

An analysis of the usage of public parks within four suburbs of Kempton Park.

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Why Parks?

Research suggests:

- Spending time outdoors in green spaces, breathing fresh air and getting exercise has a positive influence on a quality of life. (Westphal 2003, Gaston, 2010)
- Strong correlation between longevity and access to parks for walking (Takano *et al.*, 2002)
- Major factors influencing usage of parks accessibility and quality of the area. (Lee & Maheswaran, 2010)
- Goosen (2015) in his study on public parks in Durban found that 2 key determinants influences park usage, safety and the child-friendliness.
- Attractive open spaces are critical for reducing the negative effects of urbanization (Bruce, 2007).
- In order to entice residents to use parks the right combination of environmental, economic and social conditions need to be met.

Why are the parks in Kempton Park not used?

- Despite the obvious benefits associated with park usage.
- The public use of parks in Kempton Park appears to be negligible.
- WHY?
 - As far back as in the 1980's it was found that parks cater for very limited range of urban clients (Howard & Crompton, 1984).
 - Why is this? What factors influence this usage?

What did we hope to achieve doing this research?

- What factors do residents consider when choosing to make use of a Public Park?
- What factors influence residents not to make use of a Public Park?
- What factors could the local council consider to encourage greater usage of Public Parks?

Research design and method

- Small scale case study survey of 4 suburbs of Kempton Park
 - Allen Grove, Aston Manor, Glen Marais and Nimrod Park
- Structured questionnaire comprising 20 Questions (18 closed questions and 2 open-ended questions)
 - n=36



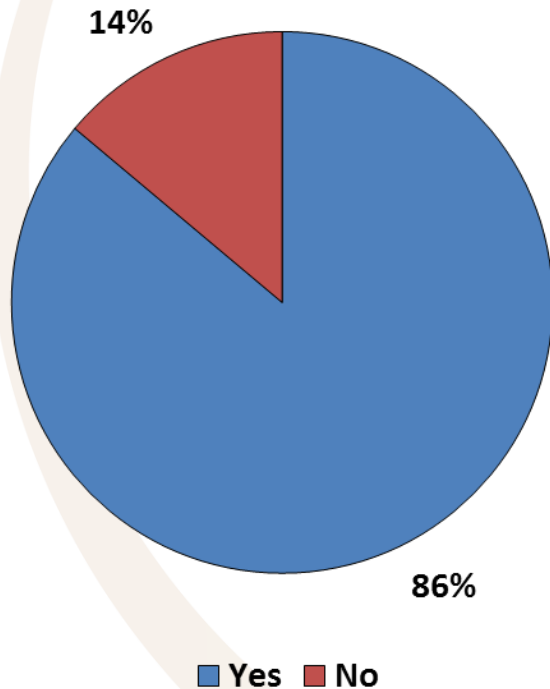
Study Area Demographics

| Suburb (Including Extensions) | Population | Households | Area (km ²) | Number of parks per suburb |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allen Grove | 2801 | 748 | 1.28 | 2 |
| Aston Manor | 1961 | 539 | 0.96 | 1 |
| Glen Marais | 16088 | 5586 | 6.87 | 8 |
| Nimrod Park | 1061 | 314 | 0.53 | 2 |
| Totals | 21911 | 7187 | 9.64 | 13 |

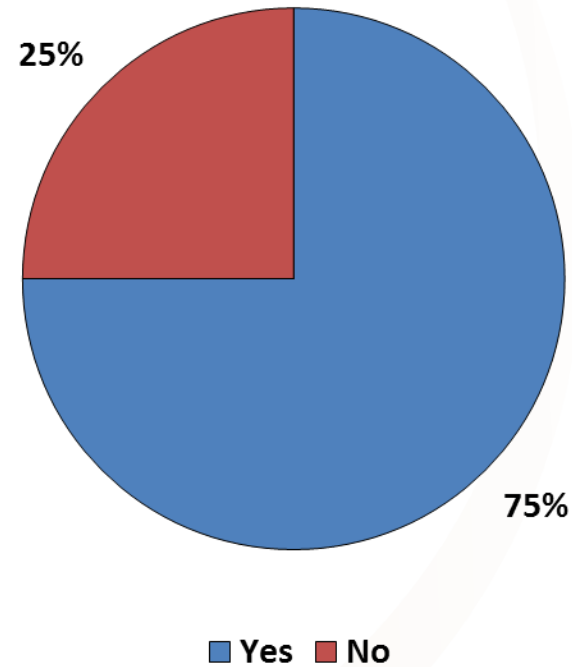
(Stats SA, 2011)

Results

Do you believe that parks are important in terms of your own relaxation leisure and/or exercise?

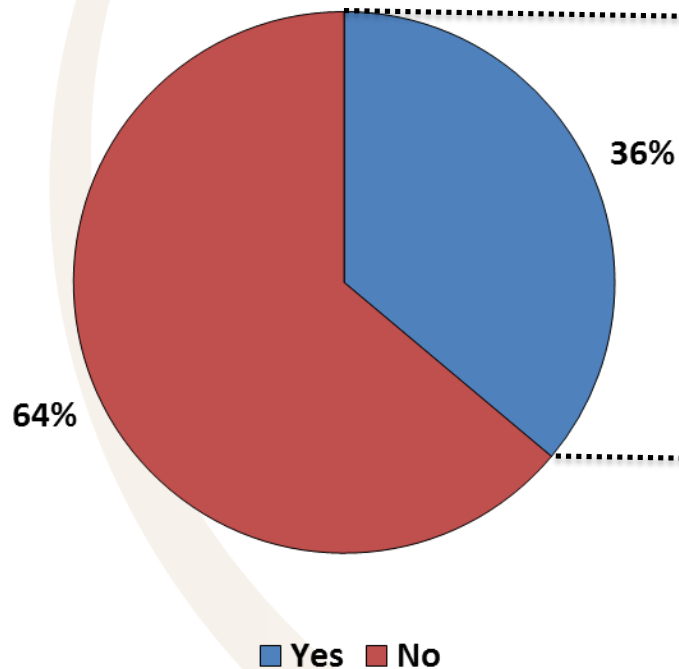


Are there Parks conveniently located close to your home?

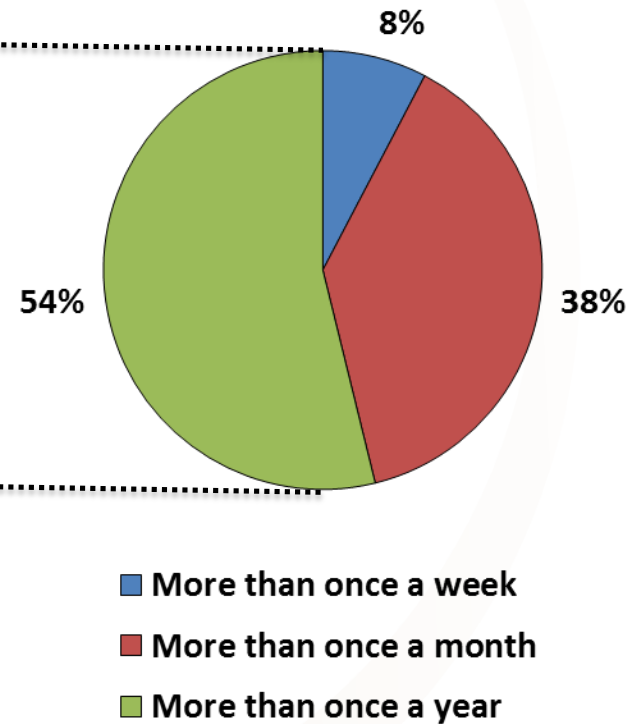


Results

Do you make use of public parks in your area?



If you made use of public parks how often do you make use of the parks?

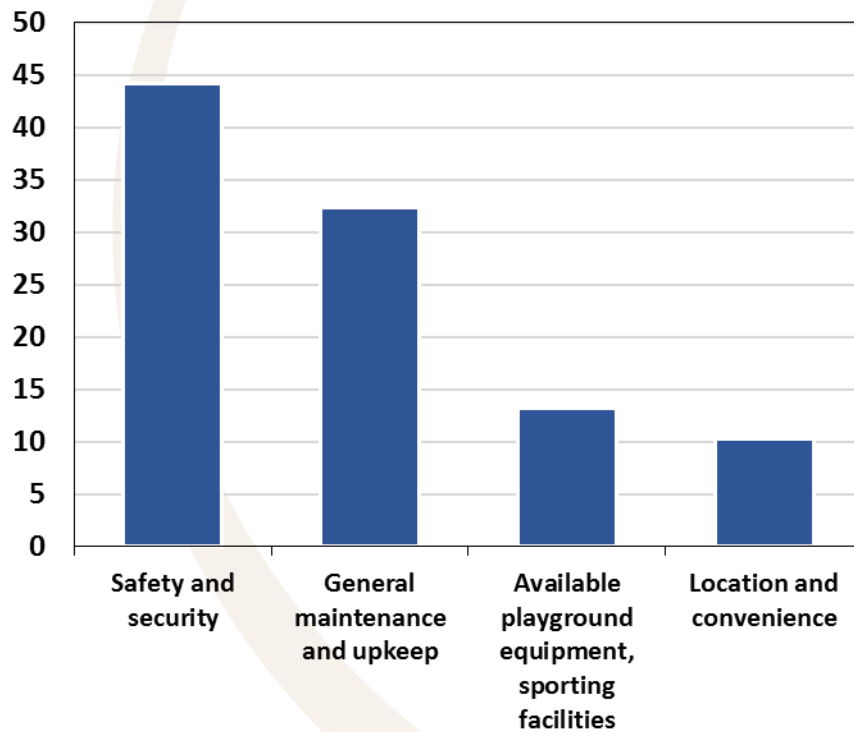


Results

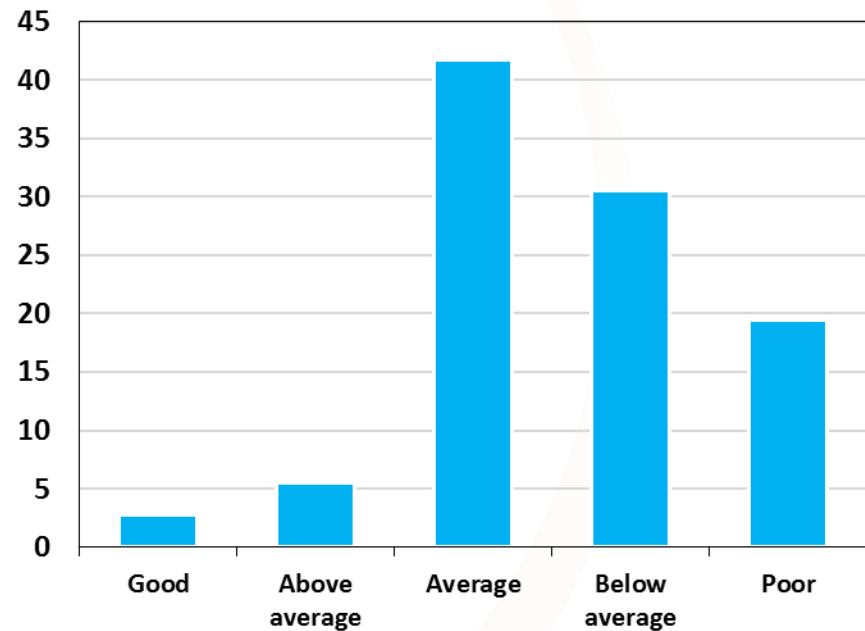
- If you do not use public parks state the reason you don't make use of the parks?
 - *Safety*
 - *No need to use them*
 - *Minimum maintenance*
 - *Not enough security*
 - *Not well maintained*
 - *No interest and parks are in poor condition*
 - *Not safe. No dogs allowed*
 - *Do not have small children*
 - *Security*
 - *Feel unsafe*
 - *Parks are not safe*
 - *Parks are dirty. Vagrancy. To many soccer games*
 - *Not safe for elderly*
 - *No attraction*
 - *Safety issues*
 - *No need*
 - *No time*
 - *Dangerous*

Results

What factors would you consider as most important when deciding to make use of a public park?

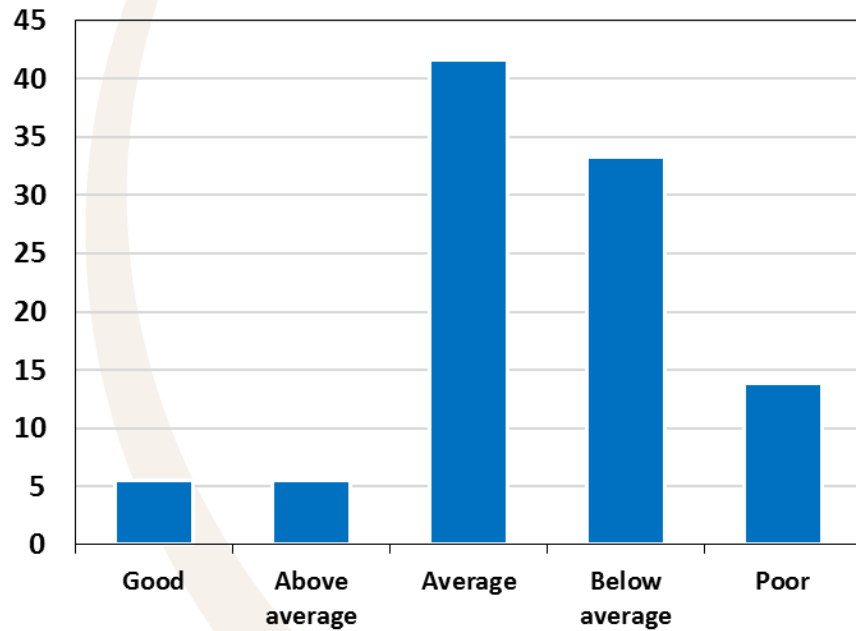


How would you rate the safety at the parks?

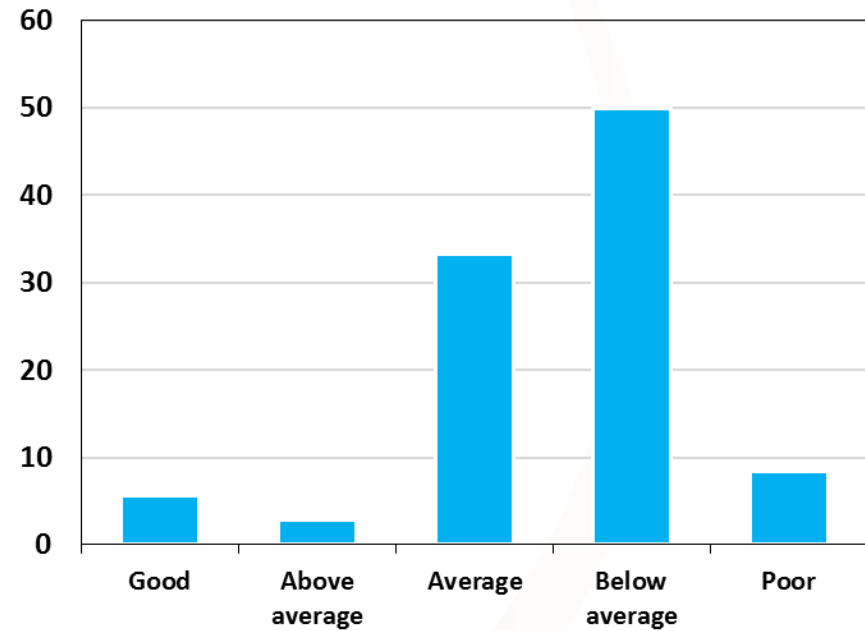


Results

How would you rate the available park facilities?

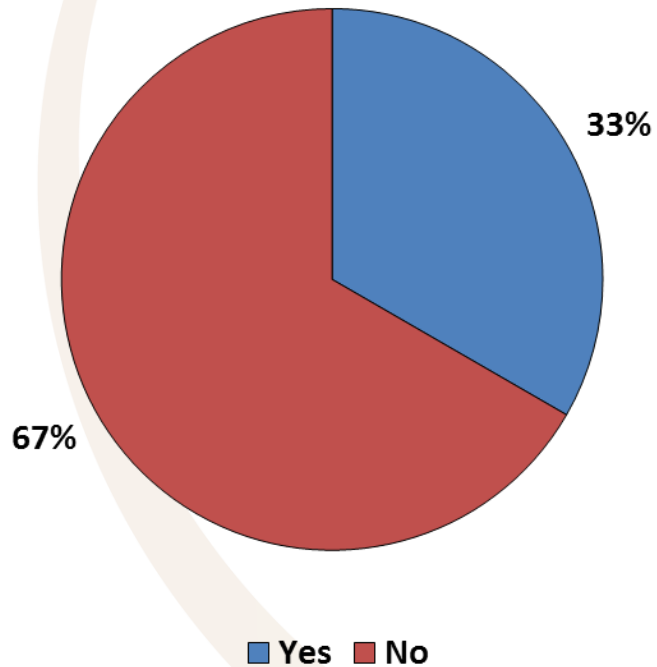


How would you rate the general maintenance and upkeep of the parks?

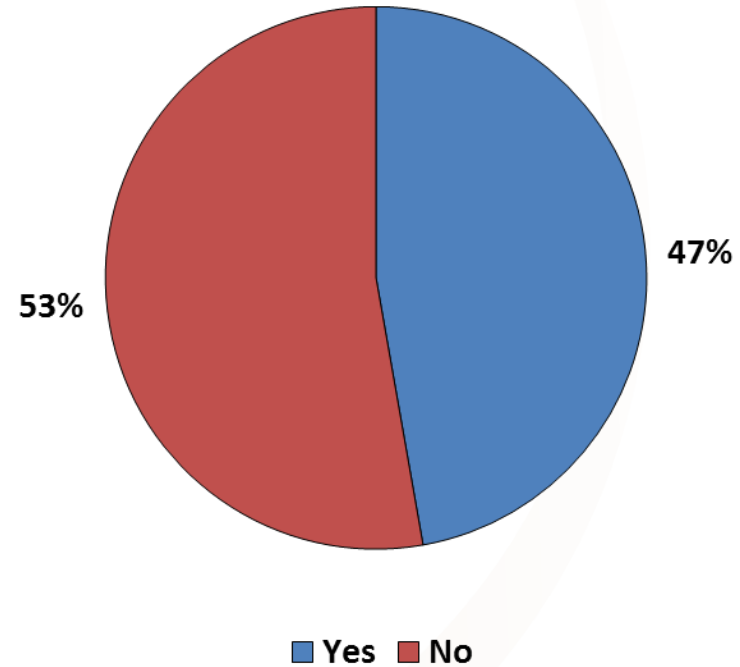


Results

In your opinion, are parks child friendly?



In your opinion, are parks pet friendly?

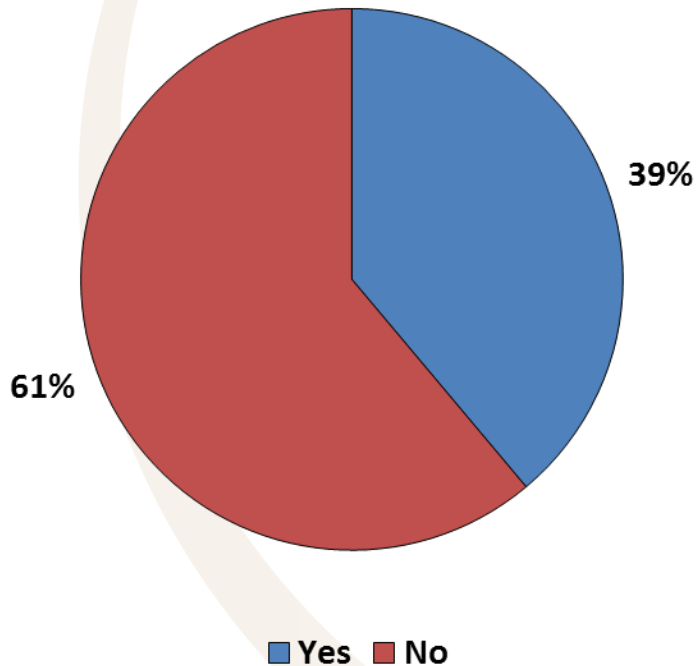


Results

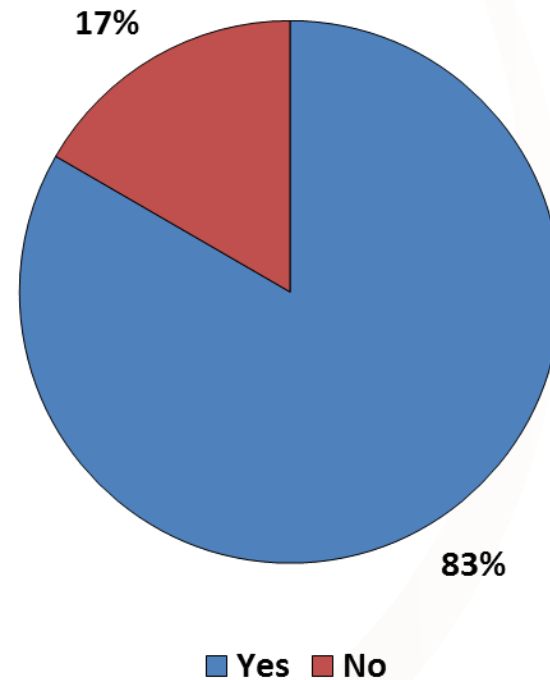
- What park facilities would you like to see in your area?
 - *An area / park for children to play*
 - *Well maintained parks*
 - *Tennis courts, trees and grass for picnics*
 - *More playground facilities for children*
 - *Dog parks*
 - *Tennis courts, braai facilities*
 - *Fitness park*
 - *Pet friendly parks with security*
 - *Swings*
 - *Outdoor gyms*
 - *Benches, bird hides*
 - *Benches to sit*
 - *More sport and exercise facilities*
 - *Pet facilities*
 - *Security*

Results

Would you agree to an increase in your rates and taxes, if the money was used to better manage and maintain parks?

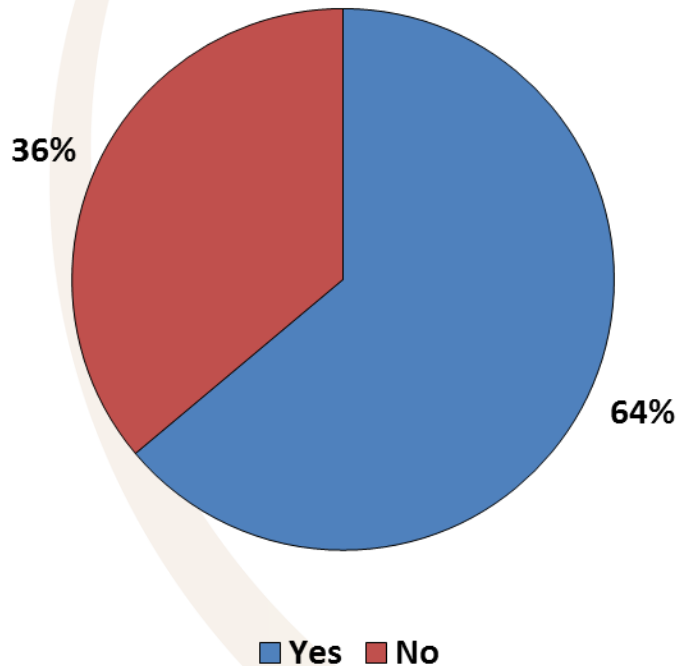


Do you believe resident should have a greater say in the management of parks?

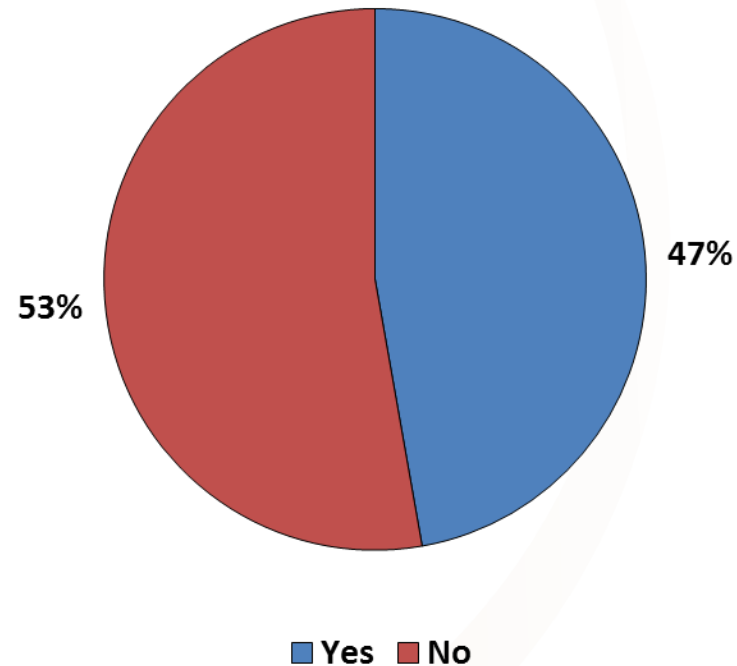


Results

**Do you think it would be a good idea to
privatise public parks?**



Would you pay to make use of parks?

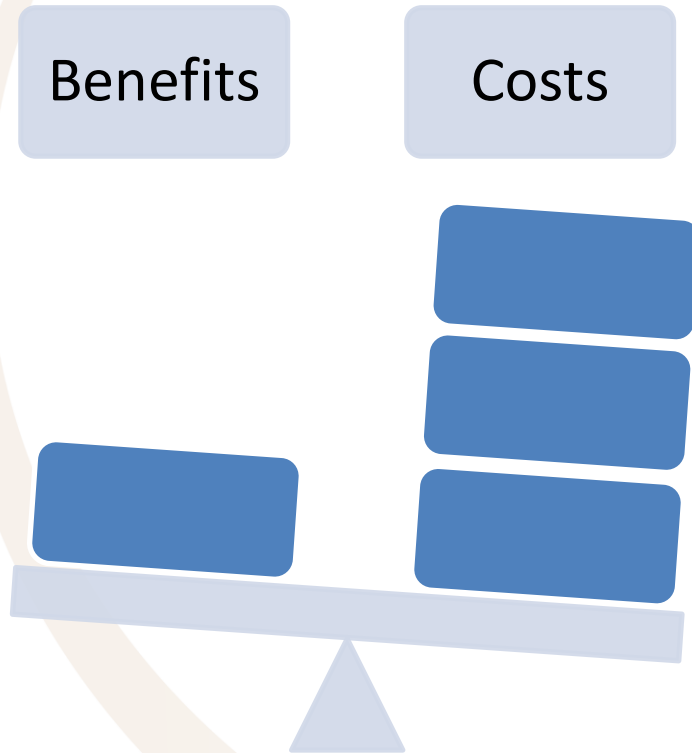


Summary of findings

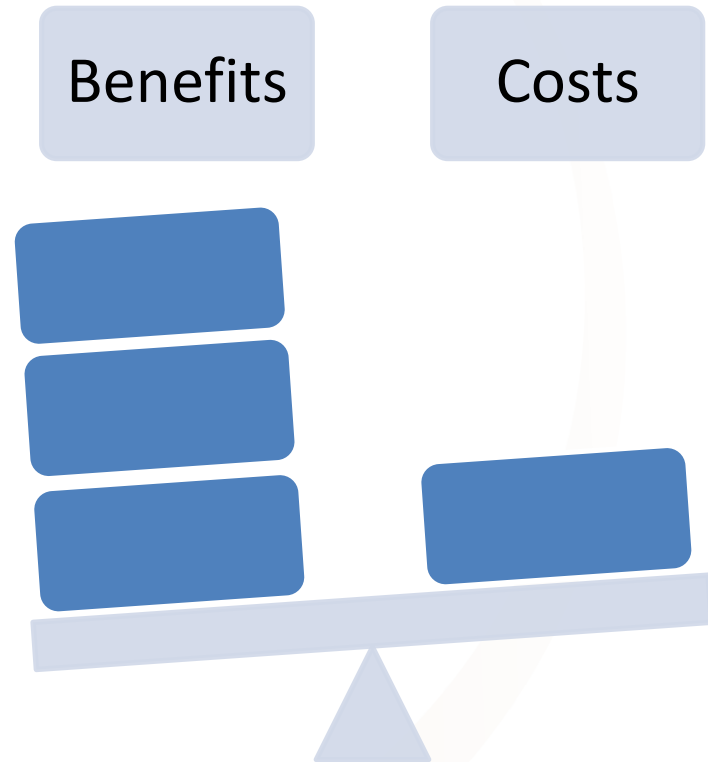
- Even though parks are considered important and conveniently located usage of public parks is low.
- Safety concerns, lack of maintenance and facilities
- Not child and pet friendly.
- Don't agree to extra taxes for park maintenance
- Greater say in park management
- Privatised parks but don't pay for using parks

Way forward

Negative perceptions
= low use



Positive perceptions =
high use





Thank you

Define tomorrow.

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