

Absolutely Positively **Wellington** City Council



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INTRODUCTION

In July 2023, 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 the community at DCM (Downtown Community Services) 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 Poneke.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

This is what we asked the community.

RIMA SURVEY

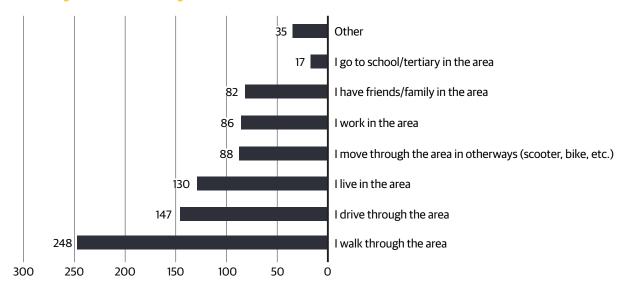
- How would you describe your connection to the Frederick Street area?
- Wellington City Council is implementing a new park on Frederick Street. What ways do you imagine you might use this new space?
- Are there any features you would like to see in a park at this location?
- Do you have any concern you would like to share about the development of a park in this location?
- Which of the following age groups do you, and anyone you are submitting on behalf of, fall into?
- Which of the following levels of disability apply to you?

DCM SURVEY

- How do you currently use the area around the Frederick Street area?
- 2 How safe do you feel in this area?
- What is your favourite outdoor space in the city? Why?
- What makes an outdoor space more inviting for you?
- What are some challenges that stop you from using existing outdoor space?
- Are there any specific activities you would like to see in the new park?
- 7 How would you like the new park to contribute to your wellbeing and quality of life?
- 8 How can the new park encourage social interaction, and a sense of belonging for you?

DATA RESULTS: RIMA SURVEY

How would you describe your connection to the Frederick Street area?

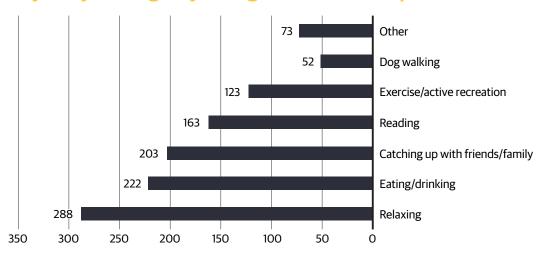


Other:

- · Business owner
- Recreation/shops close by
- Walking dog

- Chinese community with family connections, or have an association with the Chinese Mission Hall
- The previous use of CMHC as studio, music, sonic art, practice space, venue.

Wellington City Council is implementing a new park on Frederick Street. What ways do you imagine you might use this new space?



Other

- · Childrens play area
- Tai Chi
- Tākaro Māori
- Skateboarding

- Public events/performance
- Local musicians
- Visiting Chinese heritage with family and friends
- Connecting with nature
- Enjoy ambiance and sitting
- Don't know

Are there any features you would like to see in a park at this location? Do you have any concern you would like to share about the development of a park in this location?

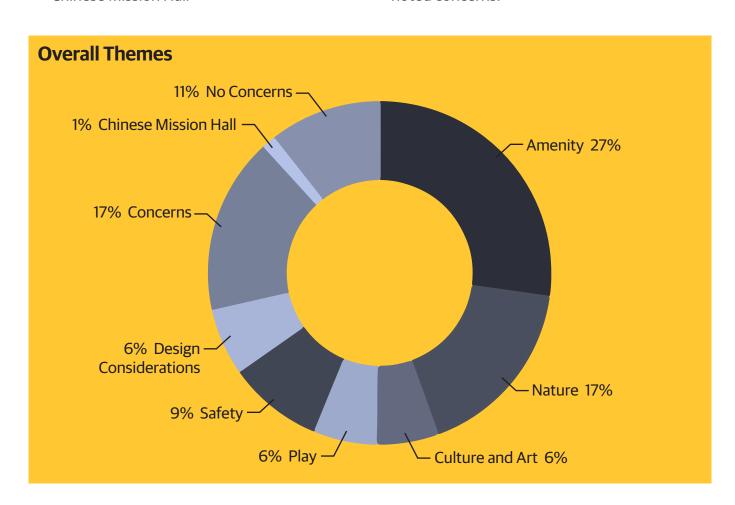
From all 371 comments, we were able to pull over 1100 key items that fell into various themes.

The overall themes are:

- Amenity
- Nature
- Culture and Art
- Play
- Safety
- Design Considerations
- Concerns
- No Concerns
- Chinese Mission Hall

These themes are then split into subcatergories, in order to best capture the responses. The next section of this report will go into the details of these catergories, while highlighting specific pieces of feedback that we recieved.

This information will be incorporated into our design process as we move forward with the concept design. We will also be able to compare any additional feedback at future stages to ensure we are incorporating appropriate themes and addressing the most noted concerns.

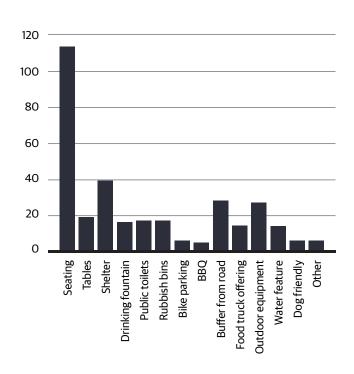


AMENITY

Amenities encompass a range of essential elements that facilitate comfort, convenience, and functionality within public spaces. Seating, tables, rubbish bins, and similar features are crucial components that contribute significantly to the overall use and experience of public spaces.

112 of the amenity comments were related to seating - considering a range of seating opportunities such as reclining, gathering with friends, seating that is well designed, comfortable and accessible. 19 additional comments specifically sought tables or picnic tables. There were 39 comments referring to shade and shelter - seeking consideration for use of the park in both sunny and cold/windy/drizzly Wellington days.

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Seating	112
Tables	19
Shelter	39
Drinking fountain	16
Public toilets	17
Rubbish bins	17
Bike parking	6
BBQ	5
Buffer from road	28
Food truck offering	14
Outdoor equipment (gym, gam	es) 27
Water feature	14
Dog friendly	6
Other	6



Word Cloud



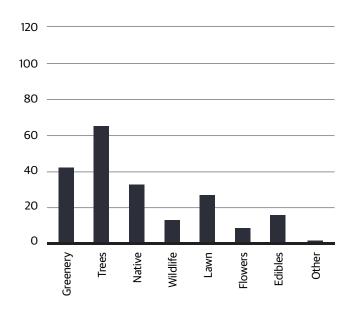
- "Please have seating for single persons as well as for family / friend groups with tables."
- "Different furniture to eat, read and relax at"
- "Seats with supportive backs for grandparents and parents."
- "Reclined seating so you can lay back"
- "comfortable choice of seating (together or alone, in open or more secluded)"
- "overhead covered space so that it can be used during the rain"
- "Shelter from wind and rain"
- "Access to both shade and sunny options"

NATURE

Nature represents a vital and transformative aspect that enriches the urban environment by integrating natural elements into the built landscape. It encompasses green spaces, trees, plants, water features, and other ecological components that have a profound impact on the well-being and character of a city.

There were 207 comments about nature. 42 wanted greenery, 65 specifically wanted trees, 33 wanted native trees and planting. 13 comments related to wanting nature to attract wildlife and support ecology. 27 said grass/lawn. 9 flowers. 16 wanted edible/community gardens.

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Greenery	42
Trees	65
Native	33
Wildlife	13
Lawn	27
Flowers	9
Edibles	16
Other	2



Word Cloud



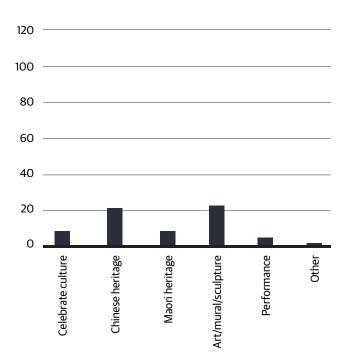
- "Sensory garden"
- "Interesting, seasonal beautiful plants to bring nature and biodiversity"
- "Native trees! Puka and Kowhai"
- "meditative space surrounded by green"
- "low maintenance planting"
- "as many plants as possible"
- "Let's get creative with the landscaping and introduce plants that give the space character"
- "resiliency and climate adaptation stormwater infrastructure"
- "Trees to shade in summer, with native foliage"

CULTURE AND ART

Culture and art constitute the vibrant heart and soul of a city, infusing its streets, buildings, and public spaces with creativity, expression, and a distinct sense of identity. This integration encompasses a spectrum of cultural venues, public art installations, performance spaces, and heritage preservation efforts that collectively shape the unique character and atmosphere of an urban environment.

There were 68 comments about cultural and art outcomes; of these, 39 wanted to recognise and celebrate culture with 21 specifically focused on Chinese heritage and 9 on Māori heritage. 23 comments wanted art/murals/sculpture to be considered and 5 sought performance, music or a small stage for performances.

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Celebrate culture	9
Chinese heritage	21
Maori heritage	9
Art/mural/sculpture	23
Performance	5
Other	1



Word Cloud



- "Local art installations"
- "Cool art interactive but robust, good for all ages."
- "small stage/performance area (that can double as play)"
- "artwork that reflects the heritage of the site."
- "recognition of Maori history and Chinese history"
- "art from local Maori, queer or disabled people, something that tells the history of the land"
- "Chinese heritage & history of the area explained and the Chinese culture acknowledged in this space"

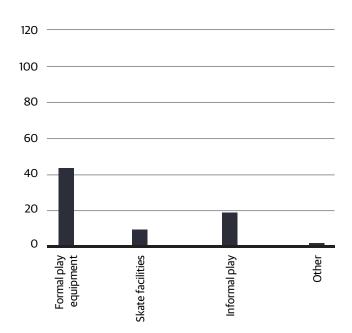
PLAY

The concept of "play" transcends mere recreation and evolves into an essential dimension that fosters joy, spontaneity, and a sense of well-rounded livability. Playful elements within an urban environment encompass a spectrum of features that encourage both physical activity and imaginative exploration.

44 comments wanted a playground or formal play equipment, with consideration of play for small children, elderly, accessible equipment. 9 comments wanted skate facilities or skate-able features. 18 comments sought informal or alternative play opportunities - for example foursquare, nature circuit, interactive play, kids activities or things for kids to climb/play on. *

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Formal play equipment	44
Skate facilities	9
Informal play	18
Other	1

^{*} In addition, 27 other comments also mentioned a want for chess tables, ping pong tables, gym equipment, and other outdoor activity equipment. This has been listed under Amenity.



Word Cloud



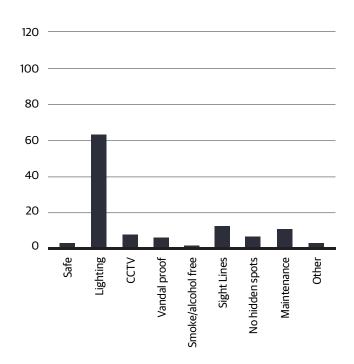
- "consider table tennis table, a badminton area, or a chess/mahjong area"
- "Outdoor ping pong table"
- "we need a good playground for children in this area badly"
- "small-scale recreation and play features e.g. outdoor bouldering wall"
- "adult sized swings usable by older youth."
- "some multi use items such as benches that are skateable or could function as fun play items"
- "innovative play equipment different to other areas"

SAFETY

Safety is a paramount principle that shapes the physical, social, and psychological well-being of a city's inhabitants. It encompasses a range of strategies and features aimed at reducing risks, fostering a sense of security, and creating environments where residents and visitors can navigate and interact without fear.

There were 64 comments asking for lighting. The majority were seeking lighting for the purposes of safety. 10 comments related to amenity lighting. 12 comments focused on ensuring clear sight lines, open space for good visibility, and ensuring there were no creation of blind spots, dark corners or hiding places. 10 comments sought regular maintenance and upkeep.

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Safe	2
Lighting	64
CCTV	7
Vandal proof	5
Smoke/alcohol free	1
Sight lines	12
No hidden spots	6
Maintenance	10
Other	2



Word Cloud



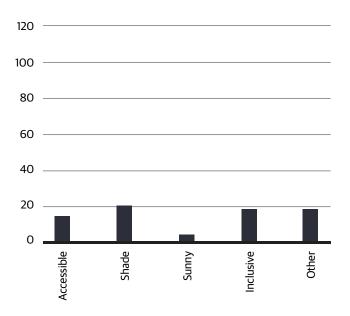
- "interesting, feature lighting"
- "Lights are also essential to improve visibility at night."
- "Good lighting, no dark corners, hidden corners."
- "want people to feel safe, especially at night."
- "Keep it clean"
- "Minimise surfaces that can to tagged with graffiti."
- "make sure it is open and inviting without any dark corners"
- "24-hr surveillance and security"

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Design considerations are the thoughtful and strategic factors that shape the development of physical spaces to meet the needs and aspirations of a community. These considerations encompass a wide range of elements that influence the functionality, aesthetics, and overall experience of urban environments.

There was interest for the park to be accessible and have accessible pathways. Some comments wanted the Council to ensure the ease of maintenance and ensure there will be storm water management onsite to avoid pooling. Other comments wanted the space to make use of sunny spots and have provision of Wi-Fi.

Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Accessible	14
Shade	20
Sunny	4
Inclusive	18
Other	18



Word Cloud



- "multi generational spaces"
- "connection to surrounding architecture."
- "design that integrates the nearby bus stop and walking connections."
- "multi-use spaces"
- "great local design"
- "keep it simple, its a small space"
- "Anything that contribute to the improvement of the social housing environment."
- "Any other feature that will improve visual and landscape quality."
- "fully accessible (disability, parents and elderly)"

CONCERNS

By spotlighting the concerns raised by residents, stakeholders, and other community members, it offers a platform to address topics of importance to the public, including potential drawbacks, perceived risks, and areas of uncertainty.

The focus of our engagement was on capturing the valuable feedback, opinions, and apprehensions expressed by members of the community. This segment aims to provide an overview of the issues and apprehensions expressed by members of the community.

A significant proportion of the comments express edreservations about the park's proximity to a busy road, highlighting worries about noise, pollution, and safety issues arising from traffic. Additionally, a notable number of comments emphasised the importance of safety, particularly for children, advocating for barriers or buffers between the park and the adjacent street. Anti-social behavior is a prominent concern, with a substantial portion of comments raising

worries about unwanted users, homelessness, and issues related to alcohol and drug use. Safety is a recurring theme, encompassing night-time security, clear sightlines, and proper lighting. The need for maintenance and cleanliness is also emphasised to prevent vandalism and maintain a hygienic environment.

Environmental conditions and usage patterns are subjects of concern, with some comments expressing worry about the site being windy, shaded, and potentially underutilized due to low foot traffic. Design preferences vary, with requests for a balance between simplicity and quality outcomes, avoiding both sparsity and clutter. Pedestrian connectivity and noise generated by recreational activities are additional considerations.

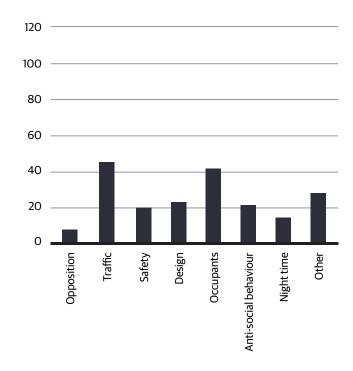


201 people had specific concerns

127 people had no concerns



Sub-catergory	No. of mentions
Opposition	7
Traffic	46
Safety	20
Design	23
Occupants	42
Anti-social behaviour	21
Night time	14
Other	28

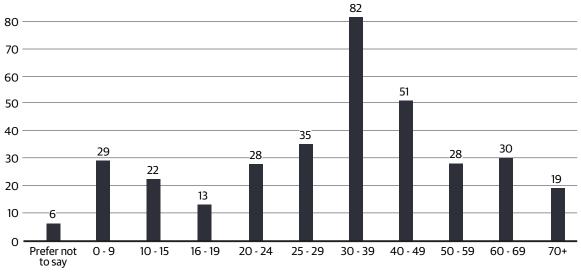


- "Proximity with Taranaki Street traffic making it an unpleasant place to relax"
- "Given its close to a major Road thoroughfare, will need some kind of barrier so kids can't easily run out on the road'
- "I wouldn't like it to be used late at night by groups consuming alcohol"
- "It getting destroyed or taken over by antisocial people using it for drugs and harassing others"
- "Support on hand for any homeless or persons with mental or other health issues."
- "Make it SAFE women and girls should feel like they can walk home at night safely"
- "good lighting at night will be important for safety walking through"
- "Need to ensure there's good lighting please, and the design should reflect CPTED principles"
- "maintenance and kaitiakitanga of the park"
- "I hope that this space will be well-maintained my only concern is that it will become unkempt"
- "It would need to be open, well-lit and well maintained"

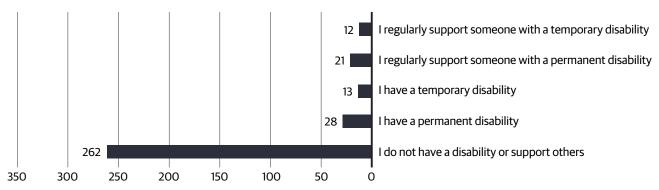
- "ensure there are no areas where people can gather at night without being seen"
- "might not always have good light/sun due to the taller buildings around."
- "The wind can be quite rough in that area."
- "I don't think this is a good location for a park.
 I don't see how people would go there unless
 they live nearby."
- "concerned that it might not be used very often"
- "ensuring the space feels welcoming and open is important"
- "Teenage kids have very few spaces to hang out and parks like that would be great for them."
- "refer to the skateable city report in order to really create an inclusive space."
- "I fear you may develop the park with hostile architecture in mind to prevent certain groups of people from feeling welcome."
- "Don't make it boring and minimalist, make it glorious, lush and abundant!"

DATA RESULTS: RIMA SURVEY (cont.)

Which of the following age groups do you, and anyone you are submitting on behalf of, fall into?



Which of the following levels of disability apply to you?





CONCLUSION: RIMA SURVEY

The public feedback gathered through our comprehensive survey provides a profound insight into the community's perceptions and expectations for the future Frederick Street Park. The responses, totaling over 370 comments, have been analysed and categorised into distinct themes that summarises the community's views.

These overarching themes (including amenities, nature, culture and art, play, safety, and design considerations) reflect the diverse desires, concerns, and aspirations of the public. Through these comments, it is evident that the community seeks a balanced urban environment that integrates elements of comfort, natural beauty, cultural significance, recreational opportunities, and above all, safety.

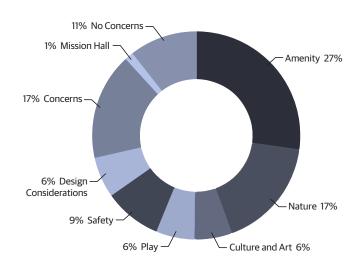
Many respondents expressed reservations about the park's proximity to a busy road, raising valid concerns about noise, pollution, and safety hazards posed by vehicular traffic. Safety concerns extended further to encompass considerations for children's well-being, suggesting barriers between the park and the adjacent street.

Anti-social behaviour emerged as a significant point of apprehension, with several comments highlighting worries about unwanted user groups, homelessness, and substance-related issues. The emphasis on safety was reinforced by the necessity for well-lit spaces, unobstructed sightlines, and proper maintenance to ensure a secure and hygienic environment.

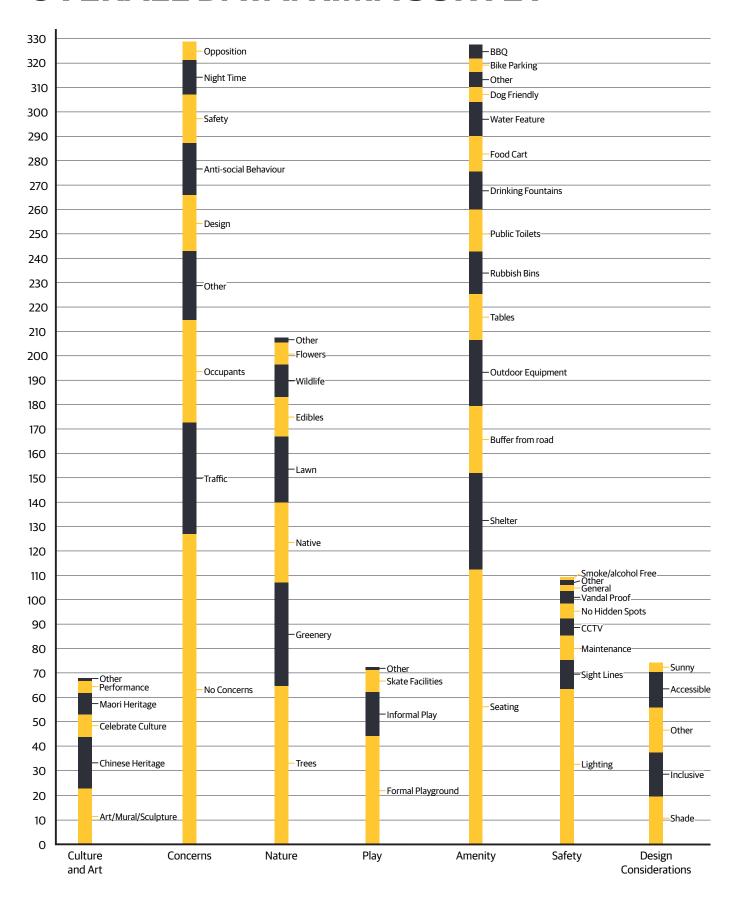
Environmental factors, such as wind conditions and shading, were also highlighted, with considerations about the park's usability and potential limitations due to its surroundings. Design preferences were varied, emphasising a need for thoughtful aesthetics, connectivity, and functionality that caters to the entire community.

The collected insights are instrumental as we embark on the design phase of the project. The feedback provided will help in guiding our design decisions, ensuring that the park not only addresses the community's needs but also serves as an inviting space for all.

This engagement process allows us to create a park that resonates with the aspirations of the people it will serve. We look forward to incorporating these insights as we shape the future of Frederick Street Park.



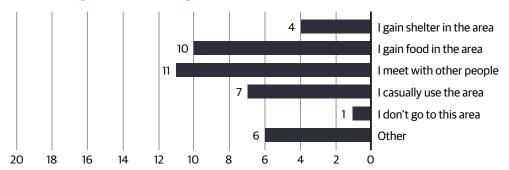
OVERALL DATA: RIMA SURVEY



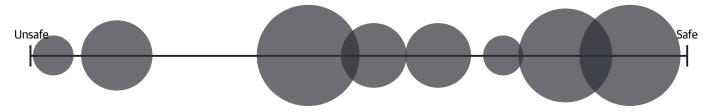
DATA RESULTS: DCM SURVEY

We spent a couple of days at the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) as an opportunity to meet the tau mai that are part of the DCM whanau and engage with them on this project. We both spent time with tau mai and worked through a survey with them. We received a total of 30 completed surveys.

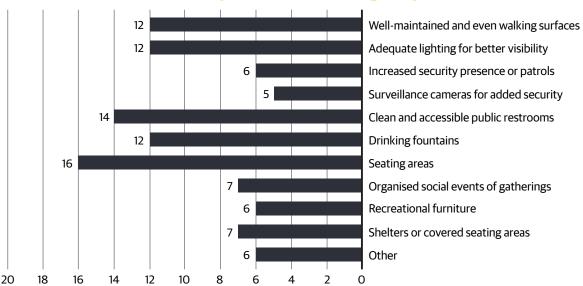
How do you currently use the area around the Frederick Street area?



How safe do you feel in this area?



What makes an outdoor space more inviting for you?



Other

- Playground
- Busy x2
- Green

- Gardens
- Socialising
- Basketball court

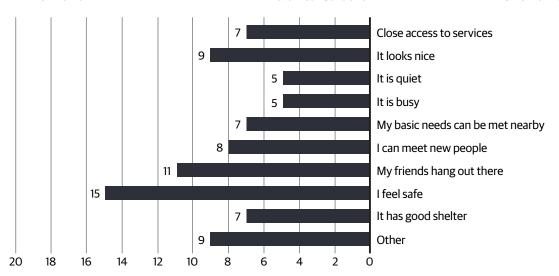
Skateable x2

What is your favourite outdoor space in the city? Why?

- DCM
- Cuba Street x2
- Drop in centres
- Te Aro Park x2

- Waitangi Park
- Waterfront x6
- Compassion Soup Kitchen x2
- Botanical Gardens

- Manners Street
- Pukeahau x2
- · Anywhere warm and sheltered
- Oriental Parade x2



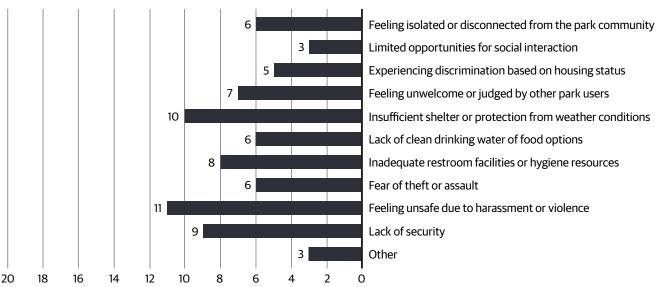
Other-

- Exercise
- Walkable
- Spacious
- Seating
- Green
- Nice to walk
- Kid-friendly

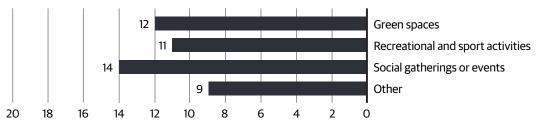
- Recreation
- Feels like home
- Fishing
- Skating
- Good sun
- Lots of space
- Nature

- Holds memories
- Connection to place
- Relaxing
- Coffee
- Fresh air and sunshine

What are some challenges that stop you from using existing outdoor spaces?



Are there any specific activities you would like to see in the park?

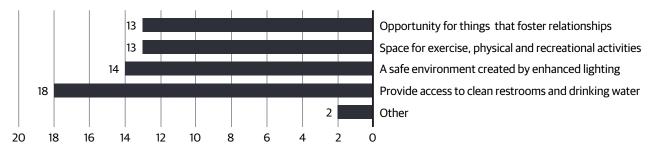


Other

- Freedom
- · Activities for kids
- · Something out of the ordinary
- Chess x2
- Busking

- Skating x3
- Parkour
- X-Sports
- Live music
- Beatbox competitions
- Place to hang out
- Sports
- Games
- · Quiet time
- · Free community activities

How would you like the new park to contribute to your wellbeing and quality of life?

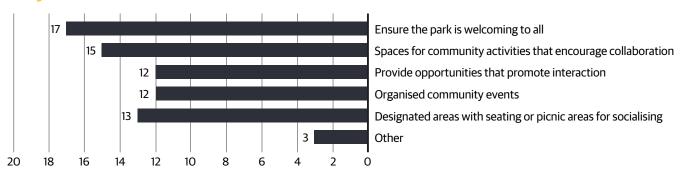


Other

Gym

- Local hosts (rather than police)
- Quiet space

How can the new park encourage social interaction, and a sense of belonging for you?



Other:

- Well-lit
- Seeing other people enjoying themselves

Skating

Additional comments

- The street is home to tau mai, therefore welcoming others into the city is like welcoming someone into their home, they want people to feel comfortable and enjoy themselves in public spaces.
- Tau mai want a safe space, just to be.
- A lot of places currently don't have enough street light to feel safe.
- Overall, Wellington is lovely but it needs more sheltered seating.

Conclusion

We undertook meaningful engagement with the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) by spending dedicated time with the tau mai who are integral to the DCM community. Through this interaction, we conducted a survey that garnered 30 completed responses, shedding light on the perspectives and desires of this vital group.

For many tau mai, the street is more than just a thoroughfare; it's their home, and they aspire for the city to extend a warm and inviting welcome to all visitors, making public spaces enjoyable and comfortable. The overriding sentiment is the need for a safe haven where they can simply exist, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being.

Safety is paramount, and many tau mai feel that insufficient lighting creates an atmosphere of vulnerability. A recurring theme is the desire for sheltered seating and accessible amenities, such as well-maintained spaces and clean toilets, to enhance their experience of outdoor spaces.

The survey responses indicated that social interaction is central to their outdoor experience. Gathering with others and sharing meals are essential activities, highlighting the importance of a space that supports community connections. Feeling safe is a pivotal factor in their favorite outdoor spaces, which often involve interactions with friends.

Challenges that hinder their outdoor engagement revolve around a lack of shelter and concerns about personal safety due to harassment. These insights illuminate the critical need for well-designed spaces that prioritise security and comfort.

The new park is seen as an opportunity for social gatherings and events, providing a platform for interactions that enhance their well-being. Access to clean facilities and drinking water is regarded as vital for their overall health.

In line with the desire for inclusivity, the new park's design should be welcoming to everyone, fostering social interaction and creating an environment where all can thrive. This engagement process has amplified the voices of tau mai, emphasising their need for safe, comfortable, and socially enriching outdoor spaces. We will use these valuable insights to inform our design decisions and create a park that truly reflects the desires and aspirations of this integral community.