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participation in strategic park management

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Abstract

English

Research concerning the importance of urban greenspaces, such as parks, has strongly increased since the turn of the century and the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has yet again highlighted not only the environmental but also the social and mental health benefits of parks. Yet the provision and upkeep of parks is in a precarious state with many local governments not being able to deliver this service equally for a diverse range of residents. Some academics consider deliberate democracy in form of public participation as a way to improve parks and reduce such environmental injustice. This thesis draws together park management and public participation theory. This is unlike previous research which focused on one or the other aspect to improve greenspace. These two aspects are combined by analysing how municipal parks are managed to understand how park users can participate within current decision-making processes. Due to the contextuality of park governance, two cases were chosen: Lochend Park, Edinburgh and Helmut Zilk Park, Vienna. The question this research seeks to answer is: to what extent is public participation facilitated within the different stages of strategic park management? Information was collected through interviews with civil servants and politicians as well as surveys with park users; focusing on the dimensions of the policy arrangement approach: actors, rules of the game, resources, and narratives. In both cities, the division of greenspace responsibilities between the planning and parks departments leads to a lack of coordinated decision-making. Like previous research has shown, the public only gets involved during certain stages of park management, which does not allow for holistic solutions. Moreover, narratives around 'expert' knowledge, pragmatism, and lack of budget strongly limit the potential of public participation by first, alienating park users from partaking and second, by rejecting the valuable needs of those park users. Due to the dynamics of park management, continuous research is required in this field particularly regarding how park user needs are addressed by local governments.

Deutsch

Studien über die Wichtigkeit von städtischen Grünflächen, wie z. B. Parks, haben seit der Jahrhundertwende stark zugenommen. Der Ausbruch der Covid-19-Pandemie

hat nicht nur die Vorteile von Parks für die Umwelt, sondern auch für die soziale und psychische Gesundheit hervorgehoben. Dennoch befindet sich die Bereitstellung und Pflege von Parks in einem prekären Zustand, da viele Stadtverwaltungen nicht in der Lage sind, diese Dienstleistung für eine Vielzahl von Einwohnern gleichermaßen zu gewähren. Einige Wissenschaftler sehen in der deliberativen Demokratie in Form von BürgerInnenbeteiligung die Möglichkeit, Parks zu verbessern und diese umweltbedingte Ungerechtigkeit zu reduzieren. Diese Arbeit verbindet Parkmanagement- mit Partizipationstheorien. Dies steht im Gegensatz zu bisherigen Recherchen, die sich auf den einen oder anderen Aspekt beschränken, um Grünflächen zu verbessern. Diese beiden Gesichtspunkte werden kombiniert, indem analysiert wird, wie städtische Parks verwaltet werden, um zu verstehen, wie Parknutzer innerhalb der derzeitigen Entscheidungsprozesse teilnehmen können. Aufgrund der Kontextabhängigkeit von Parkmanagement wurden zwei Fälle für diese Studie ausgewählt: Lochend Park, Edinburgh und Helmut Zilk Park, Wien. Die Frage, die diese Arbeit zu beantworten versucht, lautet: Inwieweit wird die BürgerInnenbeteiligung innerhalb der verschiedenen Phasen des strategischen Parkmanagements ermöglicht? Interviews mit BeamtenInnen und PolitikerInnen sowie Befragungen mit ParknutzerInnen haben sich auf die Dimensionen des „Policy-Arrangement-Approaches“; Akteure, Spielregeln, Ressourcen und Narrative; konzentriert. In beiden Städten führt die Aufteilung der Verantwortlichkeiten für Grünflächen zwischen der Stadtplanungs- und der Parkabteilung zu einem Mangel an koordinierten Entscheidungen. Wie schon vorherige Arbeiten ergeben haben, wird die Öffentlichkeit nur in bestimmten Phasen des Parkmanagements miteinbezogen. Dies jedoch ermöglicht keine allumfassenden Lösungen. Darüber hinaus schränken Narrative rund um „Expertenwissen“, Pragmatismus und fehlendes Budget das Potenzial der Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung stark ein, indem sie erstens die Parknutzer von der Teilnahme entfremden und zweitens die Bedürfnisse dieser Parknutzer ablehnen. Aufgrund der Dynamik des Parkmanagements sind kontinuierliche Forschungen in diesem Bereich erforderlich, insbesondere mit Hinblick darauf, wie Stadtverwaltungen die Bedürfnisse der ParknutzerInnen berücksichtigen.

Keywords/Schlagwörter: Urban greenspace, park governance, park management, public participation, place-keeping, park user perspective, policy arrangement approach

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Statement

Deutsche Version

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English Version

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Krippeler Anne

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Abbreviations

FoLP – Friends of Lochend Park

CEC – The City of Edinburgh Council

CoV – The City of Vienna / Stadt Wien

fb – Facebook

GFA – Green Flag Award

HSR – Helmut Zilk Survey Respondent

HZP – Helmut Zilk Park

LP – Lochend Park

LPMP – Lochend Park Management Plan

LPU – Lochend Park User

LQR – Lochend QR-code Respondent

LR – Literature Review

MA – Magistratsabteilung (Municipal Department)

OS2021 – Edinburgh's Open Space Strategy 2016-2021

PAA – Policy Arrangement Approach

PGCD – Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Department (Edinburgh)

PGS – Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy

PP – Public Participation

PSI – Public Space Index

PQA – Park Quality Assessment

SPM – Strategic park management

STH – Stakeholder Interviewee

SWV – Sonnwendviertel

SWVFB – Sonnwendviertel_innen Facebook Group

TCGOS – Thematic Concept Green and Open Spaces

TGS – Thriving Green spaces

'If you ask people what they'd like to see improving in their park usually they say litter, toilets, café' (STH2)

Chapter 1 – Introduction

1.1 The importance of parks

The amount of research highlighting the importance of urban greenspaces, such as parks, has strongly increased since the turn of the century (Fors et al. 2015; Azadi et al. 2011; Taylor and Hochuli 2017). With the world becoming increasingly urban, hard infrastructure is posing a threat to green infrastructure (Ugolini et al. 2018). The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 has yet again highlighted the importance of greenspaces. The stark reduction of indoor activities, for social distancing purposes, attracted large numbers of the population to the outdoors again. During the pandemic, parks became places to find mental refuge, particularly when living in small apartments without the option of a private garden (Kleinschroth and Kowarik 2020). Research on mental health showed that people who were confined to their homes suffered more mentally than people who were allowed to leave their house (Rossi et al. 2020; Chatterjee and Chauhan 2020).

Even before the pandemic academics underlined the importance of greenspaces as they provide environmental, social and health benefits. During the era of industrialisation the first 'publicly' accessible parks were introduced, due to the belief that nature increases people's morals and reduces anarchy and crime (Byrne and Wolch 2009). In Edinburgh the first public park, called Calton Hill, was established in 1724; and in Vienna the Stadtpark was the first park developed for the public in 1899. However, these parks were usually controlled, limiting the access to racial and ethnic minorities as well as people from lower income classes (Byrne and Wolch 2009; Smith et al. 2014).

Since then, through utopian visions such as the garden city by Ebenezer Howard, the allocation of greenspace has become an important urban policy tool (Baycan-Levent and Nijjkamp 2009). Municipalities have become invested in making greenspace accessible to the urban population, often in forms of parks (ibid.). Today, there is a widespread agreement that parks improve a person's quality of life within the city (World Health Organisation 2017; Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014; Boulton et al. 2020; Konijnendijk et al. 2013). Greenspaces 'promote physical activity, mental health and well-being' (Rigolon et al. 2018, 2) through stress reduction (Wolch, Byrne, and

Newell 2014). They also stabilise negative environmental effects because they filter air; have a cooling effect (Yoong et al. 2017); and act as water runoffs against flooding (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014). They are also act as spaces of encounter and socialisation, provide community amenities, produce food, create heritage and culture (Boulton et al. 2020, 1). Therefore, greenspaces such as parks can create a sense of belonging and they have historically been places for everyday and civic participation (Gilmore 2017).

1.2 The importance of public participation

Unfortunately, research has also shown that greenspaces are not equally accessible for everyone (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014; Kabisch and Haase 2014; Glatter-Götz et al. 2019). This environmental injustice is deeply structural. It is influenced by a person's positionality like race, ethnicity, income, physical ability, gender, sexuality and many other factors (Byrne and Wolch 2009). These factors also dictate a person's greenspace needs and perceptions (Wright Wendel, Zarger, and Mihelcic 2012). Nevertheless, greenspace needs are measured using mainly quantitative standards, which cannot fully accommodate certain needs (ibid.).

This research considers the public to be park users, meaning any person with an interest to frequent parks. This also includes people who would like to frequent parks but do not do so because of their perceived lack of access.

Public participation (PP) is considered a potential solution to include qualitative measures such as park users perceptions by including the public in the decision-making processes. PP has the potential to improve democratic decision making and increase one's sense of belonging (Burton 2009; Buijs et al. 2016). This notion became supported by signing the 1992 Rio Declaration and the 1998 Aarhus Convention stating that public participation is key to achieving sustainable development and contributes to a person's health and wellbeing (United Nations 1992; UNECE 1998). In line with this, park governance structures have increasingly included the public in decision-making processes (Lawrence et al. 2013; Buijs and et al. 2016). Thus, PP allows the public to voice their demands, ensuring that urban parks are attractive by reflecting their needs (Kaplan 1980).

Conversely, it has been proven that PP improves parks only in limited ways (Fors et al. 2015). There is a gap between participation theory and practice which does not allow park users to voice their concerns and feedback and turn them into adequate

improvements (Burton 2009). Coupled with decreasing budgets, parks run the danger of becoming increasingly neglected, less used and being perceived as dirty and dangerous (Gilmore 2017). This reduction in good and accessible park facilities reduces the social and health benefits of the local population and particularly those who are most vulnerable (Sister, Wolch, and Wilson 2010). Unattractive parks are less frequented reducing one's sense of belonging and motivation to participate (Young 2002).

This thesis is looking at strategic park management (SPM) and how and when the public can participate within park governance because this field remains understudied (Jansson and Randrup 2020). The ways through which parks are managed defines the potential for public participation within park management. Understanding SPM - the governance, planning, design, management, and maintenance - of greenspaces, is important to ensure that urban parks meet the needs of potential park users (Jansson and Randrup 2020). Therefore, engaging the public within SPM can be beneficial for the physical green space, participants, and other potential users (Fors et al. 2015; Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch 2014).

Due to the contextuality of park governance, two cases were chosen: Lochend Park in Edinburgh, Scotland and Helmut Zilk Park in Vienna, Austria. In both cases, public participation in parks is considered to be crucial; yet their narratives, approaches, and methods vary. Consequently, a range of PP opportunities and challenges will be enumerated. Using the policy arrangement approach by Liefferink (2006), this thesis will look at the power relations, resources, actors, rules, and narratives that impact SPM. Understanding these nuances has the potential to increase park user participation leading to better democratic processes and ultimately improving parks and the quality of life of park users.

This thesis is of interest to anyone looking for an introduction into the topic of park governance particularly in the contexts of Edinburgh and Vienna. The general assumption is that the public should be involved in all stages of SPM to promote holistic decision making (Randrup and Persson 2009; Van Herzele 2004). It is recognised that PP in parks is particularly crucial for marginalised people such as ethnic minorities and lower income populations, because they rely and can benefit more from urban parks than more privileged populations; but only if parks reflect their needs (Sister, Wolch, and Wilson 2010). Nevertheless, if PP is limitedly accessible to more privileged people than they cannot be accessible to the most vulnerable either.

Therefore, this thesis is not looking at specific participation projects and whether and how certain demographics are included; but at how PP is facilitated in everyday park management practices within those two parks.

1.3 Research questions

In the light of the above the research question is:

To what extent is public participation facilitated within the different stages of strategic park management?

Following sub-questions will guide the main research question:

1. How do park management and governance compare within Edinburgh and Vienna?
2. How does the public participation narratives differ between various actors?
3. How can alternative ways of public participation be fostered?

1.4 Edinburgh and Vienna

Lochend Park (LP) in Edinburgh and Helmut Zilk Park (HZP), in Vienna were chosen as part of this case study analysis. Although the parks are managed on a city-wide level, the focus on one park in each city will allow to observe specific everyday participation practices in a particular context. Both of these parks' neighbourhoods have been impacted by deindustrialisation and are now facing demographic changes introduced through new housing developments.

Edinburgh is a small city of approximately 500,000 people whilst Vienna houses nearly 2,000,000 people. Both cities claim that 50% of their administrative surface is covered with greenspace (CEC 2016c; Stadt Wien 2015) and they ranked top 5 in the Sustainable Cities Index by Arcadis (2018). What's more Vienna was celebrated as the world's greenest city in 2020 by Resonance Consultancy (WienTourismus 2020) and First Mile found Edinburgh to be the UK's greenest city in 2019 (Lerwill 2021).

Due to park management being highly contextual, meaning, that park management and hence public participation practices vary depending on location, culture, history, economic background and many other factors (Randrup and Persson 2009; Lawrence et al. 2013; Buijs et al. 2019). Indeed, both Edinburgh and Vienna are located in Europe, yet their welfare regimes are different with Scotland being a liberal and Austria being a conservative regime. Based on previous research (Rostila 2007; van Oorschot 2007) it is assumed that this difference also impacts greenspace

governance. By comparing two contrasting cases, this thesis will highlight some common trends in park management as well as discuss the divergences between both cities and parks.

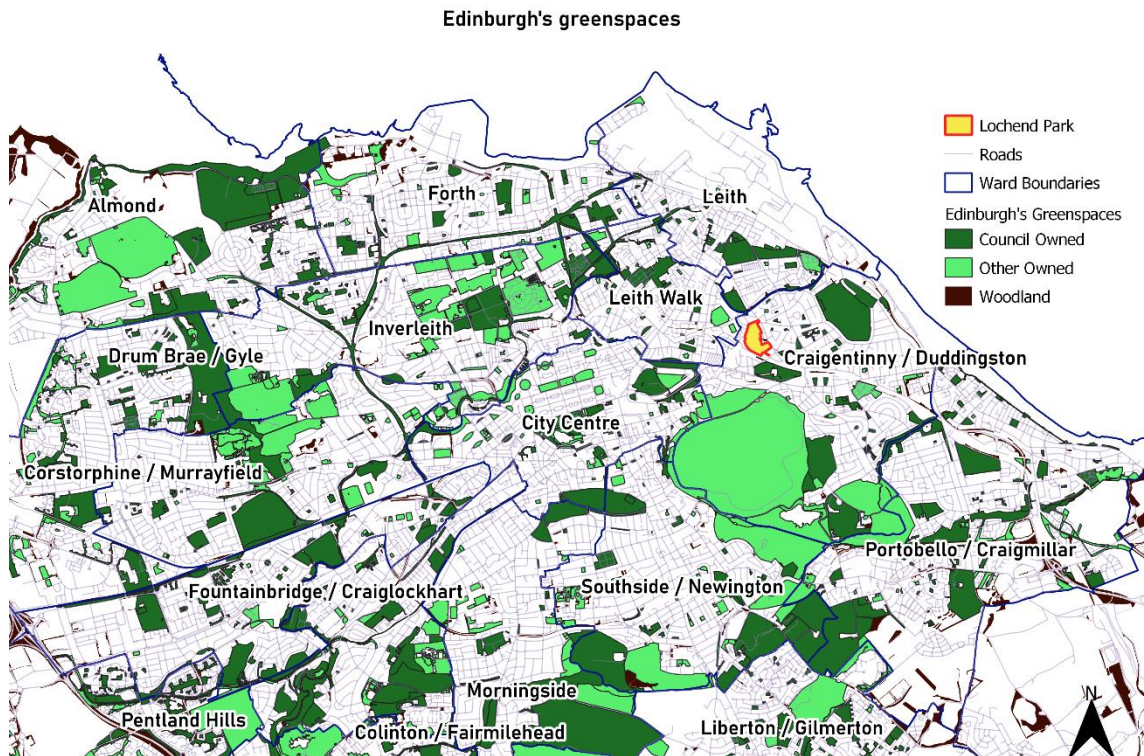


Figure 1 - Edinburgh's greenspaces. C= council owned. O = others owned. Source: Map data compiled using © QGIS Development Team (2021) and data copyright: © OpenStreetMap contributors (2021); Open Government License 3.0 (2021) contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 and contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and database right 2021 and contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2021

Vienna's Greenspaces

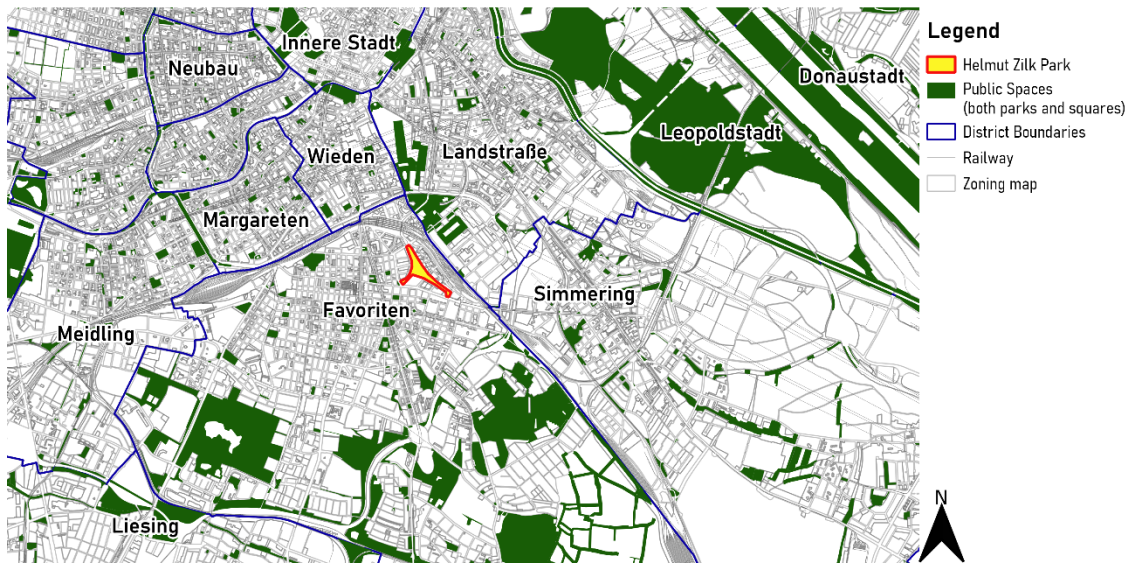


Figure 2 - Vienna's greenspaces. Public spaces include both squares and parks. Source: Map data compiled using QGIS Development Team; data copyright © Stadt Wien (data.wien.gv.at) and database right 2021

1.5 Thesis outline

This first chapter has provided some background and underlying assumptions on the importance of parks, their management and public participation within parks. It has outlined the research problem and the guiding question for this thesis which will allow this research to analyse the complexities of strategic park management, particularly focusing on the inclusion of the public. Chapter 2 is a literature review divided in two main parts, considering first park management and governance theory and second public participation theory focusing on the notions of power and knowledge. Chapter 3 consists of the methodology, research design, data collection methods and analyses as well as some limitations to this research. Chapter 4 will outline the findings of both cities enumerating the actors, park management practices and the perceptions of stakeholder and a small number of park users regarding the parks and their management. Chapter 5 will then discuss how these findings align with the theories mentioned in Chapter 2 to highlight some of the power relations and differences in narratives that shape park management in both cities. Chapter 5 will give some recommendations on how both cities can learn from each other and how changes in approaches could make a difference regarding better public participation. Chapter 6 will then summarise and conclude the workings of this thesis generating some outlook for future research.

Chapter 2 – Literature review

This literature review (LR) covers several definitions and aspects of park management (part 1) and public participation (part 2) to generate a basic understanding of relevant concepts and issues. Section 2.1 delineates the human-nature relationship this thesis is concerned with, before generating an 'public urban park' definition in section 2.2. Crucially a discussion on the publicness of a space is highlighted as a first step to understanding the importance of public participation. Then previous research on public participation in park management is highlighted (section 2.3). A way of including the public is through formal park governance, a process which comes in different forms, explained in section 2.4.

Although the governance and management of parks is deeply interconnected, the difference between the two is explained to show how frictions between both have negative impacts on parks. Two holistic approaches to park management that seek to combine the disconnects in management will be highlighted in section 2.5. Through understanding the above processes of park management highlights the manyfold ways in which the public can participate.

The major second part of this LR then focuses on public participation theories which outline more general public participation (PP) issues whilst connecting them to previously conducted greenspace research. PP gaps in park management are highlighted by considering notions of power and knowledge that influence PP. These power relations are discussed throughout this second part when covering topics such as typologies of PP, sense of belonging; and power and knowledge in public participation processes.

Part One

2.1 Park-Organisations-User model

The park-organisation-user (POU) model illustrates the human-nature relations which unfold around parks and was developed by Persson and Randrup (2009), figure 3. According to Jansson and Lindgren (2012) the model visualises urban landscape management and each part of the model can be analysed using different theories from various disciplines. The three key components of the model are: (1) the park, (2) the users using the park and (3) the organisation managing the park (Randrup and Persson 2009).

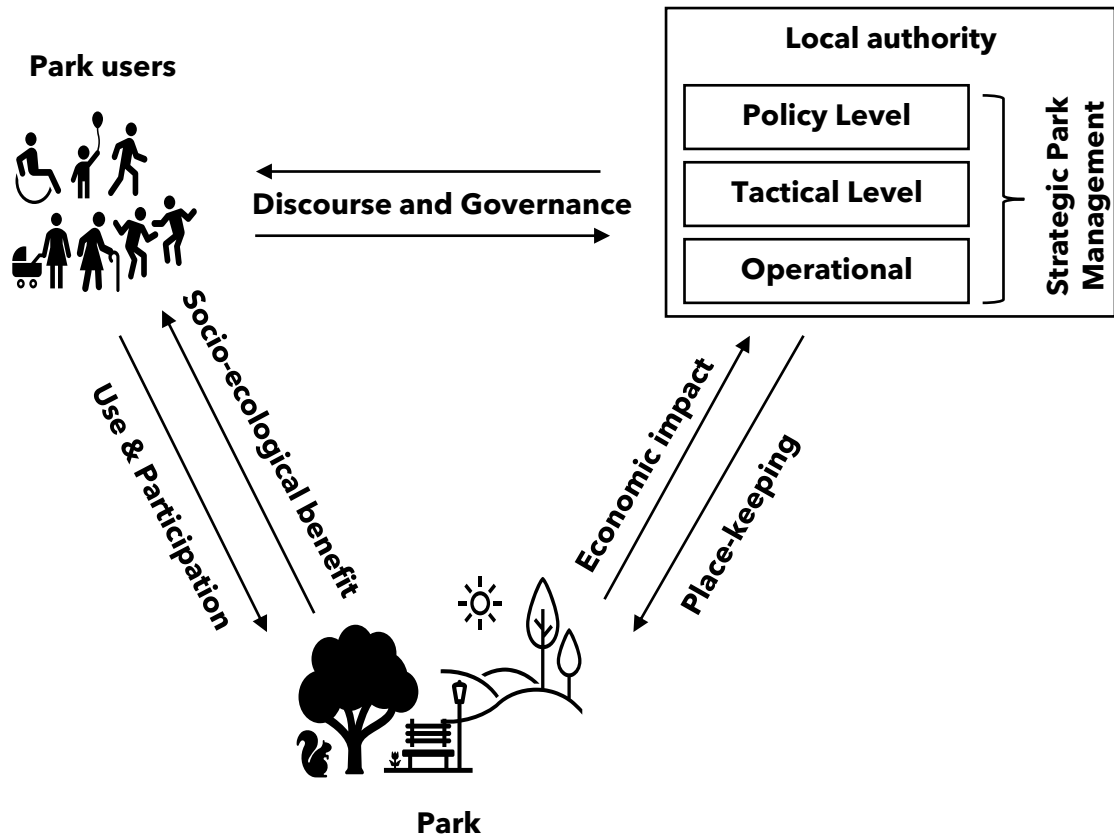


Figure 3: Park-Organisation-User Model, adapted from Randrup and Persson (2009)

The original POU diagram shows that parks have an impact on park users. Park benefits were briefly discussed in the introduction and form the baseline of this thesis which seeks to improve parks for the benefit of the public. Importantly, with increasing park user participation, users will also have an impact on the park (Molin 2014). Park users can also negatively impact a park through littering and vandalism. An arrow called 'use & participation' reflects this in the adapted model (figure 3).

POU shows the socio-ecological relationships that revolve around parks (Jansson and Randrup 2020). However, the economic relationship cannot be ignored. An additional

arrow called 'economic impact' has been added to the POU model, because parks are increasingly used for marketing and economic growth purposes. The presence of good quality greenspaces has been proven to increase land values of adjacent properties and can be conceived as a benefit (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014). However, it can also lead to gentrification and displacement and be considered a disadvantage (Baycan-Levent and Nijkamp 2009). Municipalities are increasingly using greenspaces and parks within their branding strategies to compete with other cities (G. Walker and Bulkeley 2006). Likewise, neglected greenspaces often become associated with crime, giving neighbourhoods and municipalities negative connotations (Kabisch and Haase 2014). Although not the focus of this thesis, this research is cognisant of the influence economics can have on parks.

2.2 Defining urban public parks

In order to delve into the importance of long-term park management and the role of park users, the term 'public urban park' needs to be defined first. The focus of this thesis is parks within cities, in contrast to rural parks which serve smaller communities in the countryside (Maureen Acquino 2019). There are different types and hence definitions of urban parks (Low, Scheld, and Taplin 2005), yet it is important to create a clear definition particularly in a multidisciplinary context (Taylor and Hochuli 2017).

Konijnendijk et al. (2013) defined urban parks for the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration as follows:

Urban parks are defined as delineated open space areas, mostly dominated by vegetation and water, and generally reserved for public use. Urban parks are mostly larger, but can also have the shape of smaller 'pocket parks'. Urban parks are usually locally defined (by authorities) as 'parks'. (2)

Unfortunately, greenspaces and parks are often defined by local governments using their own definitions for policy purposes, subdividing parks into different uses, sizes and even historical or natural importance (De Magalhães and Carmona 2006). This adds to the challenge of creating an overall definition that fits for all. Konijnendijk et al.'s (2013) subjective use of words such as 'larger' and 'smaller' allows for leeway as urban areas vary in size and so do their urban parks.

2.2.1 Parks as a public space

An important aspect of Konijnendijk et al.'s definition is that it does not require an urban park to be in public ownership. Indeed, parks are increasingly under private ownership, or if they are in public ownership, they may be maintained or managed by the private sector via outsourcing (MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019). Therefore, a privately owned park accessible to the public can be considered a public space (Németh 2012). Nevertheless, as Smith et al. (2014) explain, land ownership cannot be disregarded as landowners have a crucial level of control in most societies. It is believed that private ownership and/or management of parks generally increases the risk of public exclusion and inaccessibility (Smith et al. 2014).

This thesis is focusing on public authority owned and managed parks, as both Lochend Park, Edinburgh and Helmut Zilk Park, Vienna are managed by the relevant local authority. This research can still be relevant to people considering privatised greenspaces. Azadi et al.'s (2011) literature review on multi-stakeholders involvement showed that, regardless of ownership, the public sector influences greenspaces through urban planning policies and environmental protection laws.

The contested nature of public space and its usage is defined by UNESCO as follows:

A public space refers to an area or place that is open and accessible to all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic level. These are public gathering spaces such as plazas, squares and parks. (UNESCO 2017, 1)

Similarly to Konijnendijk et al., UNESCO's definition does not take into account ownership, rather it is the right of access and use which defines a space as public. Németh (2012) argues that public spaces never existed since a certain order is required within any space. This order limits public uses such as the right to protest or to be homeless (Németh, 2012). Other notable examples of limiting public uses are imposing opening hours, banning ball play, and barbecuing. These bans reduce the number of spaces for outdoor socialisation, particularly impacting minority groups and children's play, preventing these demographics from fully using parks according to their needs (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014).

De Magalhães and Freire Trigo (2017) discuss how the publicness of a space is generally defined by its ownership, access, and use; and how these characteristics are distributed. Importantly, the authors add a characteristic, namely the right to control

this publicness. This characteristic assesses the extent to which park users can engage within the decisions that impact that public space. Crucially, it is park governance and management which define these variables and hence the publicness of that space (De Magalhães and Freire Trigo 2017). If the park does not reflect the needs of the surrounding neighbourhood and people cannot participate in the decision-making processes; then the publicness of the park is reduced (De Magalhães and Freire Trigo 2017). This is supported by other academics advocating for continuous park evaluations and public engagement (Jansson 2015; Low, Scheld, and Taplin 2005; Dempsey and Smith 2014; Kaplan 1980). Previous research has shown that park managers may have different preferences regarding park facilities than the local community or certain community groups, leading to misunderstanding and a neglect in park user needs (Low, Scheld, and Taplin 2005; Jansson 2015).

2.3 Public participation in greenspaces

Academics have analysed a myriad of ways to include the public in park management. Kaplan (1980) and Shu-Chun (2010) looked at park evaluation with the public *after* the redevelopment of parks in the US and Taiwan respectively. Geum-Kim and Roe (2008) and Speller and Ravenscroft (2005) analysed community groups in the UK, known as 'friends of x park'. These groups are invested in supporting their local park, usually in collaboration with the relevant local authority. Clausen (2017) considered the public's role in creating a new national park in Denmark and Janse and Konijendijk (2007) focused on the design and management of woodland areas across Europe. The public can also be included in the monitoring of biodiversity (from mice to birds and waterbodies) primarily through gathering data using technology (Lawrence, 2006).

The above research focused more on public participation theories; whilst the following authors focused more at management and governance theories. Molin et al. (2019) analysed the ways in which publicly accessible GIS-tools facilitate the evaluation, monitoring and management of greenspaces. Jansson et al. (2019) looked at four Swedish cases where public participation facilitated the longer-term design of public spaces, woodland management; and schoolyard greening. Buijs et al. (2019) considered bottom-up and top-down projects concerning locating foraging sites; the co-governance of a national park in Italy; and the mapping of Berlin's green corridor. Greenspace users have also been involved in tree planting; forest evaluation; policy and operational management; and policy learning through public perception practices (Lawrence et al., 2013).

Crucially, these academic papers show that the public rarely engages and/or is being invited to engage more formerly (governance) in greenspace matters in a holistic manner. Rather, the public is engaged in a certain aspect of park management, be it policy, planning, development, mapping, monitoring, maintenance. These aspects and the importance of more holistic approaches will be discussed in section 2.5.

PP research has primarily been concerned with how park users can be attracted to participate. Janse and Konijnendijk (2007) observed that the involvement of popular locals and the support of politicians is crucial to get residents involved. Nevertheless, the outcome of the project is directed by how politicians perceive public opinion; the reasons of as to why a project was initiated; as well as why people chose to participate (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007). Lawrence found that a sense of belonging is often the strongest motivator for participating (Lawrence 2006; Speller and Ravenscroft 2005). Nonetheless, other factors such as lack of trust and self-exclusion (thinking that one does not have enough knowledge to contribute) are major factors that keep potential participants from partaking (Speller and Ravenscroft 2005; Geum-Kim and Roe 2008). These PP issues, which are often led by existing power relations, will be discussed in section 2.6.

Park governance research by Buijs et al. (2019) has shown that often even informal bottom-up initiatives become institutionalised over time. Politically, including the public in governance structures is the answer to a reduction in funding (ibid). In turn however budget cuts limit the support of more democratically inclusive projects through additionally imposing rules (A. Buijs et al. 2019; Lawrence et al. 2013; Speller and Ravenscroft 2005). The concept of park governance and its relation to park management will be discussed in the following sections (2.4).

2.4 Park governance

The concept of governance took on form through the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992, which was signed by 192 countries to support sustainable development. According to the declaration, sustainable development requires cooperation across the board, open information and the inclusion of citizens within decision-making processes (United Nations 1992).

Governance is a process of state-society interaction (De Magalhães and Carmona 2006) and can be seen as the formal inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making processes. It is a 'new way of governing and organising political processes in

postmodern societies, seeing traditional top-down government as outdated and without legitimacy and effectiveness.' (Jansson et al. 2019, 956).

Regarding greenspaces, Lawrence et al. (2013, in Molin and Konijnendijk 2013) defines governance as 'the structures, rules, partnerships and processes that shape decisions about urban green space' (554).

It is recognised that government and governance outcomes may be similar, and/or that the outcome may not necessarily improve (Jansson et al. 2019). However, since the 1960s the public has become increasingly invested and educated in environmental issues (Webler, Tuler, and Krueger 2001). Decision-making by government behind closed doors is seen as illegitimate because of its lack of transparency, leading to mistrust towards the government (ibid). Additionally, post-modernity introduced a shift away from solely accepting scientific knowledge towards including a wider range of knowledge and perceptions (Nygren 1999), discussed in section 2.6.7.

2.4.1 From hierarchical to mosaic governance

Governance is a sphere of relations between the public sector, private sector, third sector and residents. Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch (2014) give a good overview on various park governance types. *Hierarchical governance*, also known as 'governance by government', is a situation where the government is dominant and other stakeholders have a subservient role. A second model is *co-governance* where both government and non-government actors rely on each other to achieve a beneficial outcome, referred to as "governance with government". The authors further differentiate between *open* and *closed co-governance*, where the former is a more flexible and liberal and the latter a more restricted and fixed form of governance.

Self-governance is defined as 'governance without government'. In this case the government is at a distance in comparison to other stakeholders (Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch 2014). Self-governance can take the form of a user-centred model with local park users being in charge or a market-centred model with private sector companies and landowners taking care of a park (De Magalhães and Carmona 2006).

De Magalhães and Carmona's (2006) differentiation between the state (similar to the hierarchical governance), user and market-model have been adopted by other academics (Smith et al. 2014; Jansson et al. 2020). Dempsey and Smith (2014) argue

that the market-led approach can gather a wide range of resources and be very responsive. However, it also risks excluding certain demographics and commodifying public space. In contrast, a user-centre model takes the needs of the local population into account but can reinforce spatial inequalities and lack of long-term strategies. And the state centred approach aims to work in the public interest, but state bureaucracy can be inflexible and context insensitive (Dempsey and Smith, 2014).

Buijs et al. (2016,2019) argue for *mosaic governance* defined as:

the diversity of processes that may facilitate existing active citizenship and stimulate its upscaling through a mix of governance modes and policy interventions tailored to the socio-ecological context of urban landscapes. (54).

Mosaic governance recognises the diversity of active citizenship, meaning that public participation can take on various forms, and it seeks to scale up the power of citizens. The upscaling is necessary because active citizens usually work on the ground tackling short term issues which do not align with long term greenspace policies (Buijs et al. 2019). Importantly such upscaling requires radical structural changes within governments in order to become adaptive to a certain context (Lawrence et al. 2013). Additionally however, it requires structural changes that break very power relations (Buijs et al. 2019). The issue of power relations between local authorities and the public will be discussed within section 2.5 'public participation' of this literature review.

2.4.2 Difference between governance and management

Governance and management are regularly used synonymously which is misleading because there is a difference (Carver 2002; Klijn 2012). Governance establishes the general aims and structure of the organisation and outlines the policies which contribute towards that aim (Klijn 2012). Thereafter, management develops ways and processes to ensure that the aims and policies are being met; it is enforcing what has been decided by governance structures and reports back with results (Carver 2002; Klijn 2012). Ideally both governance and management structures work together in order to optimise each other's roles (Randrup and Persson 2009; Carver 2002).

Regarding municipal administrations, both the shift from 'traditional' public management to new public management (NPM), and the shift from government to governance introduced changes to the way parks are dealt with (Klijn 2012). Although these shifts in approaches are mentioned within greenspace research it is not made

clear that they occurred at different moments in time and therefore affected parks differently.

NPM was introduced in the 1980s, whilst a shift from government to governance became present in the 1990s (Klijn 2012). According to Klijn (2012), both sought to address the rising complexities of urban areas. NPM split up policy making and other managerial services with the aim for better government efficiency. This allowed for the privatisation of government services and creation of performance indicators, particularly when the service has been contracted out. However, NPM was not designed to solve social issues; therefore governance was introduced as the solution to tackle such issues by horizontally integrating various organisations and citizens within policy making and service delivery (Klijn 2012).

Conceptually, governance goals are defined during and not at the beginning of the governance process. This stands in contrast to NPM where everything should be defined by a central power for the sake of efficiency. Currently both ideologies are observed within government structures across the world, putting limitations on either system (Klijn 2012).

In the case of park management, NPM separated urban planning departments from environmental management departments (De Magalhães and Carmona 2006). The focus changed towards the operations of parks, resulting in management mainly focusing on the maintenance of space, its physical attributes and the utility value which benefits its users (Jansson and Randrup 2020; MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019). In some cases, overall greenspace policies are now a regional matter whilst the maintenance of parks has devolved to a more local scale (Jansson and Lindgren 2012). This disconnect limits the streamlining of funding and holistic participation processes which cover both policy and maintenance issues. Solutions become constrained to the limited skills of one specific administration carrying out the participation process (Jansson et al. 2019; Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch 2014). By integrating park authorities into technical and leisure departments, they are required to constantly adapt to already established frameworks which may not necessarily fit their management nor the park user's needs (Randrup and Persson 2009).

2.5 Moving towards holistic park management

According to academics a cross-disciplinary approach is required between urban planning, landscape architecture, and environmental management to create higher

quality greenspaces (MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019; Jansson et al. 2019; Randrup and Persson 2009; Pauleit et al. 2019). Baycan-Levent and Nijamp's (2009) analysed 23 European cities and found that the planning and management of greenspaces can be successful if only one department is involved. However, the municipal experts of each city rated the perceived level of success (ibid.).

Two frameworks, the Strategic Management Model (SPM) by Randrup and Persson (2009) and the place-keeping theory by Dempsey, Smith, and Burton (2014) strive towards a holistic, long-term management strategy which will be reviewed in section 2.5.2 and 2.5.3. First, however, a short review discusses the three main components of park management to understand the types of decisions in which the public can be included.

2.5.1 Planning, management, and maintenance

Greenspace 'planning' refers to the *spatial* planning of greenspaces and the drafting of policies. Spatial planning is concerned with the allocation of land and includes the assessment of social, environmental, and economic needs before delivering spatial plans and policies. Therefore many authorities incorporate their green strategies within the urban planning system (Baycan-Levent and Nijkamp 2009). Planning departments define, amongst other things, the location, accessibility, uses, facilities, quality standards, and funding of greenspaces (Yoong et al. 2017). Urban greening policies focus on the (1) protection and enhancements; (2) the social and environmental connectivity; and (3) multifunctionality of green spaces (Davies and Laforteza 2017; MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019).

In contrast, Jansson and Lindgren's (2012) review of urban landscape management sees management as the planning of processes, which is different from spatial planning. For the authors, spatial planning is also a means of landscape management, focusing on the land attribute (Steiner 1991, in Jansson and Lindgren 2012). Management ensures that maintenance activities are delivered by defining the who, when, where and how (Lindholst 2008). Consequently, park management is not simply the act of maintaining (Jansson and Lindgren 2012; Lindholst 2008).

One crucial part of management is the monitoring of greenspaces. Already Kaplan (1980) and Smith et al. (2014a) discussed how a lack of long-term budgeting does not allow for the post-evaluation of projects, for example after a park's redevelopment. Importantly however, Kaplan (198) and Shu-Chun (2010) have proven how crucial pre-

and post-redevelopment with the public are to understand park user needs and improve future public participation processes.

Moving on, park maintenance is the physical delivery the technical activities such as grass-cutting, litter collection and weed control, but also taking care of equipment (Jansson and Lindgren 2012). Lindholst (2008) analysed the relationship between park management and maintenance in cases where maintenance is contracted out. He concludes that management needs to move away from traditional 'specification, pricing, monitoring and enforcement' (78) methods towards 'coordination, communication, motivation and restraint of power' (86) to improve the delivery of high-quality places.

This shift in attitude is also important when thinking about the inclusion of the public. The increase in actors will require better coordination and the redirecting of power towards flexibility and understanding; achievable through increased communication and changes in motivation for delivering better parks (Lindholst 2008). Therefore the incorporation of social sciences is required by moving away from sole ecological and spatial standards (Jansson and Lindgren 2012).

2.5.2 Strategic park management

In the case of Nordic countries, Randrup and Persson (2009) found that most funding goes into the short-term operations of parks. The authors believe that the lack of long-term strategies concerning park management can have a detrimental effect, as increasing budget constraints put park departments in competition with other departments. They coin the term 'strategic park management' (SPM) to introduce a long-term approach within parks departments. The SPM model interconnects three different administration levels (figure 4):

1. Policy level – Setting out specific strategic and long-term vision (governance)
2. Tactical level – production of greenspace plans but also considering other plans such as healthcare and culture (management)
3. Operational level – construction and maintenance of parks and greenspaces (delivery)

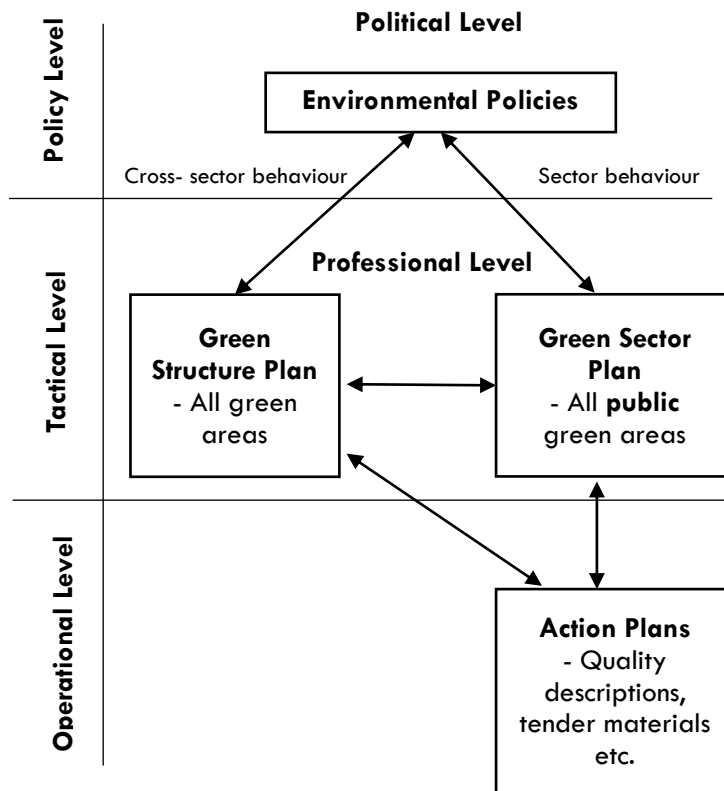


Figure 4 - Strategic Park Management model adapted from Randrup and Persson (2009)

Organising and describing how a lawn is mown is an operational task, while defining and describing why the lawn is mown [...] and balancing lawn mowing with other tasks, such as public involvement, is a tactical manoeuvre. (Randrup and Jansson 2020, 196)

Importantly the SPM model is a reconfiguration of a NPM system (Jansson and Lindgren 2012), using theories of military warfare and business management (Randrup and Jansson 2020). SPM does not consider any deeper systemic change, nor does it discuss how the public could actively partake within SPM. SPM is a 'solution' for the current situation parks departments are in; although increasing the efficiency of a department may lead to further budget cuts, creating a vicious circle. Yet, due this thesis seeking to understand current park management practices, this model can be a comparison tool when gathering empirical evidence as envisaged by Randrup and Persson (2009).

2.5.3 Place-keeping theory

Dempsey, Smith and Burton's (2014) edited book *Place-Keeping - Open Space Management in Practice* introduces a different angle to long-term management.

According to the authors, planning, design, and construction are conceptually associated with creating new development, referred to as *place-making*. In contrast, management and maintenance are associated with dealing with existing urban spaces, referred to as *place-keeping* (Dempsey, Smith and Burton 2014).

The authors criticise how funding and political focus remains on place-making instead of place-keeping because of the 'immediate impression' place-making has, whilst on-going place-keeping is less visible (9). However, by excluding place-keeping plans during the place-making stage, parks can become neglected very quickly as adequate funding has not been made available for their future upkeep (Smith et al. 2014).

To introduce a shift in narrative away, Dempsey and Smith (2014) define *place-keeping* as

responsive long-term management which ensures that the social, environmental and economic quality and benefits a place brings can be enjoyed by present and future generation. (9).

Furthermore, they explain that place-keeping encompasses 'policy; governance; partnerships; finance; design, management and maintenance; and evaluation - which have not been considered before as part of a holistic concept.' (Dempsey and Smith 2014, 17).

If place-keeping is considered as the re-creation of space over the long-term, then place-making forms part of the place-keeping process, as visualised in figure 5. Place-keeping introduces a conceptual shift from (a) carrying out place-making first and then carrying out place-keeping second, towards (b) focusing on management and maintenance of a space at all times which may include the development or re-development of a space when necessary (figure 5) (Dempsey and Smith 2014).

This changes the narrative of seeing place-keeping as a consequence of place-making and ensures that place-keeping is considered during the place-making stages (Dempsey and Smith 2014). This way place-keeping is not only the process of upkeeping a park, but also a product. If the park is of low quality, the long-term management of the park requires change. Moreover, analysing good place-keeping approaches, manifested within high quality parks helps understanding ways to success (Dempsey and Smith 2014).

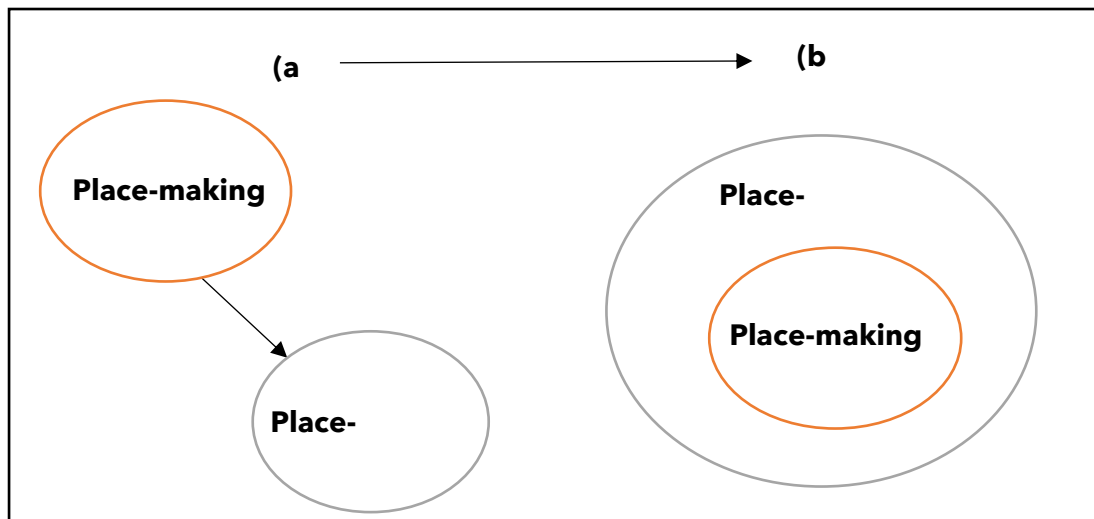


Figure 5: Moving away from (a) place-making first and place-keeping second towards (b) an integrated approach with place-keeping as an all-around focus. Adapted from Dempsey and Smith (2014, 18)

Whilst the SPM model is the reconnection of park management responsibilities through plans without changing the current model, place-keeping is reconceptualising administrative hierarchies by levelling up maintenance in a holistic approach. This requires a deeper structural change in comparison to the SPM model. Importantly, Dempsey and Smith (2014) recognise the limitations of long-term management practices due to publicly owned green spaces being volatile to political changes and funding being based on year budgets and election cycles.

2.5.4 Conclusion

To conclude the first part of this literature review; parks are greenspaces whose publicness is not only defined by land ownership, its use and accessibility but also by its publicness. This publicness is assessed by the extent to which the public is involved in decision making processes. Park governance seeks to involve different stakeholders. Within park management, this thesis considers park users to be the primarily stakeholder of such park governance practices. Yet, park management theories, rarely discuss in more detail how such involvement can be achieved neglecting public participation. Therefore, the following sections delve into this participation theory, particularly focusing on the why and who should participate as well as looking at some of the power dynamics which influence public participation.

Part Two

2.6 Public participation

Public participation (PP) is considered a democratic right, manifested within supranational declarations such as the 1992 Rio Declaration and the 1998 Aarhus Convention (Reed, 2008). Principle 10 of the declaration states that '[e]nvironmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.' (United Nations 1992, 2)

Despite many nation-states seeking to promote public participation, one of the main critics regarding participation theories is that they are rarely translated effectively into practice (Burton, 2009). The public's lived experiences of the PP processes do not reflect the ideal scenarios created by theories (Lawrence, 2006). However, because PP is deemed as a right, it is not scrutinised anymore (Burton 2009). A literature review conducted by Fors et al. (2015) showed that academics are unable to collect adequate empirical data of public participation outcomes in green spaces. This is because of the complexities of (1) evaluating PP (Rowe and Frewer 2004); (2) evaluating public spaces (Mehta 2014) and/or because PP improves a park's quality only in limited ways (Fors et al. 2015).

This thesis will explore how power dynamics influence PP which could be the reason for PP not having the necessary effects. First public participation will be defined, and different typologies of PP will be discussed. Then some of the benefits of PP and the notion around who should participate will be outlined. Thereafter the dichotomy of 'expert' and 'local' knowledge which influences the extent to which qualitative measures, such as park user perception, are being included in park management practices in contrast to quantitative measures like size and travel distances to parks (Lawrence 2006; Wright Wendel, Zarger, and Mihelcic 2012).

2.6.1 Defining participation

A concise definition of public participation is 'the processes by which public concerns, needs, and interests are incorporated into decision making' (AbouAssi, Nabatchi, and Antoun 2013, 1030).

For many academics, PP is at its heart a shift of power from the government towards the public (Arnstein 1969; Reed 2008; Webler and Tuler 2006). According to Arnstein (1969) real public participation does not take place unless citizens can control the decision-making process. However, her participation hierarchy from manipulative

non-participation (top-down) to citizen control (bottom-up) has since been criticised as being normative (Cornwall 2008) and polarising (Lawrence 2006). Rejecting any process that hasn't achieved the highest form of participation reduces the ability to generate constructive criticism (Irwin, Jensen, and Jones 2013). Public participation should not be rejected on the basis that they did not reach certain outcomes (Irwin, Jensen, and Jones 2013). Rowe and Frewer (2004) emphasise that the degree of empowerment can only be assessed after the PP process. This would imply that PP processes could only be researched after proof of empowerment has been gathered, limiting the possibilities of participatory action research for example (Rowe and Frewer 2004). Indeed, this thesis chose two cases with imperfect PP to draw comparison and generate a greater understanding on the current theory-practice gap within the context of SPM.

2.6.2 Typologies of participation

Reed (2008) gives an overview of the main PP typologies, which can help developing the appropriate participation methods. They can also be used after the PP process to analyse and determine the typology in hindsight (Reed, 2008). According to Reed there are 4 main PP typologies. At the beginning researchers focused on the degree empowerment (Arnstein 1969), whilst others analysed the flow of communication (Rowe and Frewer, 2004). With the rise of governance and the legislative right to participate, theories moved towards normative participation (Reed 2008). Lastly, from a political and administrative point of view PP became pragmatized looking at how it improves decisions and outcomes (Fors et al. 2015).

According to Rowe and Frewer (2004) PP is about the directions of communication. The first direction is the government informing the public, called 'communication', and although the public cannot give any input back, informing the public is crucial as it creates transparency (ibid.). Information and transparency are two of the most important factors during PP processes as it increases understanding between parties, limits expectation and removes the feeling of secrecy and illegitimacy (Webler, Tuler, and Krueger 2001). Another direction of communication is from the public to the authorities, called 'consultation', through methods like surveys. The third direction of communication occurs when both directions of communication are facilitated for example through focus groups. This two-way direction is referred to as actual PP by Rowe and Frewer (2004), because communicative feedback from both sides further

increases transparency, allowing the public to experience the ways in which their opinion was included within the PP process.

Fors et al. (2015) takes a pragmatic view, evaluating PP based on the outcomes it produces. They differentiate between civic and physical participation. Civic participation is the inclusion of the public within policy decisions, whilst physical participation occurs through actions of park users on the ground. The authors highlight the importance of physical participation directly impacting greenspaces since, civic participation requires further implementation steps in order to observe physical change. Civic participation outcomes are harder to measure as policies may only have an impact in the long term (Rowe and Frewer 2004). Notably, action oriented (or physical) participation has been particularly researched in developing countries (Lawrence 2006). Influencing greenspace physically is crucial because, first, many academics argue that PP increases the quality of greenspace and, second, the public reacts more sensibly to visual changes (M. Jones 2007).

2.6.3 Why participate?

Burton (2009) divides the benefits of PP into (1) benefits associated with decisions and policies (instrumental benefits) and (2) individually experience benefits (development benefits). PP can improve instrumental benefits in the long run as a wider range of needs were considered and the legitimacy/acceptance of the decision increases (Burton 2009). It seeks to voice the opinions of people, particularly those who are not served by the mainstream political and scientific knowledge (Mosse 2001). PP initiates a move away from modern, rational decisions that have increased poverty and exclusion (Kyamusugulwa 2013; Christens and Speer 2006). Jansson's (2015) research compared the views of children with those of park maintenance operators in two Swedish towns. She found that the children's use of parks was interpreted as 'misconduct' by operators because they misunderstood facility needs of those children who started creating their own spaces through digging and adding things to the parks (ibid.)

Burton (2009) disseminates development benefits into 5 categories reflecting on Richardson (1983): self-esteem; education; understanding of one's own interests; expressing one's identity; and becoming more sociable and creation of community. By improving these 5 aspects, a person can feel and be perceived as more

empowered (ibid.). Empowerment is crucial, as only empowered participants can make governments accountable for their actions (Mosse 2001; Lawrence 2006).

2.6.4 Who is the participating public?

'[W]hy it should be anything other than everyone.' (Burton 2009, 267)

This statement follows the notion that PP can increase inequalities if affected individuals who have been excluded from the decision-making processes are not represented (Mosse 2001). Realistically however, no one can ever participate in all the decisions that affect their life (Young 2002); and it should be accepted that some citizens simply do not want to participate for many valid reasons (Burton, 2009). For example, Clausen (2017) found that some individuals do not participate as a form of protest and/or to withhold information on purpose.

Based on the concept of empowerment, it is assumed that people who are most negatively affected by a decision should participate (Wiber et al. 2009). Generally however, concerning decision within the built environment, the public is selected based on their proximity to the geographical area which is affected by the decision (Burton 2009). This becomes an increasing issue as some decisions have global impacts such as climate change.

The notion of citizenship is one particular barrier limiting PP. The concept of citizenship has been developed to exclude some of the public (Fenster, 2005). Citizenship is linked to a certain nation state giving citizens certain rights within that nation state, such as the right to participate in political decisions (Fenster 2005). Citizenship rights are based on a variety of individual characteristics such as gender, race, religion, age and sexuality (Fenster 2005; Barnes et al. 2003). Frequently, woman, ethnic minorities, and people under the age of 18 are excluded from the right to politically partake (Fenster, 2005). Importantly, these lists on individual characteristics are non-exhaustive. Therefore, 'the public', 'community' and 'citizenship' should not be defined by the characteristic of an individual because it creates barriers to public participation (Barnes et al. 2003).

Creating characteristics and categories of individuals based on assumptions will inevitably exclude people who do not fit in any of the existing categories due to their intersectionality (Cornwall 2008; Young 2002). Ultimately social groups do not exist (Young 2002). Individuals may choose to be part of a group based on one or some shared characteristic, yet no individual will ever share all their characteristics with

someone else (Young 2002). This creates a challenge when seeking to target minorities and vulnerable people for PP processes if generalised descriptions cannot be created alongside particular PP methods.

This research will focus on park users, meaning any person with an interest to frequent a park. This also includes people who would like to frequent the park but do not do so because of their perceived lack of access. This perceived lack of access is discussed in terms of a sense of belonging.

2.6.5 Sense of belonging

Fenster (2005) considers the concept of citizenship outdated because of the re-scaling of political power either upwards towards supra-national institutions or downwards towards the city scale. In the case of parks, decisions are increasingly downscaled towards a neighbourhood level. Fenster reflects on Lefebvre who argues that any inhabitant of a city should have the right to appropriate urban space and the right to participate within that space. However, privileged white men have produced these spaces and people outside this category may not feel like this space belongs to them (Fenster 2005, 220). Individuals, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, may not consider themselves part of the citizenship they have (Fenster 2005). This lack in sense of belonging reduces people's urge to participate, even if they are impacted by the decisions made (Fenster 2005).

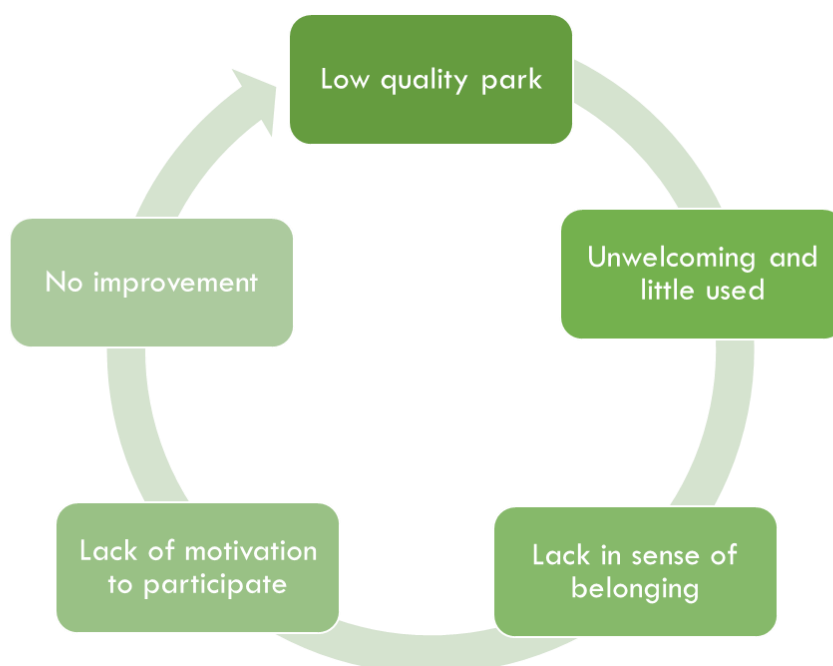


Figure 6 - Quality greenspace and public participation paradox. Source: Author

Individuals who feel unwelcome in a park, do not frequent it. However, by not frequenting the park, these individuals will not create a sense of belonging and will not be prone to engage in decisions around the park which may allow them to make the park more welcoming. This creates a paradox for public participation (figure 6).

In their research Barnes et al. (2003) uncovered that deliberate democracy is not only limited by factors such as funding, authority, and membership but also by discourse. Even if certain events or groups label themselves as open, individuals within these groups, be it public officials or participants; have biased views on who should partake. People's judgements are based on common interest, capacity, behaviour, and skills (ibid.). This excludes individuals who feel unwelcomed or even oppressed based on these discourses (ibid.). Furthermore, research found that certain minority groups manage to empower themselves whilst others do not (Forsyth 2020; Mosse 2001). This results in the creation of a majority within the minority, creating increasingly complex power dynamics (Mosse 2001).

This section has highlighted the importance of communication, empowerment, and personal social perceptions. These notions form part of deeply entrenched structural power relations that dictate the often unspoken rules of public participation.

2.6.6 Power relations in participation

'[P]ublic participation has become increasingly institutionalized as part of environmental policy-making.' (G. B. Walker 2007, 101)

The introduction of governance required governments to include the public within the decision-making process. Inevitably, governments established new top-down approaches to involve the public whilst retaining their power relations. This recentralisation of power allows governments to control and survey the public as well as create new 'rules of the game' (M. Taylor 2007, 301). This stream of criticism is well discussed in *Participation: The New Tyranny?* edited by Cooke and Kothari (2001). The book discusses, based on the theories of Foucault, how governments use certain discourse to oppress and direct the public's opinion towards supporting political and economic needs (ibid, 98).

In Chapter 2 of the book, Mosse (2001) shows that PP organisers decide on the 'what, how, when, and where' of the participation process; framing the power dynamics before the process has even started. Moreover, consultation responses are analysed by the organiser deciding on the validity of that information (Van Herzele 2004).

Crucially, demands raised during participation events need to be approved and enacted by political representatives. Therefore, although PP has conceptually been introduced to stand against current political views; it has to convince exactly those representatives to enact change (Karlsson 2012). When contradictory observations are being accepted, they often come from people with 'privileged access' who were able to gather compelling arguments (M. Taylor 2007, 302). This barrier of governmental power needs to be dismantled for PP to empower less privileged groups (Cooke and Kothari 2001; M. Taylor 2007). Power relations will be analysed in Vienna and Edinburgh to highlight contextual barriers to overcome in both cases.

2.6.7 Local knowledge

According to Fors et al. (2015), a blending of both expert and park user knowledge is required with a focus on who greenspace is for when setting out park quality standards. Greenspace quality can be broadly split into ecological and park user standards. Ecological standards are traditionally defined by academics/experts whilst knowledge on user needs is gathered through consulting the public (Fors et al. 2015).

With the rise of modernity, local knowledge was put into an inferior position to scientific knowledge (Nygren 1999). Janse and Konijnendijk (2007) agree that technical knowledge is considered as factual and is likely to be used in persuasion arguments; whilst experiential knowledge is considered as personally created through one's experience (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007).

According to Nygren (1999) local knowledge 'has a connotation that local people are only observing their immediate surroundings and that their knowledge has no wider application.' (282, endnote 1). Instead of dichotomising knowledge into categories, knowledge should be considered as non-linear and overlapping (Nygren 1999, 297). Recently, a shift towards more holistic thinking is observed which includes local knowledge. Yet, Wright Wendel, Zarger and Mihelcic (2012) argue that traditional quantitative methods such as distance between park and one's residents are still widely used.

Mosse (2001) argues that local knowledge can be understood as a product of the social relationships which is dynamic and constantly changing, rather than a fixed commodity to be extracted (in Christens and Speer, 2006). The word 'local' implies that this knowledge is contextual based on the local political power structures (Mosse 2001). Therefore, Freire (2014) commands for critical thinking to, first, understand

one's own local context and bias; and second, to become conscious of the institutional structures which establish these biases and power structures.

Janse and Konijnendijk (2007) consider political knowledge as a third type of knowledge. It is based on values and morals and is normative and contextual. Politics use scientific knowledge to support their decisions when questioned (Webler and Tuler 2018). Yet, scientific knowledge is influenced by political knowledge as research is conducted for a certain institution within a certain culture (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007). Likewise, when community groups manage to mobilise themselves, they can influence and direct political decisions into another direction (Forsyth 2020). Therefore, local and political knowledge are highly dependent on each other.

Both Janse and Konijnendijk (2007) and van Herzele (2004) discuss the challenges that administrative policy makers face when considering local knowledge. Scientists need to accept that their data may be 'spoiled' by user needs and political values (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007). Both papers discuss the challenges of gathering and analysing social data. 'Local knowledge has its own reasoning' and is 'expressed in complex and dynamic ways' (Van Herzele 2004, 200) and it is highly conflictual (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007). Van Herzele's research showed that planners and architects take on local knowledge to better understand a local context. However, when experts do not understand the reasoning behind local demands, then those demands are not implemented (Van Herzele 2004). This links back to the power relations in which experts decide what local knowledge to employ and dismiss.

2.7 Conclusion of the literature review

The human-nature relationship of parks is multifaceted and influenced by society and its governing authority. The publicness of parks is defined by their ownership, use, regulations, and facilities, but also the extent to which park users have a say within the decision-making processes that define these aspects. The inclusion of park users and various other stakeholders during these processes is known as governance. Park governance sets out the guidelines which park management strategies – planning, management, and maintenance of parks – are to follow. However, as the second part of the literature review on public participation has shown, power structures which have established these rules and strategies, limit the park user's access to these decision-making processes. Therefore, public participation in park management practices is not as evident. The rules and practices are highly contextual based on the given social,

environmental, economic, cultural, and political situation (Webler 2002; Buijs et al. 2019). This thesis is therefore going to look at the current situation in two contextually very different parks (discussed in section 3.1), namely: Lochend Park, Edinburgh, and Helmut Zilk Park, Vienna; to understand the ways in which park users are in- and excluded within strategic park management. Explanations on how this research was conducted can be found in the following chapter 3.

Chapter 3 – Methodology

This chapter will explain how this research was carried out explaining the how a research gap was chosen, case selection, methodology and data collection/analysis. As the literature has highlighted, there has been a push towards governance within park management practices. The inclusion of stakeholders, particularly park users, is crucial in order to create parks to meet the needs of relevant users. Nevertheless, research has also shown that there are power relations within governance and public participation practices which limit the inclusion of the public in such decision-making processes. The main research question ‘to what extent is public participation facilitated within the different stages of strategic park management?’ will help to uncover some of these dynamics. As discussed further below, due to the contextuality of park governance and management, a comparison between two different cases is drawn to identify some common trends but also divergences in approaches.

3.1 Case selection

Lochend Park in Edinburgh (Scotland) and Helmut Zilk Park in Vienna (Austria) were chosen to exemplify park management and governance processes with a particular focus on park user involvement. Mesec’s approach (1998) was taking by not choosing two representative subjects but by choosing two interesting subjects (Starman 2013). According to Starman (2013) ‘the idea of representative sampling and statistical generalizations to a wider population should be rejected’ (35). Instead, theoretical generalisation was sought, to confirm current theories (Schreier 2018). Therefore, two contrasting case studies were chosen for comparison. To maximise sampling sizes, information rich subjects were selected (Schreier 2018).

The two cases were chosen based on the generalised welfare regime typologies coined by Esping-Anderson (1990, in Isakjee 2017); who established 3 *ideal*/types of welfare regimes: social-democratic; corporatist/conservative and liberal. The welfare regime types help analysing to what extent social security is provided by the state, market and/or family members (ibid.). Social-democratic countries are seen as more redistributive of social welfare based on the notion of social equality, where the state is the predominant force seeking equity for most demographics (van Oorschot 2007). Conservative regimes are highly institutionalised where certain hierarchies and relations are maintained (ibid). Support from the state is often based on catholic believes, putting families with children above ‘non-conventional’ family types (ibid).

Liberal (pluralism) regimes have the lowest level of state intervention and a high level of predominantly private sector actors based on views of 'personal responsibility and freedom' (van Oorschot 2007, 135). Regarding the built and natural environment, there has been a rise in NGO's and citizens taking an interest in partaking (Lieberink 2006). Austria is considered as a neo-corporatist/conservative regime by all academics in Arts and Gelissen's (2010) literature review. The UK and by extension Scotland is considered as a rather liberal welfare regime, although some academics consider the UK a complicated case due to the de commodification of the National Health Service (NHS) (Rostila 2007; W. Arts and Gelissen 2010).

Previous research studies how welfare regime difference impact on, for example, cultural policy (van Oorschot 2007), housing (Matznetter 2002), involvement of NGOs (Baglioni 2017) and social capita (which has an impact on public participation) (Rostila 2007). Based on this, it was assumed that park management in Vienna and Edinburgh differ from each other, with Vienna's strategic park management (SPM) being institutionalised and Edinburgh's SPM being reliant on the private sector and citizens engagement. Consequently, it was hoped to observe some trends within SPM in Europe whilst underlining that a different context also leads to key differences within public participation in SPM.

Some things Helmut Zilk Park (HZP) and Lochend Park (LP) have in common is that they are in areas with a strong sense of belonging with some locals referring to being from their district rather than from the city they are in. Likewise, both areas are stigmatised (by some) as places to be avoided. HZP open 5 years ago on former industrial land (Thon 2017b); whilst LP was part of a castle ground and came under ownership of what is now CEC in 1905 (CEC 2013). Later a suburban railway line ran along the south of LP and after becoming derelict in the 60s, it is now being developed for housing (ibid.). Therefore, both areas are facing demographic changes.

3.2 Research scope

Setting boundaries in a case study is important to define the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the research (Baxter and Jack 2008). This research focused on publicly owned and managed parks within an urban setting. It did not consider specific public participation projects or events; rather, it highlighted the current participation methods and possibilities available to park users within Lochend and Helmut Zilk Park. The underlying assumption was that it is in the best interest of both the municipality

and the park's neighbourhood, that parks are kept to the highest standard because of the social, ecological, and economic benefits they can bring to different stakeholders.

3.3 Research design

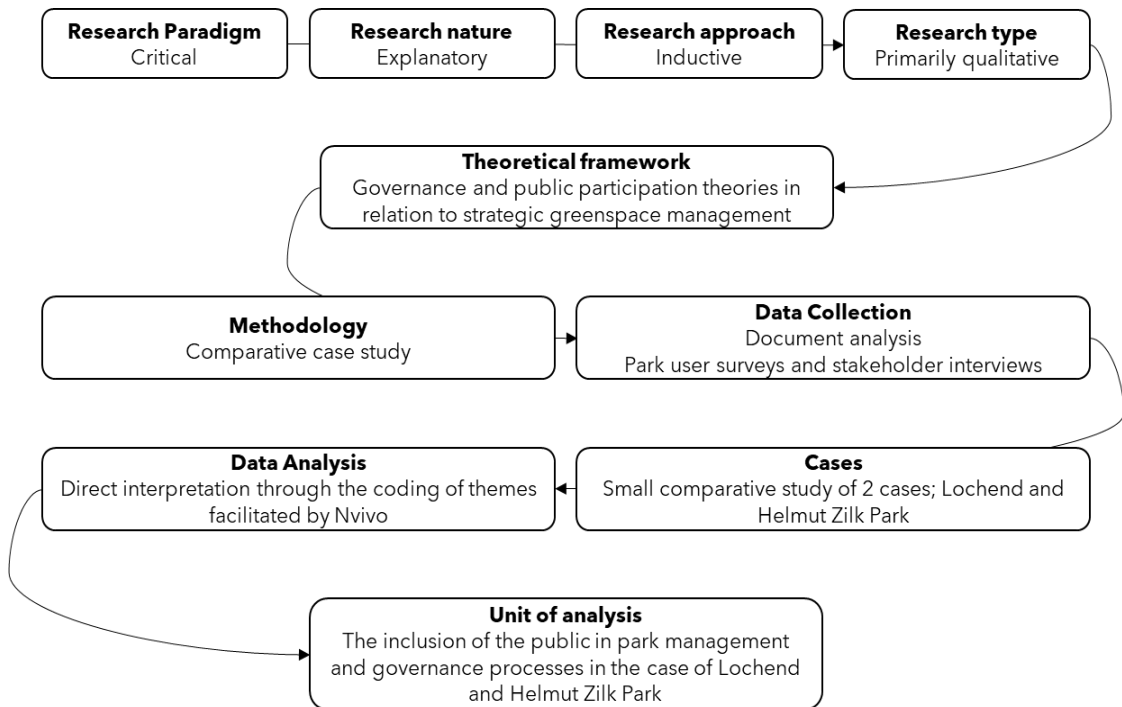


Figure 7: Research design. Source: Author

A *case study* methodology was applied for the exploration of contextualities that impact the relevant phenomenon (Baxter and Jack 2008), in this case park management and its governance. This methodology was used by most greenspace governance researchers (Jansson et al. 2019; Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch 2014; Nor Akmar et al. 2011; Gilmore 2017). Figure 7 reflects a visual summary of my research design.

Largely fluctuating scales of devolution internationally and varying public administration arrangements nationally limit the possibilities of applying generalised conceptual governance and park management frameworks (MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019; Møller et al. 2019). Conducting comparison studies be it on a local, national or transnational scale is difficult, due to the contextuality of parks (James et al. 2009). These contextualities include, amongst other things, 'urban landscape, community identities and specific practices of active citizens' (Buijs and et al. 2016, 5) and 'economic, cultural, historical, social, and environmental aspects' (Miller (1996) mentioned in Randrup and Persson (2009)).

As a response to this contextuality challenge, Lawrence and her colleagues (2013) created a descriptive comparison framework to operationalise data collection in urban forest governance (framework was adapted for this thesis as shown in figure 19). The authors applied the framework to 5 different cases of different scales across Western Europe. The framework was based on the Policy Arrangement Approach (PAA), by Liefferink in *Institutional Dynamics in Environmental Governance* edited by Arts and Leroy (2006) and has been applied by other greenspace governance academics (Møller et al. 2019; Buijs and et al. 2016; Nor Akmar et al. 2011). PAA is a tetrahedron which entails four dimensions: actors and coalitions; resources; rules of the game; and narratives as shown in figure 8 (Liefferink, 2006, 48). Resources do not only include financial aspects but also consider the notions of power and knowledge (Lawrence et al. 2013). Liefferink (2006) originally named the fourth-dimension discourse, explaining that it entails views and narratives of stakeholders. Due to the confusion of the word 'discourse' with the research method 'discourse analysis'; the fourth dimension was renamed 'narratives' for this thesis. This meso-level framework shows the dynamics of everyday policies. When one factor changes, it pulls all other factors into different directions changing the shape of the tetrahedron (Liefferink 2006).

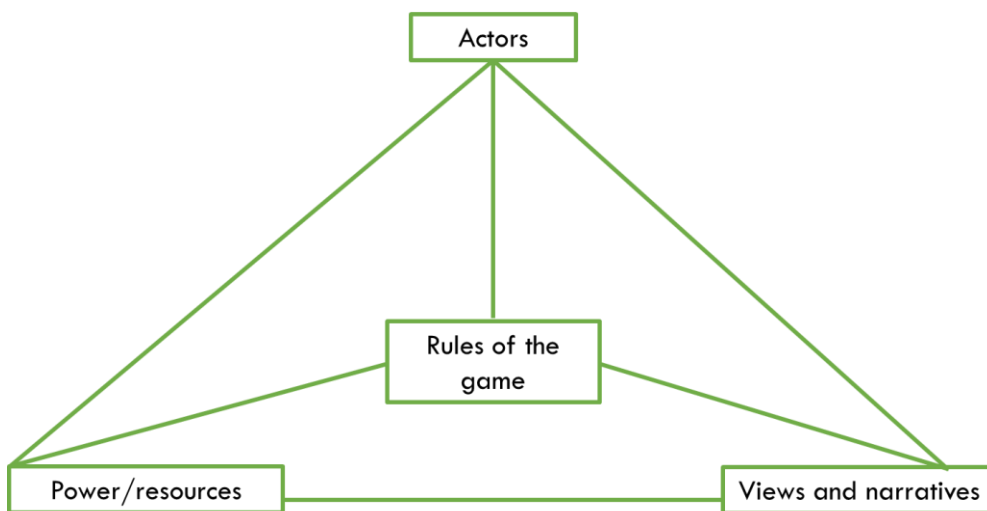


Figure 8 - Policy Arrangement Approach, adapted from Liefferink (2006, 48)

3.4 Data collection

Data was gathered using different methods. The literature review was based on analysing academic papers; whilst data on the context of each city and parks was collected through secondary data first and then through primary data. Primary data was also collected to explore the perceptions and narratives of people involved in and impacted by park management. Figure 9 shows a general overview of my research process.



Figure 9 - Research process, Source: Author

3.4.1 Literature review

When conducting the literature review, keywords such as: public participation, community involvement, community engagement, governance, management, and maintenance were used in connection with park(s), greenspace(s)/green space(s), public space(s), built environment, urban and playgrounds. Later it was found that literature on park governance and management can be observed in overarching terms such as urban green infrastructure, urban public space, urban open space, ecosystem services, and urban forestry. During and after the collection of empirical data additional literature was considered, and theories were reviewed and edited. 60 academic papers were used in the literature review of which 25 were specifically concerned with greenspace management or greenspace public participation. The 9 most crucial papers and 3 important books which informed this research can be found in figure 12. [Annex 1](#) and [2](#) outline additional research concerned with greenspace management and planning; and public participation in greenspaces respectively.

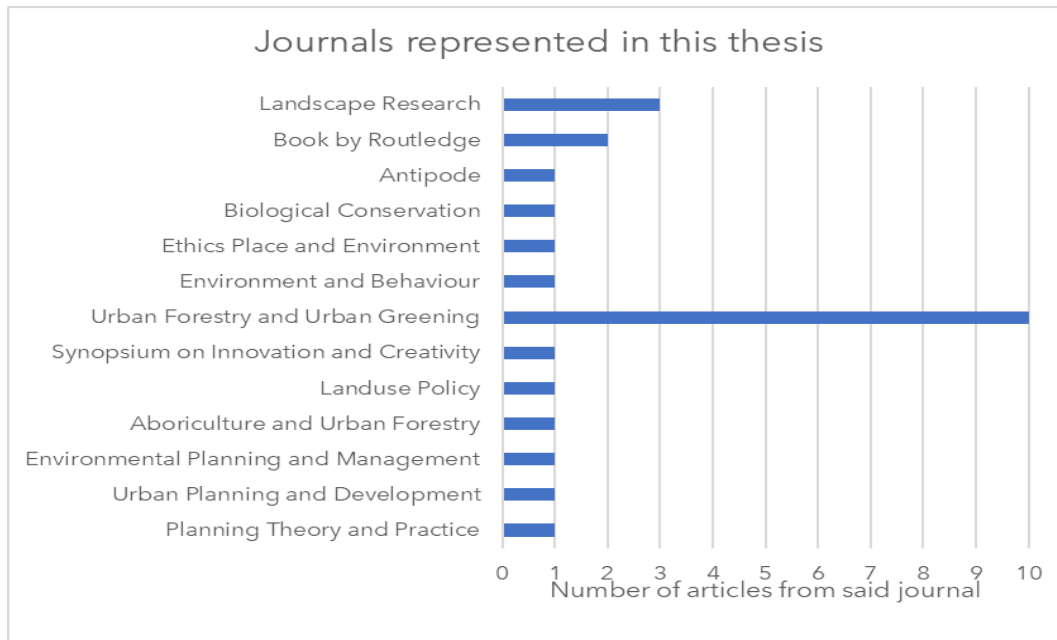


Figure 10 – Journals including research on greenspace management and public participation, Source: Author

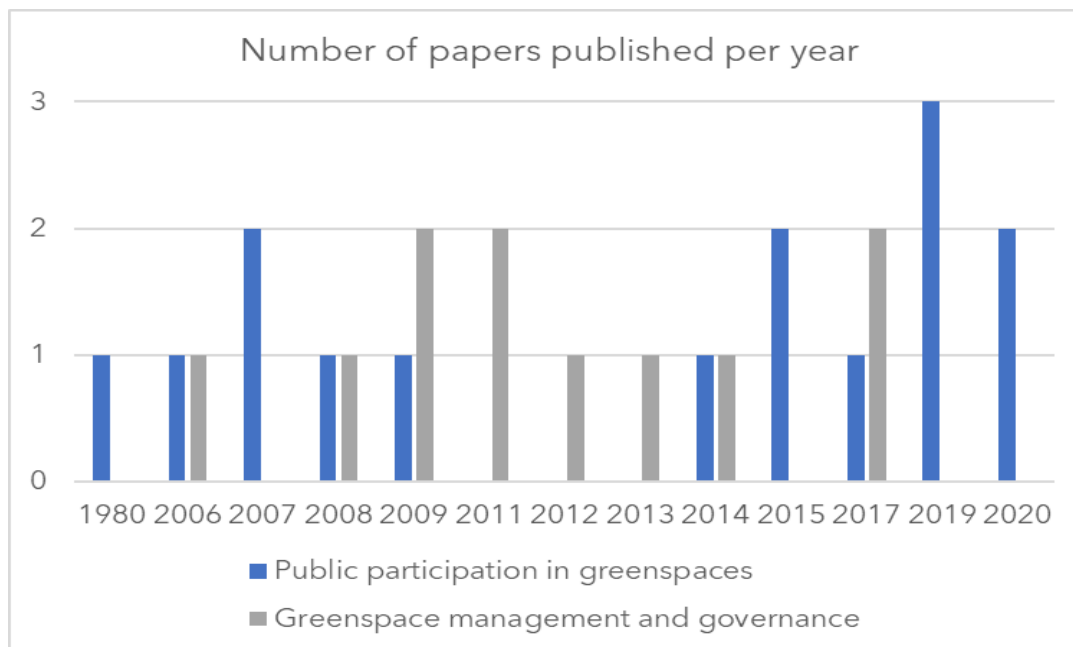


Figure 11 – Years in which academic articles regarding greenspace management and public participation were published, Source: Author

Most literature had their research location in Europe; particularly in Nordic countries such as Denmark and Sweden. They were case studies or comparative studies reviewing several management and participation cases to create new theoretical and analytical frameworks. The journal Urban Forestry and Urban Greening had most literature regarding greenspaces and their governance and public participation

(figure 10). As mentioned by Taylor and Hochuli (2017) there has been a rise of greenspace research since the turn of the century, also reflected in my literature review (figure 11).

Year of publication	Journal	Discipline	Location of study	Type of research	Authors	Title
1980	Environment and Behaviour	Public Participation	Michigan	Case study	Kaplan Rachel	Citizen Participation in the Design and Evaluation
2004	Book by Springer. Volume 47 Environment and Policy	Environmental Policy	Europe	Analysing the changes in environmental governance since the 1990s	Edited by Bas Arts and Pieter Leroy CHP3 by Duncan Liefferink	Institutional Dynamics in Environmental Governance. Particularly. CHP3 - The Dynamics of Policy Arrangements: Turning Round the Tetrahedron
2009	Journal of Environmental Planning and Management	Public space management and governance	England	Grounded theory	De Magalhães Claudio and Carmona Matthew	Dimensions and models of contemporary public space management in England
2009	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace governance	European Nordic Countries	Large N sending surveys to over 200 municipalities	Randrup Thomas and Persson Bengt	Public Green spaces in Nordic Countries: Development of a new strategic management regime
2009	Urban Planning and Development	Green space planning and management	Europe	Comparative study	Baycan-Levent Tüzin and Nijkamp Peter	Planning and management of urban green spaces in Europe: Comparative analysis
2012	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace management	Worldwide	Literature Review	Jansson Märit, and Therese Lindgren	A Review of the Concept 'management' in Relation to Urban Landscapes and Green Spaces: Toward a Holistic Understanding

Figure 12 – Most crucial papers and books which have informed this research, Source: Author

2013	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace governance	Europe	Creating a comparison framework	Lawrence Anna et al.	Urban Forest Governance - Towards a Framework for Comparing Approaches
2014	Book by Routledge	Park governance and management	Europe - focus on the UK	Introduction to different topics in relation to park management with focus on financial resources	Dempsey Nicola, Smith Harry and Burton Mel	Place-Keeping - Open Space Management in Practice
2015	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Park management	Worldwide	Literature review of 31 articles	Fors Hanna et al.	User Participation in Urban Green Spaces - For the People or the Parks?
2019	Landscape Research	Greenspace governance and management	Sweden	Comparison study of four cases	Jansson Märit et al.	The Governance of Landscape Management: New Approaches to Urban Open Space Development
2019	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Landscape Planning and Management	Europe	Comparative study	Buijs Arjen et al.	Mosaic Governance for Urban Green Infrastructure: Upscaling Active Citizenship from a Local Government Perspective
2020	Book by Routledge	Park governance and management	Europe - focus on Nordic countries	Introduction to different topics in relation to open space governance	Marit Jansson and Randrup Thomas	Urban Open Space Governance and Management

3.4.2 Empirical evidence

First, secondary data was analysed, such as public authority documents in connection to parks, greenspaces, the natural environment, and public spaces. Information on demographics, the historical background of both parks, developments adjacent to the parks and online news articles were collected. A summary of the policy documents that were analysed in more detail can be found in [Annex 3](#) for Edinburgh and [Annex 4](#) for Vienna. Facebook (fb) groups, like 'Friends of Lochend Park' and 'Sonnwendviertler_innen' were followed to gather information on issues in and around the two parks by reading posts but also comments and discussion related to the relevant posts.

Thereafter data was gathered through interviewing civil servants, employees of relevant organisations and park users. All respondents were given the option to withdraw their answers at any time before the thesis submission, they were given the option not to answer questions they did not want to answer, and they were asked to give consent on being recorded and potentially being quoted. Where possible, consent was sought through signing a consent form. Although due to Covid, in person park user respondents gave consent orally. Park users were offered an information and consent sheet which many however refused due to Covid-19.

Conducting interviews and surveys are the most common research methods in greenspace governance, management, and participation research. The larger the sample size, the more common surveys become as more people can be reached whilst data analysis is being facilitated. Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch (2014) analysed park manager's perception on public involvement conducting interviews with 10 municipal park managers in Denmark. Nor Akmar *et al.* (2011) looked at greenspace planning and management in Malaysia doing a document analysis and then interviewing experts of 6 municipalities. Whilst Randrup and Persson (2009) sought to establish a new theoretical framework for strategic park management across 5 Nordic countries, sending out surveys to a high number of municipalities receiving nearly 200 answers. Likewise, Kaplan (1980) created a structured survey interviewing park users but also sending the survey to residents and businesses within a two block radius receiving nearly 400 answers.

Kaplan (1980) underlined that it is not sufficient to gather the perceptions of park users, because researchers may miss out on people who do not visit the park or who

were not at the park at the given time. Unfortunately, due to time, location, and budget constraints, I was unable to send out questionnaires to businesses and residents like Kaplan did. Therefore, my samples are not statistically representative. Importantly, 'standards for true representativeness are rarely met' and limitations always exist e.g. in the way surveys are being made available (Davern 2011, 722). Instead, this research aimed for theoretical generalisation instead (Schreier 2018, 4). Using convenience sampling (Schreier 2018), the thesis does not focus on a particular demographic of park users, rather it gathers a range of views which may vary depending on demographic characteristics.

3.4.3 Interviews with stakeholders

Employees of organisations and municipalities as well as politicians were interviewed using semi structured interviews informed by the literature review and other secondary data collected. An anonymous summary of all stakeholders (STHs) interviewed can be found in [Annex 5](#). Most interviews were conducted through online video calling using different software (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype); two interviews were phone calls and STH10 answered the question over email only. STHs signed a consent form which included an information sheet about the research. Most STHs requested to see the data analysis before it is being published and a draft of this thesis was sent out to them before submission to receive consent. The more interviews were conducted the more refined questions became. Interviews lasted between 30 and 60 minutes.

Many other organisations like local schools, youth organisations, and other community groups but also some other public sector employees and politicians were - unsuccessfully - contacted.

3.4.4 Interviews with park users

The literature review highlighted that although the importance of public participation is mentioned in most park management articles, the public's view is often neglected (Molin and Konijnendijk van den Bosch 2014; Nor Akmar et al. 2011). Therefore, the perceptions of park users were analysed.

3.4.5 Park users in Lochend Park

In LP, 20 in person semi-structured interviews were undertaken, talking to 32 park users (referred to as Lochend Park User (LPU)), between the 14th of July 2020 and 6th of August 2020. Survey questions and answers can be found in [Annex 6](#) and [7](#). The

park was visited at different days and times, with no visit done between 8pm and 8am. Interviewees were selected by walking around the park, to cover different locations and uses of the park. Halfway through, I realised that I was more comfortable approaching some people than others; therefore, the demographical information was analysed to target demographics not covered so far. This was where my bias was at its height because assumptions had to be made on my part, whether that person may form part of a demographic I did not interviewed yet.

Between the 26th of July and the 13th of August, a survey in form of a QR-code was printed, laminated, and hung out across LP. The design of the poster can be found in [Annex 8](#). The initial research was meant to be about the use of onsite surveys as a participation tool, therefore this method was tested. Three of the most used entrances were chosen and a fence next to the viewing platform, as the viewing platform attracts many visitors. Questions were close ended, although additional comments sections were offered. The QR-code survey was shorter than the in-person interview questions to ensure it is being completed. Three answers were removed because they were identical to answers submitted previously, identifiable through the free-writing comment sections. Therefore, 32 answers were analysed in total. These answers are referred to as Lochend QR-Code Respondents (LQR). Survey questions and answers can be found in [Annex 9](#) and [10](#).

3.4.6 Park users in Helmut Zilk Park

Unfortunately, it was not possible for me to return to HZP and interview park users in person. Instead, I shared an online survey ([Annex 11](#)) on the Sonnwendviertel_innen Facebook group (SWVFB). The survey was posted on other Facebook (fb) groups concerned with the 10th district but unfortunately those posts were rejected by admins. The survey was online from the 26th of January for 2 weeks and 62 responses were gathered. These answers are referred to as Helmut Zilk Survey Respondents (HSR). Survey questions, demographics and answers can be found in [Annex 12](#).

SWVFB is a very active group (in comparison to the Lochend Park group) where I kept up to date with current concerns and events. By searching the group for keywords such as 'Helmut Zilk Park' and 'Hund' (dog in German), I was able to find specific park related discussions. Due to the group being private, the admin of the group was contacted, who accepted for me to share notes on posts and comments if information is being kept anonymous.

3.3 Limitations

Each of my data methods have missed out on certain population demographics, such as, and to only name a very few: homeless people, children, elderly, lower income classes, ethnic minorities and people who are not digitally connected. Due to the pandemic, I was not able to collect data in the same manner across parks. In LP, I have missed people who may not visit the park, were not present at the park when I was; or do not have a smart phone. In contrast, in HZP, the online survey posted on the SWVFB, neglected people who are not part of this group.

Survey errors were observed by forgetting to ask certain demographic questions in the QR-code survey or by formulating a question wrong in the HZP survey. Unfortunately, these mistakes were only identified during data analysis.

3.4 Data analytical methods

I directly interpreted the data with a focus on qualitative data, although some quantitative data to complement qualitative findings was used. Quantitative data can add value to the qualitative findings (Starman 2013), whilst qualitative data nuances some of these generalisations (Saldana 2011).

Online survey answers were analysed using excel and were quantified based on the demographics of the respondents. In person interviews were analysed using a content analysis approach. Themes were selected based on the literature review. Documents and interview transcripts were imported into an analytical software called NVivo, where 'nodes' can be created and named after the selected themes (Niedbalski and Ślęzak 2017). Then, the documents and transcripts were read, and sentences and paragraphs were highlighted and allocated to the relevant node(s) (ibid.). During the coding, additional themes arose ('open codes') which were added to the database (Niedbalski and Ślęzak 2017, 88).

Chapter 4 – Case study analyses



Figure 13 – Photo of Lochend Park, view from playground across to Arthurs Seat (hill). Source: Author



Figure 14 – Photo of Lochend Park, teenage area. Source: Author

4.1 Edinburgh: Analyses and findings

4.1.2 Setting the context

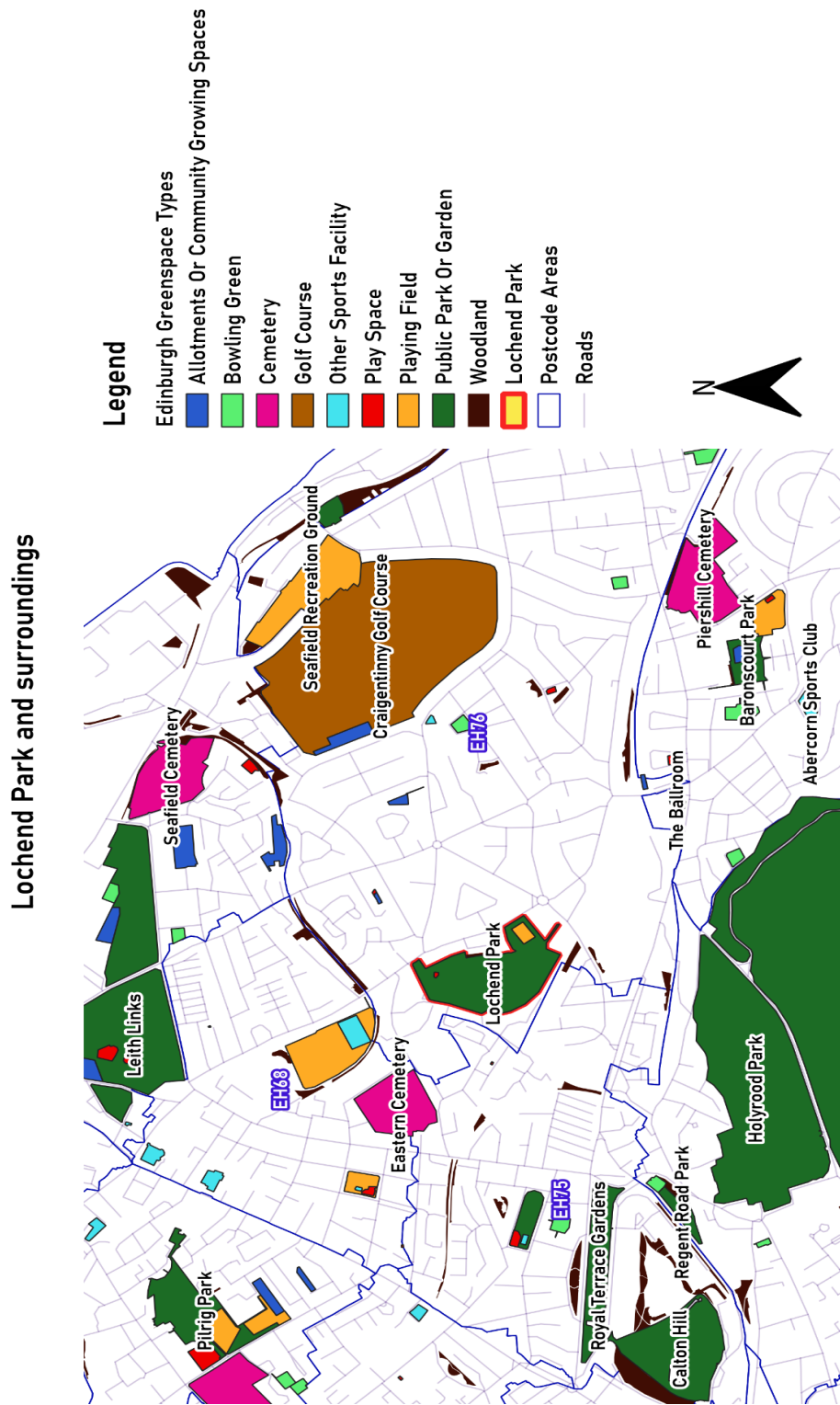


Figure 15 - Lochend Park and its surrounding, Lochend Park and its surrounding. Source: Map data compiled using QGIS Development Team (2021) and data copyright: © OpenStreetMap contributors (2021); Open Government License 3.0 (2021) contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 and contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2021 and contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 right (2021).

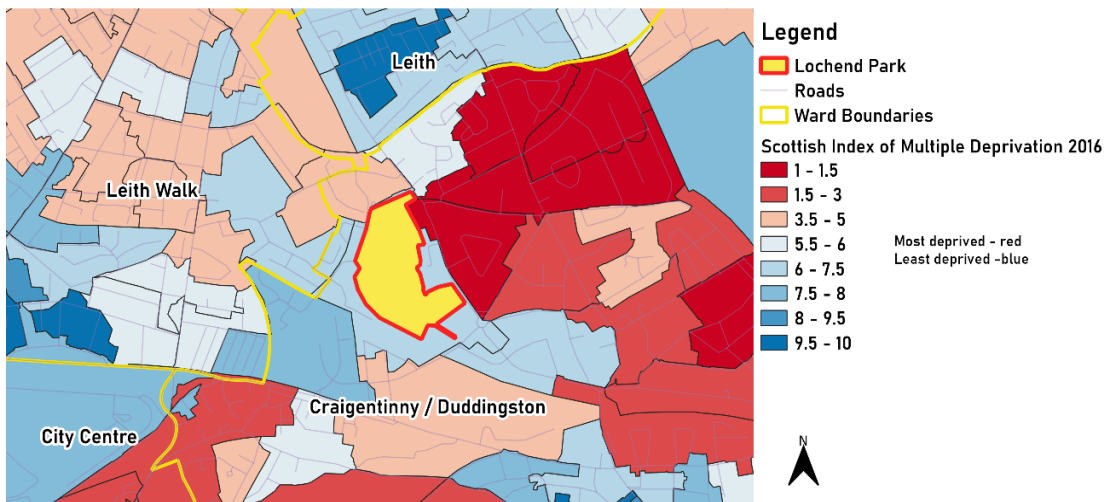
Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland and with a population of just over 500,000 (CEC 2019b). Scotland is one of four countries within the United Kingdom and has increasingly received devolved powers since the 2000s over certain policy areas such as education, health, the environment, and local government. Edinburgh is located within the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) local authority.

Lochend Park (LP) is located in Edinburgh's North East within the Craighentinn and Duddingston electoral ward (figure 16). This ward consists of some high-density areas (111.7 inhabitants/hectare (inhab/ha) in EH75) but is mainly characterised by low density suburban developments (47.68 inhab/ha in EH76) of both affluent and lower income areas. LP is also adjacent to the highest density ward in Edinburgh, Leith Central (134.95 inhab/ha in EH68) (National Record of Scotland 2011). The three adjacent postcode areas EH68, EH75 and EH76 (figure 15), reflect the demographic data better due to them being smaller in scale in comparison to electoral wards.

According to the 2011 Census; Edinburgh's population is 70.3% ethnically 'white Scottish'. In contrast EH76 is 79.6% and EH75 is only 55.9% ethnically 'white Scottish'. EH75 accommodates other white ethnicities above Edinburgh's average such as 'Other British' (14.2%), 'Polish' (7.8%) and 'Other White' (9.8%). 6.4% in EH75 are also of 'Asian' ethnicity. In contrast EH76 has a higher representation of 'African' (1.3%) and 'Caribbean and Black' (0.3%) people. Within EH76 30.8% have no school qualifications (17.1% Edinburgh average) whilst in EH75 53.6% have a higher education (41.4% Edinburgh). EH68 is relatively representative of Edinburgh's average (National Record of Scotland 2011).

In generalising terms, LP is surrounded by a relatively diverse middle-class neighbourhood (EH75), a lower class ethnically white Scottish neighbourhood (EH76) and a diverse young professional neighbourhood (EH68). Notably, this data is rather outdated (2011 Census) with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016-2020 showing that some areas have been getting less deprived whilst others have become more deprived (Figure 16).

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

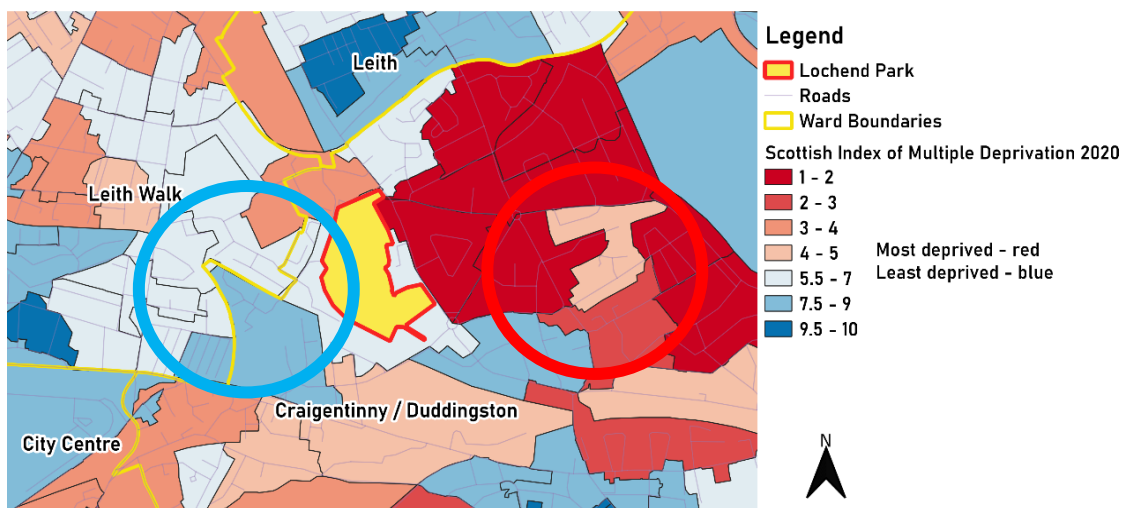


Figure 16 - Lochend Park neighbourhoods are changing according to the Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation (2016/2020). Some places are becoming more deprived (red circle) and some places are becoming less deprived (blue circle). Source: Map data compiled using QGIS Development Team (2021) and data copyright: © OpenStreetMap contributors (2021); Open Government License 3.0 (2021) contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 and contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2021 and contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2021.

4.2 Lochend Park

According to the Lochend Park Management Plan (LPMP), LP was originally owned by the Earl of Moray and purchased by what is now CEC (CEC 2013, 6). The park has a loch (Scottish for lake) which covers 40% of the park and offers views onto Arthurs Seat

(CEC 2013). The other 40% of the park is grassland and 20% is woodland (ibid.). The park has a small playground, two picnic tables, the remains of one basketball hoop and one football goal as well as a formal football pitch occupied by a local football club (figure 17). Further pictures of the park can be found in [Annex 13](#).

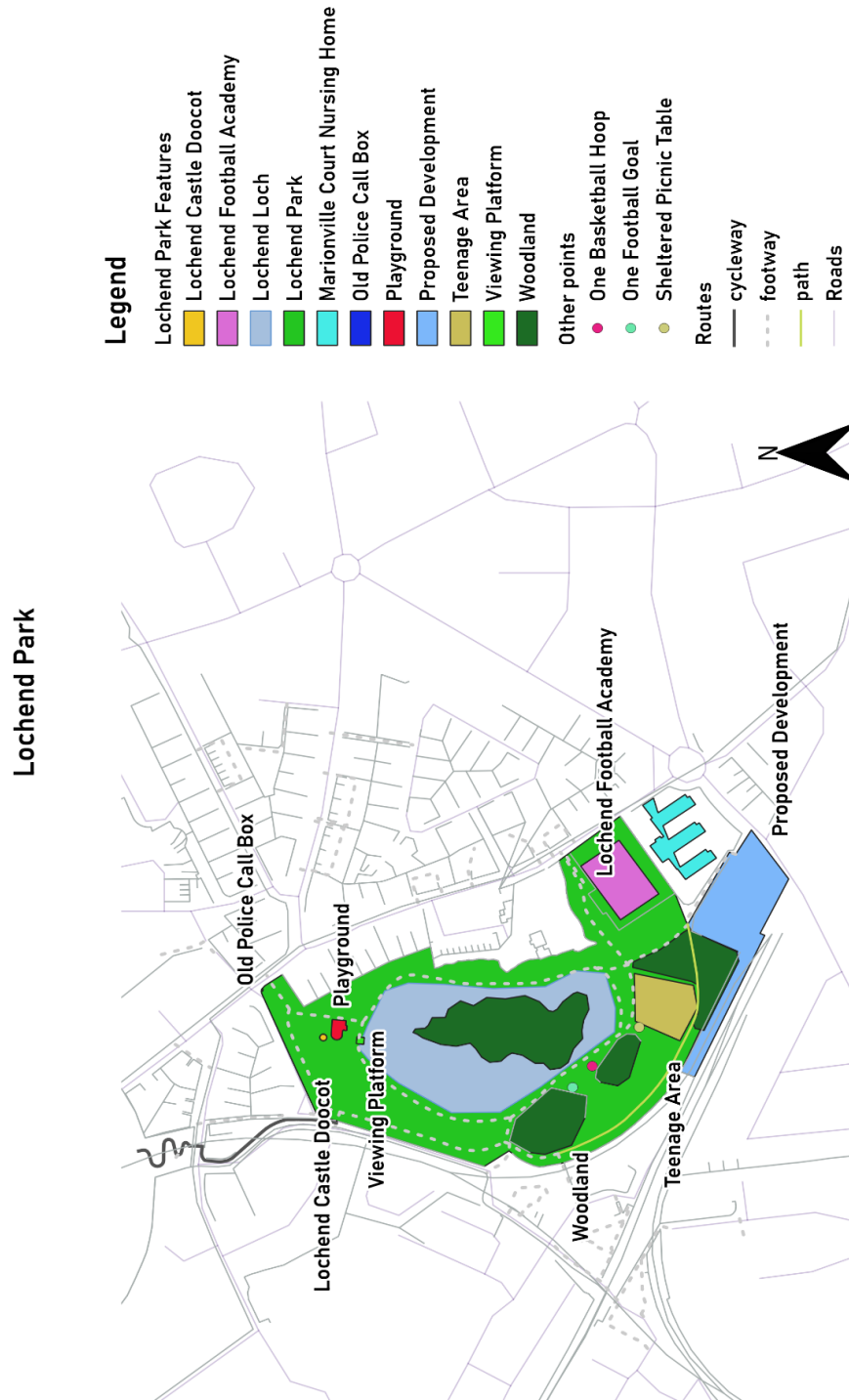


Figure 17 - Lochend Park and its features. Source: Map data compiled using QGIS Development Team (2021) and data copyright: © OpenStreetMap contributors (2021); Open Government License 3.0 (2021) contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 and contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2021 and contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2021.

'It's a spot where I can catch up and see faces. I feel really comfy here.' (LPU2)

40% of the QR-code respondents (LQR) gave LP a rating of 4/5 and 37% rated it 3/5. 86% of LQR use LP for relaxation and enjoying nature and 25% for exercising. Some LQR added birdwatching, bat walking events, litter pick events, duck feeding and reading books as park uses. Lochend park users interviewed in person (LPU) mentioned meeting up with friends, enjoying the greenery and wildlife (particularly when living in a flat) and walking their dog as their main reasons to visit the park.

4.2.1 Perceptions and improvements

Notably, the use and improvement of sports facilities and playground was not mentioned much by LPUs and LQRs, although they are both considered of low quality within the LP management plan.

'Public toilets, so people don't be going against people's fences.' 'Or I was going to say lighting during the night that would be nice. [...] it would be nice to see who is coming.' (Conversation between LPU13 and LPU14)

The need for cleanliness (24 votes (v)), public toilets (12v) and improvements to the lake (10v) were selected the most by LQRs. LQRs (mostly aged 45-64) selected the need for seating (7v). Whilst LPUs argued that there is a lack of bins. LQRs added that bird feeding attracts rats, shopping trolleys in the lake, broken glass, and dog litter. These opinions were reiterated by LPUs and were connected to vandalism and antisocial behaviour during the darker hours.

4 female LPUs and 7 LQRs mentioned the need for better lighting to improve sense of safety to walk the dog during the evening. Two female LPUs under 30 and STH5 thought LP has improved whilst two female LPUs over 50 thought it was getting worse. STH5 agreed that the park is visited by young people and only limitedly by elderly. LPU1 recognised that the bad reputation of the area only attracts locals because others rather visit Holyrood Park (one of Edinburgh's main tourist attractions, owned by Scottish Ministers, managed by Historic Environment Scotland) instead. Further perceptions and detailed survey answers of LPUs and LQRs can be found in [Annex 7](#) and [10](#).

4.3 Greenspace Actors

4.3.1 Municipal actors

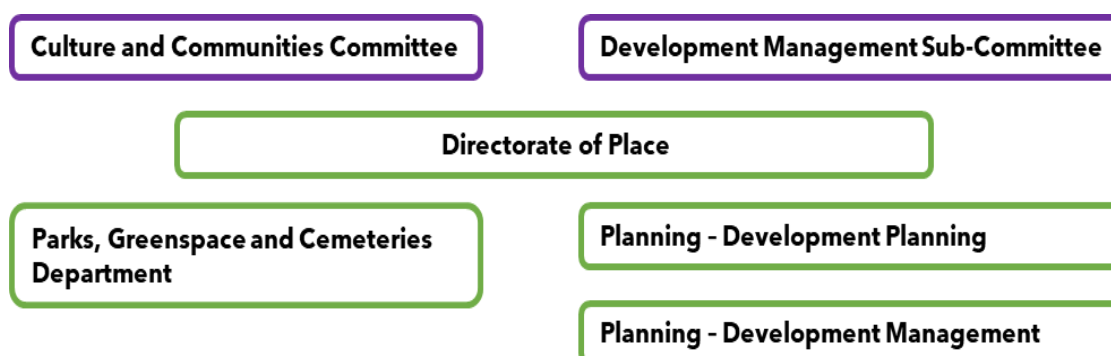


Figure 18 - Most important municipal departments (in green) and political committees (in purple) related to greenspace management in Edinburgh. Source: Author.

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Department (PGCD) is found under the 'Place' management structure, alongside with planning and development, housing, waste services and roads. These services used to be separate but have now been put into a 'super directorate' (STH2). In contrast the parks department falls within the political 'Culture and Communities Committee'. Whilst PGCD is mainly involved in the upkeep of park (70% of their resources); land uses including greenspaces are allocated and protected by the planning department within the Local Development Plan (LDP). Planning authorities are legally required to prepare open space and forest strategies and PGCD has an input in these strategies (STH2). Otherwise, the strategic side of the PGCD depends on the availability of funding, although many parks do have their own management plan. Funding from the Thriving Green Space project (TGS, discussed in the next section) has allowed for more strategizing again, looking at policy and operational change to remain a viable service (STH2).

STH2 argued that the austerity measures of the past decade have left a toll on collaborative working between different departments. Yet 20% of the parks departments' time is spent on engaging with other departments. STH2 considers it a challenge to not only work on external and internal collaborations as they are time consuming. STH2 thought of the Lothian Greenspace Trust and the Wildlife Trust as key stakeholders.

On a political level, STH4 recognised that there is a danger of 'death by committee'. The more committees work together the slimmer the chance to get anything

approved. Likewise, STH2 wished that certain decisions would be taken faster by politicians. Although both agreed these checks and balances are crucial to make informed decisions.

4.3.2 Thriving green spaces

Thriving Green Spaces (TGS) is a two-year project (June 2019 - May 2021) initiated by CEC to set out 'a new visions for Edinburgh's natural environment and produce a 30-year strategy and action plan' (CEC n.d.- b). It will replace the 2006 Parks and Gardens Strategy, which has become outdated. TGS was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Trust (£899,500) (ibid).

TGS reflects the multi-stakeholder park governance within Edinburgh. Edinburgh Living Landscapes (ELL) applied for the TGS funding. ELL is led by the SWT including following organisations: 'CEC, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, ELGT, UoE, NatureScot, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, TCV and RSPB Scotland' (Scottish Wildlife Trust n.d.).

In addition to these actors, TGS consists of 6 partners: CEC, Greenspace Scotland, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT), University of Edinburgh (UoE), Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum and Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) (CEC n.d.-b). The Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum is a voluntary group, which represents all CEC friends groups. 'Friends groups' are community groups interested in improving their local park and are recognised by CEC after filling out a form (CEC n.d.-a). The other organisations are mostly charities and governmental bodies. UoE plays a big role in this project through carrying out participation projects which are relevant for their academic researchers and students whilst simultaneously gathering data for CEC (STH3).

4.3.3 Friends of Lochend Park

Friends of Lochend Park (FoLP) were established in 2008 because a person was interested in creating a safe viewing platform over the loch to watch the wildlife (STH5). A recognised community group was required to gather funding for this project. Four people showed up to the initial event and they then formed the first committee of FoLP (STH5). After the funding was received and the platform was built, the main aim of FoLP became to reduce the amount of litter in the park, which has been decaying. Since then at least one litter pick a year is organised. Other project since have included putting up nest boxes; getting funding for pollinated flowers to

create a 'bee café'; and buying an old police box to store litter pickers and other material for potential community events (STH5).

FoLP currently consists of 7 committee members. Unfortunately, they have not managed to keep an active email list with members, but people do show up for litter picks advertised online (STH5). STH1&4 are both engaged in their local friends groups and agreed that a lot of time just goes into keeping up with the litter limiting meaningful engagement. Indeed, FoLP have not been really able to engage in management and strategic matters regarding their park because of a lack of volunteers (STH5).

The biggest 'win' for STH5 was when they did not want the willow trees within the park to be felled. STH5 had to get two different arboriculturists' opinions (as one was getting regular from CEC and saw a conflict in interest) to convince CEC that although more expensive, keeping the old willow trees would be beneficial (STH5).

The next bigger project for FoLP could be fund raising to fix the water runoff in LP as it has caused major floods in 2020 and 2021 with the loch walk becoming inaccessible for a few weeks after heavy rain. Although CEC tried to clear out the pipes, which were full of baby nappies and other rubbish; the water is not draining. With currently no CEC capital funding available, FoLP are planning to raise community funding as they can assess funding not available to CEC.

4.4 Strategic park management practices

The following section is going to discuss greenspace practices within Edinburgh which impact LP. These practices have been split into the overall vision for Edinburgh's greenspaces as well as their development, management, monitoring and financing.

4.4.1 Vision and benefits

The 2021 Open Space Strategy (OS2021) states that greenspaces contribute towards 'excellent places, encourage economic growth and improve quality of life' (CEC 2016b, 5). With specific regard to CEC parks, the Parks and Garden Strategy's (EPGS) vision is:

A quality parks system worthy of international comparison; accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people. (WJ Cairns 2006, 1)

Additionally, the LP management plan (LPMP) includes a tailored vision for LP: 'to provide a natural green space that is safe and secure, enhances biodiversity and meets the needs of the local community and the wider community of Edinburgh' (CEC 2013, 2).

4.4.2 (Re)development

Particularly the creation but also design of park relies on private sector funding from housing developments. This is controlled through asking for planning obligations from developers. According to the Local Development Plan (LDP), housing development without private gardens required a minimum of 20% 'useable greenspace' (CEC 2016c, 115), open space requirement for other types of developments are negotiable. Recent developments to the south and west of LP, have required developers to contribute towards improving LP by improving access and improve the landscaping in the park closest to the housing developments. Both planning applications argue that the housing developments will contribute towards the overlooking of LP, improving its safety. Unfortunately, no specific improvement towards existing facilities was imposed (CEC 2019a).

4.4.3 Management and regulations

In comparison to Vienna (a federal state); Scottish Government has more powers to impose certain responsibilities on local authorities. However, councils are not necessarily getting additional funding to carry out these responsibilities (STH2). In the past 20 years added responsibilities were: the need to ensure that paths are accessible for all; to protect and manage community allotments; and to prepare open space strategies (The Scottish Government 2015; Woodward 2019; Dickinson and Marson 2019). Likewise, CEC's park management rules are based on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code allowing public rights of access. This means most open land in Scotland (whether in private or public ownership), can be accessed by the public under the condition of 'responsible behaviour'. This widely improved greenspace access for all, yet 'responsible use' is a subjective matter which can lead to disagreements (Dickinson and Marson 2019).

As mentioned, LP has its own management plan, although the plan only covers the period 2013-2019. The action points within the plan were addressed during this time period. Nevertheless, improvements towards lighting, trash can locations, the children and teenage area were acknowledged (CEC 2013), yet they did not form part of the

action plan and should be considered in the future as should be the flooding of the park.

4.4.4 Monitoring

A Park Quality Assessment (PQA) is conducted every year based on the Green Flag Awards (GFA) criteria. GFA is a UK wide park assessment tool and a recognition award introduced in 1996. Any council or community group can apply to receive the GFA. The award seeks to promote a benchmark standard for British parks (GFA 2021). When carrying out the PQA, CEC is trying to remain as critical as possible (STH2). One main assessor overlooks the assessment carried out by one PQA trained person and community individual, to ensure that each criterion has been interpreted correctly (STH5).

Edinburgh's minimum park standard is set at 60% (grade C). To receive a GFA, a grading of 66% is necessary. North East Edinburgh (NE) has one of the lowest quality parks within Edinburgh with 25% of parks graded D or below. Indeed, the NE is the only area where park quality has decreased from previous years. Nevertheless, LP achieved 74% in 2019 and is mainly downgraded in terms of community involvement and marketing/information.

4.4.5 Financing

PGCD's budget has been decreasing due to austerity cuts, leading to a reduction of park officers on the ground and centralising services (STH2). STH2 explained that parks are considered as costing money without bringing any income, although parks do increase wellbeing and the attractiveness of a city. As an answer to that Edinburgh's parks were valued using the social return on investment approach showing that for each £1 invested in parks £5 are being generated (CEC 2014). Although it is unclear whether this report has generated any more support for parks.

Indeed, STH4 discussed how the retaining of funding for culture and leisure is a 'major battlefield'. Although they thought that the department still works effectively. STH2 outlined that local authorities have no legal requirement to provide a certain park quality standards. Therefore, the service relies heavily on political support. Indeed, STH1, a former politician, and STH4 (still engaged in politics) have a keen interest in greenspaces and have been actively supporting the improvements of parks within their area.

One way the department has been financing their services is through hiring out parks for events such as the Christmas Market in Princess Street Gardens or the Meadows for festival tents during the Edinburgh summer festivals (STH1&2). This commodification has created conflict between residents and CEC (STH1&4). Another conflict which arises from this, is how large 'premier' parks, like the Gardens and Meadows, have been receiving more funding, yet many communities further out are not served by these parks. While premier parks also generate income for all of Edinburgh's parks, this 'new' income cannot be considered as additional but replaces the loss in budget cuts (STH1).

4.4.6 Conclusion

Park strategies are split between the parks and planning department, with the latter focusing on land use related policies. However, more collaboration could be sought; particularly because PGCD is already working closely with many other organisations. Overall, CEC faces clear budget constraints when it comes to the management of parks with less than 1% of CEC budget spent on greenspaces whilst planning obligations are not generating enough income from the private sector. This can also be observed within LP which has a lot of potential and is important to the small number of frequent users surveyed, but its facilities are run down, and large amounts of litter are observed within the park. CEC's vision and benefits for greenspaces include contradictory statements where a focus on international premier parks skews with the possibilities to improve out of centre community parks and support local communities who have to come up with the funding themselves. Particularly because applying for community funding also requires time and resources (STH1). Although CEC supports community organisation, the potential for good public participation is limited not only in LP but across all CEC parks. Importantly, LP has widely improved since the establishment of FoLP; yet FoLP is a small group, volatile, and not representative of the local population.

Figure 19 – Comparison framework of greenspace governance on 2 levels: Edinburgh, and Vienna (city level); and Lochend and Helmut Zilk Park (neighbourhood level). Table adapted by Lawrence et al. (2013)

	Edinburgh	Vienna
Context		
Size	264sqkm	414,9sqkm
Population	524,930 (2019)	1.911.191 (2020)
% of greenspace	50%	50%
% of publicly accessible greenspace	37%	31%
Municipal greenspace/inhabitant	33sqm/inhabitant	47sqm/inhabitant
Number of Parks	144	900
Perceived benefit of greenspace	Creation of place, economic growth, and quality of life	First ecological, second economic and third social benefits
Importance of greenspace to other land uses	Both cities consider greenspace as a mitigation measure for development. Buildings and hard infrastructure first; thereafter greenspace has to 'keep up'.	
Institutional framework		
National laws/policies	Land reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Planning Advice Notice 65	Grünanlagenverordnung
Planning and regulations	- Edinburgh Local Development Plan - Park management rules	- STEP 2025 – Urban Development Plan - Smart City Wien
Green space management plan	- Open Space Strategy 2021 - Parks and Gardens Strategy	- Thematic Concept- Green and Open Spaces - Parkleitbild
Access and use rights	Based on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act focusing on responsible behaviour	Grünanlagenverordnung updated in 2007 delineating strict dos and don'ts
Benefits of participation	- Community identity - Social control leading to better care - Counteract reductions in funding	- Community identity - Sense of responsibility leading to better care - Better decision making and harmonious working - Local knowledge particularly from people 'not heard enough'
Actors and coalitions		
Primary stakeholders	Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries Service	Wiener Stadtgärten – MA42
Other stakeholders	Planning Department	Planning Department – MA18

Partnerships	- Edinburgh Living Landscape (SWT, CEC, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, ELGT, UoE, NatureScot, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, TCV and RSPB Scotland') - Thriving Green Space (ELL, plus, Greenspace Scotland, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT), University of Edinburgh (UoE), Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum)	N/A
Power analysis	Parks department relies heavily on external funding, their hands are often bound. The need of housing supply and pro-market policies limit the protection and enhancement of greenspaces. City wide public consultations are carried out based on national regulations.	MA42 and MA18 are politically supported for the delivery of greenspaces. Coalitions with external companies are very limited and controlled. City wide public consultations are carried out limitedly for big plans such as the urban development plan.
Resources		
Funding	CEC allocates funding from council tax, services (such as renting out public spaces), Scottish Government and external funding from partners and charities.	CoV allocates funding from council tax and services.
Greenspace budget from local authority	2019/2020 £8.779m - 0.9% of the total city budget.	10 th district spent 13% of its budget on greenspaces (2021). CoV spent an additional £15.66m on greenspaces meaning 4% of their budget (2019)
Knowledge	Knowledge is primarily formed by the parks department and political views followed by the expertise of the different partners. Regarding the public, the focus is on voluntary workforce for maintenance. Local knowledge is limitedly accepted through communication with community organisations.	Knowledge is formed by the expert departments, so the MA42 and MA18 in terms of park maintenance and land allocation. Local knowledge from the public is very limitedly.

Delivery mechanism/ Rules of the game	If CEC organised: seemingly fixed plan/project is published for public consultation with limited power to initiate. If community organised: community has to prove there is public interest to receive funding. Communities benefit from local active politicians who support projects. Approval from CEC is then usually facilitated.	Institutionalised top-down decision making where there is limited public consultation, particularly when a project 'needs to be done'. For the public to initiate change, strong political support is required to get funding from the Lokale Agenda, the public participation facilitator service, funded by CoV and relevant districts.
	Lochend Park	Helmut Zilk Park
Context		
District	Craigentinny/Duddingston	Favoriten 10 th District
Neighbourhood	Lochend	Sonnwendviertel
Size of park	8.586 ha	7 ha
Greenspace category	On a national level – Park On a city level - Community Park	One a city level - Type 09 Park
Catchment of population	Relatively local population due to area being stigmatised	Wider catchment area due to lack of greenspaces within this area and being a new state of the art park.
Facilities provided	Children's playground Lake One football goal and one basketball ring Football pitch only open to local football club One sheltered picnic bench	Toddler Playground Motorikpark Community garden Bakery Dog Zone
Institutional framework		
Ownership	CEC	CoV
Management plan	Lochend Park Management Plan and see above for city wide plans	See above for city wide plans
Access and use rights	Standard city-wide regulations – see above	Standard city-wide regulations – see above
Actors and coalitions		
Primary stakeholders	CEC parks department	District 10 hiring out MA42 for maintenance purposes
Other stakeholders	Friends of Lochend Park	- Sonnwendviertel Facebook group - Sonnwendgarten
Partnerships	FoLP communicates with CEC when necessary. E.g. flooding of the park in 2021. Thriving Green Spaces project has been in touch with FoLP carrying out research on the park.	The bakery is in partnership with CoV to provide consumption free toilets. The other two groups mostly keep to themselves and organise informal activities. Sonnwendgarten

	However not a partnership as such.	is sometimes in contact with GB*.
Power analysis		
Resources		
Funding	Maintenance is funded by CEC. Funding for specific projects and changes is raised by FoLP when their capacity allows.	
Knowledge	Very strong local knowledge from local park users - CEC seems to be aware of most issues	Very strong local knowledge from local park users - CoV seems to be less aware of issues
Delivery mechanism	For major changes: primarily through funding acquired by friends groups. Maintenance: delivered by CEC and through occasional litter picking by FoLP.	Any future redevelopment would have to be funded by the 10 th district. Initiated either by the district or very strong local demand.
Processes		
Discourses	Neglected park in terms of litter and facilities vs A haven for biodiversity, peace, and quiet vs Conflicts in use between elderly and teenagers.	New state of the art park imposed by CoV vs. Need for other functionalities such as quiet and fully publicly accessible toilets vs. More consideration for the environment in terms of biodiversity and occasionally litter.
Participation	Carried out through FoLP, primarily doing litter picks but also bigger projects when capacity allows. Formal consultations by CEC when required by regulations.	Occasional litter pick organised by SVWFB. GB* organised a community project to initiate a community garden which is now well established and self-sufficient.
Monitoring and evaluation	Yearly park quality assessment	No former assessment. Through Sag's Wien app, residents can file complaints about the quality of the park.
Outcomes (physical)	Viewing platform, Bird boxes, Bee café, flower meadow planting, litter picking	Sonnwendgarten community garden, litter picking



Figure 20 - Overview of Helmut Zilk Park. Source: Zottl, 2021.



Figure 21 - Children's playground and bakery 'Der Mann' in the background. Source: Wieser, 2021.

4.5 Vienna: Analysis and findings

4.6 Setting the context

Helmut Zilk Park and surroundings

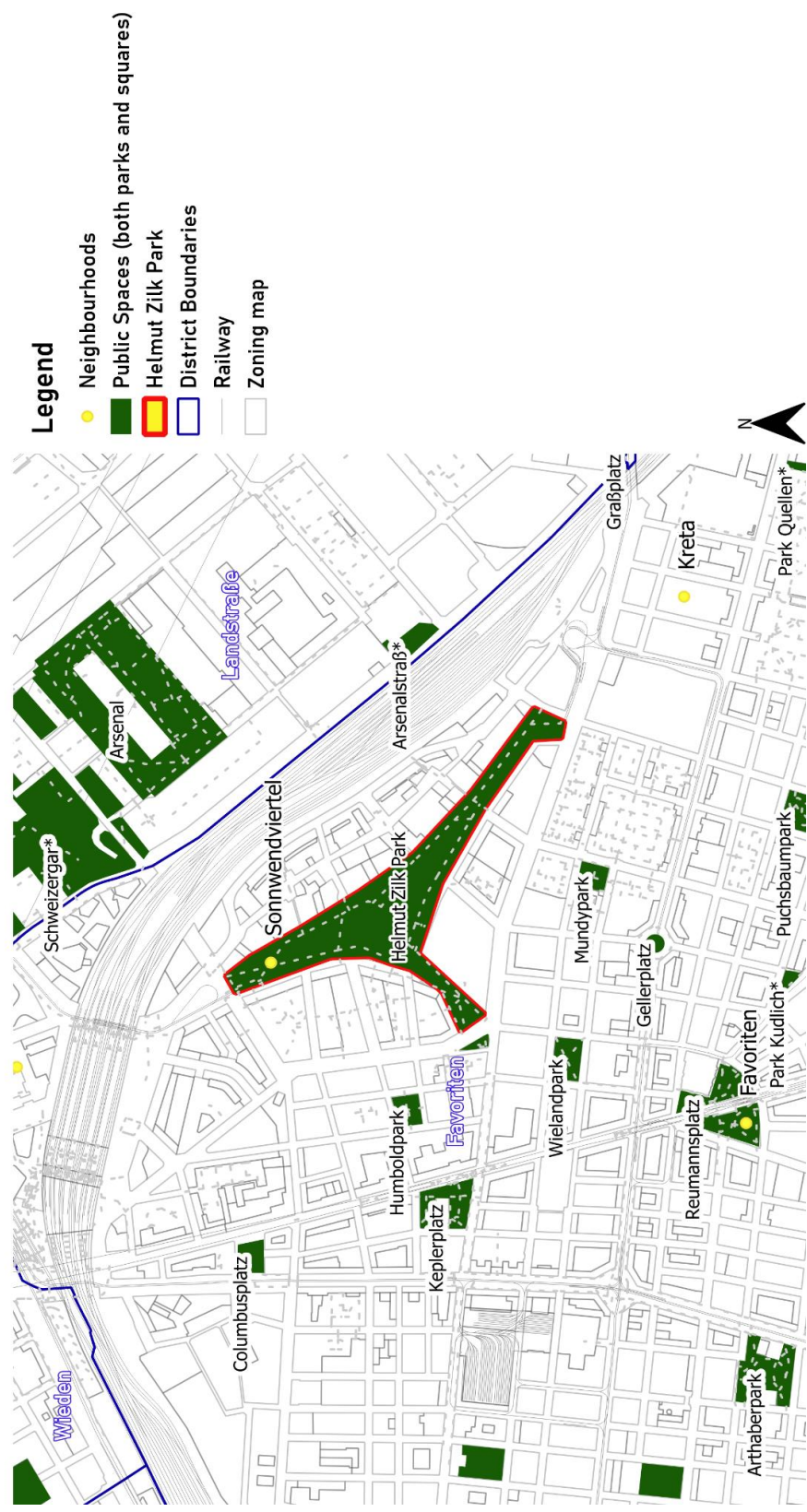


Figure 22 – Helmut Zilk Park and it's surrounding. Source: Map created from www.data.gov.at and www.openstreetmap.org

Vienna is the capital of Austria, a federal state and municipality (the City of Vienna (CoV)). It has a population of approximately 1.92 million people (Stadt Wien 2020). Helmut Zilk Park (HZP) is located in the south of Vienna within Favoriten, Vienna's 10th district. Like the cities average, 50% of Favoriten is green with 83 parks (Stadt Wien 2020). Nevertheless, the area closest to the city centre is a lot less green than the outskirts of the district (STH9). To address this, HZP was developed as part of a new neighbourhood, called Sonnwendviertel (SWV). Importantly however, there was no public consultation regarding the development of HZP.

The 10th is Vienna's biggest district comprising over 10% of Vienna's population; or 207,193 people (Stadt Wien 2020). The district is very dense with 6510 inhab/km² (Vienna average: 4607 inhab/km²). It is home to 62.2% Austrians (7% less than the Viennese average). 24.4% are non-Eu nationals including 6.1% Serbs, 4.7% Turks and 2.6% Rumanians. 33% of Favoriteners have no or a foundation school qualification (22% in Vienna) and 14% Favoriteners have a university degree (26% in Vienna) (Stadt Wien 2020). Therefore, Favoriten is often referred to as the working-class district of Vienna (Sandri 2014).

Recent master theses from Sandri (2014) and Goller (2018) have shown that SWV has been developed to attract affluent young couples and that the rent is considerably higher than in the rest of Favoriten. Although people from the adjacent lower income neighbourhoods 'Kreta' and 'Favoriten Centrum' (figure 22) have started to enjoy HZP; these neighbourhoods remain spatially and socially segregated causing tension between different income and ethnic groups (Goller 2018; Sandri 2014).

4.7 Helmut Zilk Park

Helmut Zilk Park partially opened in 2017 and was finalised in 2020. The park was designed with wide open grassy areas marketed for 'flexible uses' such as ball play and picnics (STH6). ¼ of the park accommodates zones for dogs (Thon 2017a) (see [Annex 14](#) for further photos). HZP has flower meadows on the edges, a bakery/café in the centre of the park (occupied by the chain 'Der Mann'), a community garden, a playground for younger children and a so called 'Motorikpark' (figure 23). The Motorikpark is a playground designed for the use of children and adults challenging ones physical abilities and balance skills (Stadt Wien n.d.).

Helmut Zilk Park

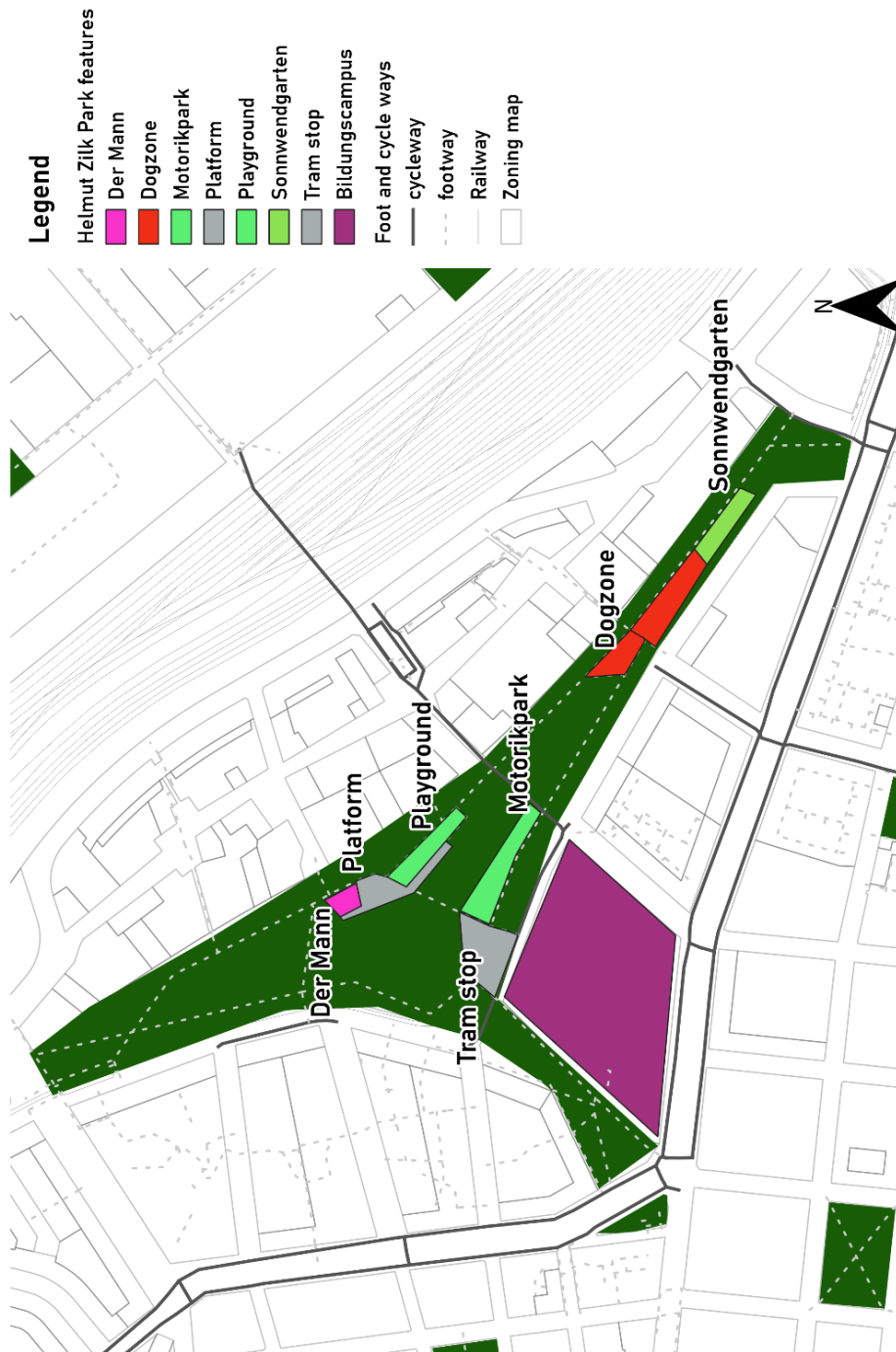


Figure 23 – Features of Helmut Zilk park. Source: Mapping done using data from www.data.gov.at and www.openstreetmap.org

4.7.1 Perceptions and improvements

Helmut Zilk Survey Respondents (HSR) all directly lived within SWV, most less than 5min from the park, frequenting it weekly. HSR selected relaxing and children as the main reason to go to the park, closely followed by sport and friends. Only one person mentioned gardening. Two HSR who frequent the park less than monthly said it is because the park is too busy and loud. Indeed, the way the buildings have been angled towards the park have resulted in park noises echoing between the buildings (STH9&10).

44 HSR (61%) rated the park with 4 out of 5 marks. They enjoy the wide and open green space as this allows for a lot of freedom in movement and the possibilities to overlook the park (HSR comments). According to STH6&8 this flexibility in use was a new concept CoV wanted to try. HSR also appreciate the flower meadows because they attract many animals like rabbits. The Motorikpark and the bakery are also mentioned a few times.

The most selected issue was by far the lack of public toilets, followed by cleanliness. Yet additional comments highlighted some interesting paradoxes where the love for the openness of the park clashed with the need for more peace and quiet, sports facilities and shade. Although STH7,8 and 9 argued that a park needs time to grow into its planned shape, STH8 believed that temporary solutions for shade should have been thought of from the start because of the increasingly hot summers. Public consultation could have helped to prevented some of the current issues within the park (STH8).

In contrast to LPs discussions were formed around cycling within the park; cutting through semi-private areas to get to the park; and dogs which are not on the leash. Unleashed dogs became a big topic on the Sonnwendviertler_innen Facebook group (SWVFB) during February and March 2021 as dogs were observed hunting rabbits in the flower meadows, causing distress to many SWVFB members. Likewise, STH8 argued that the location of the playground, school and dog zones has led to many conflicts between children and dogs which were again not considered within the design scheme. Further perceptions and detailed survey answers of HSR can be found in [Annex 12](#).

4.8 Greenspace Actors

4.8.1 Municipal actors



Figure 24 - Most important municipal departments influencing greenspaces (in green) and their political committees (in purple) regarding greenspace management in Vienna. Source: Author

CoV has 57 Municipal Departments (MA) split over 7 committees ('Geschäftsgruppen'). MA42 - Wiener Stadtgärten (Vienna's City Gardens) can be found under the committee of 'Climate, Environment, Democracy and Staff (HR)' alongside roads and waste maintenance but also environment and water services. Two other departments which influence green spaces are: MA49 - agricultural land and forests; and MA45 - blue spaces and their banks (STH7). The planning (MA18), zoning (MA19) and architecture (MA21) departments on the other hand are within the committee for 'Innovation, Urban Planning and Mobility'. MA18 calculates the greenspace need whilst the MA21 legalises those needs within the zoning plan. Another important department is the MA22 for environmental protection which monitors Vienna's greenspaces in terms of biodiversity using infra-red satellite imagery.

'Die MA18 hat mit der MA42 nur äußerst gering zu tun.' (The MA18 has little to do with the MA42) (STH6).

STH7 agreed that the MA42 is carrying out the planning strategies set by the MA18. MA42 lost the responsibility to allocate greenspaces to the planning department in the 1960s (Drlik 2010). However, STH7 said that the MA42 was involved in the writing of the 'Thematic Concept - Green and Open Spaces' (TCGOS) because the red thread between governance, management and maintenance should not be lost.

Strategically, MA42 is mostly concerned with e.g. making plans to replace trees for more hot climate resistant trees (STH6).

4.8.2 Gebietsbetreuungen Stadterneuerung

Since 2012, Gebietsbetreuungen Stadterneuerung (GB*; 'urban renewal offices'), a service of CoV, has been active in SWV. Employees at GB* are private sector employees who have been contracted out by the CoV to act as agents between the residents, the CoV and districts but also developers and local organisations (STH9). Pre-Covid, GB* was active outdoors offering organised walks and other events to keep the public informed about SWV (ibid.). Based on regular contact with residents, GB* are aware of current issues (e.g. noise complaints) and advocate for PP process where they think it is beneficial (ibid.).

The development of a community garden ('Sonnwendgarten') in HZP was initiated by the GB* as it did not form part of the initial design (STH9) and was implemented by the MA42 (Thon 2017b). Unfortunately, I did not manage to get in touch with anyone from the community garden association. But according to STH9, the community garden is now an independent organisation who is very cooperative with GB*. Sonnwendgarten seeks to promote social integration through the introduction of three types of lots, one for Sonnwendviertel, one for the adjacent area and one for 'old' Favoriten (STH9); ensuring that plots are shared equally between neighbourhoods.

4.8.3 Sonnwendviertler Innen Facebook Group

The SWVFB has been an active group for 5 years and has 2600 members. It allows individuals to post photos; and ask about and give information related to the neighbourhood. Although seemingly informal, the group organises several litter picks a year. Additionally, some politicians are part of the group providing the citizens with additional information on for example the erection of a new fence between the tramline and park. A petition was also initiated to introduce public toilets within the park. This sparked 3 types of reactions, ones fully supporting it, ones explaining about the consumption free toilets in the Bakery and ones arguing that toilets will bring more litter and antisocial behaviour. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether the petition initiates any change so far.

4.9 Strategic park management practices

4.9.1 Vision and benefits

Vienna's main strategy for parks is to develop new and redevelop existing parks according to the needs of the local population (Stadt Wien 2015).

TCOGS considers the ecological benefits of parks first (ecological diversity, water management); the economic benefits second (farming, selling of real estate and tourism); and the social benefits third (leisure and recreational purpose as well socialisation and health). TCOGS states that open spaces are for everyone:

'satisfying the diverse wishes of the citizens is a core issue: living near green spaces, attractive recreation zones and high-quality infrastructure for non-motorised individual traffic. Fulfilling these tasks serves the goal to keep the urban living space attractive and accessible during all phases of life.' (Stadt Wien 2015, 28).

4.9.2 (Re)development

The development of greenspaces is the responsibility of CoV and MA42 was allocated 5m€ for HZP. Developers supported the size and location of the park as most of the buildings have a view onto the park. Although the MA42 is responsible for the design of the space, due to EU competition law on large scale projects, the design had to be advertised on European level (STH6). STH7&10&12 argued that no participation took place in HZP because there was no existing local population. However, TCGOS considers parks between 3-10ha to have a catchment area of 1km (Stadt Wien 2015). Consequently, people from Kreta and Favoriten Centrum should have been consulted, especially because many people from this area have limited access to greenspaces and are from a less privileged socio-economical backgrounds.

Public participation in Vienna is mainly facilitated through institutionalised ways such as the Lokale Agenda 21 (Novy and Hammer 2007), participatory budgeting (STH12), and youth parliaments (STH8&12). Nevertheless, none of these methods were used for HZP. Although there seem to be improvements as the redevelopment of Nordbahnhof included public consultation (STH7). This may be because Vienna's public participation guide ('Praxisbuch Partizipation') was only published after the HZP but before the Nordbahnhof project. Nevertheless, a great public participation opportunity was missed.

In contrast, the district is responsible for the financing and redeveloping parks. Yet, the Parkleitbild prepared by MA42, is to be followed and any (re)development has to be approved by the MA42. The Parkleitbild is a document with very technical details on the materials and standard norms to be used within Vienna's parks. This runs the danger of neglecting context specific needs and creating barriers for creative design (Drlik 2010).

4.9.3 Management and regulations

The park maintenance responsibility is also with the district authorities. Districts are given a budget every year by the CoV and allocate that budget to the different services they are responsible for, e.g. schools and open space maintenance. The district then 'contracts out' the CoV MA42 department to carry out park maintenance. HSR answers showed that this complex 'devolved' system is causing confusion with respondents being unclear about who's responsible for maintenance.

Regulations on the other hand were established by the CoV's constitution and updated in 2007. Regulations outline in detail what is and is not allowed within public parks. They seem a lot stricter and less flexible than the Scottish Outdoor Access code.

4.9.4 Monitoring

There is no fixed monitoring strategy for Vienna's parks, other than the biodiversity monitoring carried out by MA22, because there are over 900 parks (STH7). The city and district rely on the residents to raise issues. Parks are indirectly evaluated and redeveloped depending on district resources and whether a park is considered out of date (STH6). Vienna STHs seemed in good faith that residents and their representatives can initiate and get funding for redevelopment projects when necessary. The main public participation support for redevelopment is provided by the Lokale Agenda 21 (LA21) organisation, established by CoV to promote participatory decision-making regarding public spaces. Although LA21 seem very supportive; the strongly institutionalised nature of the organisation relies very much on political approval, as it requires funding from both district and municipality to start a new project (Novy and Hammer 2007). Novy and Hammer's research have shown that this has limited good public participation. Regarding HZP, STH11 said that although much can be improved, due to HZP being new and functioning relatively well, it won't see any changes in the next few years.

Quick fixes are supported by CoV who introduced a mobile application called 'Sag's Wien' ('the app'), allowing citizens to highlight issues within the city of Vienna using GSP to locate the issue. Users can add a short description and image to explain one's concern. In terms of HZP, during the month of February and March 2021 there was a big rise in litter, which was observed through 8 complaints on the app, and 3 fb posts which led to a spring clean-up organised by the SWVFB. Following the complaints on the app; the cleaning of the park was increased from once a week to 2-3 a week during February to then daily in March.

4.9.5 Financing

Challenges regarding the financing of greenspaces in terms of buying land and maintaining greenspaces were mentioned (STH7). Yet the 10th district spend 13% of its budget on greenspaces (Stadt Wien 2021) and CoV spent an additional 4% on Vienna's parks in 2019 (Stadt Wien 2019). Politics in Vienna have strongly supported climate change action with greenspaces being a focal point, which has prevented budget cuts (STH6&12). STH12 argued that there is always an argument for too little money. They believed the main challenge of park management is the lack of space.

Nevertheless, the limits of current budgets has been recognised and public-private partnerships are considered as an 'innovative' way to finance the cost of maintenance but only 'as long as the commercial function is not predominant' (Stadt Wien 2015, 77). In the case of HZP, the Motorikpark was financed by 'external companies' (STH10 did not specify who exactly) and a consumption-free toilet is provided by the bakery within the park (STH10).

4.9.6 Conclusion

Just like in Edinburgh, the parks department share greenspace responsibilities with the planning department. Importantly, the municipal parks department is contracted out for maintenance by the more local district administration. This forms a complex layer of hierarchical governance with a lack of transparency causing confusion for HSR. The public is limitedly engaged on park issues, which can be for two main reasons: first they are fairly satisfied with the service their district is offering (Speller and Ravenscroft 2005); and second the CoV is limiting participation possibilities to achieve on their goals. Both were observed in the case of HZP; the political support towards greenspaces in face of the climate crisis has created a strong base for a high-quality parks service; especially in comparison to Edinburgh. However, with the aim to

regenerate Favoriten and the wish to test a new open park concept was considered more important than engaging with the local population regarding their needs. The following chapter will discuss the role of the public in further detail by linking it to some of the theoretical concepts discussed within the literature review.

Chapter 5 – Discussion

The following section will, first, discuss some participation narratives observed during this research which have been influenced by the given power structures and resources. Thereafter, the discussion will reflect upon how public both parks are, using De Magalhães and Trigo's (2017) notion of publicness. Then I will reflect on the governance and SPM structures of both cities and how they impact PP.

5.1 Public participation narratives in Lochend and Helmut Zilk Park

Looking at both cities a few trends were observed in terms of the perception of public participation (PP) by respondents. First, relatively speaking, people aged between 26-44 were most interested in becoming engaged, although it was also the age group most reached out to. Income wise, it was harder to see any trends, although in both cases people over a certain income seemed to be more open to engage. STHs in Edinburgh agreed that middle income conservative people are more prone to participate, as has been proven by many other researchers (Rosol 2012; Geum-Kim and Roe 2008). In terms of gender, the HZP survey highlighted that women were more interested in partaking; even though they also thought that their input would not cause any changes. In contrast men, selected lack of time and laziness more often as a barrier to participate.

5.1.1 Sense of belonging

In both cities, policy documents argued that PP can create a sense of belonging, resulting in people caring for and respecting their park (W J Cairns and Associates 2006; Stadt Wien 2015). Likewise, many park respondents and STHs mentioned this sense of belonging, in order to partake and behave appropriately. Whilst, Fenster (2005) and Young (2002) consider sense of belonging important to appropriate space and participate. As discussed within the literature review; the narratives observed during this research can also be considered as a way to induce informal social control within public spaces (Rolfe 2017; Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls 1997). In both cases there is a desired principle not to see litter. Although this value is highly normative, academics do consider norms against litter widely accepted because of the environmental as well as health and safety problems it causes for both humans and animals (Cialdini, Kallgren, and Reno 1991; Heywood et al. 2002). Cialdini, Kallgren and Reno (1991) and Heywood et al. (2002) proved that their respondents were clearly aware of the norm that they should not litter. Nevertheless it was found

that the existing amount of litter within a space dictates whether people will litter or not (Cialdini, Kallgren, and Reno 1991; Heywood et al. 2002). Importantly, a certain small amount of litter (1 piece for Cialdini and 8-14 pieces for Heywood) is required to prevent others from littering. Therefore, it is questionable to what extent PP can induce a sense of belonging, which in turn makes people litter less. This is supported by Fors et al. (2015) who found that research of PP within parks has not proven to increase a sense of attachment; probably because a certain sense of belonging is already necessary to get people to participate at all (Fenster 2005).

5.1.2 Who should participate?

A lack of critical reflection regarding who should participate was observed concerning policy documents and STHs. The need for specific support regarding children and elderly was mentioned in both cases as well as 'girls' in Vienna due to their gender mainstreaming policy (Damyanovic et al. 2017). However, other vulnerable people for example migrants and ethnic minorities were not mentioned but by STH5 who was aware of the Polish community around LP. STH5 explained how FoLP tried but also failed to attract this community. Interestingly, it came to my attention that Edinburgh's Czech community on fb organised a litter pick in LP. Since they were not aware of FoLP; they did not reach out to them to 'join forces'. Therefore, barriers of outreach should be considered a two-way stream between 'majority' and 'minority groups', even if there is a clear power imbalance between the two (Buijs et al. 2019).

Likewise, this research did not manage to engage with many ethnic minorities highlighted within each city's context. This may be because the wrong methods were chosen and/or because these minorities use the parks less. Strategic efforts are necessary to reach out to these minorities (Wiber et al. 2009; Burton 2009) and work with the minorities to create parks which are as welcoming to them as to the 'majority'. Strategic documents should outline how vulnerable people such as ethnic minorities are included, going beyond demographics such as elderly and children, by considering intersectionality. This should be done using a critical approach ensuring that the creation of further demographic categories is not leading to further exclusion (Ratner 2014, 233).

5.1.3 Non-participation

Previous research has discussed reasons for non-participation to be connected to a lack of sense of belonging (Fenster 2005) and trust (De Weger et al. 2018). Particularly

in Edinburgh both STHs and respondents mentioned mistrust as a barrier to non-participation. Whilst respondents in Vienna did not mention lack of trust; 81% of HSR did say that they believed that authorities could be more considered towards their needs within public spaces.

On the other hand Jones (2002); Dávila and Jiménez (2012) and Rosol (2012) have shown that non-participation depends on a sense of commitment which is a separate factor and not necessarily dependent on one's sense of belonging. Authors agreed that commitment could be achieved if there is reciprocal support and reward. A retracting local government is not conveying a sense of support and therefore, a neoliberal approach to outsource a voluntary workforce is backfiring (Rosol 2012). Generally, most people do not want to give up their free time for 'tedious cleaning tasks' (Rosol 2012, 249). Indeed, a lack of time was the most selected reason for non-participation when surveying park users in this research. Likewise, Jones (2002, 28-29) found that a certain motivation/passion, personal characteristics of determination, and a sense that one possesses the relevant skills are required. In line with this my respondents and particularly female HSR said that they do not think that their engagement would initiate any change or that they do not have the abilities to help. This negative perception of one's influence can be retraced to current power structures where (particularly female) respondents may not think that they have the right to the city and to participate due to existing gender inequalities (Fenster 2005).

Additionally, many respondents in both cities argued that they are simply not aware of participation possibilities. Only 3 LPU and 10 HSR respondents have ever participated in a local authority consultation. LPUs under 35 often mentioned the need to raising awareness and informing people over social media, whilst LPUs over the age of 45 mostly mentioned the use of flyers and information boards. Interestingly, a group of under 30s (LPU22-24) agreed that 'no one reads signs' (LPU23). Indeed, some LPUs asked for signage already present within the park. This shows that the location of public displays is crucial (Fredericks et al. 2015; Wouters, Claes, and Moere 2015). In HZP, displays have a better frontal view, are larger; more colourful and stand out more, whilst signage in LP is often vandalised and does not stand out (Fredericks et al. 2015) (figure 25 and 26).



Figure 25 - Clear large signages with regulations in HZP. Source: Seidl, 2018.



Figure 26 - Vandalised and less prominent signage in Lochend Park. Source: Author

Importantly, the methods used to invite and inform the public dictates what individuals will most likely engage (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007). Through interviewing participants from various participation projects, Webler and Tuler, (2006) found that

reaching out to all stakeholders and sharing information openly is most valued by the public. To avoid disappointment and mistrust; information has to keep flowing before, during and after the participation process (Cornwall 2008). However, answers from survey respondents have shown that information is shared mainly between friends, family, and social media. Information from local authorities seems to have limited outreach.

5.1.4 Knowledge

As the literature review highlighted, some knowledge is preferred over other knowledge. Open space strategies in both cities define park quality standards primarily by the distance of residents to the parks (CEC 2016b; Wieshofer et al. 2015). This reflects the notion on how only technical knowledge can be used for policy making (Negev and Teschner 2013). Although most respondents enjoyed going to the closest park, some respondents chose to travel much further because their local park does not fulfil their needs. This shows that this technical knowledge using distance as a measure is an assumption (Negev and Teschner 2013); and that such measurements are bias towards dominant social groups (Wright Wendel, Zarger, and Mihelcic 2012). During discussions with Vienna STHs, it became clear that civil servants and politicians strongly believe that expert knowledge is essential, and that PP is challenging such knowledge. A change in approaches and culture is required where local authorities enable knowledge production rather than assuming that their knowledge is the most adequate (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007; Van Herzele 2004).

Talking to civil servants showed that they have clear preferences on what a park should be like, although I do not want to imply that they enforce those preferences daily. Just like participants, civil servants, other 'experts', and politicians should be critical of their positionality and not reject ideas based on their ideals (Van Herzele 2004). 'Experts' should take a step back and reconsider whether the knowledge they have is really that obvious (Janse and Konijnendijk 2007; Van Herzele 2004). Park management practices, decisions on facility provision and maintenance are not obvious to an everyday person, as I personally experienced and observed through my surveys. Indeed, by considering practices as obvious undermines the participants knowledge and reenforces power structures (Negev and Teschner 2013).

Additionally open space strategies in both cities are mainly promoting PP regarding small scale areas and when it comes to physical activities such as litter picking (Stadt

Wien 2015; CEC 2013). This further underlines the narrative that experts should remain the decision makers regarding budgets and strategies whilst the public can only be trusted to be 'clever' enough for maintenance activities and community gardening. Although Fors et al. (2015) advocated for more physical participation to induce actual greenspace improvement; this research has shown that this support towards physical participation is limiting the empowerment of park users and does not foster the necessary changes either.

5.1.5 Power and resources

Another way the public can influence decisions is through convincing local representatives. Fischer (2016) and Forsyth (2020) found that citizens need to understand the motivations of their representatives to gather support because political representatives are holding the power. Indeed, interviewees STH1&4 (STH1 being a former politician and STH4 being still politically active) have a clear interest in greenspaces and strongly support improvements within their local park. Likewise, Vienna's participation handbook underlined that in the end the decision lies with politicians. This however is counterproductive, as the public may not be interested in partaking if their efforts can simply be overturned. For Jessop (2003, 10) there is one solution to this: participants have to ironically recognise that their efforts will most likely fail whilst continuing to engage in good faith. Although this statement stands in contrast with the aforementioned need for a person to believe that change can be initiated.

This research also found that the perceived lack of resources is used as a form of power to deny certain needs and wishes the public has. This was specifically observed when it came to the provision of public toilets in both parks. The lack of toilets received additional backlash from the public during the pandemic because people increasingly used the outdoors whilst not being able to answer nature's call (Anderson 2021).

There is a general agreement that every human being requires going to the toilet. Toilets are a sanitary public policy for the prevention of diseases; and the western European context perceives public urination as 'dirty', 'unladylike' in the case of females, and even unlawful (C. Greed 2019, 918; Flanagan 2014). Yet, public funding for public toilets is decreasing (ibid.) and STHs consider consumption free toilets provided by the private sector as the only solution to this budget decrease. This has a particular impact on 'disenabled' people such as woman, disabled people, ethnic

minorities, and lower income classes; because as they are less mobile and may still be excluded from these privatised toilets (C. H. Greed 1996, 576).

Whilst there is undeniable evidence on the need for public toilets; conversations on these issues are politically fully rejected based on resources; limiting any debate and solution finding with the public. Indeed, it further creates social control and exclusion by promoting the outdoors to enable people only (C. Greed 2019; Flanagan 2014). This leads me to review the conceptualisation of spaces and publicness.

5.2 Lochend and Helmut Zilk Park as public spaces

In both cities, regulations and/or policies state that parks are open to everyone. Nevertheless, limitations on ball games, cycling, barbequing and enforcement of 'responsible behaviour' can make certain demographics feel less attracted to those parks. Previous research showed that Turkish people in Berlin prefer parks with barbecue areas (Kabisch and Haase 2014); and, Asian people in Bradford were less attracted to greenspaces than their British counterparts due to a more negative perception on litter (McEachan et al. 2018). Therefore, high amounts of litter in LP and the lack of barbecue areas in HZP may limit the attractiveness of these parks for ethnic minorities.

The limited outreach to minority demographics within this research has shown that even the relatively homogenous population surveyed has clear differences in needs; underlining the notion of academics like Young (2002) who believe that there is no real community. Whilst groups of people with a small common objective can be established (Young, 2002), like the SWVFB and FoLP caring for their neighbourhood/park; differences in approaches and opinions within these groups were observed.

In line with other research, conflicts in both parks show the difficulties of creating a public space, even if under ownership of a governmental body. A conflict in HZP was between people seeking a social setting and people seeking peace and quiet; whilst in LP it was more a sense of safety that influenced the clash between different uses. Therefore, it is yet again argued that the publicness of a space should not be defined by its ownership (Konijnendijk et al. 2013; MacKenzie, Pearson, and Pearson 2019). Nevertheless, landowners do have a strong influence on the regulations concerning their land (Smith et al. 2014), observed through rules and policies set out by the relevant local authority. Indeed, a minimum of social control is required to ensure that

not everyone advances their benefits at the expense of others (Németh 2012). Yet, the publicness of a space should not be seen as normative but relative; measured by analysing conflicts and tensions and how those are being managed (De Magalhães and Freire Trigo 2017). Regulations in both cities are formed around traditional uses and values of the given context; however, both parks are experiencing changing demographics and regulations should be revised to create more equal access to a more diverse population. Although PP has been recognised as a way of establishing new ways of 'living together' in policy documents (Stadt Wien 2015); the narrative is formed around increasing social control rather than allowing park users to hold public bodies accountable (De Magalhães and Freire Trigo 2017). Park users currently have a limited say in the design, regulations, facilities and use of parks. Conflicts in both parks are 'solved' by respondents avoiding certain parts of the park or limiting their usage depending on the time of the day; or by complaining about it on social media. In this sense both parks are not sufficiently public as means to 'resolve' conflict remain passive, reinforcing issues rather than creating processes which allow for PP and potential solution finding.

5.3 Governance

There is a clear contrast between CoV and CEC in terms of greenspace governance. CoV can be considered as governance by government where other stakeholders (private- and third sector and residents) are engaged in limited ways (Jansson et al. 2019). In line with Esping-Andersons welfare regime theory; strategic park management SPM in Vienna is highly institutionalised with outside organisations being involved limitedly. In HZP, the private sector was involved in the provision of land, financing the Motorikpark and provision of a toilet. This is a small shift towards more neoliberal methods with public-private partnerships being considered for the construction and maintenance of open spaces (Stadt Wien 2015, 77). In this governance structure the public's involvement is next to not existing with specific rules on how residents can engage (Pfanner 2018); e.g. via the CoV organisation Lokale Agenda (Novy and Hammer 2007) and urban gardening (Kumnig 2017). Equally, the informal SWVFB has not (yet) mobilised itself to influence decisions.

CEC's governance can be considered as closed co-governance (Jansson et al. 2019). The parks department partners with many different charities and governmental bodies with similar interests. This is due to the current liberal welfare regime in the UK which paved the way for less public funding and higher reliance on other stakeholders (Kisby

2010). In that vein, community groups are supported through official recognition allowing them to apply for external funding. Additionally, they are represented through the Edinburgh Greenspace Forum within CEC's governance structure regarding the Thriving Green Spaces project. However, friends groups represented are small, unrepresentative, volatile, and depend on the capacity of the partaking individuals; limiting their capacity to influence decisions.

Although there has been a stronger push in Edinburgh; both cities are making communities responsible for park maintenance. Governmentality is observed where communities are reinforcing social control through narratives of devolution and empowerment (Rolfe 2017) with policy documents mentioning the potential of PP to increase social control. This is what Swyngedouw (2005, 1993) considers the 'Janus face' of governance, where although democracy is supported, authoritarian rules limit such participative democracy. The rules require the public's views to be in line with wider city and national policies and laws; and require approval when seeking to initiate change. This fully skews with the concept of governance which should allow other stakeholders to have a separate opinion and knowledge leading to better decision-making (Jansson et al. 2019).

5.4 Strategic park management

The cases of Edinburgh and Vienna have shown that the policy level of SPM lies with wider governmental regulations and the planning department. Although Randrup and Jansson (2020) consider park governance and management to be inseparable, the role of politics and planning departments is not reflected upon. By only focusing on the parks department, it seems like the strategic/policy level of park management is missing; yet they can be partially found within the planning documents. As the following context specific adaptations (figure 27 and 28) of the SPM model show, there is a clear divide between planning and parks departments; particularly in the case of Vienna (figure 27). As Randrup and Persson (2009) discussed; the more budget constraints, the more strategic a parks department has to become. This is clearly reflected when comparing the financially poor CEC parks department (PGCD) with Vienna's far more politically and financially supported MA42. PGCD is becoming increasingly more strategic and cross-sectorial by engaging with the planning department and third-party organisations such as NGO's and universities to reduce the costs of the department. Whilst Vienna's MA42 seems to be nearly fully separated

from any policy related greenspace issues by focusing on management issues related to maintenance operations.

However, some tactical issues such as 'contract steering and organising staff' as well as '[p]ublic engagement of various types' (Randrup and Jansson 2020, 196) are not covered by the open space strategies. Although policy and tactical level policies mention the need to include the public, little explicit explanation is given on when and how it should be done. A step towards better co-governance would be setting out *with* the public on how the public could be included within the decision-making processes within open space strategies (Jansson and Randrup 2020).

Both cities should refocus their SPM by thinking of place-keeping first (Dempsey and Smith 2014). Instead of being the last piece in a long line of decisions that influence greenspaces, a refocus on how people use parks and the implications for municipal services should be analysed. The disconnect between parks and planning departments does however not allow for place-keeping to come first as spatial policies are set first before maintenance is being questioned. Currently, place-making and place-keeping issues meet when it comes to the reduction of maintenance costs in terms of vegetation and material, and the outsourcing of facilities like toilets. This 'collaboration' does not foster PP, nor does it respond to the needs of park users, as limited communication does not allow for information sharing. With departments being focused on their tasks trying to achieve them within the given budget, the space for collaboration and extensive PP remains restricted as discussed by other academics (Jansson and Lindgren 2012; Pauleit et al. 2019). As discussed by Lindholm (2008) and Jansson and Lindgren (2012) there is a need to incorporate social science disciplines that foster coordination and communication, moving away from technocratic ecological and spatial standards towards more holistic approaches.

Two recommendations should be considered. First, a subdepartment comprising people from the planning and parks department should be established. This is a particular challenge when those departments belong to different political committees. Such merging could also create the danger of budget and staff decreases which should be avoided under any circumstance. Additionally, all staff should be trained in public participation processes.

Second, whilst narratives of green infrastructure development and climate emergency are shifting attitudes towards some more collaboration (Pauleit et al. 2019); strategic

documents are mostly prepared and accredited to the planning department. Therefore, one step towards additional collaboration should be supporting the co-writing of policy documents: both financially and by recognising other departments when publishing these strategies.

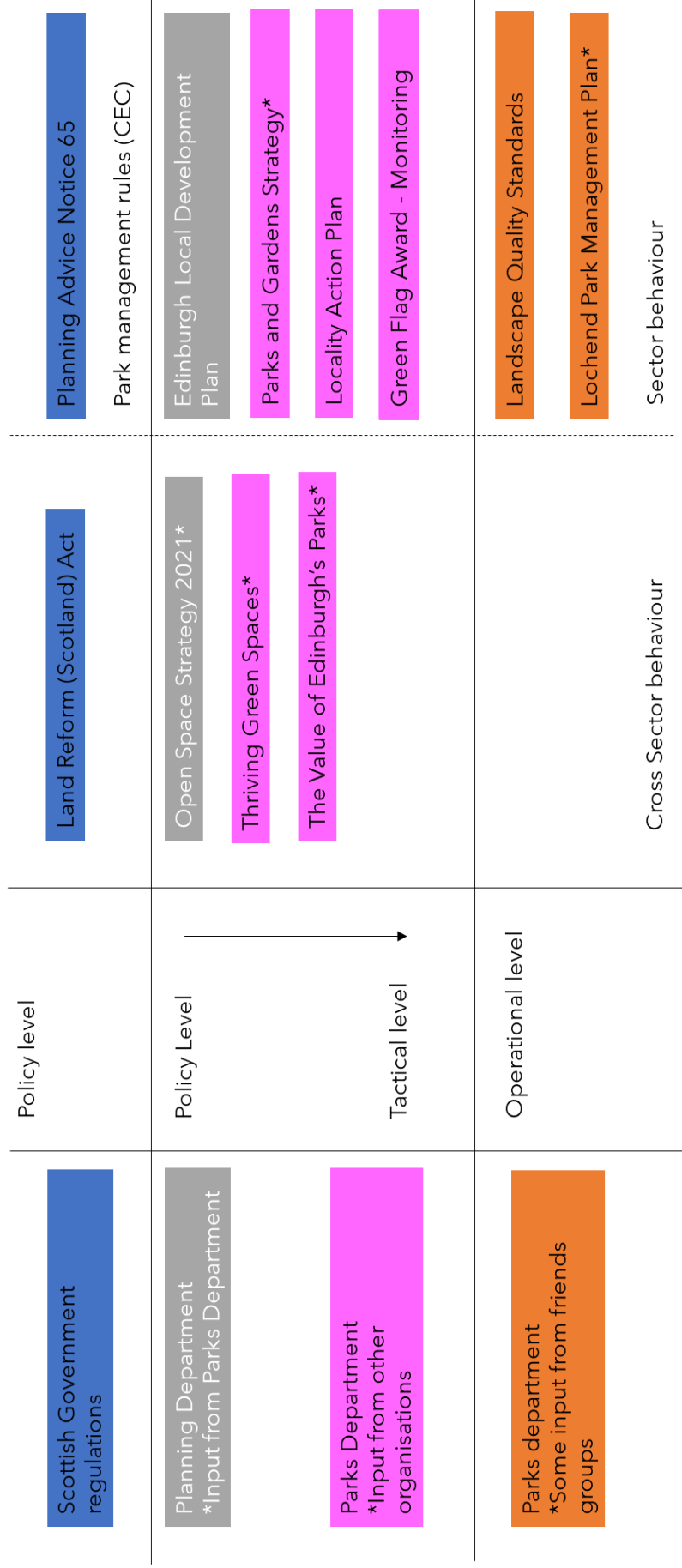


Figure 27: Strategic park management applied within the context of Edinburgh. Adapted from Randrup and Persson (2009).

Vienna Constitution	Policy level	Smart City Wien	Grünanlagenverordnung
Planning Department * Some input from Parks Department	Policy and Tactical level	Thematic Concept - Green and Open Spaces*	Step 2025 - Urban Development Plan
Parks department	Operational level	Cross sector behaviour	Zoning plans
			Parkleitbild
			Sector behaviour

Figure 28: Strategic park management applied within the context of Vienna. Adapted from Randrup and Persson (2009).

Chapter 6 – Conclusion and recommendations

This research has shown the importance of understanding current park management practices first before assessing public participation within this framework. In contrast to other papers which looked at specific public participation projects (Kaplan 1980; Shu-Chun 2010; Speller and Ravenscroft 2005); or only at park management practices (Randrup and Persson 2009; Jansson et al. 2019; Jansson 2015).

The purpose of this study was to understand the ways in which park users can participate within the different stages of park management. This was done by combining management, governance and participation theories and analysing two case study through the policy arrangement approach (Lieberink 2006).

This thesis confirms what many other researchers have argued – namely that there is a clear lack in holistically approaching park management practices (Pauleit et al. 2019; Randrup and Persson 2009; Jansson and Lindgren 2012). Responsibilities are primarily split between the planning and parks department, additionally forestry, agricultural, and other environmental services can also have an impact on greenspaces. Furthermore, regulations on the appropriate behaviour within public spaces are decided on a larger political scale through laws and constitutions, neglecting local needs as their legal nature makes them hard to be adaptable. It is these practices that limit public participation within parks. Park users are mostly invited to engage short term when it comes to the occasional (re)design of parks. Likewise, based on self-initiative, some park users get together to clean their local park, yet they are being denied the possibilities to impact wider management and policy areas.

Respondent's needs such as a reduction in litter and toilet facilities are wishes which, can be tackled if place-keeping informs place-making first. By consulting on the endgame needs of park users rather than generating assumptions at the beginning (Dempsey and Smith 2014). However, like previous research has proven (Cooke and Kothari 2001; Van Herzele 2004; Lawrence 2006) civil servants/'experts'/politicians are not prepared to give up their knowledge and power to accommodate new ways of thinking. Such barriers to public participation are disguised by narratives on the lack of resources, efficiency and condemning the needs of park users as too demanding. This research has found that, in the case of park users surveyed, most needs were relatively reasonable such as litter reduction and the provision of public toilets. Indeed, solving both issues would lead to better and more accessible environments

(Cialdini, Kallgren, and Reno 1991; C. Greed 2019). Park management and participation practices do not meet the needs of relatively privileged citizens, never mind their most deprived residence. Therefore, current narratives which deny solutions to these demands, cause further exclusion and inequalities within urban areas (Kyamusugulwa 2013; Christens and Speer 2006).

This thesis found that it is crucial to understand disconnects in park management practices within a specific context, as it is a first indicator to recognise the extent to which public participation can be supported. In Vienna and Edinburgh, public participation is provided for different reasons and in different ways. The motivations and processes are influenced by current legislation, cultural views, budgets, and welfare regimes.

6.1 Towards empowerment

Since the 1992 Rio Declaration deliberate democracy has received support from world powers, introducing an increase in public participation projects to improve sustainable development. While the world is continuously facing new financial, natural and health crises; the redistribution of decision-making powers and reduction of inequalities through public participation has remained rather stagnant in the past 30 years. More local participation initiatives are required, yet so is a renewed genuine supra-national push for better public participation recognising that the needs of the most vulnerable are not met.

Many academics are in search of new 'innovative' ways on how to include the public and increasing their powers. However, as a speaker in the Urban Innovation and Governance conference said 'innovations cannot be planned'; they arise from equal communication from the very beginning; where stakeholders have the power to define their seat at the table (Van den Broeck 2021).

On the line of communication, I argue that we need to go back again to resolving the basics such as informing people. The world is complex and although there is so much information out there, it is not reaching individuals who may be interested in partaking, as park user surveys have shown. Of course, knowing about something does not mean that someone will act upon it, as respondents have also proven.

Informing people appropriately means that politicians would have to be open about increasing information sharing. Second, the ways in which information is being shared, particularly the use of narratives is crucial and largely depending on political power

and believe. Specifically, strong majority narratives are to be analysed critically as they can undermine minority views, because power is not shared equally (Cooke and Kothari 2001; Swyngedouw 2005).

Buijs et al. (2016) argue for a horizontal integration of different administrations (e.g. the planning and parks department) and community groups (e.g. FoLP and the Czech fb group); but also vertical integration of 'scaling up' community groups to increase their decision-making power. Like in the case of LP and HZP, governments still create limitations to the rules of the game and resources when allowing community projects to scale up (Buijs et al. 2019). Hence, Buijs et al. (2019) is still putting governments at the top of the mosaic governance model. In contrast, the POU model puts park users on the same level as the managing organisation, yet park users are disconnected from administration. In an ideal world, and this is what we should strive towards, park users would not be a separate entity anymore but be included within the same bubble as NGOs and admin (Figure 29). This implies a clear shift in power towards open co-governance (Jansson et al. 2019), where interested park users can become engaged in all stages of park management. As well as a change in perception on what knowledge is accepted and rejected (Nygren 1999; Negev and Teschner 2013).

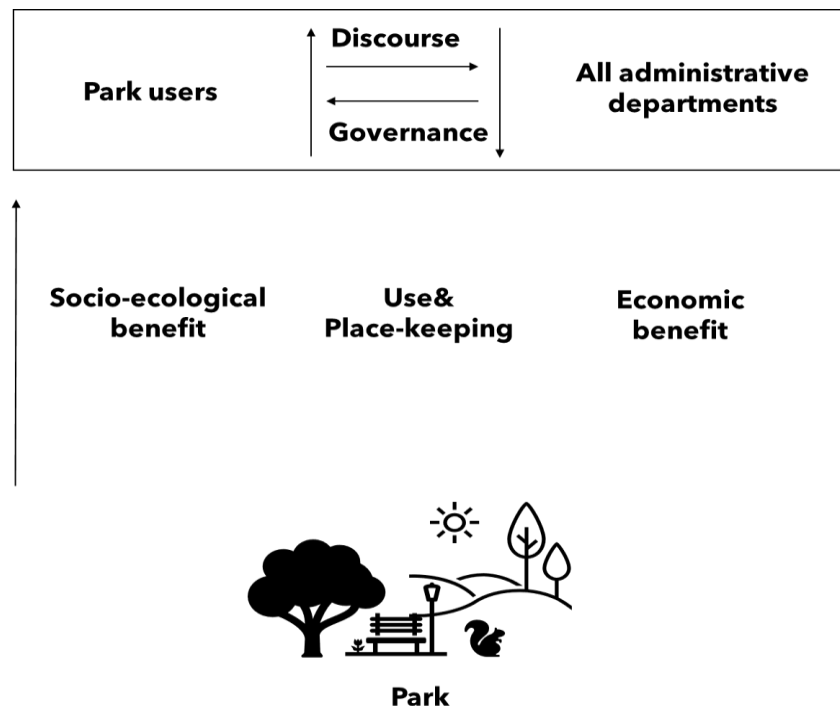


Figure 29: Proposed POU model where park users and the managing organisation are considered as an equal entity. Adapted from Randrup and Persson (2009).

6.2 Context specific recommendations

In Vienna the political and financial support towards greenspaces should be kept, yet a shift from conservative welfare support towards more integration of less traditionally vulnerable demographics such as migrants and other intersectional groups should be initiated. Likewise, processes where community groups can be established, supported, and included within the park governance system could lead to less technocratic decision-making. Regarding HZP, it would be essential to carry out a public consultation with park users, residents, and businesses within a least 1km of the park (Kaplan 1980). Importantly, giving vulnerable people living further away as much of a voice as residents within direct vicinity could lead to more equity.

In Edinburgh, renewed political support for greenspaces in terms of financing could (1) strengthen community groups and (2) direct more funding towards less prestige parks. Future open space action plans should include action points for the improvement of all parks and not only for parks most in need. In line with this, the quality standards for parks should be raised. By setting the bar higher, CEC and friends groups could aim for better quality parks instead of rating them high whilst maintaining parks at a suboptimal level. This quality review should be connected with stronger planning policies towards receiving additional monetary support from private developers. Regarding FoLP, support is required to attract a bigger and more diverse range of members to the community organisation. Regarding LP, improving the teenage area and offering young people activities could lead to a more harmonious use of the park for everyone.

Vienna's political and financial support for greenspaces should meet Edinburgh's approach to promoting community involvement within parks. In both cases, more power should be given to the public in terms of policy and avoiding the outsourcing of voluntary workforces; moving away from the covert narrative that people are 'good enough' to pick up litter but not 'clever enough' to decide on particular policies and regulations.

6.3 Future research

As this high-level research into public participation in park management has shown, there are various stages in which the public can become involved to influence their parks. Although all stages should be considered in a holistic manner (Randrup and Persson 2009), more in dept research is required on how the public can influence

decisions within the different stages of strategic park management such as policy; finance; design; management; maintenance; monitoring; and evaluation. Additionally, research should be conducted in how each of these dimensions influence one another (James et al. 2009). In specific regards to HZP and LP, participatory action research should be conducted to see (1) how FoLP could be strengthened and (2) whether and how an influential community group in HZP could be established.

Urban parks have become crucial havens balancing environmental and social factors with the potential to contribute towards everyone's quality of life. Continuous research is required to learn about the infinite number of factors that can improve but also endanger their potency, striving towards more environmental justice.

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Annexes

Annex 1 – Greenspace Planning and Management Articles

Year of publication	Journal	Discipline	Location of study	Type of research	Authors	Title
2006	Planning Theory and Practice	Greenspace governance and management	England	Comparative study of several local authorities	De Magalhães Claudio and Carmona Matthew	Innovations in the Management of Public Space: Reshaping and Refocusing Governance
2008	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace management	Denmark	Case study	Lindholst Andrej Christian	Improving Contract Design
2009	Urban planning and development	Urban Planning	Europe	Comparative study	Baycant-Levent Tuzin et al.	Planning and Management of Urban Green Spaces in Europe: Comparative Analysis
2009	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace governance	European Nordic Countries	Large N sending surveys to over 200 municipalities	Randrup Thomas and Persson Bengt	Public Green spaces in Nordic Countries
2011	Environmental Planning and management	Greenspace governance	Worldwide	Literature review	Azadi Hossein et al.	Multi-stakeholder involvement and Urban Green Space Performance
2011	Arboriculture and Urban Forestry	Greenspace governance and management	Malaysia	Case study	Nor Akmar Abdul Aziz et a.	Greenspace planning and management in Klang valley, Peninsular Malaysia
2012	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace management	Worldwide	Literature Review	Jansson Märit, and Therese Lindgren	A Review of the Concept 'management' in Relation to Urban Landscapes and Green Spaces: Toward a Holistic Understanding
2013	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Greenspace governance	Europe	Creating a comparison framework	Lawrence Anna et al.	Urban Forest Governance - Towards a Framework for Comparing Approaches
2014	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Urban Forestry Governance	Denmark	Case study	Molin Julie and Konjinendijk Cecil	Between Big Ideas and Daily Realities
2017	Symposium on Innovation and Creativity	Greenspace management	Worldwide	Literature Review	Yoong Hui Qian et al.	Sustainable Urban Green Space Management Practice
2017	Landuse Policy	Greenspace planning	Europe	Comparison study of GREEN SURGE Projects	Davies Clive and Laforteza Raffaele	Urban Green Infrastructure in Europe: Is Greenspace Planning and Policy Compliant?

Annex 2 – Public participation in Greenspaces Articles

Year of publication	Journal	Discipline	Location of study	Type of research	Authors	Title
1980	Environment and Behaviour	Public Participation	Michigan	Case study	Kaplan Rachel	Citizen Participation in the Design and Evaluation
2006	Ethics Place and Environment	Public Participation	UK	Case study	Lawrence Anna	No Personal Motive? Volunteers, Biodiversity, and the false dichotomies of participation
2007	Landscape Research	Landscape management and governance	Europe	Reflections on the landscape convention	Jones Michael	The European Landscape Convention and the Question of Public Participation
2007	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Forest management and participation	Europe	Comparative study of 6 cases	Janse Gerben and Konijnendijk Cecil C.	Communication between Science, Policy and Citizens in Public Participation in Urban Forestry-Experiences from the Neighbourwoods Project
2008	Biological Conservation	Environmental Management	Worldwide	Grounded Theory Analysis of literature introduction to different topics in relation to park management with focus on financial resources	Mark Reed	Stakeholder participation for environmental management: A literature review
2014	Book by Routledge	Park management	Europe		Dempsey Nicola, Smith Harry and Burton Mel	Place-Keeping - Open Space Management in Practice
2015	Local Environment	Park management	Sweden	Comparative case study of 2 towns	Jansson, Märit.	Children's Perspectives on Playground Use as Basis for Children's Participation in Local Play Space Management
2015	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Park management	Worldwide	Literature review of 31 articles	Fors Hanna et al.	User Participation in Urban Green Spaces - For the People or the Parks?
2017	Landscape Research	Landscape Planning and Management	Denmark	Case study	Clausen Laura Tolnov	No Interest in Landscape? The Art of Non-Participation in Danish Landscape Planning
2019	Landscape Research	Greenspace governance and management	Sweden	Comparison study of four cases	Jansson Märit et al.	The Governance of Landscape Management: New Approaches to Urban Open Space Development
2019	Urban Forestry and Urban Greening	Landscape Planning and Management	Europe	Comparative study	Buijs Arjen et al.	Mosaic Governance for Urban Green Infrastructure: Upscaling Active Citizenship from a Local Government Perspective
2020	Book by Routledge	Park management	Europe	Introduction to different topics in relation to open space governance	Marit Jansson and Randrup Thomas	Urban Open Space Governance and Management
2020	Antipode	Governmentality	Thailand	Case study	Forsyth Tim	Who Shapes the Politics of Expertise? Co-Production and Authoritative Knowledge in Thailand's Political Forests.

Annex 3 - Edinburgh Documents

Number	Name of Plan	Publication Year	Content	Editor	Important points
1	Planning Advice Notice (PAN) 65	2012	Scottish Government explanation on the role of planning in relation to greenspaces.	Scottish Government	Establishes different types of greenspaces for the allocating land uses. Explains how Open Space Strategies should be conducted. Mentions that open spaces should meet the needs of 'ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups, women, children, older people and those with disabilities.' (p.11)
2	Local Development Plan	2016	Urban development plan covering 5 years 2016-2021	Urban Planning Department	No proper mention of PP. Greenspaces deemed as crucial; yet developer contribution towards greenspaces are limited.
3	Open Space Strategy 2021	2016	How to protect manage and enhance the green network over the next five years.	Urban Planning Department	Underlines the importance of community involvement to complement CEC work through manual labour but also raising external funding.
4	North East Locality Open Space Action Plan	2017	Action Plan to deliver the Open Space Strategy focusing on the North East of Edinburgh.	Urban Planning Department	Does not mention the need to improve LP and only focuses on 'the worst off' parks.
5	Parks and Gardens Strategy	2006	Current strategy to ensure the CEC parks are internationally recognised	WJ Cairns and Associates - Consulting Landscape Architects & Environmental Planners	Create parks that can compete internationally. Increase community involvement but also sense of security through the use of CCTV.
6	Thriving Green Spaces	Expected 2022	Will replace 2006 strategy with a long term 30 year strategy on how to protect and enhance greenspaces	Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries Service - in collaboration with Edinburgh Living Landscapes and TGS project partners	According to the website and interviews, PP was key to this project

7	Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspaces	2007	Regulations on the use of publicly assessable greenspaces	The City of Edinburgh Council	Focus on responsible behaviour based on the 2003 Land Reform (Scotland) Act and related Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
8	Landscape Quality Standard -Staff Guidance	2017	Standard indicators on how greenspaces should look like	Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries Service	Focus not on process but outcome. Use of standards and numbers as measurement. E.g. no more than 2% litter on each surface.
9	The value of CEC parks	2014	Using the Social Return on Investment Approach CEC has calculated how much economic value its parks are creating when investing into them	Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries Service - analysis by Carrick Associates	Per £1 invested in a park, there is an economic return of £5.
10	Lochend Park Management Plan November 2014-2019	Unclear - assumed 2013	Setting out the future management, maintenance and development of Lochend Park.	Services for Communities, North East Locality	Highlights the role of community involvement mainly through litter picks and brashing. Quite detailed SWOT analysis for different themes, but limited on how these things can be achieved financially.
11	Friends of Edinburgh Greenspace Information Pack	No date	A guide for individuals and groups who are interested in setting up a Friends Group	The City of Edinburgh Council	Very detailed and understandable. Yet it can be quite overwhelming reading all the requirements.

Annex 4 – Vienna Documents

Number	Name of Plan	Publication Year	Content	Editor	Important points
1	Smart City Wien Strategy Framework	2019 Original in 2014	Long term strategy (2050) on how technological improvements within the city can increase Vienna's residents quality of life whilst being more resource efficient.	MA 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung (Municipal Department 18 – Urban Development and Planning)	Has a whole section on governance which however mostly focuses on including private company stakeholders. A lot less emphasis is on the general public. Document is trying to make a case that growth with limited resources is possible and sustainable.
2	Stadtentwicklungsplan 2005 (STEP05) - Urban Development Plan	2005 Original in 2003	Urban development plan covering the 2005-2015 period	MA 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung	PP leads to sustainable development and should be supported through Lokale Agenda21.
3	Stadtentwicklungsplan 2025 (STEP25)	2014	Urban development plan covering 2015-2025 period	MA 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung	PP does not only generate acceptance but better results. In addition to LA21, Urban Renewal Offices and Neighbourhood Management Offices have been introduced. Focus is on the necessary growth of the city due to a lack of housing and economic needs. Nevertheless, Vienna should remain 50% green as a mitigation measure to growth.
4	STEP2025 - Thematic Concept Green and open space (TCGOS)	2015	Subdocument of STEP2025 focusing on the vision and strategies for Vienna's greenspaces	MA 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung	Believes that PP is crucial to enable a diverse population using the same space peacefully. PP allows to gather local knowledge and creativity. PP also leads to a sense of responsibility, increasing one's care for the greenspace; reducing the need for maintenance. However PP primarily promoted regarding urban gardening and micro-spaces.
5	Wiener Parkleitbild	2018	Guiding principles for the implementation of Vienna's parks	MA42- Wiener Stadtgärten (Municipal Department 18 - Parks and Gardens)	Guidelines are specific using bulletpoints and standardised European and Austrian norms, legislation and regulations. States that any (re)development is to be done or approved by the MA42.
6	L 470-000 Grünanlagenverordnung	1993 updated in 2007	Regulations on the use of publicly assessable greenspaces	Vienna Municipal Administration	Playing ball, cycling, bringing one's own chair etc. are all forbidden or limited to small children. One should use Vienna's greenspaces without harassing others.
7	Praxisbuch Participation	2012	A guide, primarily for the urban development department, on why, when and how to carry out public participation	MA 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung	Development oriented, other departments may not feel this is relevant to them. Clear hierarchies are established, with AnrainerInnen being considered the most important stakeholders.

Annex 5 – Summary of Stakeholders interviewed

Interviewee	Role	Location
STH 1	Former politician	Edinburgh
STH 2	Public Sector	Edinburgh
STH 3	Academic	Edinburgh
STH 4	Politician	Edinburgh
STH 5	Community group member	Edinburgh
STH 6	Public Sector	Vienna
STH 7	Public Sector	Vienna
STH 8	Public Sector	Vienna
STH 9	Private Sector Partnership organisation	Vienna
STH 10 (Questions were sent and answered via email)	Politician	Vienna
STH 11	Public Sector	Vienna
STH 12	Politician	Vienna

Annex 6 – Lochend Park User Questions

Park questions

How often do you frequent this park?

How do you get to this park?

How long does it take you to get here?

What are your main reasons for visiting this park?

What do you like the most about this park?

In what ways would you improve this park?

Is there any other feelings, perceptions, and opinions about this park you would like to share?

Are there any other parks nearby you frequently visit? How are they different from this park?

Park management questions

What do you think park management entails?

What do you think are the main challenges of park management?

Who do you think should be responsible for managing public parks?

Do you think park users have a certain responsibility when using parks?

Why and how should park users be responsible?

Participation questions

Have you participated in local decision making such as planning, neighbourhood, and community plan and so on before?

Have you heard of Friends of Loch End Park before?

If yes, do you regularly engage with them?

Do you follow them on social media?

Have you heard about the Edinburgh Thriving Green Spaces project?

If yes have you participated?

Would you consider participating?

Do people want to engage, why not, why yes.

How could participation be more appealing?

If there was a touch screen device on display within the park which would allow you to raise park management issues.

What do you think are the benefits of such interactive displays?

Are there potential issues with this method?

Personal questions

How old are you? 0-15; 16-24; 25-44; 45-65; 65-74;75+

What gender do you identify with?

Do you consider that you are living with a disability?

What nationality do you identify with?

What ethnicities do you identify with?

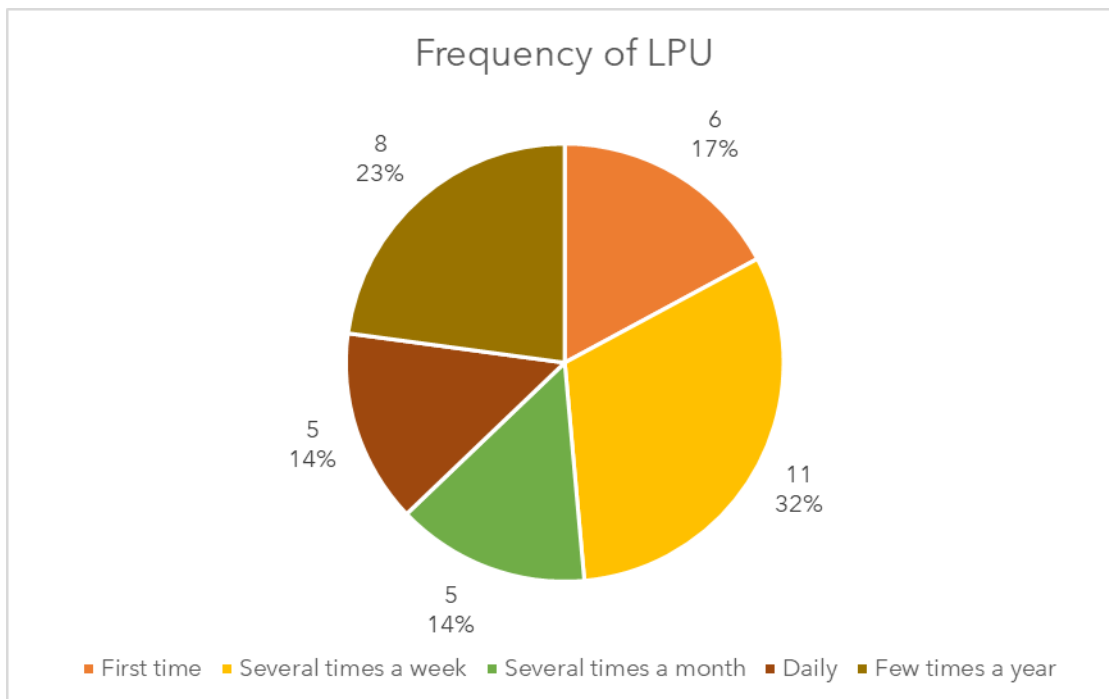
What tax bracket do you fall under?

Personal Allowance	Up to £12,500
Starter rate	£12,501 to £14,585
Basic rate	£14,586 to £25,158
Intermediate rate	£25,159 to £43,430
Higher rate	£43,431 to £150,000
Top rate	over £150,000

Annex 7 – Lochend Park User Answers (LPU)

35 responses were gathered through in person interviews in Lochend Park. 20 interviews were conducted. Many people surveyed in Lochend Park were in groups of 2-3 people; therefore 35 responses were gathered. Notably, some people did not want to answer every question (e.g. regarding income), therefore not all responses add up to 35 responses.

How often do you frequent this park?



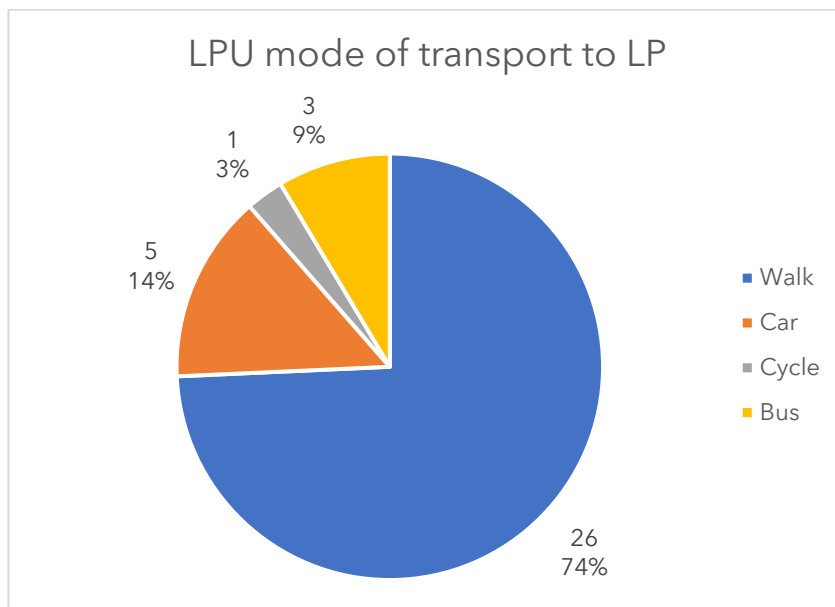
Insightful quotes:

'I lived here for about 9 years and before corona virus I have only been here once. But since then I have been here once or twice a week.' LPU8

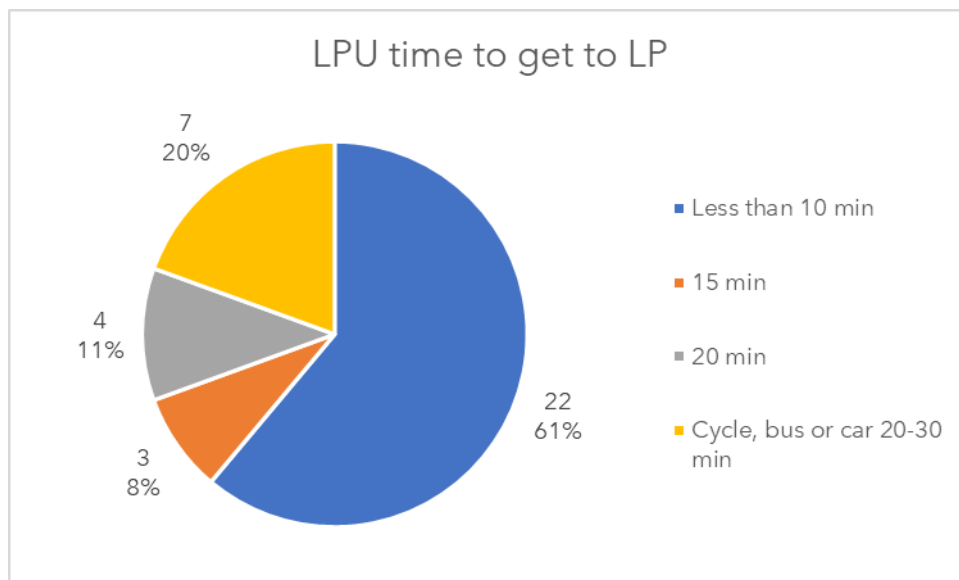
'I just moved there so I have only been here about 4 times in the last couple of months. But I grew up in the area, so I walked past quite a few times and things like that.' LPU11

'This is the first time I've been for about three years.' LPU1

How do you get to this park?



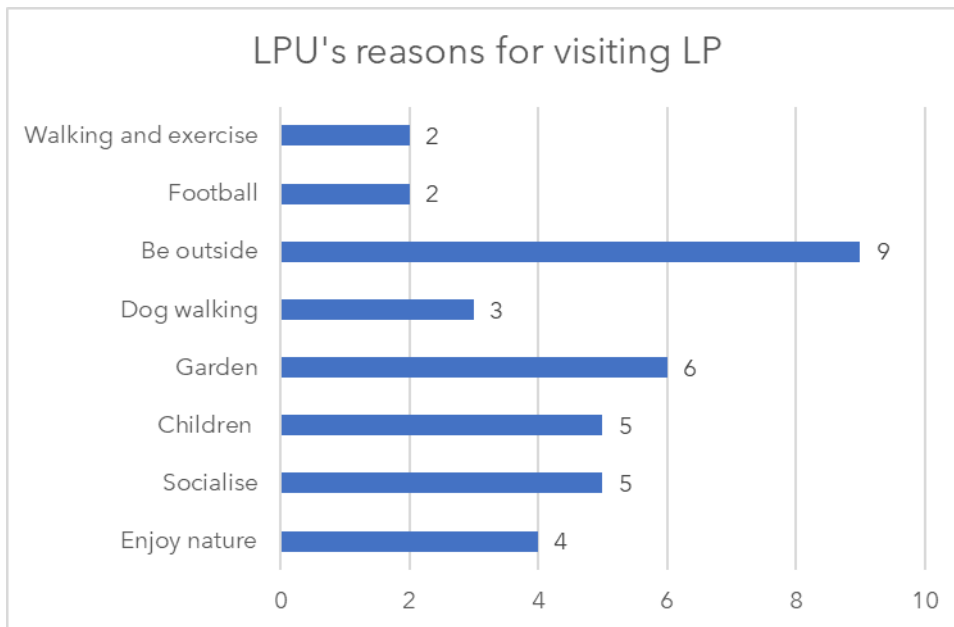
How long does it take you to get here?



People who live closer frequent the park more often. People who come from further afield primarily came to visit friends in this park or explore a new park during the pandemic. These in person interviews allowed me to talk to people who live further afield, in comparison people who SWVFB and LP QR-code respondents lived much closer by. People who live closer and frequent the park more often may be more prone to see surveys, and the opportunity to answer them in comparison to first time visitors.

What are your main reasons for visiting this park?

LPU mentioned meeting up with friends, being outside/enjoying nature and walking their dog. Dog walkers were primarily elderly woman around 9 am in the morning. Later during the it was primarily younger people who walked their dog; those people seemed more in a hurry and less open to be interviewed; whilst the elderly women enjoy the quiet early mornings between each other.



Insightful quotes:

'I think we chose this place because we wanted to meet up and we all knew how to get to this place. But I usually don't go to parks.' LPU15

'It is a bit creepy over winter. It's a place that changes a lot with the season when all the trees lost their leaves then the lake looks a bit sinister. So summer is always my choice eh. I bring the kids and everything. there are also animals, so you have a bit of everything eh.' LPU2

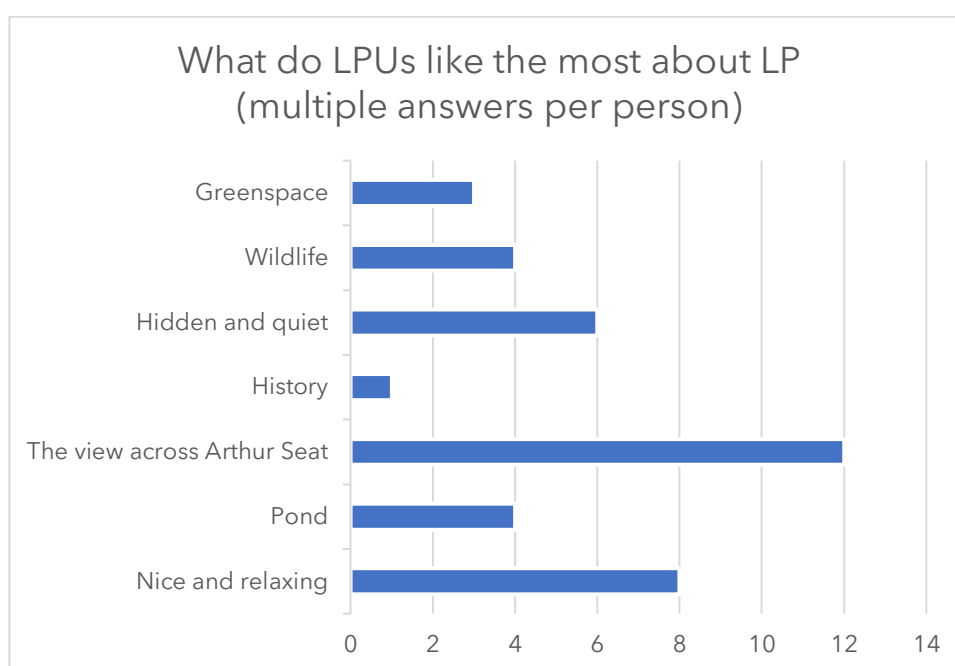
Conversation between LPU11 and LPU12:

'To have a drink to enjoy the sun. to see friends.' LPU11

'Especially if you don't have a garden.' LPU12

'Yeah, I don't have a garden, actually that's a good point. So, living so close it is like having a big fat garden.' LPU11

What do you like the most about this park?



Insightful quotes:

'Yeah relaxing environment and I love the sight of the ducks.' LPU26

'Because it is nice, it is clean and it is close to home.' LPU12

'The greenspace and the lake, not that you can use it but it is still nice to have creates a good air quality in the area.' LPU25

In what ways would you improve this park?

Interestingly the two people who mentioned improvements to play facilities did not have children, parents interviewed did not mention the playground. Four females said that better lighting is needed to be able to walk through the park during the night. Likewise, 5 females mentioned the need for public toilets. In terms of surveillance, only one person mentioned the need for CCTV. People above 50 mentioned the need for traditional park wardens (which used to be here) who you could ask for information and who could advise people against littering.

Insightful quotes:

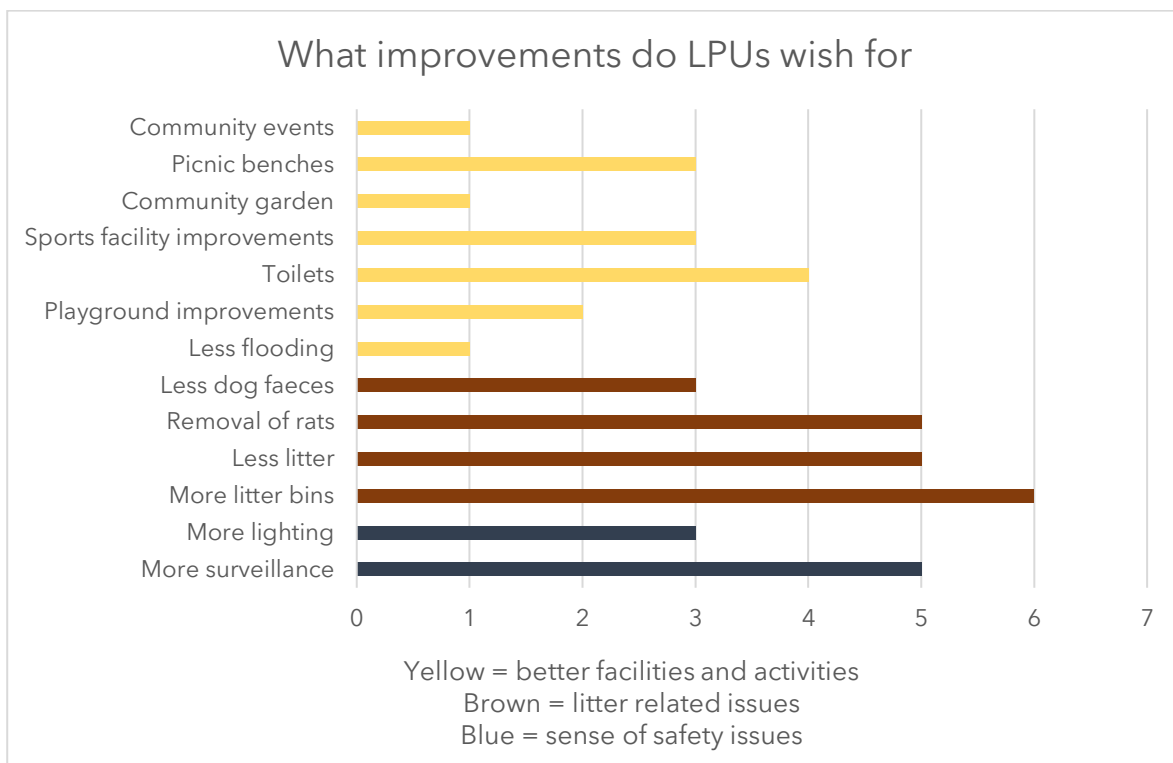
'I don't know how it is really at night maybe there are too many rats but rats need to live too eh. They don't have a house they need to live in the park.' LPU2

'More benches. More recycling bins as well.' LPU17

'Public toilets, so people don't be going against people's fences.' 'Or I was going to say lighting during the night that would be nice. [...] it would be nice to see who is coming.' (Conversation between LPU13 and LPU14)

'We need wardens to control. The council full stop, all green spaces, all parks dog wardens.' LPU 28

'Remove some of the locals. But I know that's impossible.' LPU8



Is there any other feelings, perceptions, and opinions about this park you would like to share?

One female LPU (LPU11) in her 30s who's lived in the area since her childhood and STH5 thought LP has improved whilst two females (LPU28 and LPU29) over 50 thought it was getting worse. Indeed, there are many young people but limited elderly people in the park (STH5), which was also observed during site visits. LPU1 (male) recognised that the bad reputation of the area only attracts locals because others rather visit Holyrood Park (one of Edinburgh's main tourist attractions, owned by Scottish Ministers, managed by Historic Environment Scotland) instead.

'I think in this area now and I dinnae [I do not] want to label people but there is a lot of people with drug habits and things like that, and they are just not interested in anything other than feeding their drug habit. And it's like normal people that still live here are suffering due to it. Do you know what I mean? And I ken [I know] that sounds really bad to be putting a label on but. (LPU29) 'In the 8 years I have been here it has got worse.' (LPU28) 'It has deteriorated.' (LPU29)

'It possibly has change over time. It might have been an issue. I don't really know. Obviously within the area there is lots of. Well you know in general the perception in Leith around alcohol and drug. And sometimes you will see the odd person struggle with that when walking through the park or whatever, but I think it probably has improved over time. Or whether it is me getting older realising actually it is not an issue. (LPU11)

Are there any other parks nearly you frequently visit? How are they different from this park?

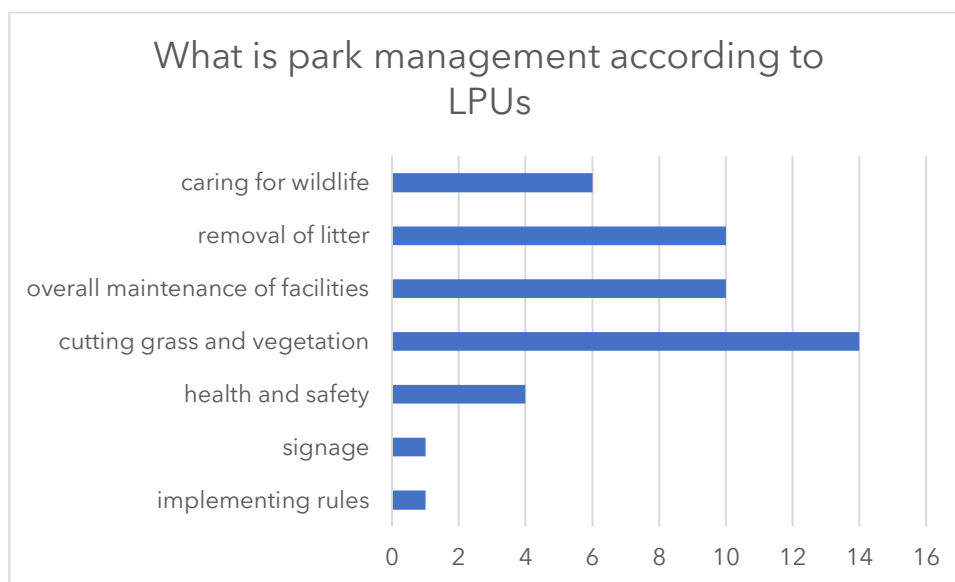
Overall other parks are visited because Lochend Park is considered as a quiet and relaxing park. However, if one wishes to be within a my 'active and social' park then people go to the Meadows and Leith Links. These parks are also considered as better for physical exercise such as jogging due to their larger size. However, the meadows is also considered to be a lot dirtier and louder which was also considered as a negative point. Although LP is seen as quiet and calm, people also highlighted that later when it turns dark, other parks are considered as safer and LP is being avoided. Holyrood park is choosing to do scenic walks around the volcano, however the wildlife in LP is considered as better. People frequenting Inverleith, Pilrig and St Marks Park argued that those parks are closer to their homes and that those parks are a lot cleaner.

'Yeah I go to the Montgomery Street park. But not with [child's name] so much because with his age, the grass here is quite nice and soft and in Montgomery Street it is quite rough. And also it is more for kinda drinking in the grass area. So we kinda go here more. It [Montgomery] is very different, there are fewer families. It is more kinda young people, so it's got a different feel.' (LPU11)

Park management questions

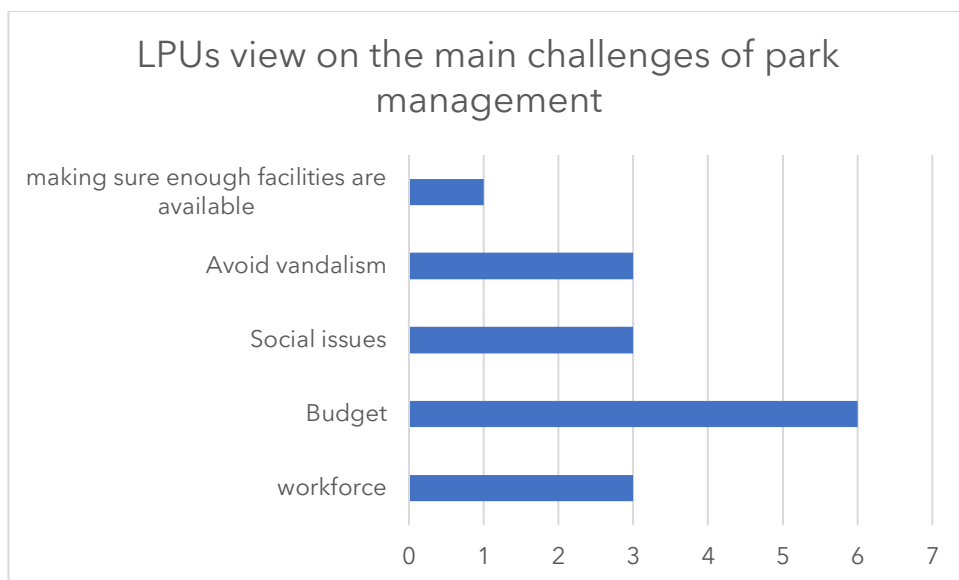
What do you think park management entails?

Most LPU's connected park management to the carrying out of physical activities such as maintain facilities and grass cutting. Many hoped the council is also looking after and even feeding the wildlife. Health and safety were mentioned in regards to ensuring that the lake is clean and that no one can fall into the lake, this was particularly important for respondents with children. Although many other park management issues were covered by respondents during the interview, such as balancing different needs and activities; these were not considered part of park management.



What do you think are the main challenges of park management?

'This place has been cleaned so many times over the years, but you give it one blink and it's all back again.' (LPU31)

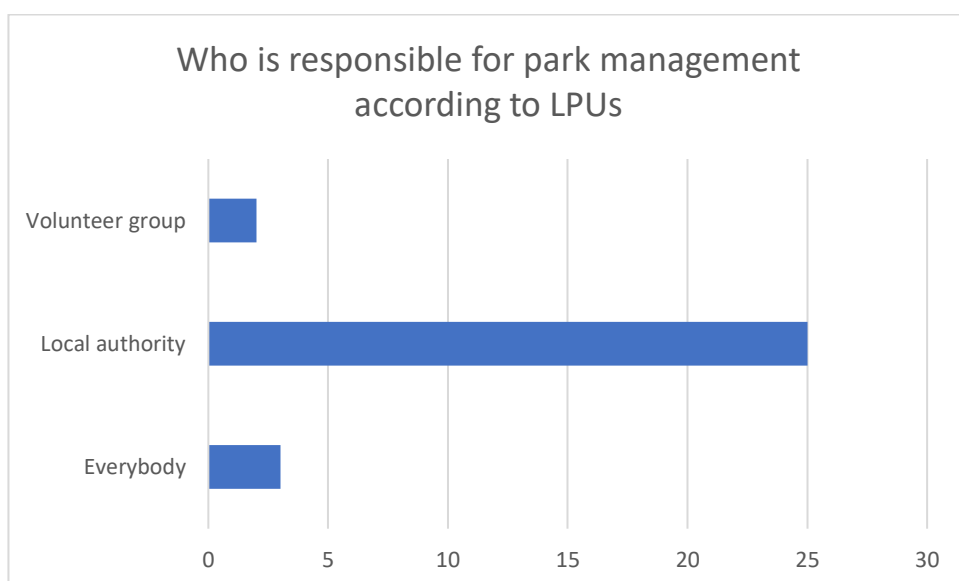


The category 'social issues' reflects LPU's arguing that someone needs to ensure that people know how to behave appropriately in parks.

Who do you think should be responsible for managing public parks?

'The public really and the council. Is it the council? I don't know.' (LPU7)

'Well is that not why we pay taxes? So there is enough people who do it.' (LPU13)



Do you think park users have a certain responsibility when using parks?

Why and how should park users be responsible?

People argued that everyone should ensure to take their litter home and to pick up after their dog. About half of LPU mentioned that it is also about respecting others by for example not being too loud. However, 5 people mentioned that the council's input is necessary regardless.

Participation questions

Have you participated in local decision making such as planning, neighbourhood, and community plan and so on before? If, yes can you give an example?

Three male respondents have had participate in CEC consultations before two regarding a housing development which received a lot of media attention and one regarding the low emission zone and pedestrianisation of Edinburgh. One female LPU joined a community garden initiative during the pandemic and two female respondents mentioned that they are picking up litter regularly.

Have you heard of Friends of Loch End Park before?

If yes, do you regularly engage with them?

Do you follow them on social media?

50% of LPU respondents never heard of FoLP whilst the other half did but never engaged actively with them before. Two women in their 50s tried to make the next meeting, after meeting a committee member in the park. However, they couldn't make the meeting and have not been able to find the group online and hear about the next meeting. Four LPU learned about FoLP out of coincidence because of their work within the area or over social media.

Have you heard about the Edinburgh Thriving Green Spaces project?

If yes have you participated?

Would you consider participating?

Only one respondent every heard of TGS because of the nature of their work and engagement within the community. Yet they never actively engaged.

How could participation be more appealing?

'I think I never had the chance and the option. Like right now you are asking me to participate in a survey, so I said yes. But no one else has ever asked me. So that's why I don't do it.' (LPU12)

Trust

4LPUs mentioned that there is a lack of trust regarding CEC. LPU18 argued that CEC fails to act upon the populations need. LPU18 gave an interesting on how a dead swan was found stuck within the fencing of the football pitch. Swans are protected by the queen and cannot be touched by lay people. The council was required to get the swan professionally removed but they never did.

LPU22 felt like PP usually seek 'affirmation instead of information' and LPU23 added 'no one cares what I have to say'.

Sense of belonging

'I think this is what I said earlier about creating that community. If the community feels like yes this is our space then yes obviously you want it to be nice. Then it is just like our own garden.' (LPU25)

Eleven LPU thought there is a need for a bigger sense of community to get participate by organising events: litter picks but also volunteer projects concerning the park (LPU34); informative walks (LPU3); community festivals; community gardening (LPU2&32) ;and treasure hunts (LPU32) for children. LPU13 explained that someone organised an easter egg hunt where people were asked to paint 12 eggs and hide them within the park.

Importantly, LPUs may have a sense of belonging towards the area, nevertheless many have different priorities. Like, STH4 believes; people engage when the problem reaches a certain size. It is not that people do not want to participate but that the situation may not be concerning enough to do something against it. LPU8 and LPU6 said that recently the biggest issue was noise within and around their residence, a more pressing matter to them.

Information and education

LPU under 35 often mentioned the needs for raising awareness and informing people over social media, whilst people over the age of 45 mostly mentioned the use of flyers

and information boards. A group of under 30s (LPU22-24) agreed that 'no one reads signs' (LPU23). Indeed, some LPUs asked for signage which is already present within the park. Personally, the boards have become hard to read, but they do exist.

'I think social media is a good way of raising awareness and I think that sort of thing what I just said where local businesses get involved with the messages of looking after the planet with a reward system.' (LPU11)

LPUs considered the need for more education on the responsible use of the environment, arguing that children should learn to pick up their litter with three LPU adding that this behaviour would also impact the respective parents. People need to be incentivised to pick up litter (LPU12). Some LPUs argued that the lack of bins, overflowing bins and vandalised bins keep people from disposing their litter correctly. STH2 explained that for efficiency bins were relocated to the edges of the park. They believed people should be able to carry their litter to the next bin whilst three LPUs said that if they don't see a bin they are less inclined to dispose their litter correctly.

'Yeah even people would want to they wouldn't know how to engage. [...] You don't really think about those things when you come here and you do take it for granted rather than just thinking well it may also not be here.' (LPU17)

If there was a touch screen device on display within the park which would allow you to raise park management issues.

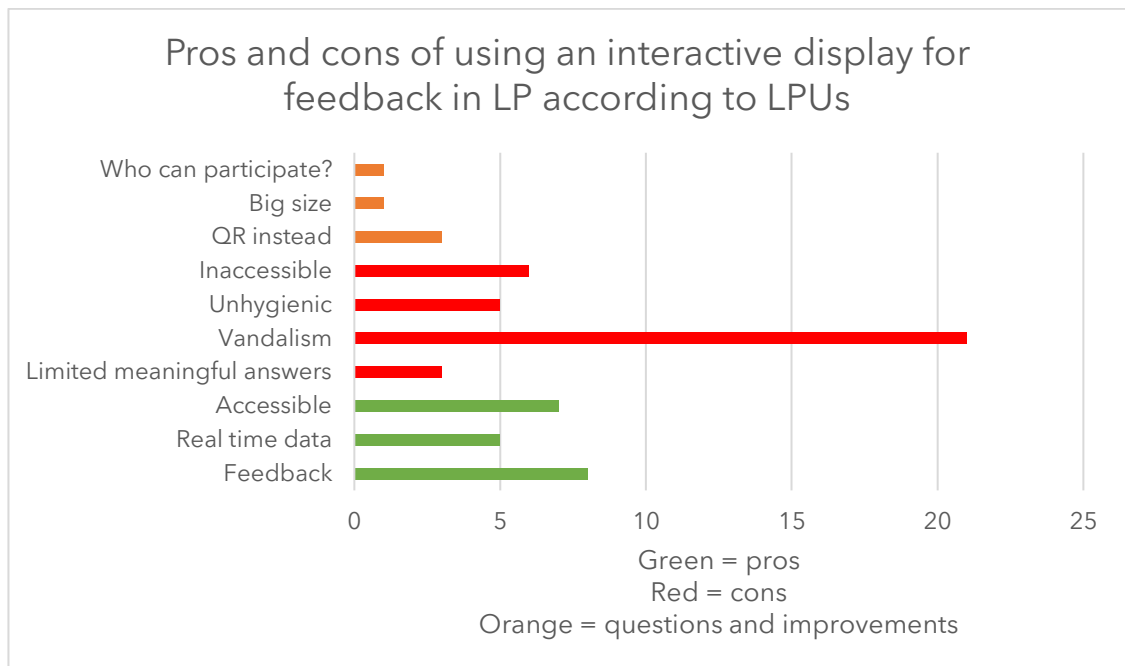
What do you think are the benefits of such interactive displays?

Are there potential issues with this method?

'I think people would engage with it if it was there and working. then as I said people appreciate this park and they would like to give feedback. I think once feedback has to be done when you are at home on a website, it kind of separates you doesn't it. Even though I am here so often I wouldn't necessarily look at a website to give the council feedback. but if the device was literally here then there is that connection and so I think that could be successful.' (LPU34)

'Not really because what happens you leave it open to everybody. but it not oh one person is saying this, so we are doing this. you could actually see then that

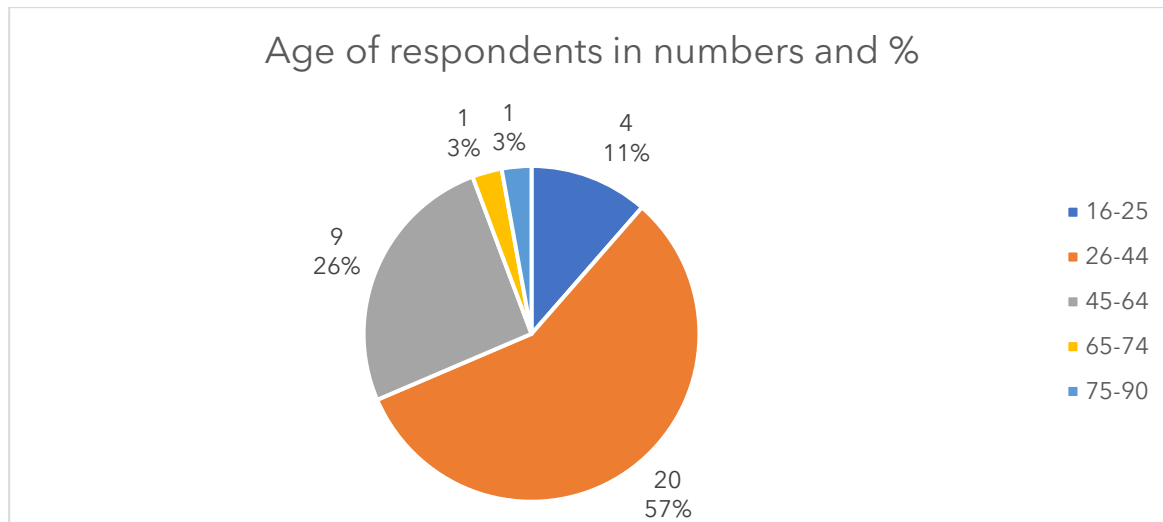
there is many people who say something for example over 6 weeks, these are the suggestion that came up what do you think and then we could say oh the local community has picked this. and then people can't say oh somebody who doesn't live here suggested this.' (LPU32)



Most people were sceptical about this data collection method because of the high risk of vandalism. Additionally due to the pandemic some people thought of it as unhygienic at this moment in time and some people were sceptical who would answer this survey; whether it would not be answered much, gather limited meaningful answers or only answer from people who strongly care about the park. One person questioned who should be allowed to answer the questions (local vs occasional visitor). And whilst predominantly younger people thought of this as an accessible way, older people (50plus) highlighted that it may not be attractive to people who are less technologically literate.

Personal questions

15 (57%) people identified as male, and 20 (43%) respondents identified as females. Most respondents (57%) were 26-44 years old. One person was aged above 75 and 4 people (11%) were less than 25 years old.



Do you consider that you are living with a disability?

5 people considered themselves living with a disability.

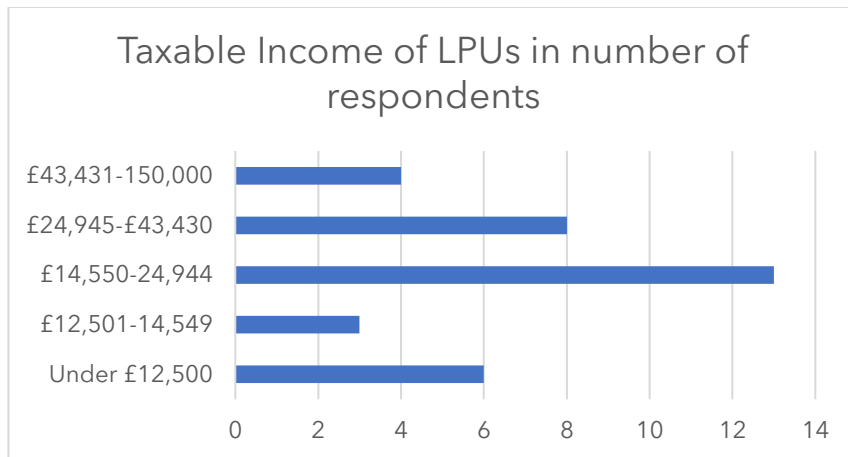
What nationality do you identify with?

56% of respondents identified as Scottish and 12% as British. 2 people identified as Polish. One of each of the following were also identified: American, British-Scottish, Dutch, English, Hungarian, Irish, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

What ethnicities do you identify with?

71% of respondents identified as ethnically white. 2 people identified as black Caribbean and 2 as European. One of each of the following were also identified: Arab-European, BAME, British, Hispanic, Swedish-Nigerian-Gambian, and Turkish.

What tax bracket do you fall under?



Most respondents (38%) have an income that falls under the tax bracket of £14,550-24,944.

How was the quality of Lochend Park today?

Hello, my name is Anne Kripppler and I am a graduate student at Erasmus Mundus Urban Studies 4Cities. I am conducting research on the role of park users in green space management. This research will fulfil my master's degree requirements.

There is no compensation for responding nor is there any known risk. Your submitted answers will be used as part of my thesis paper and may be published in future. You will remain anonymous.

I appreciate your willingness to help with my project, your insights will be very valuable. The data collected will provide useful information regarding green space management and enhancing park quality.



Please scan the QR Code to give
FEEDBACK

Participants must be age 16 or older.

Participation is strictly voluntary, and you may refuse to participate and not answer any question at any time. You are free to leave the survey at any time. By taking part we assume you give us consent to use the data you provide.

If you would like a summary copy of this study, please leave your contact details at the end of the survey.

Contact Information

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact Anne Kripppler. E-mail: anne.kripppler@gmail.com



Annex 9 – Lochend Park QR-code Survey Questions

How was the quality of Lochend Park today?



Park Satisfaction

Very Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

What could be improved? (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Safety
- ☐ The lake
- ☐ Implement toilets
- ☐ Cleanliness
- ☐ Seating
- ☐ Sporting facilities
- ☐ Playground
- ☐ Other:

If you wish please add more details regarding possible improvements here:

Your answer

Would you be interested in helping to improve Lochend Park?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other:

Which of these factors hold you back from becoming engaged in improving Lochend Park? (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ I don't think I got the abilities to help
- ☐ I am too busy
- ☐ Laziness
- ☐ I am not interested
- ☐ I don't know how to become engaged
- ☐ I don't think my engagement would change anything
- ☐ Other:

If you have some spare time please also fill out the following questions, otherwise scroll down and click submit in order for your answer to be saved.

Why do you come to this park? (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Read a book
 - ☐ Use the playground
 - ☐ Relax and enjoy nature
 - ☐ Use the sport facilities
 - ☐ Walk my dog
 - ☐ Meet with friends
 - ☐ For my children
 - ☐ Other:
-

How frequently do you visit Lochend Park?

- ☐ Several times a week
- ☐ Several times a month
- ☐ Twice a month
- ☐ This is my first time
- ☐ Other:

How old are you?

- ☐ Under 16
 - ☐ 16 - 25
 - ☐ 26 - 44
 - ☐ 45 - 64
 - ☐ 65 - 74
 - ☐ 75+
-

What nationality do you identify with?

- ☐ Scottish
 - ☐ British
 - ☐ English
 - ☐ Other:
-

Thank you for your time!

Please press submit below.

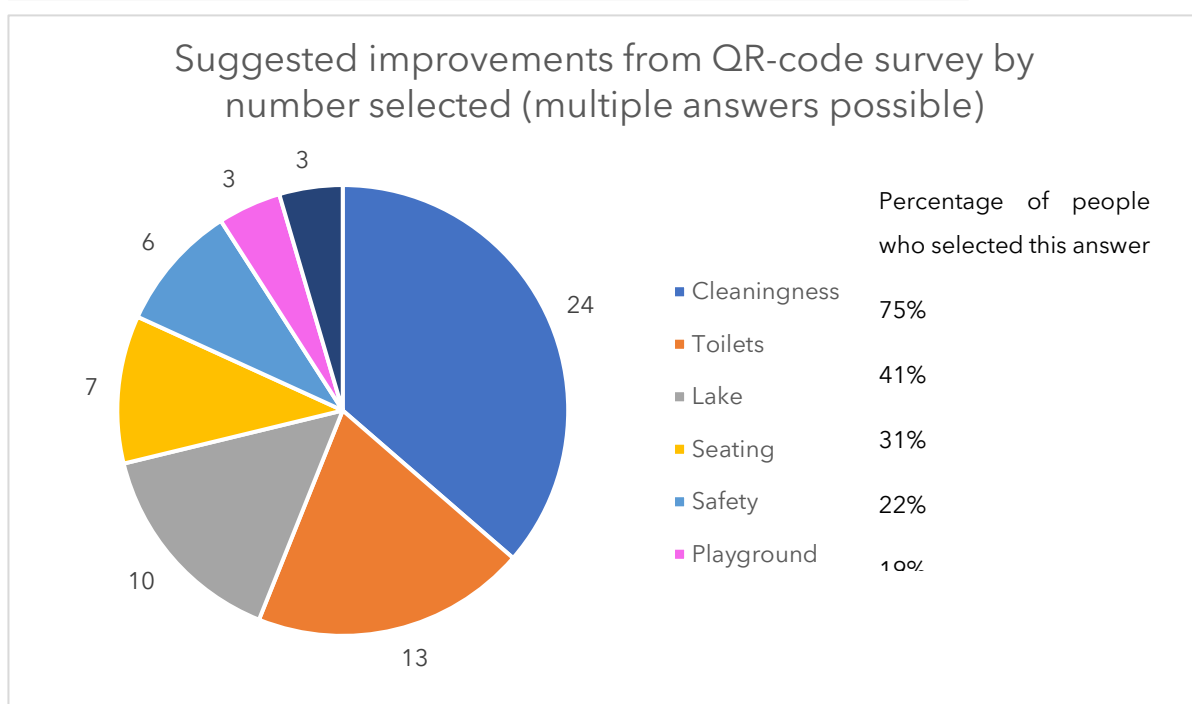
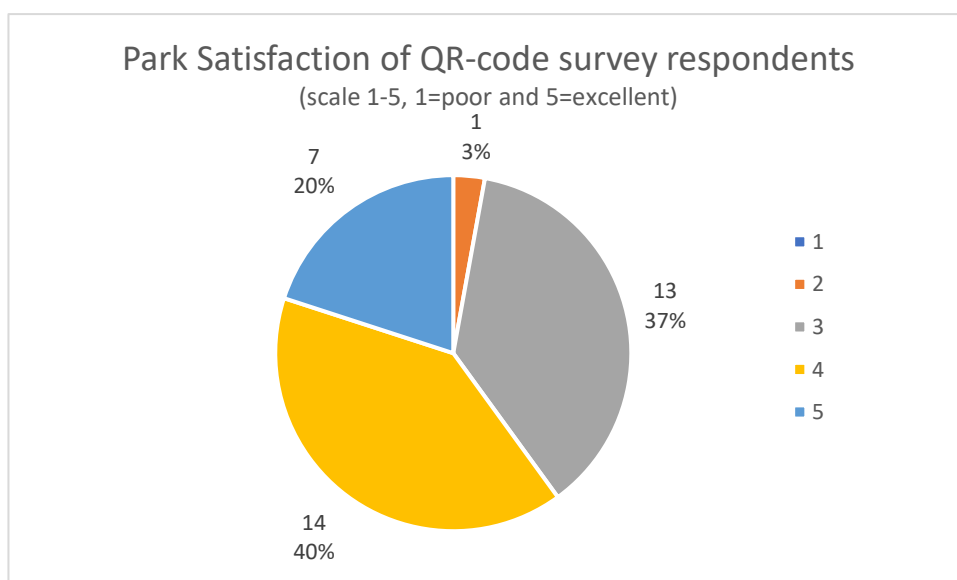
This questionnaire is being conducted as part of a Master Thesis in Urban Studies called 4Cities .

If you have any further question please do not hesitate to contact me: anne.krijger@gmail.com .

If you're interested in improving Lochend Park please look up Friends of Lochend Park

<https://www.facebook.com/lochendpark/>

Annex 10 – Lochend Park QR-code Answers



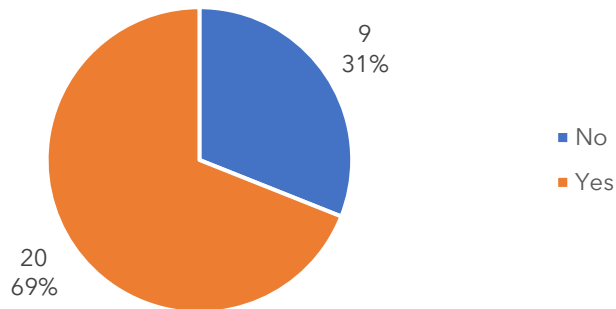
People who selected 'other':

Flooding of the park, lack of recycling bins, dog waste and lack of lighting.

Additional comments box:

When asked for more details on potential improvements, the point of discussion evolved around litter in various forms. Many respondents were particularly concerned about the wildlife and the loch suffering from this litter. Bird feeding is considered to attract rats which was mentioned by 5 people. Shopping trolleys in the water and broken glass was mentioned twice. Another factor is dog poo,

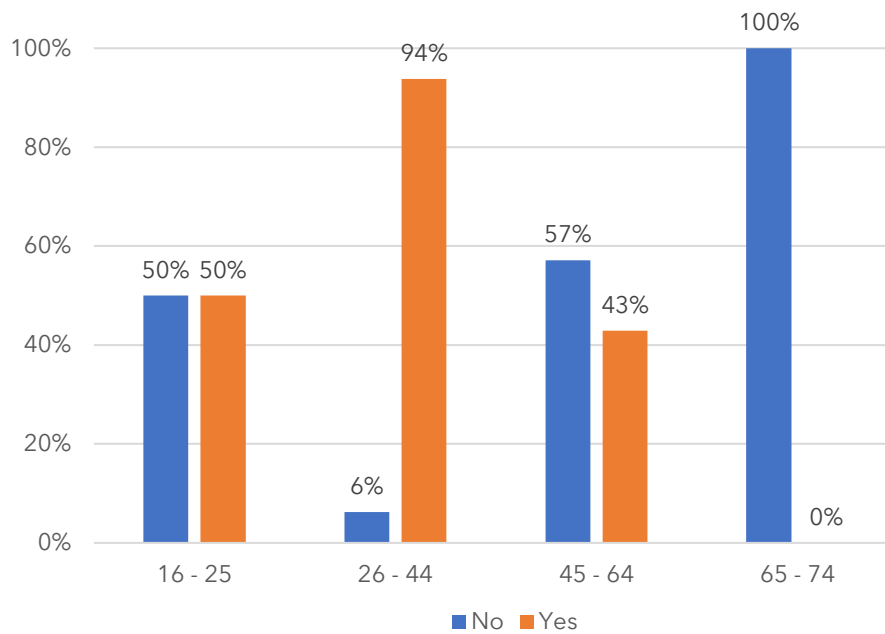
Would you be interested in helping to improve LP? in % and number selected



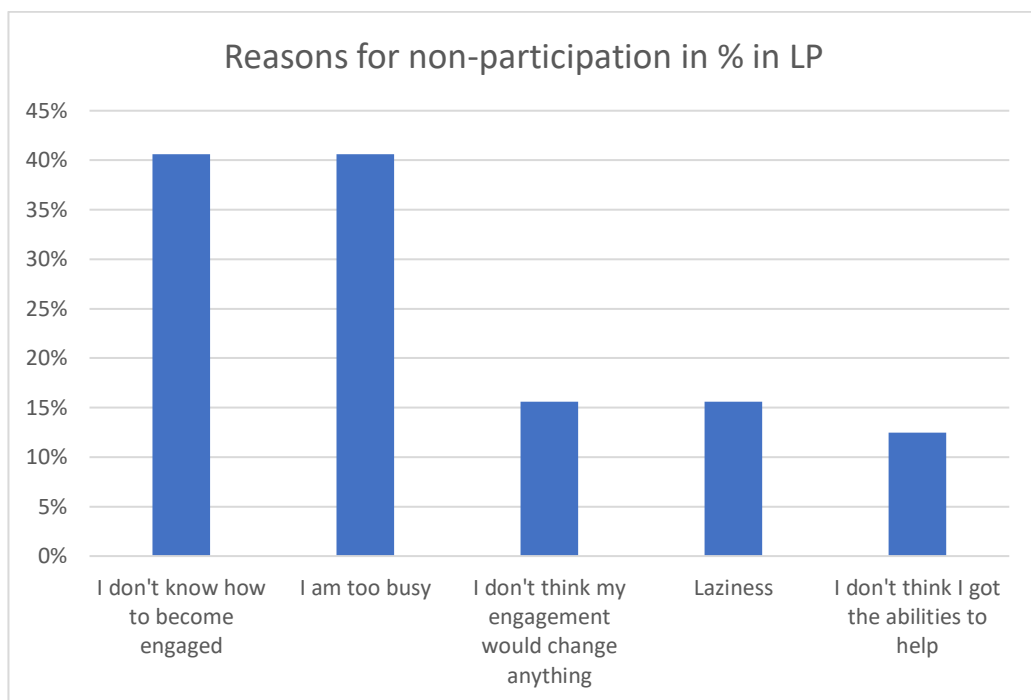
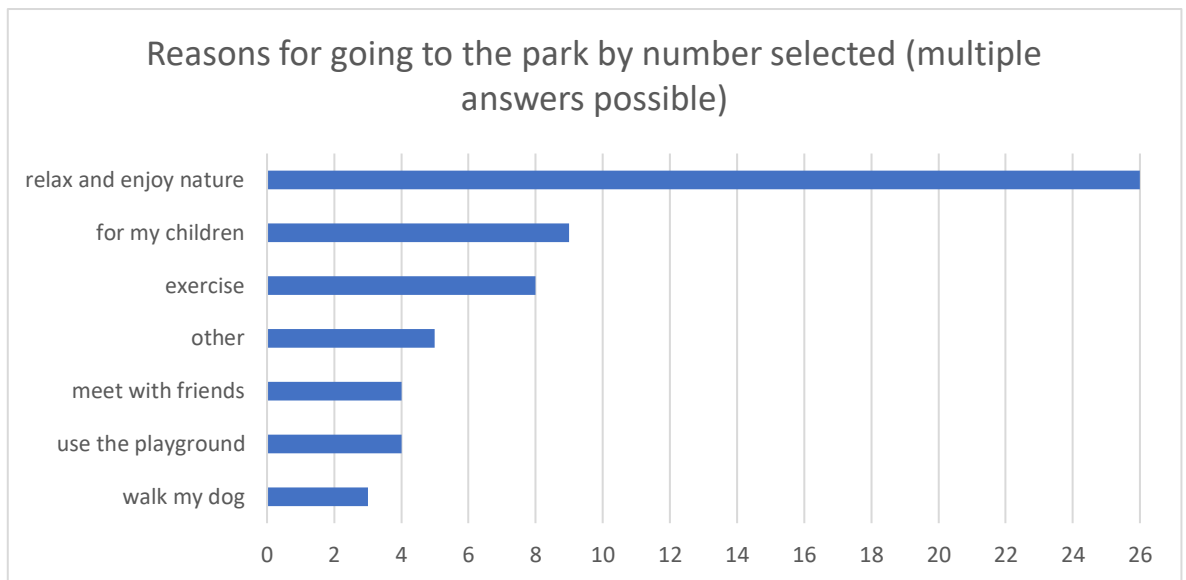
'Other' options included:

Not local park

Interest in helping in relation to age in %

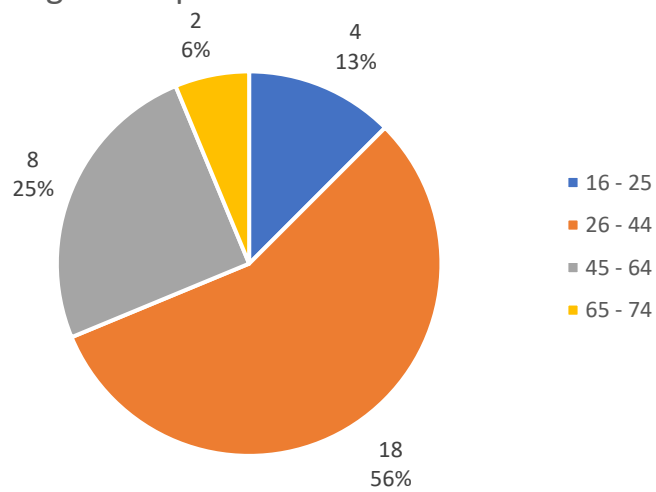


No specific relations were found between this question and one's nationality due to many different nationalities only being present once.

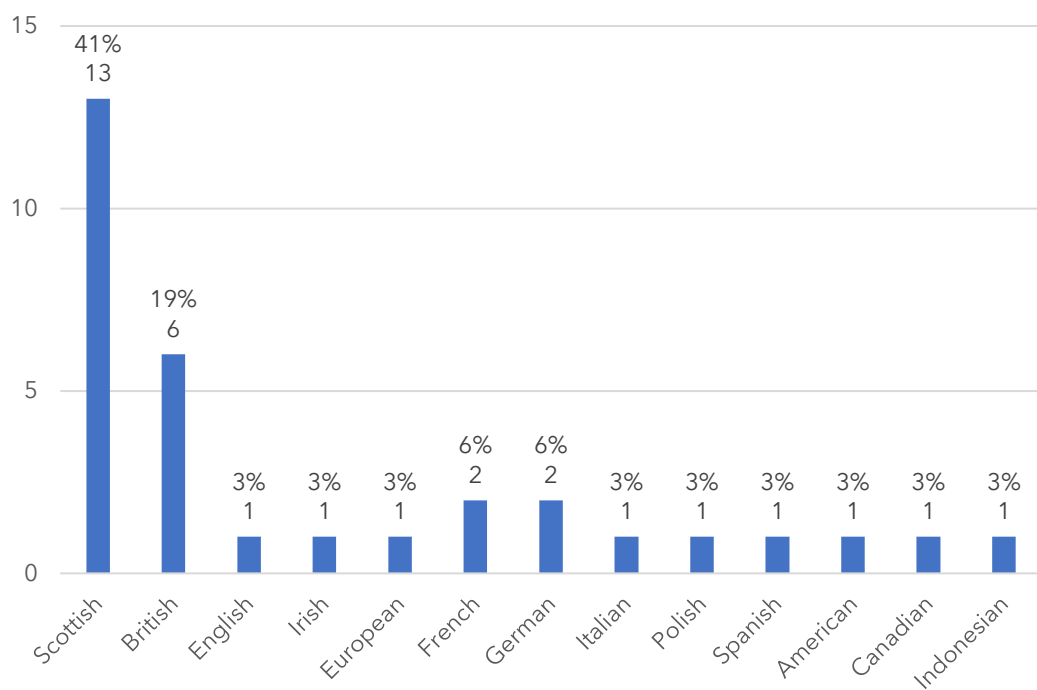


'Other': I am too old, I am not local, I am more interested in other green spaces

Age of respondents in numbers and %



Nationalities of QR-code respondents in number selected and %



Annex 11 – Helmut Zilk Park online survey questions

Helmut-Zilk Park: Sichtweisen und Empfindungen der ParknutzerInnen

Alle Fragen sind optional und müssen nicht beantwortet werden.

Ziel dieser Studie ist es, die Rolle der Parknutzer in Bezug auf das Grünflächenmanagement zu verstehen. Das Interview trägt zur Masterarbeit im Rahmen des MSc Erasmus Mundus „Urban Studies“ (4Cities) bei. Diese Masterarbeit hat das Potenzial, das Grünflächenmanagement in der Zukunft zu verbessern. Dieses Projekt wird durch die Durchführung von Interviews mit ParknutzerInnen, entsprechenden Behörden und anderen Organisationen ermöglicht.

Ihre Teilnahme ist freiwillig. Wir gehen nicht davon aus, dass Ihre Teilnahme mit Risiken verbunden ist. Sie haben das Recht die Fragen nicht zu beantworten und Ihre Antworten bis zur Einreichung des Projektes (1. Juni 2021) zurückzuziehen.

Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit dem Helmut-Zilk Park?



Parkbewertung

	1	2	3	4	5	
Überhaupt nicht zufrieden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Sehr zufrieden

Was gefällt Ihnen am Helmut-Zilk Park am besten?

Your answer

Wie oft besuchen Sie den Park zwischen Oktober und März?

- ☐ Täglich
 - ☐ Mehr als zweimal die Woche
 - ☐ Mehrere Male im Monat
 - ☐ Weniger als einmal im Monat
 - ☐ Ich besuche den Park nicht
-

Wie oft besuchen Sie den Park zwischen April und September?

- ☐ Täglich
 - ☐ Mehr als zweimal die Woche
 - ☐ Mehrere Male im Monat
 - ☐ Weniger als einmal im Monat
 - ☐ Ich besuche den Park nicht
-

Falls Sie den Park nicht besuchen, bitte beschreiben Sie hier warum:

Your answer

Wie erreichen Sie den Park?

- ☐ Zu Fuß
- ☐ Fahrrad
- ☐ öffentlicher Verkehr
- ☐ Auto
- ☐ Other:

Wie lange brauchen Sie um den Park zu erreichen?

- ☐ Weniger als 5 Minuten
 - ☐ Zwischen 5 und 10 Minuten
 - ☐ 10 bis 15 Minuten
 - ☐ Mehr als 15 Minuten
-

Warum besuchen Sie den Helmut-Zilk Park? (mehrere Antworten möglich)

- ☐ Wegen meiner Kinder
 - ☐ Um ein Buch zu lesen
 - ☐ zum Entspannen und Genießen der Natur
 - ☐ Zum Sport
 - ☐ Um Freunde zu treffen
 - ☐ Zum Garteln
 - ☐ Other:
-

Besuchen Sie auch andere Parks regelmäßig?

- ☐ Ja
 - ☐ Nein
-

Welche anderen Parks besuchen Sie?

Your answer

Wie unterscheidet sich der Helmut-Zilk Park von den anderen Parks?

Your answer

Was könnte verbessert werden? (mehrere Antworten möglich)

- ☐ Sitzmöglichkeiten
 - ☐ Kinderspielplätze
 - ☐ Sauberkeit
 - ☐ Sporteinrichtung
 - ☐ Sicherheitsgefühl
 - ☐ öffentliche Toilette bereitstellen
 - ☐ Other:
-

Falls Sie möchten, können Sie hier im Detail Ihre Verbesserungsvorschläge beschreiben:

Your answer

Gibt es zusätzliche Aktivitäten, die Sie sich für den Park wünschen?

- ☐ Ja
 - ☐ Nein
-

Falls ja, bitte beschreiben Sie welche Aktivitäten Sie sich wünschen würden:

Your answer

Bürgerbeteiligung

Haben Sie schon einmal an einer Bürgerbeteiligung, die von der Stadt Wien organisiert wurde, teilgenommen?

- ☐ Ja
☐ Nein

Falls ja, bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre Erfahrung:

Your answer

Haben Sie schon einmal selbst eine Bürgerinitiative gestartet?

- ☐ Ja
☐ Nein

Falls ja, bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre Erfahrung:

Your answer

Wer ist Ihrer Meinung nach für die Erhaltung der Parks verantwortlich?

- ☐ Die Stadt Wien
☐ Der Bezirk
☐ ParkbenutzerInnen
☐ Other:

Was sind Ihrer Meinung nach die Herausforderungen in der Verwaltung und Erhaltung von Parkanlagen? (mehrere Antworten möglich)

- ☐ Die Finanzierung
☐ Der Ausgleich unterschiedlicher Nutzungen des Parks
☐ Die Respektvolle Nutzung des Parks
☐ Vandalismus und unsoziales Verhalten
☐ Die Aufrechterhaltung des ökologischen Wertes
☐ Abfallbeseitigung
☐ Other:

Haben Sie sich jemals an der Erhaltung des Helmut-Zilk Parks beteiligt?

- ☐ Ja
☐ Nein
☐ Other:

Haben Sie sich schon einmal bei der Stadt Wien über Probleme im öffentlichen Raum beschwert?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein
-

Haben Sie sich schon einmal bei der Bezirksverwaltung über Probleme im öffentlichen Raum beschwert?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein
-

Hat sich die Beschwerde jemals auf den Helmut-Zilk-Park bezogen?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein
-

Falls ja, können Sie hier Ihre Beschwerde im Bezug zum HZP beschreiben:

Your answer

Falls ja, wie haben Sie die Bezirksverwaltung oder die Stadt Wien kontaktiert?
(mehrere Antworten möglich)

- ☐ Telefon
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Brief
- ☐ Persönlich im Amt
- ☐ Sag's Wien App
- ☐ Other:

Ihrer Meinung nach, sollten sich die lokale Behörden mehr mit den Wünschen der Öffentlichkeit befassen?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein

Falls Sie Ihrer Meinung etwas hinzuzufügen haben, können Sie dies hier tun:

Your answer

Wären Sie daran interessiert den Helmut-Zilk Park zu verbessern

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein
- ☐ Other:

Was hält Sie davon ab zur Pflege des Park beizutragen? (mehrere Antworten möglich)

- ☐ Trägheit
- ☐ Ich glaube nicht, dass ich die Fähigkeiten habe, zu helfen
- ☐ Ich wüsste nicht wie
- ☐ Ich glaube nicht dass mein Beitrag was ändern würde
- ☐ Ich bin nicht daran interessiert
- ☐ Ich habe keine Zeit
- ☐ Ich bin mit dem Park zufrieden wie er ist
- ☐ Other:

QR-Code

Beispiel: Man würde in Wien in jeden Park einen QR-Code bereitstellen, den die Bürger mit Ihrem Smartphone einscannen können. Daraufhin würde sich eine Umfrage auf dem Telefon öffnen, mit der die Bürger vor Ort ihre Meinung über die Qualität und Nutzung des Parks jederzeit abgeben können.

Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit dem Park?



Bitte scannen Sie den QR-Code, um
FEEDBACK zu geben.

Fragen über dieses Beispiel

	Ja	Nein	Vielleicht
Ich finde diese Idee im Allgemeinen gut	☐	☐	☐
Ich besitze ein Smartphone	☐	☐	☐
Ich weiß, wie man einen QR-code einscannt	☐	☐	☐
Ich würde die Umfrage beantworten	☐	☐	☐
Ich würde die Umfrage beantworten, falls ich was zu bemängeln hätte	☐	☐	☐
Ich glaube, der QR-code würde mit der Zeit zerstört werden	☐	☐	☐
Ich denke, einige Leute würden die Umfrage nicht ernsthaft ausfüllen	☐	☐	☐
Ich denke, diese Methode würde einige Leute von der Teilnahme ausschließen	☐	☐	☐

Falls Sie noch etwas zu dieser Idee beitragen möchten, bitte tun Sie dies hier:

Your answer

Zusätzliche Fragen

Falls Sie noch etwas Zeit haben, füllen Sie bitte auch die folgenden Fragen aus, ansonsten scrollen Sie nach unten und drücken Sie auf Absenden, damit Ihre Antwort gespeichert wird.

Wie alt sind Sie?

- ☐ Unter 16
- ☐ 16 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 44
- ☐ 45 - 64
- ☐ 65 - 74
- ☐ 75+

Mit welchem Geschlecht identifizieren Sie sich?

- ☐ Nichtbinär
- ☐ Weiblich
- ☐ Männlich
- ☐ Other:

Mit welcher Nationalität identifizieren Sie sich?

- ☐ Österreicherin
- ☐ Deutsche/Deutscher
- ☐ Serbisch
- ☐ Türkisch
- ☐ Other:

Mit welcher Ethnie identifizieren Sie sich?

Your answer

Betrachten Sie sich als mit einer Behinderung lebend?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein

Schränkt Ihre Behinderung Ihre Nutzung und Ihren Zugang zum Park ein?

- ☐ Ja
- ☐ Nein

Falls Sie möchten, erklären Sie hier wie der Park besser zugänglich gemacht werden könnte:

Your answer

Zu welcher Steuerklasse gehören Sie?

- ☐ Unter 11.000 €
- ☐ 11.000 - 18.000 €
- ☐ 18.000 - 31.000 €
- ☐ 31.000 - 60.000 €
- ☐ 60.000 - 90.000 €
- ☐ über 100.000 €

Falls Sie noch etwas zu den obigen Themen beitragen möchten bitte tun Sie dies hier:

Your answer

Vielen Dank für Ihre Mühe!

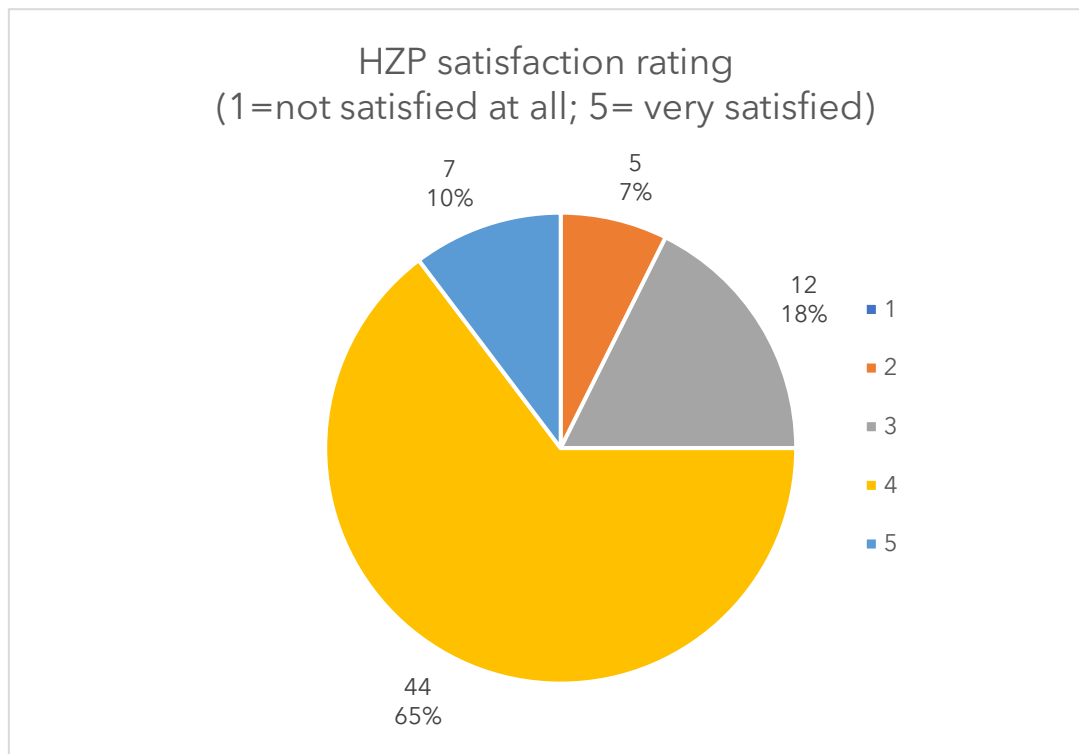
Bitte drücken Sie unten auf Absenden.

Dieser Fragebogen wird im Rahmen einer Masterarbeit in Urban Studies namens 4Cities durchgeführt.

Falls Sie weitere Fragen haben, zögern Sie bitte nicht, mich zu kontaktieren: anna.krüggen@gmail.com.

Annex 12 – Helmut Zilk Park online survey answers

Park satisfaction

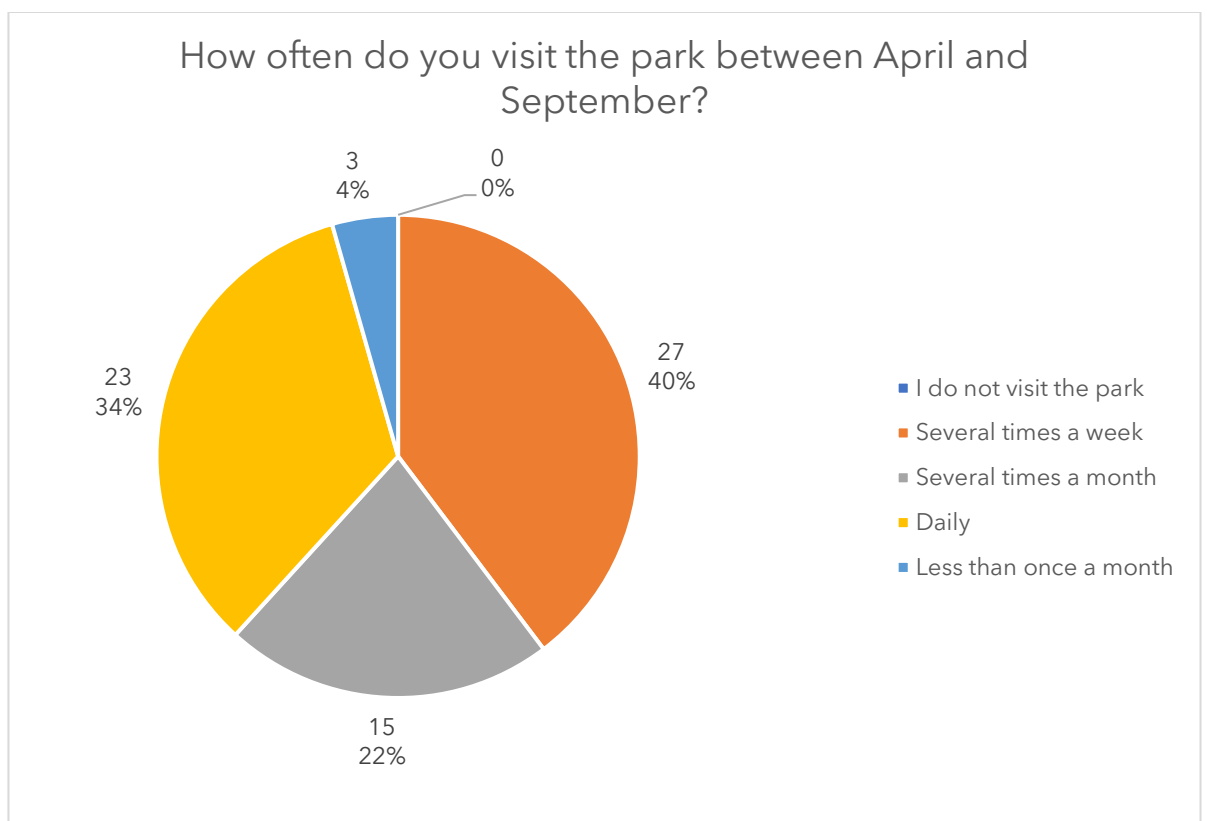
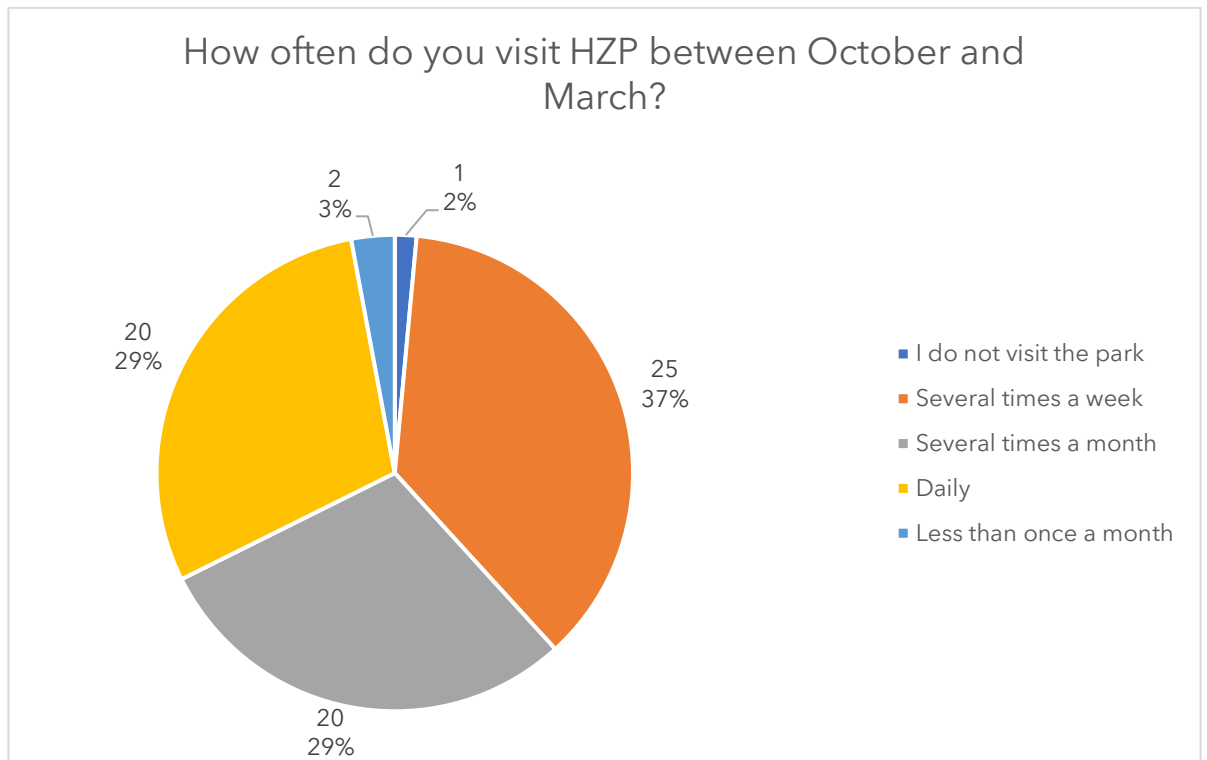


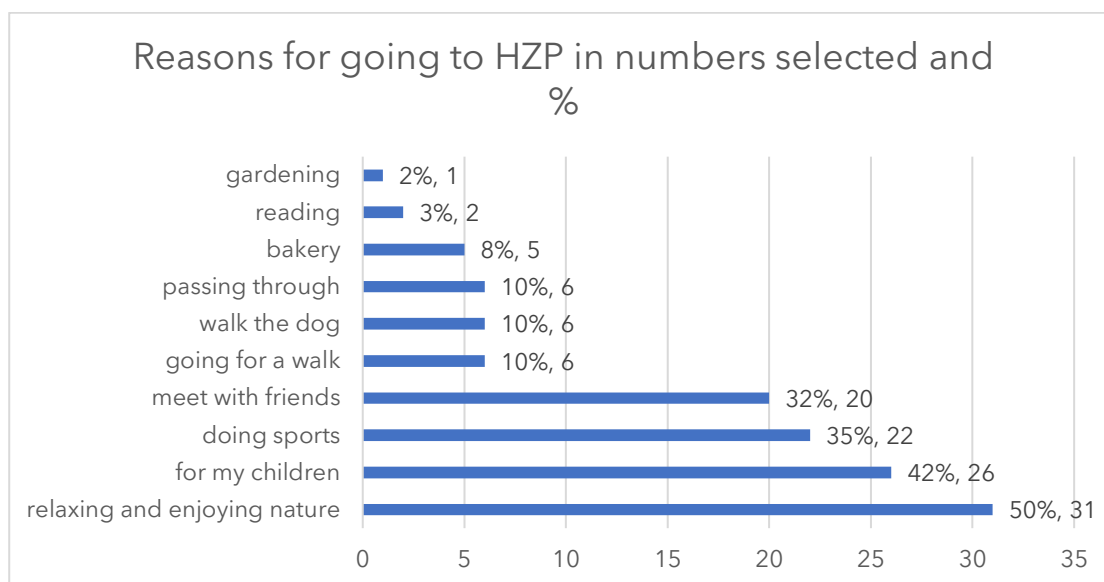
Respondents enjoy the wide and open green space the park offers. This openness allows for a lot of freedom in movement and the possibilities to overlook the park. Likewise, many respondents highly appreciate the wild growing flower meadows because of the biodiversity they create, for example many rabbits are calling those meadows their home. The Motorikpark and the bakery are also mentioned a few times. Two people each mentioned: the trees; the fact that the park is right in front of their doorstep; and the diversity and vibrancy of the park.

Park frequency

People frequent the park quite often, and the frequency increases during the summer months, however not drastically. People who said they do not frequent the parks argued that the park is too busy and loud (3). One person said they are currently not leaving the house and one person only walks through the park and a third person mentioned work and the weather. Every respondent accesses the park on foot, and

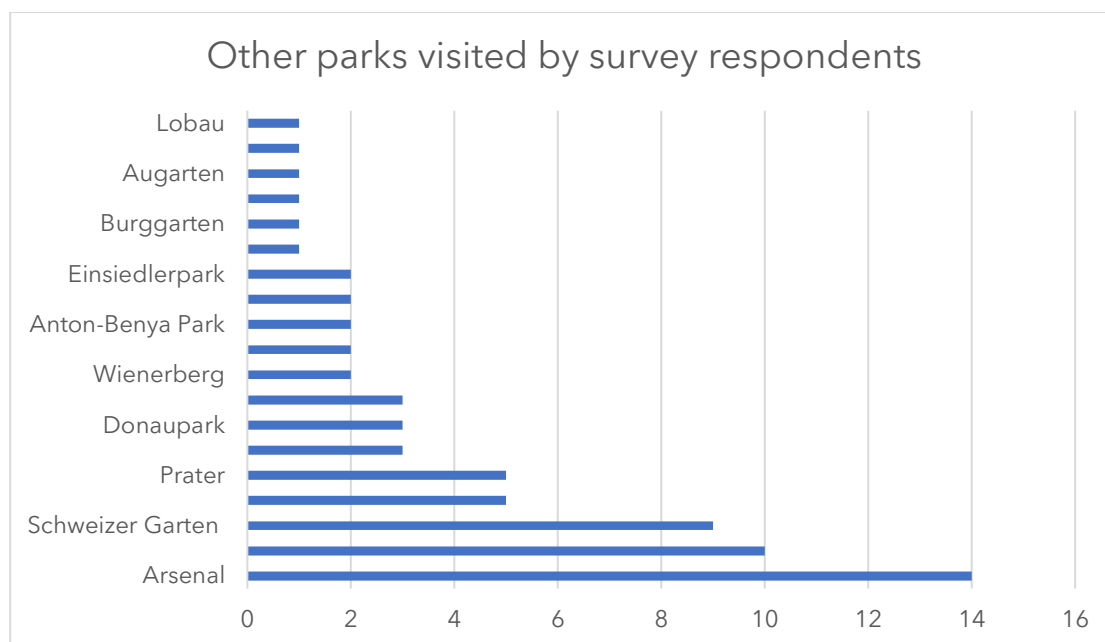
everyone takes less than 15min to get to the park with 62 respondents saying it takes them less than 5minutes.





Other parks

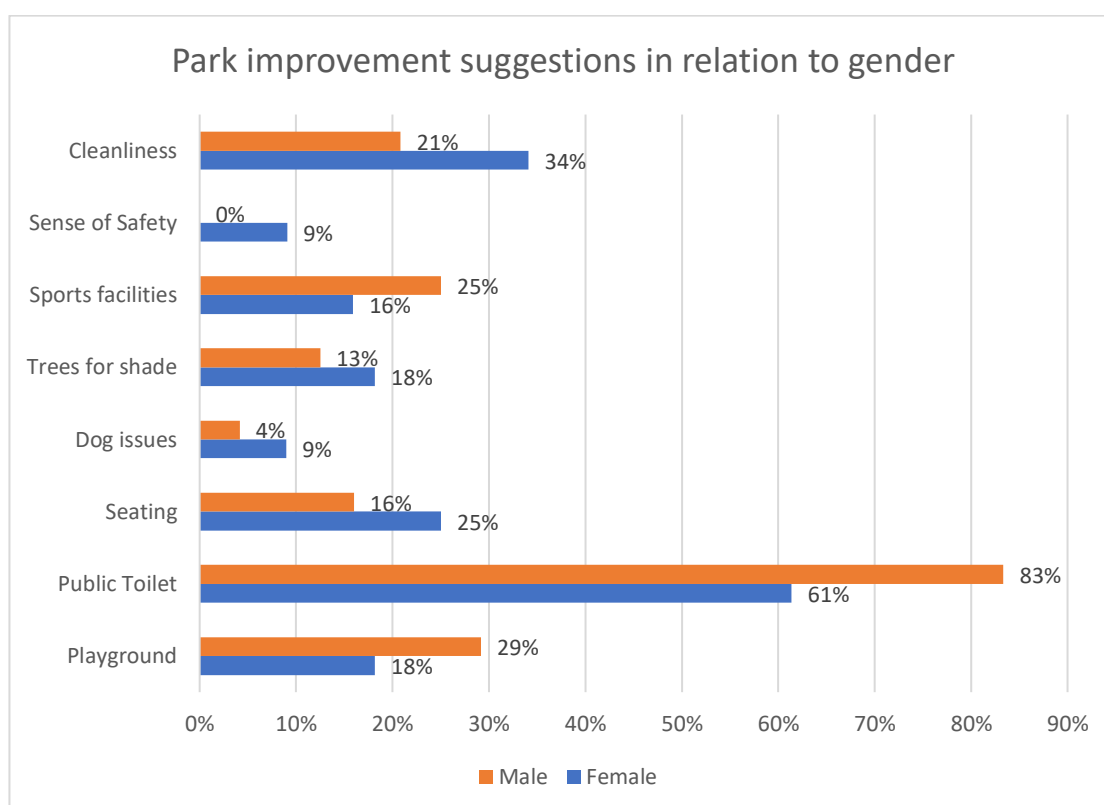
35 respondents (51%) also frequent other parks, the Arsenal, Belvedere and Schwiss Garden are mentioned the most, these three parks are closest to HZP, but are in the third district.



When asked to compare HZP to these other parks; most respondents said they enjoy the proximity of HZP; the wide-open space and the bakery. Others however enumerate that the largest difference is the lack of grown trees. Whilst some people enjoy the fact that HZP is open, good for young families and not traditional; other

respondents critiqued the openness particularly because of the lack of shade and arguing that HZP is too busy with a lack of quiet space. One person explained that the large open space is rather boring for children, water feature, topographic changes would make the space more interesting for them. They also mentioned the lack of teenagers because of this boring landscape.

Improvements



Other issues which were not part of the multiple choice were added by the option 'other'. Other concerns were dogs, explaining that some dogs are not on the leash; that less space should be provided for dogs or that the dog zones should be relocated somewhere else in the park. One person asked for the provision of more dog waste bags. Interestingly more women than men raised issues around dogs. 11 people demanded for more trees because of the lack of shade within the park. Other regulation and behaviour issues raised were people cycling through the park which is apparently forbidden and people walking through the flower meadows harming biodiversity.

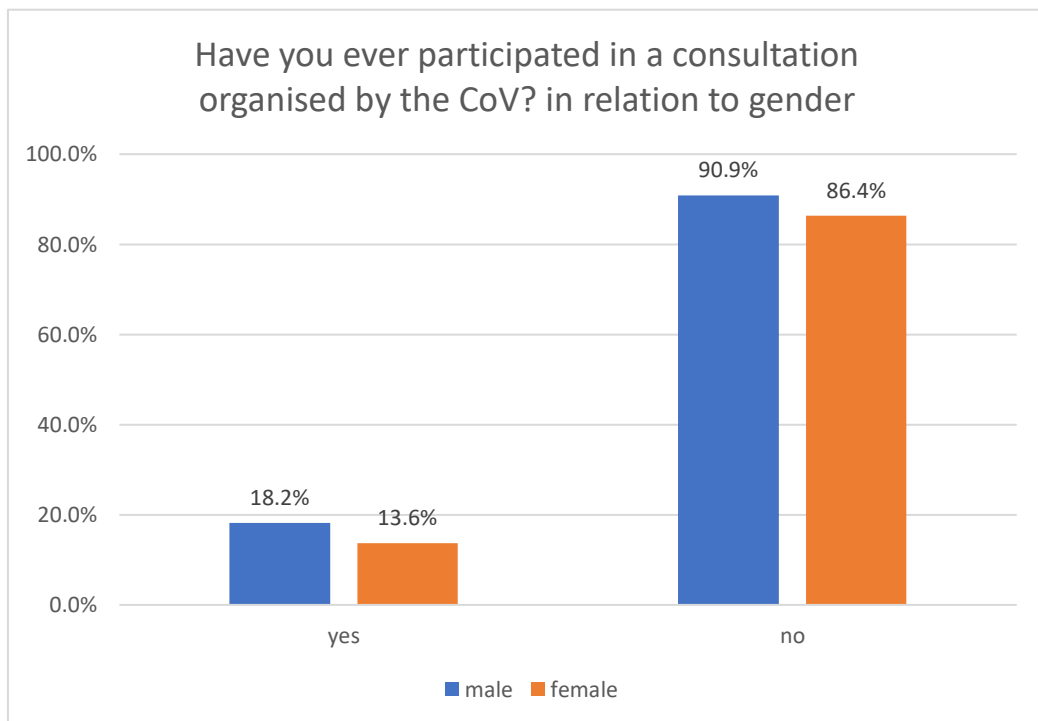
22 people wished for additional activities within the park and 44 did not. More sports facilities in terms of basketball, volleyball, beachball pitches as well as outdoor sport equipment were mentioned several times. 3 people added that sport activities and classes for all ages particular elderly should be introduced. Events and festival such as garden festival, festivals that bring people together and summer cinema were mentioned a few times also. These comments stand in stark contrast to the few people who want more quiet space and less activities within the park. Other mentions were a pond as a biotope, a hill for sledging, more space for biodiversity, an additional café, and the extension of playground.

Public participation

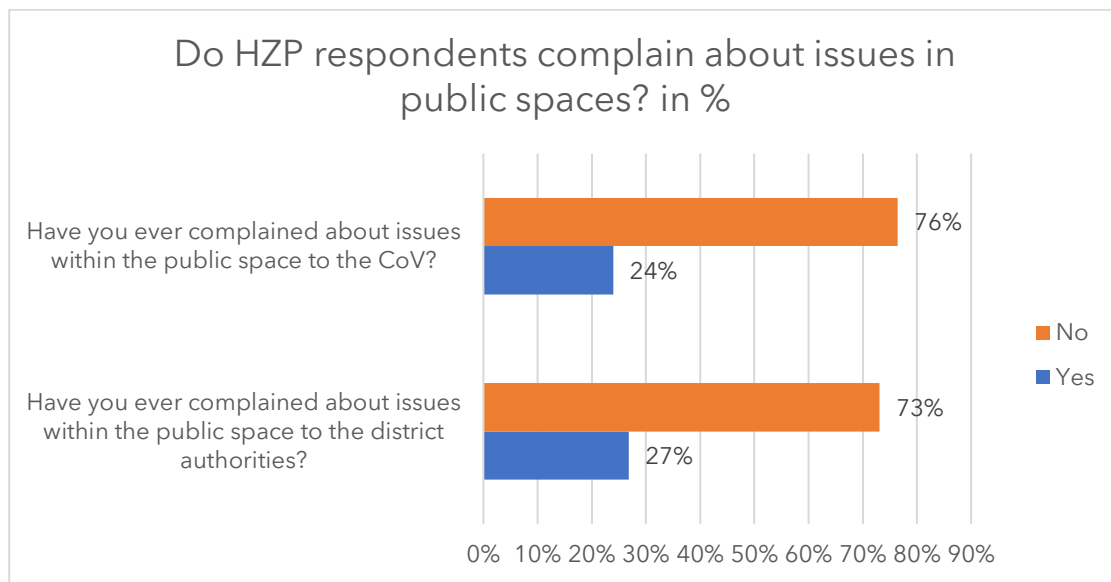
Only 10 people ever participated within a public consultation organised by Stadt Wien and 1 respondent created an initiative by themselves; namely the petition for a public toilet in HZP which they considered as a positive experience. Relatively to the number of male and female respondents; 17% of men and 14% of woman have participated at least once in a public consultation by Stadt Wien. 10% of the respondents who said to have participated once had an income of 31-60.000€. One respondent explained they participated in a neighbourhood consultation in the 19th district and another respondent participated using the 'Sag's Wien' app.

When asked about their participation experiences, three respondents commented:

- well organised but boring
- that politicians make the decisions later anyway
- good and constructive



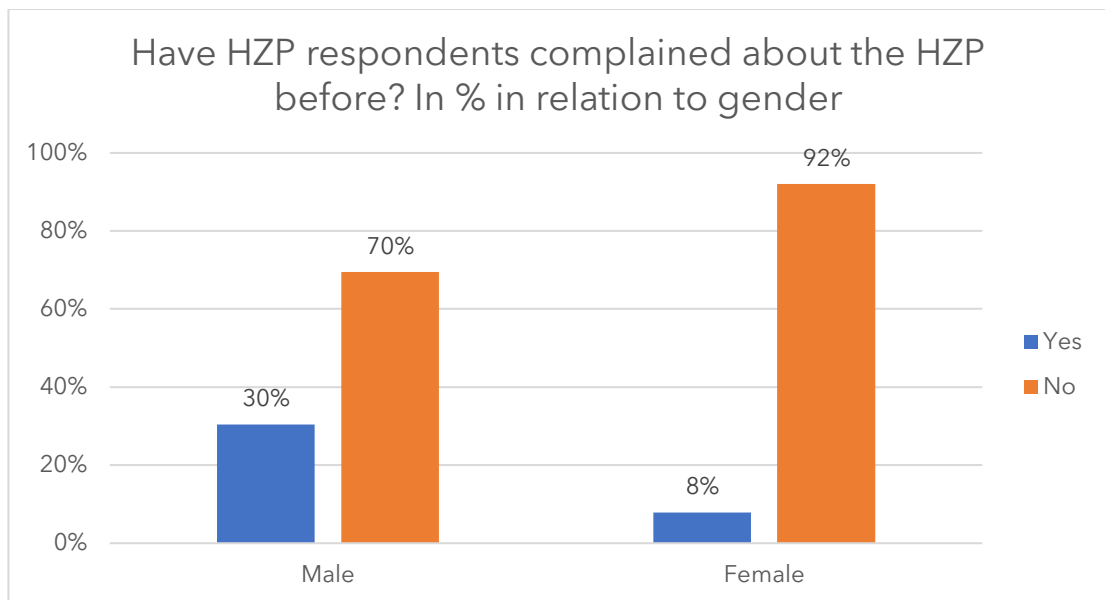
Complaints



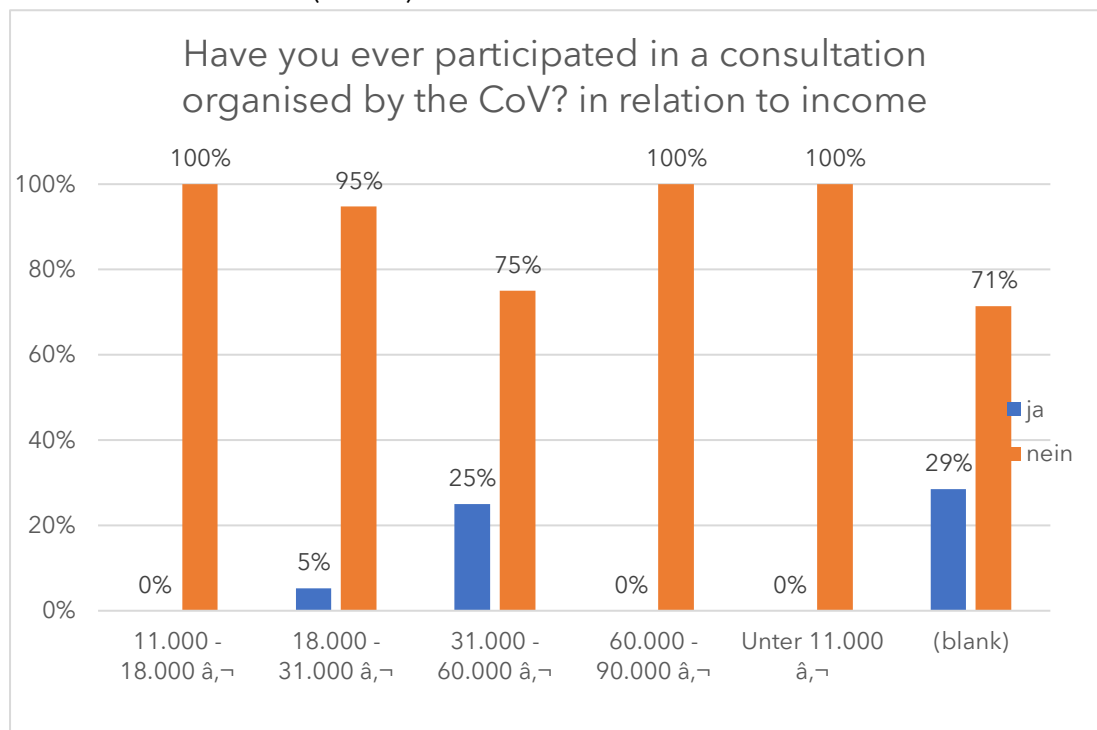
18 respondents complained to CoV about issues within a public space before and 16 complained on a district level. Notably, 12 people who complained to CoV also complained have also complained on a district level. 10 people specifically complained about HZP before.

Of these complaints 10, looking proportionately at male and female respondents, more male respondents have complained about HZP than female respondents. Additionally, more 45–64-year-olds (29%) complained about issues in HZP than 26–44-year olds (14%). Respondents complained about the following:

- Left E-Scooter (1)
- Litter (2)
- Unclear regulations on cycling within the park (3)
- damaging of green tramways by lorries (1)
- passage over tramways seems to be temporal (1)
- lack of public toilet (1)



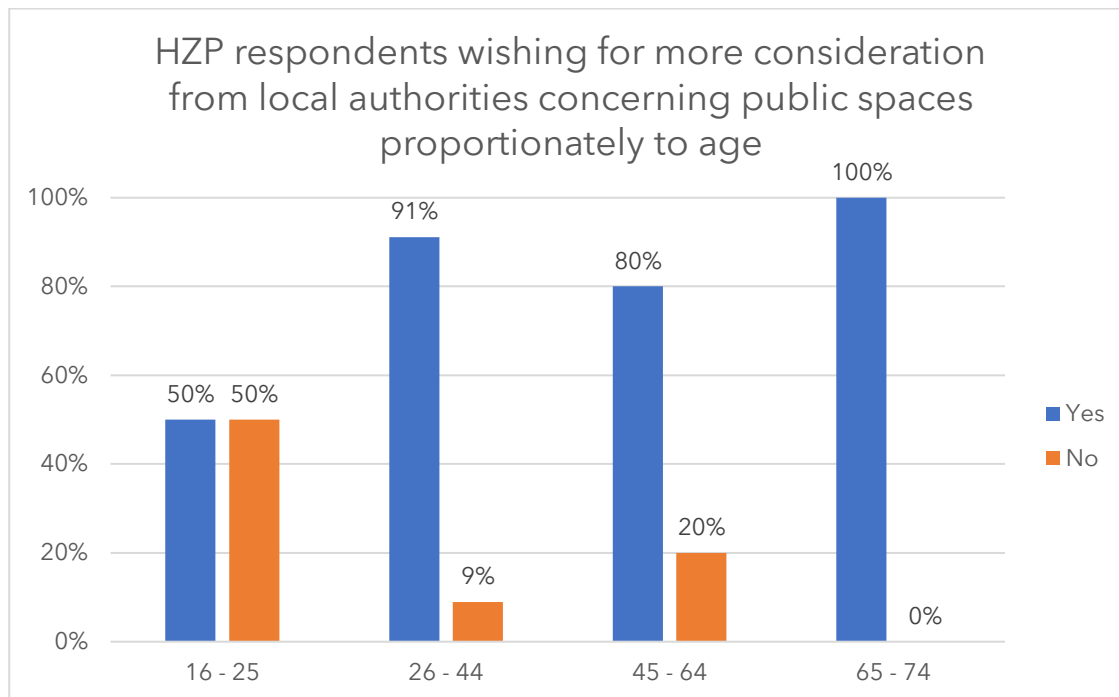
The complaints were raised via email (11 times), the Sag's Wien App (4 times), telephone (4 times), personal meeting with Bezirksvorsteher (1 time), Facebook page of the Bezirksvorsteher (1 time).



18 respondents complained to Stadt Wien about issues within a public space before and 16 complained on a district level. Notably, 12 people who complained to Stadt Wien also complained have also complained on a district level. 10 people specifically complained about HZP before.

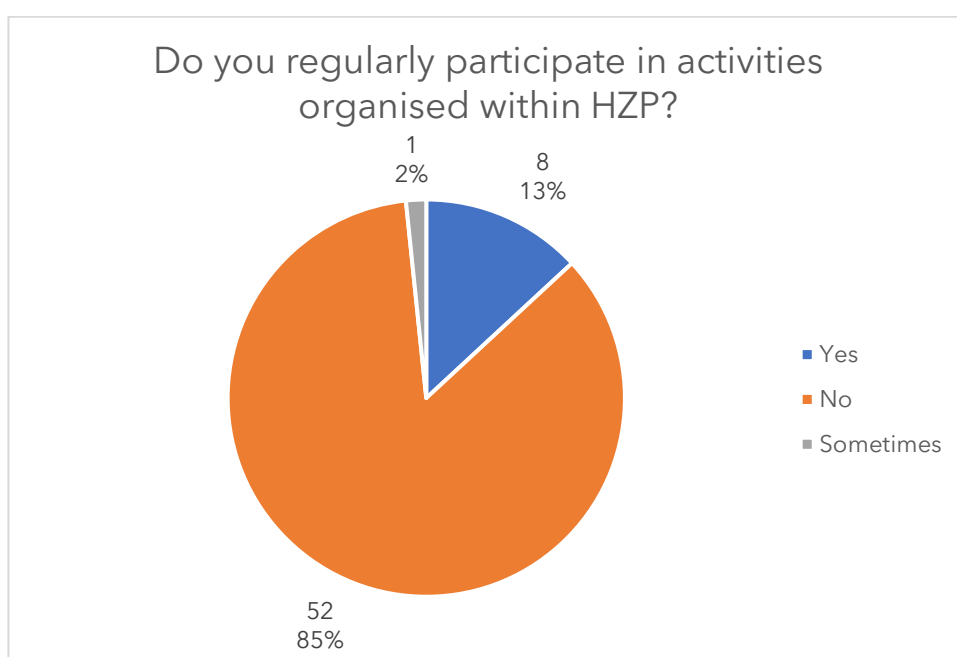
More consideration

81% of respondents wished for more consideration from local authorities when it comes to public spaces. Proportionately looking however, 96% of men and 83% of the woman wished so. Age-group wise, respondents aged between 26-44 demanded for more consideration (91%) than the 45-64-year-olds (80%).



Space was made for additional comments; these included the need to be more inclusive regarding less economically strong people particularly regarding car parking and community garden spaces. Likewise, another person asked not to highlight individual opinions but emphasise the greater good. One person said that the city is already considering the needs of the people. Another person said they don't know how much the city is considered and hence cannot have an opinion. Another respondent said that there is too much emphasis on young families and dog walkers and that other demographics are not being considered within HZP.

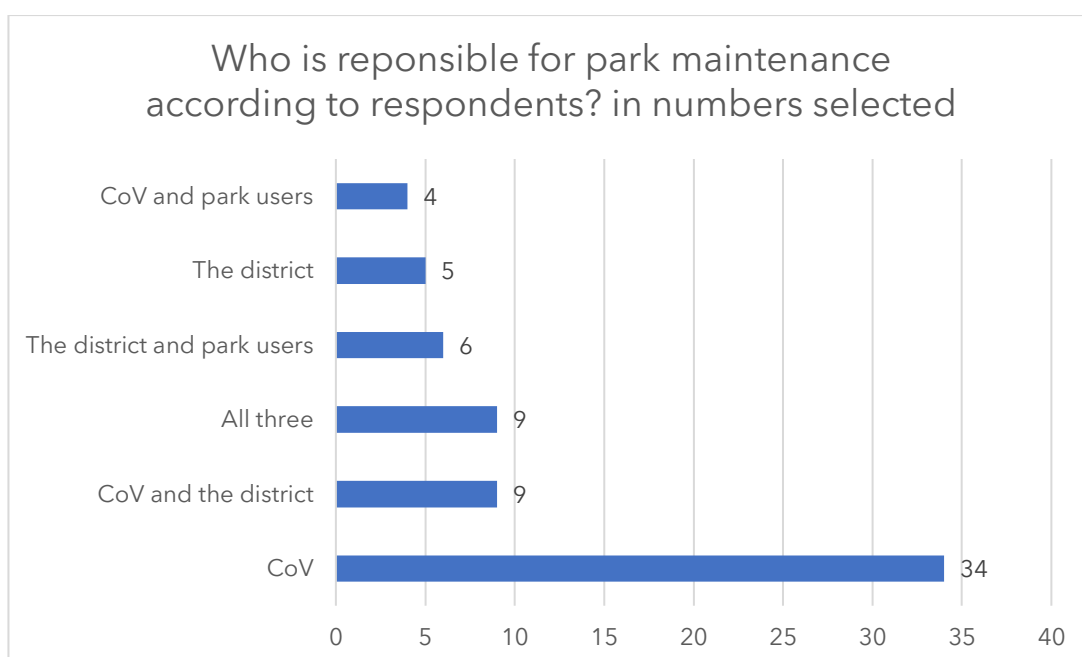
Activity participation within HZP



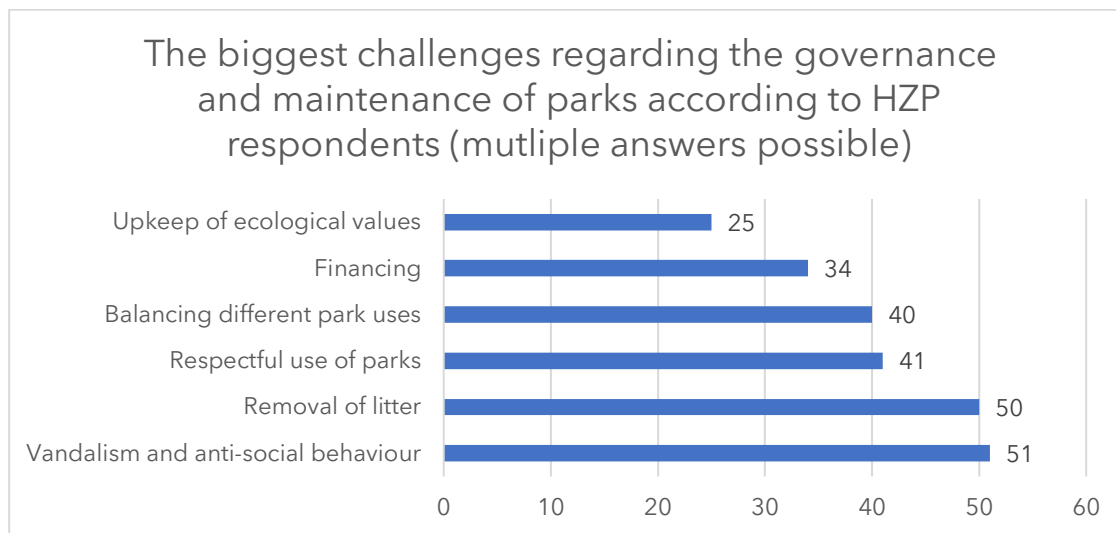
People mentioned sport as the primary activity to be done in HZP. Others also mentioned festivities for children and the local community. Others argued that are not many activities on offer within the park. Some also said that they are simply not interested in partaking.

Park responsibility

The first question was formulated wrongly. I wanted to make the difference between who governs and who maintains HZP. However, looking at the second question which ask who maintains the park; most people select CoV.

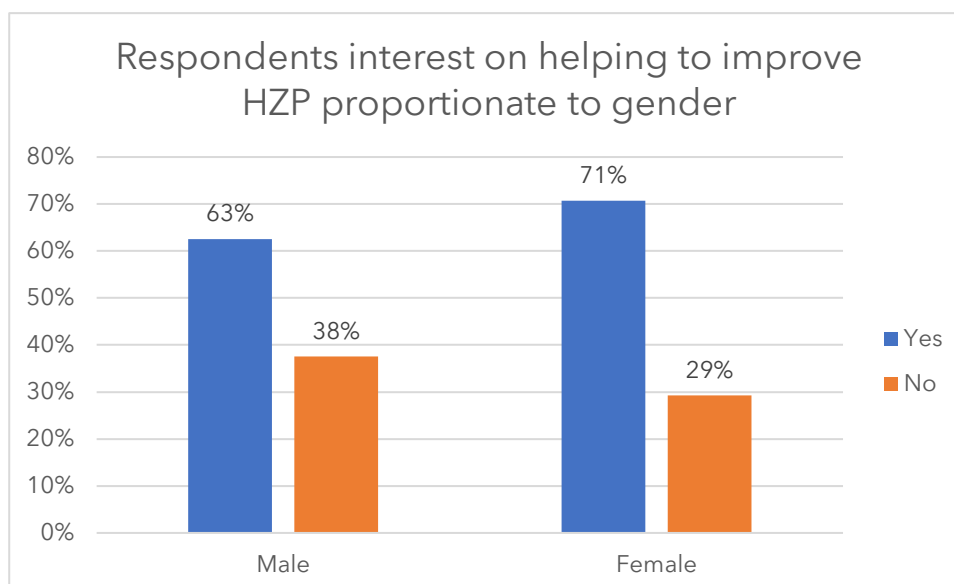


Challenges of maintenance

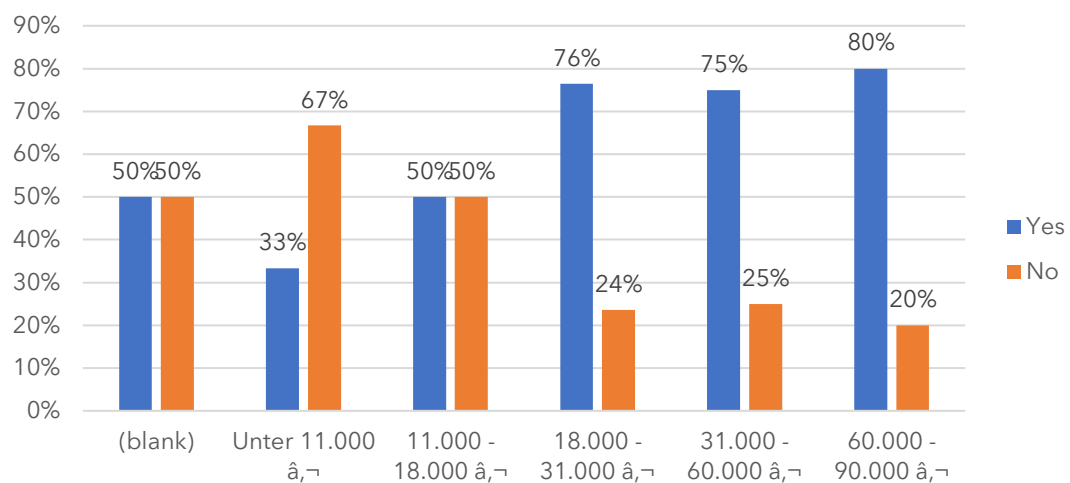


Participation in HZP

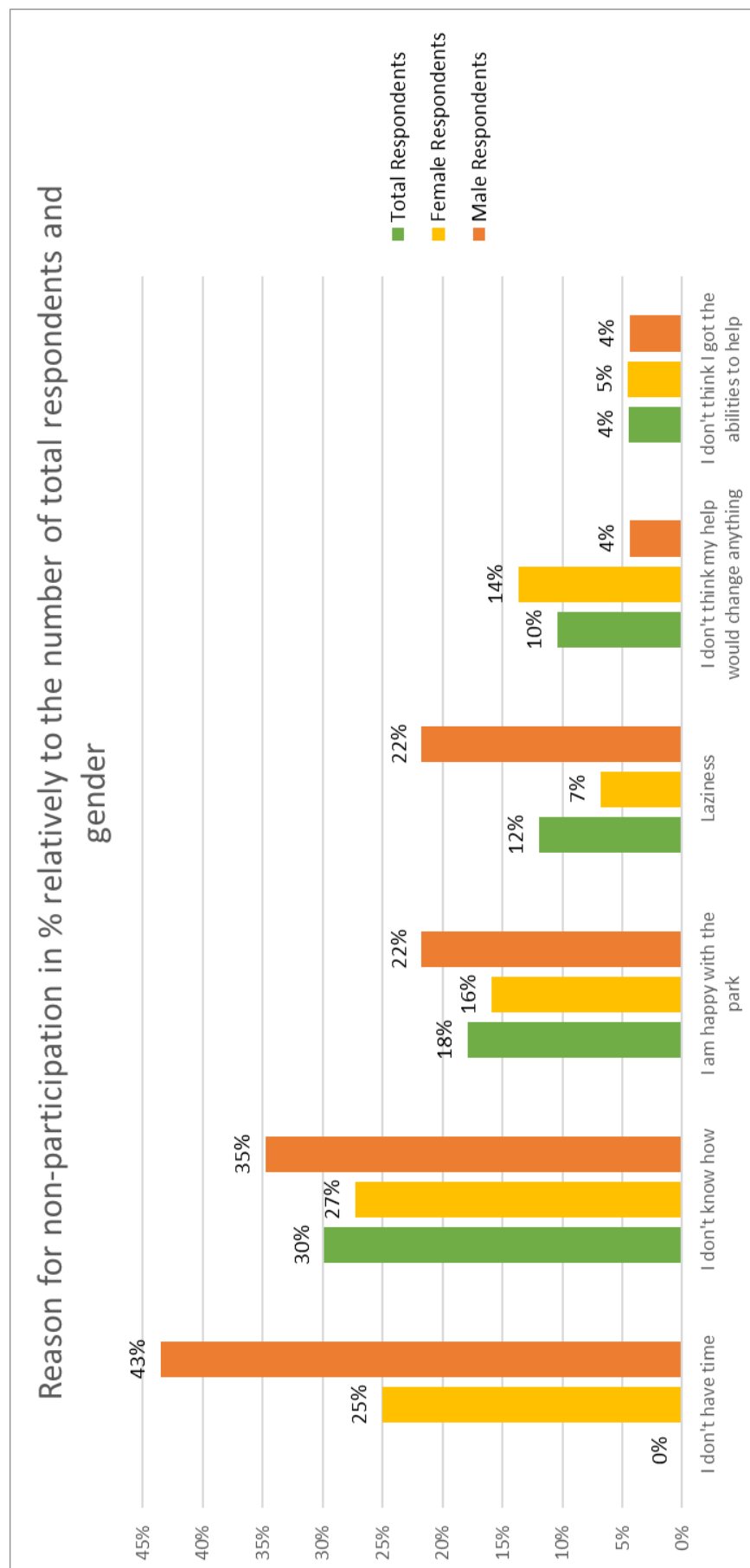
44 respondents are and 21 are not interested in improving HZP. Age wise no correlation was found. In terms of gender, more women were interested in helping. Looking at income, it may be argued that higher income classes have a higher interest (over 18.000euro tax bracket).



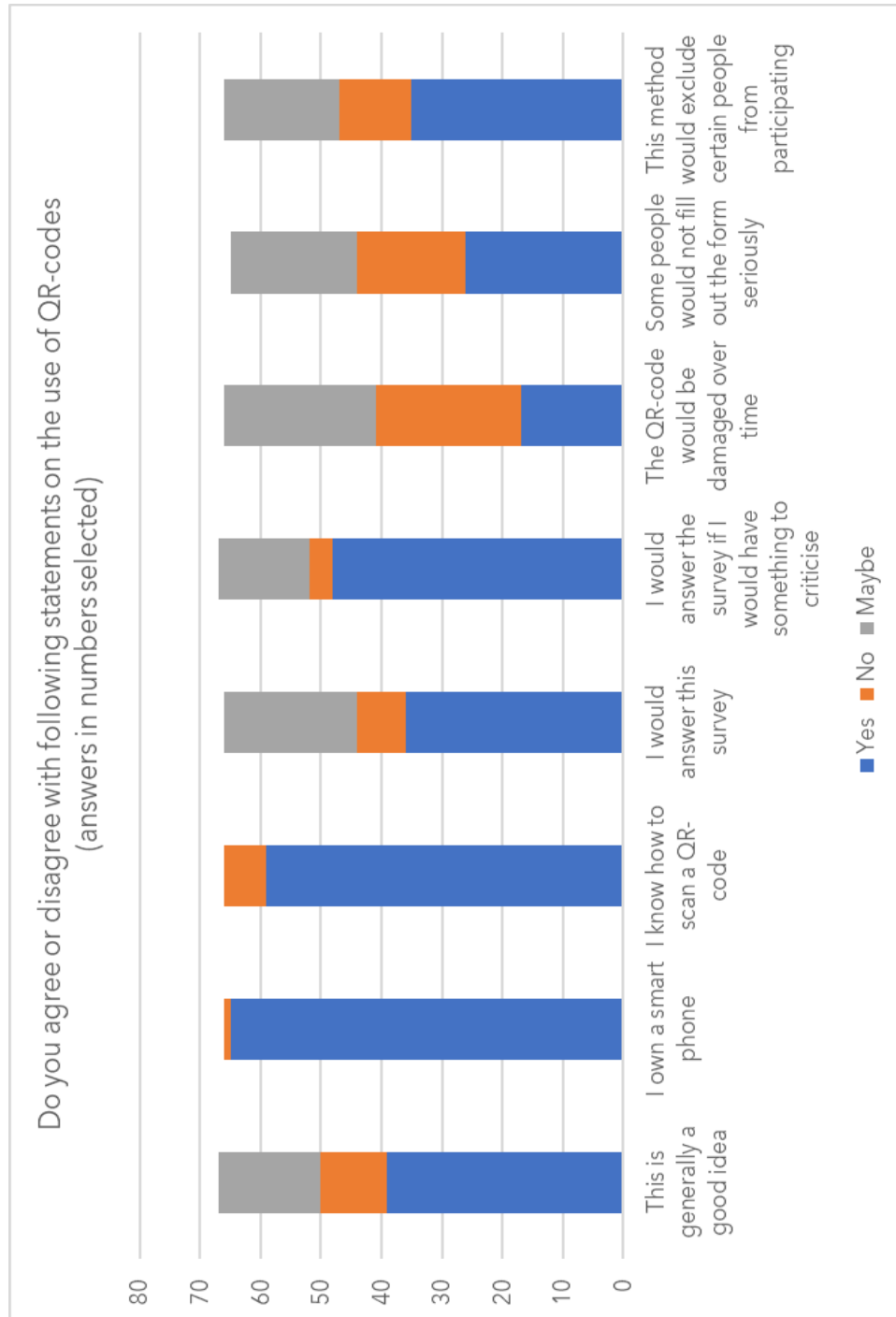
Respondent's interest on helping to improve HZP proportionate to income



This chart shows that many people do not know how they could help HZP improving. There are some divergences between male and female respondents with males arguing they do not have time and don't know how whilst women state that they don't think their input would make a difference.



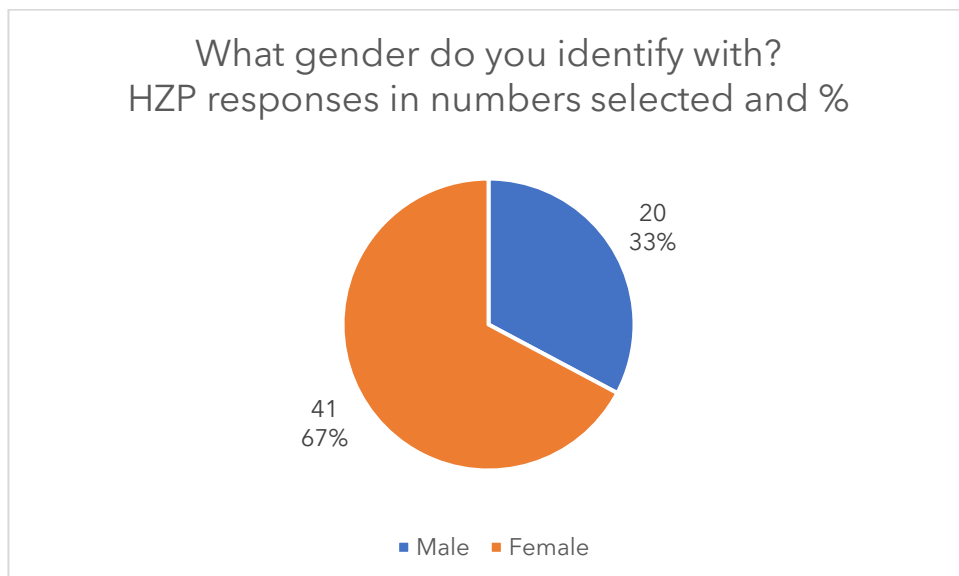
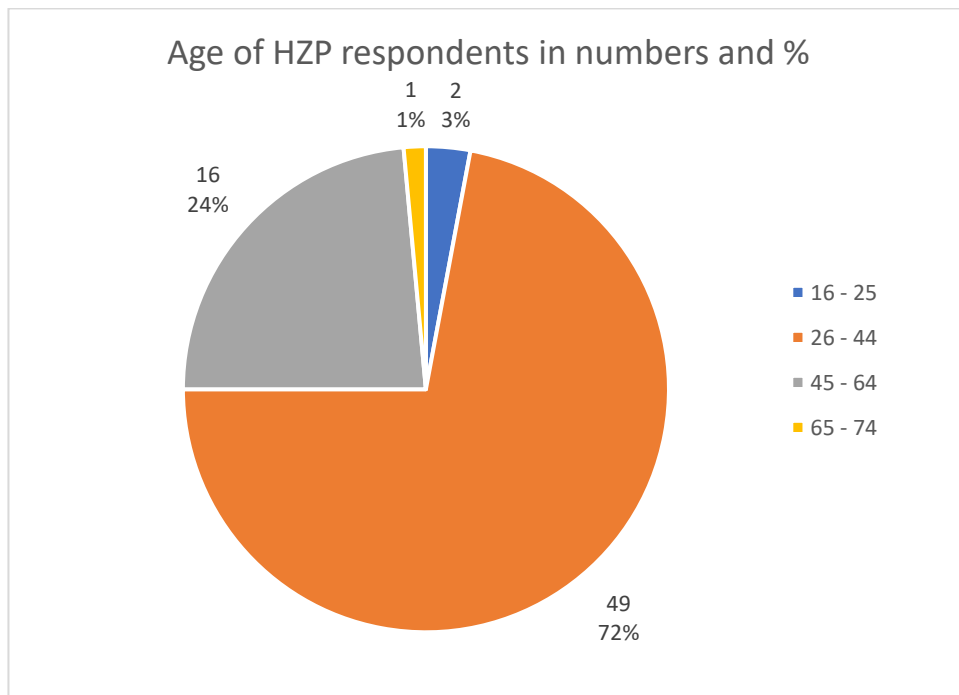
QR-code



Additional comments on QR-codes were:

- 'That the questions asked would be formulated around the answer required not about the actual need of citizens
- Nonsense, why take the smartphone to the park
- good option for emergencies such as broken furniture
- lack of inclusivity and question of transparency. how and when will feedback be evaluated and how will decisions and changes (if any) be shared with the public again. Additionally, consultation requires a good goal which wakes the interested of people to participate.
- good option for emergencies, however this method does not replace neighbourhood and park management
- good for basic feedback but not for proper participation
- QR Codes are outdated, and URLs are sufficient
 - o URL, phone number email and even a letterbox should be provided for more inclusivity
- this method excludes people without smart phones
- the decisive factor is whether someone acts upon the feedback'

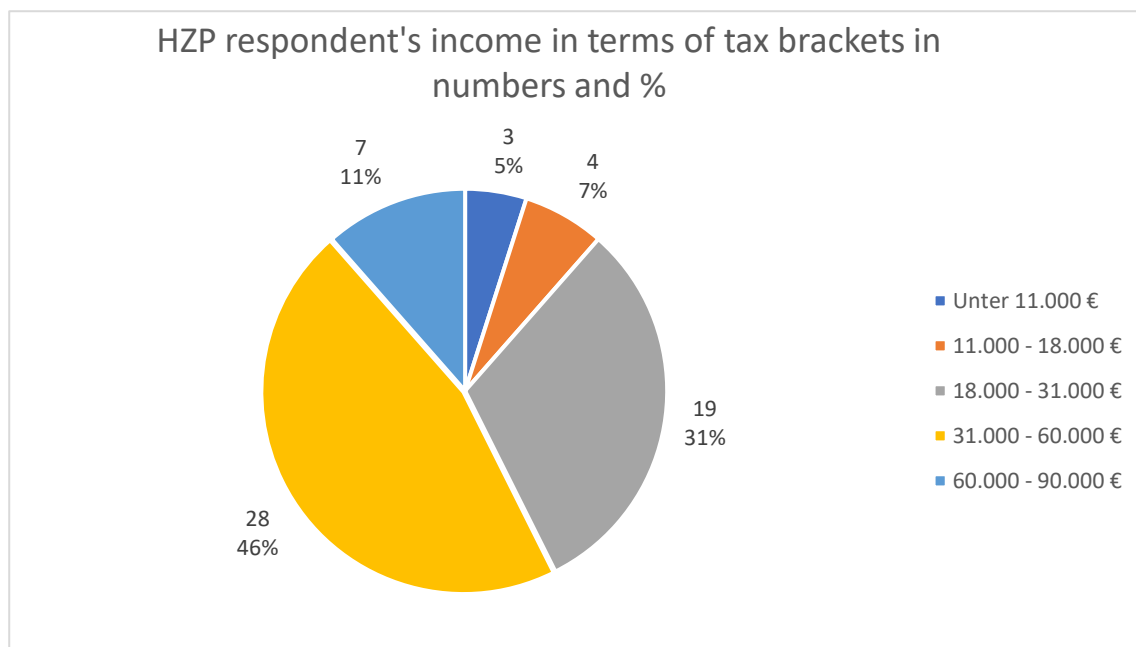
Demographics



76% of respondents identified as Austrian, 3 as Germans and two Serbians and two Italians. One of each of the following were also identified: Austrian-Serbian, Austrian-Turkish, European, Polish with Austrian Passport, Spanish, Hungarian and from the USA.

The ethnicity question was left open as it was hoped it would allow people more freedom to identify themselves freely. Unfortunately, this backfire and not many answers were gathered.

Only two people considered themselves living with a disability and no one said their disability limits their access to the park. Nevertheless, comments were made on designing the entrance to the parks better where the tramways are crossing. These crossings are 'designed' using concrete blocks which are not very inviting. Additionally, a person asked for asphalted paths helping blind people to find their way through the park. Another comment was about creating more access routes, so people do not cross the low fencing. This fencing was recently change to a higher metal fencing. Although a person on the Sag's Wien app now complained that these fences have been changed as a waste of money.



Annex 13 – Photos of Lochend Park



Viewing Platform. Source: Author



Viewing platform, loch, and Arthur's Seat in the back. Source: Author



Doocot, Dovecote. Source: Author



Social housing to the north of Lochend Park. Source: Author



New development to the south of Lochend Park. Source: Author



Old police box station at north west main entrance, bought by FoLP to use as storage for activities and litter picking. Source: Author



View over the loch. Source: Author



Path to the south of the loch. Source: Author



Lake side path to the north, sometimes flooded, often where rats can be found and where people urinate. Source: Author



Wildlife at Lochend park. Source: Author



Remains of Lochend Castle. Source: Author



One basketball hoop. Source: Author



One football goal without net. Source: Author.



#

Vandalised bin at east entrance of Lochend Park. Source: Author



Vandalised signage at east entrance. Source: Author



Signage about the park's history. Source: Author



East entrance to be redeveloped through housing development. Source Author.



Former industrial unit to be redeveloped into housing. Source: Author



Lochend football academy football pitch. Source: Author



Wildflower meadow. Source: Author

Annex 14 – Photos of Helmut Zilk Park



Aerial image of Sonnwendviertel construction. Source: Seidl, 2013. Accessed: June 6, 2021. Sent via temporary we-transfer link.



Construction of Bildungscampus. Source: Zottl 2014. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/288194420872707>

6.



Young trees in
HZP in Winter.

Source: Seidl,
2018. Accessed:
June 6, 2021.

Sent via
temporary we-
transfer link.



View of rooftop pool of private residence. Source: Zottl, 2015. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/2881944208727076>.



Trees growing across HZP. Source: Wieser 2021. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/2881944208727076>.



Motorikpark. Source: Hager Partner AG, n.d. Accessed: June 1, 2021.

https://www.hager-ag.ch/de/project/cui707_uit883_oag568/.



Children's playground. Source: Wieser, 2021. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/288194420872707](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/2881944208727076)

6.



Community garden. Source: Zottl, 2021. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/288194420872707>

6.



HZP in Winter. Source: Clemens, 2021. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/288194420872707>

6.



View from bakery terrace. Source: Wieser, 2021. Accessed: June 3, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonnwendviertelWien/posts/288194420872707>

6.