Bee banks in Cambridge consultation survey results

About the consultation

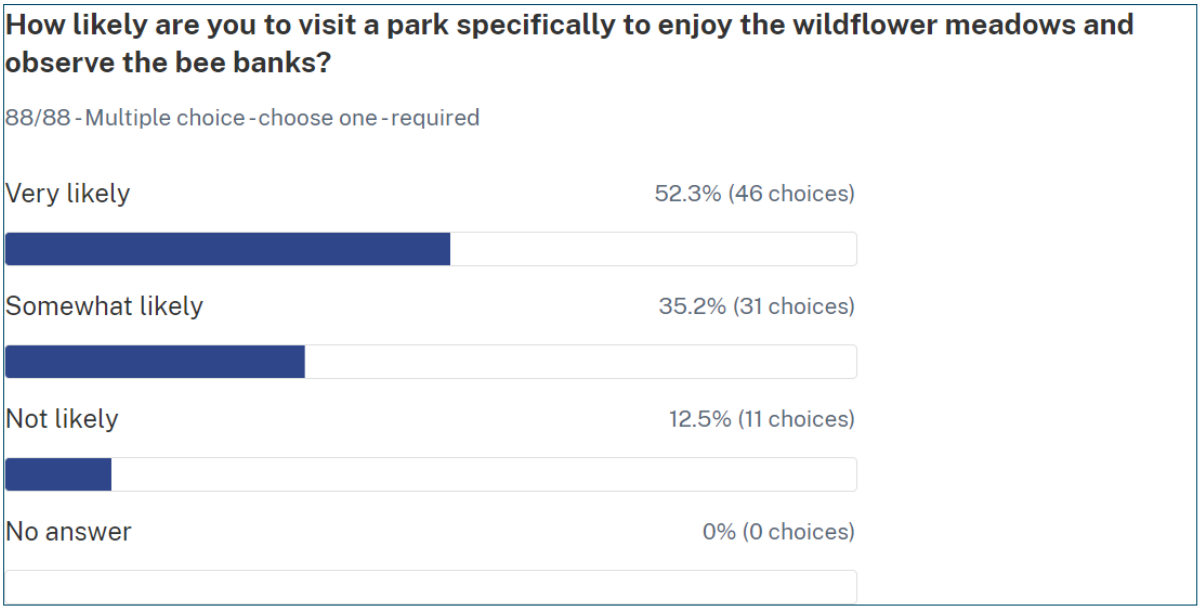
This consultation aims to gather feedback and insights on the installation of three bee banks in three different parks in the city – Coleridge recreation ground, Nuns Way recreation ground and Five Trees. The main aim of this initiative is to enhance biodiversity and boost the population of pollinators, particularly solitary bees, which play a vital role in local ecosystems.

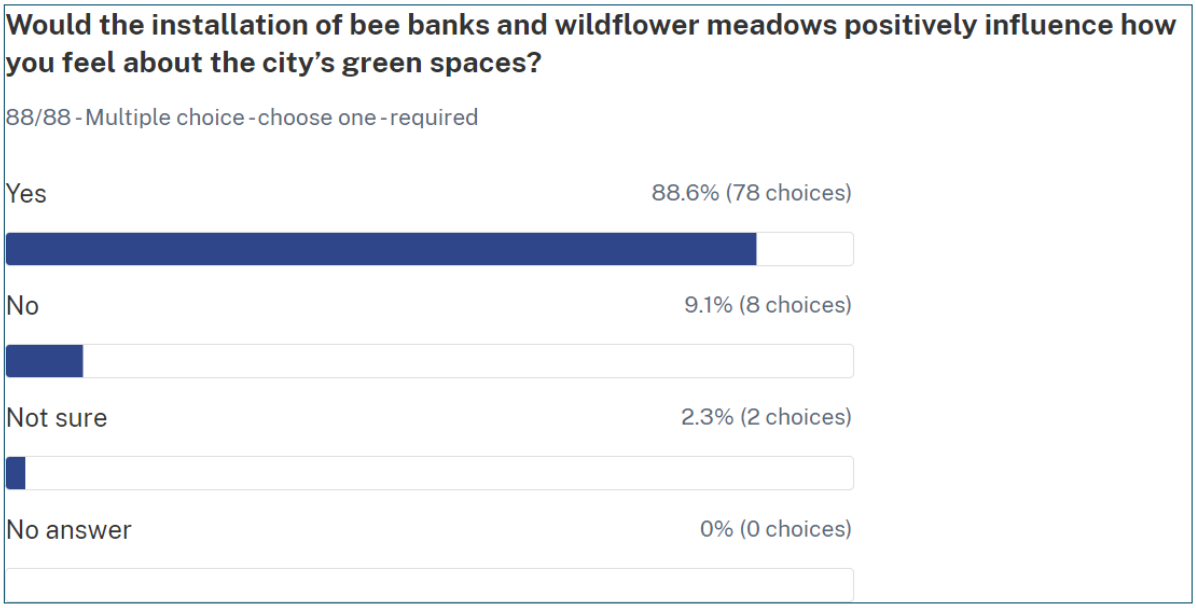
The bee species that would mostly utilise the bee banks do not generally pose a risk to children or the public, as they are non-aggressive, do not swarm and are considered harmless to humans.

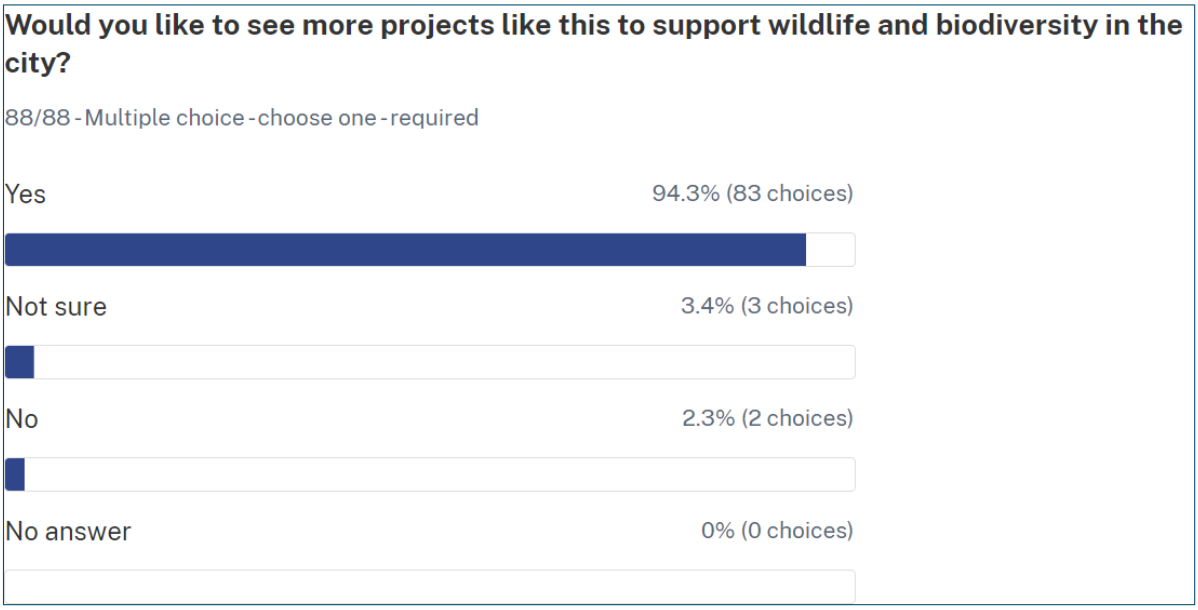
- The Cambridge City Council Bee banks is Cambridge consultation was open for comments from 09 October 2024 to 06 November 2024.
- We received 88 responses to the survey.
- The consultation was hosted on our consultation and engagement platform: Bee Banks in Cambridge.
- It was publicised via social media, posters at the site and on Citizenlab.

Survey responses

- 95.5% of respondents were in favour of the proposal, with 93.2% of respondents thinking it important to enhance pollinator habitats in the city.
- 88.6% of respondents were aware that solitary bees, which the bee banks are designed to support, are considered harmless to humans. Solitary bees are non-aggressive and do not swarm.







Respondents are generally supportive of the installation of bee banks and wildflower patches in Cambridge, with several expressing enthusiasm for the initiative and its potential to enhance biodiversity and public engagement

A common suggestion is the need for educational materials, such as information boards, to inform the public about the purpose and benefits of bee banks. A project to create a cohesive design and implementation of signage around the city is currently in development with regards to biodiversity and habitat improvement projects.

Concerns about potential vandalism and the need for protection of these areas were raised. Bee banks will be reinforced with half buried logs for stability and information boards will be placed on site for members of the public to understand what bee banks are for and why they are important.

A few responses indicated a desire for more rapid and widespread implementation of these biodiversity measures. Others called for more extensive wildflower patches to support greater diversity and the inclusion of additional habitats like dead wood and long grass areas. Many new wildflower meadows will be installed over the next few months to increase biodiversity and the aesthetic of the city. Deadwood for beetles and other invertebrates will be incorporated into the bee banks and there is also a newly established “stumpery” already installed in Jesus Green.

The importance of monitoring bee bank usage to inform future policy was also mentioned. We are looking into conducting surveys with the community as part of a citizen science initiative, as we as working with universities using innovative technology to measure biodiversity increase.

Overall, the trend is very positive towards the project, with an emphasis on education to ensure the success and sustainability of bee banks and wildflower patches.