

Crofton Downs Trails Proposal

Summary of comments from October 2024 engagement survey.

A preliminary engagement survey on proposed mountain biking and walking trails in the Outer Green Belt above Crofton Downs was held from 4th to 31st October 2024.

This document summarises the main points from respondents' comments, to help understand the main aspects of the feedback and ideas to consider when refining the proposal. Graphs showing the statistical results of the survey questions are included from page 2.

The main points are grouped into those about tracks first, and then other associated points.

Support for track creation: There is strong support for creating new tracks, particularly for the shared use Track 4. Also support for having a track network that connects Silversky with the Huntleigh Park tracks and beyond.

Support for walking tracks: Many contributors strongly support the creation of walking tracks, emphasising the need for safe and well-marked paths, and noting the needs of young families moving into new housing in the area. There is a particular interest in connecting existing tracks to create a comprehensive network that can be used in various weather conditions.

Opposition to exclusive biking tracks: Some respondents oppose the idea of certain tracks especially Track 3, being designated for biking only, as these tracks are currently used by walkers and runners.

Concerns about safety and shared tracks: Safety was a recurring theme, with many expressing concerns about the potential hazards of shared walking / biking tracks. Many respondents feel that shared tracks need to be wide enough to accommodate both groups safely, with proper signage and mutual respect between both walkers and bikers. Some respondents suggested considering separate tracks for walkers and bikers.

Support for mountain biking: Despite the concerns, there was also strong support for the development of mountain biking tracks. Benefits mentioned included: opportunities for local and northern suburb riders, the potential to attract more visitors to the local area and to Wellington, and increased access for pest control.

Track grades and accessibility: While some supported having more Grade 4 and 5 biking tracks, many more wanted to have easier grade tracks that are more accessible to a wider range of users, including families and less experienced bikers.

Suggestions for track design: There were many general comments about the need for different difficulty levels to cater to a wider range of users and to accommodate walkers as well as bikers. Specific aspects included:

- **Tracks 1 and 2:** queried the need for two Grade 5 tracks in parallel – instead, either have one only, or have a Grade 5 and a Grade 4. Suggestion to exit straight to streets and not link to Track 4, to avoid advanced riders on Track 4.
- **Track 4:** could it be extended up to Skyline? Connect to Porokaiwhiri Street between no's 18 & 22.
- **Silversky Track:** Work might be needed on this track as it was thought more bikers would use it, increasing hazard for walkers on the quite narrow existing track.

New walking track suggested from Kareao Way up central spur to pylons on Skyline.

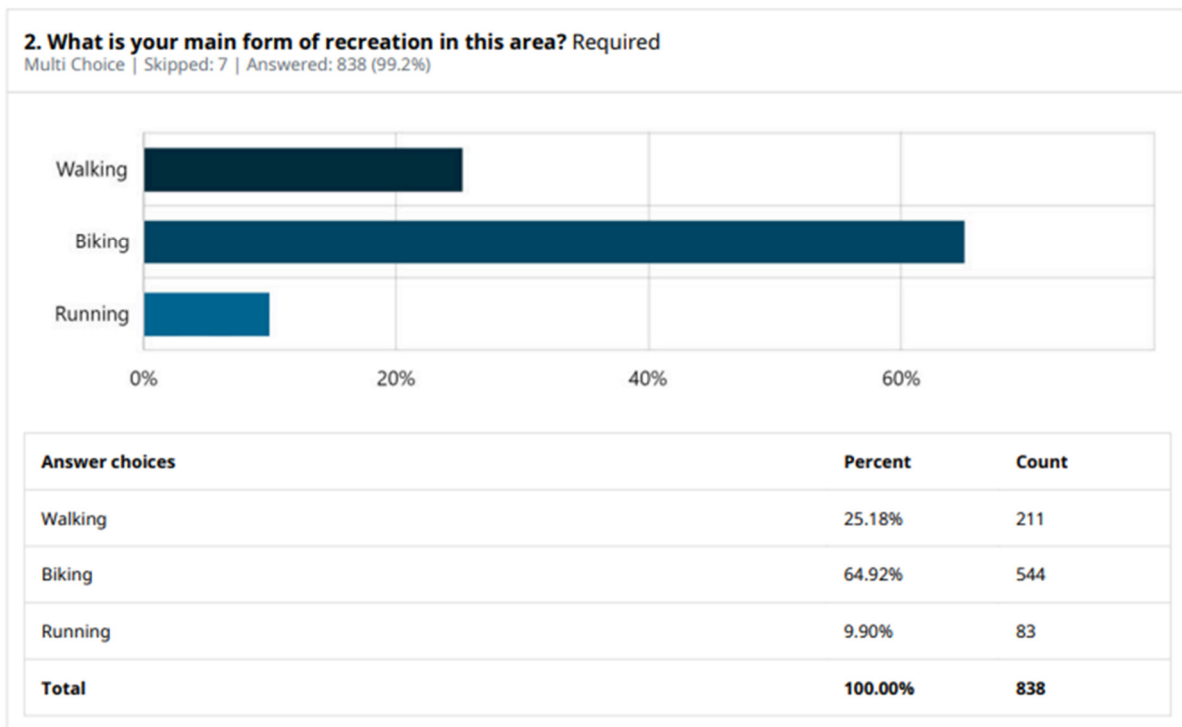
Environmental impact: The environmental impact of new tracks was a repeated comment, particularly on native flora and fauna. Some called for more focus on restoration rather than creating new tracks that could potentially harm the natural environment.

Cost and funding: Concerns and questions were raised about the financial implications of the project, including the potential (and unquantified) costs of environmental assessments, consents, maintenance and the potential burden on taxpayers. Some thought the proposals were catering for a minority and queried whether ratepayers should bear the costs, when the Council should focus on other more pressing priorities, like fixing infrastructure.

Signage and marking: A common theme was the need for proper signage and marking of tracks to prevent confusion and ensure that walkers and bikers do not accidentally trespass on private property.

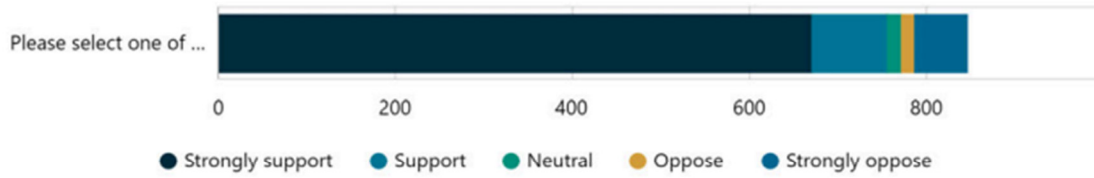
Community and recreational benefits: Despite the concerns, there is also recognition of the potential benefits of new tracks for community recreation and encouraging outdoor activities.

Survey results summary:



3. To what extent do you support or oppose the creation of the new trails? Required

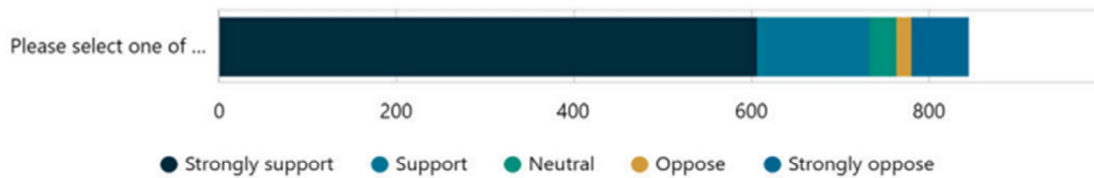
Matrix | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 845 (100%)



	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Count	Score
Please select one of the following	79.29% 670	10.06% 85	1.89% 16	1.78% 15	6.98% 59	845	1.47

4. To what extent do you support what's proposed for trails one, two, and four? Required

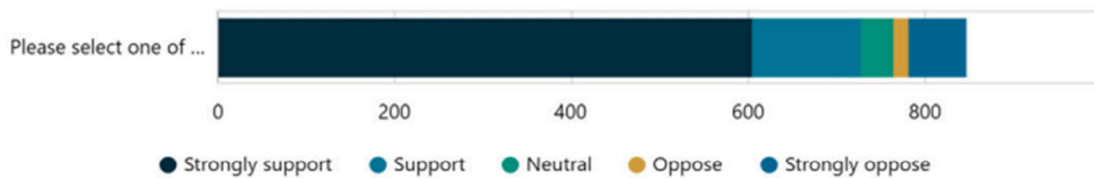
Matrix | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 843 (99.8%)



	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Count	Score
Please select one of the following	71.89% 606	15.07% 127	3.56% 30	2.02% 17	7.47% 63	843	1.58

5. To what extent do you support the formalisation of track three? Required

Matrix | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 845 (100%)



	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Count	Score
Please select one of the following	71.48% 604	14.56% 123	4.38% 37	2.01% 17	7.57% 64	845	1.60