented, “Yes and no. I think that part of it is that if you build it they will come. And now that it is finished, the place exists and I think it is being utilized. I don’t think it is being utilized to its best capacity. A lot of it I think has to do with programming it, either from parks or the main part or whatever on a more consistent basis.”

Another staff commented, “I think in some ways there might be too many elements in the park that are kind of competing for space in some ways, like the exercise machines, I know initially everyone thought oh that’s a great idea, but as frequent observer I don’t see those things getting used very much.” Another staff commented, “We still have some problem areas, like some of the homeless, like some of those that are drinking. Not all the homeless are bad but, we still do have a few problems.”

### **What aspects of the project have been the least successful and the most?**

Positive comments include “welcoming,” “tons of people,” “buoyant,” and “delightful.” A community volunteer commented, “I think it’s more welcoming, it was designed with seniors and children in mind.” One resident commented, “I think more people coming out to eat lunch and sit down [...] I think that the games are a good feature, and it’s wonderful that they can still be used by people of the community.” A staff of community organized commented, “Well I think the most successful has been [...] obviously the ability for people to gather in a whole variety of different manners, right, individuals, groups, large groups... It also freed up the older part of the park for that kind of activity.” One member of the Friends group commented, “All in all I think it’s done great for the neighborhood or the congregation of the neighborhood. And there’s all kinds of people, it not just Chinese, all kinds of people visit the park.”

The increased size of the park matters for other interviewees as well. A staff commented, “I think it’s a good idea, to enlarge the Hing Hay Park because in the beginning for me it was not a park at all. Just a small facility there. So now it’s much better, I like the design.” There were also comments on the cultural character of the new expansion. A member of the Friends group commented, “I think the most successful is the overall design. It’s very pleasant and it looks Asian. The landscape, the shrubberies and all that, makes the park look very nice.” Artistic lighting also received positive comments. One staff commented, “I guess the lighting... there are elements of the park I think the lighting is very delightful and nice [...] I think people enjoy them, people see them, people comment on them, I hear people talk about them.”

In terms of the least successful aspects, there are concerns about how well the park functions as an event space, the use of the exercise equipment, comments on the new gateway, and discrepancy between the old park and the new expansion. One staff of a community organization commented, “Since it’s opened, part of the struggle, good and bad, is when we have large events, how do we use the park the best way possible. We have done our events on the street, for example, kind of around the park and not in the park, it’s kind of challenging to get it in the park.”

On the exercise equipment, another staff commented, “I don’t know that the exercise equipment is being utilized as much as we had hoped it would.” Yet another staff commented, “So I did request to have some tools for seniors to do exercise. Finally, they installed this one but looks like it’s for young people, not for the old people. So, not many people to play with that. I just saw two or three times, young people, they just play within a minute. So, not really useful.”

On the new gateway, one Friends group member commented, “Well we gave a lot of suggestions [for] the gateway, and it turned out OK. But it didn’t have enough Asian accent in it because of the metal structure they could not put more Asian designs in it.” A staff commented, “The gateway light... I guess it’s not something that people notice that much, I don’t know why, it’s such a big element but I don’t know if it’s not bright enough or what the deal is. It doesn’t seem to be doing the job.” There were also others who came to appreciate the gateway for what it does. One community volunteer commented, “I never would have thought of a, you know, origami type of gate. Some people think it’s a monstrosity, but I’ve



always thought it was--you know you'll still bring people here whether it's nice-looking or it's ugly. You know they're going to come and see it because it's there. And that's not the only thing about the park. The whole design of the park is really well done."

The discrepancy between the old park and the expansion is an issue that needs to be addressed. One staff of a community organization commented, "I think also the inconsistency of the new part of the park and the old part of the park. For example, the lighting. When we do night market, for example, we can't utilize the old part of the park after 5 pm, it's too dark and unsafe. It's too costly to bring in all this rigged lighting to use for a few hours. So it ends up being a space that we just don't use, and that's really unfortunate."

The following highlights the key points made by individual interviewees:

**Least successful –**

- Challenge of homeless/transient population, including drinking problems
- Holding large event still a problem – should have consulted BIA more that is in charge of large events.
- Inconsistency between new and old parks in terms of lighting (the old park is quite dark)
- Gateway not having enough Asian accent
- People taking pictures of bleachers, making it uncomfortable to sit
- Exercise machines not adequate for the elderly
- Length of time to complete

**Most successful –**

- The overall design, layout
- Large, flexible gathering space – large enough for different activities at the same time
- Active use – contributing to safety
- Diverse users and uses (multigenerational uses, including teens), small groups, large groups
- Lighting – delightful artistic lighting
- Cultural identity – looks Asian
- Flexibility for programming – dance group, Ping Pong

**If participated in the design process, how was the quality of community engagement in the project? How can it be improved?**

The majority of the feedback on the quality of community engagement was quite positive. One community volunteer commented, "I thought that the community engagement was really done well. It was very systematic in terms of making sure it's in multiple languages. The Charrette was really done well. It is easily accessible to the neighborhood. The relationships that were built through time, made people happy and feel connected to the expansion of the park itself so that they feel proud about it, and that community ownership is just gold." Another community volunteer commented, "Well I felt that the whole Hing Hay park process of designing the park was a good process. It was brought to the community that lives here in Chinatown and it was not brought to them once but brought to them maybe three or four times. And it was designed to have neighborhood involvement and that was the first time I really experienced anything like that for the neighborhood. `Prior to that, there weren't too many things that were involved like that."

Yet another community volunteer commented, "The design process has been very lengthy but well thought out. Very lengthy, but well thought out, and our suggestions were listened to, with respect to physical things. I'm glad the way they brought us down to the fabrication center, to help us look and give us a feel for what steps they had to do, just the mechanical steps to get those, the gateway, to get that gateway put up. But they also listened and said, you know they're right about the lighting, the lighting needs to be enhanced for that be a safer place. Safety was really critical for that. So, I'm really glad they listened to our input."

The contention and struggle during the design process were not lost on the community stakeholders. One community volunteer commented, "There's an underlying politicalness to it, trying to accommodate, and that's what really is impressive about the park. How it, or the new extension, how it came about as a result of many, many, many compromises and discussion..."

There was at least one suggestion for improvements. Specifically, one community volunteer commented, "Absolutely, we had some rough spots in the advisory committee itself. I think that if we started off with some ground rules, that would have improved some of the behavior because what I saw was that people around the table were so polite that they allowed inappropriate behavior to go longer than it needed to."

**Additional comments:**

Throughout the interviews, the interviewees also identified specific issues facing the park and suggestions on how the park can be improved. One staff commented, “because of all the concerns about public safety and all that, I hope that the parks department is starting to think about ways to prune the trees or prune the bushes so that there’s more visibility.” Safety appears to be the main concern especially for those who live in the neighborhood. One resident commented, “I think the biggest problem is that people come here for the wrong reason. What do you do? Call 911? Problems are problems, pretty serious problems that are beyond the scope of park management.”

There was one insightful comment concerning the relation with Donnie Chin International Children’s Park. One staff of a community organization commented, “Yes, and then their kids, they say, oh, evening time or morning time we would like to bring our kids to the Hing Hay Park. I say, why don’t you go to the Children’s park. The said because here is more convenient. Because it depends on the location of the building, and also, they told me, at the Children’s park, only have the slide, [...] [not] more options for the kids, they feel kinda like boring...”

## Feedback from Community Event

Feedback was collected at the CID Night Market in September 2018 (see **Figure 3.12**). Among the variety of features in the expanded park, the Pavilion stood out at the most highly used (28) according to those who participated, followed by “gateway & plaza” (17), “seating (steps)” (14), “seating (wall)” (12), “artistic lighting (step seating)” (11), and “seating (movable chairs)” (10). Other highly used features include “exercise (equipment)” (9), “pathways” (9), and “play (ping pong table)” (8).

In terms of what park features one would change, add, or improve, several comments point to maintenance (to address litters in particular), safety, and need for more greenery. One comment mentions that the exercise features were too easy. Another would like to see more performances and events. Specific comments are as follows:

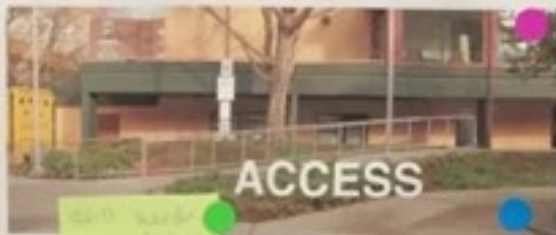
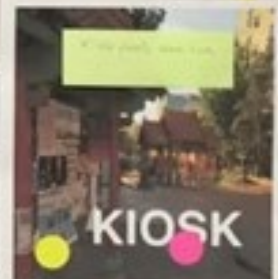
- Vegetation at the gate on the sidewalk leads up lots of litter piling up (Gateway)
- Not impressed; the gate is ugly, too modern (Gateway)
- More performances and events (Pavilion)
- More play equipment (Play)
- Offer ping pong paddles and balls to use
- Kiosk needs some love (Kiosk)
- More greenery (Terraces)
- Too many rats (Terraces)
- Not safe – especially night time – crazy people
- Exercise features are too easy (Exercise)
- More green
- More lighting
- Need better lighting inside the park = lighting study
- Safety
- Safety concerns, tall bushes (Pathways)
- Still needs more (ADA access)

(Next page) **Figure 3.12**  
Interactive board used  
during the Mid-Autumn  
Moon Festival to collect  
input in the park.

# HING HAY PARK

700 S Lane St, Seattle, WA 98104

- What park features do you **USE**? Put a sticker on it!
- What park features would you **CHANGE, ADD,** or **IMPROVE**? Tell us on a sticky note!



## Key Findings

- Survey respondents hold very positive views toward the park (64% very favorable and 33% somewhat favorable).
- The expanded park serves a wider variety of uses than the original park, with social uses recorded with the highest percentage.
- Ping pong table and games including bean bags and Jenga have been well used by park users and contribute to the active use of the park.
- A variety of opportunities for sitting allow users to stay and spend time in the park, and enable them to engage in a variety of individual and group activities.
- The park is attracting residents and visitors alike. The expanded area allows groups to self-organize and occupy different niches in the park, and enable groups of different sizes to gather.
- Activities spread out throughout the entire park, rather than concentrating on one side over the other. The new expansion has improved the functionality of the original park, including better visibility for the Pavilion, better circulation, and providing breakout spaces during events.
- The current exercise equipment needs to be re-examined to encourage more uses.
- Although the majority of survey respondents feel safe inside the park, there are still strong concerns for safety (ranked the highest for improvement), particularly the presence of illicit activities. Maintenance is also mentioned as a concern.
- Similar to Donnie Chin International Children's Park, the presence of the transient population has not prevented others from using the park.
- More programs and activities are also identified as a top priority for improvement, followed by better lighting and maintenance.
- The Pavilion continues to be a key feature in the park whose functionality has been improved with the expansion.
- Despite some concerns, the majority of those interviewed were pleased with the overall design and commended the community engagement process.





# **APPENDICES**

## Appendix A. Site Observation Log

### Donnie Chin International Children's Park

	September	October	November
<b>Weekdays</b>			
Morning	1	1	1
Noon/early afternoon	1	4	2
Late afternoon	4	4	1
Evening			1
<b>Weekends</b>			
Morning			
Noon/early afternoon	1		1
Late afternoon	3	3	1
Evening		1	
<b>Total</b>	10	13	7

### Hing Hay Park

	September	October	November
<b>Weekdays</b>			
Morning	1	2	1
Noon/early afternoon	1	4	2
Late afternoon	4	2	1
Evening		5	1
<b>Weekends</b>			
Morning			
Noon/early afternoon	1		1
Late afternoon	2	3	1
Evening			
<b>Total</b>	9	16	7

Appendix B. Site Observation Form

Data Collection: \_\_ Children’s Park; \_\_ Hing Hay Park; Date \_\_\_\_\_; Time \_\_\_\_\_; Weather \_\_\_\_\_; recorded by \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier	# in groups	Age range	Gender	Description of user(s)	Engaged activities	Notes

# Donnie Chin International Children's Park User Survey

# 76

**Total Responses**

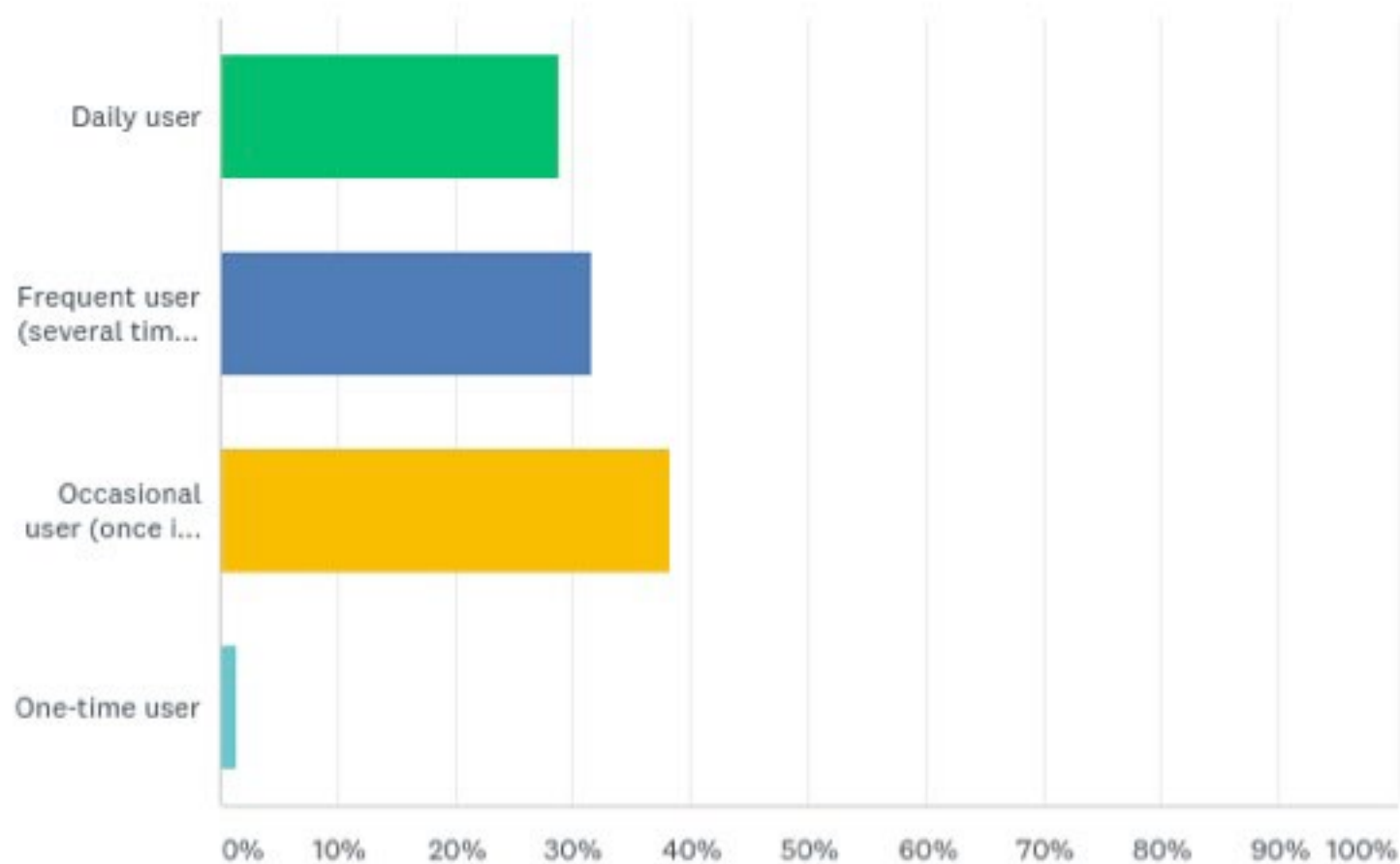
Date Created: Friday, September 07, 2018

Complete Responses: 71



# Q1: How would you describe yourself as a park user?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



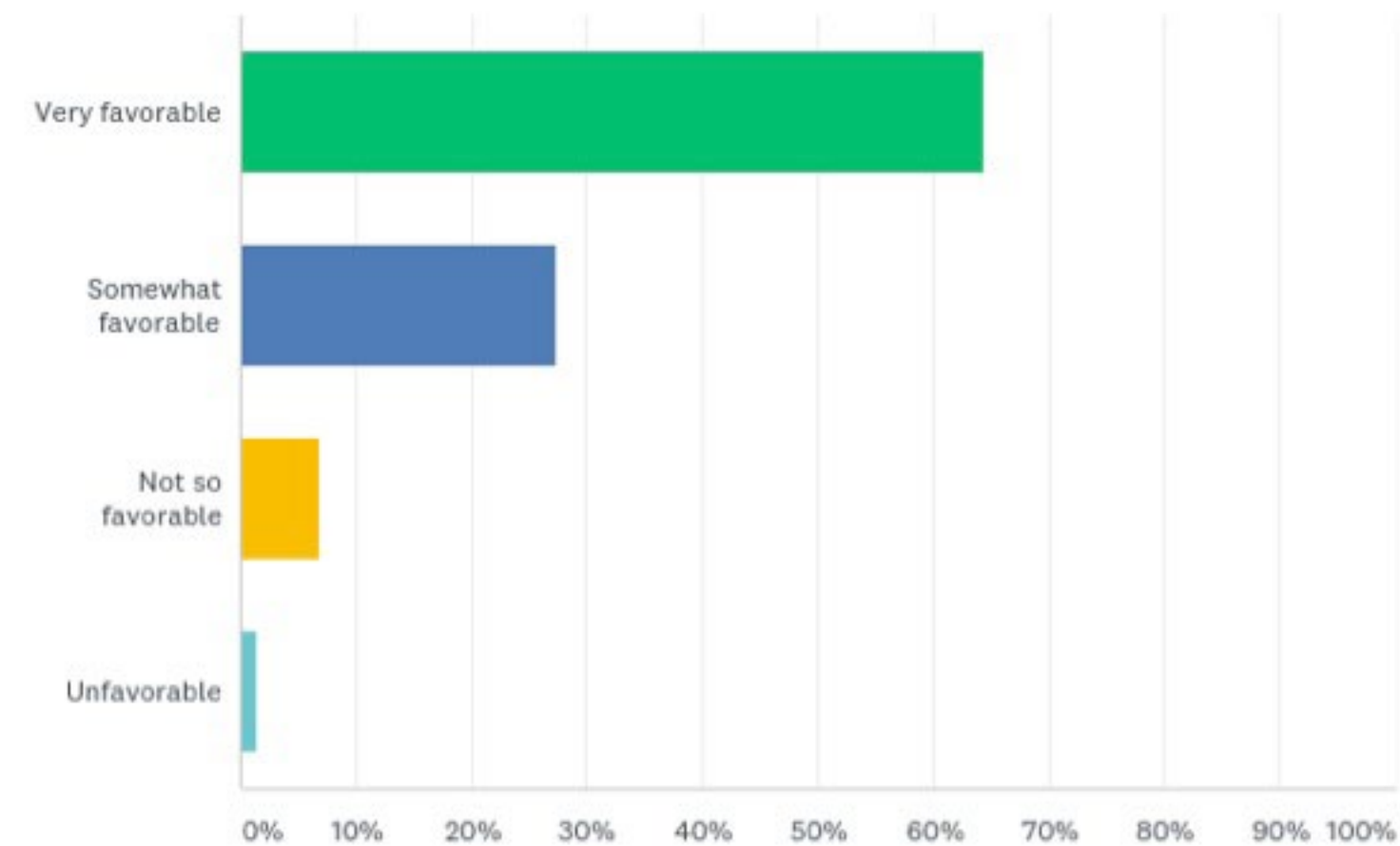
# Q1: How would you describe yourself as a park user?

Answered: 73   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily user	28.77%	21
Frequent user (several times a month)	31.51%	23
Occasional user (once in a while)	38.36%	28
One-time user	1.37%	1
TOTAL		73

# Q2: How would you rate your experience of the new park addition?

Answered: 73    Skipped: 3



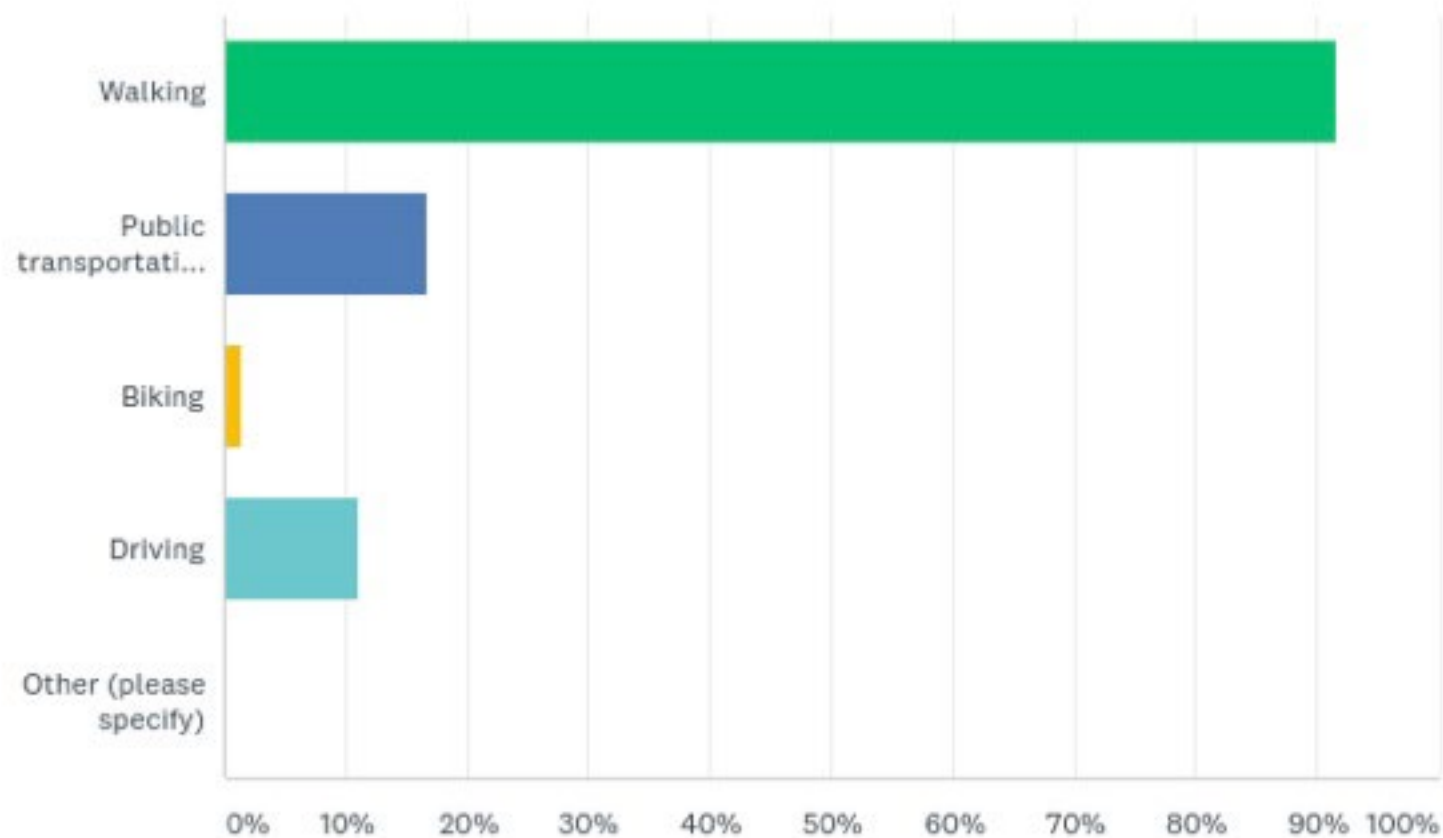
# Q2: How would you rate your experience of the new park addition?

Answered: 73    Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very favorable	64.38%	47
Somewhat favorable	27.40%	20
Not so favorable	6.85%	5
Unfavorable	1.37%	1
TOTAL		73

### Q3: How do you get to the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 72 Skipped: 4



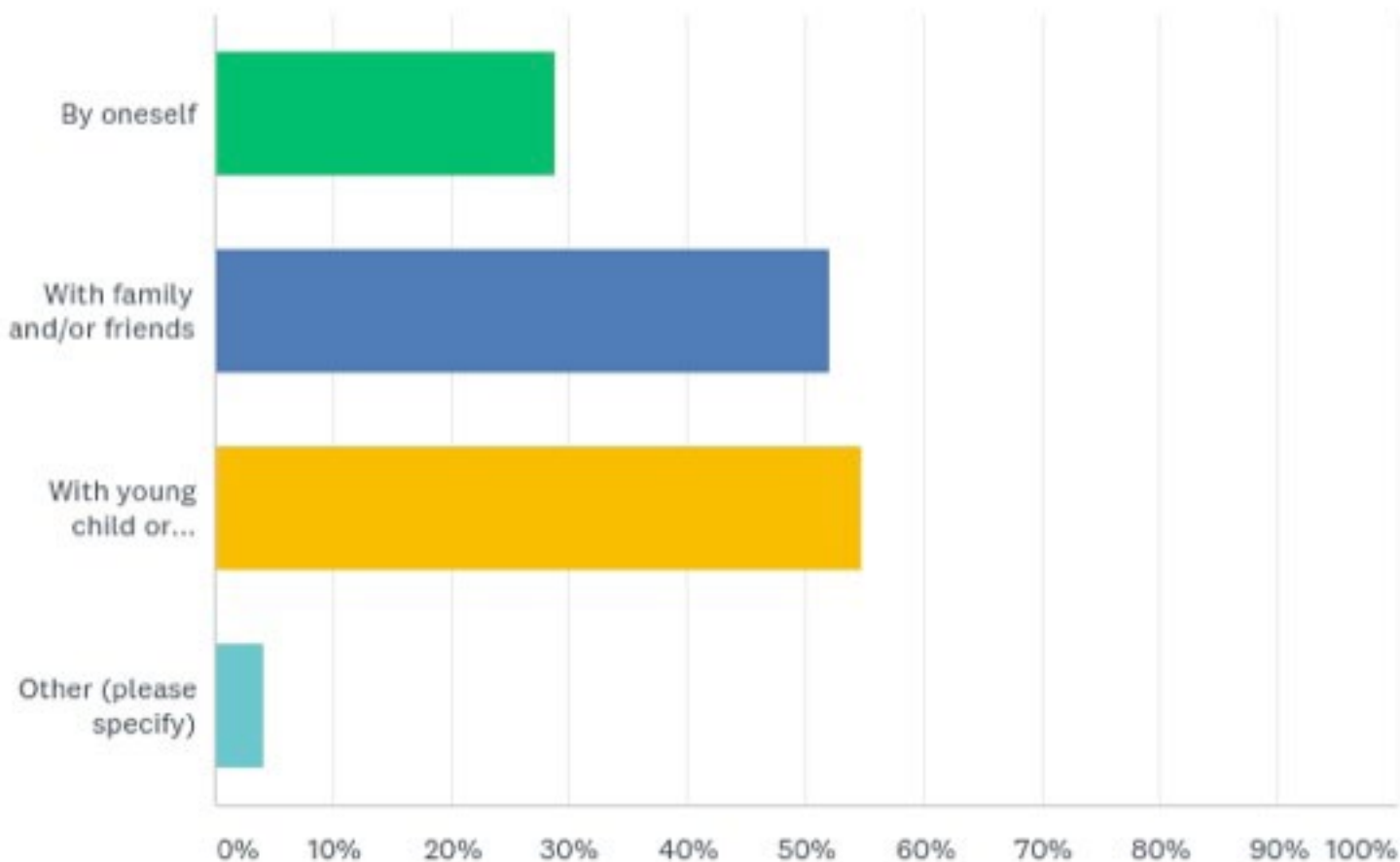
### Q3: How do you get to the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 72   Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	91.67%	66
Public transportation (Bus, Light Rail, Street Car, etc.)	16.67%	12
Biking	1.39%	1
Driving	11.11%	8
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 72		

## Q4: Do you usually come to the park by yourself or with family and/or friend? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3





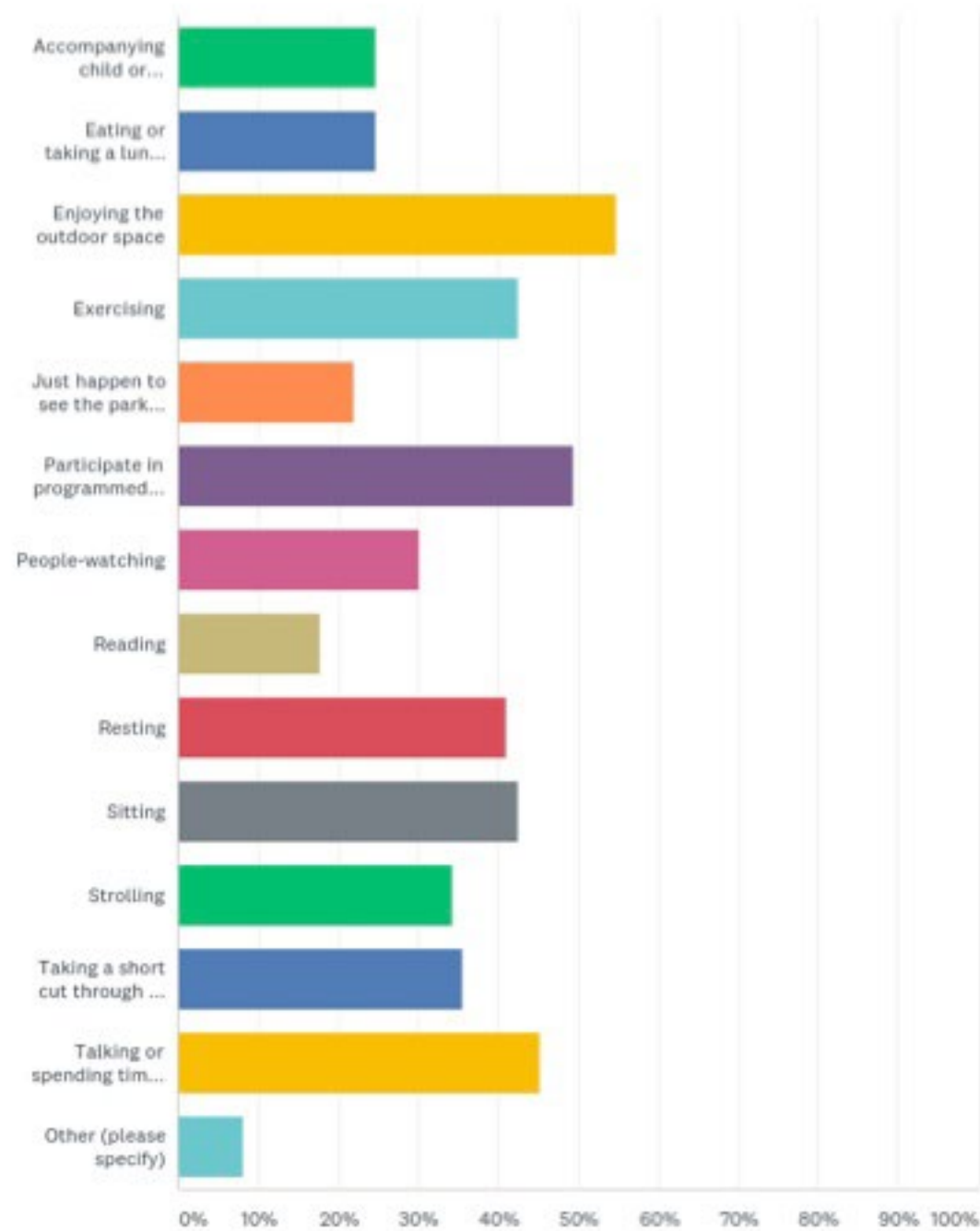
Q4: Do you usually come to the park by yourself or with family and/or friend? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
By oneself	28.77%	21
With family and/or friends	52.05%	38
With young child or children	54.79%	40
Other (please specify)	4.11%	3
Total Respondents: 73		

**Q5: What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (Check all that apply)**

Answered: 73    Skipped: 3






# Q5: What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accompanying child or children	24.66%	18
Eating or taking a lunch break	24.66%	18
Enjoying the outdoor space	54.79%	40
Exercising	42.47%	31
Just happen to see the park and stop by	21.92%	16
Participate in programmed events	49.32%	36
People-watching	30.14%	22
Reading	17.81%	13
Resting	41.10%	30
Sitting	42.47%	31
Strolling	34.25%	25
Taking a short cut through the park	35.62%	26
Talking or spending time with friends or family	45.21%	33
Other (please specify)	8.22%	6
Total Respondents: 73		

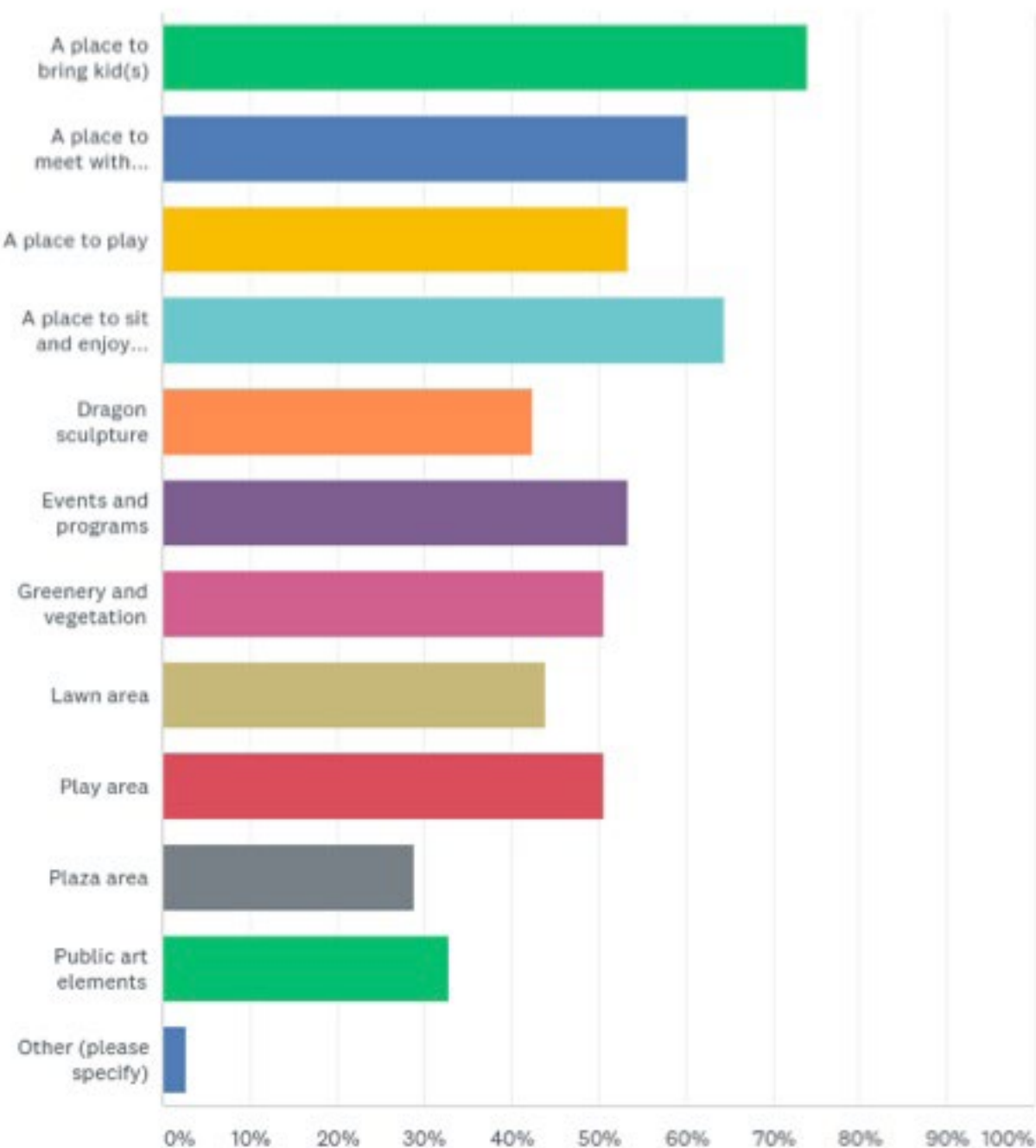
# Q6: What features of the park do you use? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 70    Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
	74.29%	52
	77.14%	54
	72.86%	51
	45.71%	32
	62.86%	44
	64.29%	45
	64.29%	45
	54.29%	38
	61.43%	43
	58.57%	41
Other (please specify)	4.29%	3
Total Respondents: 70		

Q7: What do you find attractive in the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



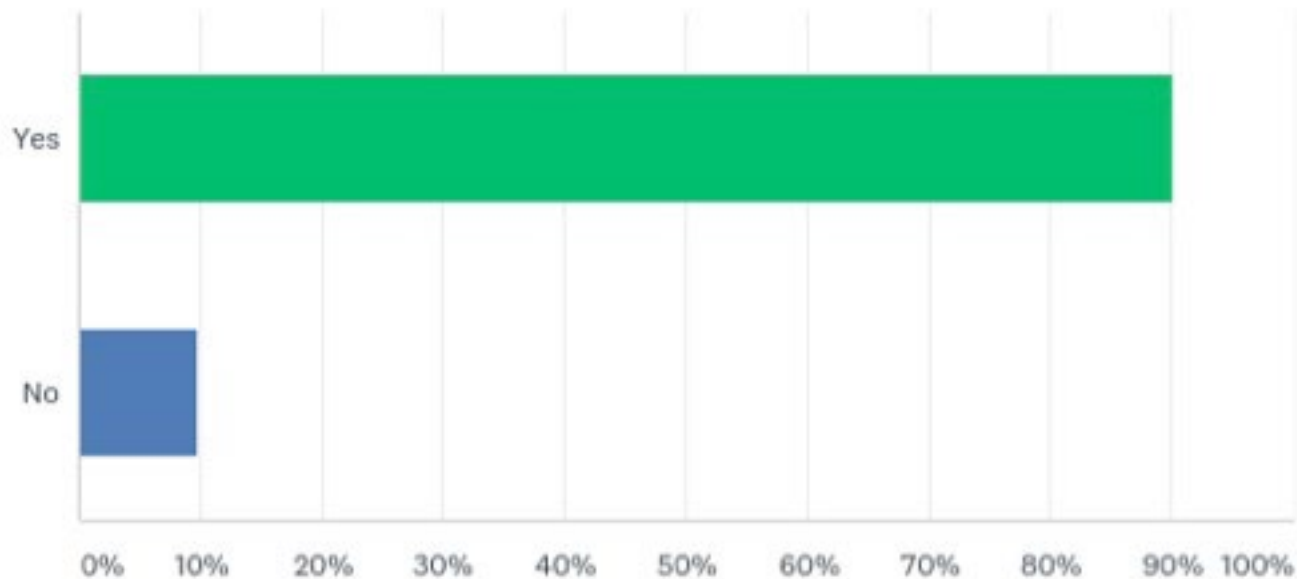
## Q7: What do you find attractive in the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A place to bring kid(s)	73.97%	54
A place to meet with friends	60.27%	44
A place to play	53.42%	39
A place to sit and enjoy outdoors	64.38%	47
Dragon sculpture	42.47%	31
Events and programs	53.42%	39
Greenery and vegetation	50.68%	37
Lawn area	43.84%	32
Play area	50.68%	37
Plaza area	28.77%	21
Public art elements	32.88%	24
Other (please specify)	2.74%	2
Total Respondents: 73		

# Q8: Do you feel that the park is welcoming to everyone?

Answered: 71    Skipped: 5

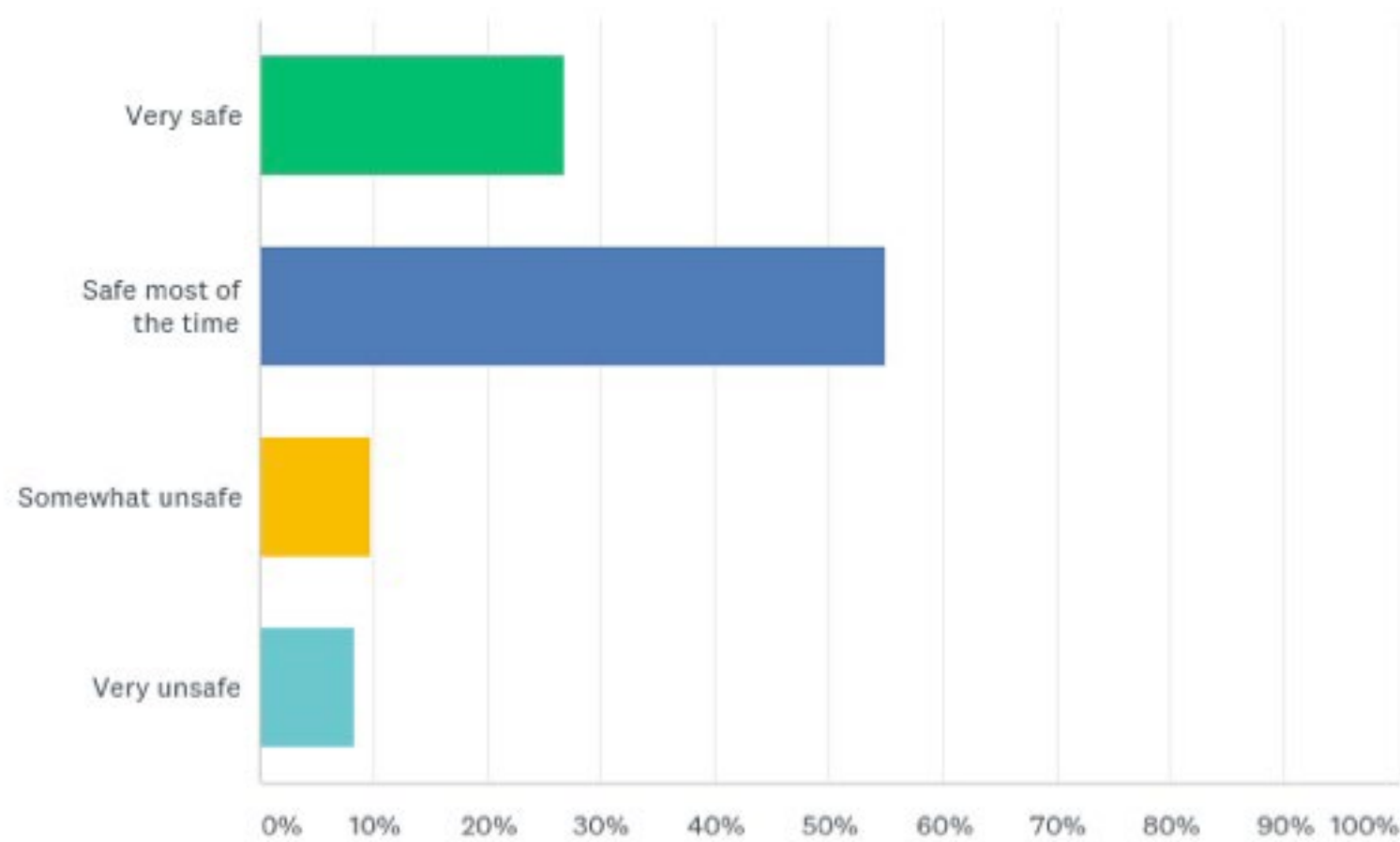


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.14%	64
No	9.86%	7
TOTAL		71



# Q10: How safe do you feel in the park?

Answered: 71    Skipped: 5



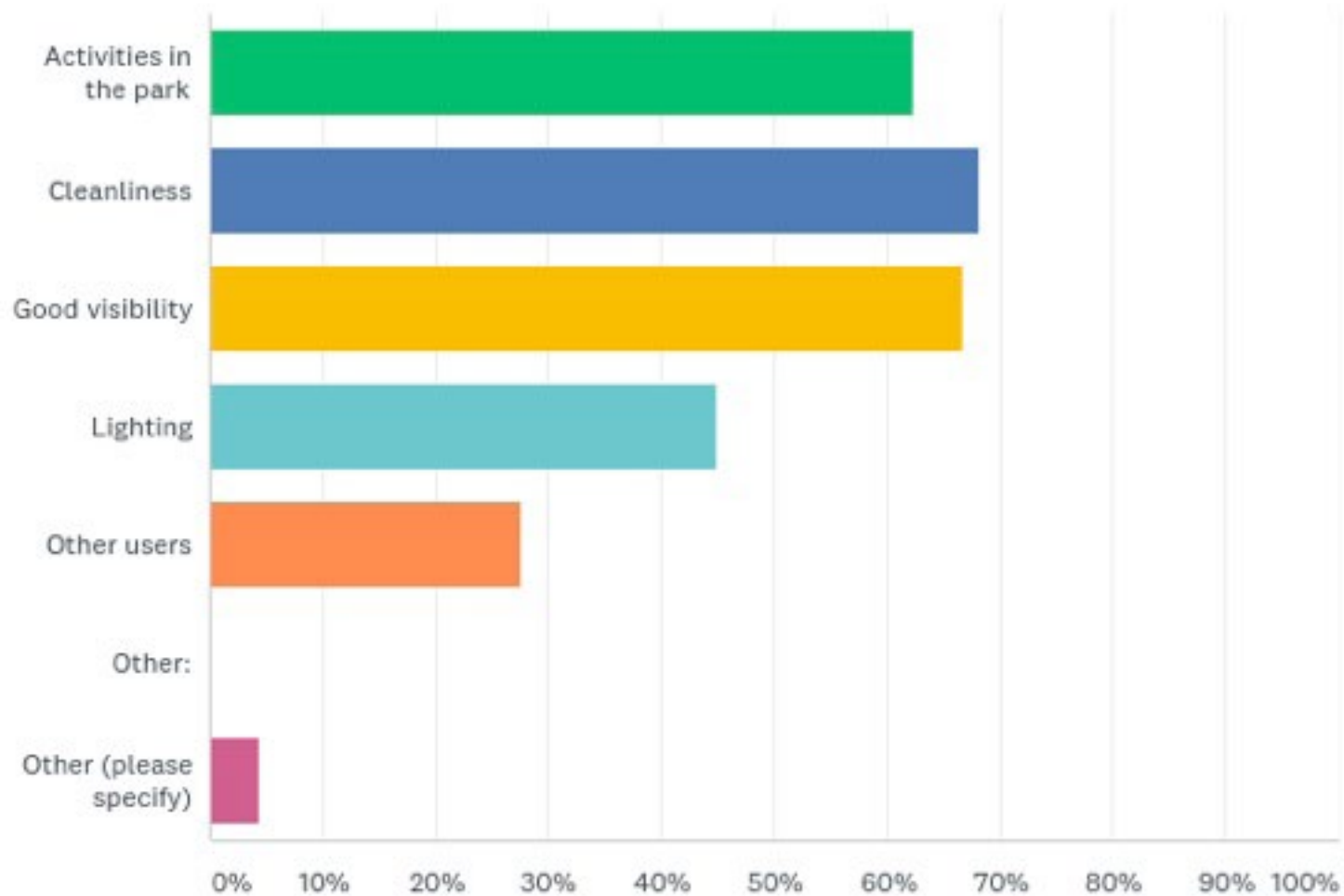
# Q10: How safe do you feel in the park?

Answered: 71    Skipped: 5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very safe	26.76%	19
Safe most of the time	54.93%	39
Somewhat unsafe	9.86%	7
Very unsafe	8.45%	6
TOTAL		71

## Q11: What makes you feel safe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 69 Skipped: 7



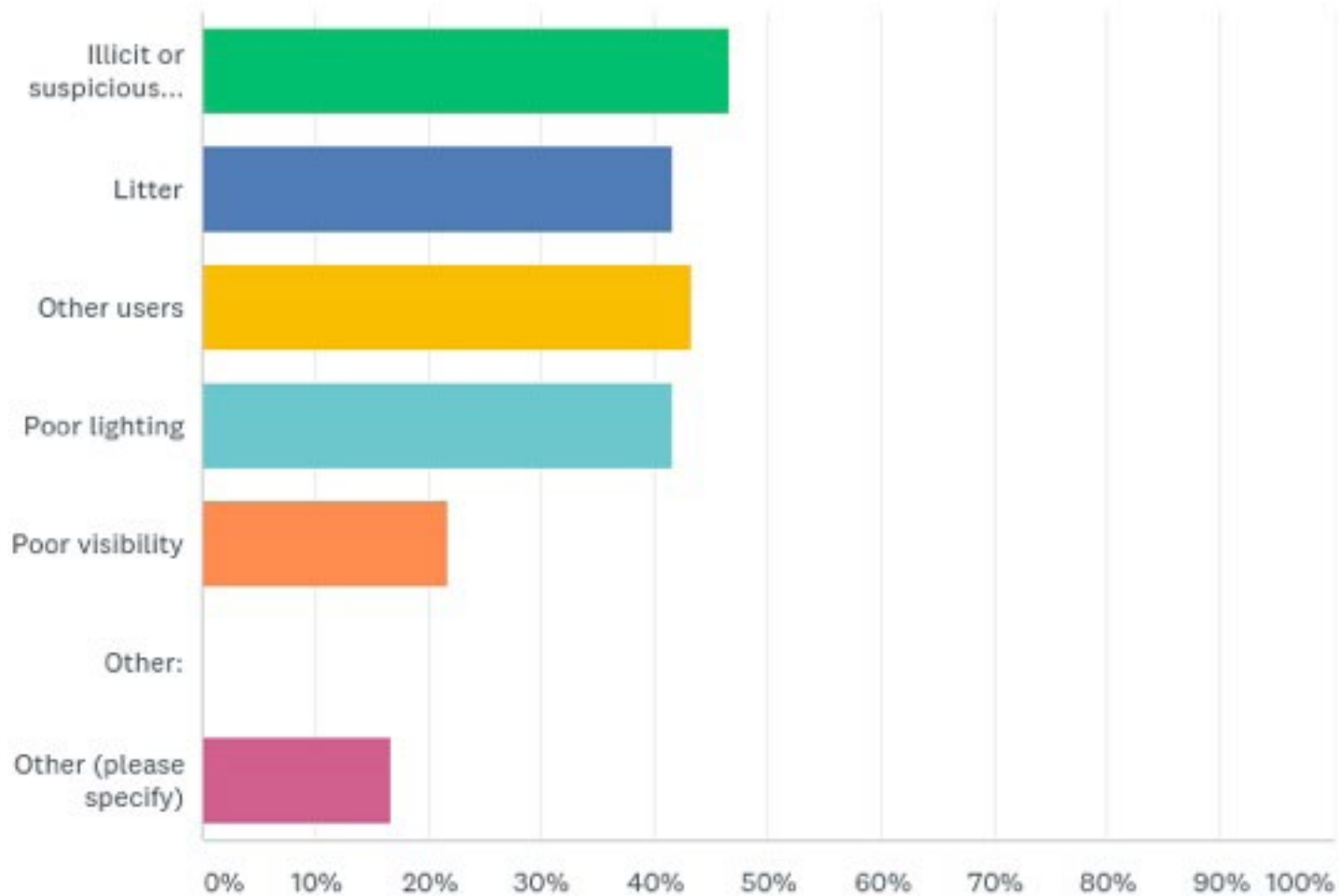
# Q11: What makes you feel safe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 69   Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Activities in the park	62.32%	43
Cleanliness	68.12%	47
Good visibility	66.67%	46
Lighting	44.93%	31
Other users	27.54%	19
Other:	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	4.35%	3
Total Respondents: 69		

## Q12: What makes you feel unsafe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 60 Skipped: 16



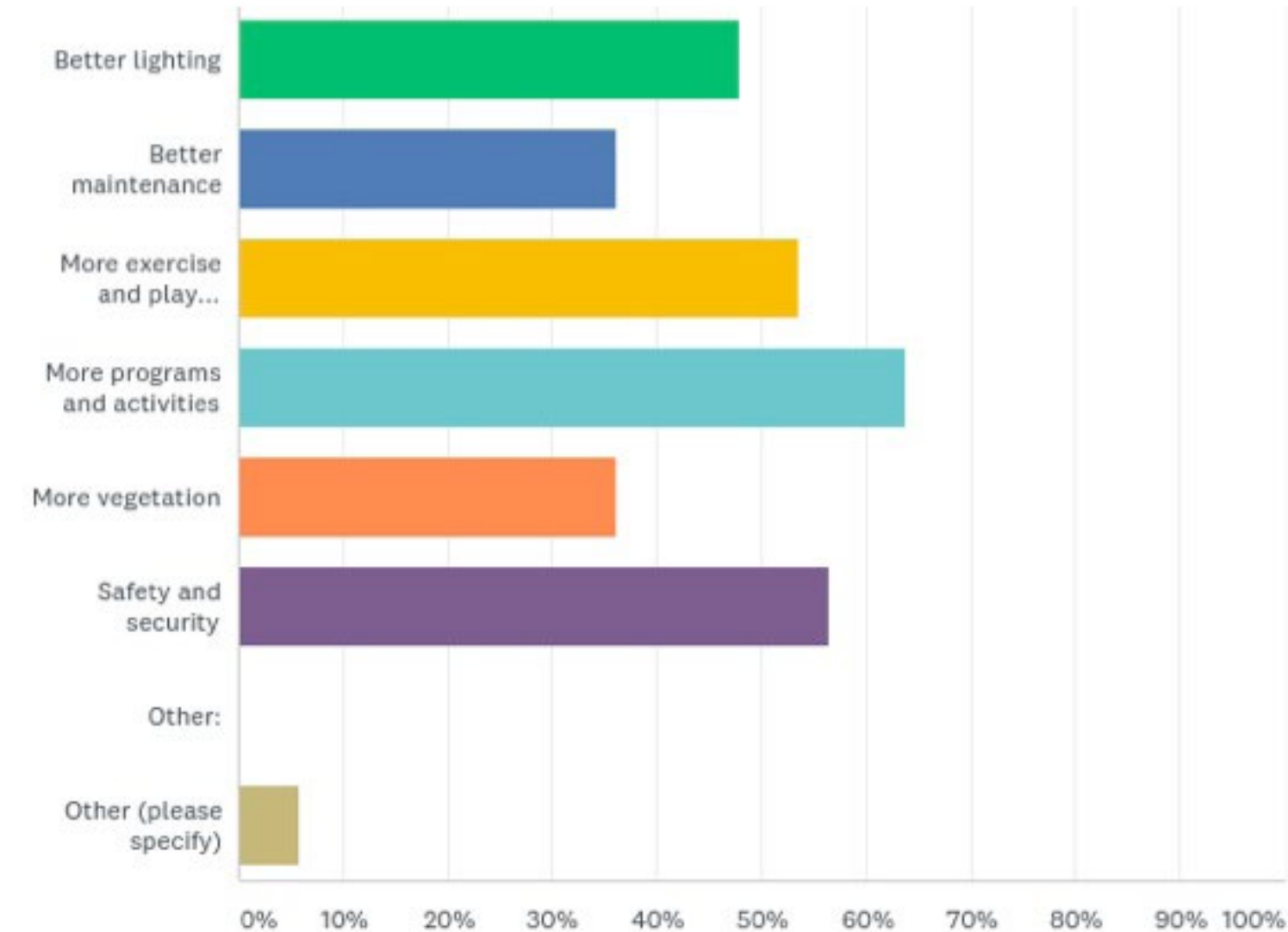
# Q12: What makes you feel unsafe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 60   Skipped: 16

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Illicit or suspicious activities	46.67%	28
Litter	41.67%	25
Other users	43.33%	26
Poor lighting	41.67%	25
Poor visibility	21.67%	13
Other:	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	16.67%	10
Total Respondents: 60		

# Q13: What can be improved about the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 69    Skipped: 7



# Q13: What can be improved about the park? (Check all that apply)

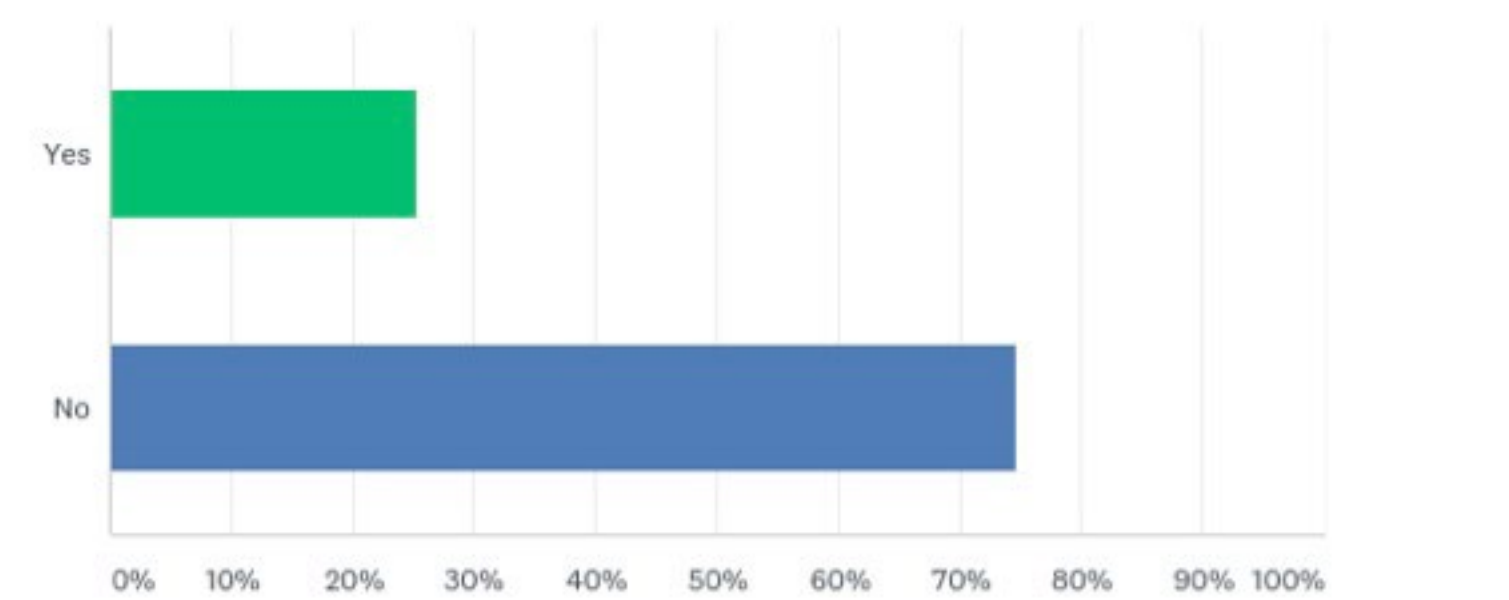
Answered: 69   Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Better lighting	47.83%	33
Better maintenance	36.23%	25
More exercise and play equipment	53.62%	37
More programs and activities	63.77%	44
More vegetation	36.23%	25
Safety and security	56.52%	39
Other:	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	5.80%	4
Total Respondents: 69		



# Q14: Did you participate in the planning and/or design process?

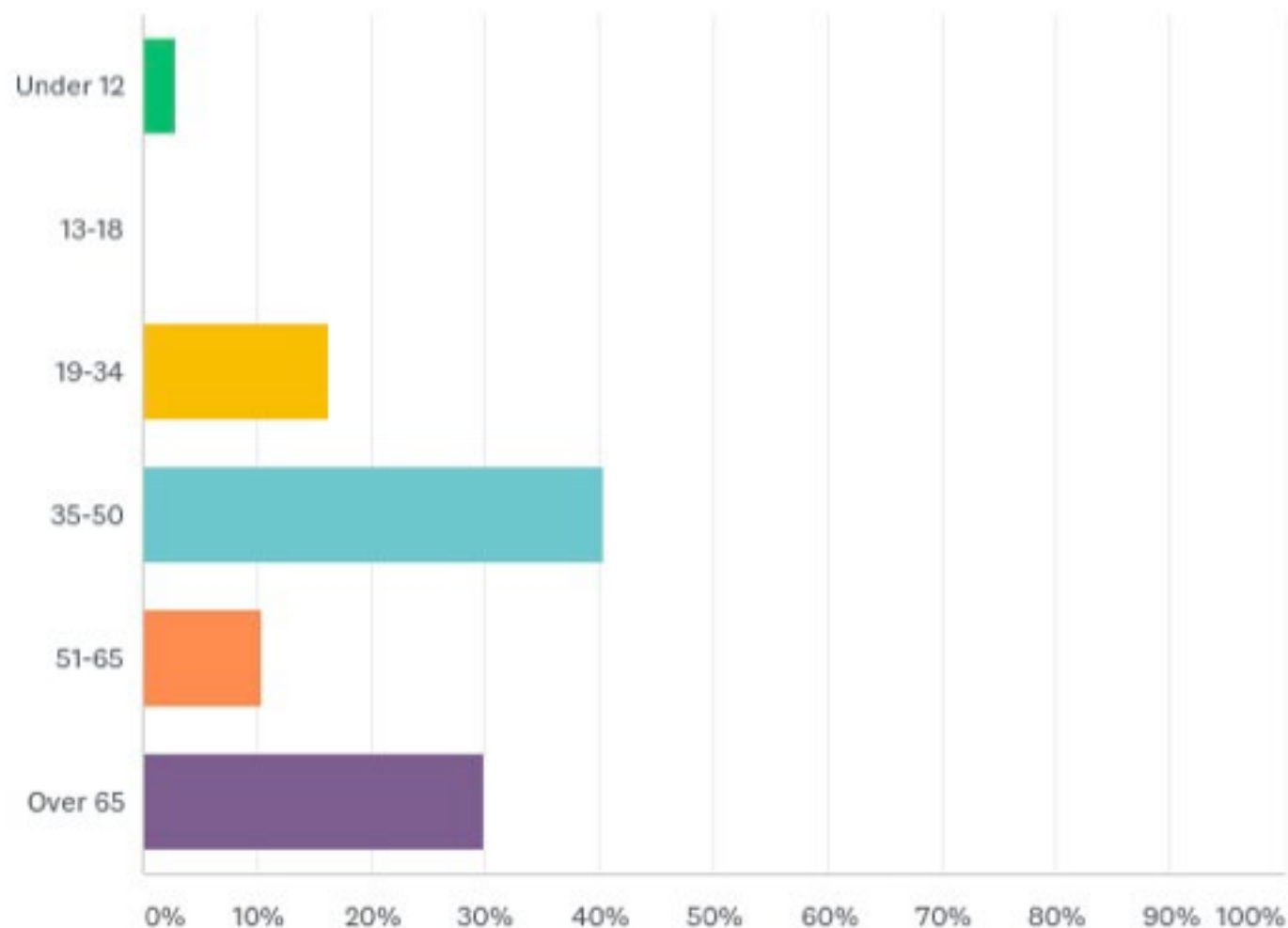
Answered: 71    Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.35%	18
No	74.65%	53
TOTAL		71

# Q19: Age

Answered: 67    Skipped: 9



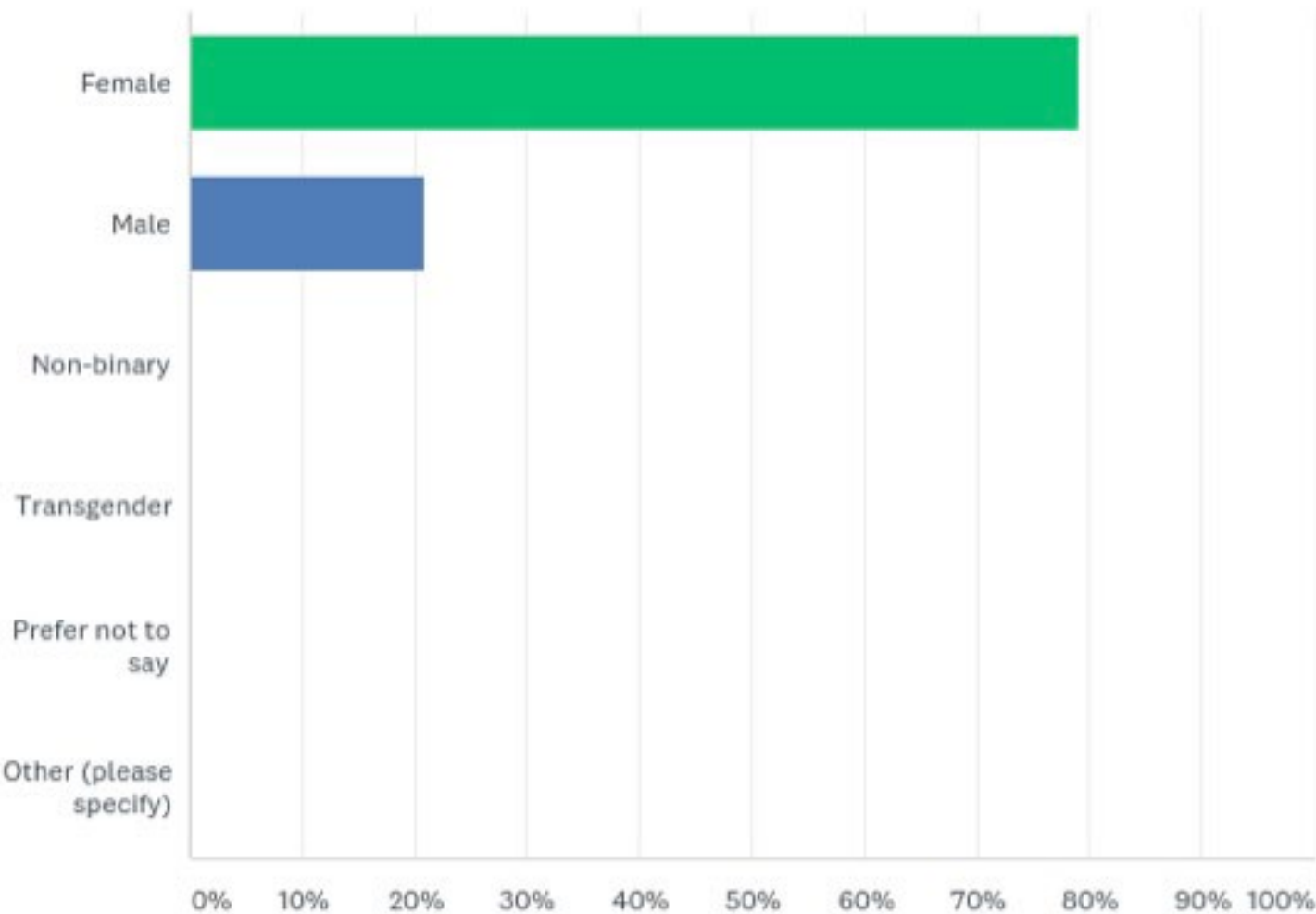
# Q19: Age

Answered: 67    Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 12	2.99%	2
13-18	0.00%	0
19-34	16.42%	11
35-50	40.30%	27
51-65	10.45%	7
Over 65	29.85%	20
TOTAL		67

# Q20: Gender (check all that apply)

Answered: 67    Skipped: 9



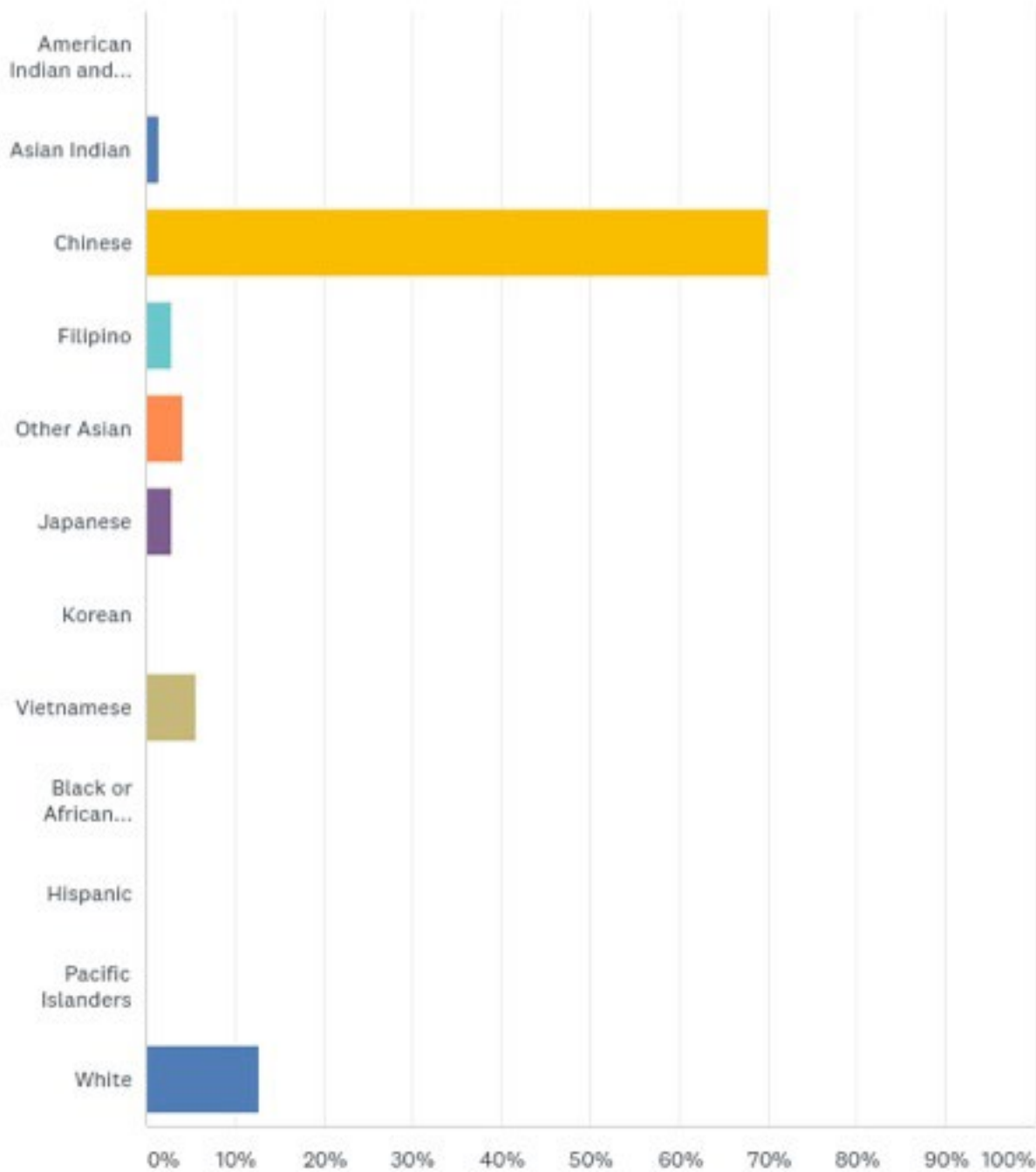
# Q20: Gender (check all that apply)

Answered: 67    Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	79.10%	53
Male	20.90%	14
Non-binary	0.00%	0
Transgender	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 67		

# Q21: Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply)

Answered: 70   Skipped: 6



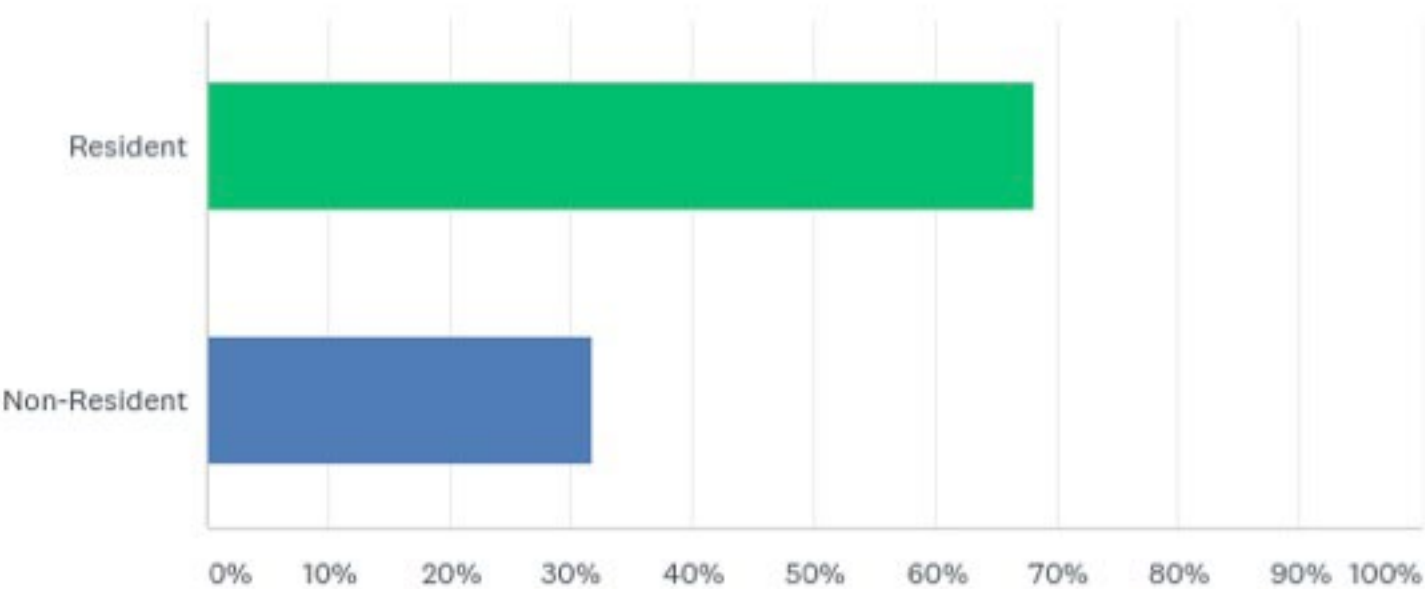
## Q21: Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply)

Answered: 70   Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.00%	0
Asian Indian	1.43%	1
Chinese	70.00%	49
Filipino	2.86%	2
Other Asian	4.29%	3
Japanese	2.86%	2
Korean	0.00%	0
Vietnamese	5.71%	4
Black or African American	0.00%	0
Hispanic	0.00%	0
Pacific Islanders	0.00%	0
White	12.86%	9
Total Respondents: 70		

# Q22: Chinatown International District Resident or Non Resident?

Answered: 69    Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident	68.12%	47
Non-Resident	31.88%	22
TOTAL		69



# Hing Hay Park User Survey

**69**

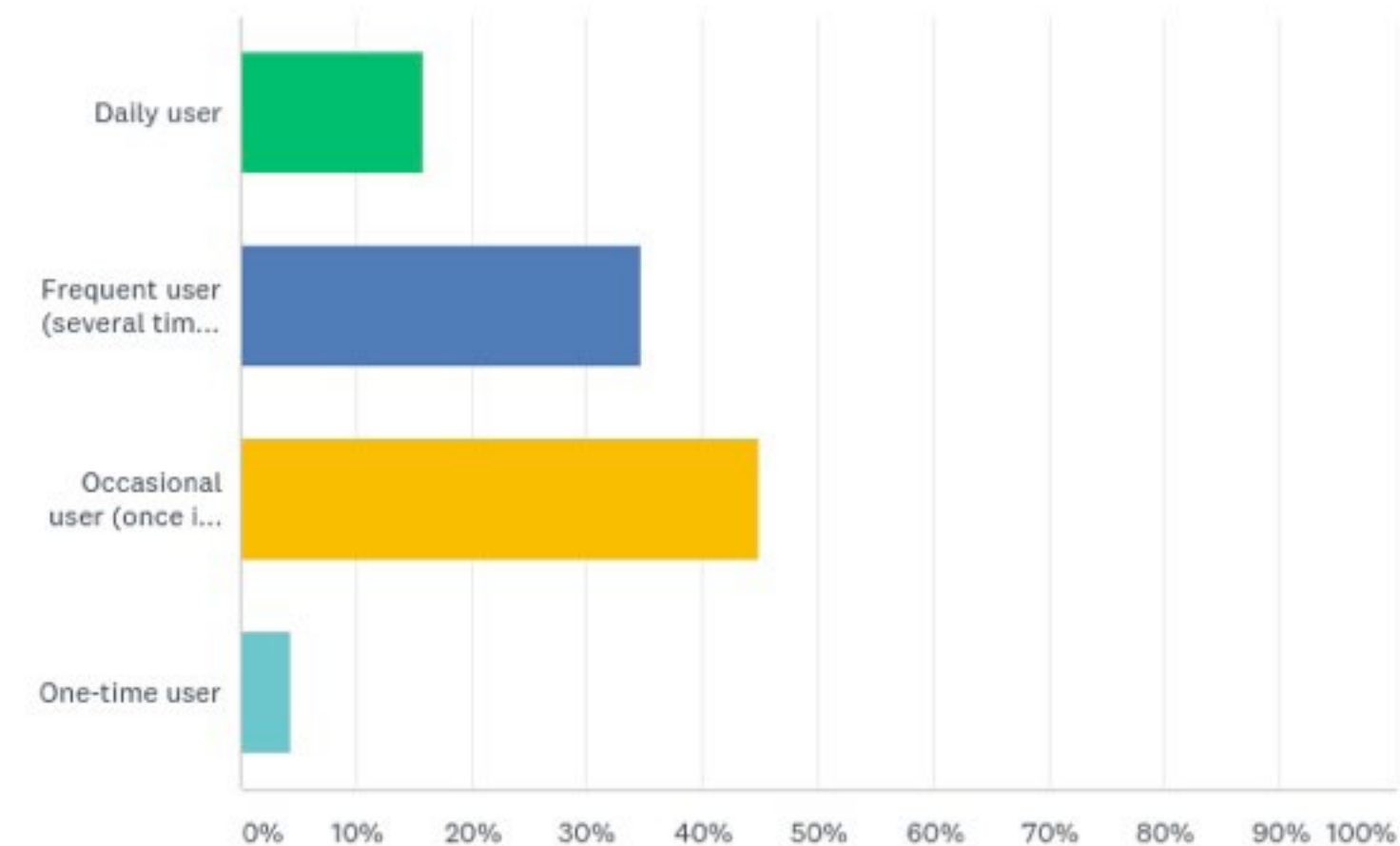
**Total Responses**

Date Created: Wednesday, September 05, 2018

Complete Responses: 69

# Q1: How would you describe yourself as a park user?

Answered: 69    Skipped: 0



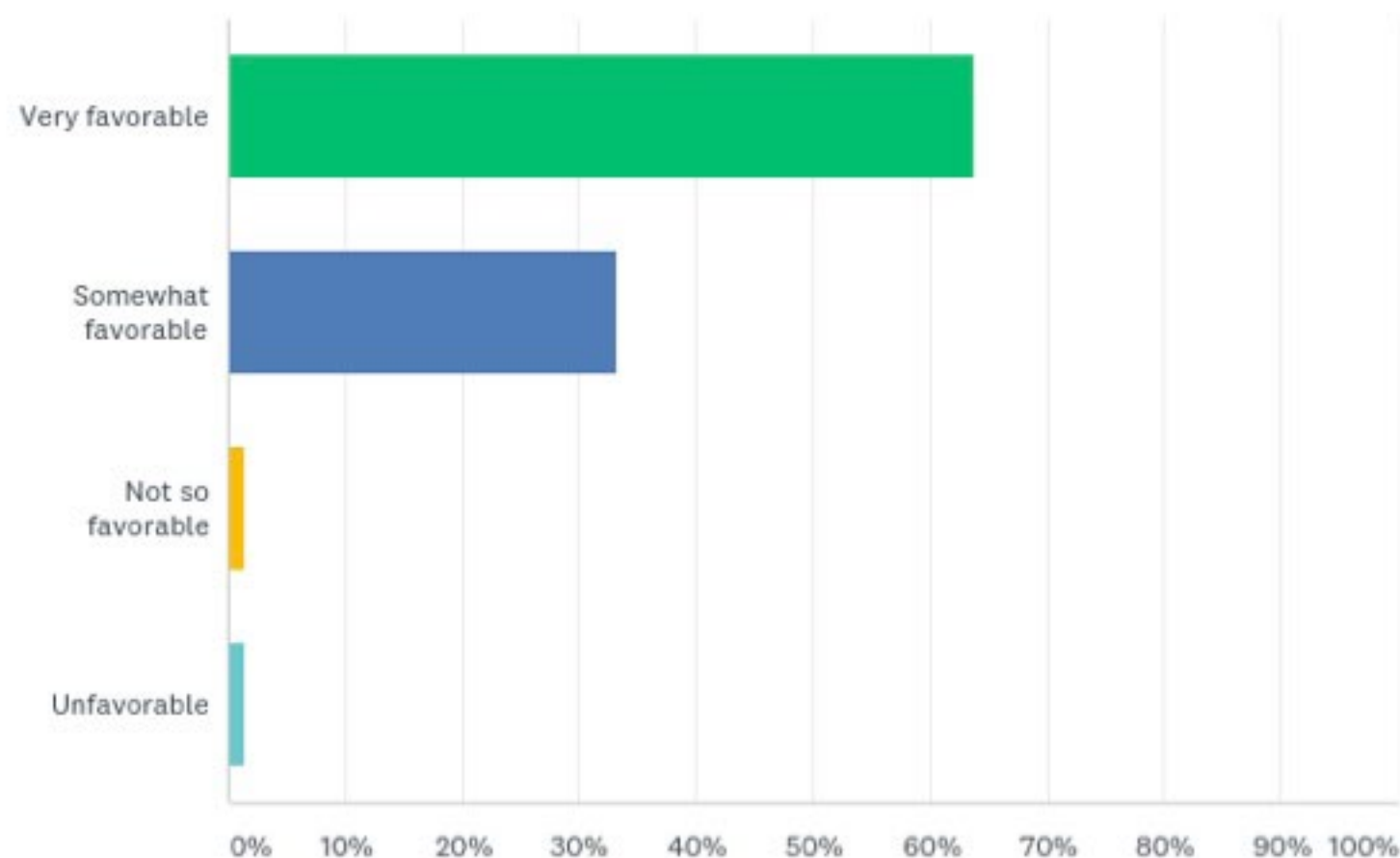
# Q1: How would you describe yourself as a park user?

Answered: 69   Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily user	15.94%	11
Frequent user (several times a month)	34.78%	24
Occasional user (once in a while)	44.93%	31
One-time user	4.35%	3
TOTAL		69

# Q2: How would you rate your experience of the new park addition (completed in 2017)?

Answered: 69    Skipped: 0



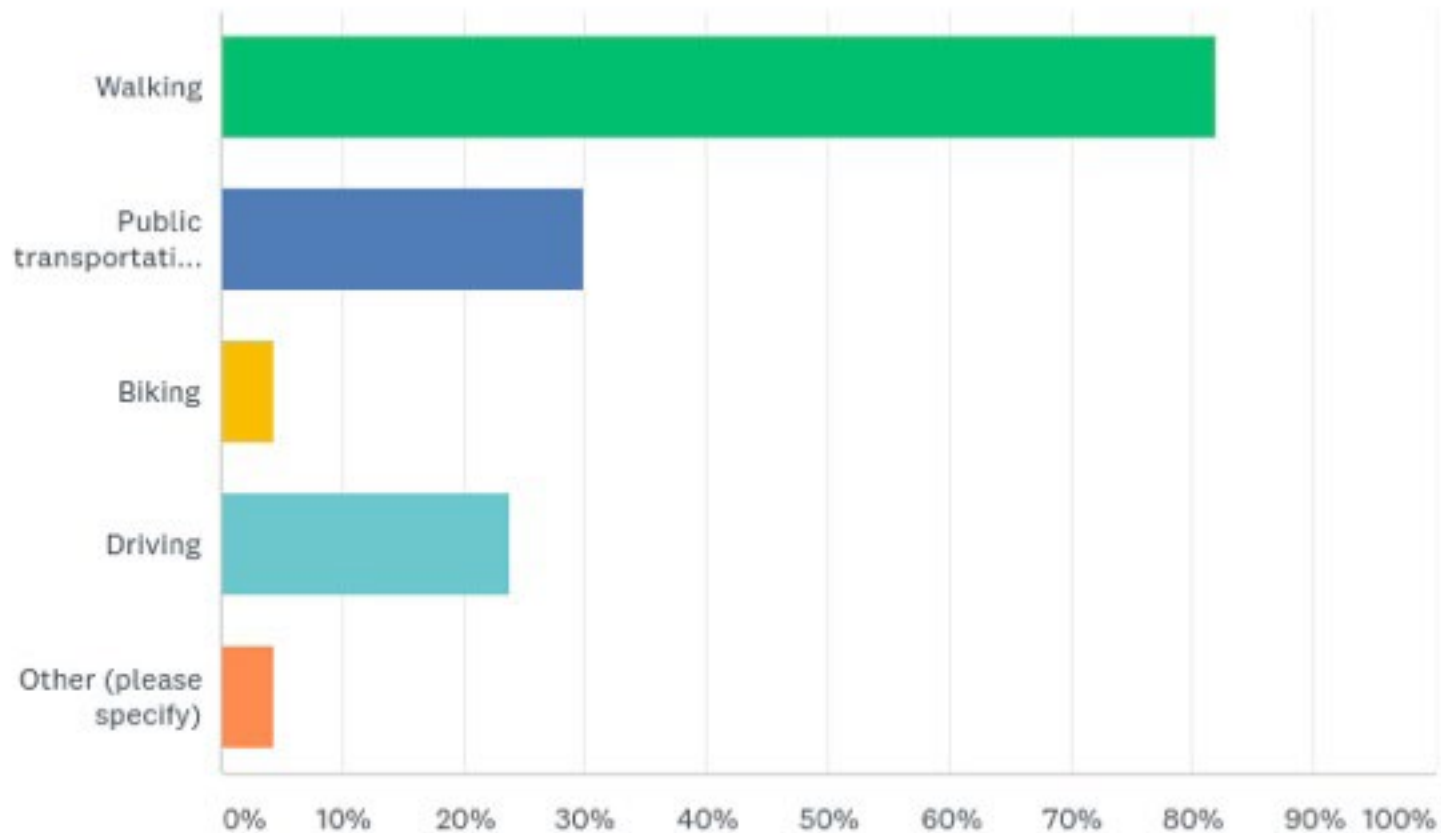
## Q2: How would you rate your experience of the new park addition (completed in 2017)?

Answered: 69   Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very favorable	63.77%	44
Somewhat favorable	33.33%	23
Not so favorable	1.45%	1
Unfavorable	1.45%	1
TOTAL		69

### Q3: How do you get to the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 67 Skipped: 2



### Q3: How do you get to the park? (Check all that apply)

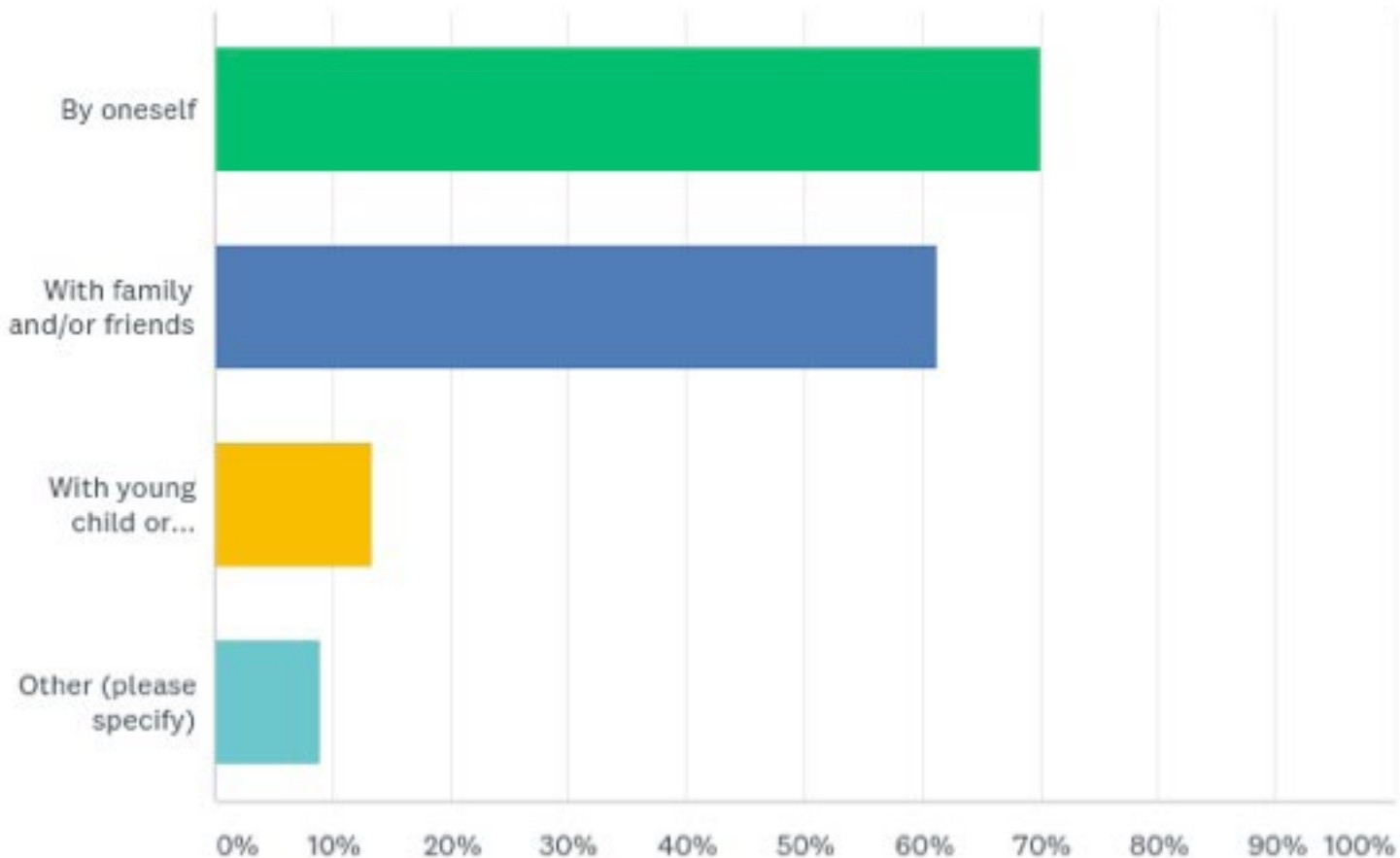
Answered: 67    Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	82.09%	55
Public transportation (Bus, Light Rail, Street Car, etc.)	29.85%	20
Biking	4.48%	3
Driving	23.88%	16
Other (please specify)	4.48%	3
Total Respondents: 67		



## Q4: Do you usually come to the park by yourself or with family and/or friend? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 67 Skipped: 2



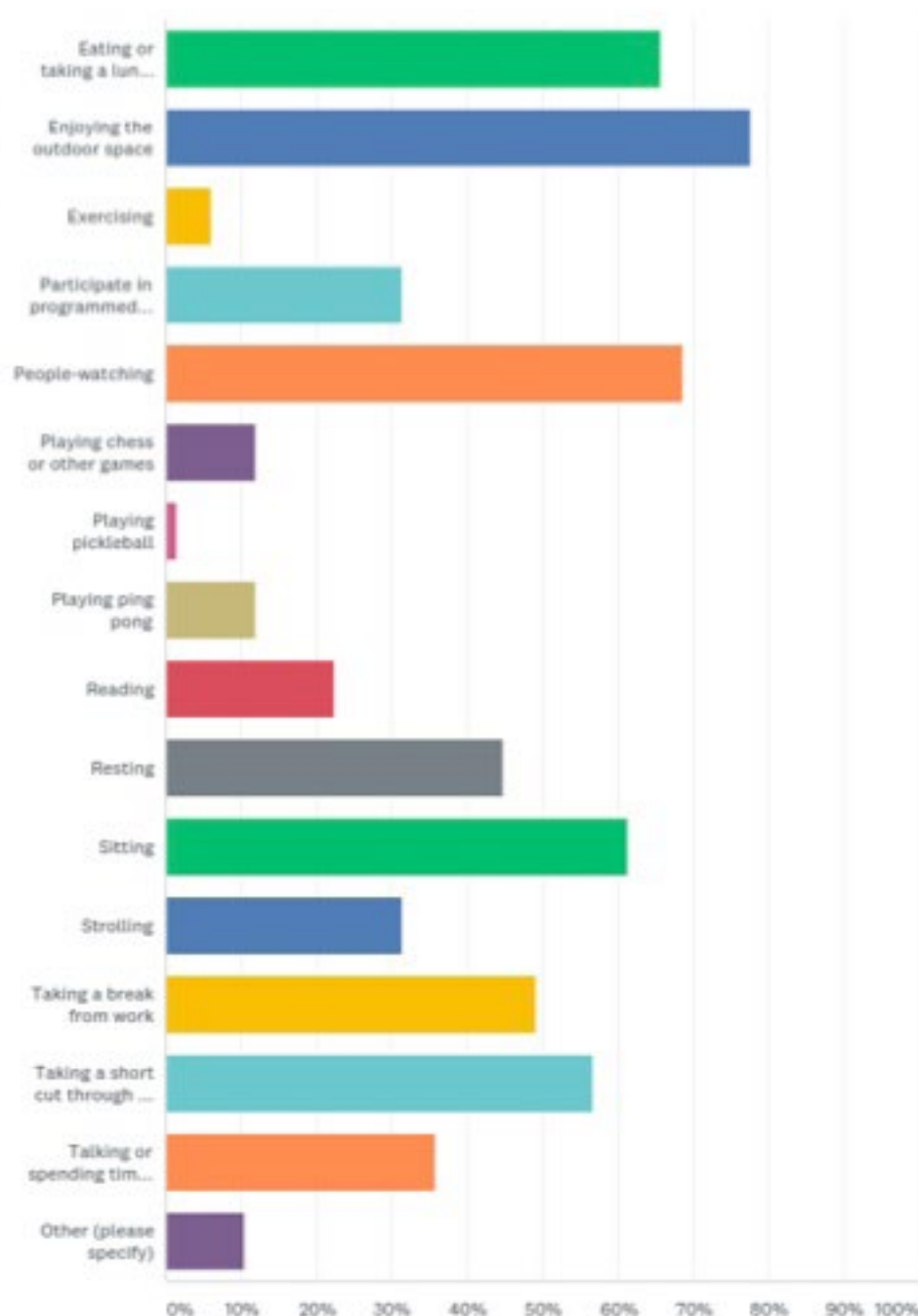
Q4: Do you usually come to the park by yourself or with family and/or friend? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 67   Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
By oneself	70.15%	47
With family and/or friends	61.19%	41
With young child or children	13.43%	9
Other (please specify)	8.96%	6
Total Respondents: 67		

**Q5: What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (Check all that apply)**

Answered: 67    Skipped: 2











# Q5: What activities are you engaged with when you visit the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 67    Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Eating or taking a lunch break	65.67%	44
Enjoying the outdoor space	77.61%	52
Exercising	5.97%	4
Participate in programmed events	31.34%	21
People-watching	68.66%	46
Playing chess or other games	11.94%	8
Playing pickleball	1.49%	1
Playing ping pong	11.94%	8
Reading	22.39%	15
Resting	44.78%	30
Sitting	61.19%	41
Strolling	31.34%	21
Taking a break from work	49.25%	33
Taking a short cut through the park	56.72%	38
Talking or spending time with friends or family	35.82%	24
Other (please specify)	10.45%	7
Total Respondents: 67		

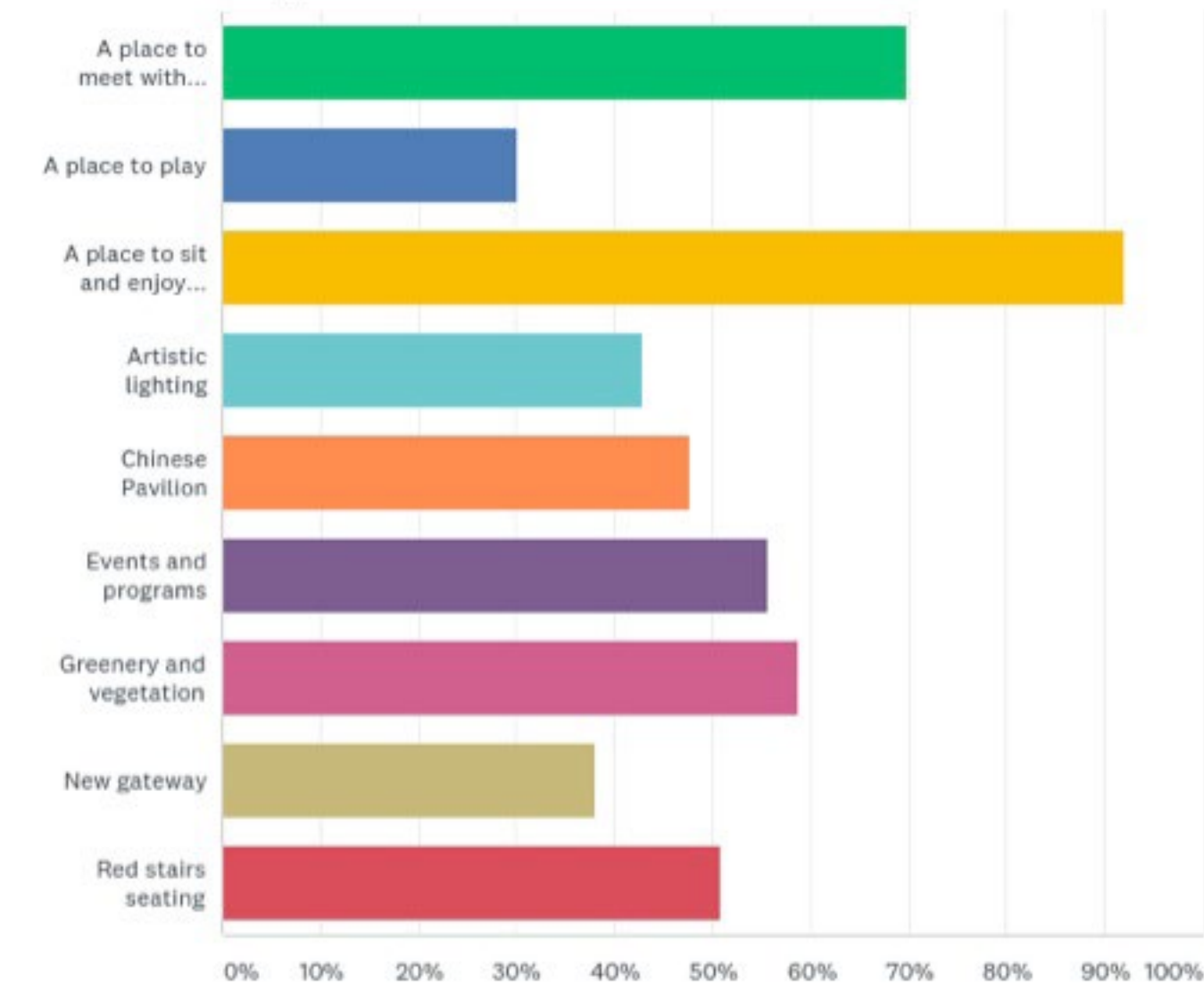
## Q6: What features of the park do you use? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 62 Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
	85.48%	53
	46.77%	29
	43.55%	27
	50.00%	31
	14.52%	9
	12.90%	8
	30.65%	19
	66.13%	41
	67.74%	42
	38.71%	24
Other (please specify)	3.23%	2
Total Respondents: 62		

# Q7: What do you find attractive in the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 63    Skipped: 6



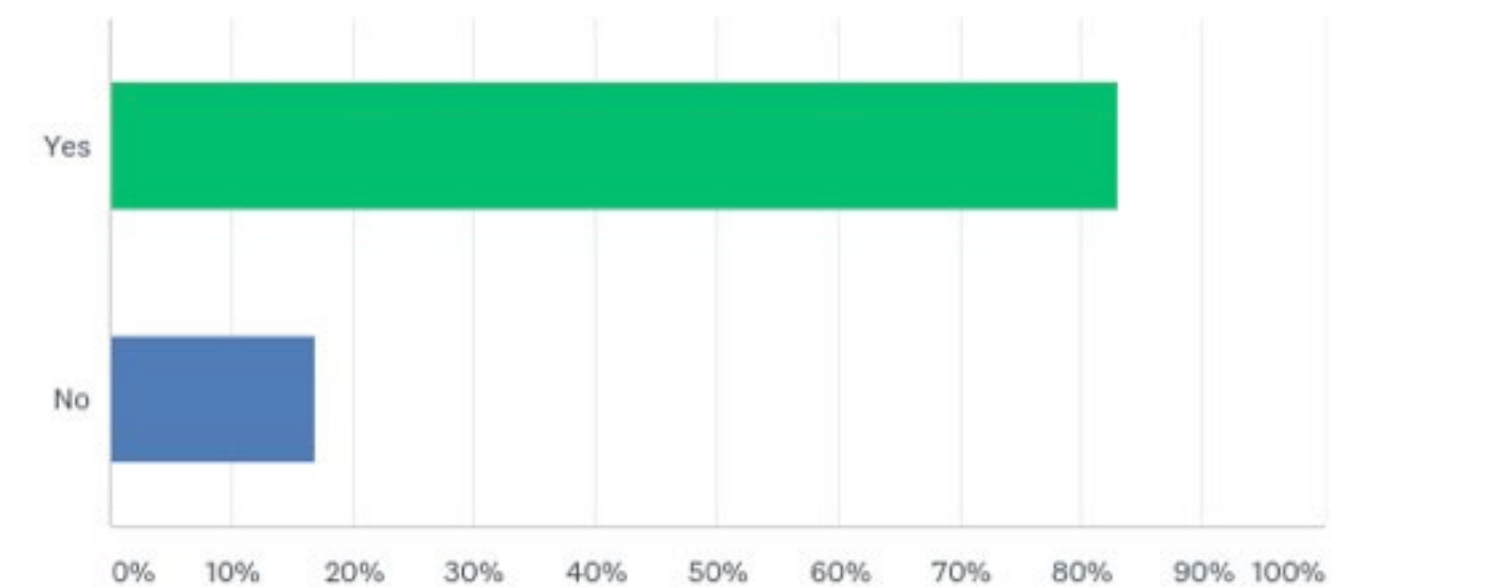
# Q7: What do you find attractive in the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 63   Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A place to meet with friends	69.84%	44
A place to play	30.16%	19
A place to sit and enjoy outdoors	92.06%	58
Artistic lighting	42.86%	27
Chinese Pavilion	47.62%	30
Events and programs	55.56%	35
Greenery and vegetation	58.73%	37
New gateway	38.10%	24
Red stairs seating	50.79%	32
Total Respondents: 63		

# Q8: Do you feel that the park is welcoming to everyone?

Answered: 65   Skipped: 4

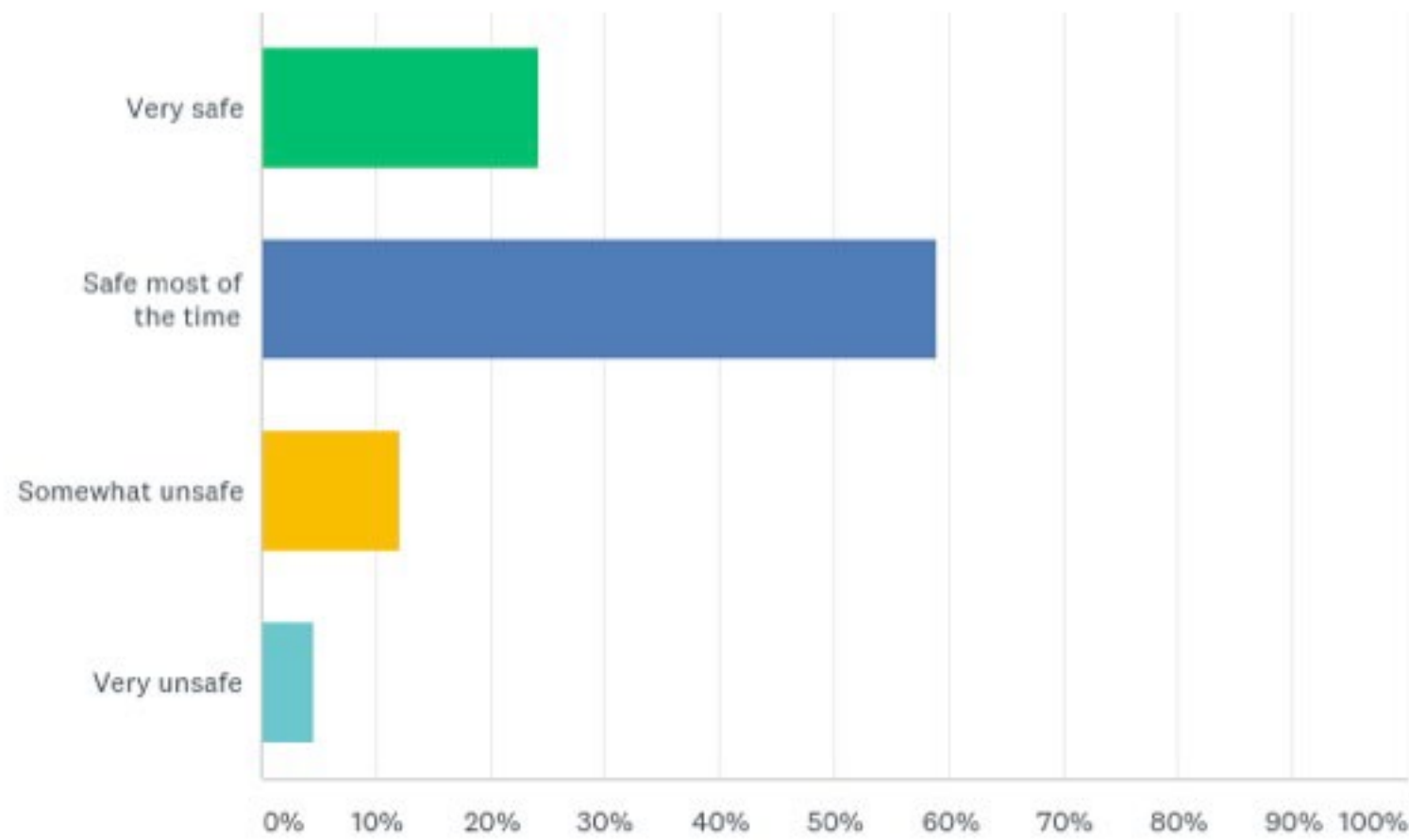


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.08%	54
No	16.92%	11
TOTAL		65



# Q10: How safe do you feel in the park?

Answered: 66    Skipped: 3



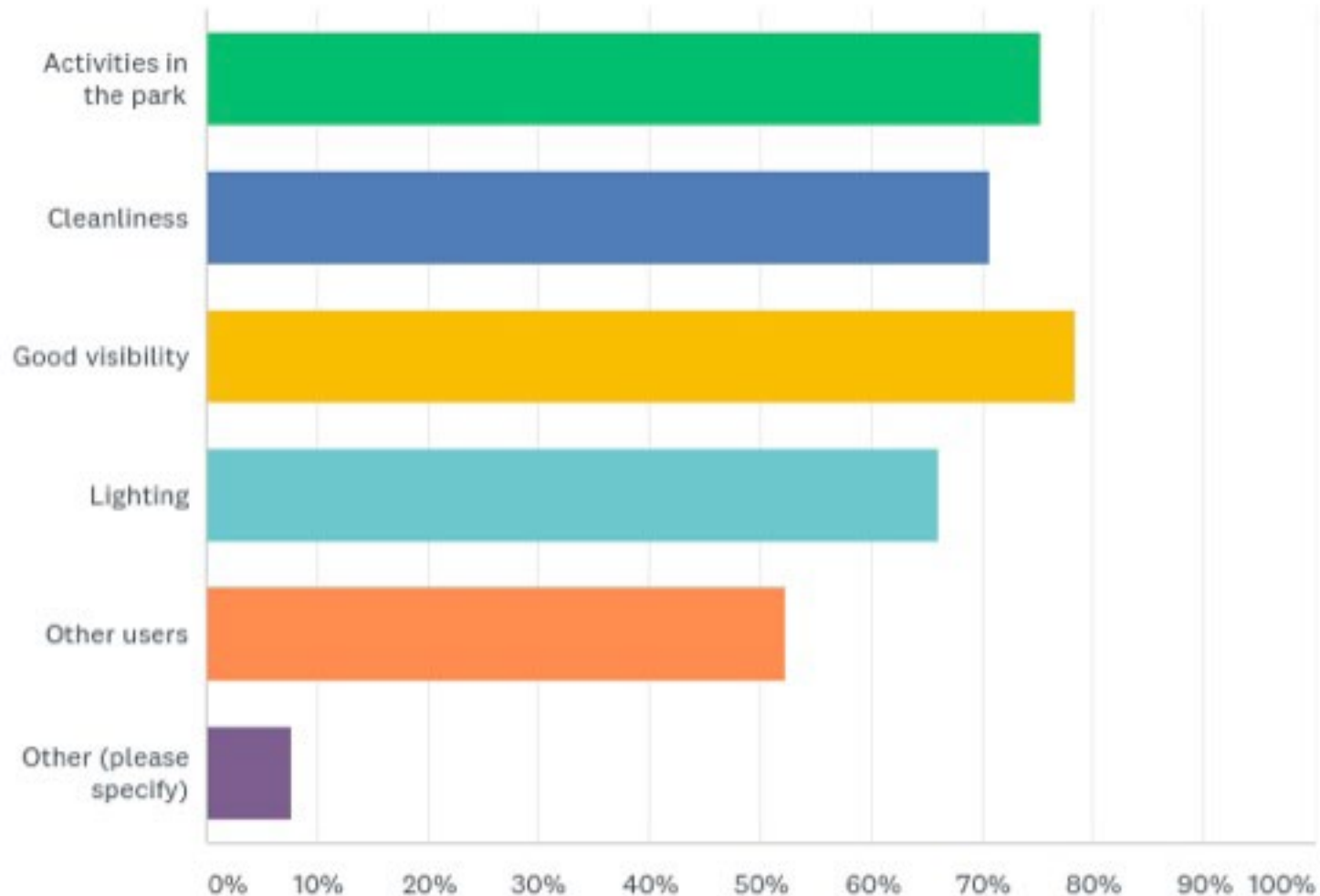
## Q10: How safe do you feel in the park?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very safe	24.24%	16
Safe most of the time	59.09%	39
Somewhat unsafe	12.12%	8
Very unsafe	4.55%	3
TOTAL		66

## Q11: What makes you feel safe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 4



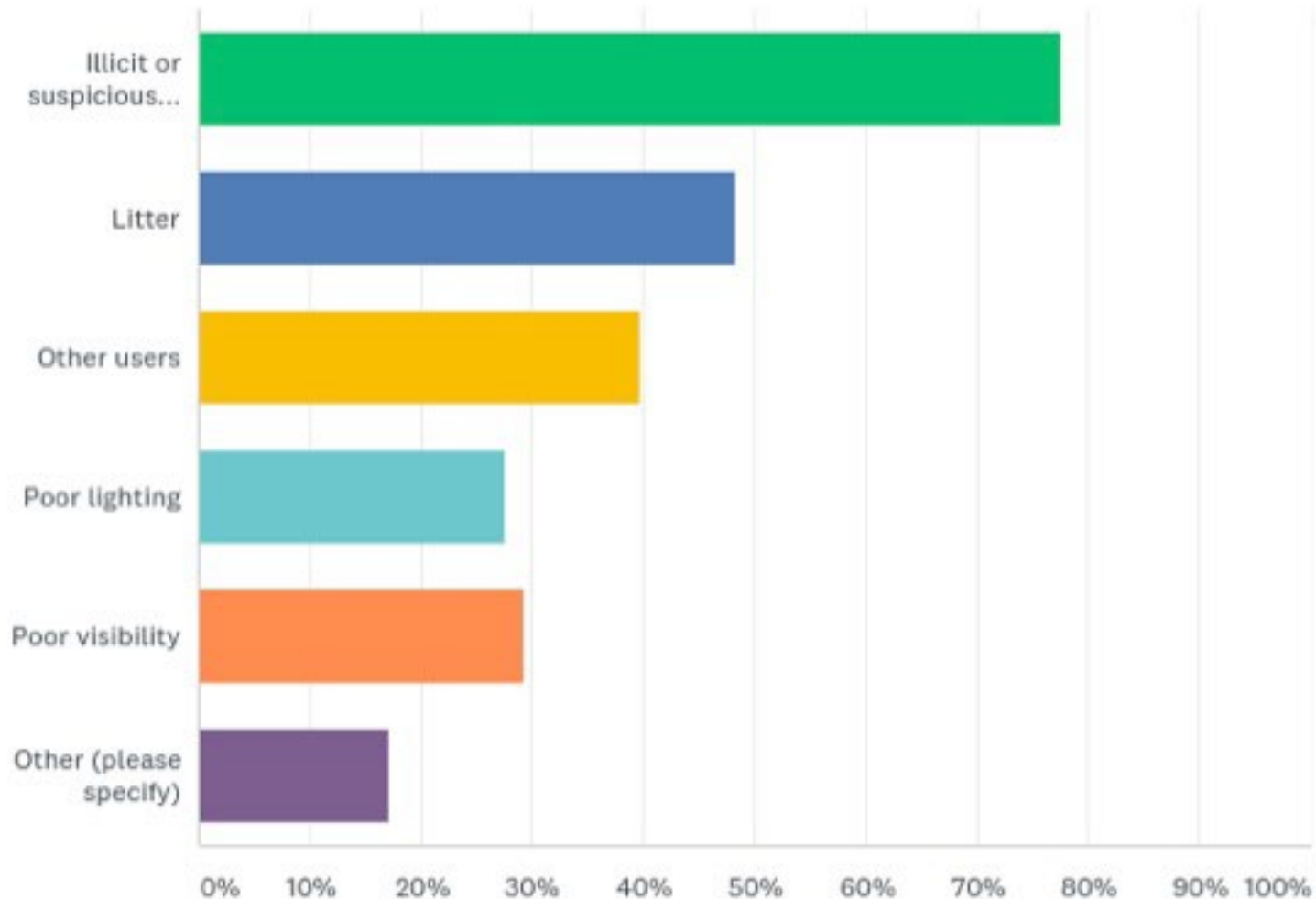
## Q11: What makes you feel safe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 65   Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Activities in the park	75.38%	49
Cleanliness	70.77%	46
Good visibility	78.46%	51
Lighting	66.15%	43
Other users	52.31%	34
Other (please specify)	7.69%	5
Total Respondents: 65		

## Q12: What makes you feel unsafe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 58 Skipped: 11



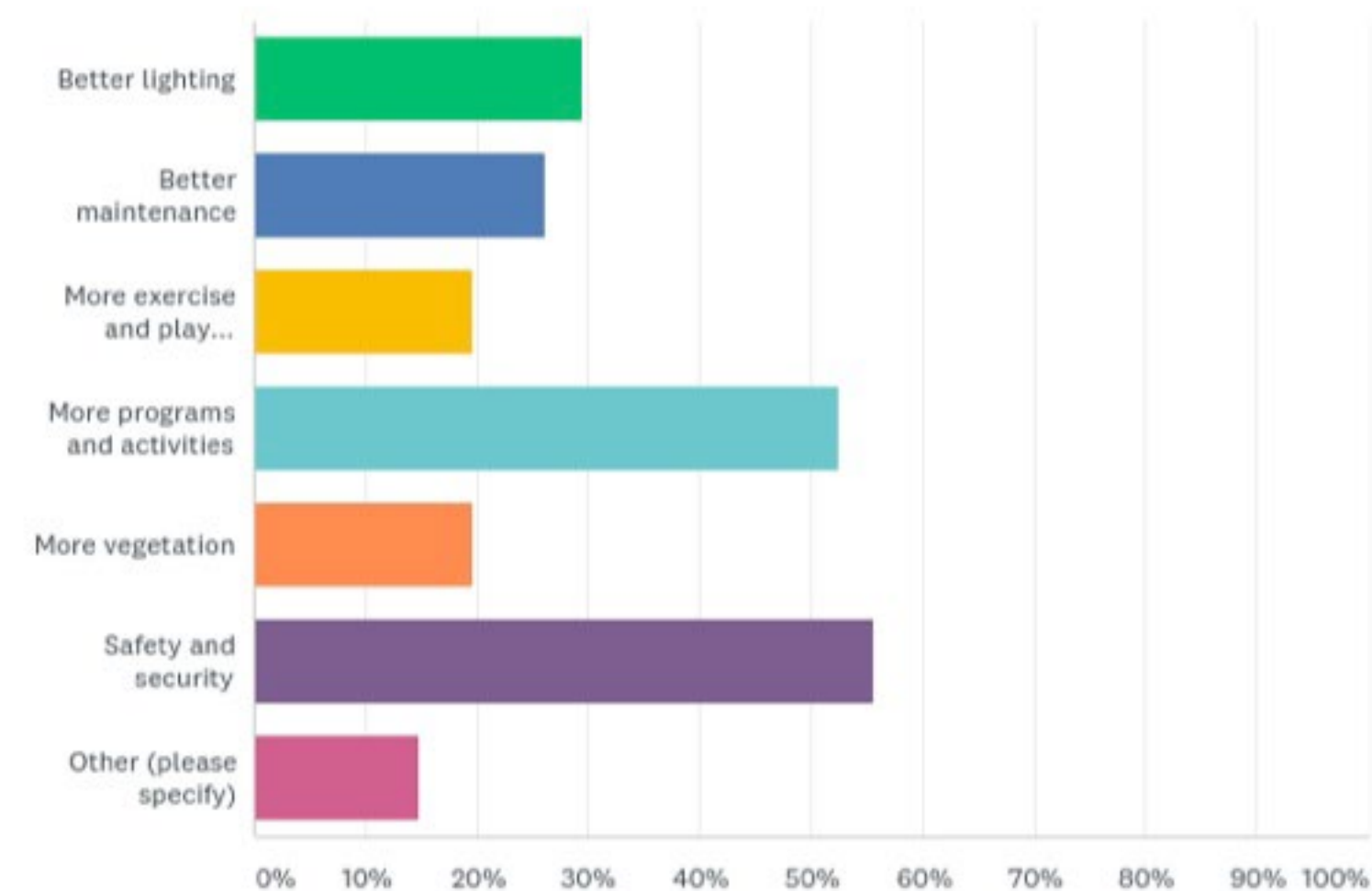
# Q12: What makes you feel unsafe? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 58   Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Illicit or suspicious activities	77.59%	45
Litter	48.28%	28
Other users	39.66%	23
Poor lighting	27.59%	16
Poor visibility	29.31%	17
Other (please specify)	17.24%	10
Total Respondents: 58		

# Q13: What can be improved about the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 61    Skipped: 8



# Q13: What can be improved about the park? (Check all that apply)

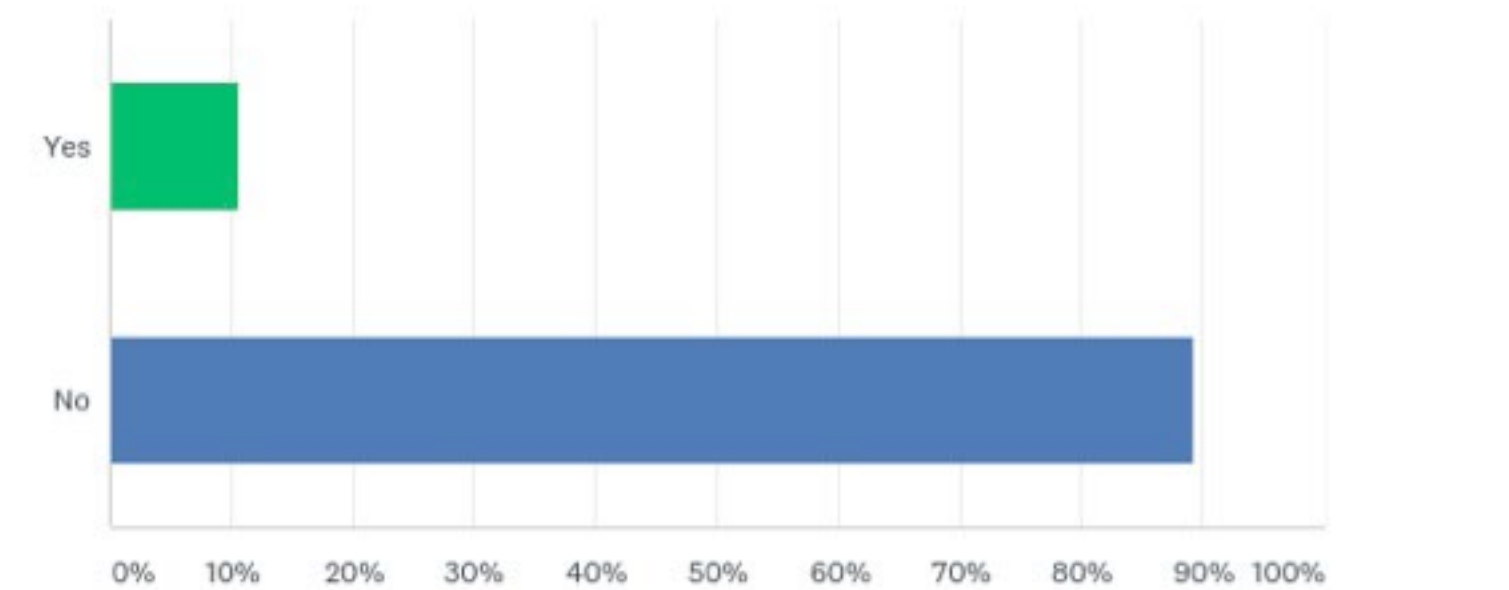
Answered: 61    Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Better lighting	29.51%	18
Better maintenance	26.23%	16
More exercise and play equipment	19.67%	12
More programs and activities	52.46%	32
More vegetation	19.67%	12
Safety and security	55.74%	34
Other (please specify)	14.75%	9
Total Respondents: 61		



# Q14: Did you participate in the planning and/or design process?

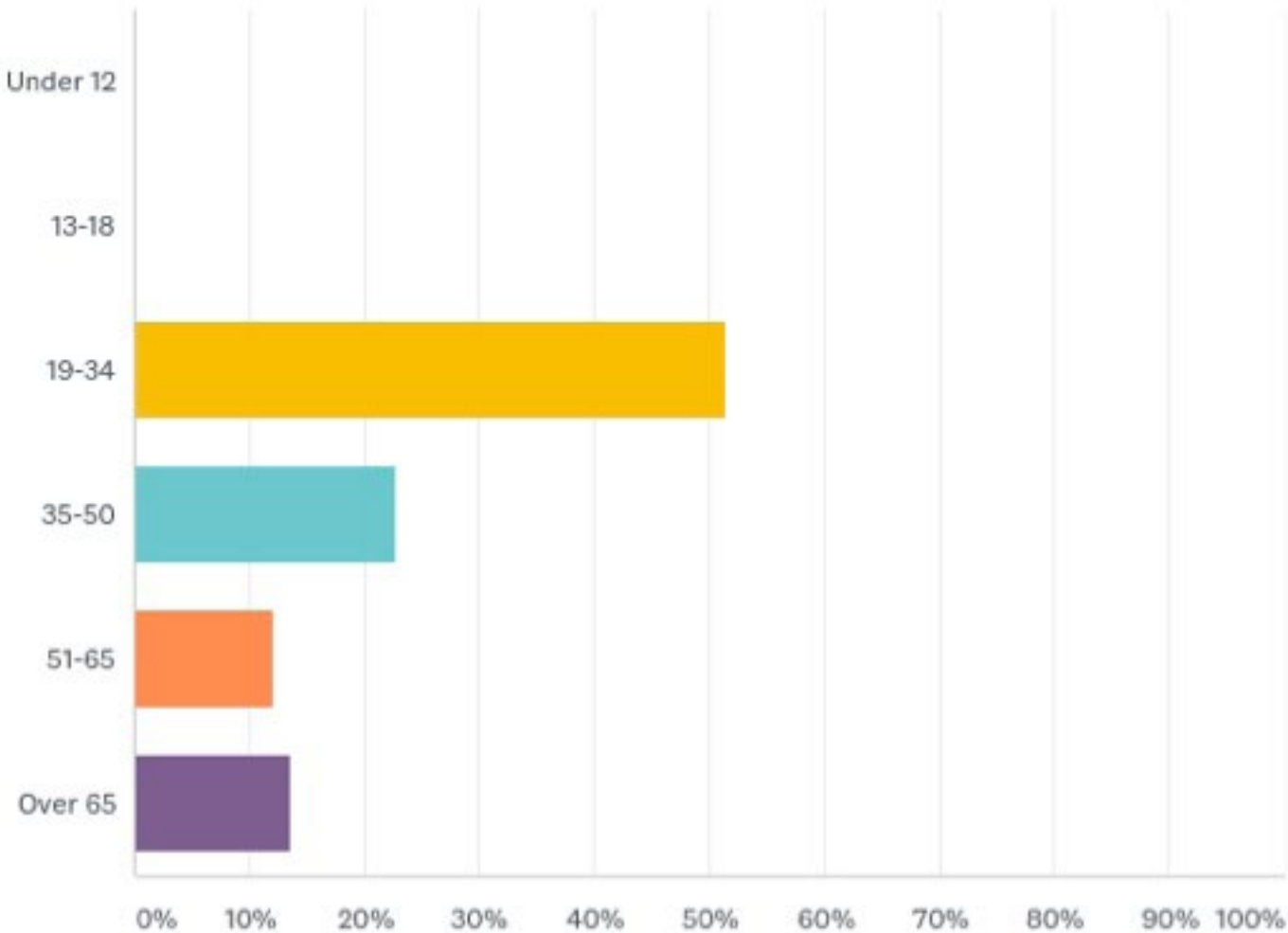
Answered: 65    Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	10.77%	7
No	89.23%	58
TOTAL		65

# Q19: Age

Answered: 66    Skipped: 3



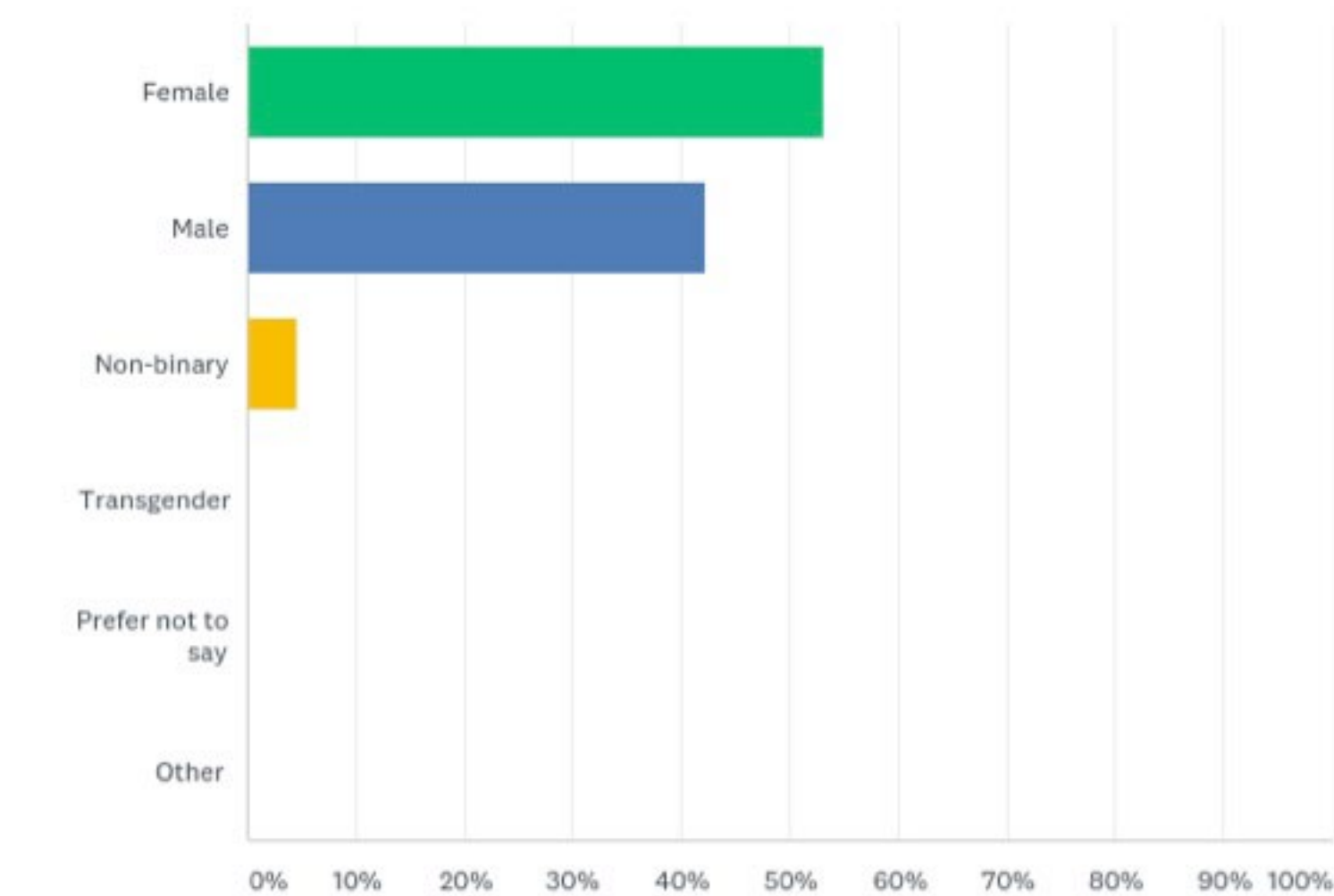
# Q19: Age

Answered: 66    Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 12	0.00%	0
13-18	0.00%	0
19-34	51.52%	34
35-50	22.73%	15
51-65	12.12%	8
Over 65	13.64%	9
TOTAL		66

# Q20: Gender (check all that apply)

Answered: 64    Skipped: 5



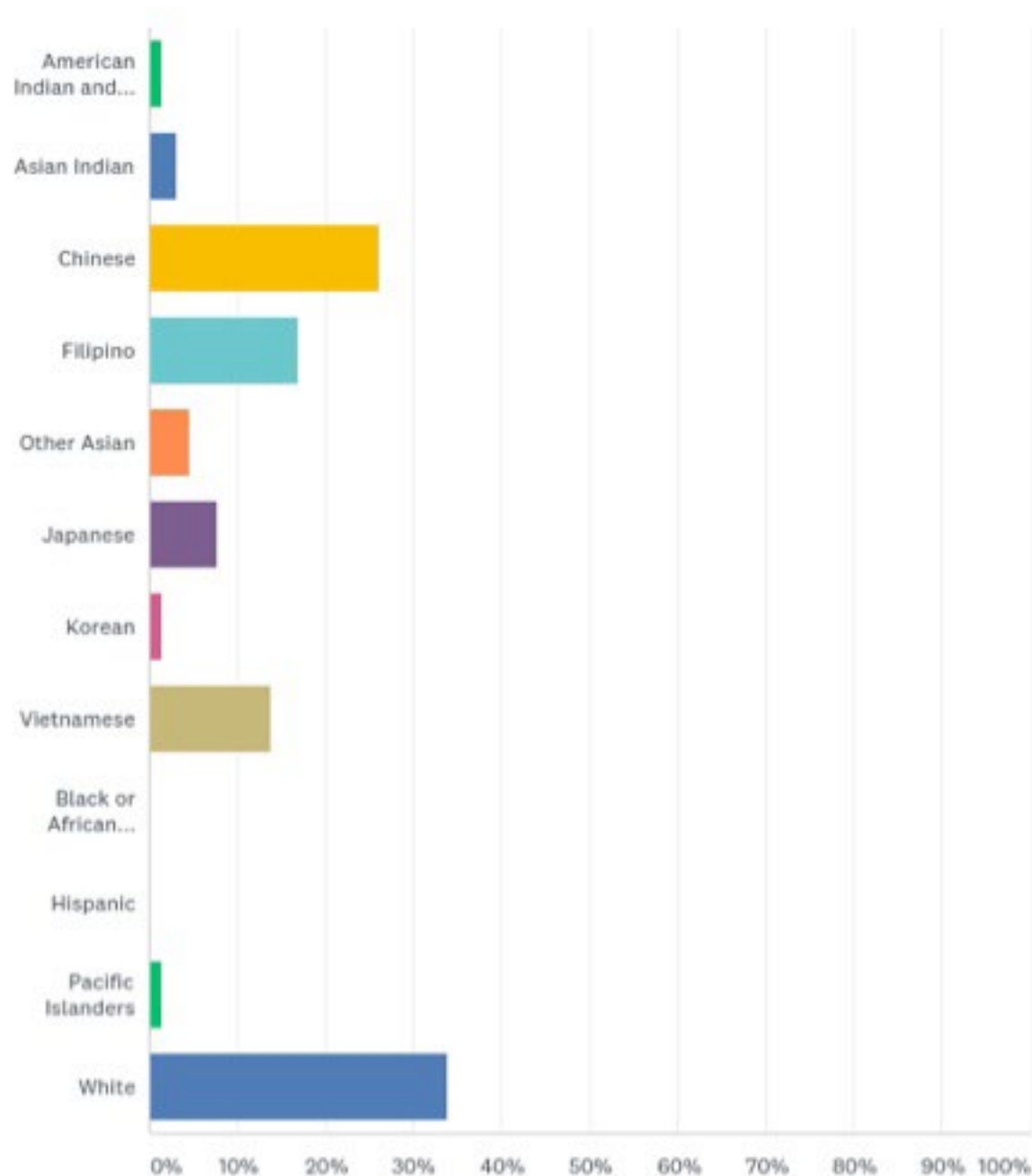
# Q20: Gender (check all that apply)

Answered: 64   Skipped: 5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	53.13%	34
Male	42.19%	27
Non-binary	4.69%	3
Transgender	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 64		

**Q21: Race/Ethnicity**  
**(check all that**  
**apply):**

Answered: 65    Skipped: 4



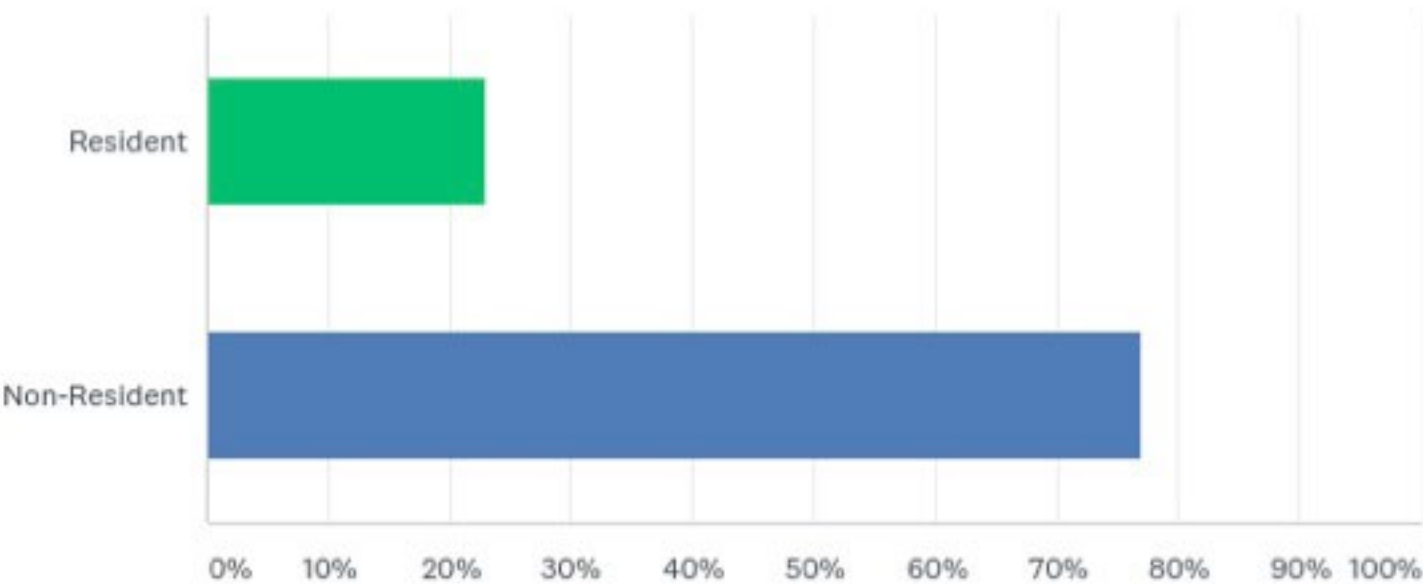
## Q21: Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):

Answered: 65   Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.54%	1
Asian Indian	3.08%	2
Chinese	26.15%	17
Filipino	16.92%	11
Other Asian	4.62%	3
Japanese	7.69%	5
Korean	1.54%	1
Vietnamese	13.85%	9
Black or African American	0.00%	0
Hispanic	0.00%	0
Pacific Islanders	1.54%	1
White	33.85%	22
Total Respondents: 65		

# Q22: Chinatown International District Resident or Non Resident?

Answered: 65   Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident	23.08%	15
Non-Resident	76.92%	50
TOTAL		65



## Appendix E. Interview questions

1. Opening question -- Could you briefly tell us about yourself? *(For example, job or role in the community)*
2. Could you tell us about your involvement in the project (either Children's or Hing Hay Park)? *(For example, member of Friends group, community outreach, design process, etc.) Planning and design for International Children's Park: 2007 to 2012; for Hing Hay Park: 2013 to 2016*
3. What do you see as the primary goals of the project (either Children's or Hing Hay Park)? *(For example, public safety, social gathering, outdoor recreation and active living, cultural identity, economic development by attracting more visitors to the district, etc.)*
4. Do you think the goal(s) have been accomplished? What are the evidences? *(Tell us more)*
5. What aspects of the project have been most successful in your opinion? *(Why? Or tell us more.)*
6. What aspects of the project have been least successful in your opinion? *(Why? Or tell us more.)*
7. How does the park contribute to the neighborhood? *(Ask only if the question has not been addressed above.)*
8. *(If participated in the design process), how was the quality of community engagement in the project? How can it be improved? (Community engagement included community outreach, workshops, public meetings, etc.)*
9. Are there other things that you wish to tell us on the project and/or the design process?

*Ask to see if they wish to fill out a survey if they haven't already.*

## Appendix F. Interview Release Form

### Interview Release Form

I understand that SCIDpda (the Author) is preparing and writing a report (the Work), tentatively titled “Post Occupancy Evaluations of Two Chinatown International District Parks: Hing Hay Park and Donnie Chin International Children’s Park”, which will be published by the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), a non-profit organization.

In order to assist the Author in the preparation of the Work, I have agreed (a) to be interviewed, (b) to the recording of this interview in any form and in any media, and (c) to provide information and other materials to be used in connection with the Work, including my personal experiences, remarks, incidents, dialogues, actions, and recollections, as well as any photographs and documents that I may give to the Author (collectively, the Interview Materials).

By signing this form I agree that;

1. SCIDpda will be able to quote, paraphrase, reproduce, publish, distribute, or otherwise use all or any portion of the Interview Materials in the Work
2. I understand that SCIDpda will ask for my preference as to whether they use my real name or a pseudonym in their publications.
3. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don’t have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
4. The interview will be recorded and transcribed. The recording and transcription will not be distributed publicly and only used to gather insight and information on the subject matter for the Work.
5. I don’t expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
6. I am able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Agreed and confirmed:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_