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Research Overview:

SYDNEY PARK USERS SURVEY – 2007

Prepared for:

The Sydney Parks Group

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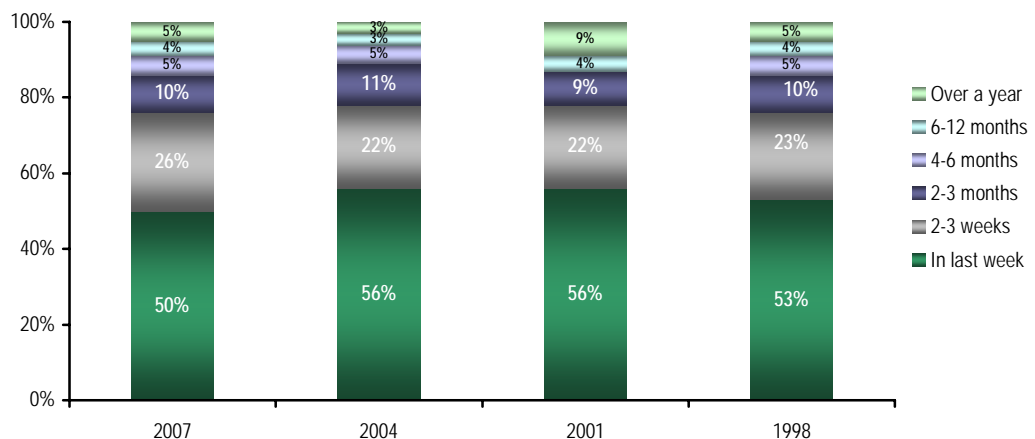
Sydneysiders' Use of Parks and Gardens

A telephone survey of park usage and public attitudes and needs in relation to patterns of parks and gardens usage, attractive features and contribution parks make to quality of life of the community was conducted between November and December 2007. Survey participants were 1,508 residents of the Greater Sydney area aged 16 years and over. Similar large scale surveys have been conducted on three prior occasions: 1998, 2001 and 2004. This article presents a brief summary of the survey results. A detailed report of the findings (Sydneysiders' Use of Parks and Gardens) is available at: www.sydneyparksgroup.net.au

Overall Park Usage

- Figure 1 shows that in 2007, 50% of Sydneysiders have visited a park in the last week. Additionally 95% have visited a Sydney area park in the last year with only 5% of Sydneysiders not visiting a park in the last year.
- In comparing this to the previous studies, the proportion of people visiting parks in the last week has decreased from 53% in 1998 and 56% in both 2001 and 2004 to 50% in 2007.

Figure 1: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park

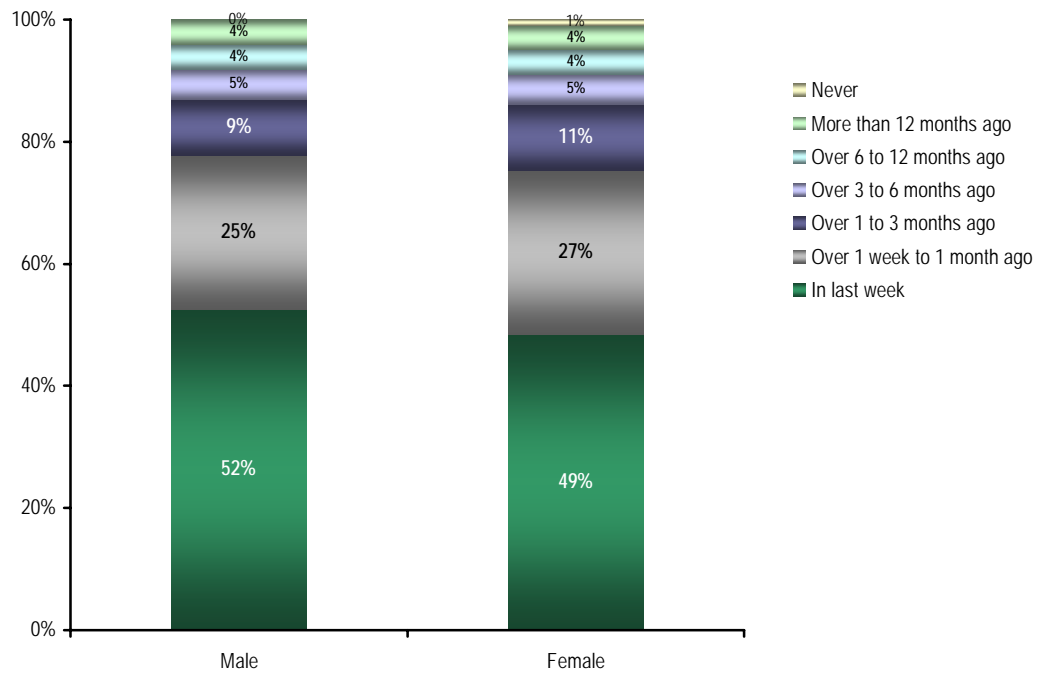


Characteristic of Park Users

Gender

- In terms of park visitation by gender (Figure 2), males are slightly more likely to have visited a park in the last week.

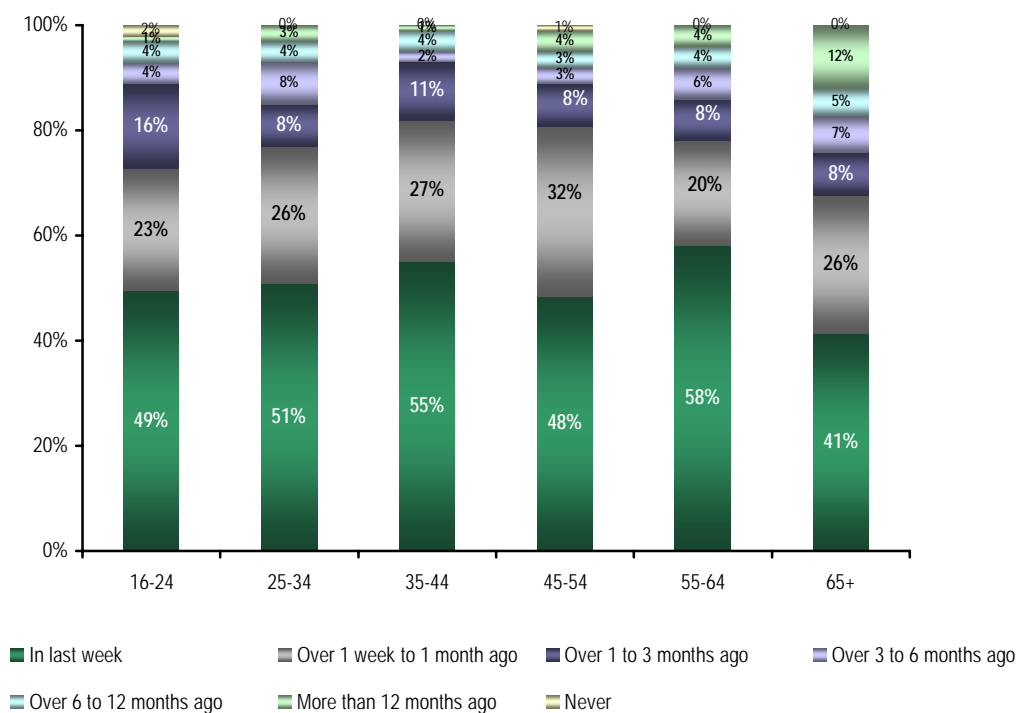
Figure 2: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park by Gender



Age

- Figure 3 shows that Sydneysiders aged 65 and older are least likely to have visited a park in the last week. The proportion of this group (aged 65+) visiting a park in the last week has decreased from 56% in 2004 to 41% in 2007. In contrast, those aged 55 to 64 are most likely to have visited a park in the last week.

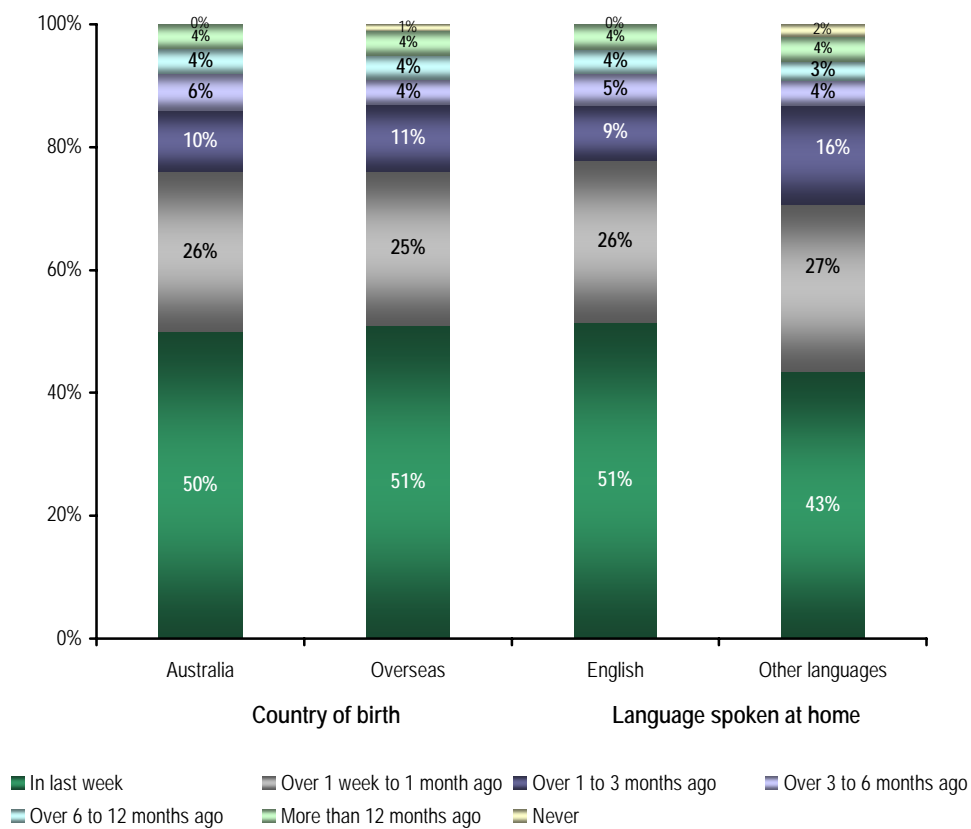
Figure 3: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park by Age



Country of Birth and Language Spoken at Home

- Whether the person was born overseas or in Australia has little influence on park usage (Figure 4). However, people who speak a language other than English at home are less likely to have visited a park in the last week than are to English speakers.

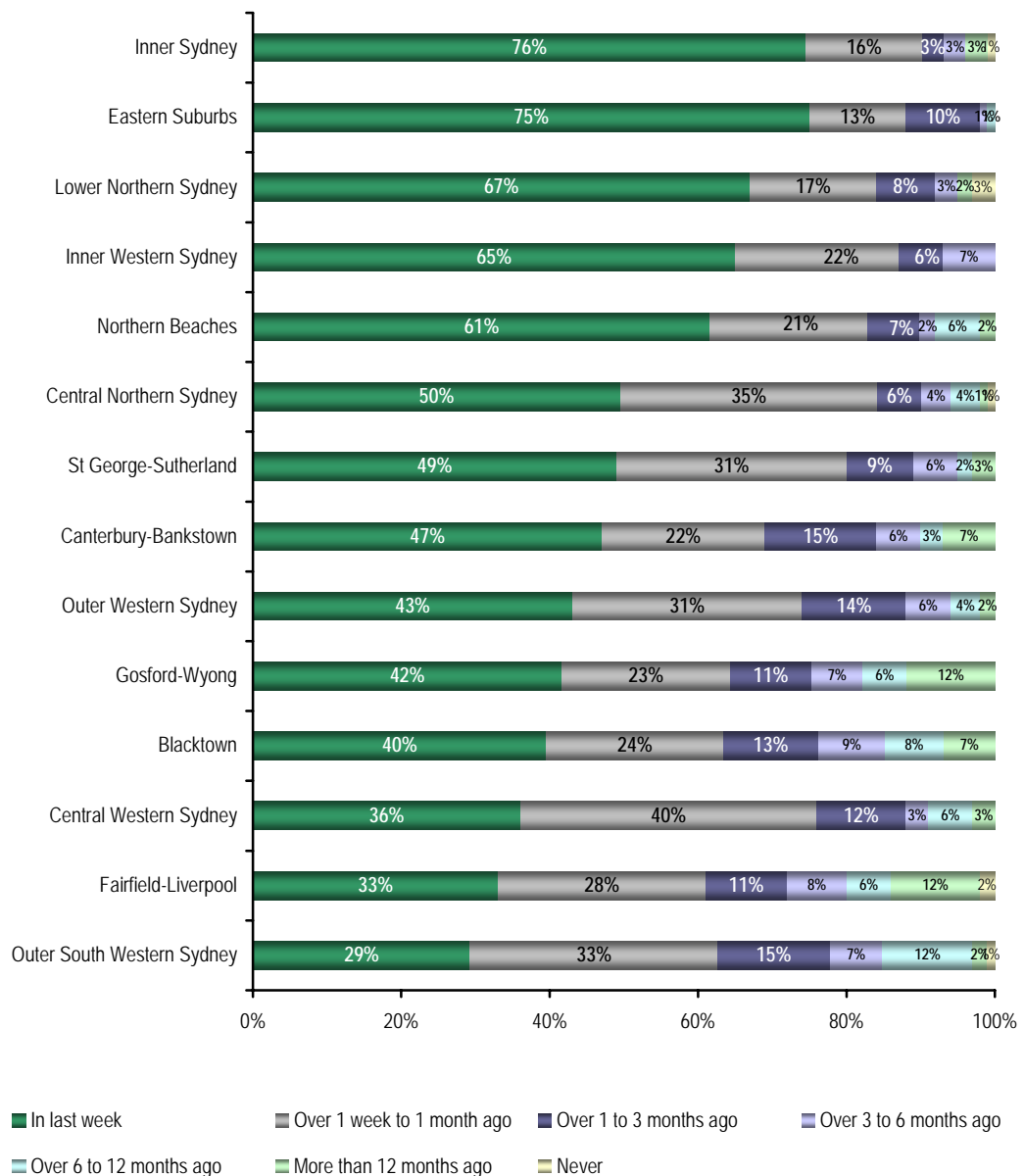
Figure 4: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park Country of Birth and Language Spoken at Home



Region of Residence

- Figure 5 shows that residence of the inner suburbs of Sydney as well as Eastern suburbs are more frequent park visitors than those living in suburbs further from the CBD.

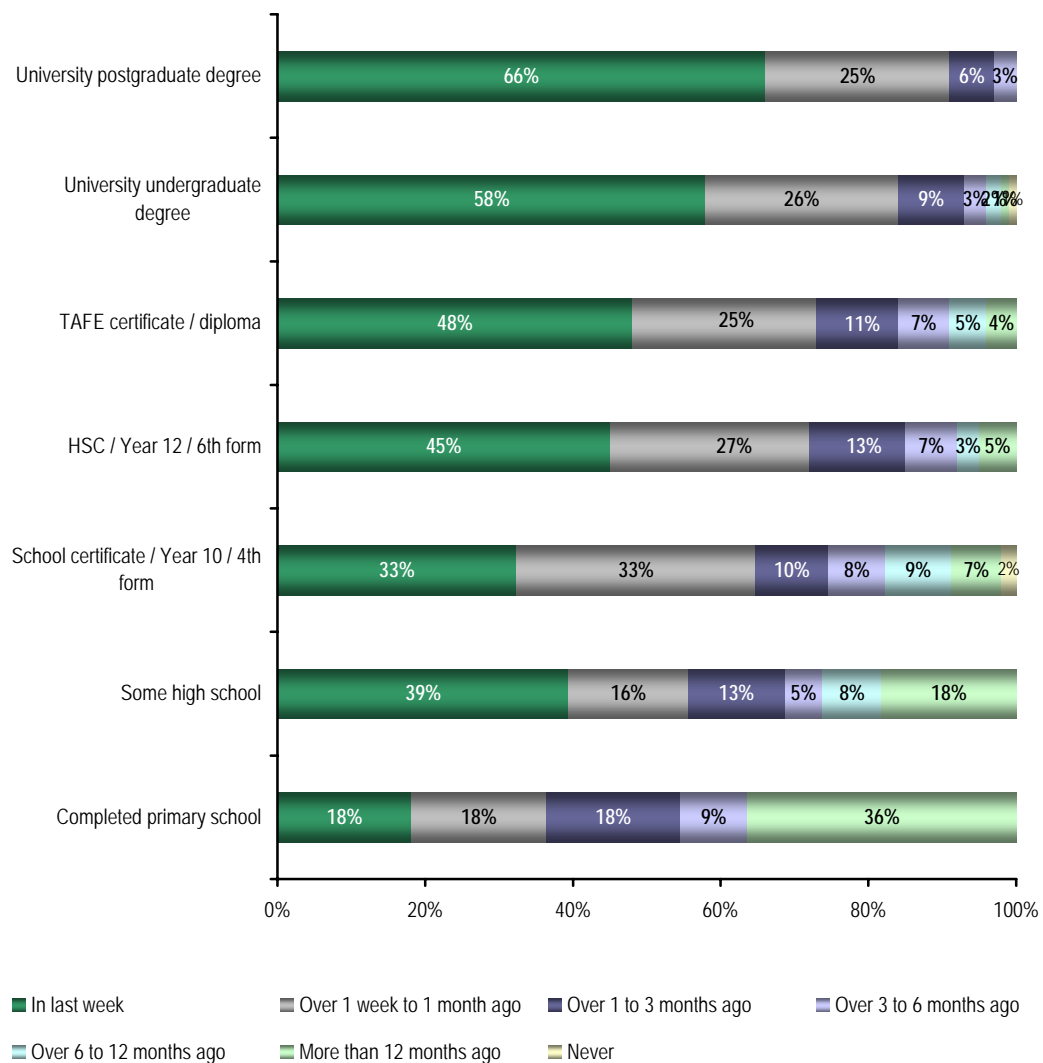
Figure 5: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park by Region



Education

- Figure 6 shows a trend for park visitation to increase with the level of education with a higher proportion of those with university qualifications having visited a park in the last week as compared with those with a TAFE qualification or lower.

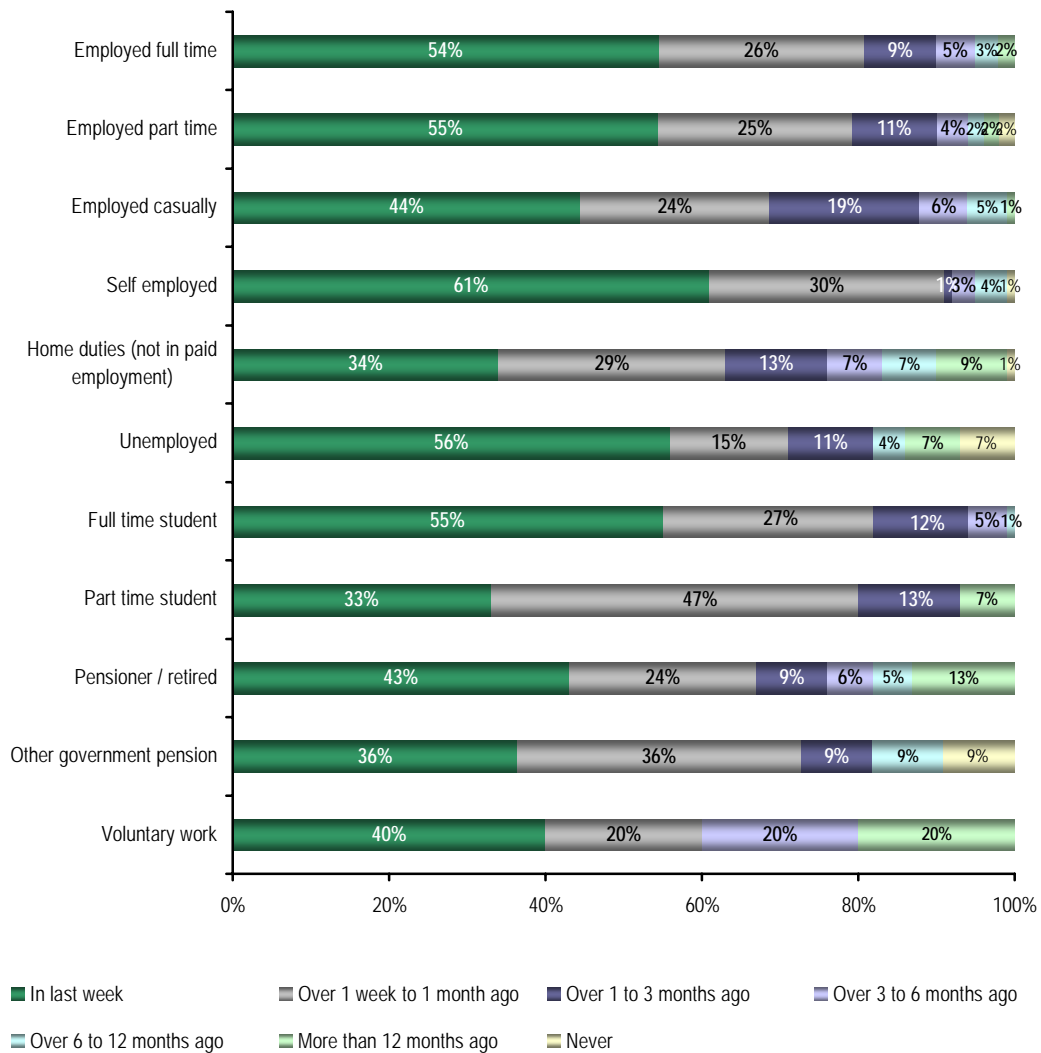
Figure 6: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park by Qualifications



Employment Status

- Self employed Sydneysiders are more likely to have visited a park in the last week (Figure 7) whereas those responsible for home duties and part time students are least likely to have visited a park last week.

Figure 7: Last Time Sydneysiders' Visited a Park by Employment Status



Park visit patterns

- One-half of park visits occur on weekends (Figure 8) and between 9am to midday (Figure 9). Park visitors are most likely to stay between one to two hours (Figure 10).

Figure 8: Days of Park Visit

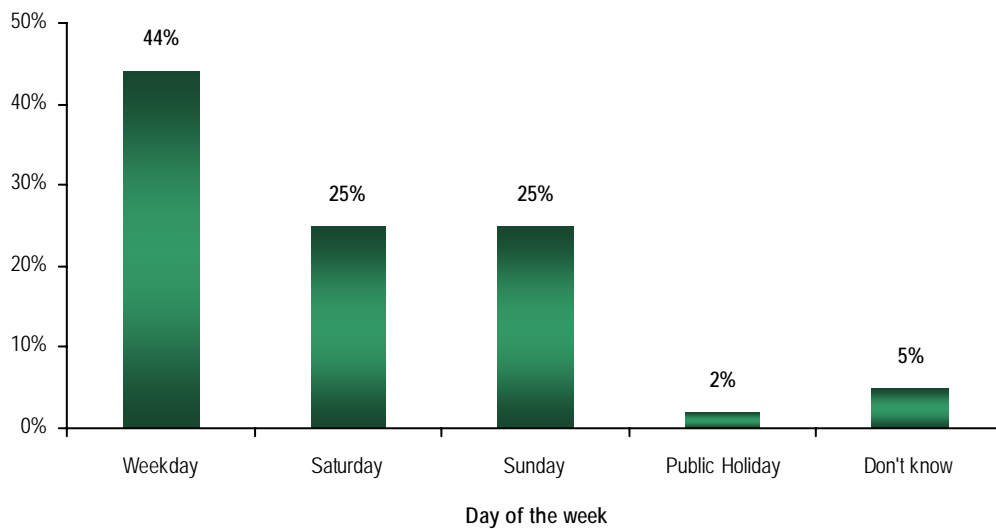


Figure 9: Time of day visited park

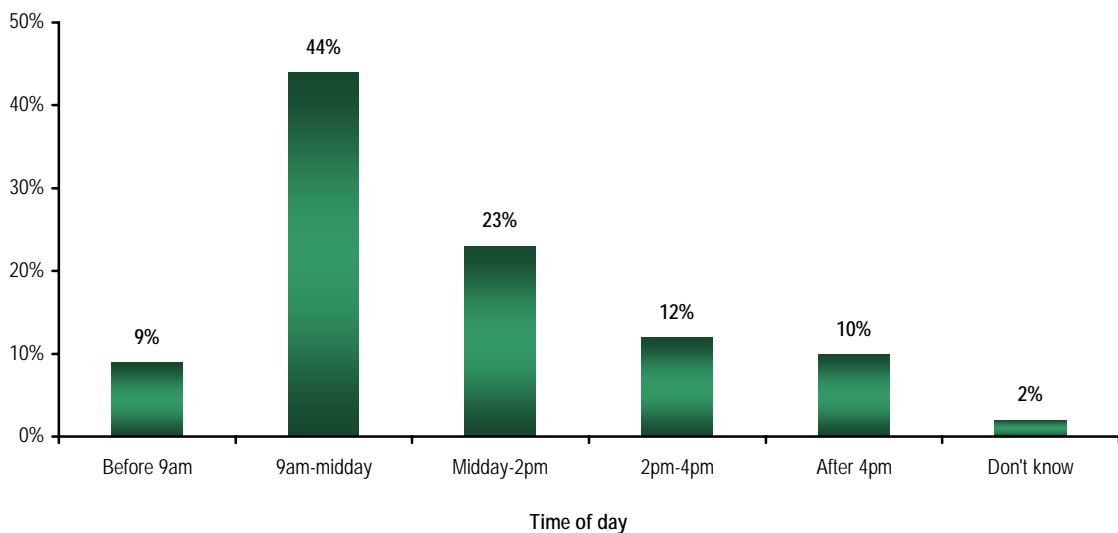
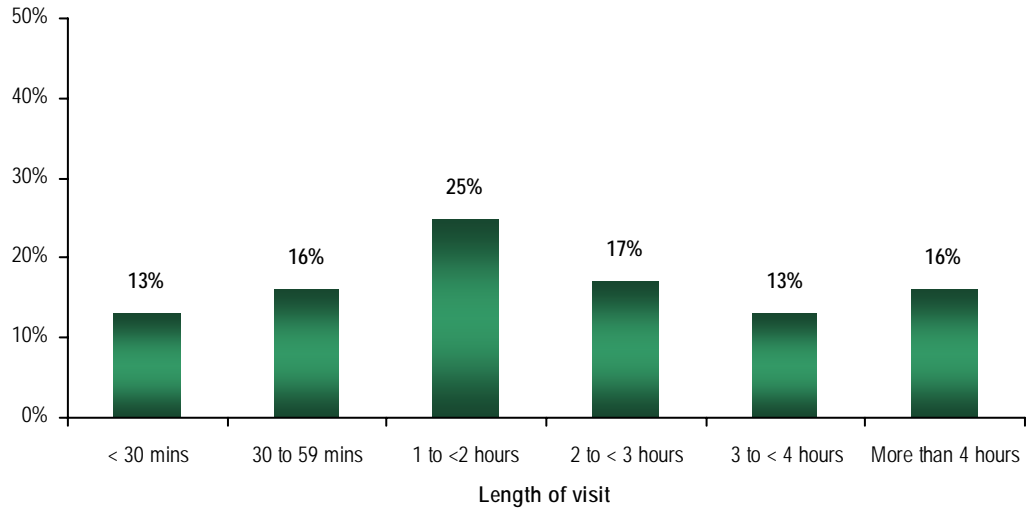


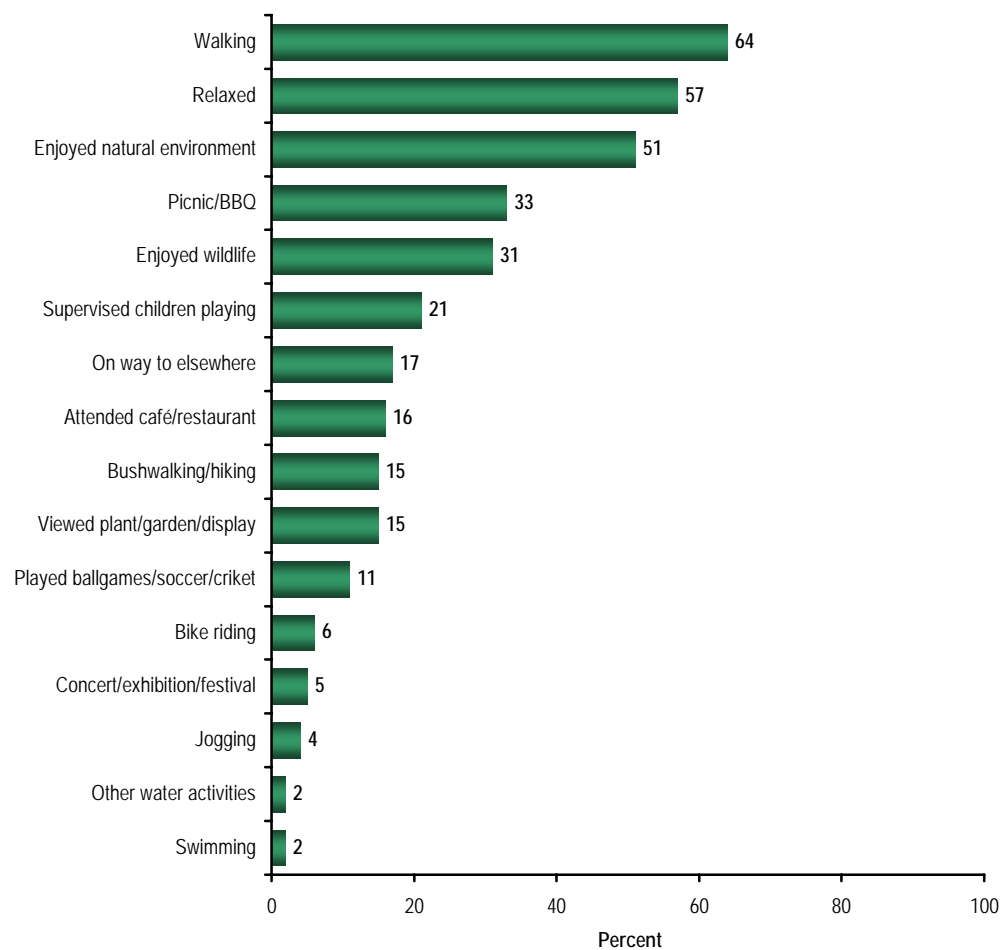
Figure 10: Length of Visit



Park Activities

- Over half of visitors indicated that they went walking (64%), relaxed (57%) and enjoyed the natural environment (51%) on their most recent visit to the park as shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Activities During Last Park Visit



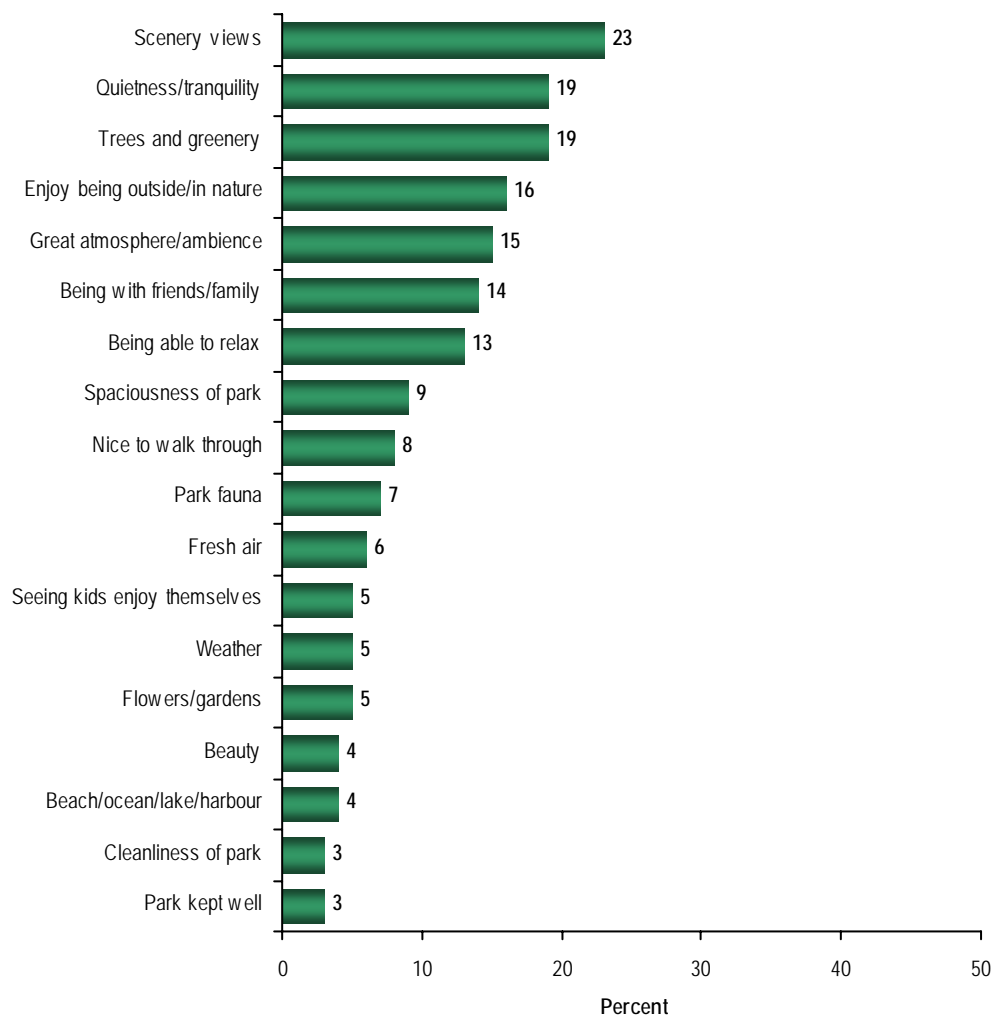
When asked what activity they spent *most* of their time doing during their visit, the activities mentioned by 5% or more of respondents were:

- Walking (26%)
- Relaxing (15%)
- Picnic or BBQ (10%)
- Supervising children playing (8%)
- Enjoying the natural environment (5%)
- Pass through on way to somewhere else (5%)
- Bushwalking/hiking (5%).

Most enjoyed aspect of park visit

- When asked what they enjoyed most about their most recent park visit, visitors most frequently mentioned aspects of the surroundings, including scenery and views, quietness and tranquillity, the greenery, being in nature and the atmosphere (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Most enjoyed aspects of park visit



Value of Parks

- Sydneysiders value parks as a place to relax, appreciate the beauty of nature and enjoy the landscape (Figure 13). Parks are also valued as social gathering places and places to exercise.

Figure 13: The Value of Parks

