

Report - Friends of Yeading Walk Survey - Spring 2024

1. Why do you come to the Yeading Walk? (Multiple Answers)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Local walk	84.62%	55
2	Meet friends	6.15%	4
3	Pass through	41.54%	27
4	With children	20.00%	13
5	Walk the dog	29.23%	19
6	Wildlife/nature	46.15%	30
7	Cycle	7.69%	5
8	Run	9.23%	6
9	Sit	1.54%	1

Comment: (5)

- 1 My nearest area of peace and quiet, a wonderful place to bump into many of the people I know and a surprising amount of varied wildlife to enjoy.
- 2 I live nearby in fact a few doors away
- 3 To connect with nature and take a moment of calm
We love to see the progress of the community garden as we contributed some plants
We also like to come and see what's changed and the progress being made
- 4 It is sad to see most of the wildlife and habitat has gone. It used to be good with hidden areas, but now you can see right through it, and only really see humans walking around. It is probably very disturbing for wildlife loose their habitat like this.
- 5 I visit the reserve less frequently as much of the native flora and habitat for wildlife has been destroyed to make way for non-native plants.

2. What is important to you when visiting the park? (Multiple Answers)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Cleanliness	87.69%	57
2	Safety	83.08%	54
3	Seating	24.62%	16
4	Wildlife	69.23%	45
5	Access for wheelchair/pushchair	6.15%	4
6	Shortcut to shops	1.54%	1
7	Nearby Parking	0.00%	0









Comment: (8)

- 1 Dustbins for depositing dog poo.
- 2 Not too sure about the safety bit: I have been abused and threatened by cyclists who seem to use the route for speedriding and expect me to get out of their way!

2. What is important to you when visiting the park? (Multiple Answers)

3	I walk my dog and there is often lots of food waste dumped in the park (not in bins) which can be problematic for dog walkers as our furry friends could eat something dangerous.
4	The most important thing is the beauty of the nature whether or not I see a squirrel!
5	It's important a balance is maintained between having space for wildlife and biodiversity but also an accessible space that locals can come and enjoy. The changes all seem very positive. There have been times we've visited and seen rubbish left and benches damaged which is really sad to see as it's a lovely place.
6	As there is a river running through the park, which is a natural resource, wildlife should be the priority
7	Recent removal of cherry laurel is "inspired"
8	Convenience

3. Volunteers from Friends of Yeading Walk spend about 2,000 hours every year working for the park. Are you aware of what the volunteers do? (Multiple Answers)

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Weekly litter picking		69.23%	45
2	Planting and maintenance of flower beds		96.92%	63
3	Tree planting including Adopt-a-Tree programme		55.38%	36
4	Maintenance of the Community Orchard		63.08%	41
5	Stream clean including clearance of objects thrown in by vandals		83.08%	54
6	Liaison with Harrow Council, Police, Thames Water and other services regarding incidents in the park		47.69%	31
7	Involvement of local Scout groups, schools, Duke of Edinburgh, etc.		26.15%	17
8	Not aware of activities by Friends of Yeading Walk		4.62%	3

Comment: (9)

1	You do a lot more than I realised. Doing an excellent job.
2	Commendable
3	I get the regular email update so enjoy seeing what the team have been working on.
4	I'm assuming you do the other things listed - thank you so much!
5	Excellent work by all involved. The change has been quite striking.
6	All this time spent but nothing on actually consulting with the community what is wanted and making sure the actions are not destroying habitats and detrimental to wildlife.
7	Activities of Friends have been really important in making the park more inviting. More people come in now.
8	I do not approve of the way that the reserve (and it is a designated local nature reserve) is treated as an ornamental garden at the expense of wildlife and their habitat.
9	These are the ones I know the volunteers are involved in, there may be more.

4. Volunteers from Friends of Yeading Walk have made changes in the park in the last 12 months. What is your opinion of the changes made?

Answer Choices	Like	Dislike	Not aware	Response Total
Installed a new picnic bench on a paved base	92.31% 60	3.08% 2	4.62% 3	65
Repainted the goal posts in the football play area	44.62% 29	0.00% 0	55.38% 36	65
Created new planting at the Lincoln Road entrance and the main wooden bridge	83.08% 54	6.15% 4	10.77% 7	65
Refreshed several existing flower beds	90.77% 59	1.54% 1	7.69% 5	65
Added varieties of wildflowers, ferns and naturalized bulbs around the park	89.23% 58	3.08% 2	7.69% 5	65
Planted 8 trees at the Rayners Lane end	63.08% 41	3.08% 2	33.85% 22	65
Planted 3 more trees in the Shady Walk area where large trees were uprooted in a storm	69.23% 45	1.54% 1	29.23% 19	65
Comment: (9)				
1	Not keen on the shape of the flower bed at the Lincoln Rd entrance.			
2	Picnic bench encourages littering.			
3	The park looks fantastic and has come on such a long way since the group started the great work. Thank you!			
4	So grateful for all you do!			
5	All good improvements			
6	Should have a 'neutral' category, some things I neither 'like' nor 'dislike'. You have planted on the Riverbanks which should be left clear for riverplants. The planting at the main wooden bridge has destroyed the natural riverbank that was there. The planting at the Lincoln road entrance was done so without any discussion in the committee. The replacement trees planted on the shady walk after the storm should not have been placed there as there are efforts not to shade the riverbank with trees. These trees were also phenomenally expensive! All these actions have been done without any consultation with the community with meetings as required by the constitution. Wildlife experts were not involved in the planning of these project either.			
7	Entrance is dark, will not make it feel safer			
8	Fantastic improvements seen in the park			
9	As I walk through regularly I have seen most of all this hard work I progress.			







5. Harrow Council have made changes in the park in the last 12 months. What is your opinion of the changes made?

Answer Choices	Like	Dislike	Not aware	Response Total
Replaced bridge across the stream near Rayners Lane entrance	81.54% 53	0.00% 0	18.46% 12	65
Installed revetments (stream bank reinforcement) in several sections of the stream to control flooding and provide bank support	78.46% 51	9.23% 6	12.31% 8	65
Created a new permeable path for the Nature Walk	83.08% 54	9.23% 6	7.69% 5	65
Laid stepping stones in the stream to enable an alternative path through the park	81.54% 53	3.08% 2	15.38% 10	65
Cut back cherry laurel and some trees on both sides of Yeading Brook to let more light into the stream	76.92% 50	15.38% 10	7.69% 5	65

5. Harrow Council have made changes in the park in the last 12 months. What is your opinion of the changes made?

Renewed rusted gate at the Lincoln Road entrance	41.54% 27	1.54% 1	56.92% 37	65
Added a lectern at the main wooden bridge	73.85% 48	3.08% 2	23.08% 15	65
Comment: (8)				
1	Not sure about the cutting back. Some areas look totally bare. A lot of the laurel is now growing up again so presumably will have to be cut again. If the intention is to let more light into the stream there are trees/shrubs on the north side the brook which have not been cut back, but if the intention is to improve water quality I would hope to see more done about the drains flowing into the stream - why are they allowed to do this?			
2	Don't like the idea of the nature walk. This area should be left for the wildlife and people to stay on the main pathway!			
3	Too many trees and shrubs have been cut back. Our house backs on to yeading walk and the people hanging out in the park after dark can now see directly in to our upstairs rooms when we have the lights on.			
4	We really like the new cleared pathway in the nature area. My son is in a wheelchair and we were able to take him along the path which previously was very muddy and full of stinging nettles. My other son loves the stepping stones! I've heard rumours that the clearing of a lot of undergrowth wasn't good for wildlife but I think the clearance and replanting will be very positive once established. This isn't a completely wild area, it's for locals as well as wildlife to live side by side.			
5	Far too much has been cut back. I can understand some of the lower laurel bushes being cut back, but the two established trees on the shady walk should have been left as should have the firs on northberland entrance.			
6	The reventment at the central wooden bridge is a disgrace. The only reason the bank needed 'reinforcement' is just so a flowerbed could be put on top. The way the whole thing had been engineered is shockingly bad and makes the area more prone to flooding, not less. It is a lie to say that it has anything to do with controlling flooding. I do like the bank reinforcement at the stone bridge as that replaced a dangerous broken concrete wall. You shouldn't lump these two areas together. The permeable path has been put right next to a tree which is likely to be a bat roost, which may have to be cut as it is now a health and safety hazard because of the path. All the additional footfall is bad for wildlife and encourages antisocial behaviour with youngsters now hanging out in that area and making noise late at night. Why were the community not consulted on any of these projects?			
7	Information is important but this disrupts the line of sight, out of character with park ambiance.			
8	Native flora and habitat (for dragonflies, butterflies, other insects, warblers, etc.) has been destroyed for the revetments (in an area where sufficient adaptations have already been made to prevent flooding) and to 'let more light into the stream' (based upon a dated notion that fish, which have not been present in that area for a long time due to pollution, require more light - there are ongoing government initiatives to create more shade over waterways as they are becoming too hot to support life). The nature walk impedes nature as it cuts through what was a nesting sight for warblers.			

6. What improvements would you like to see in the park? (Multiple Answers)








Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 More seating 	23.08%	15
2 More litter bins 	58.46%	38
3 More planting in designated areas 	26.15%	17
4 More habitat creation and conservation for wildlife in designated areas 	55.38%	36
5 More trees (specify the area and tree variety below) 	16.92%	11
6 Nothing, no improvements are needed 	9.23%	6

Comment: (20)

6. What improvements would you like to see in the park? (Multiple Answers)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | The lawn areas get extremely bogged down when it rains. Do we need even more trees to soak up the water logging? |
| 2 | Not sure about varieties but more blossom: the council cut back a lot of blossom trees in the past. I can remember one local dog-walker, who had business connections with Japan, sending his bosses in Tokyo a photograph of Yeading Walk in the spring - just masses of blossom all along - in competition with the pictures of Japanese blossom. Definitely we need more bins or getting them emptied more often. |
| 3 | More thought to the wildlife and reduce the impact of people. Encouraging people to stay means more disturbance to the wildlife and litter; barbecues, fires etc. |
| 4 | Near the Rayners Lane entrance due to that area being prone to flooding, and replant the trees that were uprooted by recent storms. |
| 5 | Trees to replace some of the ones taken down |
| 6 | Stop clearing areas that were assist natural habitats for wildlife
Too many areas were cleared unnecessarily |
| 7 | Flowering Cherry trees for spring and maples for red leaves in autumn |
| 8 | More seating would be very welcome and some well placed bins to avoid rubbish.
We love the log piles that have been created - we've created one in our garden and have stag beetles now. It would be lovely to see a big bug house to encourage more insects alongside all the lovely bee friendly planting that's already been done. |
| 9 | Bins at the gates and to ve regularly emptied |
| 10 | Removal of remaining Japanese Knotweed
Now the stream is less shaded, some new river plants to encourage wildlife. |
| 11 | More wildlife 'designated' areas - There has never been a discussion with the community about 'designated areas' or if the whole park should just be ment for wildlife like it was before the Friends group came and destroyed it.
More shrubs and wildlife hedges needed to provide habitat for wildlife, and low lying vegetation to give ground coverage.
Make the park more low maintenace. With less work for volunteers. The flowerbeds which where created only a few years ago are looking neglected and more and more flowerbeds are being created all the time. Its not wanted by most people who are very upset that all the wildlife has now gone. No one wants to do all this weeding and volunteers are being put off because there are only very boring jobs, like weeding and clearing to do. There is far too much clearing going on in the park. Bags and bags of vegetation is being removed weekly, nothing should be being removed. There are invertibrates living on that vegetation getting shipped away.
We are very lucky that in this area most people have thier own gardens. However this means that offering people gardening activities in the park is not an opportunity that will likely interest most people so why is all the money being spent on it? |
| 12 | Improved safety (maybe installing some CCTV) as we have noticed drug-dealing activities in the park. |
| 13 | Need to resurface the shady pathway, it's very uneven and gets muddy, making it difficult to walk on. |
| 14 | Improve the shady pathway as it is very rough and not easy to walk along especially when pushing a buggy. It is also a very useful shady area to walk in the hot weather.
More oaks and horse chestnut trees. |
| 15 | Litter bins near exits?
Planting but not too "gardened" |
| 16 | Dog waste bin away from seating |
| 17 | local park/people to stop the yobbos littering. More support from enforce punitive action/videos evidence at key sites (tought one!) |
| 18 | But not through dated ideas about removing brambles, etc. to 'let more light into the stream' or by |
| 19 | Weeping Willow, Silver Birch |
| 20 | Unfortunately, the bins only encourage fly tipping so would be happy to see them go. Would like to see council cutting the grass more often. |





7. What actions should we be taking to help the environment (Multiple Answers)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Improve bio-diversity (planting different plants and trees to support insects, birds, bats)		76.92% 50
2	Improve habitat for wildlife (bird & bat boxes, wood piles, leaving nettles & brambles in wild areas, leaving areas of grass uncut)		72.31% 47
3	Promptly report ground and water pollution and contamination incidents		69.23% 45
4	Increase litter picking frequency		23.08% 15
5	Clean the stream		46.15% 30
6	Increase vegetation/aquatic planting in the stream		46.15% 30
7	Leave the wild areas of the park undeveloped		43.08% 28










Comment: (10)

1	I am not a fan of long un-cut grass. It is not pleasant to walk on, sit on. or look at, as it eventually leans over and the underneath rots. Children can't really play in very long grass. If some areas can be left I think most of it should be cut.
2	Let nature do it's own thing, but get rid of non native species and improve the stream in harmony with nature, to help it look after itself.
3	I think a lot is being done already
4	All of the above The area on the left side behind the allotments has been completely decimated and cleared far too much, leaving it looking barren and sad
5	I think a balance needs to be maintained between biodiversity and people being able to access areas of the space.
6	When I visit Yeading Walk I appreciate the wildness of the area, the bird calls and their fleeting movement in flight, and the meandering stream among banks of vegetation. I note the need to cut back overgrown cherry laurel and rhododendron bushes to let in more light, but it would be a pity to 'over-sanitize' the area, and it become more of a suburban park rather than a walk through which one can enjoy wildlife and natural habitat.
7	I object to the first tickbox in this category it makes me feel very suspicious that you would use it to plant yet more flowerbeds and somehow make things worse for wildlife. Something like allowing more wildflower areas(seeds NOT PLANTED bulbs), bunds, scrapes, wildlife hedges actually improves biodiversity. This is a very limited poorly reserched list. Committee members should apply what they have learned on training courses i.e. allowing wood of various states of decomposition in the stream to enrich the natural habitat, rather than just cherry picking some things and ignoring scientific information that they do not like. Actually listen to people like me and not exclude because you don't like what is being said. Consult properly with wildlife experts on how to improve biodiversity. Research projects properly and consult with the community (in meetings) and wildlife experts BEFORE applying for bids for disastrous wildlife habitat destroying projects. Take responsibility for the mistakes you have made
8	Bees
9	OK with leaving wild areas but OK with managing/cutting back encroachments
10	To put it another way, rather than designating small 'wild areas' within 'the park', the historic flower beds (not those created over the last four or five years) alone should be treated as a park, the rest should be treated as a nature reserve (which it is).

8. Would you be interested in supporting/participating in Friends of Yeading Walk?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Occasional volunteering in the park		29.79%	14
2	Becoming a member of the FoYW		14.89%	7
3	Making a donation		25.53%	12
4	Already supporting		44.68%	21

9. Please help us develop a profile of our park users (Multiple Answers)

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		38.46%	25
2	Female		56.92%	37
3	Student		3.08%	2
4	Working		18.46%	12
5	Retired		26.15%	17
6	Age - Under 20		4.62%	3
7	Age 20-55		27.69%	18
8	Age 55 +		50.77%	33
9	Prefer not to say		3.08%	2

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	33
1	Yeading Walk is looking fabulous. You are doing a great job. Already follow on (twitter) X and Facebook		
2	Can we have some area for entertainment (live bands) and a pop up tea shop in the summer months to raise funds for Friends of Yeading Walk.		
3	I hope who ever is responsible for the cutting back exercise can work with the FoYW so that any necessary work can be done sensibly. I would hope to be able to continue to enjoy using a flourishing YW in my lifetime and not have to accept a barren, uninteresting walk (while dodging cyclists), in the interests of some amazing biodiversified area which will exist many years in the future. At the moment we have many different varieties of birds and other wildlife. If a lot of old trees are removed in one go some of the current wildlife will disappear - and when if ever, will it return.		
4	Thank you for eveything you do to make our local park more wildlife friendly and beautiful.		
5	I feel there has been too much pruning of bushes and am worried about there being an effect on the local wildlife.		
6	Thank you to all the volunteers who overall are doing a great job for Yeading Walk		
7	Harrow Council need to look after all the green areas and spaces in the borough and more consultation with the neighbourhoods nearby		
8	What a lovely place it is to walk through. Well done team. I am currently busy juggling work, university study and caring for my elderly and disabled parents. I would love to support you by volunteering but am really time poor at the moment - especially as I already volunteer for the RSPCA and a local museum. I might have a window between study periods (June-October) where I can offer a bit of support.		

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

9	Keep up the excellent work - and see if you can extend the park so that there's a walkway/cycleway all along the route
10	<p>Too much has been cleared in the park giving it a sparse clinical feel but there has been left many dead branches overhang onto the path ways which would have been better to be removed to make it easier to walk along</p> <p>Not enough bins especially dog litter bins</p> <p>The park used to have amazing rose beds and spring flowers especially crocus but these have all gone now and overtaken by brambles</p> <p>Used to be great for picking wild blackberries but these have all gone</p> <p>So many laurel trees have been cut down exposing the backs of the houses</p> <p>The beds at the Northumberland entrance are lovely and full of colour</p> <p>Would like to see more scented plants to enhance the walk</p> <p>Stop removing all the natural habitat which was thriving with wildlife</p>
11	I already volunteer. and am a friend.
12	It would be great to have more information and be kept informed of what's going on in Yeading Walk. I've signed up for emails but wasn't aware of a lot of the improvements being made - maybe I missed them.
13	Sometimes it feels unsafe. Is there CCTV
14	Lots of great work done by FOYW. I'm disappointed with the council /yeading unbounded work. Bins need to be emptied weekly.
15	<p>The committee should be operating according to the constitution. This includes not preventing elected committee members from carrying out their roles, and unconstitutionally excluding anyone. The community needs to be engaged as described in the constitution, not just used for donations and physical labour.</p> <p>There needs to be proper community meetings with the agenda as set out in the constitution. This survey is not an adequate substitute.</p> <p>Doing projects because Harrow council approves of is also not an appropriate or adequate substitute for proper community consultation.</p> <p>The committee is supposed to be working to represent the community, not working for the council. It is shocking to see such disinterest in the community by committee members. The contempt the committee seems to hold for the community is most evident in the Code of Conduct /conflict resolution document which allows people to be excluded from the group for raising concerns in the 'wrong' way. This is actually unlawful as it violates article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1988.</p> <p>How on earth did we get to this place?!</p>
16	Thank you
17	We welcome the changes done to the park recently. We think the clearing in some of the areas will help with both easier maintenance (especially of the river) as well as better visibility and decreased vandalism & drug dealing.
18	Strongly oppose the felling of the 3 magnificent cedar trees near the humpy bridge.
19	Strongly oppose cutting down the cedar trees near the stone bridge.
20	Look carefully at conifers - need managing + consider the position in park/removal.
21	Thank you for all the hard work that you do.
22	Friends of the park have done an amazing job improving both the look & the feel of the park from a safety perspective. Well done Mary & team
23	Love what the volunteers are doing
24	Remain as natural as possible. Keep ambience as a natural space
25	As older resident, regard the park as much improved over what it was
26	FoYW changes made positive impact
27	More litter bins + collection. More patrolling re antisocial behaviour
28	No issues
29	You have done a great job ! It's a pleasure walking through the park
30	Snowdrops were appreciated. 2 years ago I had some windfall Russet apples!!
31	Let locals know about the changes
32	Thank you to all the volunteers
33	Great work. Much appreciated. Happy to support.