



Frederick Street Park upgrades

Increasing green space in Te Aro

The Te Aro precinct currently has a deficiency of greening with only three active/passive recreation spaces, available for inner city residents, consisting of Cobblestone Park, Te Aro Park, and Glover Park. To align with the area's projected population growth, Te Aro will require additional green/public open spaces for residents to use for their wellbeing and positive experience for inner city living.

The Council's Green Network Plan has a target to deliver two new inner-city parks for Wellington. This project will be the first new park to be delivered in line with this strategy.

Project priorities

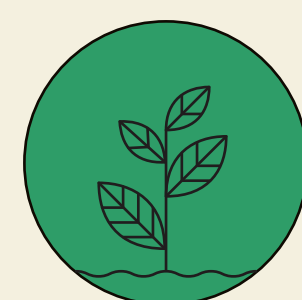
The aim of the project is to deliver a quality open green space which is primarily for the health and wellbeing of inner city residents and visitors, ensuring a safe and accessible park for all.

In addition, the project is focused on delivering environmental and cultural benefits; with consideration of water sensitive design solutions, and seeking to strengthen cultural identity through cultural and heritage interpretation outcomes.



Partnership with mana whenua

Working in meaningful partnership with mana whenua to shape and contribute to project outcomes



Increased greening

Align with the Green Network Plan's key objectives and Our City Tomorrow goals for a greener city



Accessibility

Create a space that is inclusive and welcoming for all users



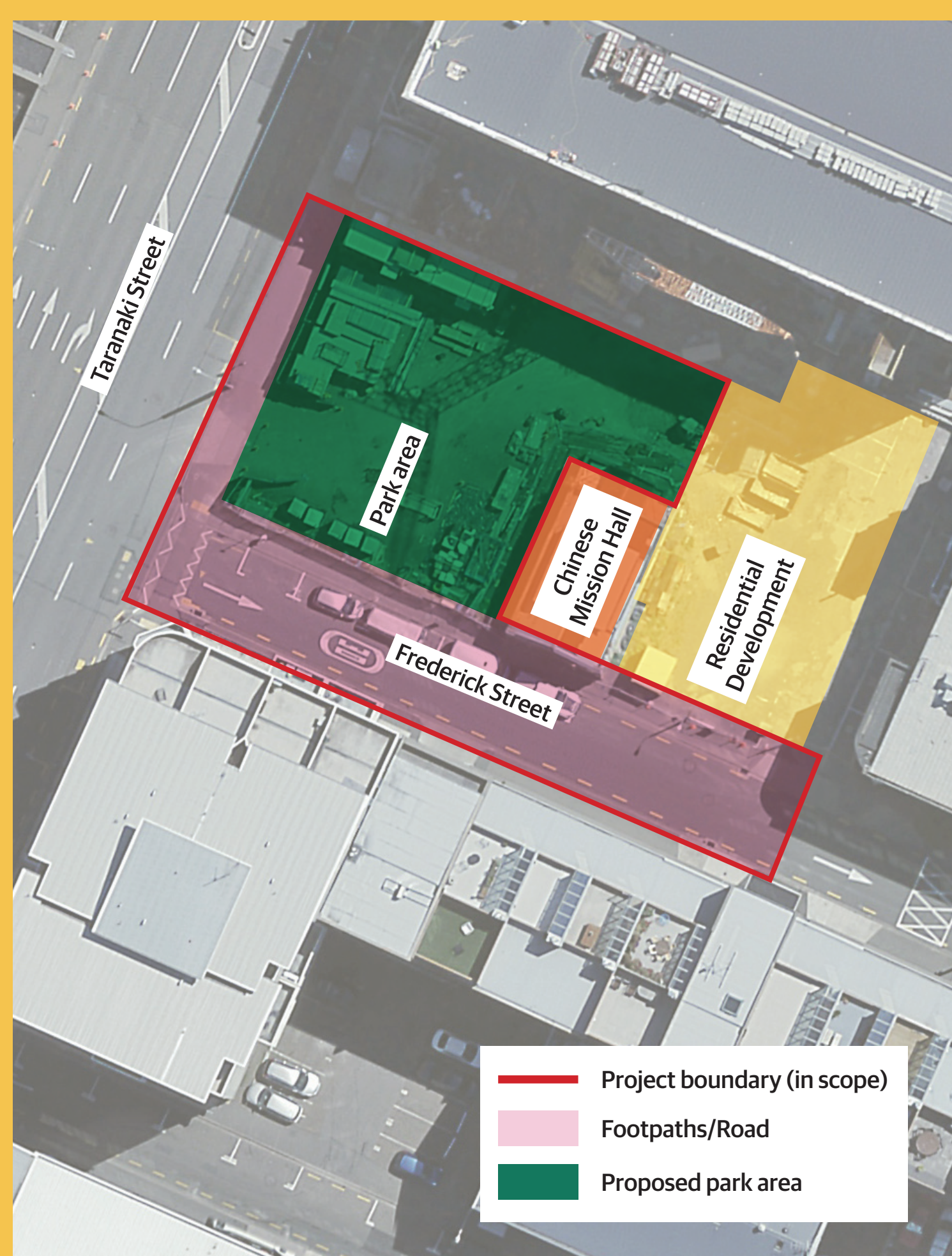
Water sensitive design

Consider opportunities for improving wai ora (water health) and storm water management



Safety

Deliver on Pōneke Promise objectives to design public spaces that are safe, vibrant, welcoming, and well-maintained



Located at the corner of Taranaki Street and Frederick Street in central Te Aro, the project scope is approximately 1400 square meters. This scope consists of 730 square meters of proposed park area, the Taranaki Street footpath and the Frederick Street road and footpath. Inclusion of the adjoining road and footpaths enables us to ensure a good relationship is established between the park and its surrounding context.

You can see the project boundaries outlined in red in the plan.

Site and context

Surrounding context

The proposed park is located adjacent to the Chinese Mission Hall building and the new residential apartment block at the rear of the site.

The residential apartment block has been developed by Kirva Trust and is a social housing initiative that will provide 75 new homes for people in need. The homes will be available to tenants of Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust and Homes of Choice.

There will be a range of people with varying needs living in the apartments, including people with an intellectual or physical disability, and whānau who have experienced homelessness or emergency housing. Spectrum Care and Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) will provide support to people living in the apartments.

A lot of thought has gone into the design of the building to ensure a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for its residents. It includes a ground floor lobby that will host concierge and tenancy staff. Through regular visits by support agencies, people will be well connected to appropriate wrap-around services. Wellington City Council are working closely with the community agencies as well as engaging with the people they support.

The Chinese Mission Hall adjoining the park site is intended for refurbishment, to be repurposed for future use. The timeframes for this are yet to be determined, but the Council is working closely with the owners to ensure a positive relationship between the park and the Chinese Mission Hall building is established.

'Small-scale recreation and play features.'

'Artwork that reflects the heritage of the site.'

'Native plants, pest control and climate friendly designs.'

'Seats with supportive backs for grandparents and parents.'

How we have engaged

We launched a public survey, asking the community about their concerns, needs and aspirations for the future of Frederick Street Park, looking to better understand potential future users and asking how they can see themselves using this new public space.

To ensure that we create a park that's suitable, inclusive, and accessible for all of its users, we also engaged with tau mai and the community at DCM (Downtown Community Ministry) to hear their wants for the space.

Our RIMA survey was open for two weeks and gathered 371 responses.

As well as demographical insights, submitters shared their concerns and aspirations for the space that we plan to address in our proposed design.

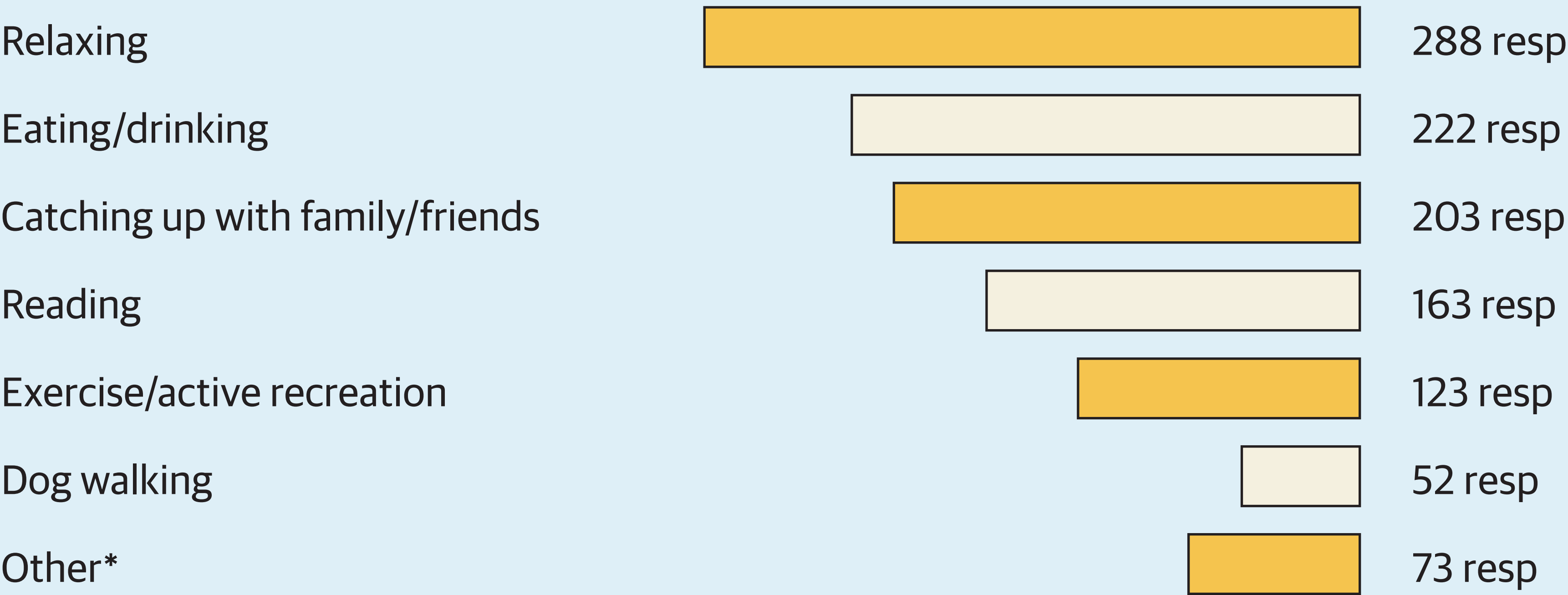
Common themes for the question 'Are there any features you would like to see in a park at this location?' included options for play, connection, cultural and artistic elements, amenities such as tables, benches, and lighting, and a focus on nature.

Common concerns included requests to make the park inclusive, accessible, clean, and safe. As the site is on Taranaki Street, many submitters called for protection from traffic, wind, noise, and anti-social behaviour.

We will be using the feedback we receive when creating the draft design of the park, to ensure the space is well lit, safe, accessible, and inclusive for all residents and visitors of Pōneke.

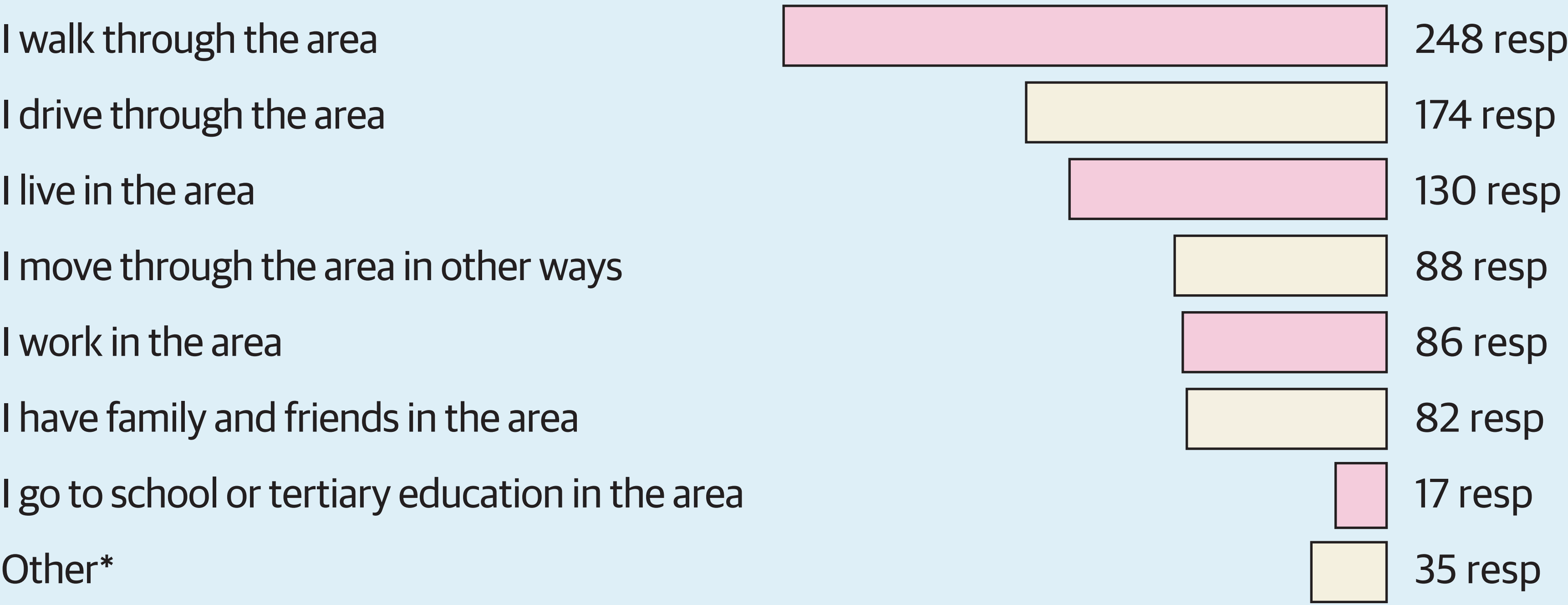


What ways do you imagine you might use this new space?



(*) Childrens play area, Tai Chi, Tākarō Māori, skateboarding, public events/performance, local musicians, visiting Chinese heritage with family and friends, connecting with nature, enjoy ambiance and sitting, other would not use the space or don't know.

How would you describe your connection to the area?



(*) Chinese community of family connections, used to live in the area, own property in the area, have an association with the Chinese Mission Hall. The previous use of Chinese Mission Hall as studio, music, sonic art, practice space, venue. Residents, business owners, recreation/shops close by, and walking dogs.

Do you have any concerns about the development of this park?

- 'Good lighting at night will be important for safety walking through'

'I hope that this space will be well-maintained, my only concern is that it will become unkempt'
- 'A smooth transition between the footpath and the park. Universal design standards where possible to consider access for all.'

'Ensuring the space feels welcoming and open is important'





Engagement with key stakeholders

Mana whenua

The project site is located within the wider Te Aro Pā area, south east of the original kāinga/settlement. This area would have been used as cultivation land for the production and gathering of kai/food.

We have an iwi consultant on the project team, representing Taranaki Whānui and Te Aro Pā trust. Additionally, we have commissioned artist Matthew McIntyre-Wilson from The Price of Change, as the project's Māori creative lead.

Wellington City Council is working with Matthew and our iwi consultant in developing a design for the park, with consideration of Te Ao Māori, mana whenua values and seeking opportunities for cultural narratives/story telling.

Chinese community

The project site is also located within the old Chinatown area of Wellington, which accommodated a large Chinese population along Frederick and Haining Streets. The Chinese Mission Hall adjoining the project site played a significant role in supporting this community.

Council has undertaken a series of workshops with the Chinese community for the purpose of understanding their connection to this area, to capture the stories that are important to the community while seeking their aspirations for the proposed park.

We will be commissioning an artist or heritage interpretation advisor to support us.

‘This project needs to happen,
and would greatly enhance the
area, both for those living in
the vicinity, and those, like me,
passing through’



Next steps

Should you wish to provide feedback in response to the information presented here – please scan the QR code, or go to our Let's Talk page and submit your feedback.

This will be received by the project team for consideration as we start the design process.



Next engagement opportunity

The project team will be working hard to pull together a concept design with consideration of what we heard from the public survey and from feedback received through our engagement with key stakeholders and project partners.

The next opportunity for engagement will be in September/October. We will be sharing the concept design for public feedback. Keep an eye on the Let's Talk page for location and dates.

Keep informed

To learn more about the park as we progress, take a look at the project's website:

letstalk.govt.nz/frederickstreetpark

You can also join the mailing list to receive updates to your email – please use the supplied feedback forms to let us know that you want to be included.

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke