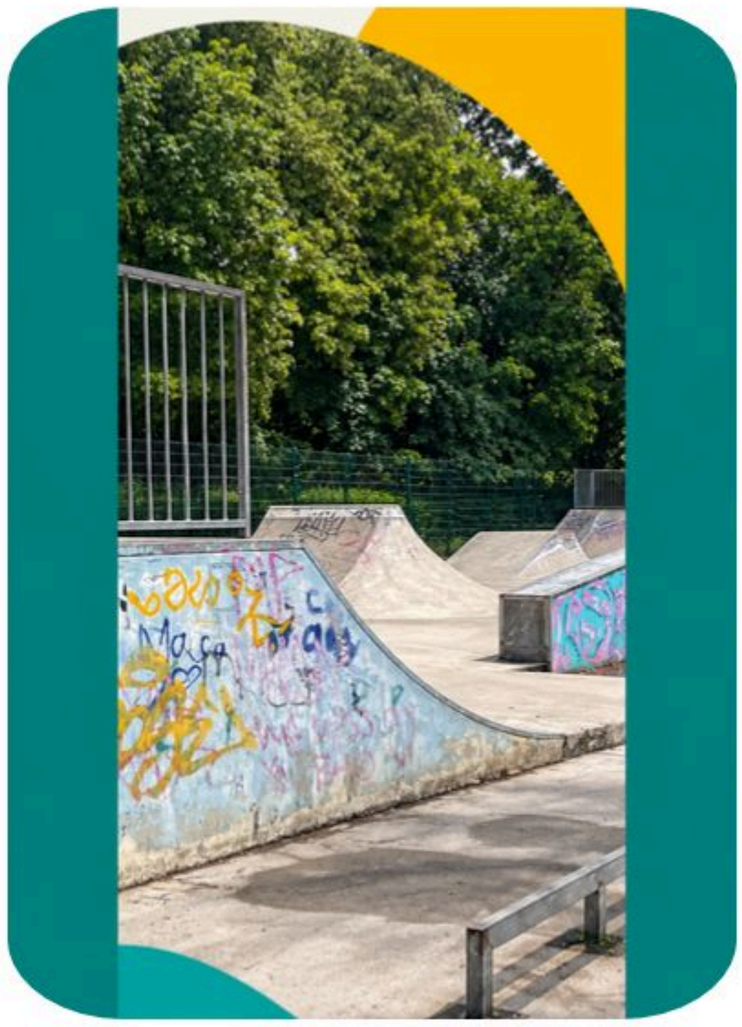
Rowntree Park Skatepark

Engagement insights
From survey & observation

MAKE SPACE York

THE FRIENDS OF ROWNTREE PARK



149
People completed the online survey

392
Wheeled activities recorded during during on-site observations

Gender split of all users
(observations)

92% Boys & Men

8% Girls & Women

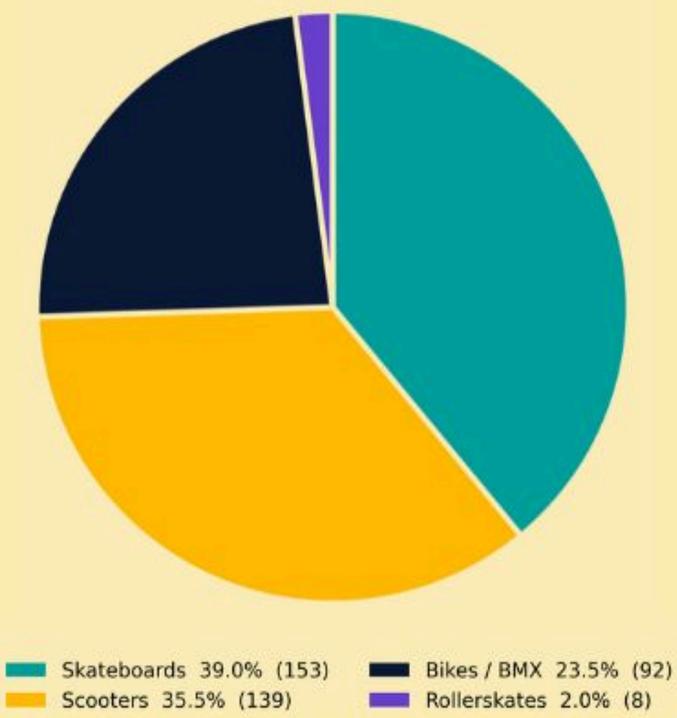
Survey: 89% boys/men. 9% girls/women, 2% non binary/other

Gender split of 'teenage' users - ages 11-18
(observations)

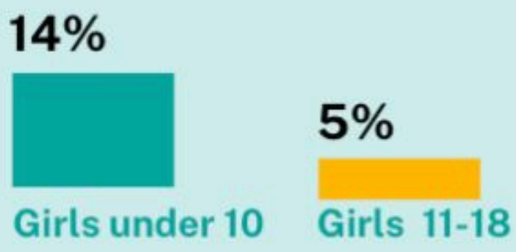
95% Boys

5% Girls

More than just skateboarding



Girls use the skatepark more when they are 10 and under

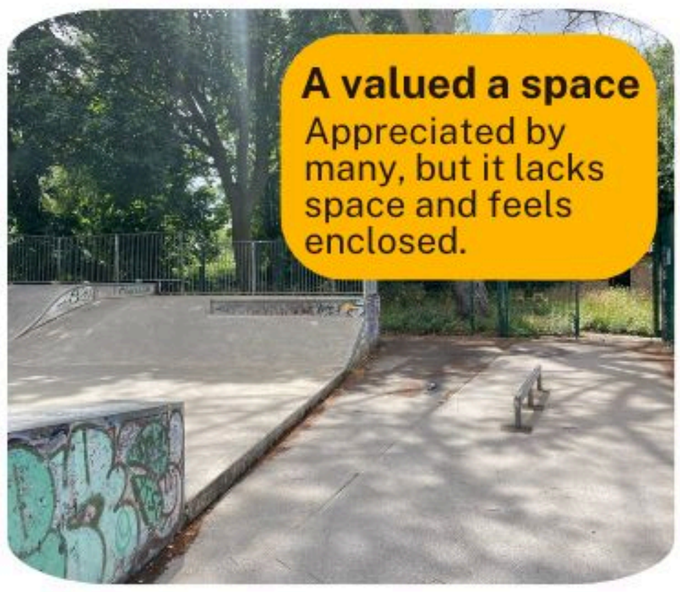


from all users observed

85% of existing users find the skatepark welcoming

33% women & girls said the skatepark was welcoming

18% felt there were suitable places to sit or spend time around the skatepark



A valued a space
Appreciated by many, but it lacks space and feels enclosed.

"It's a good park for skateboarding, the locals are all friendly and it's a nice place to spend time."

Rowntree Park skatepark is York's only free skatepark and is well used, although there is a significant gender imbalance in who uses it.

There is demand for more wheeled-sports facilities in York, but limited space and flooding make expansion at Rowntree Park difficult (and costly).

More facilities don't automatically mean more equal access. Any future public investment should consider any underrepresented groups, and how design and supported activities could help make new spaces more inclusive.

What do people want:

- For the skatepark to be less enclosed
- Seats and places to socialise nearby
- To challenge perceptions that the skatepark is unwelcoming to some - there is a supportive skate community. Ideas such as a Skate Jam and Collective Art were made.
- More space for wheeled sports in York, including larger skate facilities including beginner friendly spaces.
- All users to understand skatepark etquitte in the small shared space
- Sessions for beginners including teenage girls, women and younger children
- Bike users wanted a larger space with challenging jumps.

Rowntree Park Skatepark

Engagement insights
From girls aged 11-18

Rowntree Park skatepark is a free space for a range of wheeled activities. Through five years of Make Space York's engagement with teenage girls, the skatepark repeatedly emerged as somewhere many teenage girls didn't use, or didn't feel was for them.



Why girls say they don't use the skatepark:

- Not interested in skateboarding
- Space dominated by boys and men. Felt visible - they'd stand out.
- Space feels intimidating - mainly boys/men and enclosed small area.
- Feel embarrassed that they'd be made fun of - harrassed.
- Fear getting knocked or pushed over/out of the way
- Anti social behaviour in the space - loud, drinking and drugs

Importantly, girls weren't necessarily describing experiences of being actively excluded.

This distinction matters.
A space can be open to everybody without everybody feeling equally comfortable using it.

Rowntree Park Skatepark

From listening to action: What we're trying



OPEN	STAY	TRY	BELONG
Remove some of 'the cage' (railings) to soften the physical boundary, improve its connection to the wider park and make the space feel easier to approach.	Create somewhere to spend time - make the skatepark feel more social without pressure. Add social seating in the space behind the newly removed railings.	Trial small beginner skateboarding sessions - initially for for teenage girls. If capacity and funding allows - open up to other beginners of all ages.	Broaden who feels the space is for them. A woman coach for girls sessions, and community events and projects involving existing skate community and others.

The physical changes and the activation through sessions are thanks to the following funders.
Additional funding is sought for sessions and community projects linked to creating community cohesion around the skatepark (such as a skate jam or collaborative art).

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY | DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

Supported by Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire Community Fund

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