GREATER WELLINGTON

Regional Parks and River Trails Satisfaction Survey 2025

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

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4 Introduction

Greater Wellington manages eight regional parks, three river trails, and provides support to the Whitireia Park Board for the management of Whitireia Park. As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure these public open spaces are well known and provide the services and facilities people need, Greater Wellington has undertaken user satisfaction surveys since 2004. The results of the survey are used to inform the parks capital works, marketing programme and parks planning. Reporting overall visitor satisfaction is a key indicator for both this plan and Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan.

This report details feedback received from respondents regarding their use and satisfaction with these parks and trails for the 2023-2025 period.

4.1   Regional Parks

- Akatarawa Forest
- Battle Hill Farm Forest Park
- Belmont Regional Park
- East Harbour Regional Park
- Kaitoke Regional Park
- Pākuratahi Forest
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Wainuiomata Regional Park

4.2   Whitireia Park

- Whitireia Park (managed by Whitireia Park Board and supported by Greater Wellington)

4.3   River Trails

- Hutt River Trail
- Ōtaki River Trail
- Waikanae River Trail

4.4   Research Objectives

The research objectives for the survey are:

- To determine the level of visitation to the parks and trails by first-time users and seasoned users.
- To determine what prompted/attracted users to visit the parks and trails.
- To discover the reasons behind the public not visiting parks and trails.
- To check the activities that users undertake while they are visiting.
- To determine users' level of satisfaction with their experience.
- To determine the aspects of the parks and trails that could be improved to support future increased user satisfaction.

4.5 Strategic Context

4.5.1 Regional Parks

Management of the eight regional parks is guided by a statutory management plan, Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 (Toitū Te Whenua). It has six goals related to visitor experience, environmental improvement and cultural values. The Plan identifies five 'key shifts' or focal areas for work related to outcomes. These are:

1. Improving health of the environment, its resilience and therefore the benefits a healthy environment provides through restoration activities.

2. Improving public access to, within and across parks, so that more people can easily get to and use parks.

3. To support more satisfying experiences in parks, developing and enhancing places (destinations) through activities such as storytelling and facility improvements.

4. Building and supporting collaborative work with mana whenua partners and community.

5. Minimising carbon emissions, focusing on highly sustainable solutions and education opportunities to raise awareness of important environmental issues.

Several questions within the parks and trails survey are intended to gather data to support reporting on Plan outcomes and baseline data.

4.5.2 River Trails

The survey includes questions related to peoples' experiences or reasons for not visiting the three river corridors managed by Greater Wellington for flood protection and recreation purposes.

4.5.3 Whitireia Park

Whitireia Park is not a regional park, it is a recreation and historic reserve managed by a Park Board comprised of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Greater Wellington Councillor representatives. Greater Wellington provides park management services to the board. The information collected in the parks and trails survey is provided to the Board to support their management of Whitireia Park.

5 Method

5.1 Sample size and structure

The sample size is 1370, comprising responses from multiple consumer panels: Dynata (1002 respondents) and Social (368 respondents). The demographic structure of the sample closely matches that of the general population for region and gender. 16–29-year-olds were slightly underrepresented in the sample. A breakdown of the demographic structure of Greater Wellington and the sample is shown in the tables below.

5.1.1 Consumer panel breakdown

- Dynata: 1002
- Social: 368
- **Grand Total: 1370**

5.1.2 Region[1]

Region	Proportion of Sample	Sample Size	Proportion of Total Population	Total Population
Wellington City	38%	473	40%	202,737
Hutt Valley	30%	368	29%	148,512
Kāpiti Coast	14%	171	11%	53,673
Porirua	11%	140	11%	56,559
Wairarapa	6%	79	9%	45,330
Outside of Wellington	0%	5		

Table 1: Sample by region

5.1.3 Age[2]

Age	Proportion of Sample	Sample Size	Proportion of Total Population	Total Population
16-29 years	18%	226	25%	103,350
30-39 years	20%	248	17%	68,793
40-49 years	19%	240	17%	69,498
50-59 years	18%	223	16%	66,288
60-69 years	13%	162	12%	49,578
70 years and over	10%	128	12%	49,449

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[1] Stats NZ–Tatauranga Aotearoa. (n.d.). Age and sex by ethnic group (grouped total responses), for the census usually resident population count, 2006, 2013, and 2018 Censuses (RC, TA, SA2, DHB). Retrieved 2023, June 23 from https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/

[2] Stats NZ–Tatauranga Aotearoa. (n.d.). Age and sex by ethnic group (grouped total responses), for census usually resident population counts, 2006, 2013, and 2018 Censuses (RC, TA, SA2, DHB). Retrieved 2023, June 23 from https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/

Table 2: Sample by age

5.1.4 Gender[3]

Gender	Proportion of Sample	Sample Size	Proportion of Total Population	Total Population
Female	58%	707	51%	259,413
Male	42%	518	49%	247,401

Table 3: Sample by gender

5.2 Sample selection

Respondents were recruited for the research through multiple consumer panels and through an open online survey distributed by Greater Wellington. For the consumer panels, only respondents who lived within the Wellington region were permitted to complete the survey. Quotas across the consumer panels were used to achieve a representative sample.

5.3 Fieldwork dates

Fieldwork was conducted between 5 June 2025 and 7 July 2025.

5.4 Data analysis methodology

Analysis of the close-ended questions will be presented as either tables or figures.

5.4.1 Thematic analysis

PublicVoice undertook the analysis of responses to open-ended interface questions. All submissions received via the online interface underwent thematic analysis, whereby themes were extracted from comments received. The foundation for the thematic analysis used by PublicVoice is the methodology developed by Braun and Clarke, 2006[4]. A team of research analysts identified, analysed and interpreted patterns of meaning within the open-ended responses. Each theme was then analysed for frequency.

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[3] Stats NZ–Tatauranga Aotearoa. (n.d.). Ethnic group (detailed single and combination) by age and sex, for the census usually resident population count, 2013 and 2018 Censuses (RC, TA, SA2, DHB). Retrieved 2023, June 23 from https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/

[4] Braun and V. Clarke (2006), 'Using thematic analysis in psychology'. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3(2), 77-101.

6 Key findings

6.1 Regional parks key findings

6.1.1 Satisfaction with regional parks

- Regional parks maintain good satisfaction levels in 2025, though all parks show declining satisfaction trends from 2024 to 2025.

- **Kaitoke Regional Park, Pākuratahi Forest Park and Queen Elizabeth Park lead in satisfaction** with 87% of visitors satisfied or very satisfied.

- **Queen Elizabeth Park** has shown the smallest decline in satisfaction levels (-1.1 percentage points).

- **East Harbour Regional Park** shows satisfaction at 84% (-1.8 percentage points from 2024).

- **Belmont Regional Park** shows satisfaction at 81% (-4.9 percentage points from 2024).

- **Battle Hill Farm Forest Park** shows the most significant decline in satisfaction at 81% from 89% last year (-7.7 percentage points from 2024).

- **Akatarawa Forest Park and Wainuiomata Regional Park** also show significant declines, both at 78% satisfaction (-7.5 and -6.7 percentage points respectively).

- Despite declining trends, all parks maintain satisfaction levels above 75%, indicating continued visitor appreciation.

Figure **1** shows the overall reported visitor satisfaction for the regional parks.
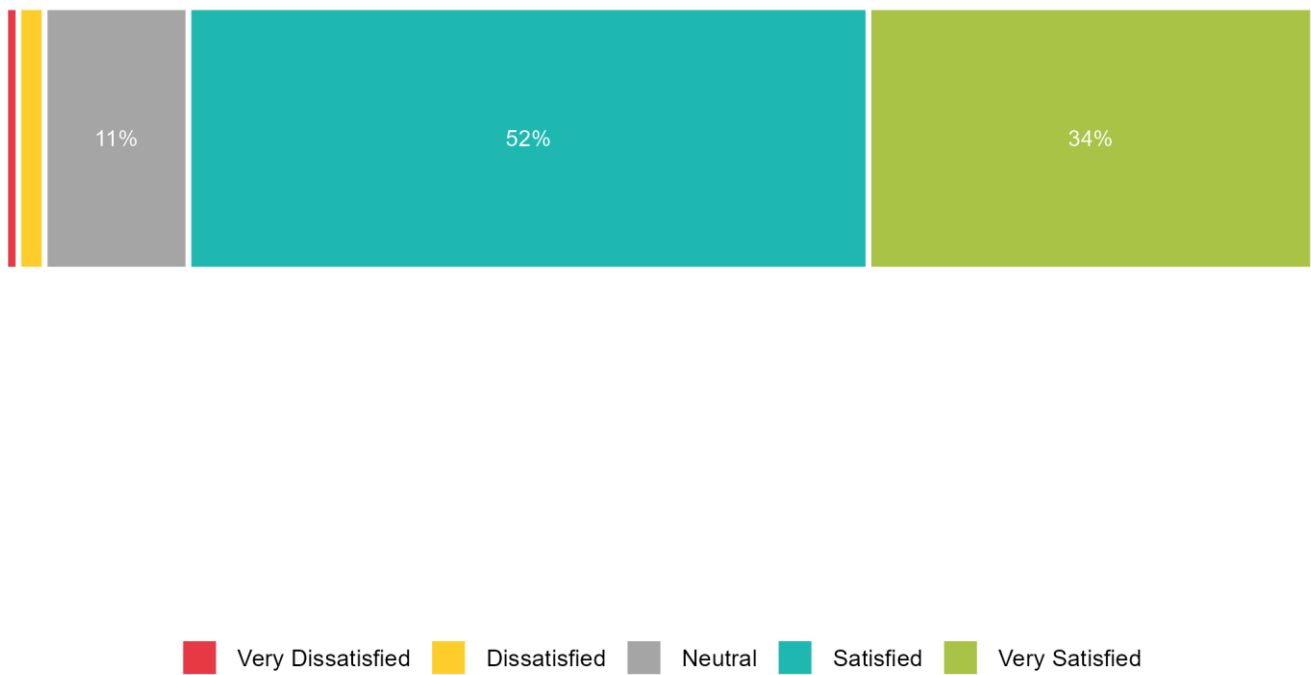
Figure 1: Overall reported visitor satisfaction for the regional parks

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	2%	11%	52%	34%	100%
n	8	19	107	501	328	963

Table 4: Overall regional parks satisfaction breakdown for 2025

The overall regional parks satisfaction data reveals that **86% of visitors remain satisfied or very satisfied** (34% very satisfied + 52% satisfied), demonstrating the continued value these facilities provide to the community. Only **11% of visitors are neutral**, while dissatisfaction remains very low at just **3% combined** (2% dissatisfied + 1% very dissatisfied). This positive overall satisfaction picture, even amid the individual park declines noted above, suggests that while there are areas for improvement, the regional parks system continues to meet visitor expectations and serve the community effectively.

Table 5 shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) of all regional parks from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Akatarawa Forest Park	85%	86%	78%	7.5%	▼
Battle Hill Farm Forest Park	84%	89%	81%	7.7%	▼
Belmont Regional Park	87%	86%	81%	4.9%	▼

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
East Harbour Regional Park	90%	86%	84%	1.8%	▼
Kaitoke Regional Park	90%	91%	87%	3.8%	▼
Pākuratahi Forest Park	90%	91%	87%	3.6%	▼
Queen Elizabeth Park	83%	88%	87%	1.1%	▼
Wainuiomata Regional Park	86%	85%	78%	6.7%	▼

Table 5: Overall satisfaction of all regional parks by year

6.1.2   Regional parks visited

- There was an overall decrease in regional parks visitation in 2025 compared to previous years, with most parks showing declining visitor numbers. Akatarawa Forest Park experienced the most significant drop, falling from 33% in 2024 to 19% in 2025. Belmont Regional Park also showed a notable decline from 34% in 2023 and 33% in 2024 to 21% in 2025.

- Queen Elizabeth Park, Kaitoke Regional Park, and Belmont Regional Park were the most visited parks in 2025. The least visited parks were Wainuiomata Regional Park and Pākuratahi Forest Park, both at 14%.

- The data shows varied visitation patterns across the three-year period, with most parks experiencing their lowest visitation levels in 2025 compared to the previous two years.

Table 6 shows the regional parks visitation from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Akatarawa Forest Park	29%	33%	19%	13.9%	▼
Battle Hill Farm Forest Park	26%	25%	19%	6%	▼
Belmont Regional Park	34%	33%	21%	11.9%	▼
East Harbour Regional Park	26%	21%	12%	8.7%	▼
Kaitoke Regional Park	35%	37%	30%	7.2%	▼
Pākuratahi Forest Park	20%	21%	14%	7.7%	▼
Queen Elizabeth Park	42%	35%	31%	4.1%	▼
Wainuiomata Regional Park	17%	17%	14%	3.5%	▼

Table 6: Regional parks visitation by year

6.1.3   Frequency of visits to regional parks

- **Increases in repeat visitation across all regional parks in 2025**, with all parks showing upward trends in frequent visitors (more than 2 visits).

- **Akatarawa Forest Park showed the largest improvement and now has the highest percentage of frequent visitors**, with frequent visitors increasing from 33% in 2024 to 54% in 2025 (+20.8 percentage points).

- **East Harbour Regional Park** also demonstrated growth, with frequent visitors rising from 39% to 53% (+13.7 percentage points).

- **Queen Elizabeth Park and Belmont Regional Park maintain high percentages** of frequent visitors at 50% and 52% respectively.

- All seven tracked regional parks show increasing trends in visitor frequency, indicating growing visitor loyalty and engagement.

Table 7 shows the proportion of respondents who visited regional parks more than 2 times from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Akatarawa Forest Park	30%	33%	54%	20.8%	▲
Battle Hill Farm Forest Park	37%	34%	35%	0.9%	▲
Belmont Regional Park	45%	47%	52%	5%	▲
East Harbour Regional Park	40%	39%	53%	13.7%	▲
Kaitoke Regional Park	37%	33%	40%	6.4%	▲
Pākuratahi Forest Park	37%	39%	45%	5.3%	▲
Queen Elizabeth Park	48%	46%	50%	4.2%	▲
Wainuiomata Regional Park	35%	33%	42%	8.7%	▲

Table 7: Proportion of respondents who visited regional parks more than 2 times by year

6.1.4 Activities and attractions of regional parks

- Walking/tramping, mountain biking/cycling, leisure/sightseeing, and picnics/barbecues continue to be the most popular activities across regional parks in 2025.

- Sights/scenery, walking/biking trails, and accessibility remain the primary attractions drawing visitors to regional parks.

- Each park maintains its unique character and specialised attractions that appeal to different visitor preferences.

6.1.5 Individual Park Highlights

Akatarawa Forest Park

- Shows improvement in repeat visitation (54% frequent visitors in 2025)

- Walking/tramping, leisure/sightseeing, and mountain biking/cycling remain popular

- Dam, sights/scenery, and walking/biking trails continue as key attractions

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

- Steady visitor frequency with 35% repeat visitors

- Camping and horse riding distinguish this park from others

- Walking/biking trails and facilities maintain appeal

Belmont Regional Park

- Maintains a high repeat visitation with 52%
- Waterfall remains a unique attraction
- Appeal for walking/tramping and mountain biking

East Harbour Regional Park

- Increase in repeat visitation (53% in 2025)
- Lighthouse and coastal location provide unique appeal
- Satisfaction levels at 84%

Kaitoke Regional Park

- Growth in repeat visitation (40% in 2025)
- Camping and water activities remain popular
- Maintains satisfaction levels among all parks

Pākuratahi Forest Park

- Achieves joint highest satisfaction rating (87%) alongside Kaitoke Regional Park and Queen Elizabeth Park
- Mountain biking and tunnel attraction maintain unique appeal
- Continues to serve specialised recreation needs

Queen Elizabeth Park

- Maintains position as frequent destination (50% repeat visitors)
- Beach access and tram provide distinctive features
- Family appeal continues

Wainuiomata Regional Park

- Shows improvement in repeat visitation (42% in 2025, up from 33% in 2024)
- Camping facilities remain key attraction
- Improving visitor engagement despite joint lowest overall visitation with Pakuratahi Forest Park

6.1.6 Improvements needed for regional parks

Common improvement themes across regional parks in 2025:

- **Information boards and signage** - continues to be the most frequently mentioned improvement need across parks.
- **Waste management** - adding more garbage bins and addressing littering problems remains a priority.
- **Track maintenance and improvement** - ensuring safe and accessible pathways for all users.
- **Facility upgrades** - toilets, bathrooms, and basic amenities need attention in several parks.

Akatarawa Forest Park

The most mentioned improvements for Akatarawa Forest Park were:

- Improve the information boards and signage.
- Maintain and improve the tracks.

- Improve access to and within Akatarawa Forest Park.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

The most mentioned improvements for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Allow and improve horse access.

- Add and improve toilets/bathrooms.

Belmont Regional Park

The most mentioned improvements for Belmont Regional Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Maintain and improve tracks.

- Improve access.

East Harbour Regional Park

The most mentioned improvements for East Harbour Regional Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Maintain and improve tracks.

- Add and improve toilets/bathrooms

Kaitoke Regional Park

The most mentioned improvements for Kaitoke Regional Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Add and improve toilets/bathrooms.

- Maintain and improve tracks.

Pākuratahi Forest Park

The most mentioned improvements for Pākuratahi Forest Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Improve safety and security.

- Maintain and improve tracks.

Queen Elizabeth Park

The most mentioned improvements for Queen Elizabeth Park were:

- Add and improve toilets/bathrooms.

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Add garbage bins and address the rubbish problem.

Wainuiomata Regional Park

The most mentioned improvements for Wainuiomata Regional Park were:

- Improve information boards and signage.

- Maintain and improve tracks.

- Add extra seating.

6.2 River trails key findings

6.2.1 Satisfaction with river trails

- River trails maintain good satisfaction levels in 2025, though all trails show declining satisfaction trends from 2024 to 2025.
- **Waikanae River Trail leads in satisfaction** with 86% of users satisfied or very satisfied (-4.0 percentage points from 2024).
- **Ōtaki River Trail** maintains satisfaction levels at 81% (-2.0 percentage points from 2024).
- **Hutt River Trail**, despite highest usage, shows satisfaction at 78% (-6.4 percentage points from 2024).
- While all trails show declining trends, satisfaction levels remain above 75%, indicating continued user appreciation despite challenges.

Table 8 shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) of all river trails from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Hutt River Trail	83%	85%	78%	6.4%	▼
Ōtaki River Trail	80%	83%	81%	2%	▼
Waikanae River Trail	87%	90%	86%	4%	▼

Table 8: Overall satisfaction of river trails by year

6.2.2 River trails visited

- **Hutt River Trail maintains its position as the most visited trail** with continued visitation levels.

Table 9 shows the river trails visitation from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Hutt River Trail	35%	42%	41%	1%	▼
Ōtaki River Trail	11%	9%	14%	4.2%	▲
Waikanae River Trail	20%	16%	19%	2.9%	▲

Table 9: River trails visitation by year

6.2.3 Frequency of visits to river trails

- **All three river trails show increasing trends in repeat visitation**, demonstrating growing user loyalty.
- **Ōtaki River Trail shows notable improvement,** with frequent visitors increasing from 36% in 2024 to 50% in 2025 (+14 percentage points).
- **Waikanae River Trail** demonstrates growth, rising from 54% to 61% frequent visitors (+7.2 percentage points).
- **Hutt River Trail maintains the highest repeat visitation rate** at 64%, showing incremental growth (+0.5 percentage points).

- The improvements in Ōtaki and Waikanae trails suggest initiatives to enhance user experience and accessibility.

Table 10 shows the proportion of respondents who visited river trails more than 2 times from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Hutt River Trail	62%	63%	64%	0.5%	▲
Ōtaki River Trail	30%	36%	50%	14%	▲
Waikanae River Trail	50%	54%	61%	7.2%	▲

Table 10: Proportion of respondents who visited river trails more than 2 times by year

6.2.4　Activities and attractions of river trails

- Walking/tramping, mountain biking/cycling, and exercising dogs remain the dominant activities across all river trails in 2025.

- Walking/biking trails, accessibility, and natural scenery continue as the primary attractions.

- Each trail maintains its unique characteristics while serving the core recreation needs of the community.

6.2.5　Individual Trail Highlights

Hutt River Trail

Analysis of activities and attractions for the Hutt River Trail indicated that:

- Maintains highest usage with 64% repeat visitation

- Walking/tramping, mountain biking/cycling, exercising dogs, and general exercising were the most popular activities undertaken at the Hutt River Trail.

- The walking/biking trails, accessibility, and dog-friendly nature were the most common attractions for the Hutt River Trail.

Ōtaki River Trail

Analysis of activities and attractions for the Ōtaki River Trail indicated that:

- Shows improvement in repeat visitation (50% in 2025, up 14 percentage points)

- Walking/tramping, mountain biking/cycling, exercising dogs, and horse riding were the most popular activities undertaken at the Ōtaki River Trail.

- The walking/biking trails and sights/scenery were the most common attractions for the Ōtaki River Trail.

- Growing user loyalty suggests enhancements

Waikanae River Trail

Analysis of activities and attractions for the Waikanae River Trail indicated that:

- Achieves highest trail satisfaction levels (86%)

- Walking/tramping, mountain biking/cycling, exercising dogs, and general exercising were the most popular activities undertaken at the Waikanae River Trail.

- The walking/biking trails, scenery, and beach access were the most common attractions for the Waikanae River Trail.

- Growth in repeat visitation (61%)

6.2.6 Improvements to river trails

Priority improvements for river trails in 2025:

- **Track maintenance and accessibility** - ensuring safe, well-maintained pathways for all users and activities.

- **Waste management** - installing adequate garbage bins and addressing littering issues.

- **Information and signage** - improving wayfinding and educational information along trails.

- **Access improvements** - enhancing entry points and connections to communities.

Hutt River Trail

The most mentioned improvements for the Hutt River Trail were:

- Maintaining and improving the tracks.

- Adding additional garbage bins and addressing the rubbish problem.

- Improving information boards and signage.

Ōtaki River Trail

The most mentioned improvements for the Ōtaki River Trail were:

- Improving access to and around the Ōtaki River Trail.

- Improving information boards and signage.

- Improving the environment.

Waikanae River Trail

The most mentioned improvements for the Waikanae River Trail were:

- Maintaining and improving the tracks.

- Improving information boards and signage.

- Adding and improving toilets and bathrooms.

6.3   Whitireia Park key findings

6.3.1   Whitireia Park satisfaction

- **Whitireia Park maintains good satisfaction levels** with 85% of visitors satisfied or very satisfied (-3.8 percentage points from 2024).

- The park shows a declining satisfaction trend from the peak of 89% in 2024 but remains above the 2023 baseline of 82%.

- Despite the decline, satisfaction levels remain strong, indicating continued visitor appreciation for the park's offerings.

Table 11 shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) with Whitireia Park from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Whitireia Park	82%	89%	85%	3.8%	▼

Table 11: Overall satisfaction with Whitireia Park by year

6.3.2   Whitireia Park visitation

- Whitireia Park continues to serve its local community effectively with consistent visitation patterns.

- The park maintains its appeal across diverse user groups and age ranges.

Table 12 shows the Whitireia Park visitation from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Whitireia Park	24%	23%	20%	3.3%	▼

Table 12: Whitireia Park visitation by year

6.3.3   Frequency of visits to Whitireia Park

- **Whitireia Park shows recovery in repeat visitation**, increasing from 40% in 2024 to 49% in 2025 (+8.6 percentage points).

- This improvement suggests initiatives to re-engage frequent users after the decline observed between 2023-2024.

- Local proximity continues to be a factor in frequent visitation patterns.

Table 13 shows the proportion of respondents who visited Whitireia Park more than 2 times from 2023 to 2025.

Location	2023	2024	2025	Difference	
Whitireia Park	50%	40%	49%	8.6%	▲

Table 13: Proportion of respondents who visited Whitireia Park more than 2 times by year

6.3.4   Whitireia Park activities and attractions

- Walking/tramping, exercising dogs, and leisure/sightseeing continue as the primary activities in 2025.

- Sights/scenery and walking trails remain the main attractions drawing visitors to the park.

- The park's coastal location and accessibility continue to provide unique value to the community.

6.3.5 Whitireia Park improvements

Priority improvements for Whitireia Park in 2025:

- **Safety and security** - addressing ongoing concerns about personal safety in the park.
- **Environmental enhancement** - protecting and improving the natural coastal environment.
- **Infrastructure maintenance** - ensuring roads, paths, and facilities remain in good condition.
- **Information and amenities** - improving signage and visitor facilities.

The most mentioned improvements for Whitireia Park in 2025 were:

- Improve the safety and security of Whitireia Park.
- Improve the natural environment.
- Maintain and improve the roads.

6.4 Deterrents to visitation

6.4.1 Deterrents to visitation

17.1% of respondents had not visited any of the parks or trails. This represents an increase from 15.3% in the previous year, indicating growing challenges in park engagement.

The most common reasons in 2025 respondents had not visited a park or trail in the last 12 months were:

- Not interested in visiting either a park or a trail.
- Health problems or having limited to no mobility.
- A lack of time or other commitments.

6.5   Temporary Park Area Closures

Last summer, some areas of parks were closed temporarily because of a possible fire threat. Respondents were asked whether they heard about the temporary park area closures through social media or other sources.

- **30% of respondents** were aware of the temporary park area closures through social media or other sources.

- The majority of respondents (**70%**) did not hear about the temporary closures.

- This suggests that communication about emergency park closures may need to be enhanced to reach more park users.

Figure **2** shows the distribution of awareness about temporary park area closures.
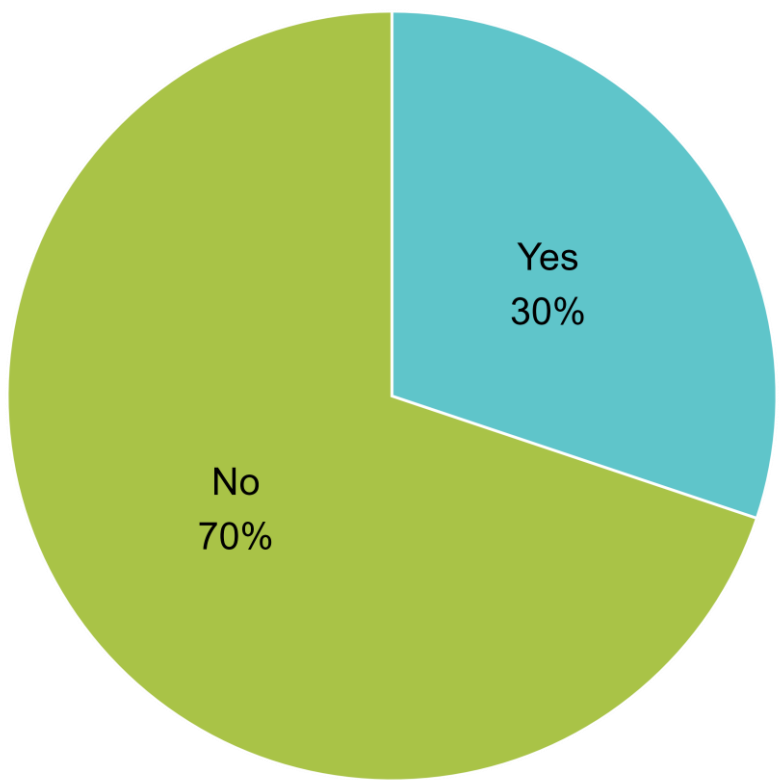
Figure 2: *Awareness of temporary park area closures due to fire threats*

Table 14 shows the breakdown of respondent awareness of temporary park area closures.

	Yes	No	Total
%	30%	70%	100%
n	375	869	1244

Table 14: Awareness of temporary park area closures due to fire threats

The relatively low awareness rate (30%) indicates that emergency communication strategies could be improved to better inform park users about temporary closures for safety reasons. This is particularly important during fire-risk periods when public safety is paramount.

6.6   Comments on Temporary Closures

Respondents who were aware of the temporary park closures were asked to provide comments about these closures. The feedback revealed several key themes regarding public perception and suggestions for improvement.

- **Support for safety measures**: The majority of comments (534 responses) focused on safety and necessity, with 238 respondents recognising the closures as necessary or wise, and 155 acknowledging the importance of safety.

- **Communication gaps identified**: 229 responses highlighted awareness and information issues, with 82 comments calling for better communication and advertising, and 73 respondents stating they were unaware of the closures.

- **Positive environmental impact recognised**: 107 comments addressed impact and accessibility, with 32 noting that closures protect people and 28 recognising environmental protection benefits.

- **Constructive suggestions offered**: 39 responses provided alternative suggestions, including increased maintenance to avoid future closures (19 comments) and providing alternative access options (9 comments).

Table 15 shows the detailed breakdown of themes in respondent comments about temporary closures.

Theme	Freq
SAFETY AND NECESSITY	**534**
Recognition of closures as necessary or wise	238
Acknowledgment of safety importance	155
Approval of action	86
Fire risk	22
Approval of management	11
Closures are unnecessary	11
Concern with noncompliance and lack of enforcement	7
Concerns with management	4
AWARENESS AND INFORMATION	**229**
Need for better communication and advertising	82
Unaware of closures	73
Timely updates	22
Unclear causes	22
Online communications	20
Communication of closures was good	10
IMPACT AND ACCESSIBILITY	**107**
Protects people	32
Protects the environment	28
Disappointing, sad, worried	11
Unaffected by closures	9
Closures affected access	6

Theme	Freq
Duration of closures was excessive	6
Inconvenient	6
Impact on activities	5
Minimal impact due to availability of alternatives	4
ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS	**39**
Increased maintenance to avoid closures	19
Provide alternatives	9
Prefer to have fire bans rather than access bans	7
Necessary due to ban on grazing	4

Table 15: Themes in comments about temporary park closures

The feedback demonstrates that while there is public support for safety-focused closures, there is room for improvement in communication strategies. Many respondents appreciated the protective intent of the closures but emphasised the need for more effective notification systems and clearer information about the reasons and duration of closures. The constructive nature of the feedback suggests that enhanced communication could lead to greater public understanding and co-operation during future emergency situations.

6.7 Overall trends and insights

6.7.1 Positive trends across all facilities

- **Improvement in repeat visitation**: All tracked parks and trails show increasing trends in frequent visitors (more than 2 visits), indicating growing user loyalty and engagement.

- **High satisfaction levels maintained**: High satisfaction rates across all facilities demonstrate effective management and maintenance.

- **Low dissatisfaction rates**: Minimal negative feedback suggests that current service levels meet user expectations.

6.7.2 Areas of concern

- **Increasing non-user rates**: The rise in non-visitors from 15.3% to 17.1% suggests challenges in attracting new users.

- **Declining satisfaction trends**: All parks and trails show satisfaction declines from 2024 to 2025, indicating areas requiring attention.

6.7.3 Key success factors

- **Diverse activity options**: Parks and trails that offer multiple recreation opportunities show stronger engagement.

- **Natural attractions**: Scenic features, trails, and unique elements (waterfalls, lighthouses, beaches) enhance visitor experience.

6.7.4 Priority improvement areas

- **Information and wayfinding**: Signage improvements needed across most facilities.

- **Waste management**: Garbage bins and litter control remain ongoing challenges.

- **Infrastructure maintenance**: Tracks, facilities, and access points require regular attention.

- **Safety and security**: Particularly important for parks in more remote or isolated locations.

6.7.5 Looking forward

The 2025 results demonstrate both opportunities and challenges for the regional parks and trails system. While repeat visitation shows positive growth across all facilities, indicating increasing user loyalty and engagement, satisfaction levels have declined across all parks and trails from 2024 to 2025, and the proportion of non-users has increased. The improvement in frequency of visits suggests that regular users remain committed to these facilities, but the satisfaction decline and increasing non-user rate warrant attention to ensure service quality is maintained and new users are attracted. Continued focus on the identified improvement areas—particularly information and signage, waste management, and infrastructure maintenance—will be crucial to reversing satisfaction trends, reducing barriers to visitation, and ensuring these valuable community assets continue to serve current and future generations effectively.

7 Detailed analysis of feedback

7.1   Marketing KPIs

The marketing KPIs show the following measures of the regional parks from 2023 to 2025: visitation, satisfaction, and repeat visitation.

- The marketing KPIs show varied trends across the three-year period. Visitation rates declined from 79.8% (2023) to 78.1% (2024) and further to 67.5% (2025).

- Satisfaction rates improved consistently from 83.8% (2023) to 85.8% (2024) and 86.1% (2025).

- Repeat visitation rates showed resilience, recovering from a slight dip from 39.6% (2023) to 38.5% (2024) before increasing to 46.2% (2025).

The visitation data shows a downward trend in regional park usage. Figure **3** illustrates the declining proportion of respondents who visited at least one regional park over the last 12 months, dropping from 79.8% in 2023 to 67.5% in 2025.
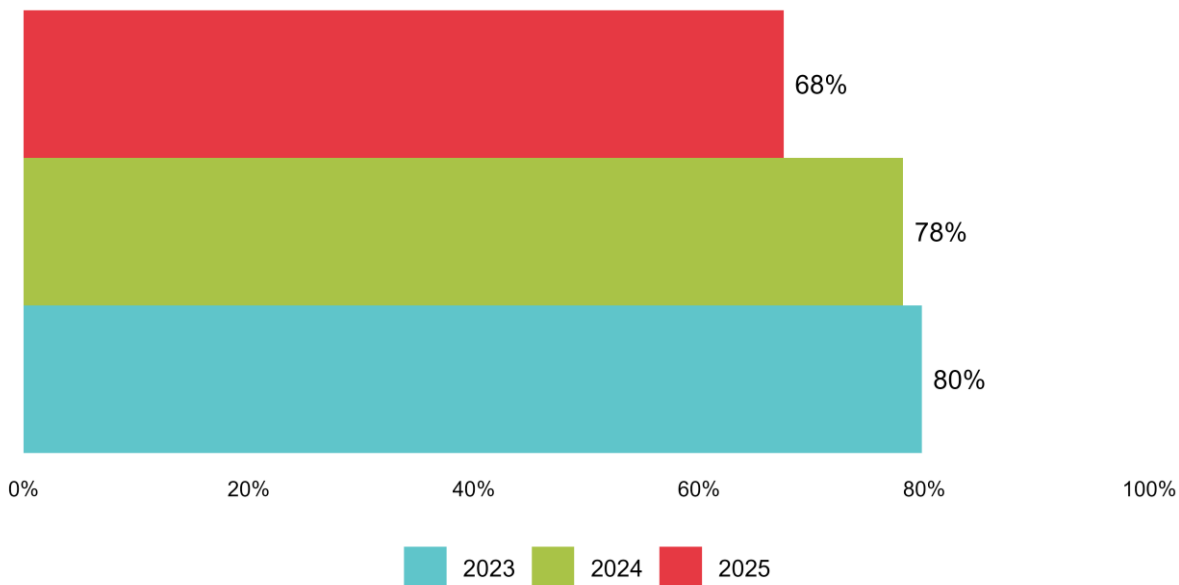
Figure 3: Visited at least one of the regional parks over the last 12 months from 2023 to 2025

Despite declining visitation rates, user satisfaction has consistently improved across the three-year period. Figure **4** demonstrates this positive trend, with satisfaction ratings climbing from 83.8% in 2023 to 86.1% in 2025, suggesting that quality improvements and visitor experience enhancements are having a positive impact on those who do visit the parks.
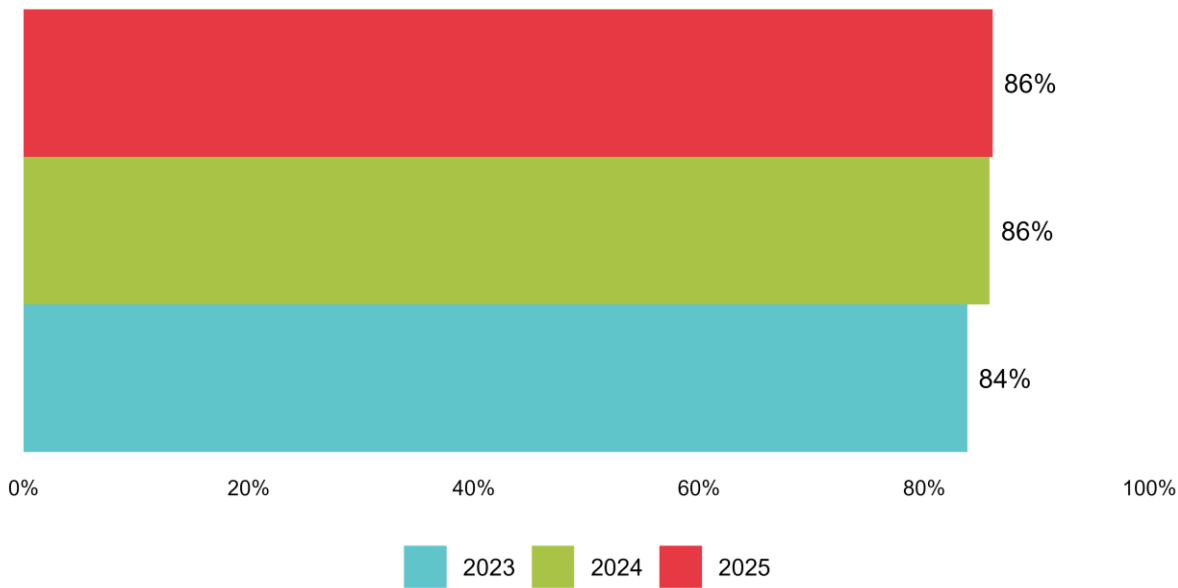
Figure 4: Satisfaction of regional parks from 2023 to 2025

A particularly encouraging trend emerges in repeat visitation patterns. Figure **5** shows the proportion of respondents who visited regional parks more than twice, revealing a strong recovery from 39.6% in 2023 to 46.2% in 2025. This increase in repeat visitation indicates growing loyalty among existing park users and suggests that those who visit are finding increasing value in their park experiences.
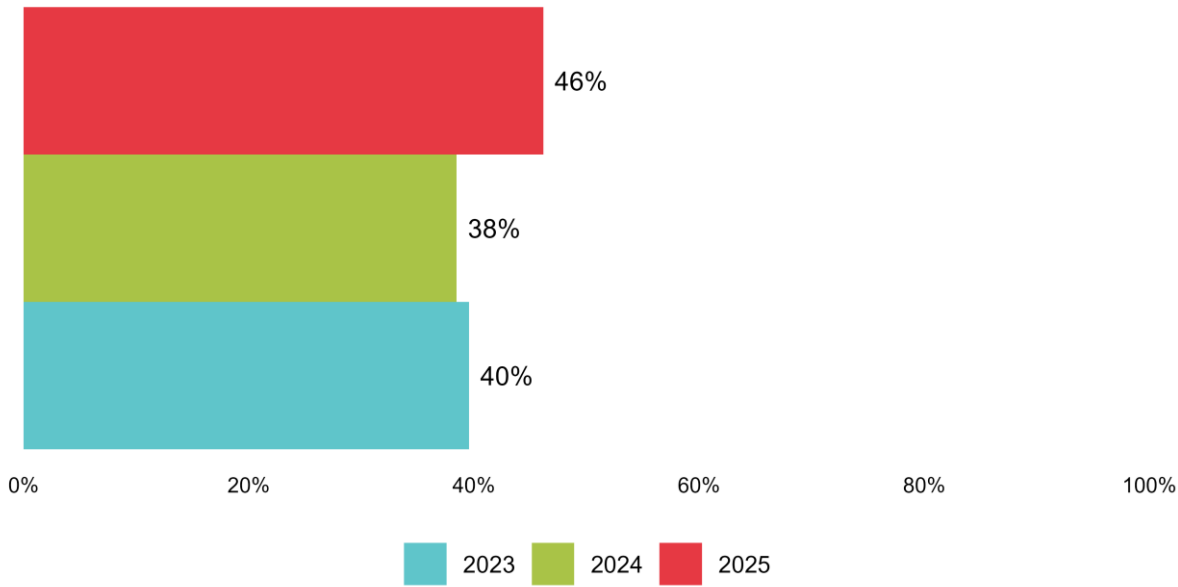
Figure 5: Proportion of respondents who visited regional parks more than 2 times from 2023 to 2025

7.2   Number of parks and trails visited

Respondents were categorised according to the number of parks and trails they visited in the last 12 months. These categories are:

- No users (respondents did not visit any parks or trails)

- Low users (respondents visited 1 to 4 parks or trails)

- High users (respondents visited more than 5 parks or trails)

7.2.1   Key trends in 2025

The 2025 data reveals notable shifts in visitation patterns:

- **Increasing no-user rates**: The proportion of non-visitors increased from 15.3% in 2024 to 17.1% in 2025, suggesting potential challenges in accessibility or awareness

- **Growing low-user segment**: Low users increased from 60.8% to 65.7%, indicating that while fewer people are visiting, those who do visit are maintaining engagement

- **Declining high-user rates**: High users decreased from 23.9% to 17.2%, which may reflect changing leisure patterns, capacity constraints, or reduced intensive usage

The analysis of user engagement intensity reveals significant shifts in visitor behaviour patterns. Figure **6** illustrates how visitors are distributed across usage categories, showing a notable decline in high-intensity users (from 23.9% to 17.2%) while low-to-moderate users have increased. This shift suggests changing leisure patterns and may indicate opportunities for targeted engagement strategies to convert moderate users into more frequent visitors.
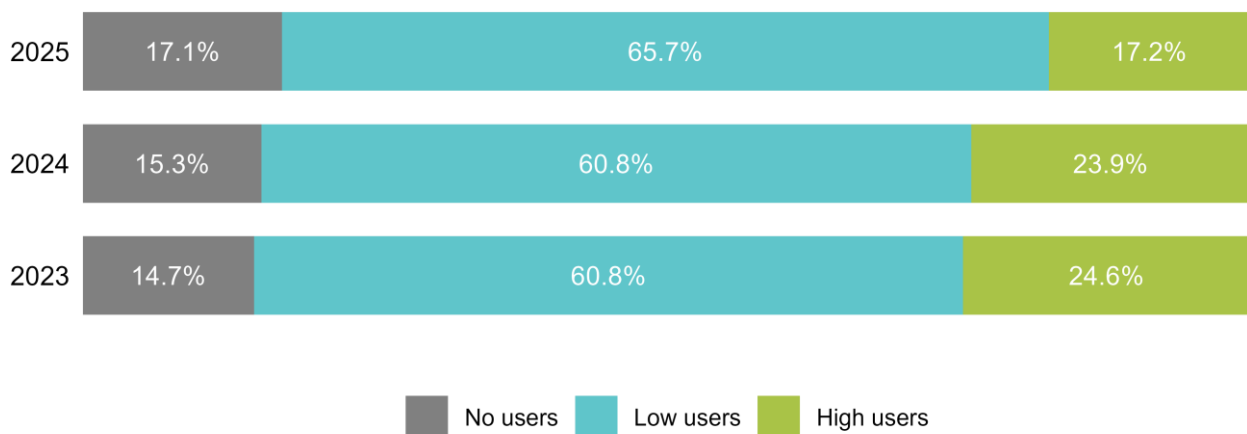
Figure 6: Visitation categories to all parks and trails (2023-2025)

7.3   Total Visitation by Location

The 2025 data shows variations in visitation across different parks and trails:

- **Overall visitation declining**: 83% of respondents visited at least one park or trail in 2025, down from 85% in both 2023 and 2024

- **Hutt River Trail maintains popularity**: Consistently highest visitation rates (41% in 2025)

- **Queen Elizabeth Park shows stability**: Maintained performance with 31% visitation in 2025

- **Growth opportunities**: Some locations like Ōtaki River Trail (14%) and East Harbour Regional Park (12%) show potential for increased engagement

7.3.1   Location-specific trends

Several parks show distinct patterns:

- **Hutt River Trail**: Remains the most visited location with consistent 41-42% visitation across recent years

- **Queen Elizabeth Park**: Steady drop in visitation to 31% in 2025 from 35% in 2024 and 31% in 2023

- **Kaitoke Regional Park**: Slight decline from 37% (2024) to 30% (2025)

- **Belmont and Whitireia Parks**: Both showing gradual decreases in 2025

Location-specific visitation data reveals interesting variations in park performance across the region. Figure **7** provides a comprehensive view of how different parks and trails are performing relative to each other, highlighting both consistent performers like Hutt River Trail and Queen Elizabeth Park, as well as locations with growth potential such as Ōtaki River Trail and East Harbour Regional Park.
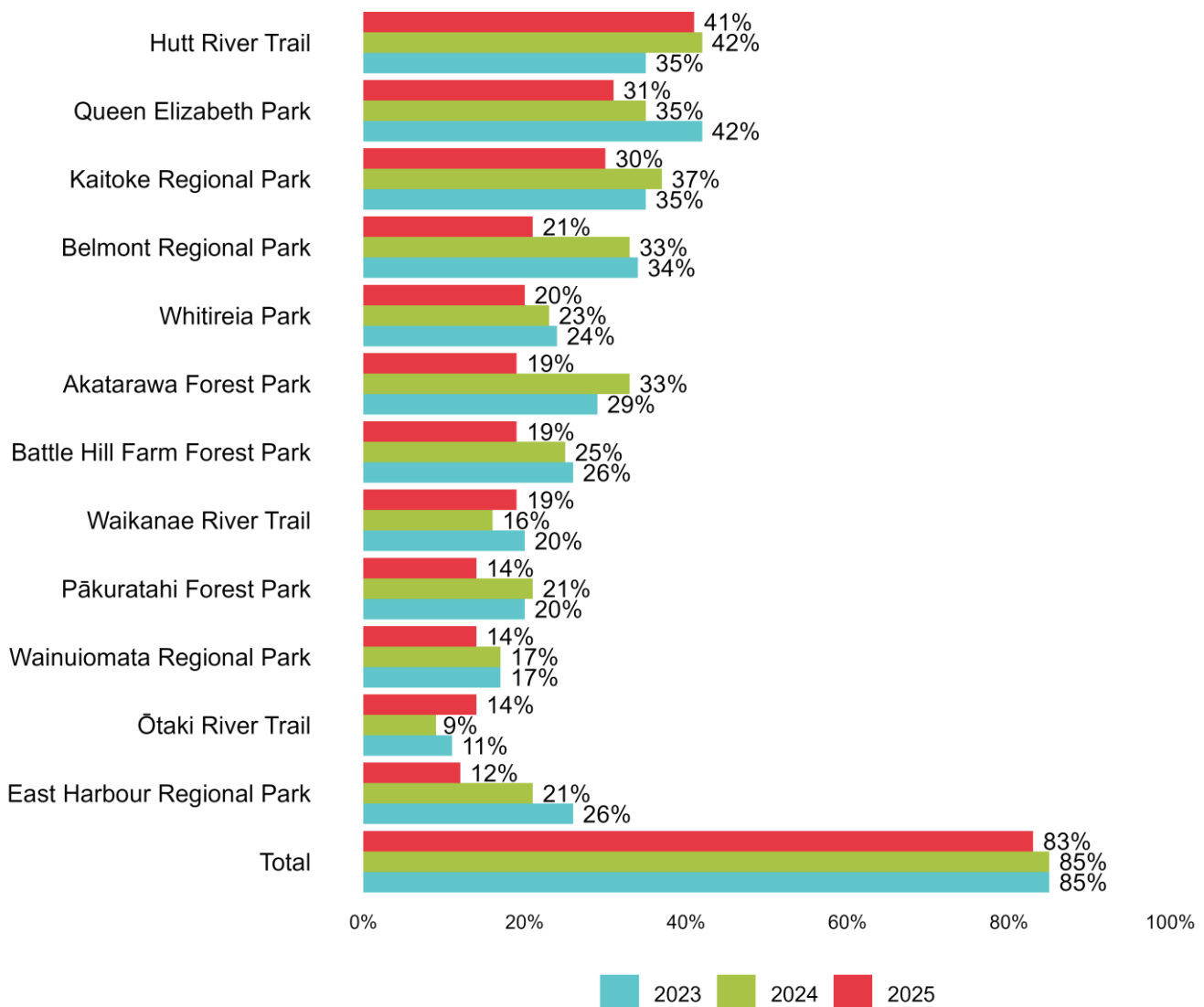
Figure 7: Visitation to all parks and trails by location (2023-2025)

7.4   Key Insights for 2025

The 2025 data suggests a parks system facing engagement challenges:

- **Visitation trends**: Both overall regional park visitation (67.5%) and total park/trail usage (83%) show declining patterns

- **Shifting user intensity**: Fewer high-intensity users (17.2% vs 23.9% in 2024) but more moderate users (65.7% vs 60.8%)

- **Positive satisfaction trajectory**: Despite declining usage, satisfaction continues to improve (86.1% in 2025), suggesting quality improvements

- **Strong repeat visitation growth**: The increase in repeat visitation rates (46.2% in 2025 vs 38.5% in 2024) indicates growing loyalty among existing users

- **Strategic focus needed**: The data suggests a need to balance retention of existing users with strategies to attract new visitors and re-engage lapsed users

8 Respondent Profile

This section provides an overview of the survey participants' demographic characteristics. Understanding who responded to our survey helps us interpret the findings and assess how well our sample represents the broader Wellington region population.

8.1 Age Distribution

The survey achieved a balanced age distribution across working-age adults, with representation among older residents.

Figure **8** shows the age of the respondents who completed the survey.
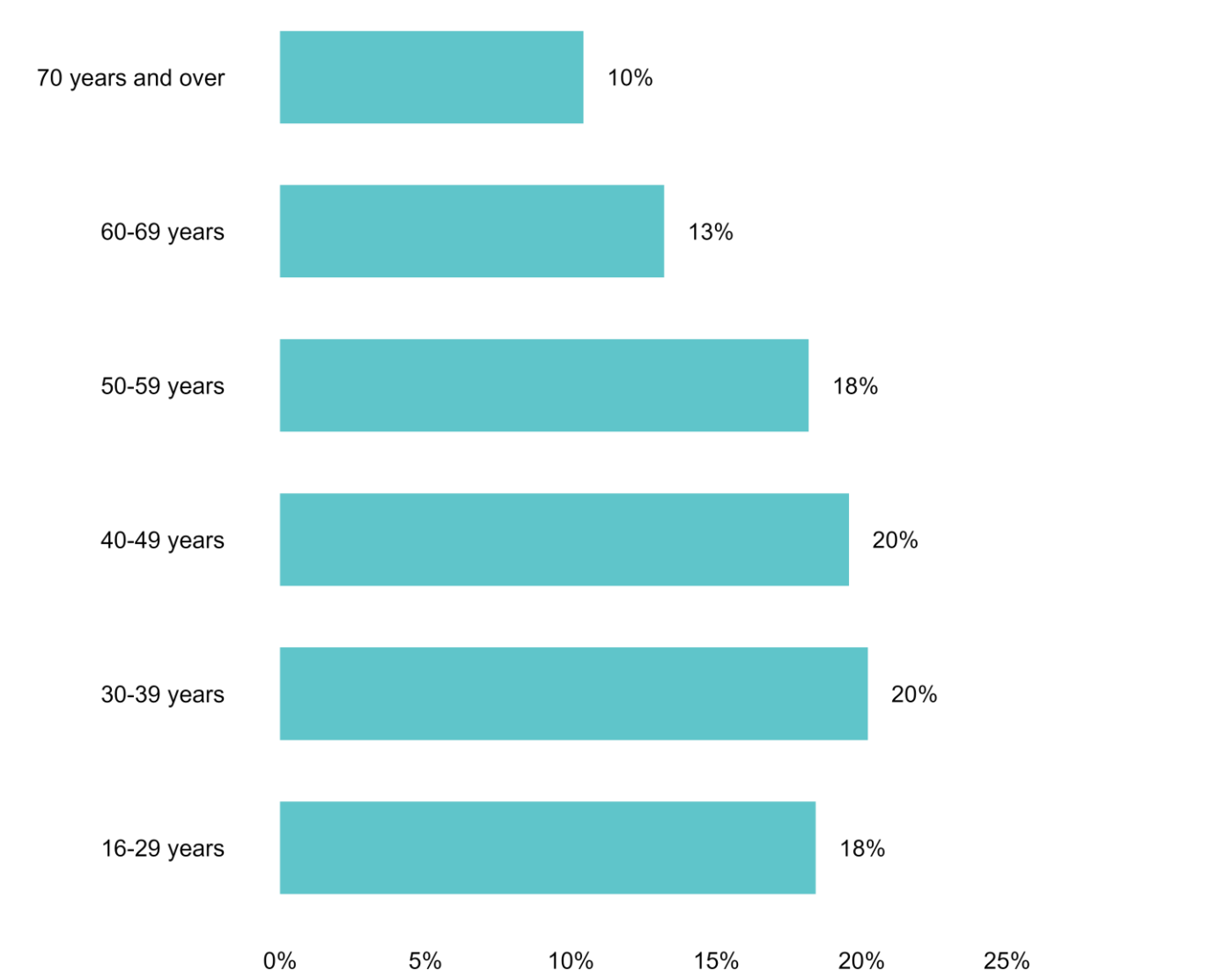
Figure 8: *Respondent's age group*

Table 16 shows the age of the respondents who completed the survey.

	16-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-69 years	70 years and over	Total
%	18%	20%	20%	18%	13%	10%	100%
n	226	248	240	223	162	128	1227

Table 16: Respondent's age groups

The age distribution shows representation across the 16-59 age groups, with participation among older residents. This pattern reflects the demographics of many Wellington region communities. The representation of working-age adults is valuable given this group's role in regional economic and social planning.

8.2 Gender Distribution

Our survey achieved good gender representation.

Figure **9** shows the gender of the respondents who completed the survey.
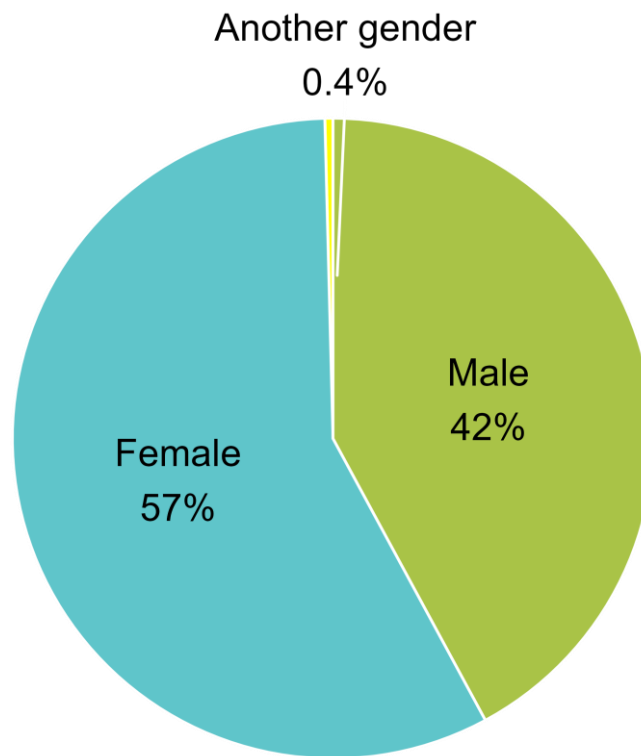
Figure 9: Respondents' gender

Table 17 shows the gender of the respondents who completed the survey.

	Male	Female	Another gender	Total
%	42%	57%	0.4%	100%
n	518	707	5	1230

Table 17: Respondents' gender

The survey captured participation from across gender groups. Respondents identifying as another gender were also represented in the dataset.

8.3 Regional Distribution

The survey captured voices from across the Wellington region, with participation reflecting population distributions.

Figure **10** shows where the respondents live.
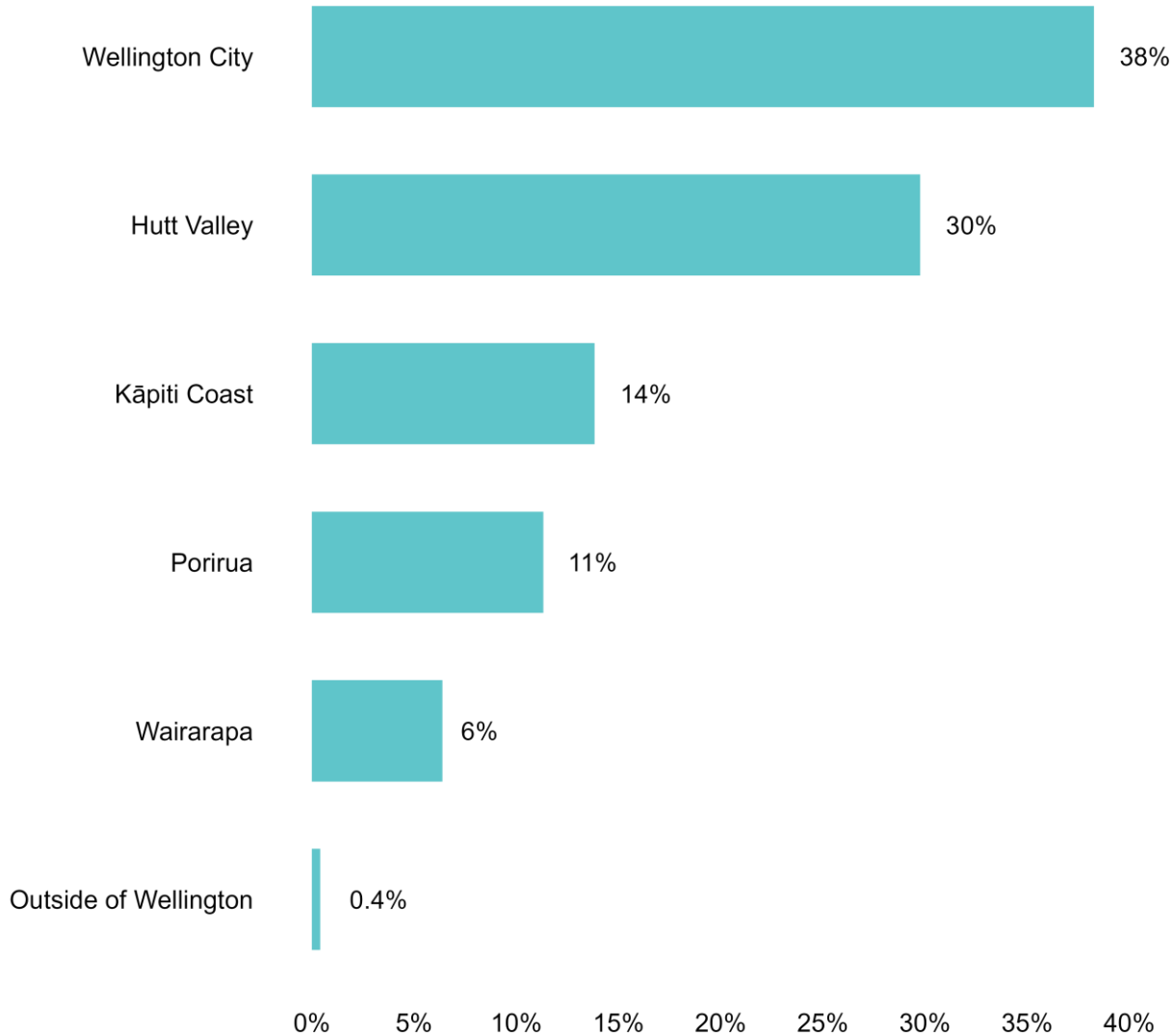
Figure 10: *Location of respondents*

Table 18 shows where the respondents live.

	Wellington City	Hutt Valley	Kāpiti Coast	Porirua	Wairarapa	Outside of Wellington	Total
%	38%	30%	14%	11%	6%	0.4%	100%
n	473	368	171	140	79	5	1236

Table 18: Location of respondents

Wellington City residents made up the largest proportion of respondents, reflecting the region's population centre. The Hutt Valley provided strong representation, along with participation from Kāpiti Coast and Porirua. Wairarapa participation provided rural and semi-rural perspectives.

The response from outside Wellington suggests our outreach targeted the intended regional audience, providing insights applicable to the Greater Wellington region.

8.4   Conservation Group Membership

Understanding respondents' involvement in conservation and recreation groups provides context for interpreting their perspectives on park management and environmental priorities.

Figure **11** shows whether respondents are members of recreation or conservation groups active in Greater Wellington parks.
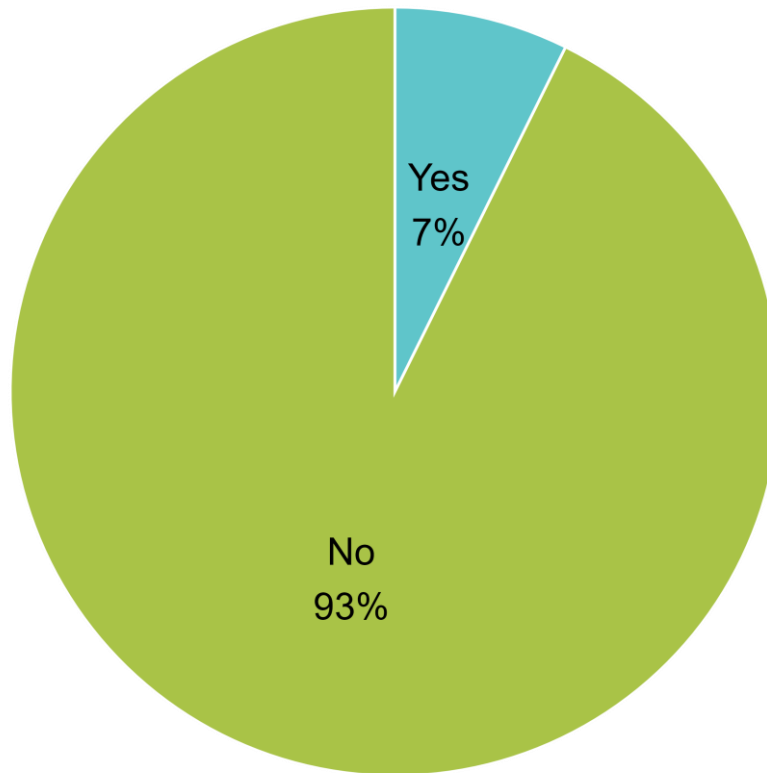
Figure 11: Conservation and recreation group membership

Table 19 shows conservation and recreation group membership among respondents.

	Yes	No	Total
%	7%	93%	100%
n	90	1141	1231

Table 19: Conservation and recreation group membership

The majority of respondents are not members of conservation or recreation groups active in Greater Wellington parks, while some indicated they belong to such organisations. This suggests our survey captured primarily general park users, providing insight into the broader community perspective. Group members represent an engaged constituency whose involvement with park issues may offer informed feedback on management practices and conservation priorities.

This membership pattern is typical for community surveys, where organised group members often represent a small but engaged portion of the user base. Their input can be valuable for understanding aspects of park management, identifying issues, and assessing the effectiveness of conservation programmes.

9 Regional parks

9.1 Regional parks satisfaction

9.1.1 Overall, how satisfied are you with the regional parks?

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the regional parks. The options were:

- Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied

Respondents' level of satisfaction with regional parks indicated that:

- Pākuratahi Forest Park, Kaitoke Regional Park and Queen Elizabeth Park had the highest satisfaction levels.
- Most parks experienced modest changes in overall satisfaction from the previous year, with satisfaction levels remaining generally high across all locations.

Figure **12** shows the overall reported visitor satisfaction for the regional parks.
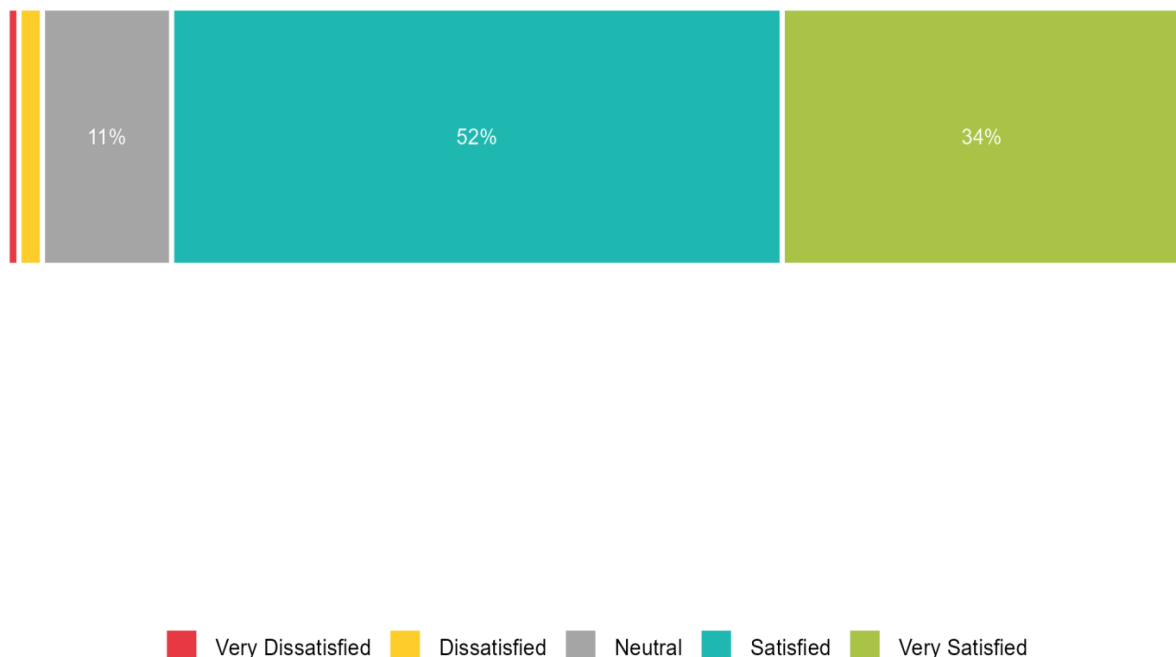
Figure 12: Overall reported visitor satisfaction for the regional parks

Figure **13** shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) for all regional parks.
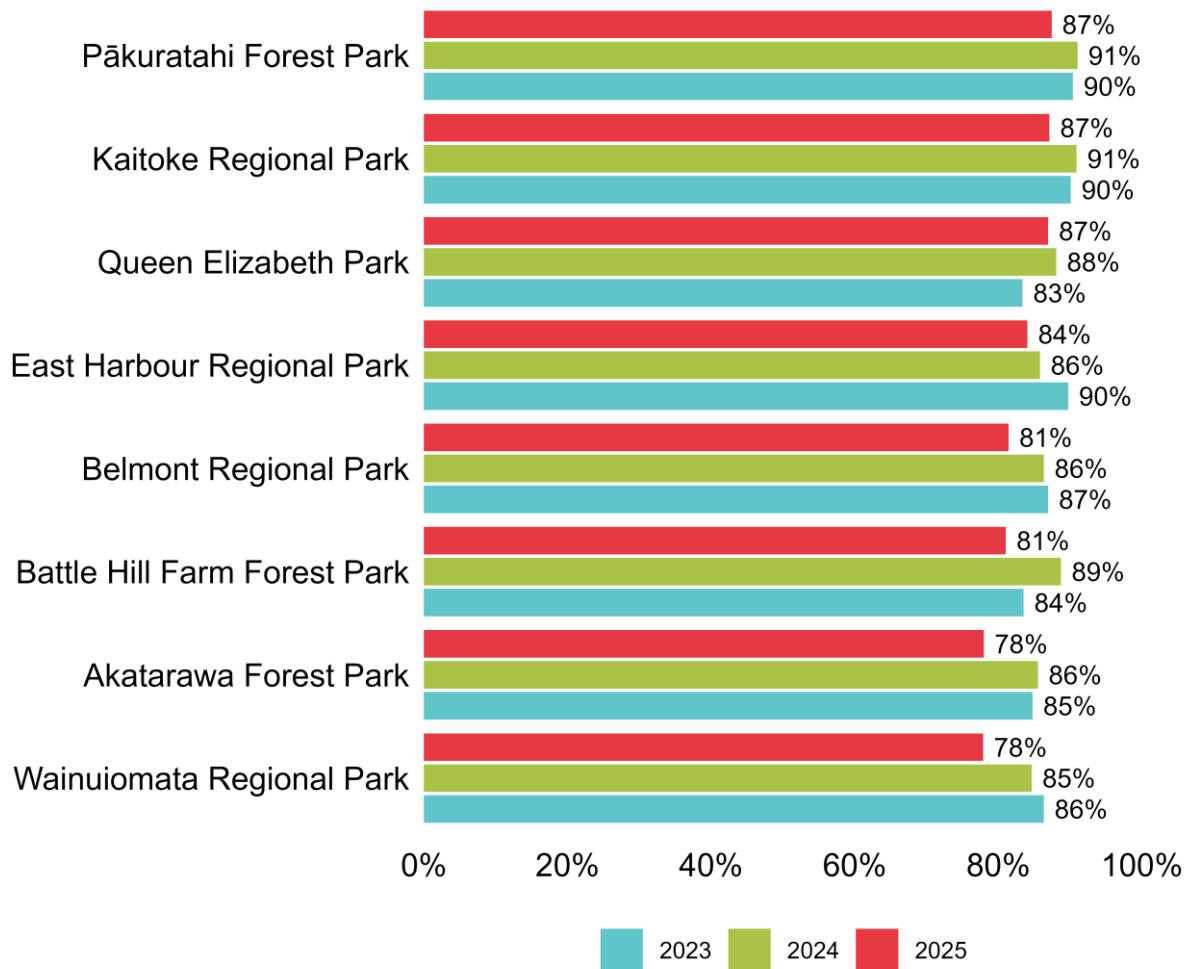
Figure 13: Overall satisfaction for all regional parks

9.2 Regional parks visited

9.2.1 Over the last 12 months have you visited the following regional parks?

Key trends in regional parks visitation include:

- There was an overall decrease in regional parks visitation in 2025 compared to previous years, with most parks showing declining visitor numbers. Akatarawa Forest Park experienced the most significant drop, falling from 33.4% in 2024 to 19.4% in 2025. Belmont Regional Park also showed a notable decline from 33.9% in 2023 and 32.7% in 2024 to 20.8% in 2025.

- Queen Elizabeth Park (31.2%), Kaitoke Regional Park (30.1%), and Belmont Regional Park (20.8%) were the most visited parks in 2025. The least visited parks were East Harbour Regional Park (12.3%) and Wainuiomata Regional Park (13.9%).

- Respondents were significantly more likely to visit regional parks closer to where they lived.

Figure **14** shows the regional parks visited over the last 12 months.
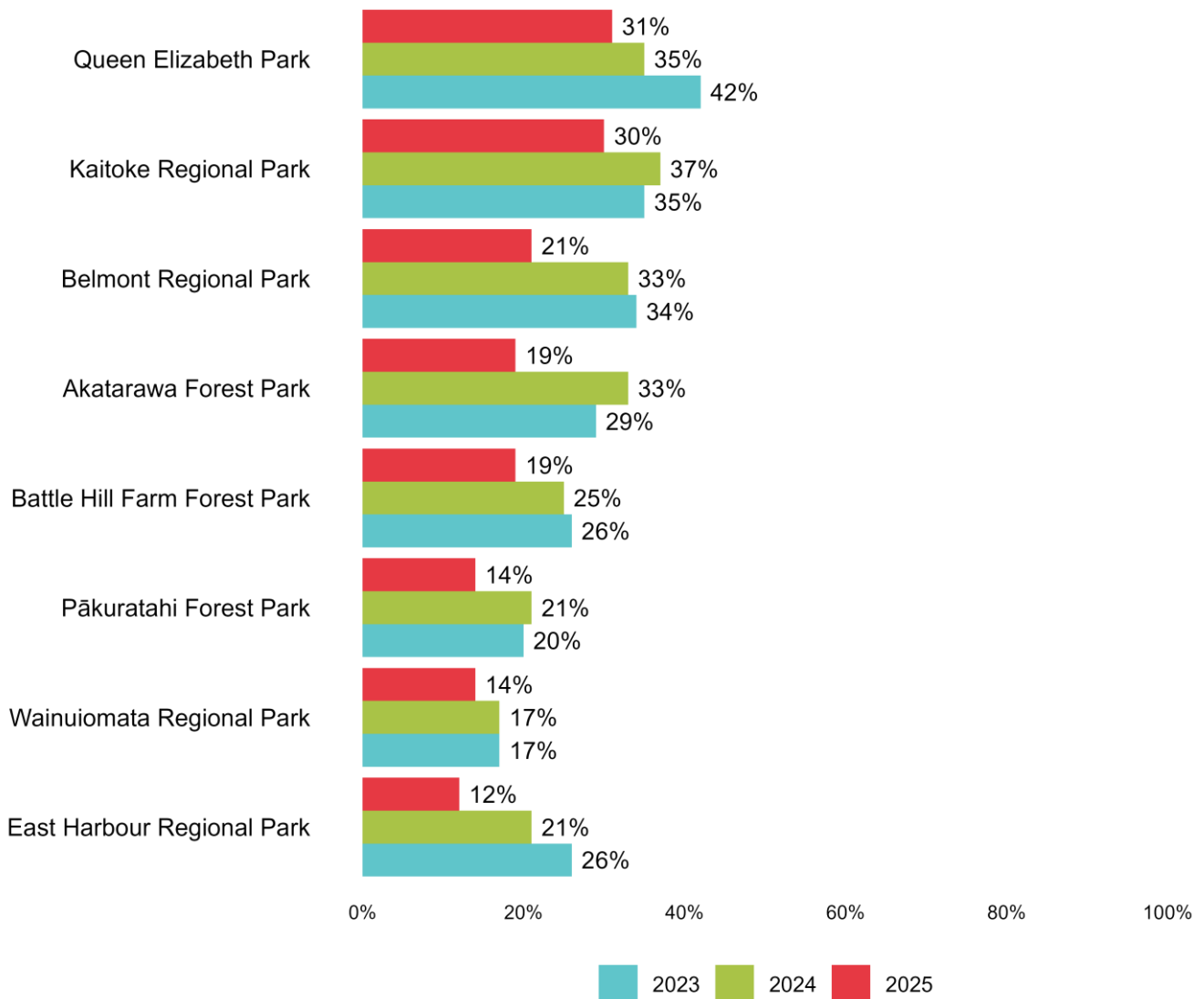
Figure 14: Regional parks visited

9.2.2   How many times have you visited the regional parks in the last 12 months?

Key trends in the frequency of visits to regional parks in the last 12 months:

- Akatarawa Forest Park (53.8%) and East Harbour Regional Park (53.0%) had the highest proportion of visitors who visited more than 2 times, followed by Belmont Regional Park (52.1%) and Queen Elizabeth Park (50.1%).

- Respondents were generally more likely to visit parks within their region multiple times.

Figure **15** shows the number of times regional parks have been visited over the last 12 months.
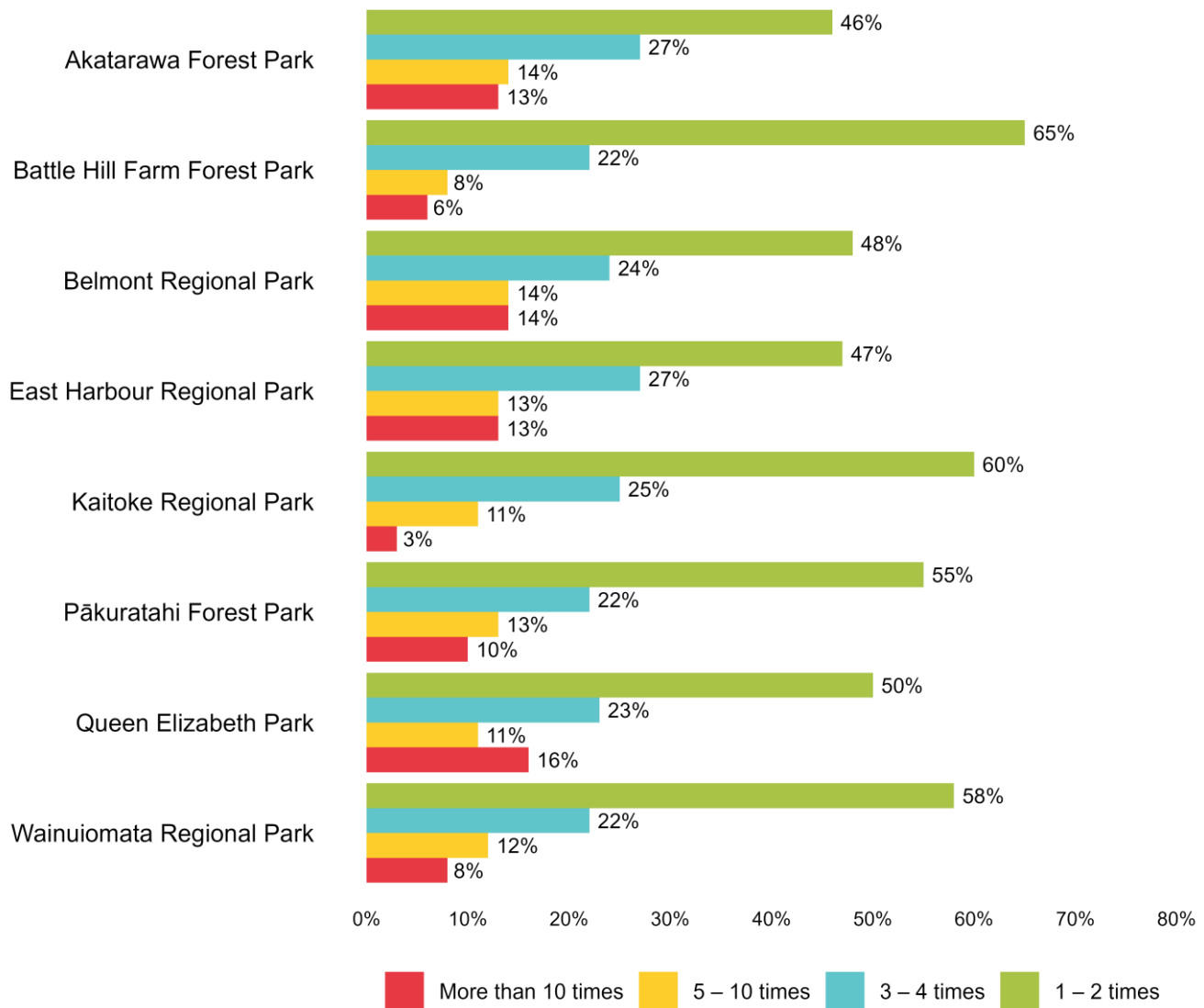
Figure 15: Number of times regional parks have been visited over the last 12 months

9.3 Akatarawa Forest Park

9.3.1 Akatarawa Forest Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Akatarawa Forest indicated that:

- 78% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Akatarawa Forest

- 32% were very satisfied, 46% satisfied, 16% neutral

- Only 6% expressed dissatisfaction (4% dissatisfied, 2% very dissatisfied)

Figure **16** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Akatarawa Forest.
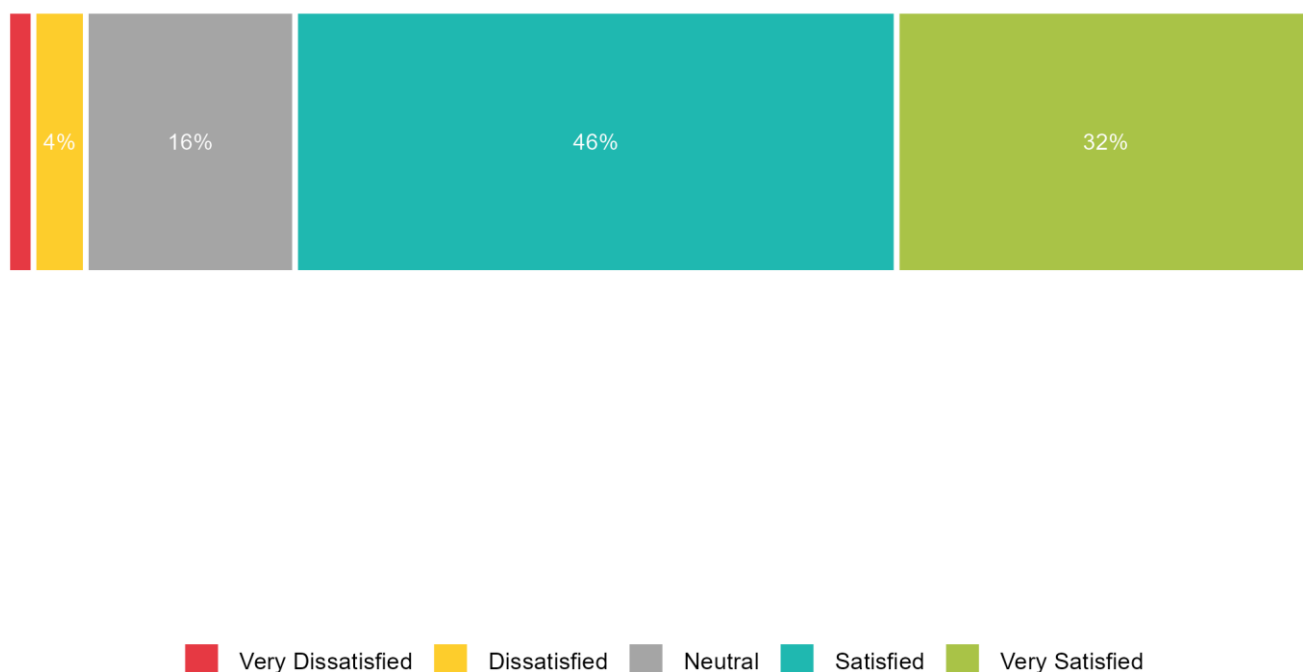
Figure 16: *Akatarawa Forest visitor satisfaction levels*

Table 20 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Akatarawa Forest.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	2%	4%	16%	46%	32%	100%
n	4	11	42	119	83	259

Table 20: Akatarawa Forest visitor satisfaction

9.3.2   Akatarawa Forest Park Visitation

Key trends in Akatarawa Forest visitation:

- Akatarawa Forest experienced a significant decrease in overall visitation, dropping from 33.4% in 2024 to 19.4% in 2025 (-13.9 percentage points).

Figure **17** shows the frequency of visits to Akatarawa Forest over the last 12 months.

| 13% | 14% | 27% | 46% |

■ More than 10 times   ■ 5-10 times   ■ 3-4 times   ■ 1-2 times
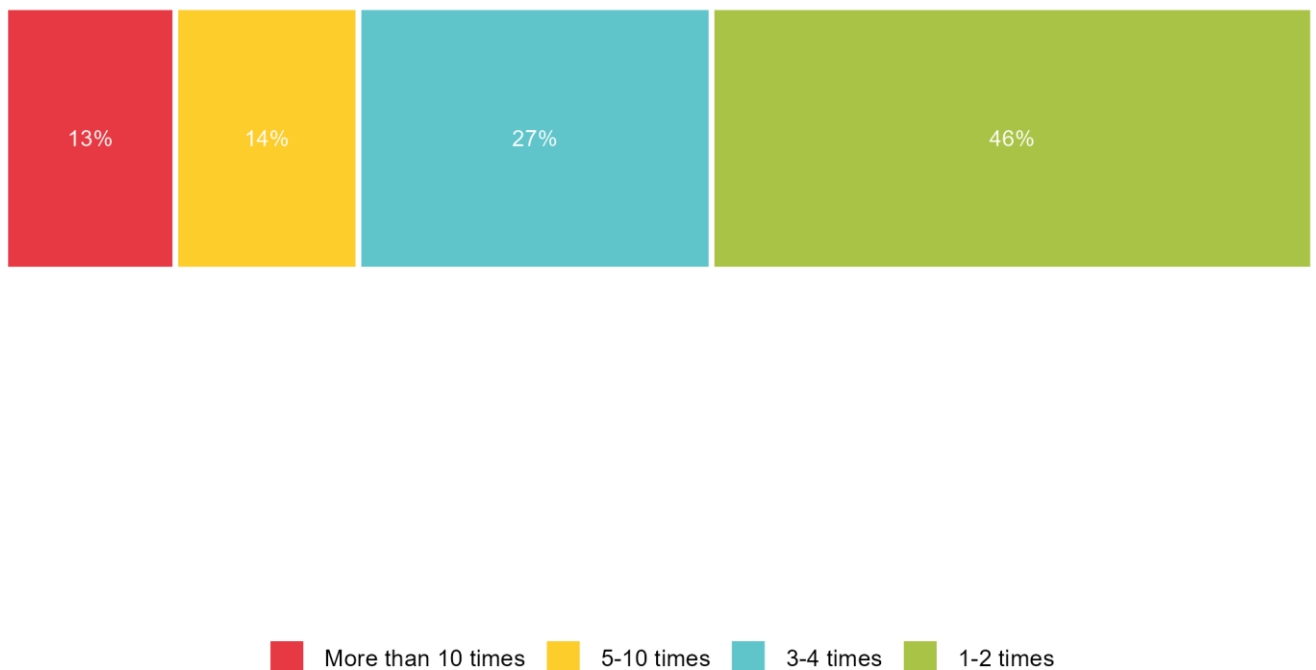
Figure 17: Akatarawa Forest visit frequency over the last 12 months

9.3.3   Akatarawa Forest Park Activities

The most popular activities at Akatarawa Forest were:

- Walking/tramping (63% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (33% of visitors)
- Mountain biking/cycling (20% of visitors)
- Picnics/barbeques (18% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (18% of visitors)
- Exercising dog (15% of visitors)
- Quad/dirt biking (11% of visitors)

- Running (11% of visitors)

Figure **18** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Akatarawa Forest.
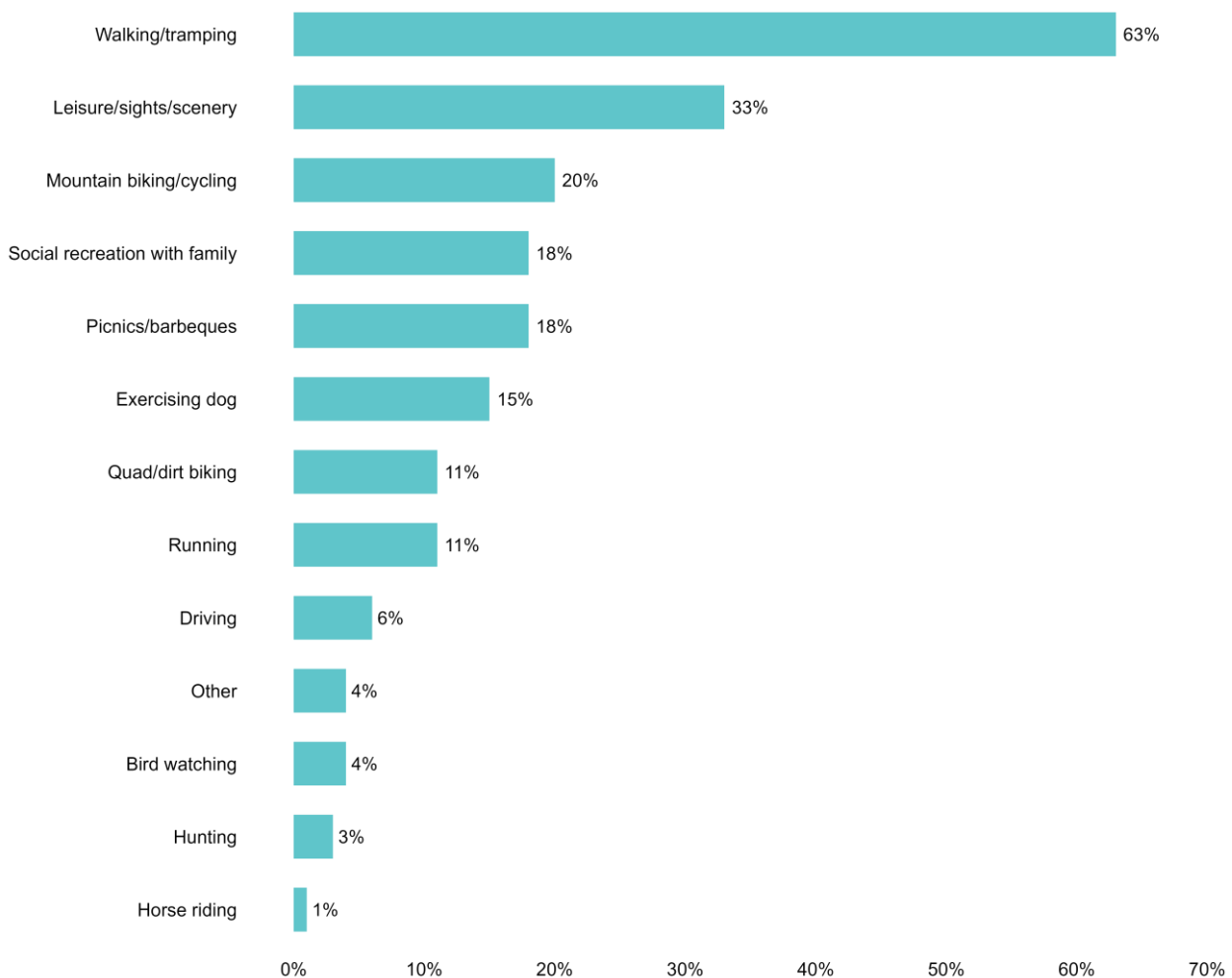
Figure 18: Activities undertaken by visitors to Akatarawa Forest

9.3.4   Akatarawa Forest Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Akatarawa Forest were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    - Improve information boards/signage
    - Maintain/improve tracks
    - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
    - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
    - Improve access
    - Improve the environment
    - Control of motor vehicles (dirt bikes, 4-wheel drives)

Table 21 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Akatarawa Forest.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**133**
Improve information boards/signage	27
Maintain/improve tracks	24
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	18
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	16
Add/improve facilities/services	11
Additional seating	8
Additional walking tracks	8
Improve parking	5
Add/improve lighting	4
Add shade/sheltered area	3
Add/improve barbeque areas	3
Add/improve picnic areas	3
Additional biking tracks	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**64**
Improve access	20
Improve the environment	20
Add more activities	7
Improve safety/security	7
Ban motor vehicles i.e. dirt bikes 4 wheel drives	6
Control weeds/pests	4

Table 21: Akatarawa Forest suggested improvements

9.4 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

9.4.1 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Battle Hill Farm Forest Park indicated that:

- 81% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

- 32% were very satisfied, 49% satisfied, 15% neutral

- Only 4% expressed dissatisfaction (2% dissatisfied, 2% very dissatisfied)

Figure 22 shows visitor satisfaction levels for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Figure 19: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visitor satisfaction levels

Table 22 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	2%	2%	15%	49%	32%	100%
n	4	6	37	121	80	248

Table 22: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visitor satisfaction

9.4.2   Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Visitation

Key trends in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visitation:

- Battle Hill Farm Forest Park experienced a decrease in visitation, dropping from 24.6% in 2024 to 18.6% in 2025 (-6.0 percentage points).

Figure **20** shows the frequency of visits to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park over the last 12 months.
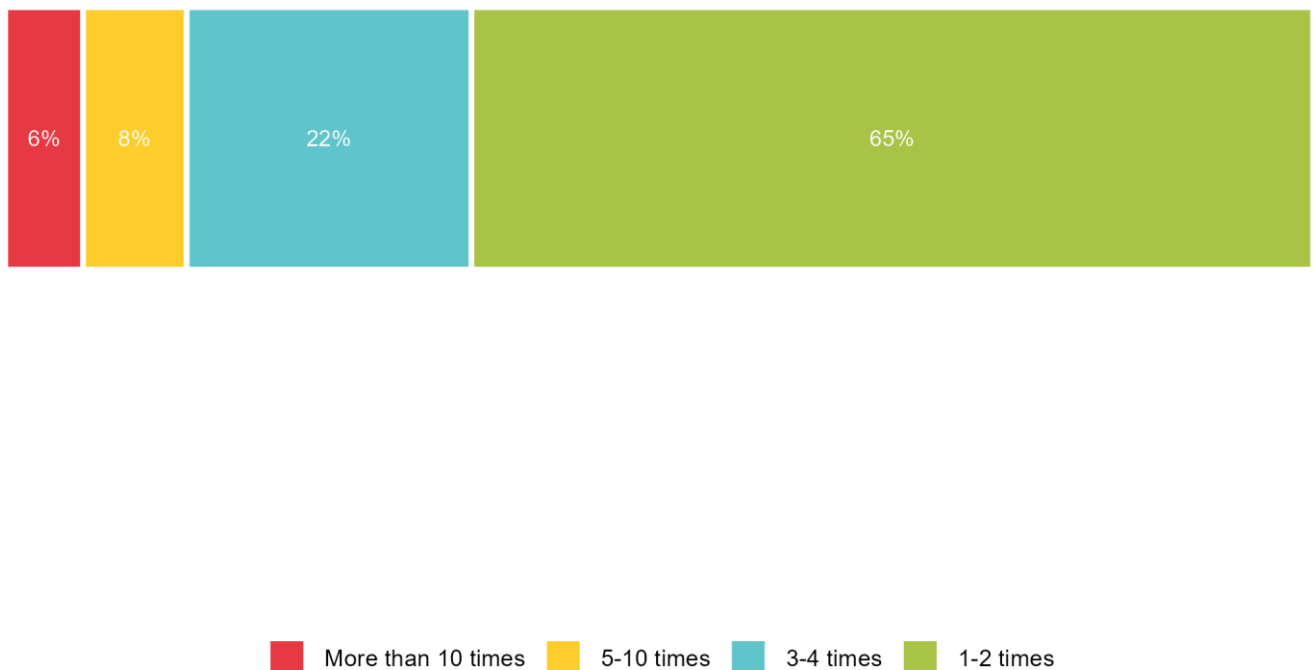
Figure 20: *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visit frequency over the last 12 months*

9.4.3   Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Activities

The most popular activities at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park were:

- Walking/tramping (54% of visitors)
- Picnics/barbeques (27% of visitors)
- Seeing the eels (24% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (22% of visitors)
- Camping (21% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (16% of visitors)
- Horse riding (16% of visitors)

- Visiting the farm (9% of visitors)

Figure **21** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.
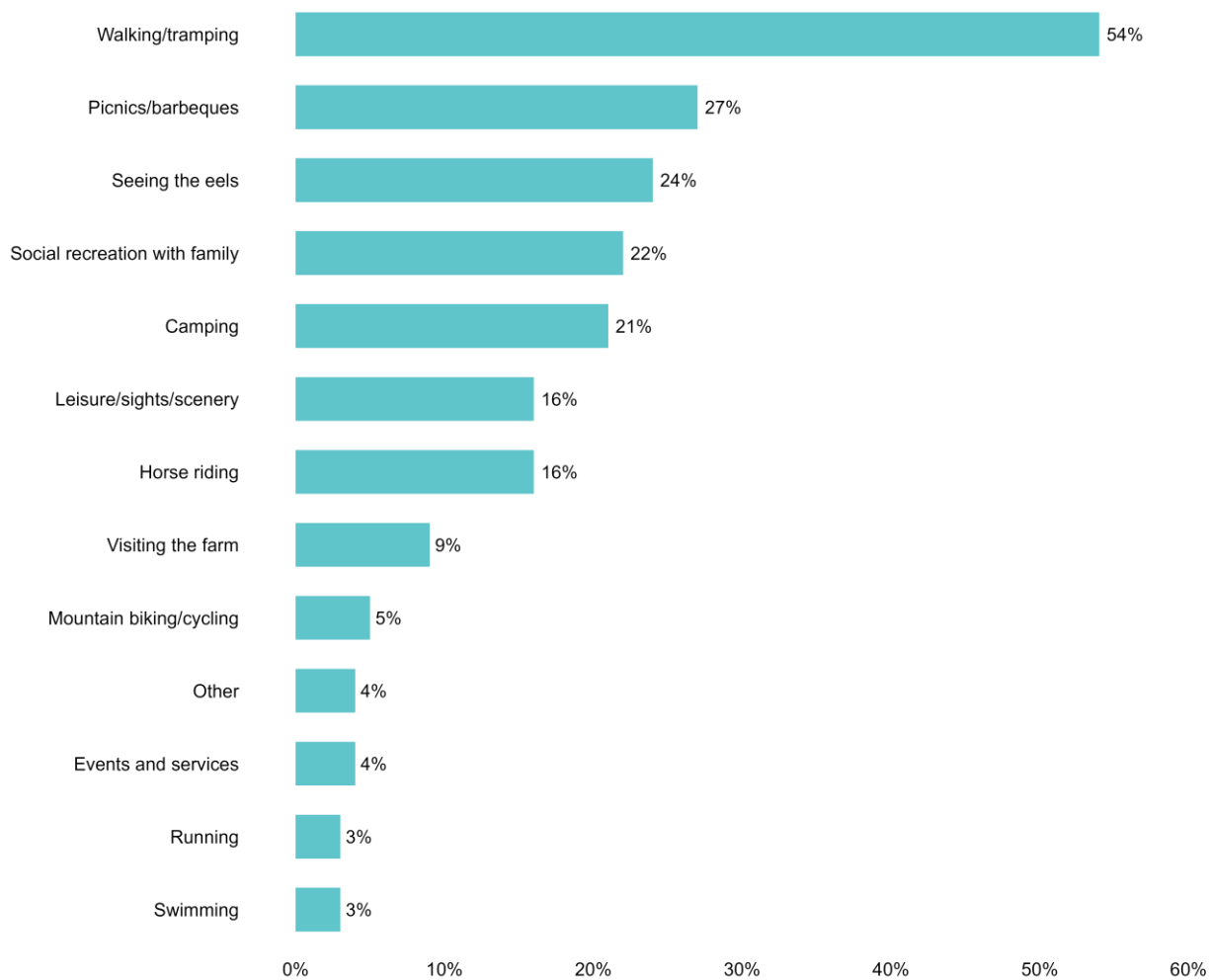
Figure 21: Activities undertaken by visitors to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

9.4.4　　**Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Improvements**

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - Improve information boards/signage
  - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
  - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
  - Add/improve camping facilities
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
  - Improve the environment
  - Allow/improve horse access
  - Improve access

Table 23 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**113**
Improve information boards/signage	21
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	12
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	10
Add/improve camping facilities	9
Add/improve facilities/services	8
Add/improve picnic areas	8
Additional seating	8
Additional walking tracks	8
Add a playground	7
Improve parking	7
Maintain/improve tracks	5
Add/improve water facilities	4
Add shade/sheltered area	3
Additional biking tracks	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**51**
Improve the environment	18
Allow/improve horse access	13
Improve access	13
Increase public awareness	4
Add more activities	3

Table 23: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park suggested improvements

9.5 Belmont Regional Park

9.5.1 Belmont Regional Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Belmont Regional Park indicated that:

- 81.4% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Belmont Regional Park
- 32% were very satisfied, 49% satisfied, 15% neutral
- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (1% dissatisfied, 2% very dissatisfied)

Figure **22** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Belmont Regional Park.

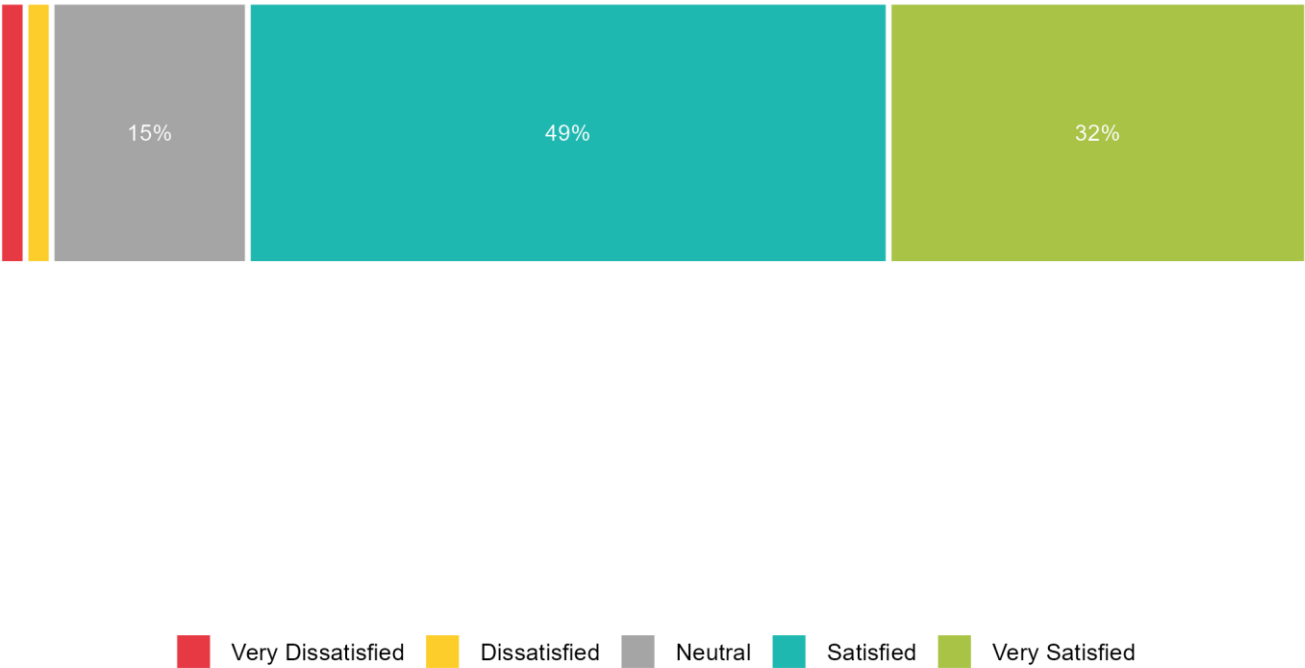
Figure 22: Belmont Regional Park visitor satisfaction levels

Table 24 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Belmont Regional Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	2%	1%	15%	49%	32%	100%
n	7	3	42	137	91	280

Table 24: Belmont Regional Park visitor satisfaction

9.5.2   Belmont Regional Park Visitation

Key trends in Belmont Regional Park visitation:

- Belmont Regional Park experienced a significant decrease in visitation, dropping from 32.7% in 2024 to 20.8% in 2025 (-11.9 percentage points).

Figure **23** shows the frequency of visits to Belmont Regional Park over the last 12 months.

| 14% | 14% | 24% | 48% |

🟥 More than 10 times   🟨 5-10 times   🟦 3-4 times   🟩 1-2 times
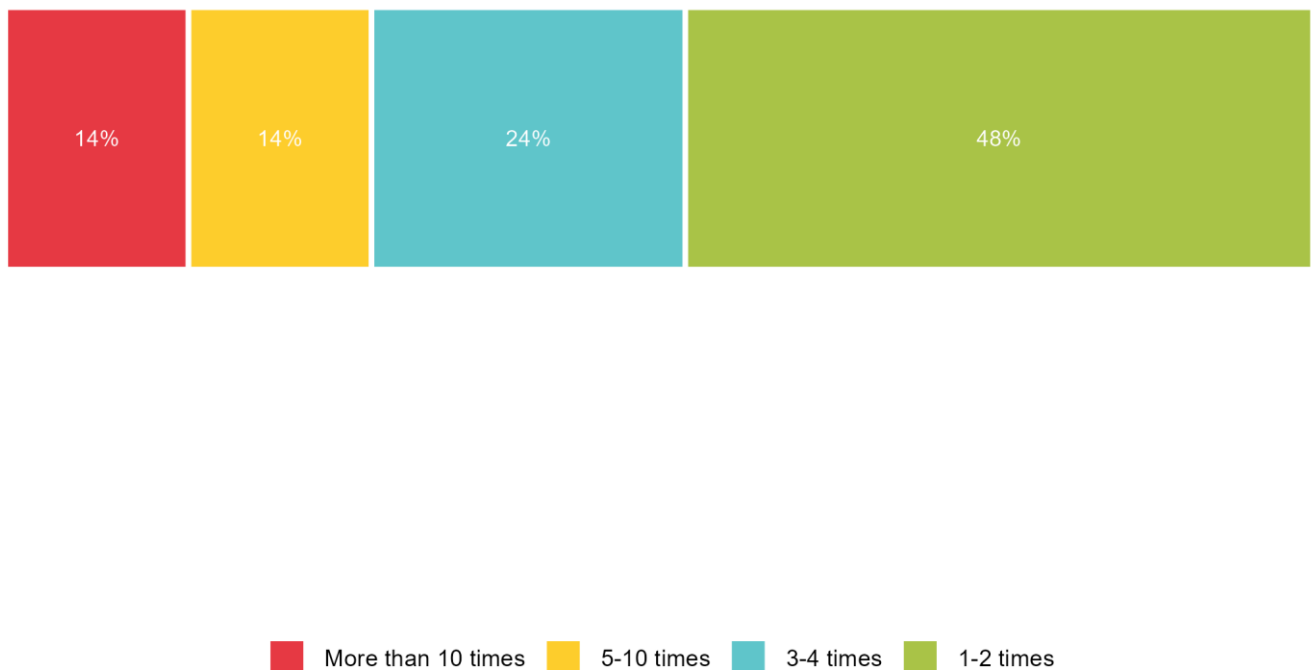
Figure 23: Belmont Regional Park visit frequency over the last 12 months

9.5.3   Belmont Regional Park Activities

The most popular activities at Belmont Regional Park were:

- Walking/tramping (72% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (31% of visitors)
- Exercising dog (18% of visitors)
- Mountain biking/cycling (16% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (14% of visitors)
- Visiting a dam (11% of visitors)
- Running (10% of visitors)

- Visiting a waterfall (10% of visitors)

Figure **24** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Belmont Regional Park.

Figure 24: Activities undertaken by visitors to Belmont Regional Park

9.5.4   Belmont Regional Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Belmont Regional Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - o Improve information boards/signage
  - o Maintain/improve tracks
  - o Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
  - o Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
  - o Improve the environment
  - o Improve access
  - o Increase public awareness

Table 25 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Belmont Regional Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**132**
Improve information boards/signage	35
Maintain/improve tracks	24
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	13
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	11
Additional seating	10
Add/improve picnic areas	8
Improve parking	8
Additional walking tracks	7
Add/improve facilities/services	5
Additional biking tracks	5
Add/improve barbeque areas	3
Add/improve camping facilities	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**68**
Improve the environment	25
Improve access	23
Increase public awareness	8
Improve safety/security	5
Control weeds/pests	4
Add more activities	3

Table 25: Belmont Regional Park suggested improvements

9.6 East Harbour Regional Park

9.6.1 East Harbour Regional Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with East Harbour Regional Park indicated that:

- 84% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with East Harbour Regional Park
- 44% were very satisfied, 40% satisfied, 12% neutral
- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (1% dissatisfied, 2% very dissatisfied)

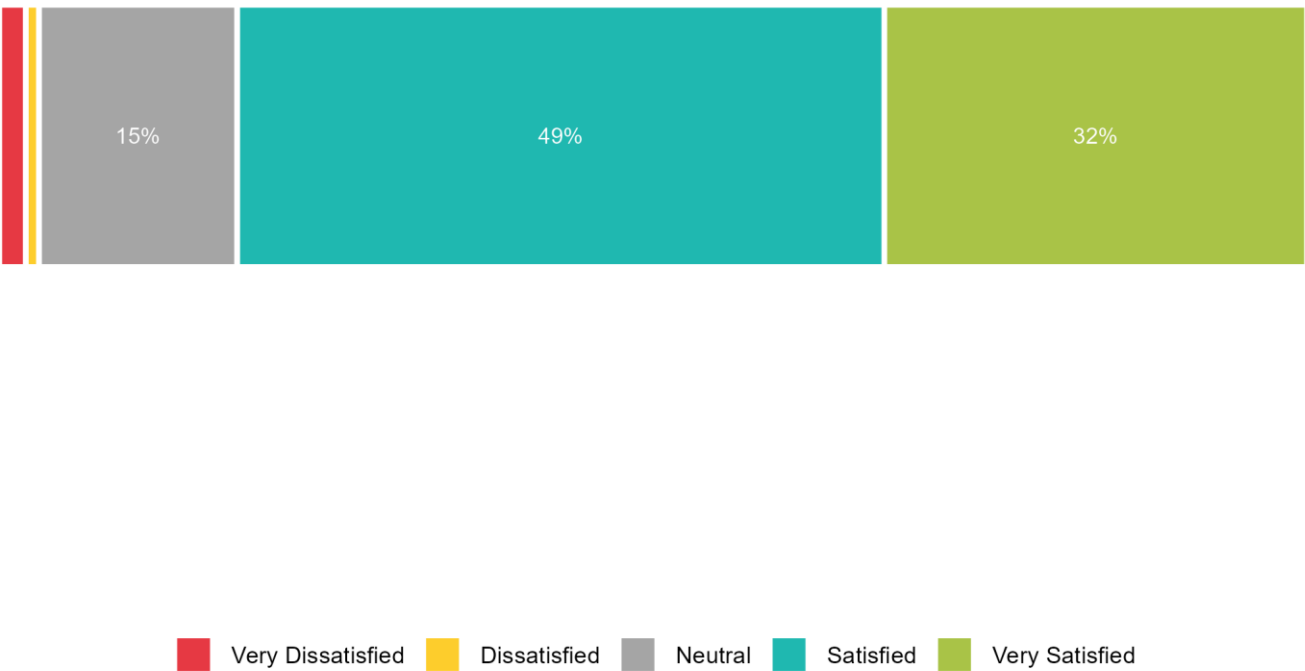Figure **25** shows visitor satisfaction levels for East Harbour Regional Park.

Figure 25: East Harbour Regional Park visitor satisfaction levels

Table 26 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for East Harbour Regional Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	2%	1%	12%	40%	44%	100%
n	4	2	20	66	71	163

Table 26: East Harbour Regional Park visitor satisfaction

9.6.2 East Harbour Regional Park Visitation

Key trends in East Harbour Regional Park visitation:

- East Harbour Regional Park experienced a significant decrease in overall visitation, dropping from 21.0% in 2024 to 12.3% in 2025 (-8.7 percentage points).

Figure **26** shows the frequency of visits to East Harbour Regional Park over the last 12 months.

13%	13%	27%	47%

🟥 More than 10 times 🟨 5-10 times 🟦 3-4 times 🟩 1-2 times
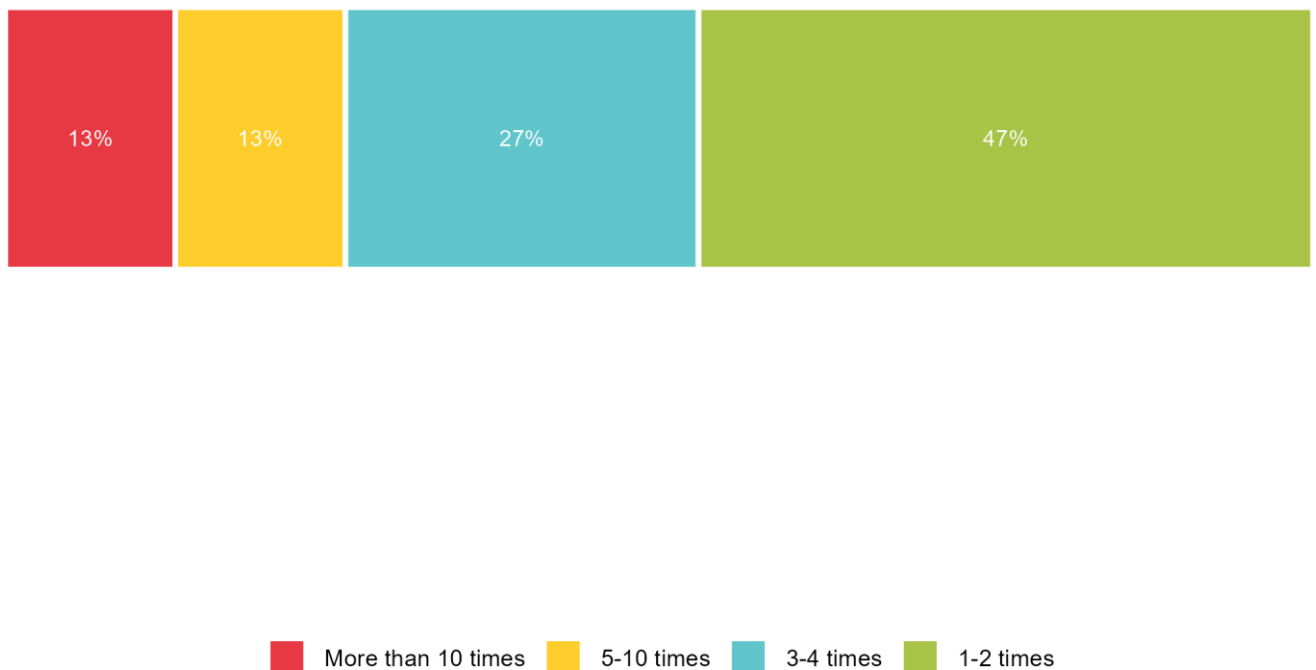
Figure 26: *East Harbour Regional Park visit frequency over the last 12 months*

9.6.3 East Harbour Regional Park Activities

The most popular activities at East Harbour Regional Park were:

- Walking/tramping (69% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (28% of visitors)
- Mountain biking/cycling (20% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (14% of visitors)
- Running (14% of visitors)
- Picnics/barbeques (12% of visitors)
- Visiting a lighthouse (12% of visitors)

- Exercising dog (11% of visitors)

Figure **27** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to East Harbour Regional Park.
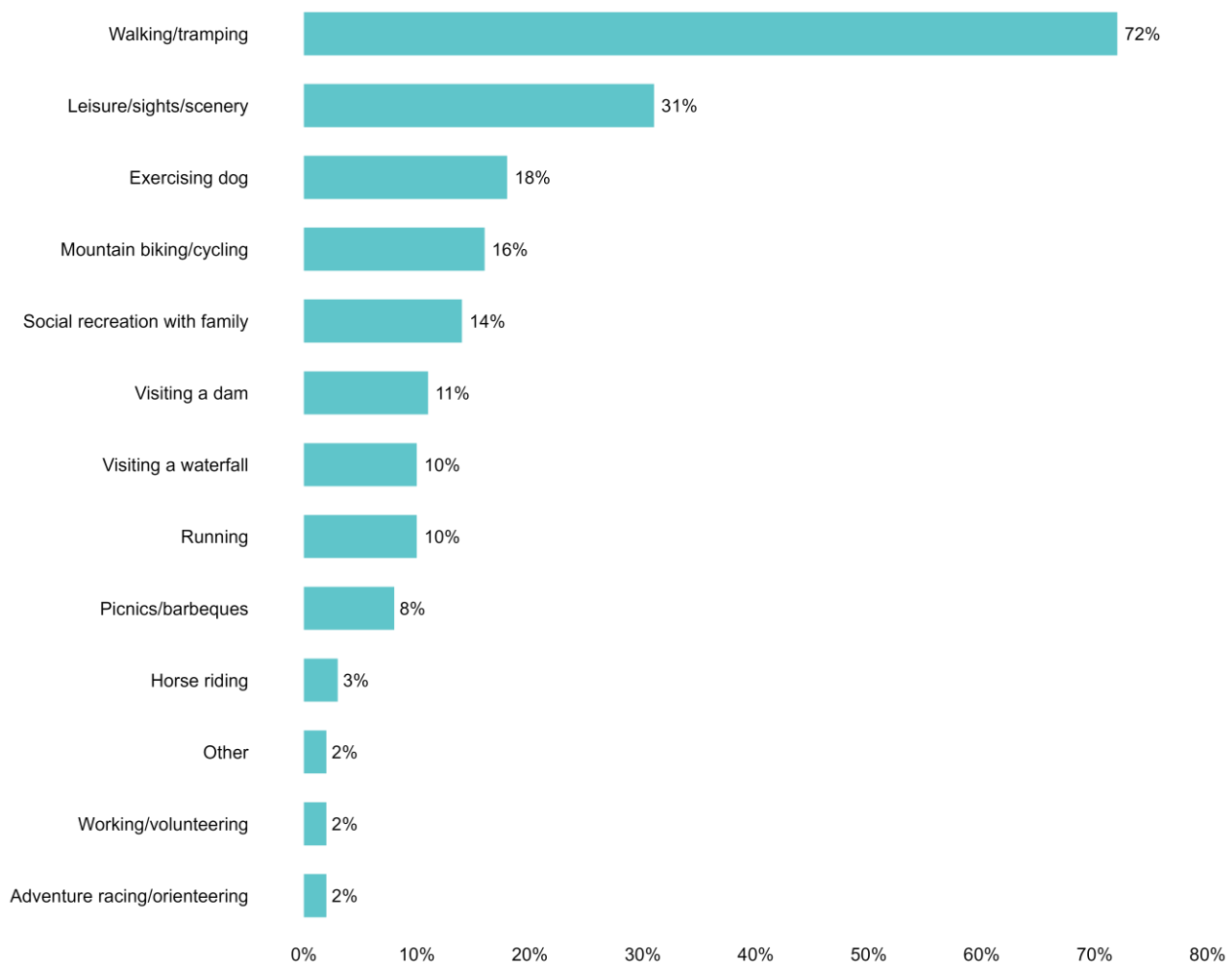

Figure 27: Activities undertaken by visitors to East Harbour Regional Park

9.6.4   East Harbour Regional Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for East Harbour Regional Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    - Maintain/improve tracks
    - Improve information boards/signage
    - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
    - Add shade/sheltered area
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
    - Improve access
    - Control weeds/pests
    - Improve the environment

Table 27 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for East Harbour Regional Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**79**
Maintain/improve tracks	17
Improve information boards/signage	14
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	11
Add shade/sheltered area	5
Add/improve water facilities	5
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	5
Improve parking	5
Additional biking tracks	4
Additional walking tracks	4
Add/improve facilities/services	3
Add/improve lighting	3
Add/improve picnic areas	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**39**
Improve access	11
Control weeds/pests	9
Improve the environment	9
Improve safety/security	5
Increase public awareness	5

Table 27: East Harbour Regional Park suggested improvements

9.7　　Kaitoke Regional Park

9.7.1　　Kaitoke Regional Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Kaitoke Regional Park indicated that:

- 87.1% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Kaitoke Regional Park

- 41% were very satisfied, 46% satisfied, 10% neutral

- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (2% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)

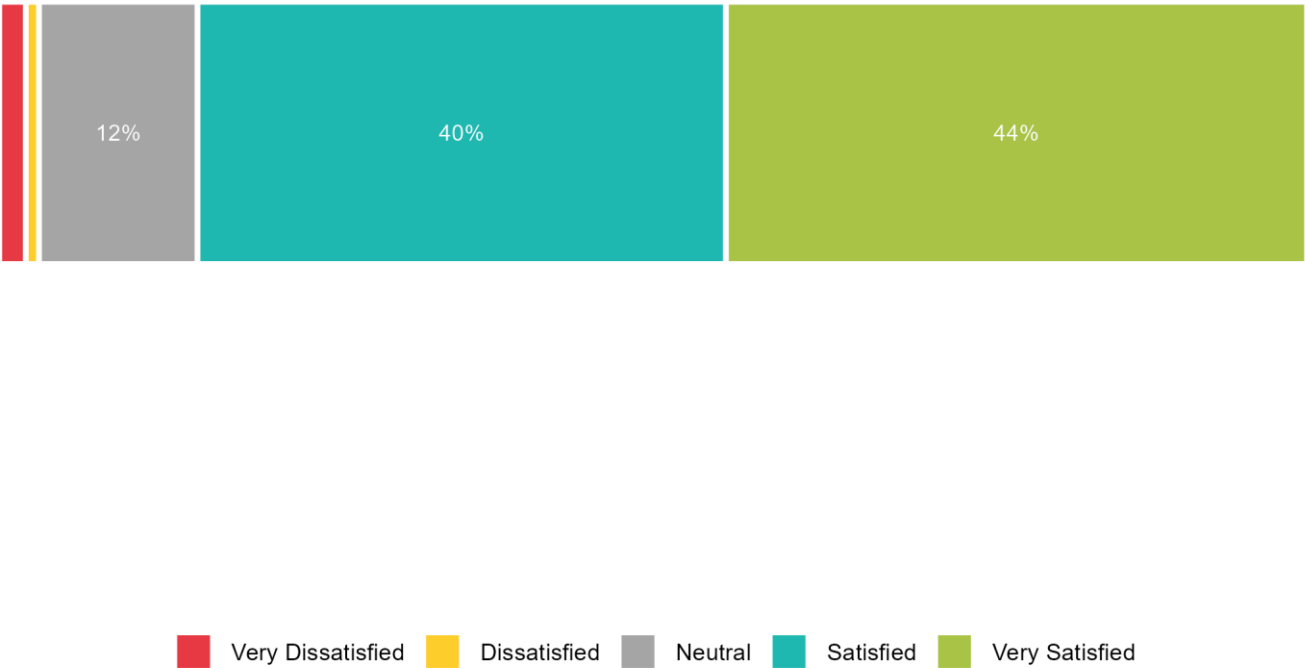Figure **28** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Kaitoke Regional Park.

Figure 28: *Kaitoke Regional Park visitor satisfaction levels*

Table 28 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Kaitoke Regional Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	2%	10%	46%	41%	100%
n	4	7	41	185	167	404

Table 28: Kaitoke Regional Park visitor satisfaction

9.7.2   Kaitoke Regional Park Visitation

Key trends in Kaitoke Regional Park visitation:

- Kaitoke Regional Park experienced a decrease in visitation, dropping from 37.3% in 2024 to 30.1% in 2025 (-7.2 percentage points).

Figure **29** shows the frequency of visits to Kaitoke Regional Park over the last 12 months.
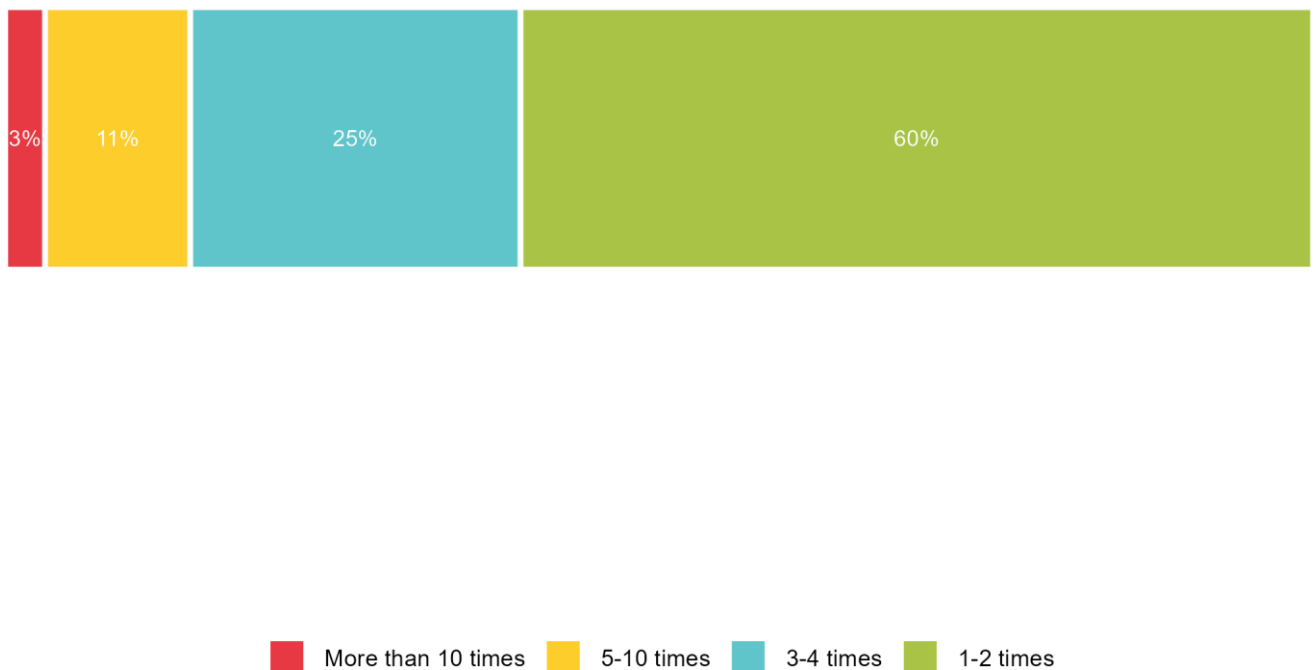
Figure 29: Kaitoke Regional Park visit frequency over the last 12 months

9.7.3   Kaitoke Regional Park Activities

The most popular activities at Kaitoke Regional Park were:

- Walking/tramping (63% of visitors)
- Camping (30% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (27% of visitors)
- Picnics/barbeques (24% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (19% of visitors)
- Swimming (19% of visitors)
- Exercising dog (15% of visitors)

- Visiting Lord of the Rings filming location (10% of visitors)

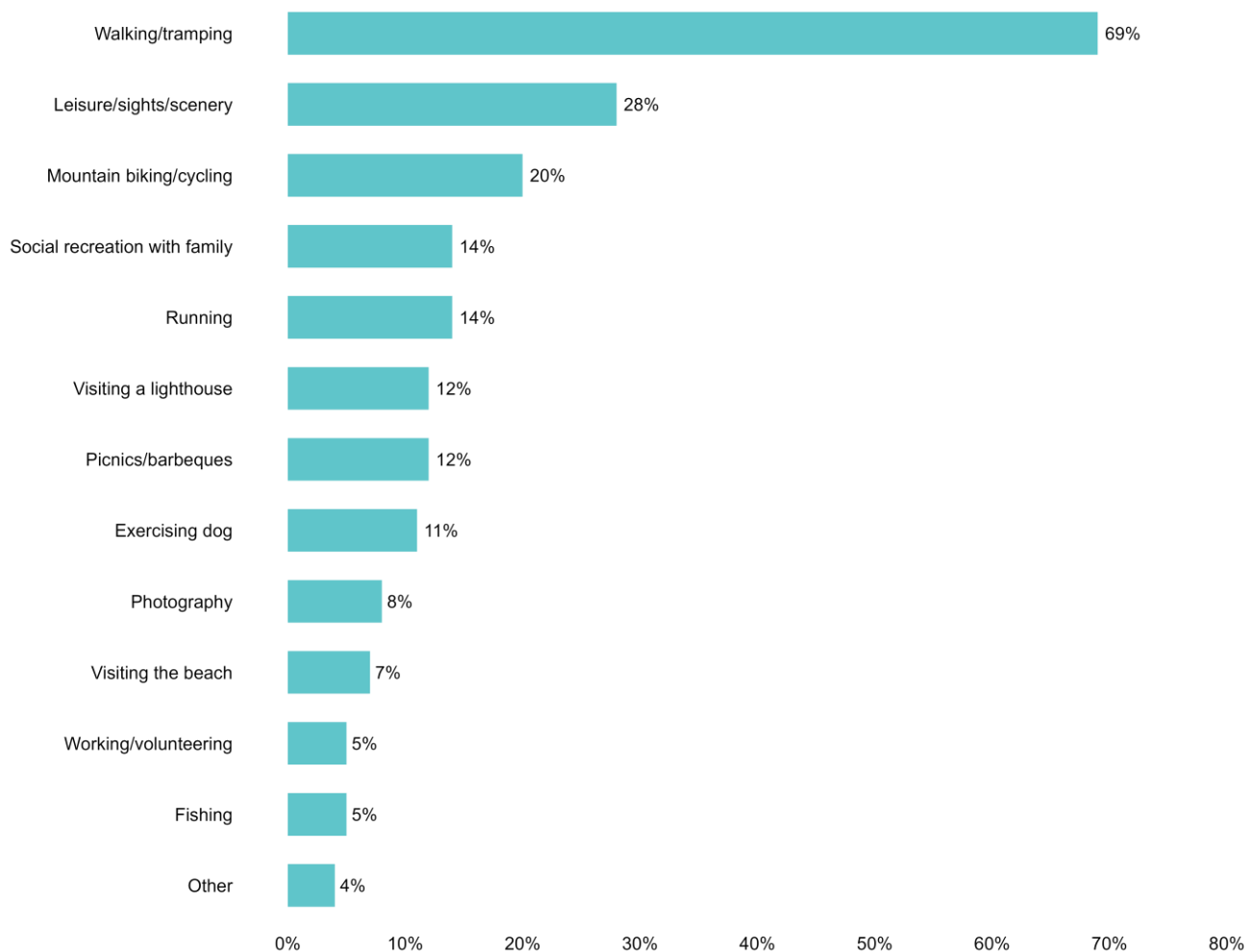Figure **30** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Kaitoke Regional Park.
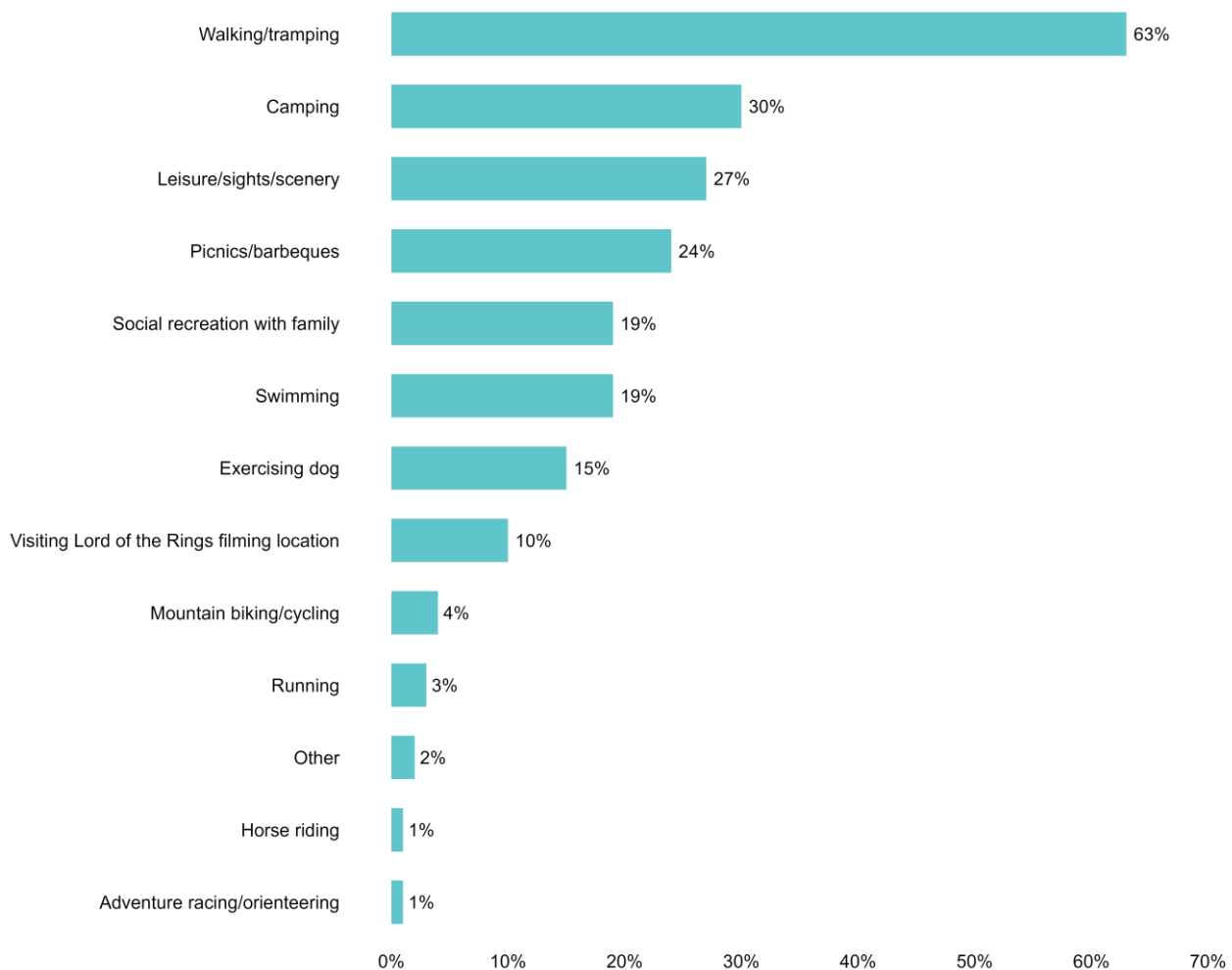
Figure 30: *Activities undertaken by visitors to Kaitoke Regional Park*

9.7.4   Kaitoke Regional Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Kaitoke Regional Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
  - Improve information boards/signage
  - Add/improve facilities/services
  - Improve parking
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
  - Improve safety/security
  - Improve the environment
  - Improve access

Table 29 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Kaitoke Regional Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**182**
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	34
Improve information boards/signage	28
Add/improve facilities/services	21
Improve parking	21
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	17
Add/improve picnic areas	14
Additional walking tracks	11
Add/improve camping facilities	10
Maintain/improve tracks	10
Add a playground	5
Add/improve lighting	4
Additional seating	4
Add/improve water facilities	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**58**
Improve safety/security	15
Improve the environment	12
Improve access	10
Add more activities	8
Allow/improve dog access	7
Control weeds/pests	6

Table 29: Kaitoke Regional Park suggested improvements

9.8 Pākuratahi Forest Park

9.8.1 Pākuratahi Forest Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Pākuratahi Forest Park indicated that:

- 87.4% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Pākuratahi Forest Park

- 48% were very satisfied, 40% satisfied, 10% neutral

- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (1% dissatisfied, 2% very dissatisfied)
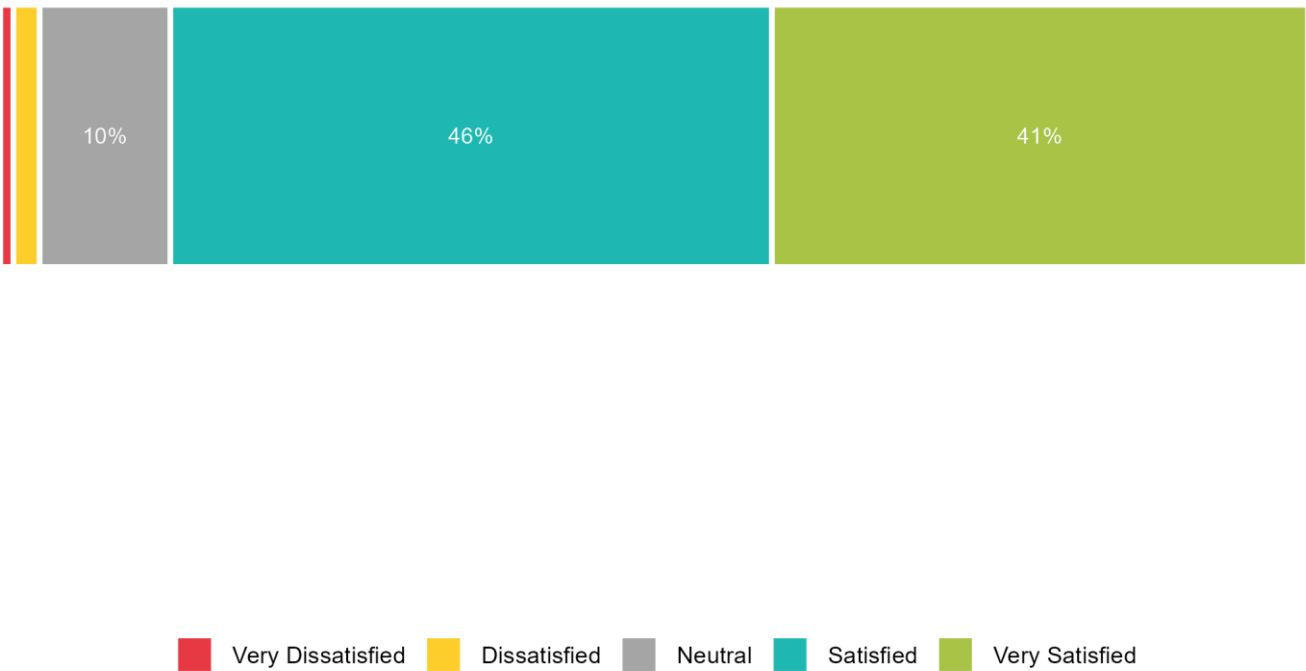
Figure **31** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Pākuratahi Forest Park.

Figure 31: Pākuratahi Forest Park visitor satisfaction levels

Table 30 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Pākuratahi Forest Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	2%	1%	10%	40%	48%	100%
n	3	1	19	73	87	183

Table 30: Pākuratahi Forest Park visitor satisfaction

9.8.2   Pākuratahi Forest Park Visitation

Key trends in Pākuratahi Forest Park visitation:

- Pākuratahi Forest Park experienced a decrease in visitation, dropping from 21.3% in 2024 to 13.6% in 2025 (-7.7 percentage points).

Figure **32** shows the frequency of visits to Pākuratahi Forest Park over the last 12 months.
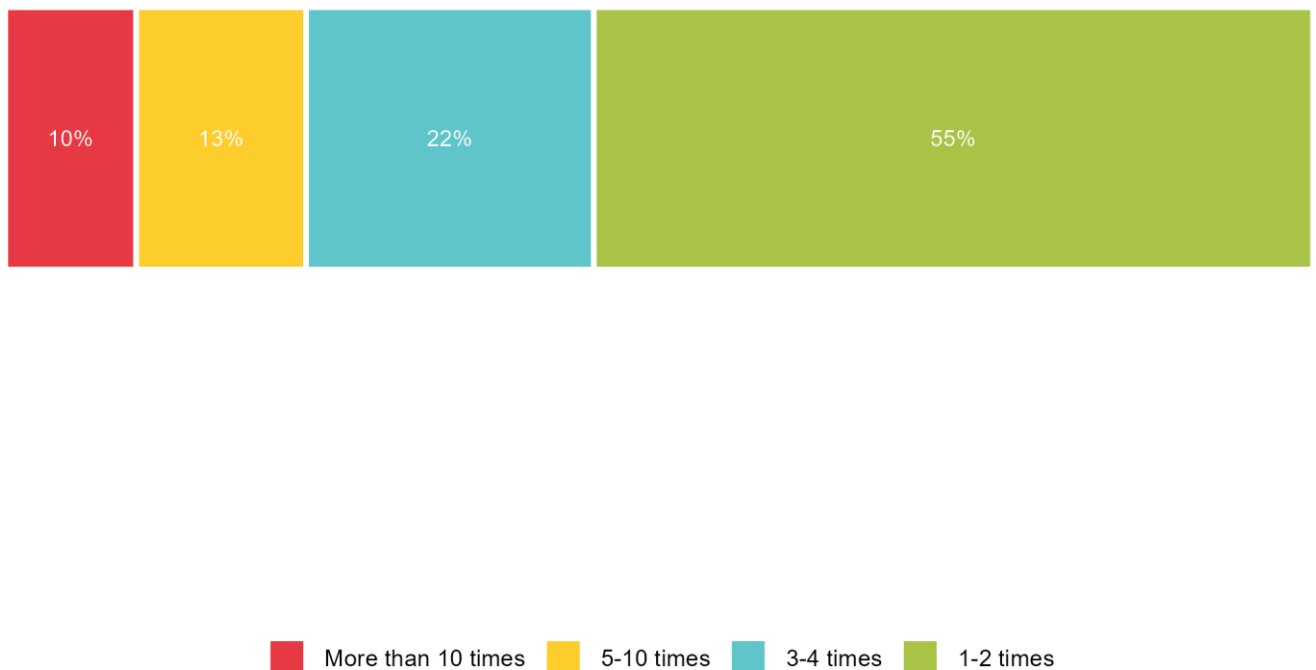
Figure 32: *Pākuratahi Forest Park visit frequency over the last 12 months*

9.8.3   Pākuratahi Forest Park Activities

The most popular activities at Pākuratahi Forest Park were:

- Walking/tramping (56% of visitors)
- Mountain biking/cycling (39% of visitors)
- Exercising dog (22% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (20% of visitors)
- Visiting a tunnel (20% of visitors)
- Running (10% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (9% of visitors)

- Visiting the river (8% of visitors)

Figure **33** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Pākuratahi Forest Park.
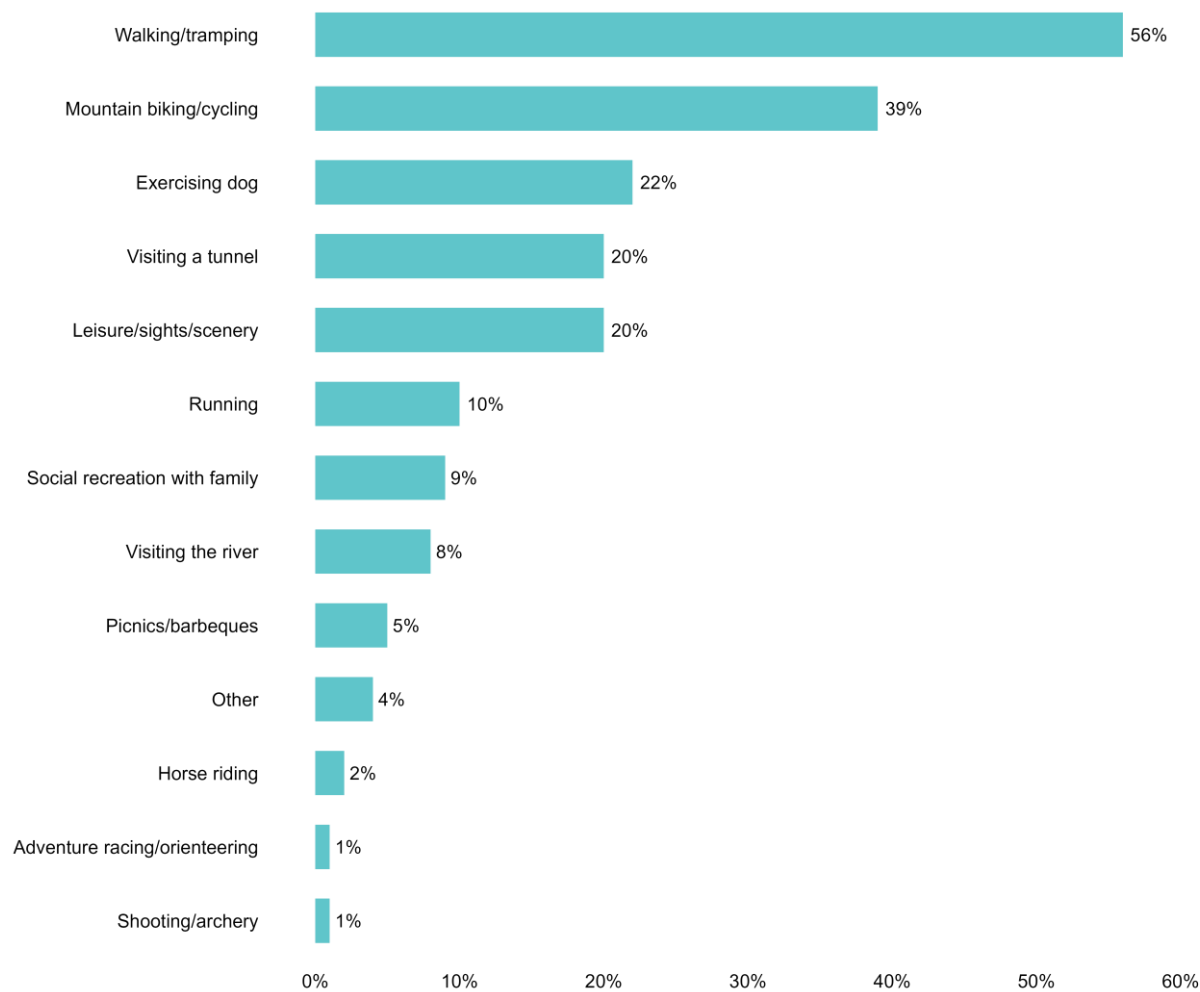
Figure 33: Activities undertaken by visitors to Pākuratahi Forest Park

9.8.4   Pākuratahi Forest Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Pākuratahi Forest Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    - Improve information boards/signage
    - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
    - Additional walking tracks
    - Improve parking
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
    - Improve the environment
    - Control weeds/pests
    - Improve access

Table 31 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Pākuratahi Forest Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**59**
Improve information boards/signage	18
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	12
Additional walking tracks	7
Improve parking	5
Add/improve picnic areas	4
Maintain/improve tracks	4
Add/improve camping facilities	3
Add/improve facilities/services	3
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**37**
Improve the environment	8
Control weeds/pests	6
Improve access	6
Allow/improve dog access	4
Increase restrictions on dogs	4
Add more activities	3
Improve access for families	3
Improve safety/security	3

Table 31: Pākuratahi Forest Park suggested improvements

9.9   Queen Elizabeth Park

9.9.1   Queen Elizabeth Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Queen Elizabeth Park indicated that:

- 86.9% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Queen Elizabeth Park

- 38% were very satisfied, 49% satisfied, 10% neutral

- Only 2% expressed dissatisfaction (1% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)
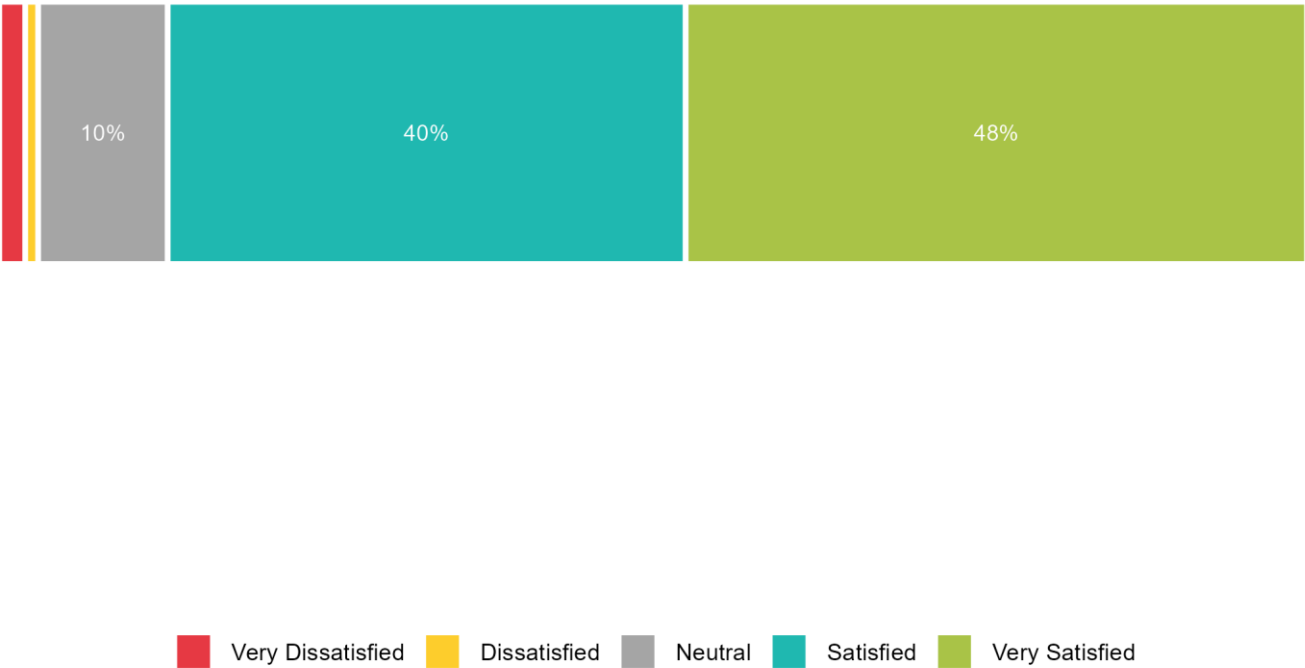
Figure **34** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Queen Elizabeth Park.
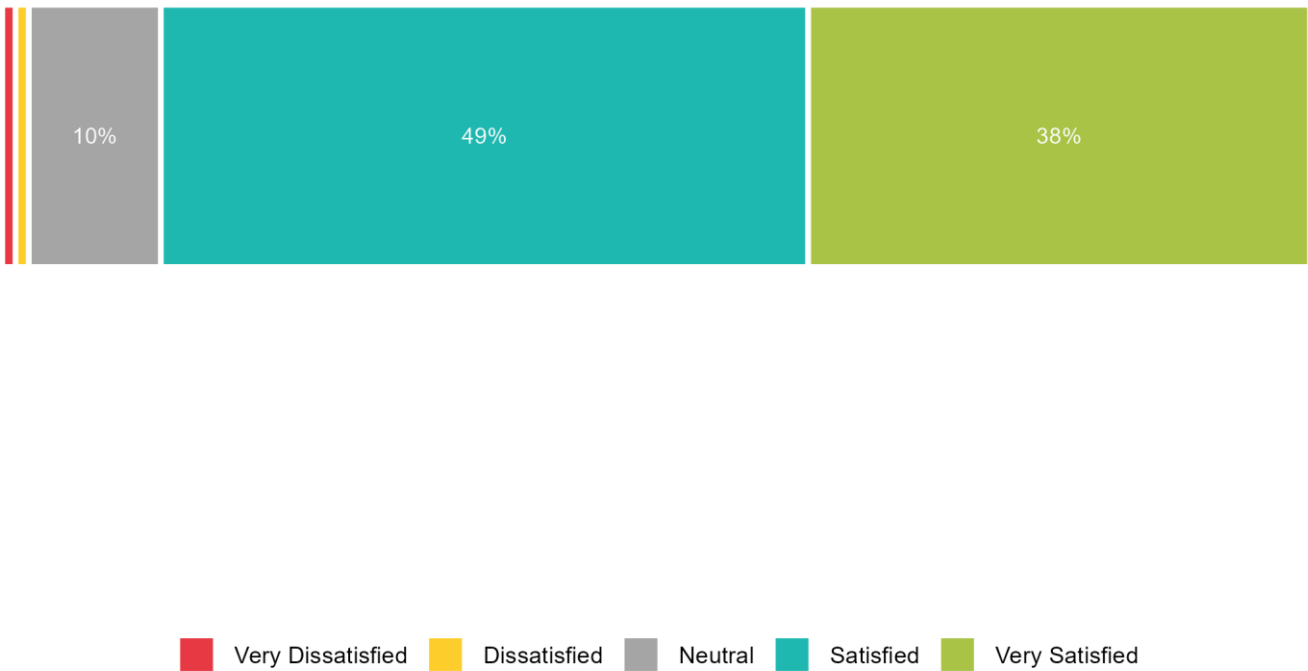
Figure 34: *Queen Elizabeth Park visitor satisfaction levels*

Table 32 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Queen Elizabeth Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	1%	10%	49%	38%	100%
n	6	6	43	206	160	421

Table 32: Queen Elizabeth Park visitor satisfaction

9.9.2   Queen Elizabeth Park Visitation

Key trends in Queen Elizabeth Park visitation:

- Queen Elizabeth Park experienced a decrease in overall visitation, dropping from 35.2% in 2024 to 31.2% in 2025 (-4.1 percentage points).

Figure **35** shows the frequency of visits to Queen Elizabeth Park over the last 12 months.
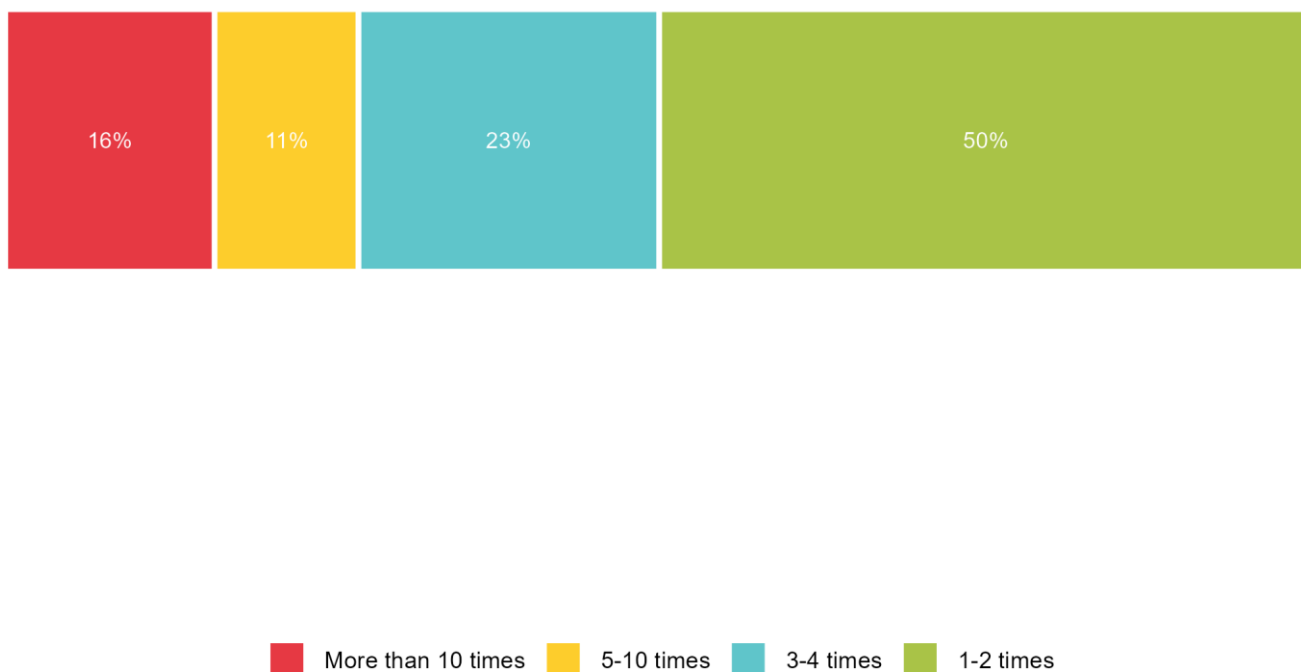
Figure 35: Queen Elizabeth Park visit frequency over the last 12 months

9.9.3   Queen Elizabeth Park Activities

The most popular activities at Queen Elizabeth Park were:

- Visiting the beach (45% of visitors)

- Walking/tramping (43% of visitors)

- Exercising dog (22% of visitors)

- Picnics/barbeques (20% of visitors)

- Social recreation with family (18% of visitors)

- Mountain biking/cycling (16% of visitors)

- Taking/seeing the tram (16% of visitors)

- Leisure/sights/scenery (15% of visitors)
- Horse riding (11% of visitors)

Figure **36** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Queen Elizabeth Park.
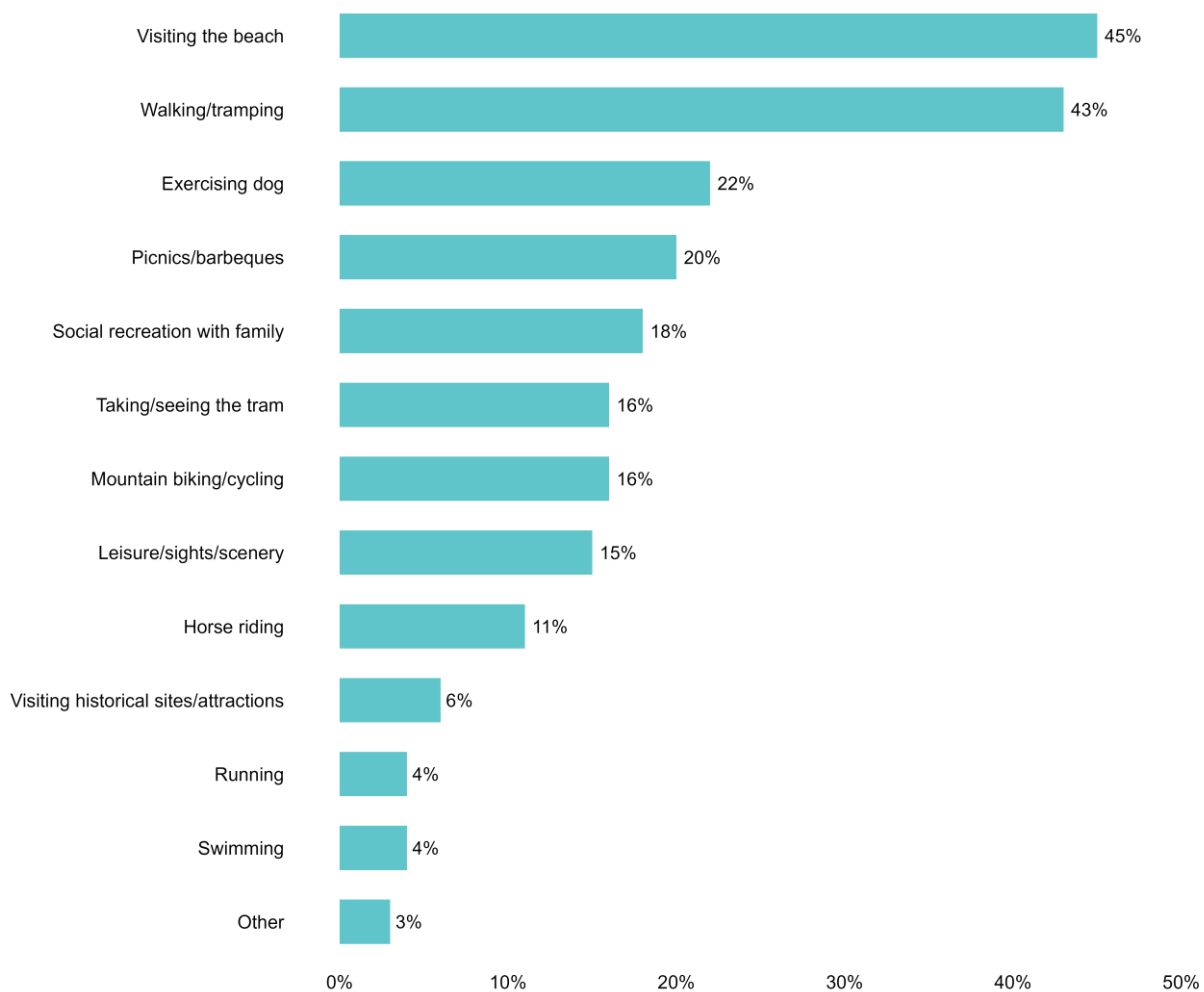
Figure 36: Activities undertaken by visitors to Queen Elizabeth Park

9.9.4 Queen Elizabeth Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Queen Elizabeth Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - Maintain/improve tracks
  - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
  - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
  - Improve information boards/signage
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
  - Improve the environment
  - Allow/improve horse access
  - Add more activities

Table 33 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Queen Elizabeth Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**158**
Maintain/improve tracks	25
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	23
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	21
Improve information boards/signage	19
Add/improve picnic areas	12
Additional walking tracks	10
Add a playground	8
Improve parking	8
Add/improve facilities/services	7
Additional seating	7
Add an eatery/cafe	6
Additional biking tracks	5
Expand tramway	4
Add shade/sheltered area	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**87**
Improve the environment	22
Allow/improve horse access	14
Add more activities	13
Control weeds/pests	11
Improve access	10
Improve safety/security	9
Allow grazing	5
Increase public awareness	3

Table 33: Queen Elizabeth Park suggested improvements

9.10 Wainuiomata Regional Park

9.10.1 Wainuiomata Regional Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Wainuiomata Regional Park indicated that:

- 77.9% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Wainuiomata Regional Park

- 29% were very satisfied, 49% satisfied, 19% neutral

- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (2% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)

Figure **37** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Wainuiomata Regional Park.
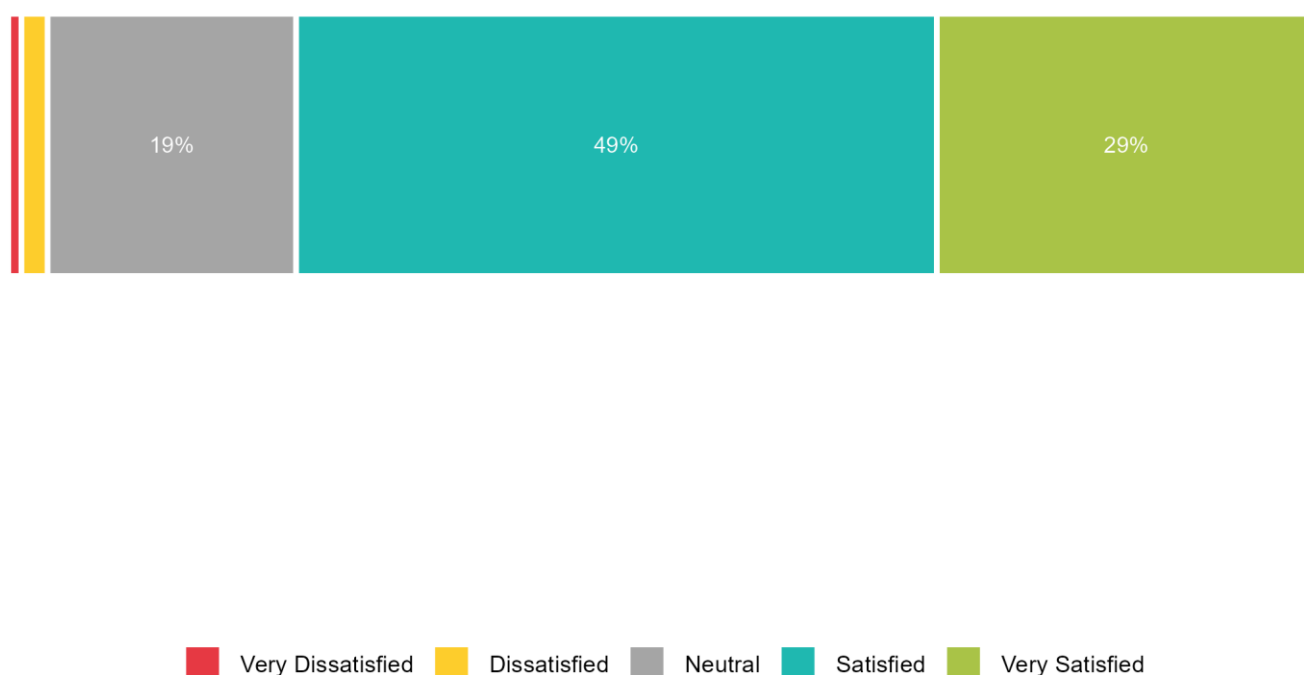
Figure 37: *Wainuiomata Regional Park visitor satisfaction levels*

Table 34 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Wainuiomata Regional Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	2%	19%	49%	29%	100%
n	2	4	34	89	52	181

Table 34: Wainuiomata Regional Park visitor satisfaction

9.10.2   Wainuiomata Regional Park Visitation

Key trends in Wainuiomata Regional Park visitation:

- Wainuiomata Regional Park experienced a decrease in visitation, dropping from 17.4% in 2024 to 13.9% in 2025 (-3.5 percentage points).

Figure **38** shows the frequency of visits to Wainuiomata Regional Park over the last 12 months.

8%	12%	22%	58%

More than 10 times   5-10 times   3-4 times   1-2 times
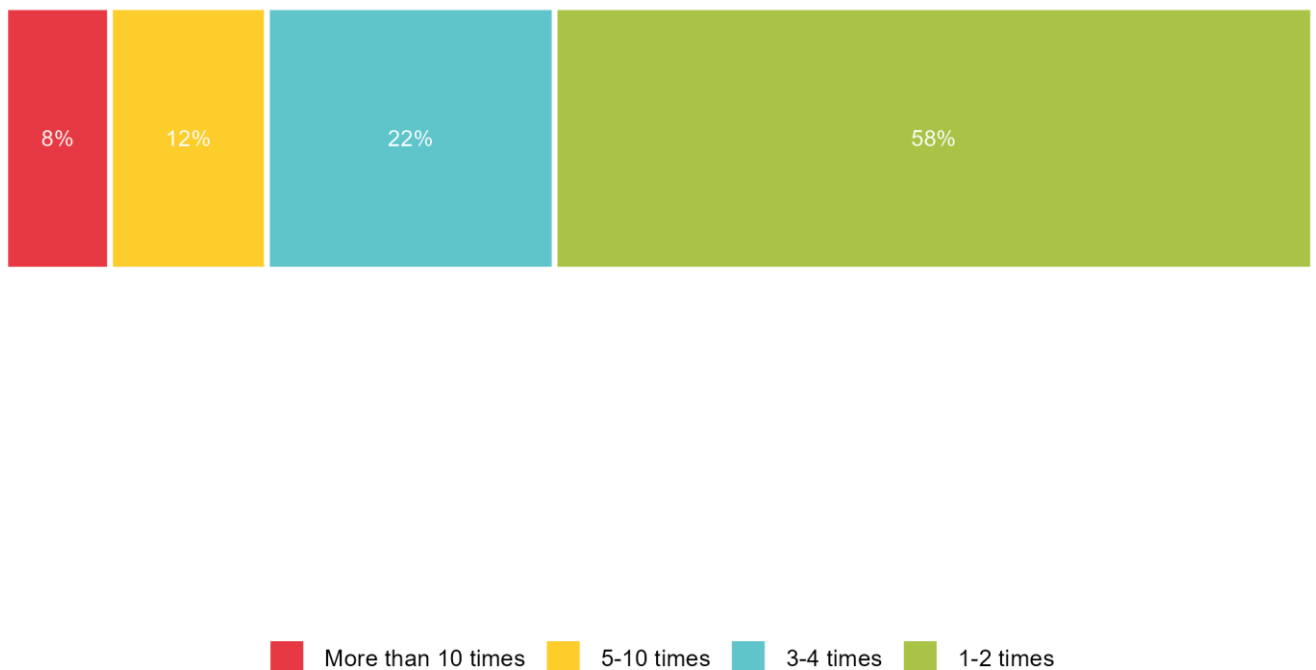
Figure 38: *Wainuiomata Regional Park visit frequency over the last 12 months*

9.10.3   Wainuiomata Regional Park Activities

The most popular activities at Wainuiomata Regional Park were:

- Walking/tramping (72% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (25% of visitors)
- Picnics/barbeques (20% of visitors)
- Exercising dog (20% of visitors)
- Social recreation with family (17% of visitors)
- Swimming (13% of visitors)
- Visiting the dam (12% of visitors)

Figure **39** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Wainuiomata Regional Park.
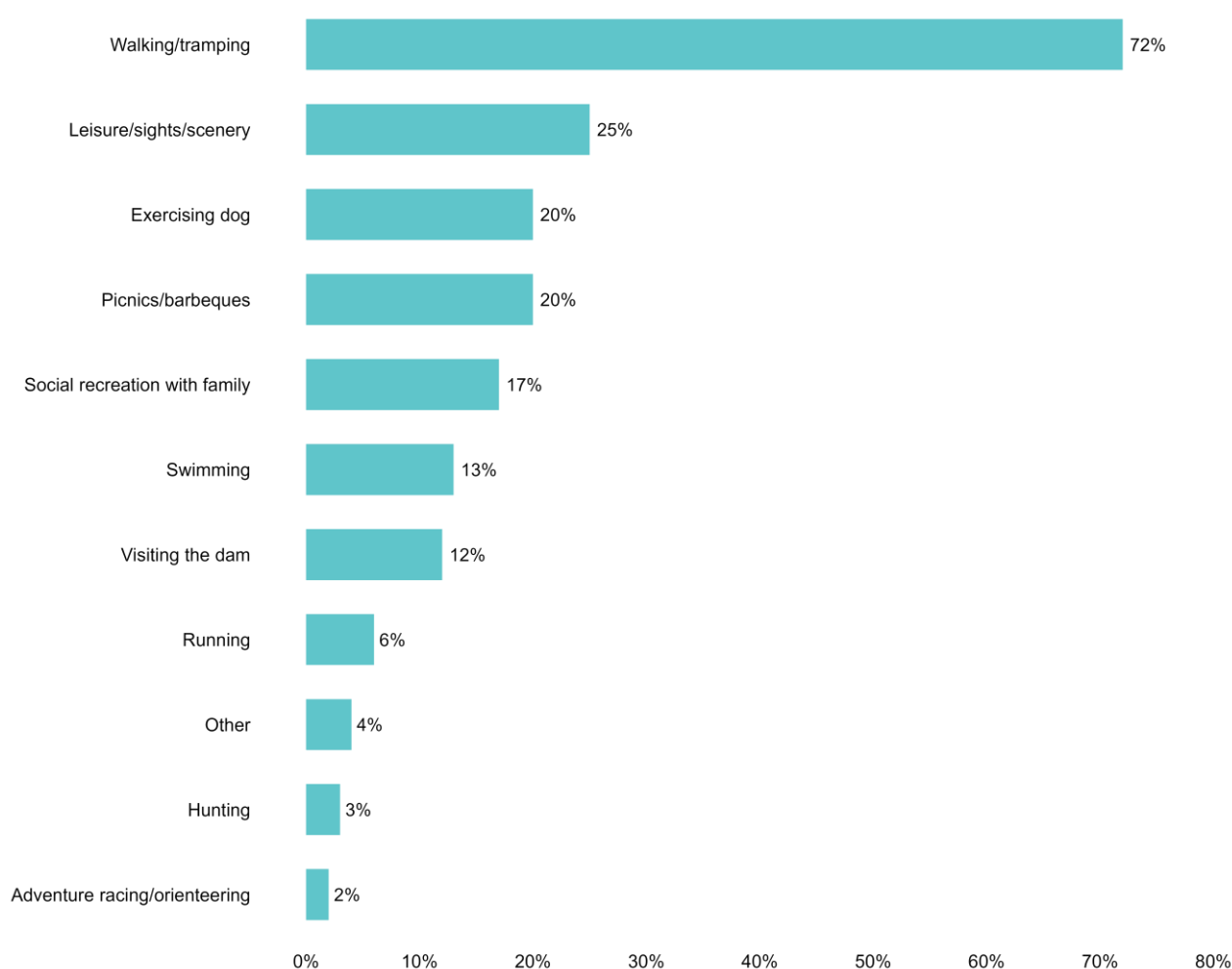
Figure 39: Activities undertaken by visitors to Wainuiomata Regional Park

9.10.4 Wainuiomata Regional Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Wainuiomata Regional Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    o Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
    o Improve information boards/signage
    o Maintain/improve tracks
    o Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:
    o Improve the environment
    o Add more activities
    o Improve access

Table 35 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Wainuiomata Regional Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**53**

Theme	Freq
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	13
Improve information boards/signage	10
Maintain/improve tracks	10
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	8
Additional walking tracks	5
Add/improve picnic areas	4
Add/improve facilities/services	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**22**
Improve the environment	7
Add more activities	6
Improve access	6
Allow/improve dog access	3

Table 35: Wainuiomata Regional Park suggested improvements

10 River trails

10.1   River trails satisfaction

10.1.1   Overall, how satisfied are you with the river trails?

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the river trails. The options were:

- Very dissatisfied

- Dissatisfied

- Neutral

- Satisfied

- Very satisfied

Respondents' level of satisfaction with river trails indicated that:

- Waikanae River Trail had the highest satisfaction levels at 86%, followed by Ōtaki River Trail at 81%.

- River trails maintained strong satisfaction levels, with satisfaction remaining generally high across all trails.

Figure **40** shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) for all river trails.
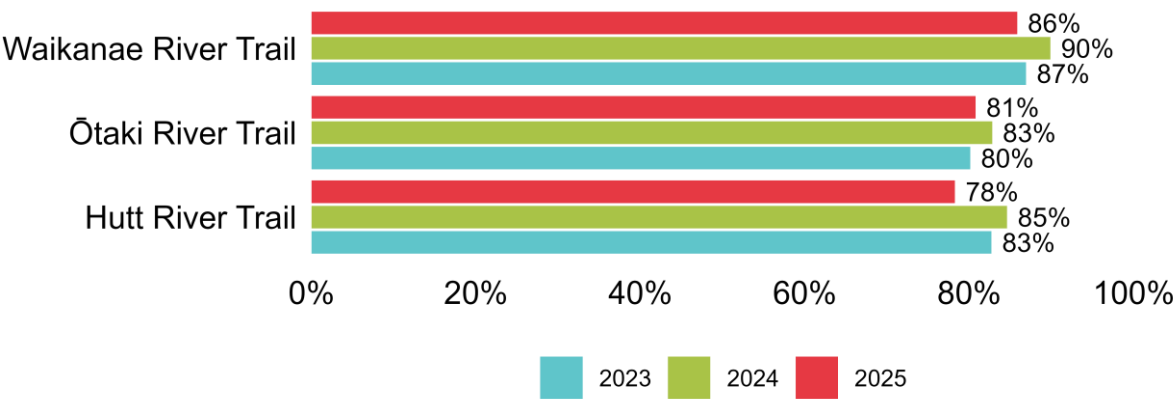
Figure 40: Overall satisfaction for all river trails

10.2   River trails visited

10.2.1   Over the last 12 months have you visited the following river trails?

Key trends in river trails visitation include:

- Hutt River Trail had the most visitors in the last 12 months, with 41% of respondents visiting.
- Ōtaki River Trail experienced a significant increase in visitation compared to the previous year.
- Waikanae River Trail experienced a moderate increase in visitation compared to the previous year.

Figure **41** shows the river trails visited over the last 12 months.
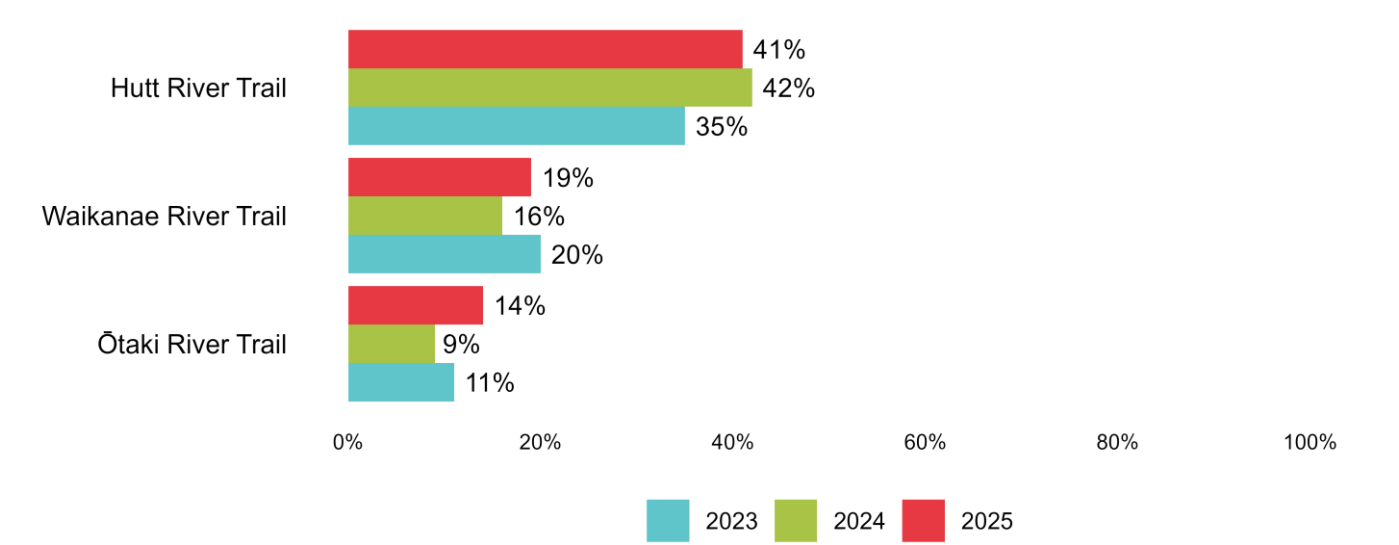
Figure 41: River trails visitation

10.2.2   How many times have you visited the river trails in the last 12 months?

Key trends in the frequency of visits to river trails in the last 12 months:

- Hutt River Trail had the highest proportion of frequent visitors, with 38% visiting more than 5 times.
- All river trails showed strong repeat visitation patterns, with most visitors using the trails multiple times per year.

Figure **42** shows the number of times river trails have been visited over the last 12 months.
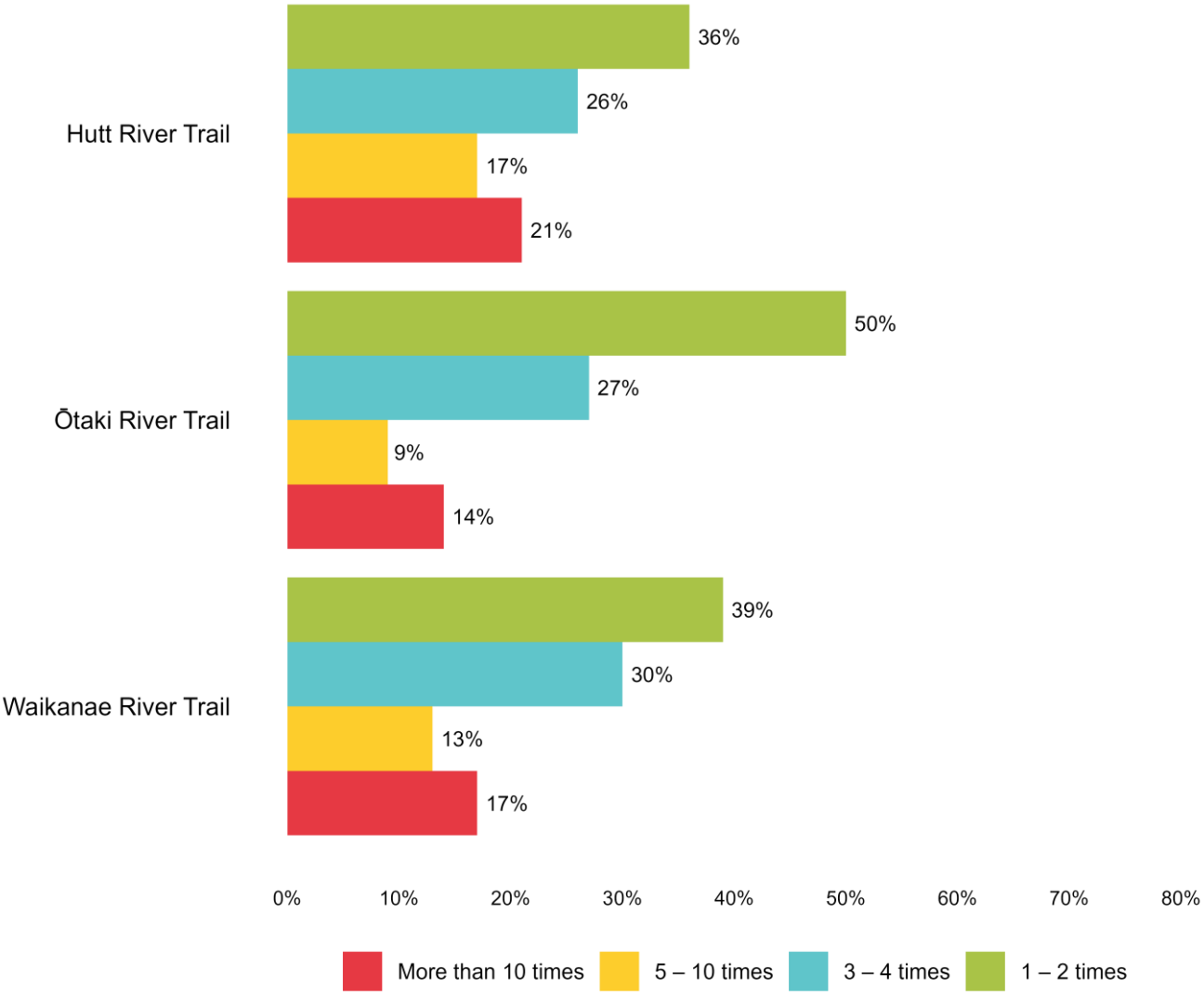
Figure 42: *Number of times river trails have been visited*

10.3   Hutt River Trail

10.3.1   Hutt River Trail Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Hutt River Trail indicated that:

- 78% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Hutt River Trail

- 28% were very satisfied, 51% satisfied, 18% neutral

- Only 4% expressed dissatisfaction (3% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)

Figure **43** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Hutt River Trail.
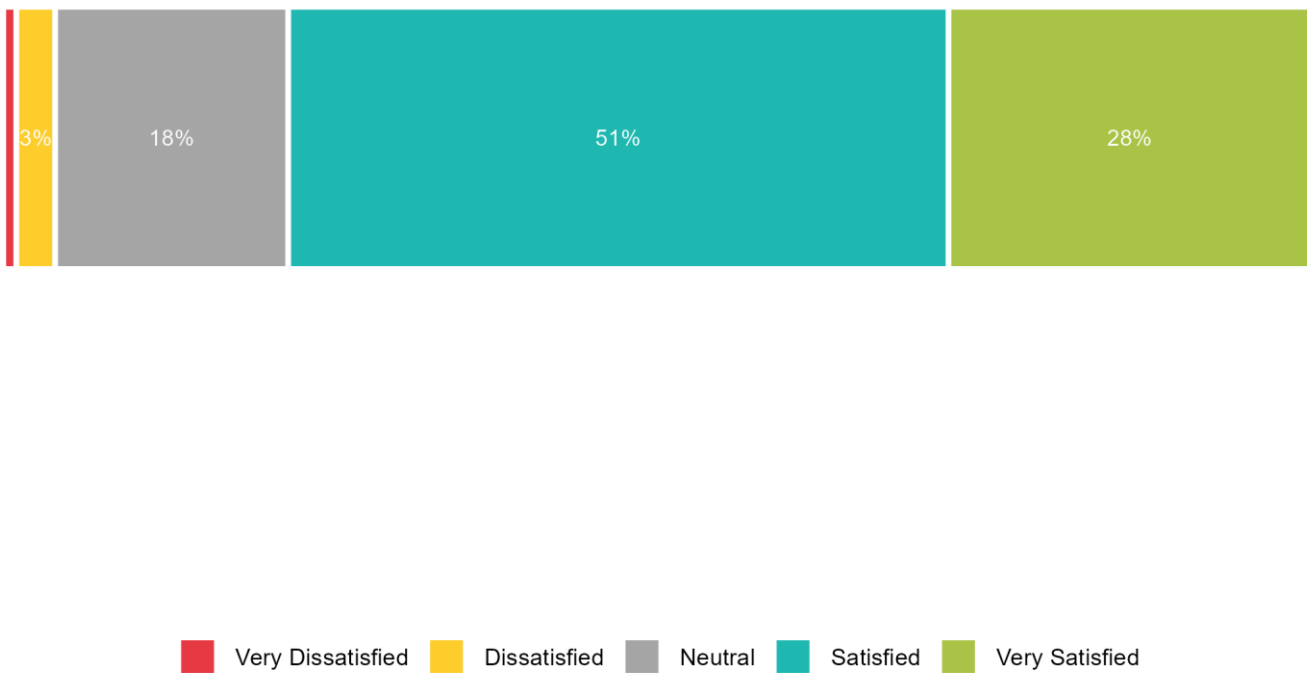
Figure 43: Hutt River Trail visitor satisfaction levels

Table 36 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Hutt River Trail.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	3%	18%	51%	28%	100%
n	8	14	97	277	151	547

Table 36: Hutt River Trail visitor satisfaction

10.3.2　Hutt River Trail Visitation

Key trends in Hutt River Trail visitation:

- Hutt River Trail experienced stable visitation levels compared to the previous year.

- 64% of visitors used the trail more than 2 times in the last 12 months, showing high repeat usage.

Figure **44** shows the frequency of visits to Hutt River Trail over the last 12 months.


Legend: ■ More than 10 times ■ 5-10 times ■ 3-4 times ■ 1-2 times

Bar values: 21% | 17% | 26% | 36%
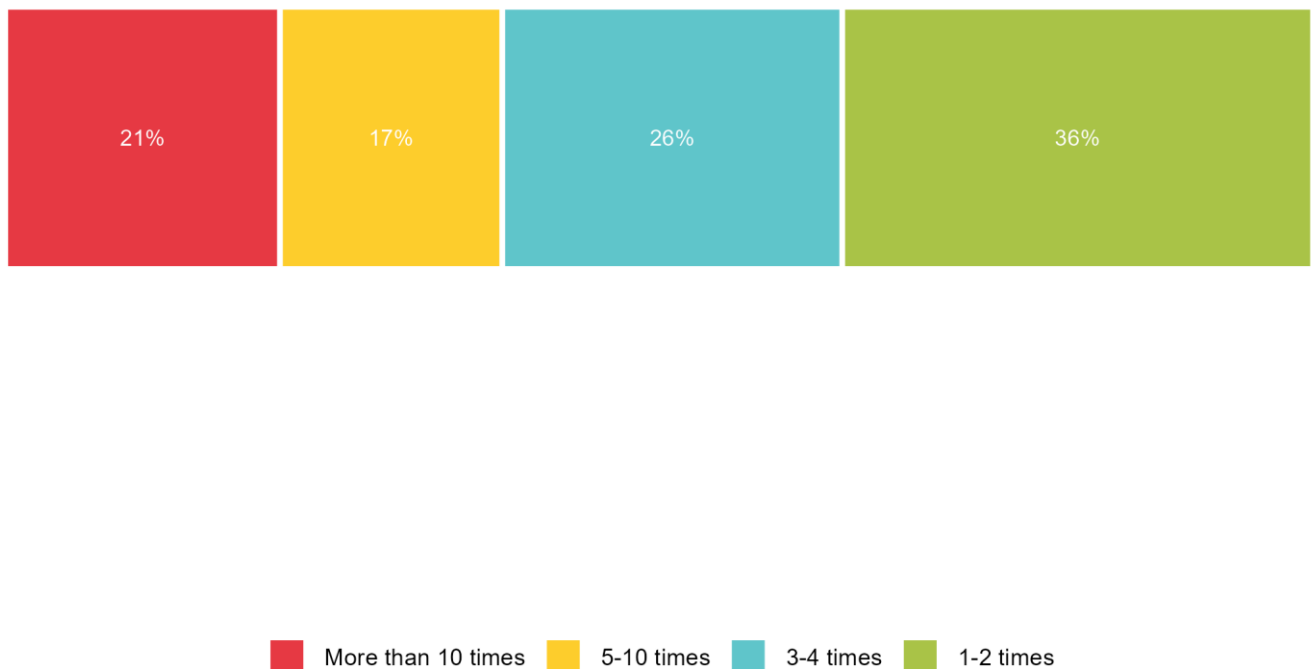
Figure 44: Hutt River Trail visit frequency over the last 12 months

10.3.3　Hutt River Trail Activities

The most popular activities at Hutt River Trail were:

- Walking/tramping (66% of visitors)

- Exercising dog (30% of visitors)

- Mountain biking/cycling (26% of visitors)

- Leisure/sights/scenery (24% of visitors)

- Running (18% of visitors)

Figure **45** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Hutt River Trail.
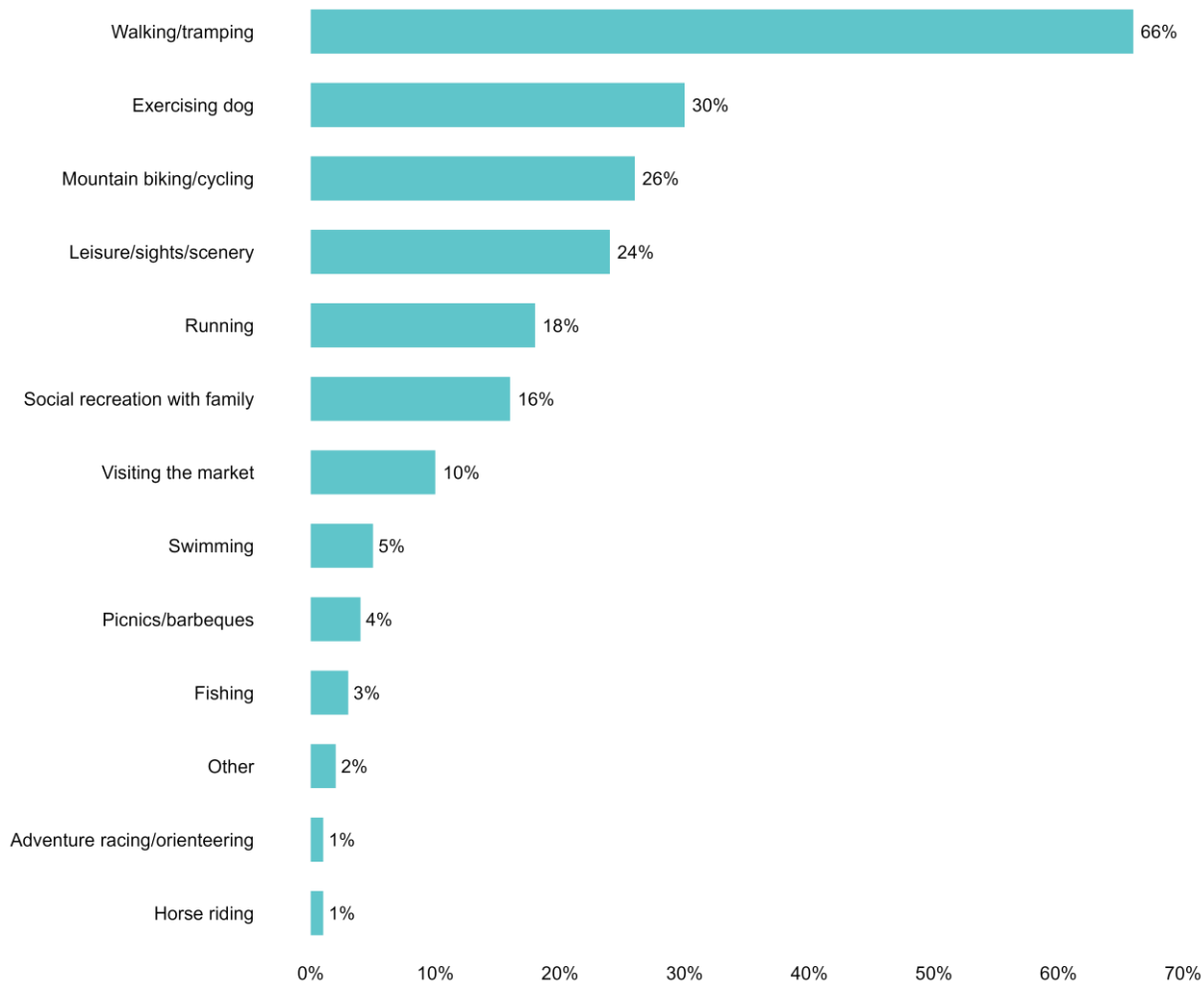
Figure 45: Activities undertaken by visitors to Hutt River Trail

10.3.4   Hutt River Trail Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Hutt River Trail were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - Maintain/improve tracks
  - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
  - Additional seating
  - Improve information boards/signage
- **Activities and trail management** improvements included:
  - Improve access
  - Improve the environment
  - Improve safety/security

Table 37 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Hutt River Trail.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**309**
Maintain/improve tracks	75

Theme	Freq
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	63
Additional seating	38
Improve information boards/signage	36
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	25
Add/improve lighting	21
Add/improve picnic areas	16
Add/improve facilities/services	12
Build a bridge across the river	8
Add shade/sheltered area	6
Add/improve water facilities	5
Improve parking	4
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**121**
Improve access	34
Improve the environment	29
Increase restrictions on dogs	13
Improve safety/security	12
Ban motor vehicles i.e. dirt bikes 4 wheel drives	8
Improve access for bikes	7
Separate cyclists and pedestrians	6
Improve river cleanliness	5
Control weeds/pests	4
Improve drainage	3

Table 37: Hutt River Trail suggested improvements

10.4 Ōtaki River Trail

10.4.1 Ōtaki River Trail Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Ōtaki River Trail indicated that:

- 81% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Ōtaki River Trail

- 35% were very satisfied, 46% satisfied, 16% neutral

- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (2% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)

Figure **46** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Ōtaki River Trail.
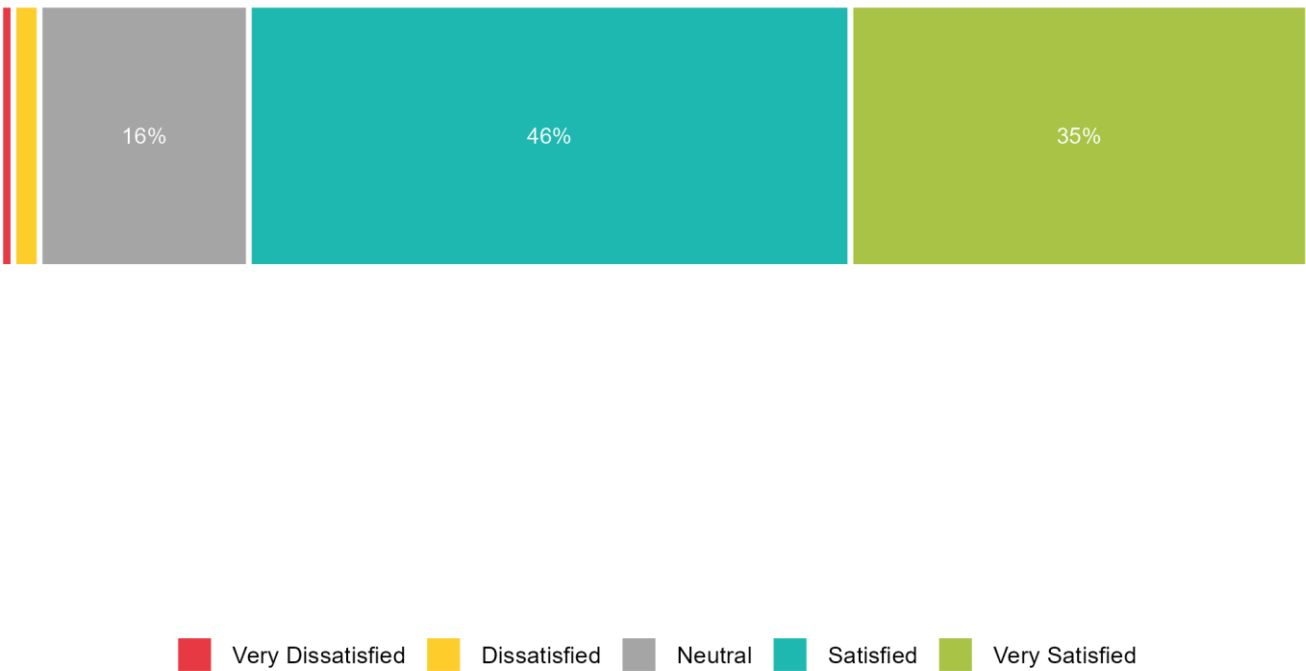

Figure 46: Ōtaki River Trail visitor satisfaction levels

Table 38 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Ōtaki River Trail.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	2%	16%	46%	35%	100%
n	2	4	29	84	63	182

Table 38: Ōtaki River Trail visitor satisfaction

10.4.2   Ōtaki River Trail Visitation

Key trends in Ōtaki River Trail visitation:

- Ōtaki River Trail experienced a significant increase in overall visitation compared to the previous year.

- 50% of visitors used the trail 1-2 times in the last 12 months, with 23% being frequent visitors (5+ times).

Figure **47** shows the frequency of visits to Ōtaki River Trail over the last 12 months.

| 14% | 9% | 27% | 50% |

■ More than 10 times   ■ 5-10 times   ■ 3-4 times   ■ 1-2 times
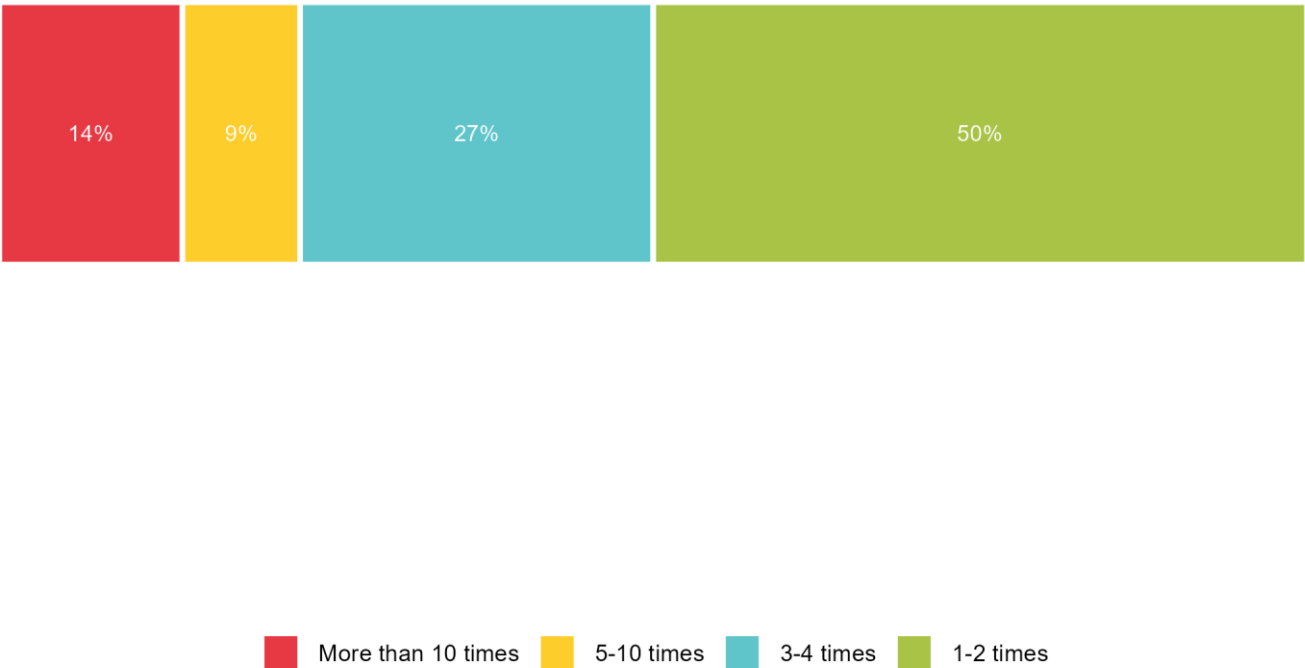
Figure 47: Ōtaki River Trail visit frequency over the last 12 months

10.4.3   Ōtaki River Trail Activities

The most popular activities at Ōtaki River Trail were:

- Walking/tramping (60% of visitors)

- Leisure/sights/scenery (28% of visitors)

- Exercising dog (26% of visitors)

- Mountain biking/cycling (22% of visitors)

- Visiting the river (19% of visitors)

Figure **48** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Ōtaki River Trail.
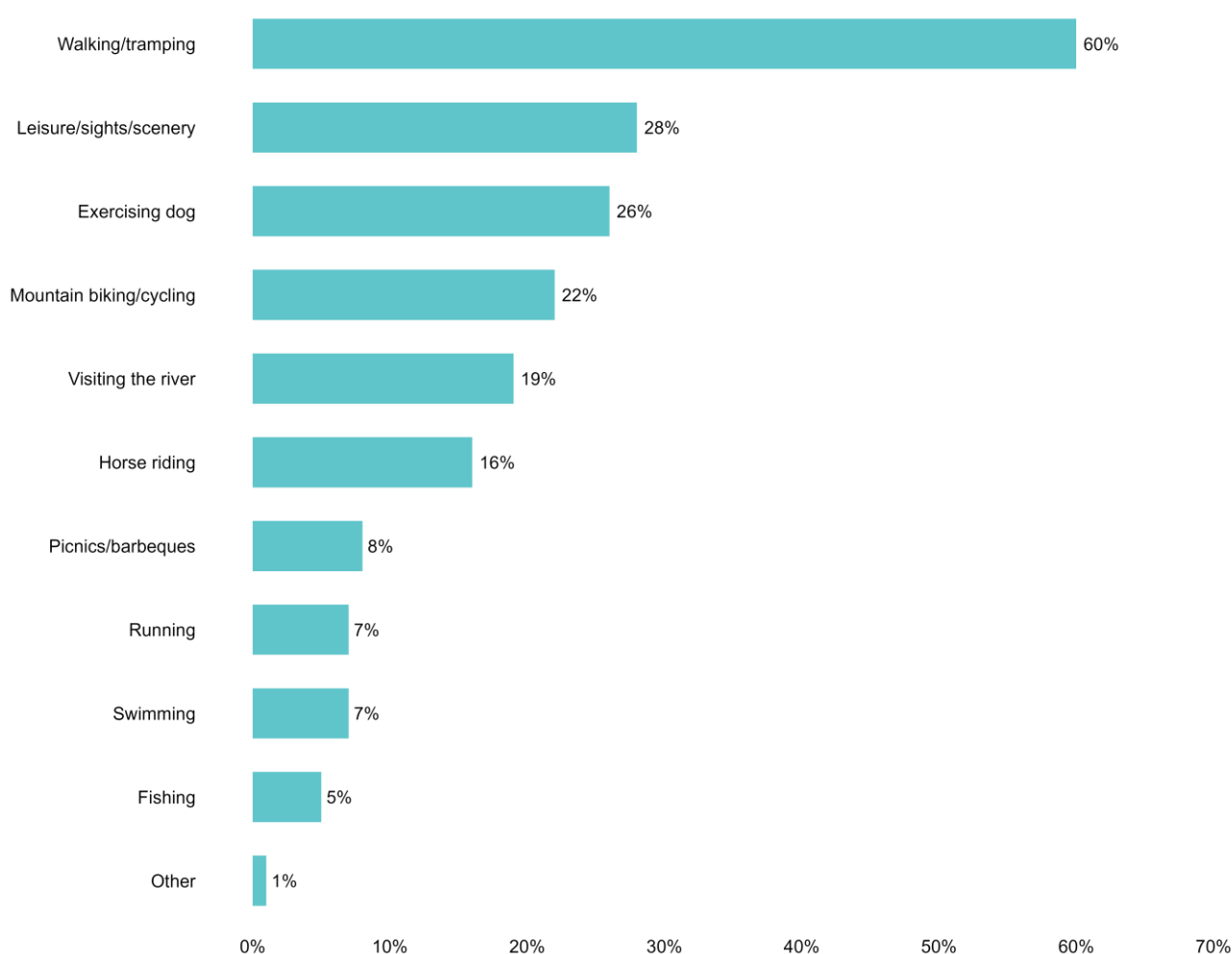
Figure 48: Activities undertaken by visitors to Ōtaki River Trail

10.4.4   Ōtaki River Trail Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Ōtaki River Trail were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    - Additional seating
    - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
    - Improve information boards/signage
    - Maintain/improve tracks
- **Activities and trail management** improvements included:
    - Improve the environment
    - Improve access
    - Add more activities

Table 39 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Ōtaki River Trail.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**61**

Theme	Freq
Additional seating	11
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	10
Improve information boards/signage	9
Maintain/improve tracks	9
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	8
Add/improve camping facilities	4
Additional walking tracks	4
Add/improve facilities/services	3
Improve parking	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**38**
Improve the environment	18
Improve access	8
Add more activities	4
Allow/improve horse access	4
Improve safety/security	4

Table 39: Ōtaki River Trail suggested improvements

10.5   Waikanae River Trail

10.5.1   Waikanae River Trail Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Waikanae River Trail indicated that:

- 86% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Waikanae River Trail

- 37% were very satisfied, 49% satisfied, 11% neutral

- Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction (3% dissatisfied, 0% very dissatisfied)

Figure **49** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Waikanae River Trail.
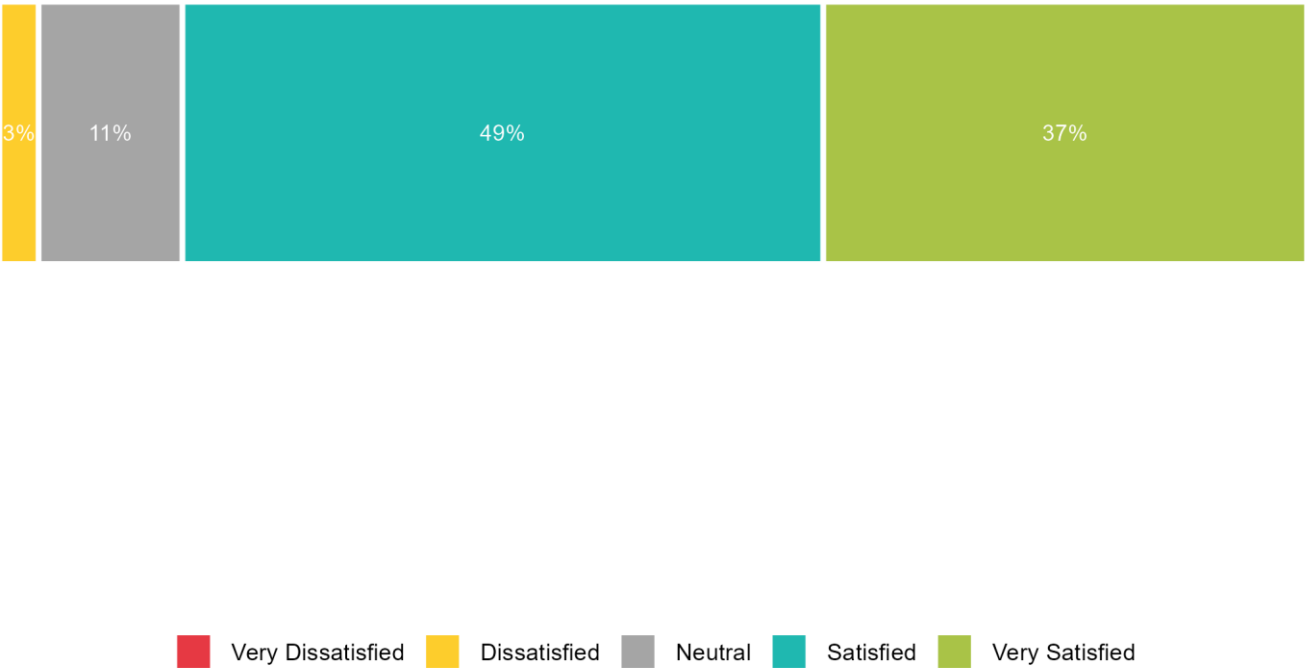

Figure 49: *Waikanae River Trail visitor satisfaction levels*

Table 40 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Waikanae River Trail.

|	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	0%	3%	11%	49%	37%	100%
n	1	7	28	125	93	254

Table 40: Waikanae River Trail visitor satisfaction

10.5.2   Waikanae River Trail Visitation

Key trends in Waikanae River Trail visitation:

- Waikanae River Trail experienced a moderate increase in visitation compared to the previous year.

- 61% of visitors used the trail more than 2 times in the last 12 months, showing strong repeat usage.

Figure **50** shows the frequency of visits to Waikanae River Trail over the last 12 months.

17%	13%	30%	39%

■ More than 10 times   ■ 5-10 times   ■ 3-4 times   ■ 1-2 times
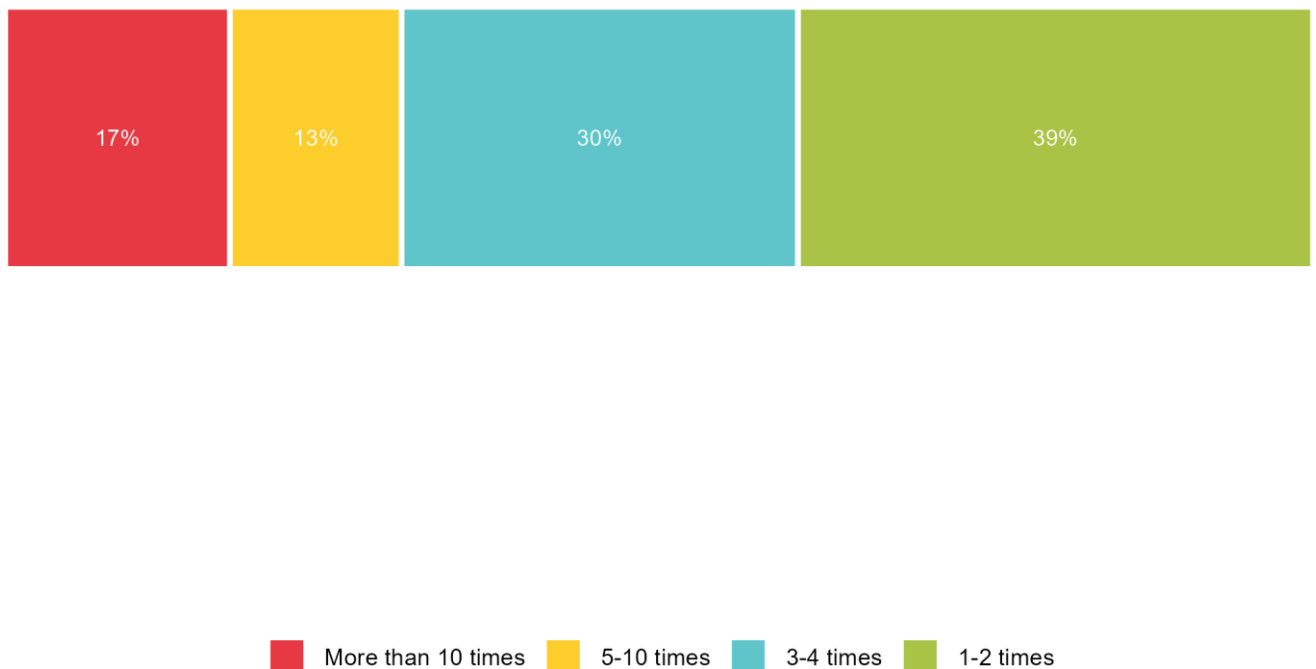
Figure 50: Waikanae River Trail visit frequency over the last 12 months

10.5.3   Waikanae River Trail Activities

The most popular activities at Waikanae River Trail were:

- Walking/tramping (61% of visitors)

- Mountain biking/cycling (28% of visitors)

- Exercising dog (24% of visitors)

- Leisure/sights/scenery (16% of visitors)

- Social recreation with family (13% of visitors)

Figure **51** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Waikanae River Trail.
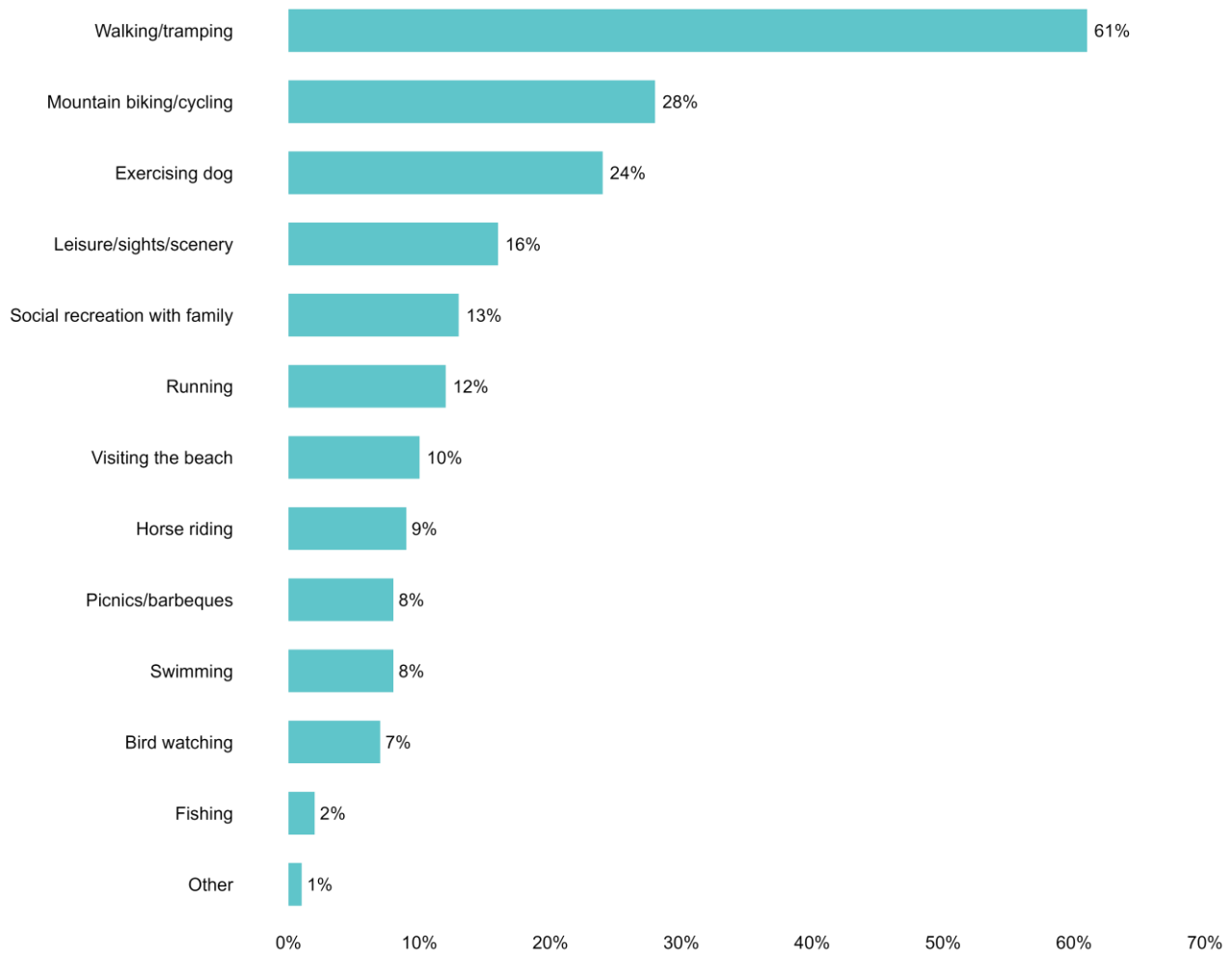
Figure 51: Activities undertaken by visitors to Waikanae River Trail

10.5.4   Waikanae River Trail Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Waikanae River Trail were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
    - Maintain/improve tracks
    - Improve information boards/signage
    - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
    - Additional seating
- **Activities and trail management** improvements included:
    - Improve safety/security
    - Improve the environment
    - Allow/improve horse access

Table 41 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Waikanae River Trail.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**113**
Maintain/improve tracks	53

Theme	Freq
Improve information boards/signage	23
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	12
Additional seating	12
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	10
Improve parking	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**60**
Improve safety/security	14
Improve the environment	10
Allow/improve horse access	9
Control weeds/pests	9
Increase restrictions on dogs	7
Allow/improve dog access	4
Improve access	4
Improve resilience to flooding	3

Table 41: Waikanae River Trail suggested improvements

11 Whitireia Park

11.1   Whitireia Park Satisfaction

Respondents' level of satisfaction with Whitireia Park indicated that:

- 85% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with Whitireia Park

- 29% were very satisfied, 56% satisfied, 11% neutral

- Only 5% expressed dissatisfaction (4% dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied)

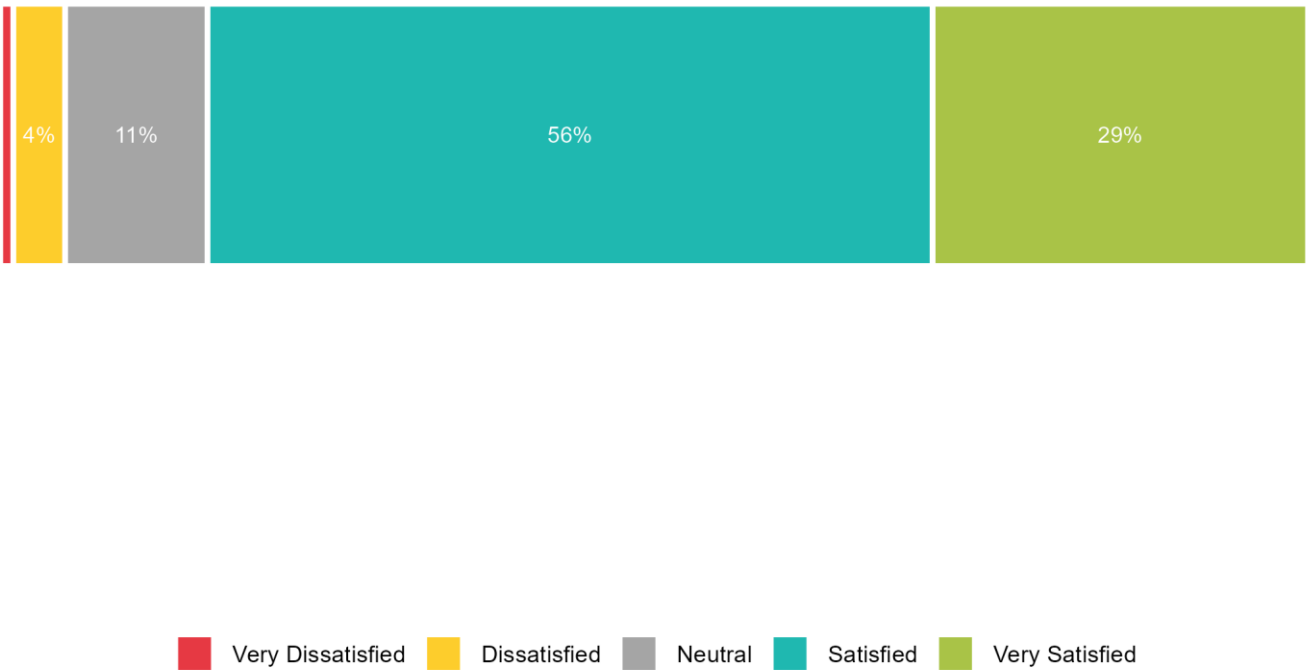Figure **52** shows visitor satisfaction levels for Whitireia Park.

Figure 52: Whitireia Park visitor satisfaction levels

Table 42 shows the detailed satisfaction breakdown for Whitireia Park.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
%	1%	4%	11%	56%	29%	100%
n	2	10	29	151	80	272

Table 42: Whitireia Park visitor satisfaction

Key trends in the level of satisfaction with Whitireia Park in the last 12 months:

- Satisfaction levels remained strong, with 85% of visitors satisfied or very satisfied

- The park showed solid performance across all satisfaction metrics

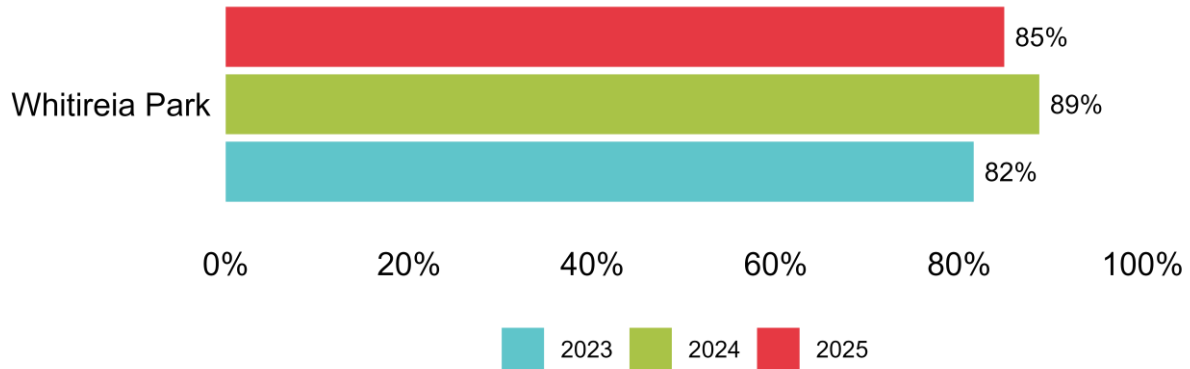Figure **53** shows the overall satisfaction (satisfied + very satisfied) for Whitireia Park.

Figure 53: How satisfied are you with Whitireia Park?

11.2   **Whitireia Park visitation**

11.2.1   Over the last 12 months have you visited Whitireia Park?

Key trends in Whitireia Park visitation included:

- Whitireia Park experienced a moderate decrease in overall visitation compared to the previous year.

Figure **54** shows the visitation to Whitireia Park over the last 12 months.
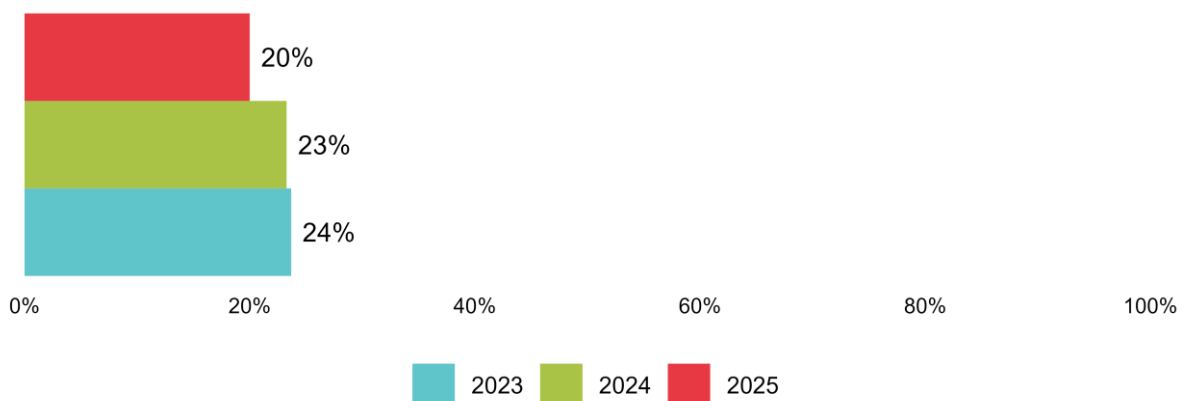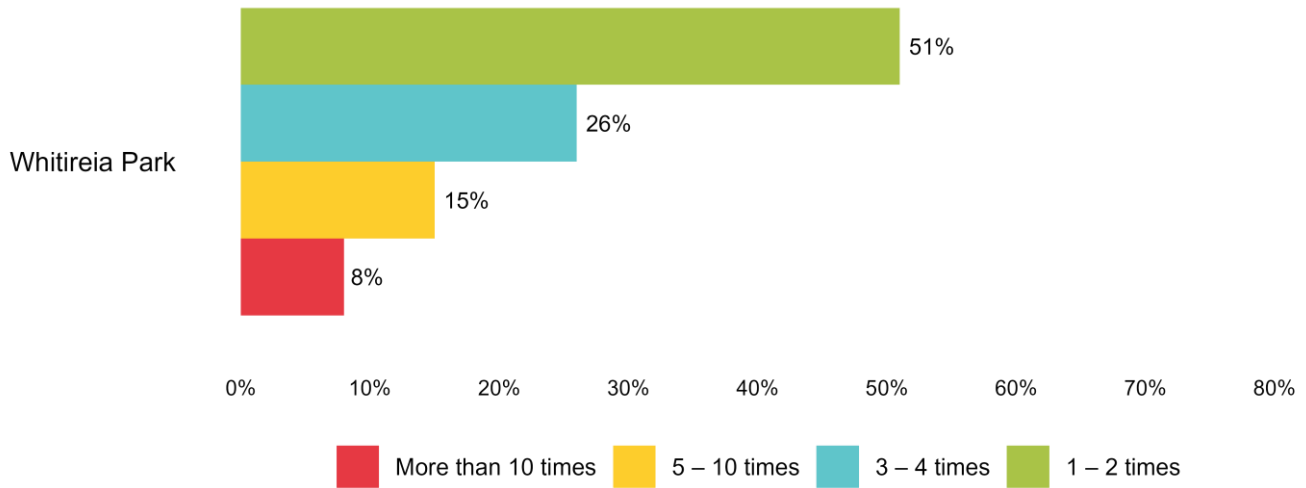

Figure 54: Over the last 12 months have you visited Whitireia Park?

11.2.2 How many times have you visited Whitireia Park in the last 12 months?

Key trends in the frequency of visits to Whitireia Park in the last 12 months:

- 51% of visitors used the park 1-2 times in the last 12 months

- 23% were frequent visitors (5+ times), showing moderate repeat usage

Figure **55** shows the number of visits for Whitireia Park over the last 12 months.

Figure 55: *How many times have you visited Whitireia Park in the last 12 months?*

11.3 Whitireia Park Activities

The most popular activities at Whitireia Park were:

- Walking/tramping (64% of visitors)
- Leisure/sights/scenery (36% of visitors)
- Beach activities (32% of visitors)

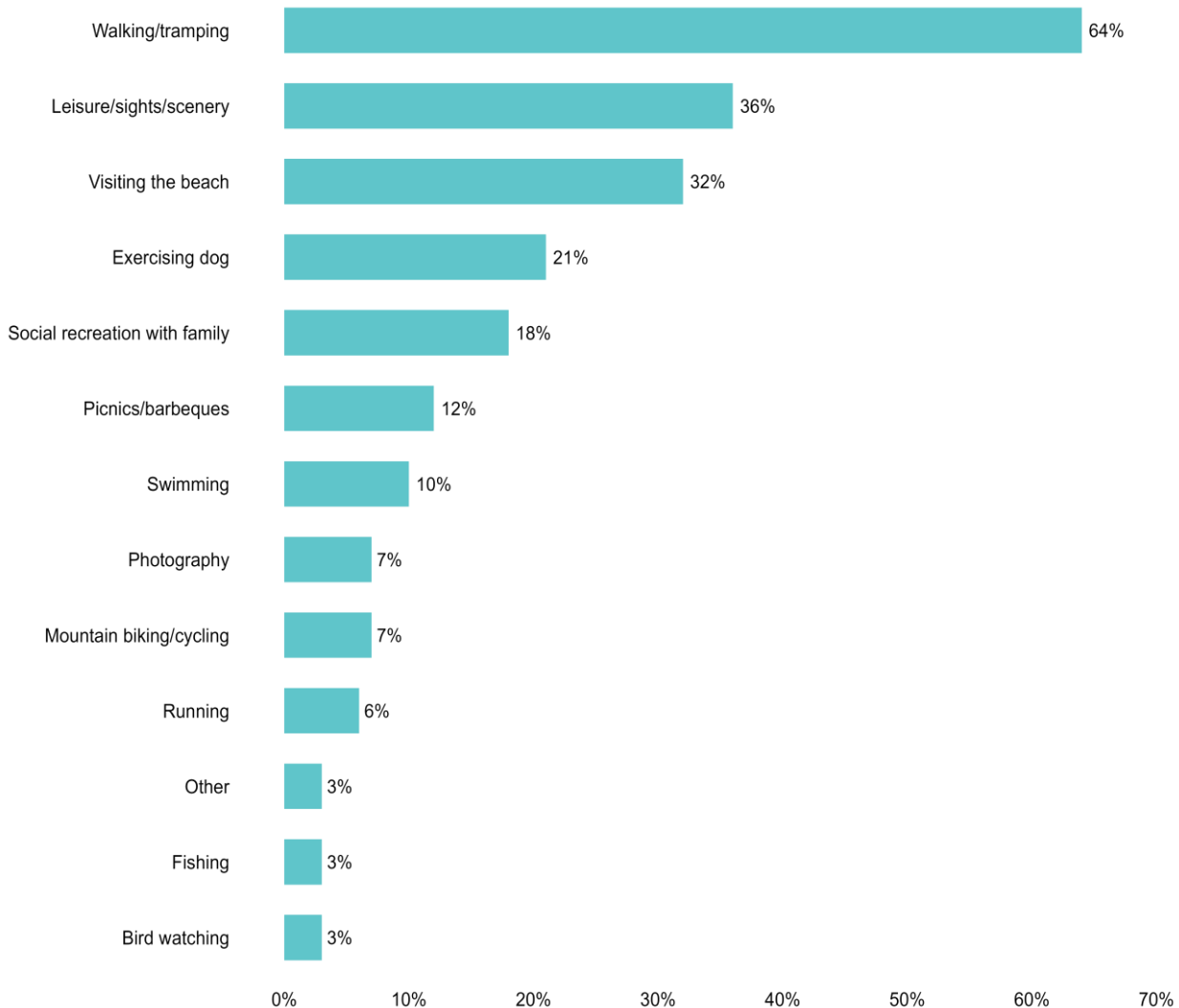Figure **56** shows the activities undertaken by visitors to Whitireia Park.

Figure 56: Activities undertaken by visitors to Whitireia Park

11.4 Whitireia Park Improvements

Based on visitor feedback, the key improvement themes for Whitireia Park were:

- **Infrastructure improvements** were the most commonly mentioned, including:
  - Add/improve toilets/bathrooms
  - Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem
  - Improve information boards/signage
  - Add/improve facilities/services
- **Activities and park management** improvements included:

- o Improve safety/security

- o Improve access

- o Improve the environment

- o Increase restrictions on dogs

Table 43 shows the detailed improvement suggestions for Whitireia Park.

Theme	Freq
INFRASTRUCTURE	**147**
Add/improve toilets/bathrooms	25
Additional garbage bins/address rubbish problem	25
Improve information boards/signage	17
Add/improve facilities/services	13
Maintain/improve roads	13
Additional seating	12
Add/improve picnic areas	10
Maintain/improve tracks	10
Add/improve water facilities	6
Improve parking	5
Add a playground	4
Additional walking tracks	4
Add shade/sheltered area	3
ACTIVITIES AND PARK MANAGEMENT	**66**
Improve safety/security	16
Improve access	12
Improve the environment	12
Increase restrictions on dogs	12
Control weeds/pests	7
Add more activities	4
Protect cultural sites	3

Table 43: Whitireia Park suggested improvements