

**Lutana Woodlands**  
**Pathway Upgrade Community Feedback**  
**December 2019**



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## **Background**

In November 2019 Council undertook a community survey to get community input into the proposed pathway upgrade for Lutana Woodlands Reserve. The aim of this engagement was to identify community preferences on pathway alignment and treatment options to assist Council in planning the pathway upgrades within the 2019/2020 budget. These issues are summarised in this report together with a series of recommendations.

## **Community engagement undertaken**

A survey was mailed to 150 Lutana residents surrounding the reserve and distributed to the Lutana Woodlands Group (hardcopy) between 8<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The survey was also made available on Council's website and promoted via the GCC Facebook page. A pop-up engagement event was also held at the Woodlands on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, in conjunction with a Lutana Woodlands Group activity, to allow community members to speak directly with Council's Open Space Coordinator. Respondents were invited to have their say on Council's planned renewal of the pathways in the reserve. The survey asked the following questions:

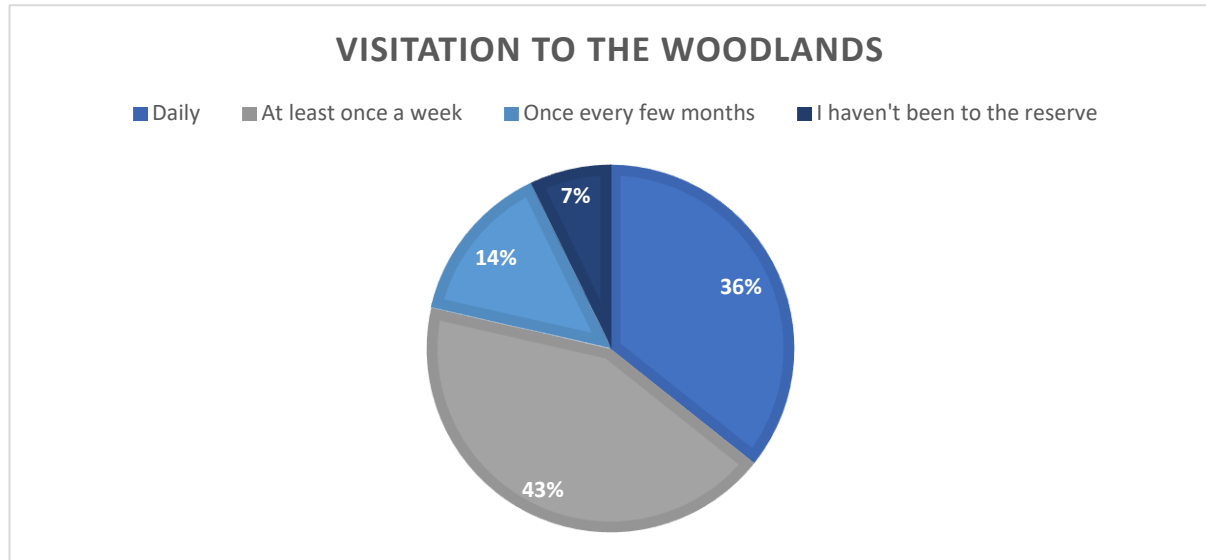
- How often do you visit Lutana Woodlands Reserve?
- How do you use the existing walking path network in Lutana Woodlands Reserve?
- When you visit the reserve what entrance do you use to arrive and leave from?
- Do you have access or mobility issues preventing you from fully enjoying Lutana Woodlands Reserve?
- In early 2019 one section of the pathway network in the reserve was upgraded with a compacted gravel material. What do you like/dislike about this section of upgraded path?
- What sort of pathway would you like in Lutana Woodlands Reserve?
- Would you change the alignment of any existing paths in the reserve?
- Any other feedback to add?

## Survey Results

There were 14 completed surveys returned to Council, representing approximately a 10% return rate. This indicates a reasonable level of interest compared with other engagement undertaken by Council. This reflects the importance that residents place on Lutana Woodlands Reserve, and the provision of pathways within this open space.

### Visitation

Most respondents visit the reserve at least once a week, if not every day. Sometimes twice a day.



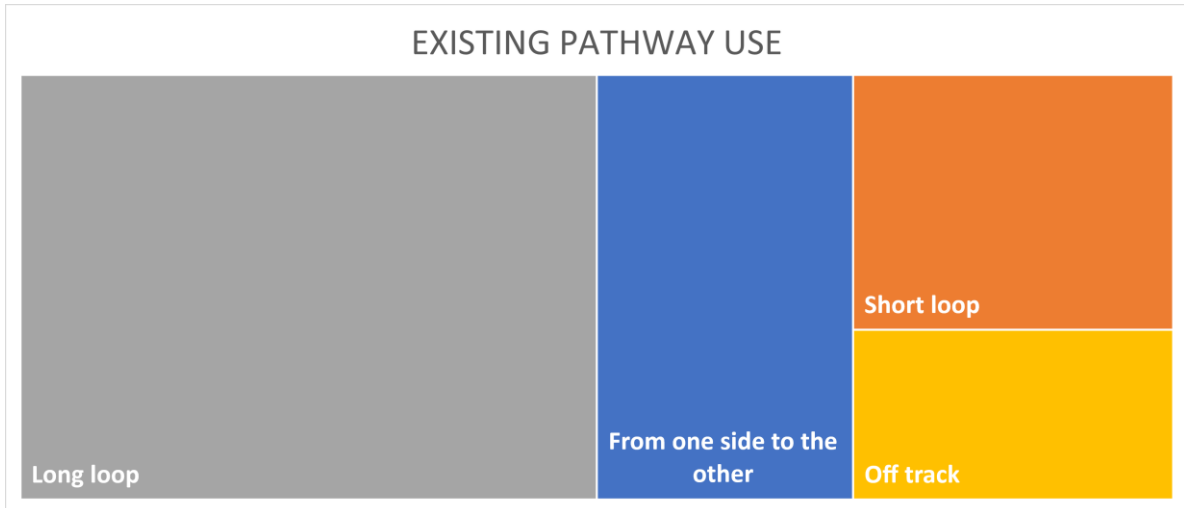
### Existing pathway use

64% of respondents indicated they walked a 'long loop' using the pathway network around the reserve. This was expected given the high percentage of people that use the reserve for dog walking.

Surprisingly, one third of respondents use the path ways to traverse the reserve between Lennox Avenue and Bowen Road. This may suggest they pass through the reserve to travel beyond onto the footpath network, or that people use the reserve as a thoroughfare to connect to other suburbs and public transport. This was verified during our pop-up session where we saw many community members travel through the reserve from one side to the other.

Three survey respondents indicated they walk the short loop (around the cricket pitch), and two respondents go "off track".

Most people enter and exit the reserve through the Lennox Street entrance, despite this having the smallest frontage to the reserve. Only 20% use the playground/carpark entrance and less enter from the Bowen Road/Cox Avenue entrances. Slightly more respondents left via the Bowen Road northern exit.



### **Accessibility**

14% of respondents indicated they had an access or mobility issue preventing you from fully enjoying Lutana Woodlands Reserve. Written feedback indicated the main concern was with material and finish of pathway surfaces which are currently degraded. Comments suggested a desire for well-maintained pathways that are constructed in a way that ensures durability preventing them from eroding and becoming slippery.

It was also noted by one parent that they could not get their pram to the playground because of the trail bike barriers at the reserve entrance.

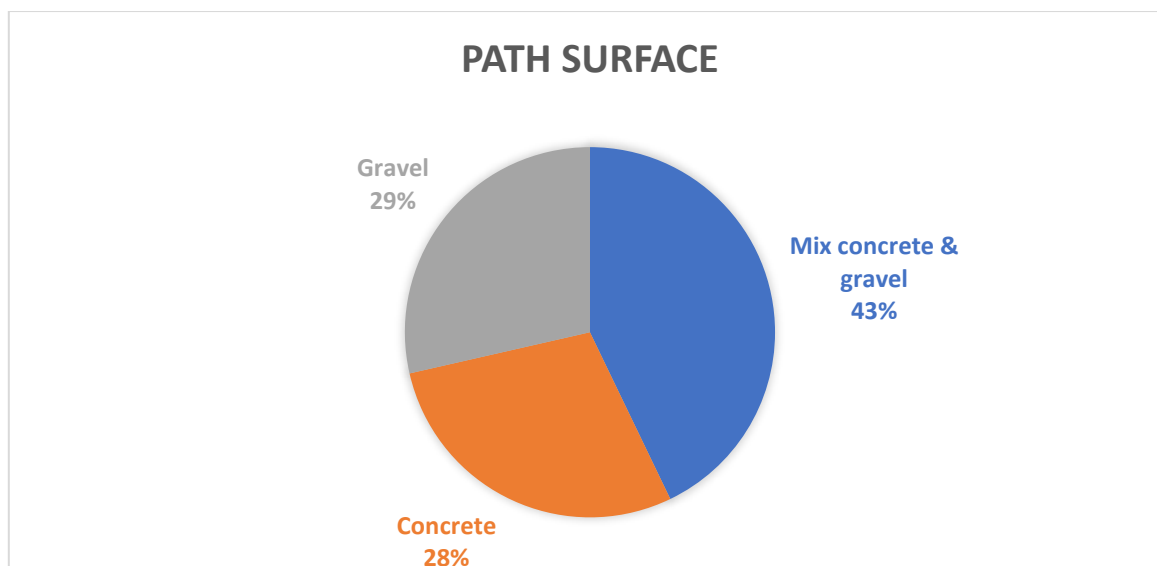
### **Feedback on recent gravel path upgrade**

Respondents liked the surface of the new path because it was wide, even, easy to walk on, blends in well with the natural environment. Respondents were concerned about the longevity of the track particularly with heavy rainfall. Most respondents felt the pathway 'goes to nowhere' and has been 'terminated prematurely'.

### **Track material**

There were mixed views about surface treatments. 43% suggested a combination of both materials be used based on context such as concrete on higher trafficked paths, and gravel for secondary paths or more sensitive natural areas. 28% preferred concrete only, 29% preferred a gravel path only.

Discussion with community members at the pop-up engagement event suggested interest in a concrete path from one side to the other (Lennox to Bowen/Cox) would suit those who cut through the reserve. Also, it was suggested that having paved entry points to create a transition onto the gravel pathways would be welcomed. Additional feedback mentions that concrete may be a better option where the pathway is steep or poorly aligned. Residents at the pop-up engagement event also expressed a desire for Council to explore a more natural aggregate in any concrete path it blends in with the natural features of the reserve, similar to gravel.



### Reroutes, new tracks, and alignments

Eight of the fourteen respondents wanted to change the alignment of the existing pathways in some way. Suggestions were to join gaps, correct steep gradients, and install 'switchbacks' and better alignment with natural gradients to resolve stability/mobility concerns. Some respondents also drew their suggested improvements and missing links onto the map provided in the survey form.

#### ***Detailed feedback on alignments:***

"Continue the long loop across the top"

"The upper pathway needs to be completed, in concrete or asphalt to prevent erosion, other than that missing connection, no further pathways should be introduced"

"The back section of the pathway needs to be completed in bitumen or concrete. It is a much-used path but terminates prematurely - gravel here would be dug up by dirt bikes"

"Continue the path at top of hill heading down to Bowen Road, on an angle to prevent water channelling as it currently does"

"Pathways aren't level, feels like your lopsided on the section from Lennox Avenue to the playground"

"Move further away from boundary fence on eastern side, connect tracks on southern end and remove barriers"

"Join new gravel section with tarmac section to Bowen road using gravel"

"Need an extension as shown on the quarry side that joins gravel to Bowen"

"Inner loop concrete for disability and prams, outer loop gravel. What a fantastic resource and a hidden gem"

"Little use by residents, primarily used by dog walkers, little justification for spending this much money on concrete throughout the whole reserve. Seat is needed where the path currently goes nowhere. Keen on Asphalt for cost reasons. Still need informal grassed walkways such as round the lower perimeter fence line"

## Other feedback

Themes for future upgrades:

- Playground upgrade, with fencing
- Protect natural environment
- Cricket pitch needs releveling it's a safety hazard, also lots of glass around it
- BBQ's
- Toilets
- Would like a completely fenced off dog area
- Seat is needed at summit of new path
- Lighting on the pathway from one side to the other
- Water fountain with dog bubbler
- Wet area below cricket pitch could be a feature
- Car Park needs redoing, not big enough and layout poor
- Create a visitor entry node near the playground/car park



## Next Steps

Outcomes from this community engagement process will be used to help inform decisions made around the planned pathway renew in Lutana Woodlands Reserve. It is anticipated that construction will take place in the first half of 2020.