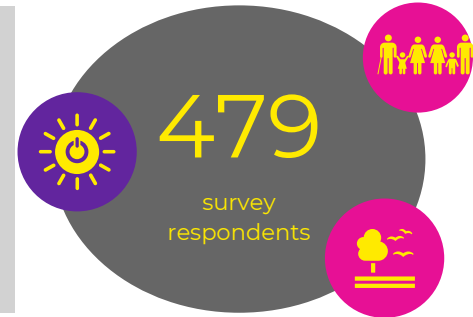


Mareeba Shire Summary

Survey Respondents

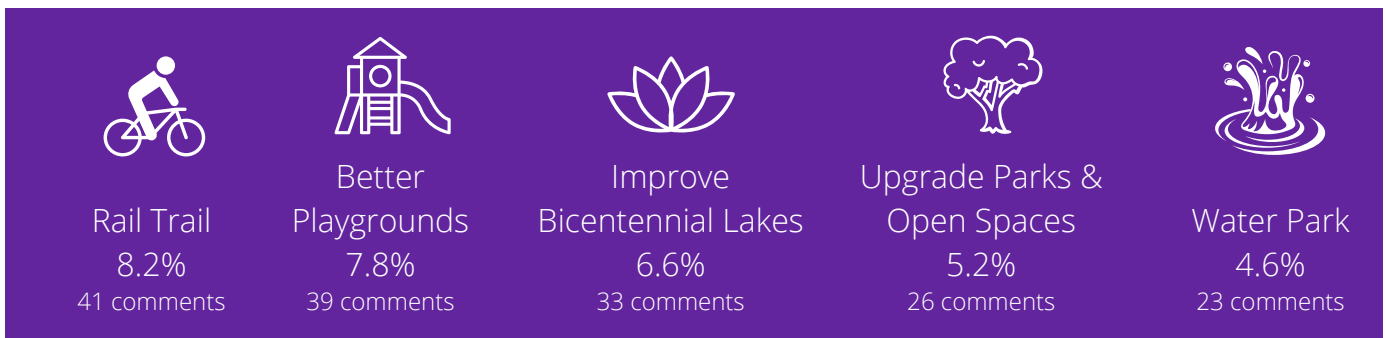
Responses were received from residents living in all our towns throughout the shire with numbers proportionate with town size. The majority of respondents were from Mareeba (315,65%). Survey respondents were most commonly aged 35 - 49 years (35%) and were from families with adult/s and young children (38%).



With the vision of a growing, confident and sustainable Shire, Mareeba Shire Council recognises the strategic importance of providing affordable quality public spaces and facilities to encourage active communities and to improve the visual appeal and liveability of the Shire's towns and districts. Over time the aim is to deliver parks, open spaces, paths and trails that are affordable to ratepayers, are planned and managed for a growing community and informed by community input and relevant data.

Mareeba Shire Council conducted a community survey from 1 December 2020 to 1 February 2021 to gain a better understanding of who is using the parks and open spaces in the Shire, identify those which are most used and how they are used (frequency, for what purpose and with whom) as well as community views on the most important aspects of parks and open spaces. The survey findings will inform future planning for affordable parks and open spaces in towns throughout the Shire.

Most Common Comments (498 total 'other' comments)



Most common type of comment

Upgrade and improve existing parks and open spaces (216, 43.4% of comments).

Parks & open spaces upgrades

- More and/or upgraded play areas for children that are fenced, shaded, safer and age specific (39, 7.8% comments)
- Bicentennial Lakes attracted the most comments about improvements (33, 6.6%) with 7 comments made about needing better maintenance and 26 regarding upgrades - more facilities, clear waterways, safer and accessible.

New parks and open spaces

- New paths, trails and footpaths for exercise, recreation and commuting (99, 19.9% of comments)
 - Create pedestrian and cycling paths and trail circuits for recreation and commuting in the Shire, but especially in Mareeba (55, 11% comments)
 - Mareeba Rail Trail (41, 8.2% comments)
- Create new parks (53, 10.6% comments).
 - Water park (23, 4.8% comments)
 - New park with a playground on eastern side of Mareeba (17, 3.5% comments)

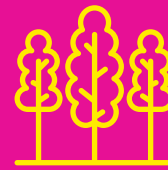
Maintenance



Survey comments indicate the current level of parks maintenance is adequate across the Shire, apart from the Bicentennial Lakes, Mareeba. Some comments were made about paths, trails and footpaths not being safe, not suitable for people with mobility issues and not being in good condition.

Almost half of respondents use parks and open spaces at least once per week (43%) and the most common reasons for use are recreation (72%) and exercise (49%). Respondents most commonly use parks and open spaces with friends and family (67%) and almost half with young children (45%).

Use of Parks & Open Spaces



Important Elements



The most reported important elements of parks and open spaces were: toilet amenities (58%), picnic tables/BBQs/shelters (54%), trees and natural surroundings (50%), playgrounds (45%) and rubbish bins (38%).

The most visited parks in the Shire were in Mareeba Centenary Park (47%), Mary Andrews Gardens Park (35%), Bicentennial Lakes (18%).

In other towns, Kuranda Barron River Esplanade (7%), Geraghty Park Julatten (5%), Wetherby Park Mt Molloy (4%) and Dimbulah Town Hall Park (4%) were the most commonly visited parks.

Most Visited Parks



Most Used Paths and Trails



Respondents identified many paths and trails for exercise, recreation and commuting throughout the Shire. The most used paths and trails were all in Mareeba: Bicentennial Lakes (17%), Mareeba Rail Trail (12%), Ceola Dr, Sunset Park Estate and Sunbird Park Estate Pathways (10%), and Anzac Ave footpath to CBD (6%).

“When planning for parks and open spaces, it’s important to think about the unique characteristics of residents in each town and their aspirations for these facilities”