

**Appendix 1: SOPARC Phase 2 Report  
March 2015**

**Headline Statistics**

	<b>Botanic Gardens</b>				<b>Falls Park</b>			
<b>Users</b>	6308				705			
<b>Gender</b>	54% Male		46% Female		55% Male		45% Female	
<b>Age</b>	Child (4%)	Teen (14%)	Adult (80%)	Senior (2%)	Child (17%)	Teen (19%)	Adult (58%)	Senior (6%)
<b>Dogs</b>	118				151			
<b>Dog Control</b>	38% Off Lead		62% On Lead		53% Off Lead		47% On Lead	
<b>Time of Day</b>	Morning Least Busy (22%)		Lunch Most Busy (42%)		Lunch Least Busy (26%)		Afternoon Most Busy (46%)	
<b>Day of Week</b>	Sunday Least Busy (6%)		Monday Most Busy (24%)		Thursday Least Busy (5%)		Saturday Most Busy (21%)	
<b>Activity Level</b>	Sedentary (3%)	Walking (91%)	Vigorous (6%)		Sedentary (10%)	Walking (63%)	Vigorous (27%)	

	<b>Knocknagoney Linear Park</b>				<b>Waterworks Park</b>			
<b>Users</b>	494				1049			
<b>Gender</b>	51% Male		49% Female		57% Male		43% Female	
<b>Age</b>	Child (34%)	Teen (20%)	Adult (39%)	Senior (7%)	Child (21%)	Teen (10%)	Adult (64%)	Senior (5%)
<b>Dogs</b>	111				253			
<b>Dog Control</b>	57% Off Lead		43% On Lead		53% Off Lead		47% On Lead	
<b>Time of Day</b>	Lunch Least Busy (21%)		Afternoon Most Busy (55%)		Morning Least Busy (21%)		Afternoon Most Busy (48%)	
<b>Day of Week</b>	Thursday Least Busy (6%)		Friday Most Busy (25%)		Thursday Least Busy (4%)		Friday Most Busy (26%)	
<b>Activity Level</b>	Sedentary (7%)	Walking (71%)	Vigorous (21%)		Sedentary (9%)	Walking (76%)	Vigorous (15%)	

\*All figures have been subject to rounding

## Survey Background

The SOPARC surveys were carried out week commencing 9th March and were conducted on a daily basis for seven consecutive days. Due to winter opening hours it was not possible to undertake the prescribed four timeslots as per the survey protocol. In this case three timeslots including morning, lunch and afternoon were conducted resulting in 21 observational periods over the course of the week.

Each of the surveyed parks were divided into a number of Target Areas (TAs) and from these locations a path or open space scan was conducted depending on the nature of the space. The number of TAs a park has is dependent upon the physical size of the park as well the number and variety of discrete spaces where activity can take place. The types of spaces include paths, playgrounds, pitches, bowling greens and open spaces.

Surveys were carried out in four parks across the city simultaneously. The parks which were surveyed are Botanic Gardens, Falls Park, Knocknagony Linear Park and Waterworks Park. The surveys were carried out by Park Warden teams who have been trained in the survey methodology and data capture equipment.

The survey methodology itself involves the Park Wardens visiting the nominated TAs at three set times on a daily basis. When at the TA, the Wardens would observe and record the number and characteristics of the users as well as their level of physical activity on the device provided. Once complete, the Wardens would move onto the next TA and repeat their observations.

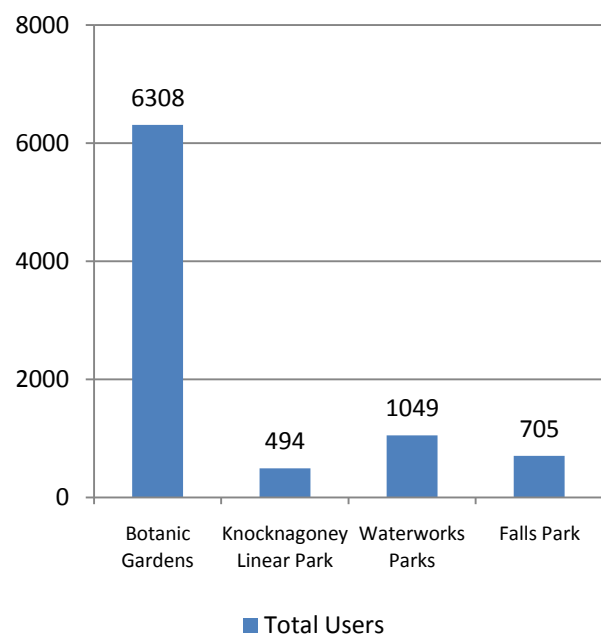
## Detailed Park Results

From the processed data, it is evident that each of the four parks exhibit different characteristics. It must be noted that in the main they vary in size and the facilities that they provide. The surrounding geography in terms of population as well as services also impact on the observed users in the park.

### Total Users

It can be seen from Figure 1 that there is a large degree of variability in the number of observed users in the parks. Botanic Gardens has the largest throughput of people in the park (6308). Botanic is in the unique situation where it is located beside Queens University Belfast and acts as a convenient shortcut between the campus and various student accommodation locations in the area. It also acts as a short cut for those travelling towards the city centre. Knocknagoney has the smallest number of observed users (494). Waterworks had 1049 observed users while Falls Park had 705. When averaged over the 21 observational periods we can begin to see intensity of use of these parks. Botanic has visitors equating to approximately 300/hr which is around six

**Total Observed Users**  
(Figure 1)



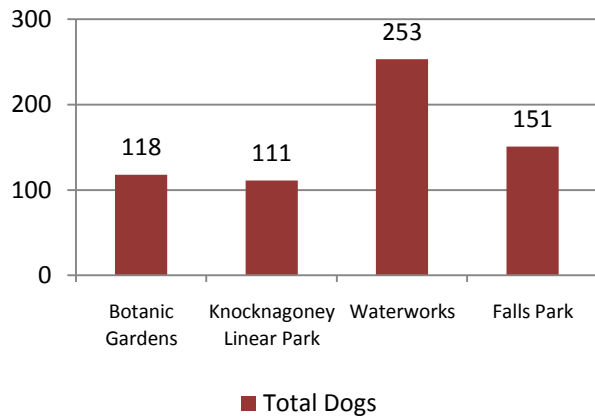
times bigger than Waterworks with 50/hr. The least intensely used park Knocknagoney Linear Park with approximately 24/hr. Falls Park has an average of around 34/hr.

Figure 2 shows the number of dogs observed in each of the parks. It can be seen from the graph that Waterworks has the largest number of dogs observed with 253 which is approximately 60% larger than the next largest in Falls Park. Both Botanic Gardens and Knocknagoney Linear Park have 118 and 111 dogs observed respectively.

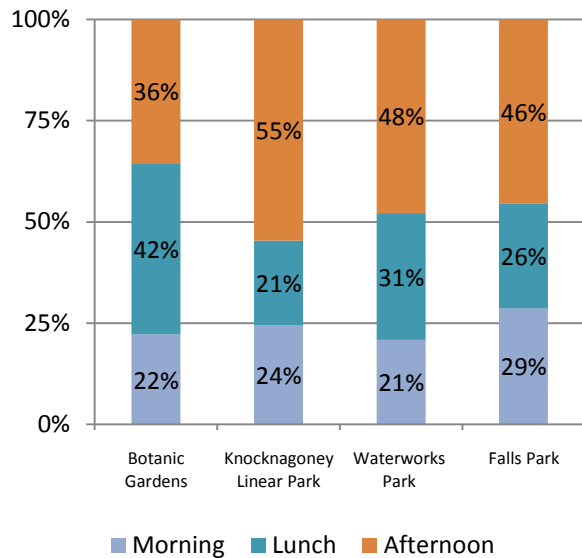
Figure 3 shows the proportion of users observed at each time of day. The busiest time of day in all parks is the Afternoon with the exception of Botanic Gardens. Afternoon usage equates to 55% of Knocknagoneys total usage with 48% and 46% in Waterworks Park and Falls Park respectively. In Botanic Gardens afternoon usage accounts for 36%, however there is a significant increase in Lunchtime usage (42%) This is much greater than the other three parks. Morning usage across all of the parks surveyed is fairly consistent ranging from 22% in Knocknagoney Linear Park to 29% in Falls Park.

Figure 4 shows the variation in usage across the day of week. Botanic Gardens sees the most consistent usage across all days of the working week. However this park sees significant reduction in usage at the weekend. Knocknagoney, Waterworks and Falls Parks show more consistency between themselves. Thursday sees a reduction in usage across all parks dropping to between 4% and 11%.

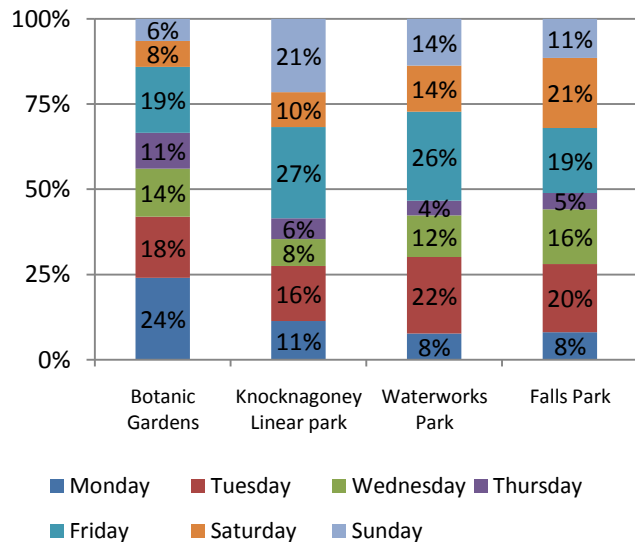
**Total Observed Dogs  
(Figure 2)**



**% Time of Day  
(Figure 3)**



**% Day of Week  
(Figure 4)**



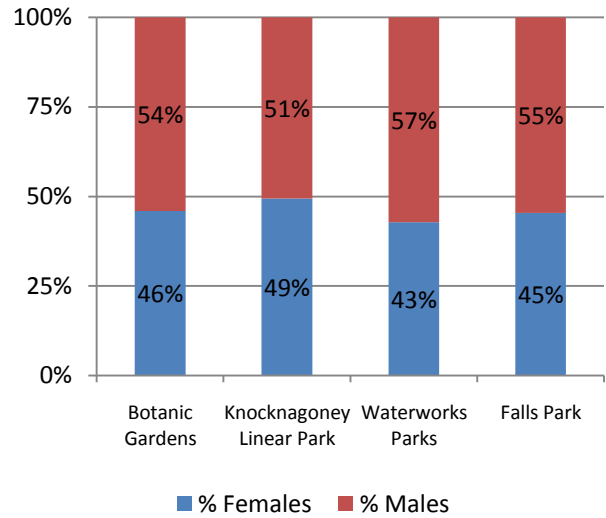
## User Profiles

Figure 5 shows the gender breakdown of users observed in the parks. It can be seen that males account for over 50% in all four of the parks ranging from 51% in Knocknagoney to 57% in Waterworks Park. There is little variability across all of the parks in relation to gender.

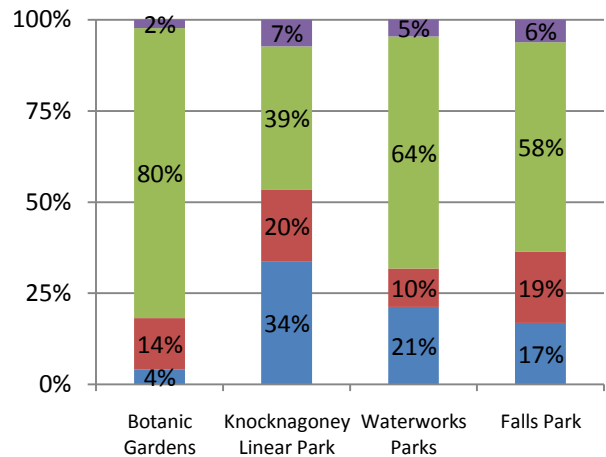
Figure 6 shows the age breakdown of observed users in the parks. The age of the users displays the greatest variability of all of the parameters recorded. In all parks, Adults are the largest user group with Botanic Gardens having the highest proportion (80%). The smallest user group are Seniors who account for between 7% and 2% of the user population. In terms of younger people, Knocknagoney Linear Park had the highest proportion, accounting for approximately 54% of users. Botanic has the smallest proportion of younger users.

Figure 7 shows the level of physical activity observed within the parks. It can be seen from the graph walking activities are the most dominant. The activity in Botanic is 91% walking. The other three parks have walking activities between 63% and 76%. Sedentary activity is generally the smallest observed activity. Botanic has the smallest proportion with 3% while Falls Park has the largest at 10%. Vigorous activity was most predominant in Falls Park where 27% of activity was vigorous. Knocknagoney and Waterworks also had fairly large vigorous activity with 21% and 15% respectively. Only 6% of activity in Botanic Gardens is vigorous.

### % Gender of Users (Figure 5)



### % Age of Users (Figure 6)



### % Level of Physical Activity (Figure 7)

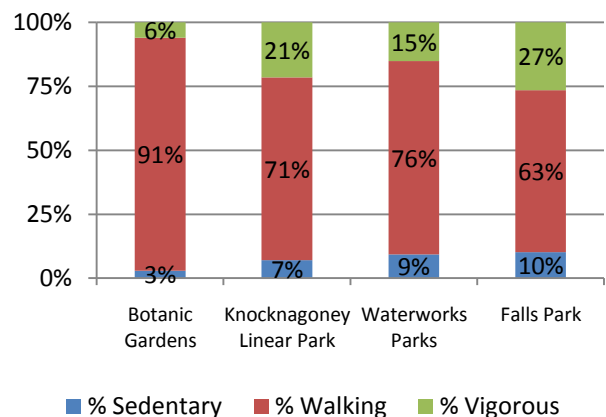


Figure 8 shows dog control in each of the parks. The park which has the highest proportion of dogs on leads is Botanic Gardens with 62%. Knocknagoney Linear Park has the lowest with 43% on their lead.

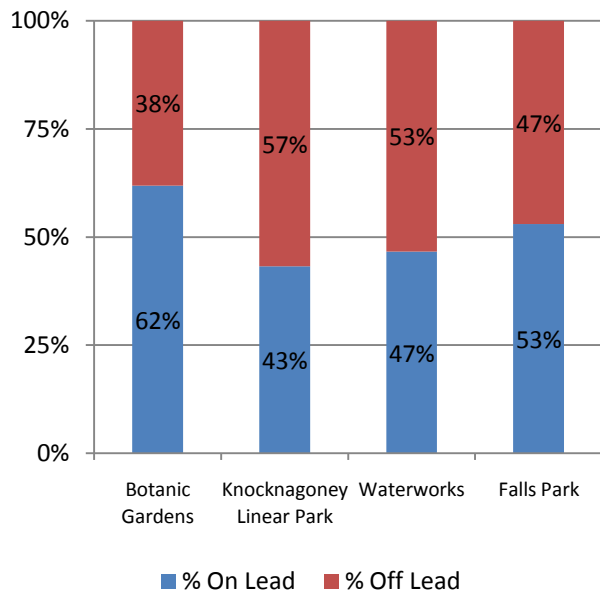
Maps 1-4 on the following pages show the location of observed activity in the parks as a proportion of the weekly totals. Map 1 shows Botanic Gardens. From this map it can be seen that greatest activity is at the gates onto the Malone/Stranmillis Junction and at the exit into the university campus. These two locations account for 57% of total observed activity. There is also fairly significant activity located at the gate onto Botanic Court (16%) and onto Colenso Parade (13%). Small amounts of activity are also recorded throughout the spaces in the park. The largest of these is on the Great Lawn (6%) while the smallest is on the Bowling Green (1%)

Map 2 shows Knocknagoney Linear Park. From Map 2 it can be seen that activity tends to be focused towards the east end of the park towards Knocknagoney Way and Knocknagoney Drive. This activity is focused around the entrance into the park and also at the playground and into the kickabout area. 12% of activity can be seen at the main entrance into the park on the Hollywood Road and also the entrance from Glenloch Gardens.

Map 3 shows Waterworks Park. Over 45% of people observed in Waterworks Park during the survey week were located near the gate beside Solitude football ground. 24% were observed beside the pond with 17% located at the gate at the north end of the park. The gate at Westland Gardens had 4% of the observed usage. Large parts of the park are undergoing extensive works at this time and are inaccessible. These include one of the playgrounds as well as various open spaces.

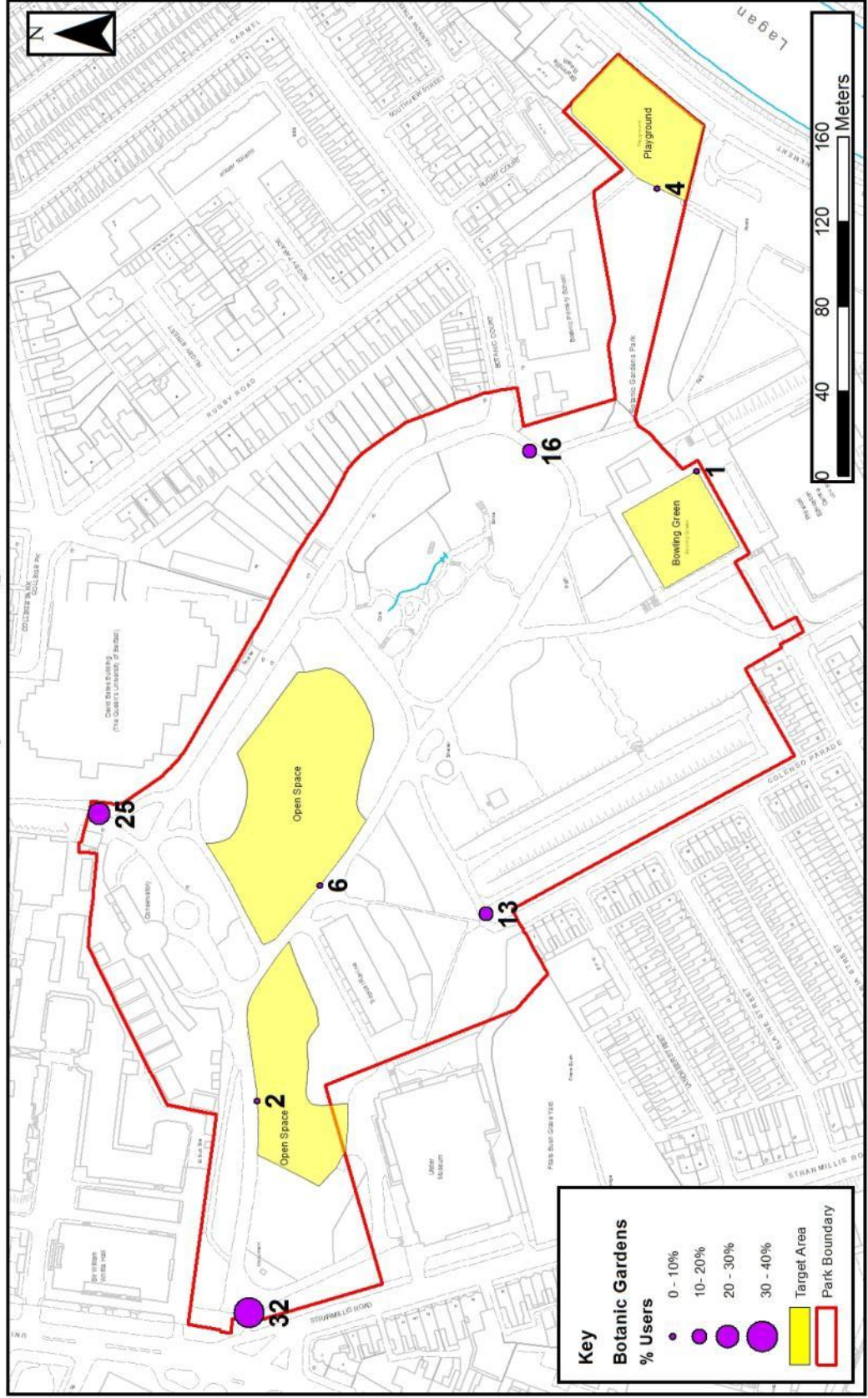
Map 4 shows Falls Park. It can be seen that usage is spread more evenly over this park than others. 47% of users were observed on the paths circulating the park at various points. The playground experienced 15% of the total usage and the outdoor gym 5% use.

**% Dog Control  
(Figure 8)**



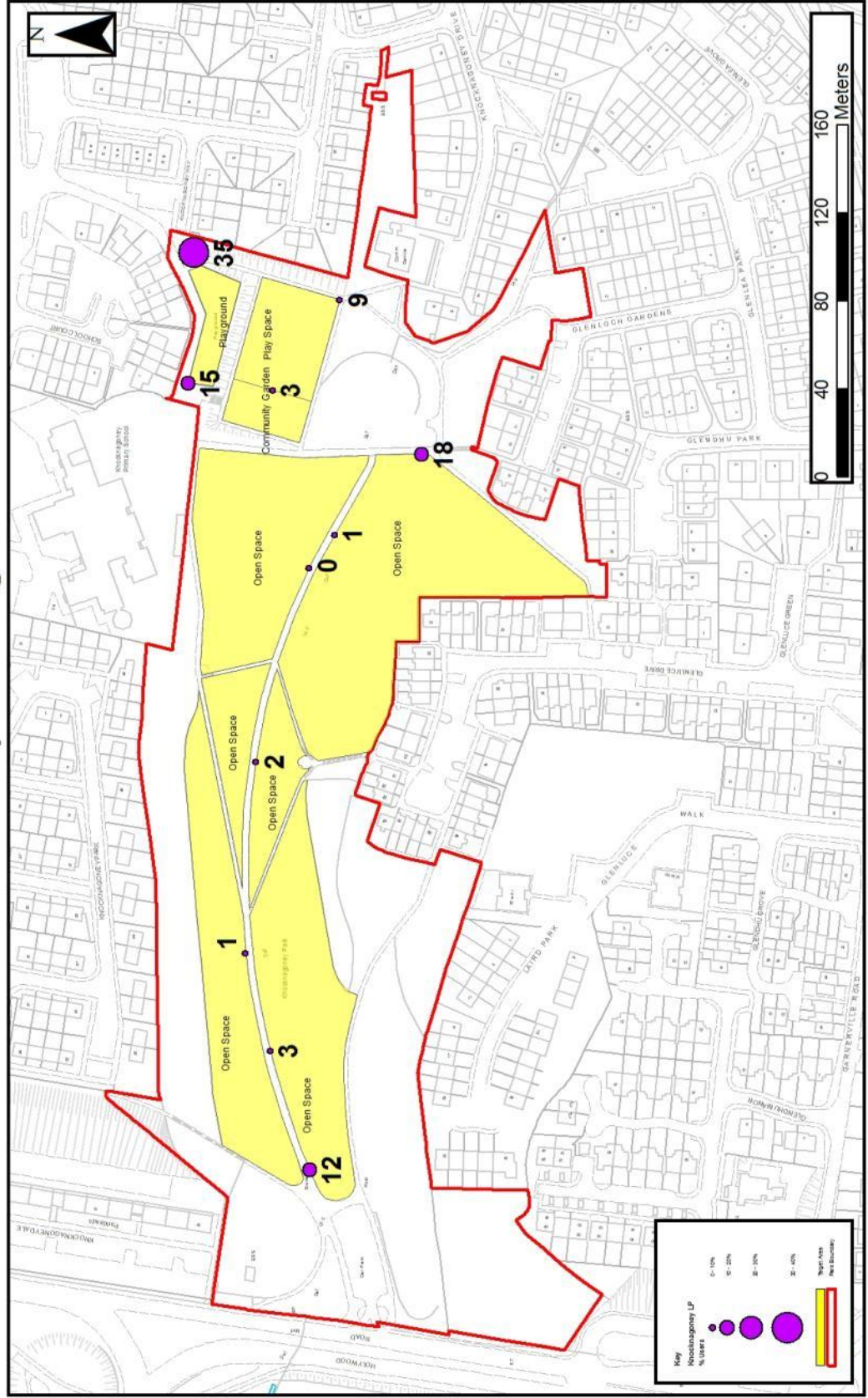
# Map 1

## Botanic Gardens 9 - 15th March 2015 % Users per Target Area



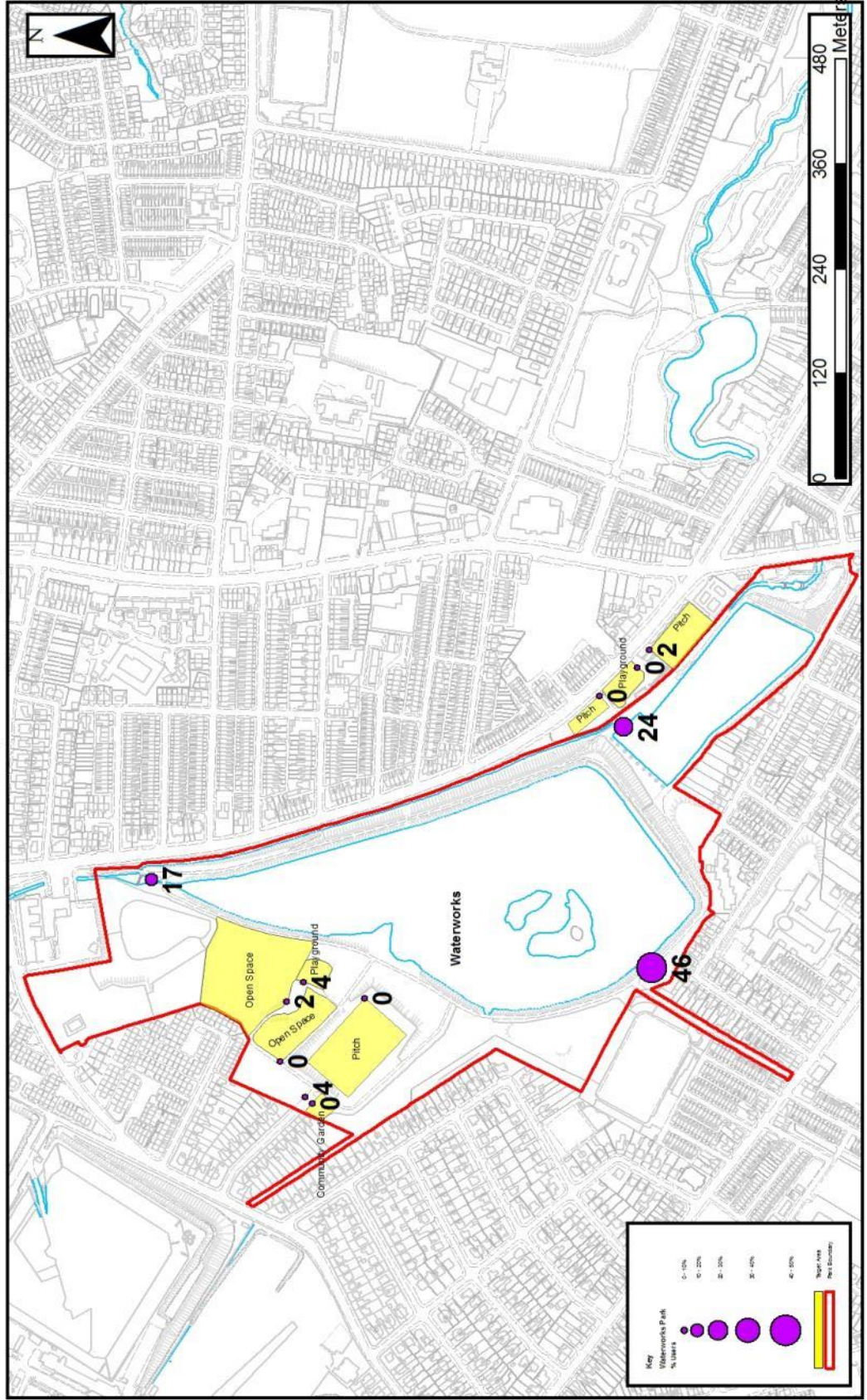
# Map 2

## Knocknagoney LP 9 - 15th March 2015 % Users per Target Area



# Map 3

## Waterworks Park 9 - 15th March 2015 % Users per Target Area





# Map 4

## Falls Park 9 - 15th March 2015 % Users per Target Area

