

# Gardens Trust Survey of Friends of Parks and Green Spaces

National Federation of  
Parks and Green Spaces



Tamsin McMillan  
GT Volunteer Support Officer



[thegardenstrust.org](http://thegardenstrust.org)

[@thegardenstrust](https://twitter.com/thegardenstrust)

# Aims

- Offer training to Friends about the history and conservation needs of historic green spaces
- Start to build lasting networks between the Friends, CGTs and new audiences so that they can share their skills and knowledge to benefit the landscapes they care about
- Friends groups having an increased awareness of the work of the CGTs and the statutory planning role of the GT and perhaps contributing their local knowledge to help combat planning and other threats
- General support from Friends groups for their local CGT – perhaps via membership, helping with events and activities, helping to make connections.



## Gardens Trust Survey of Friends of Parks and Green Spaces

### Introduction

We're contacting you because, by being a volunteer for a Friends group, you are demonstrating that you care for the country's parks, gardens, cemeteries or other green spaces. We'd like to learn more about what you do and offer some opportunities to help enhance your volunteering experience.

The Gardens Trust is the only UK national charity dedicated to protecting and conserving our heritage of designed landscapes. We campaign on their behalf, undertake research and conservation work, and encourage public appreciation and involvement. Through the national network of County and Country Gardens Trusts in England and Wales, we have access to people and local expertise throughout the country. This support is particularly valuable in our conservation work.

The Gardens Trust is excited to be working currently on 'Volunteers Save Space!', a two-year project part-funded by Historic England. Over the next year, until April 2024, our Volunteer Support Officers want to make contact with a wide range of people who visit, enjoy or volunteer in historic parks and gardens, to help build a greater network of supporters for these wonderful and vulnerable landscapes.

We'd be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete this survey, which is endorsed and distributed by the National Federation for Parks and Green Spaces. The results will be used to enable us build a picture of Friends of Parks volunteers' interests and priorities; to work out if and how the Gardens Trust can offer support or learning opportunities; and to start thinking about ways to build links between Friends and County Gardens Trusts, so that they can work together more effectively.

The contents will not be published and will be used only for monitoring, development and planning training and support.

Next

Powered by  
 SurveyMonkey  
See how easy it is to [create a survey](#).

## Gardens Trust Survey of Friends of Parks and Green Spaces

### Part 2: About opportunities to learn and network with the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts

25. Have you heard of the Gardens Trust: the only national charity dedicated to the research and conservation of designed landscapes in England and Wales? <https://thegardenstrust.org/>

Yes

No

26. Have you heard of the County Gardens Trusts: volunteer-run, county-based charities caring for gardens and designed landscapes in England and Wales? <https://thegardenstrust.org/about-us/find-local-cgts/>

Yes

No

27. If yes, are you a member of:

	Yes	No	Have been, in past
The Gardens Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A County Gardens Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. If you have heard of the Gardens Trust or County Gardens Trusts, but are not a member, what contact have you had with them? Please give brief details

Gardens Trust

County Gardens Trusts

29. Would you be interested in exchanging knowledge and ideas:

Yes

No


Maybe

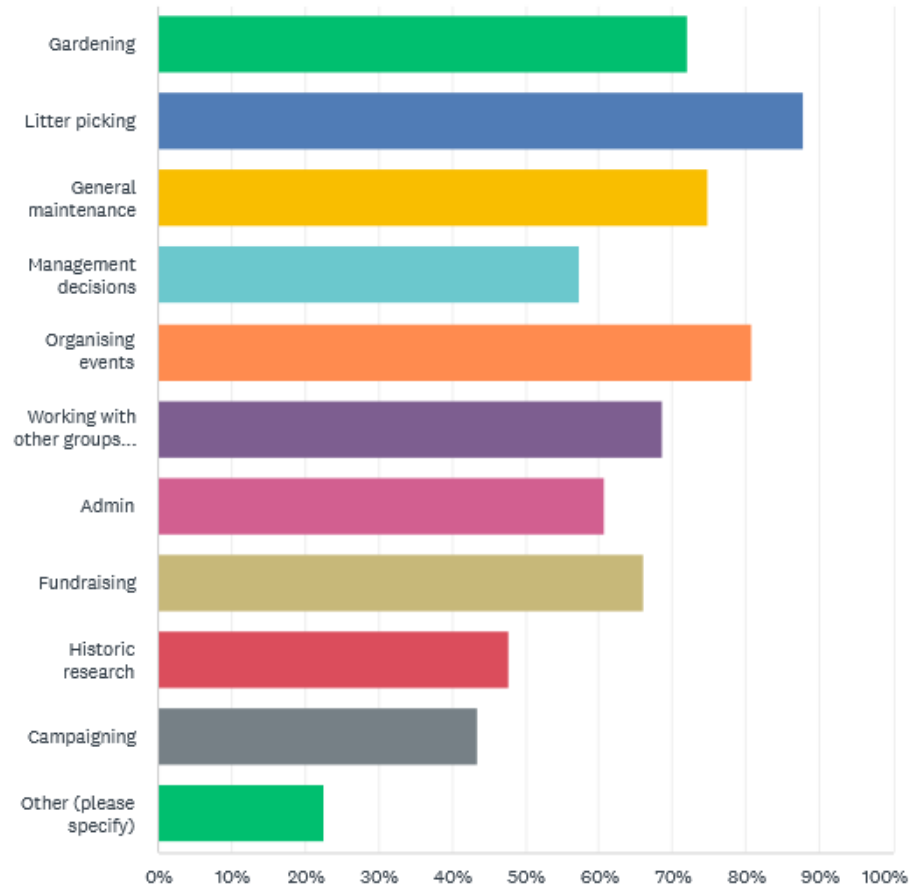


thegardenstrust.org

@thegardenstrust

# Responses

- 116 completed surveys
- From 19 counties or metropolitan areas, particularly South Yorkshire, London, Lancashire, Notts, West Midlands
- Activities undertaken 



# Responses

“What do you like most about volunteering with a Friends group?”

Helping to look after a green space

Getting satisfaction from volunteering

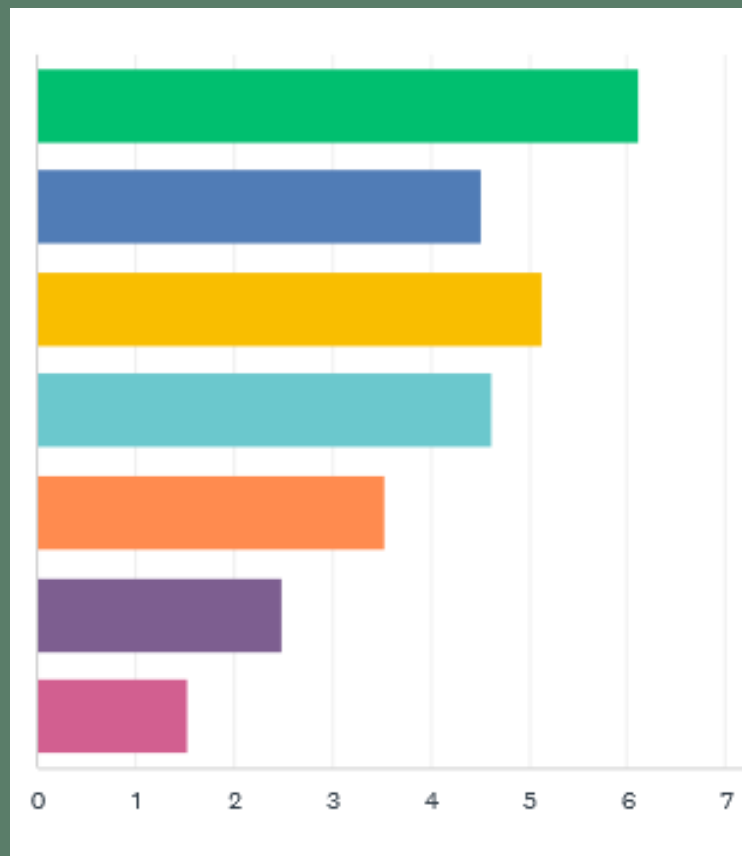
Contributing to your community

Being outside in nature

Enjoying company of other volunteers

Spending time in historic designed landscape

Other



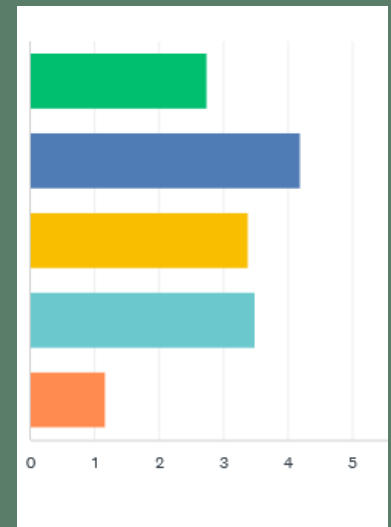
# Responses

“Anything you’d change about your volunteering experience?”

- More funding
- More volunteers
- For the Council to be more responsive/appreciative
- But lots of people said they wouldn’t change a thing

“What’s most significant about your green space?”

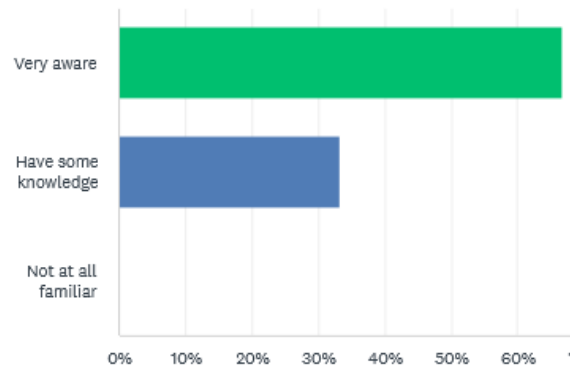
Its history  
Green, open space for relaxation/wellbeing  
Value to visitors as enjoyable place to spend time  
Nature and wildlife value  
Other



# Responses – Importance of History

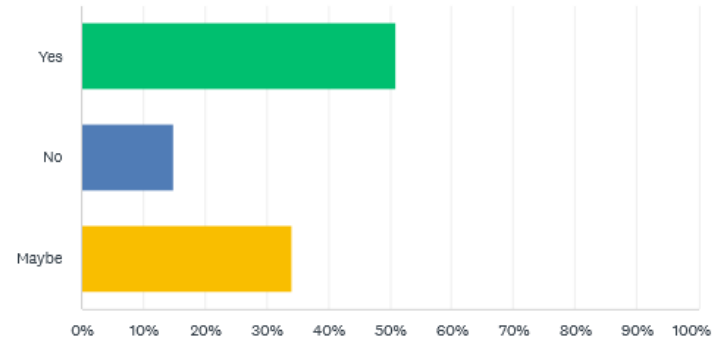
To what extent would you say you are familiar with the history and development of your park/green space?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 2



Do you think that having more knowledge of your site's history could help volunteers to manage and protect it more effectively?

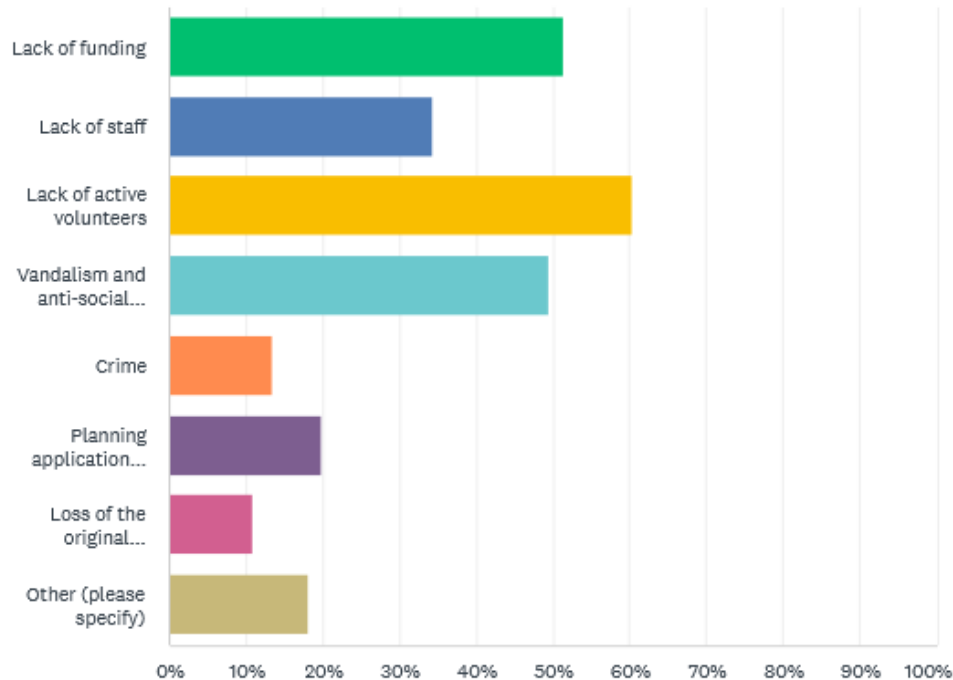
Answered: 114 Skipped: 2



# Responses – Perception of Threats

As far as you are aware, is your site threatened in any way? Please tick all that apply

Answered: 111 Skipped: 5





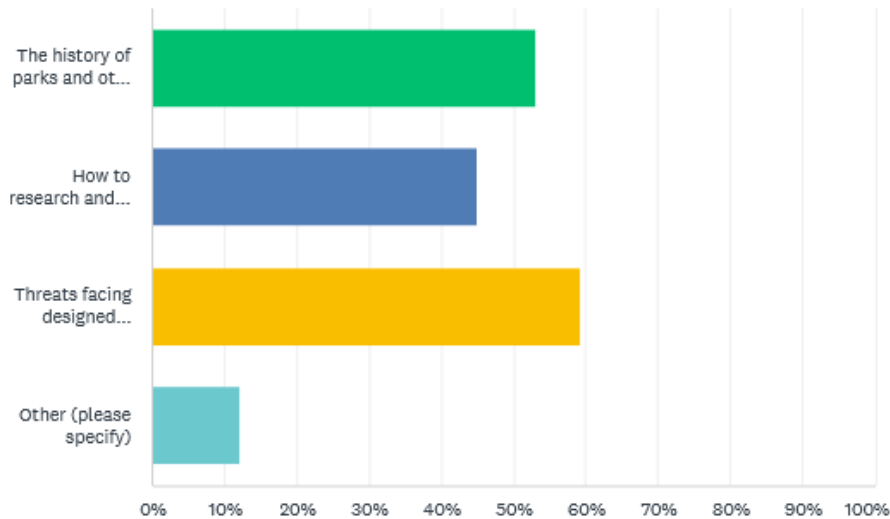
# Responses - Networking

- 39% said they heard of the Gardens Trust. 12% of those were members
- Only 17% had heard of the CGTs, of those 7% were members
- 31% interested (and 48% maybe interested) in networking with the GT
- 27% interested (and 49% maybe interested) in networking with the CGTs
- Top reasons for networking:
  - Sharing knowledge about their Friends group and site
  - Meeting likeminded people
  - Working through issues affecting their green space

# Responses – Training

Would you be interested in receiving any of the following Gardens Trust training?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 67



## Responses – Helping to connect us to other park users

- 68% willing to help us promote our training and networking offer to others via social media and flyers
- 47% willing to talk to some park users about us and our project

# Next Steps

- Full analysis of the survey responses – share with NFPGS
- Contact those who would like to network or receive training
- Work with those willing to promote our offer to park users
- Link willing Friends up to their local CGT
- Discuss mutual aims and work together to protect the landscapes we love.

***A huge thank you to all who took part!***



@thegardenstrust



@thegardenstrust



@thegardenstrust



@thegardenstrust



[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

Resource Hub <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>

*All materials produced by The Gardens Trust and its predecessor organisations are available for free download and reuse for non-commercial purposes.*

*All such materials are subject to the © copyright of The Gardens Trust and may not be used for any commercial purpose without the permission of The Gardens Trust.*



[thegardenstrust.org](http://thegardenstrust.org)

 @thegardenstrust