

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Increase and upgrade signage and cluster hardscaped infrastructure.

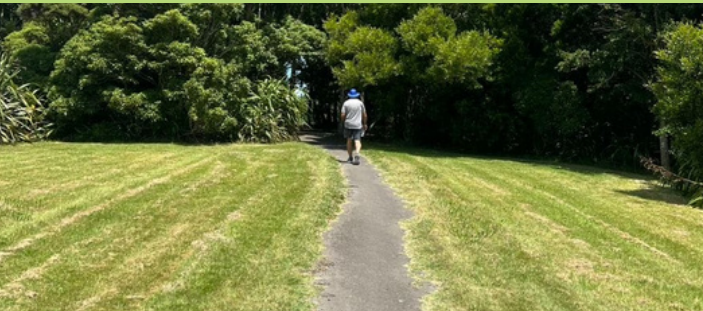
“Keep Left”

Enter & Exit Points

Nature & History



- 2. Widen paths and separate whenever possible.



- 3. Increase public education to inform users of proper trail etiquette.



MEET THE TEAM

Kia Ora!

We are a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts. We worked on a project that addressed the current tensions between users and the pressure that has been put on the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to consider the Corridor as a commuter route.

We would like to thank our advisors **Professor Leslie Dodson** and **Professor Kenneth Stafford**. Also, our sponsors **Ross Jackson, Joby Mills, Brad Bulman, and Steve Kamo** for their help, and everyone in the GWRC office for making us feel welcome!



From left to right: **Frankie Marocco** (Electrical & Computer Engineering, Data Science), **Lexi Carim** (Electrical & Computer Engineering), **Aileen Peddie** (Biochemistry), **Bettina Valentiner** (Industrial Engineering, Management)



WPI



Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

February 2024

SHARED SPACES:

Understanding Perceptions of the Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River Corridor



Helping GWRC manage this shared space.



RESULTS & FINDINGS

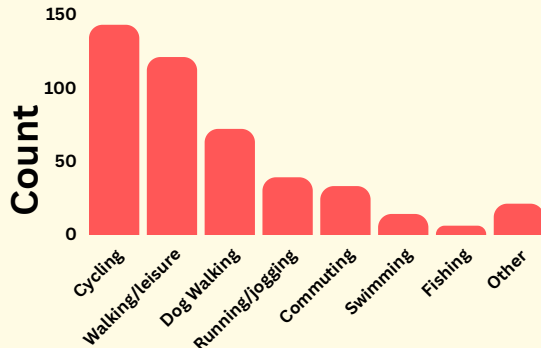
276

FACE-TO-FACE
SURVEYS

18

KEY-INFORMANT
INTERVIEWS

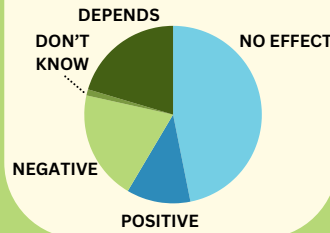
Distribution of User Groups



User Groups

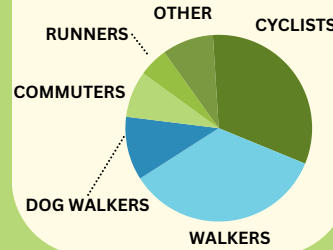
Many users said they would not be affected by increased commuter use.

Impact of Increased Commuters



66% said they would not be negatively effected by an increase in usage from commuter cyclist.

User Groups Not Affected



Of those people who said they wouldn't be effected, 45% of them were walkers and dog walkers.

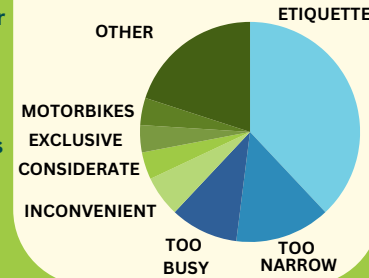
Etiquette and trail capacity were the most common concerns about increased commuters.

"It would have a negative effect because of my dogs, you can't hear them (cyclists) because they rarely ring their bell."
dog-walker

"The corridor is already at capacity and a lot of changes would need to be made to accommodate more cyclists and improve."
cyclist/runner/dog-walker

38% were concerned about trail etiquette. 14% was due to the path being too narrow. 10% said the trail is "too busy".

Concerns Regarding Increased Cyclists



Commuters are not the only users that believe increased commuter use would be positive.

"The more the merrier!"
dog-walker/kayaker

"I don't use it for commuting, but I know people who do and I encourage it."
cyclist/walker

"More commuters are good and would add value to the trail, it would potentially mean the corridor is looked after better."
cyclist



There is concern amongst users that the trail is too narrow and separation might be needed.

"Older people and people with disabilities have issues with e-bikes and scooters whizzing past them; it's unsafe."
*Ellen Blake
Walking Advocate*



"The river trail is quite narrow in parts, so you really have to show courtesy to each other."
*Paul Gruschow
Mobility Scooter Advocate*

"Best situation would be separated paths."
*Marco Ranelli
Cyclist Advocate*



There are conflicting opinions on whether the trail should be a sealed or gravel surface.

"The addition of a sealed path on both sides (would be an improvement)."
dog walker/kayaker

"I enjoy the upgraded surface for commuting."
commuter cyclist/dog-walker

"I like the ruggedness of having some parts paved and some with gravel so there's not too much pavement."
cyclist/runner

"It would be a lot more cluttered and would force me to slow down."
commuter cyclist

"I would have to pay more attention and couldn't look at the scenery as much."
cyclist/dog-walker/swimmer

"It's more natural when there's less people."
cyclist/walker



Some commuters and cyclists believe an increase in commuters in the corridor would be negative

The value of nature is contradicted by the desire to increase the Corridor's built environment.

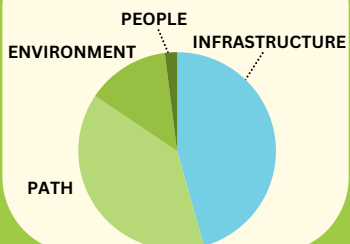
"My favorite aspect is the scenery, the wildlife, the trees, peace, and the river."
cyclist/walker



45% of survey respondents believed infrastructure improvements would enhance their experience.

Most people suggested additional bins, signage, water fountains, and lighting.

General Improvements



"It's an opportunity to commune with nature, and be close to the to the moving water, which is therapeutic in itself."
*Joby Mills
Senior River Ranger*