

Tihi Road Reserve Feedback

August 2019

The community

- 254 letters posted out to the local community
- Posters put up in the reserve and local shops to collect locals 'outside' the immediate boundary



The survey

- 1 August to 31 August 2019
- 254 cover letters & surveys posted out
- Survey also on Korero mai
- Posters placed in the reserve and in the diary
- 94 surveys returned (50/50 hardcopy/website)
- 37% response rate (engaged community)



30 July 2019

File Ref: 64-42-032

Doc No: RDC-934718

TO THE RESIDENT/HOMEOWNER
37 DAY PLACE
SPRINGFIELD
ROTORUA 3015

Dear Resident and Home Owner

TIHI ROAD RESERVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Tihi Road Reserve is unique in Rotorua as it was planted as an urban woodland using a planting plan developed in 1990. Council would like to review this plan to ensure that future works and management reflects the current values of the surrounding community and how people want to use the reserve.

During the last few months, you may have noticed that Council undertook some urgent work on the reserve following discussion with residents concerned about tree height and shading of their properties. This involved topping and removing some of the larger trees impacting on residents of Day Place at the southern end of the reserve. To more effectively resolve this issue, trees will need to be removed and replanting will need to take place in the future. To minimise the ongoing impacts of this work Council needs to ensure a comprehensive plan is in place.

With this in mind, we would love to hear what is important to you and the value you place on the reserve. You can do this by filling in a short 5-minute survey. There are a number of ways you can do this, including:

- Our preferred way is the Rotorua Lakes Council website – rotorualakescouncil.nz/tellustihi
- Using the freepost form enclosed with this letter

Please take a few minutes to fill in one survey per household before 31 August 2019.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 348 4199. Alternatively, if appropriate, Council staff are available to make a time to meet with you to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Curtis

Barbara Curtis
Recreation and Environment Advisor



Tell us about Tihi Road Reserve

We'd love it if you could share your thoughts about Tihi Rd Reserve in this survey

How do you use Tihi Road Reserve? Tick all that apply

☐ Active family time	☐ Running/golfing	☐ Gardening
☐ Bird watching	☐ Free play for children	☐ Picnicking
☐ Enjoy walking on the reserve	☐ Horse riding	☐ Shortcuts to work/school
☐ Exercise training off road	☐ Dog/pet park	☐ Walking
☐ Exercise training on road	☐ Basketball/park	☐ Other (please specify)

Please describe what other ways that you and your family use Tihi Road Reserve?

2. If you had to pick one MAIN use of the reserve, what would it be?

3. How often have you visited Tihi Road Reserve this year? Choose 1

☐ Daily	☐ Once a month	☐ Once a year
☐ Weekly	☐ Once every three months	☐ I don't use the reserve
☐ fortnightly	☐ Twice a year	

Why is it that you don't use the reserve?

4. How long have you lived in the area? Choose 1

☐ Less than a year	☐ 1 to 5 years	☐ More than 5 years
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What do you value about Tihi Road Reserve?

5. What are the main BENEFITS for you and your family when using the reserve? Tick all that apply

☐ Access to open spaces	☐ A safe place for kids to play freely	☐ Shortcuts to work
☐ Access to exercise the dog	☐ Part of a living street	☐ Great place to take time out and be with nature
☐ Enjoy being around green space nearby	☐ Part of walking route	☐ Family time
☐ Road gathering place	☐ Shortcuts to work	

Anything else you'd like to add?

To have your say online go to:
rotorualakescouncil.nz/tellustihi

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Tuhimono i te ahi me te ahi

6. How would you rate the importance of the following to you and your family in regards to Tihi Road Reserve?

	1 - Not important	2 - Minimal importance	3 - Moderately important	4 - Somewhat important	5 - Very important
Natural environment					
Footpaths					
More formal pathways					
Sheltering in shade and cool breezy areas					
Maintaining a Tihi green buffer around the reserve					
Signage (general information, cultural and historical)					
Plant control					
Active living of trees					

7. Please describe what might help you and your family use the reserve more often?

8. What significantly reduces your enjoyment of the reserve?

	1 - Not Applicable	2 - Minimal significance	3 - Moderately significant	4 - Somewhat significant	5 - Very Significant
Risk of flooding					
Risk of new/limited					
Personal or family safety					
Shading from vegetation					
Facilities such as paths, signage					
Lack of knowledge about the reserve					
Lack of wildlife					
Other users					
Look of the					

9. Would you like to be put in contact with other people interested in forming a community based 'Friends of Tihi Road Reserve'?

Yes ☐ No ☐

We would love to stay in contact.
Understanding where in our community feedback is coming from will allow us to develop a plan that best reflects our community. Please add your name and contact details below.

Name: _____ Contact phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Other address (if given): _____ Suburb: _____

Additional space for your comments:

To have your say online go to:
rotorualakescouncil.nz/tellustihi

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Tuhimono i te ahi me te ahi

The results

Q 1

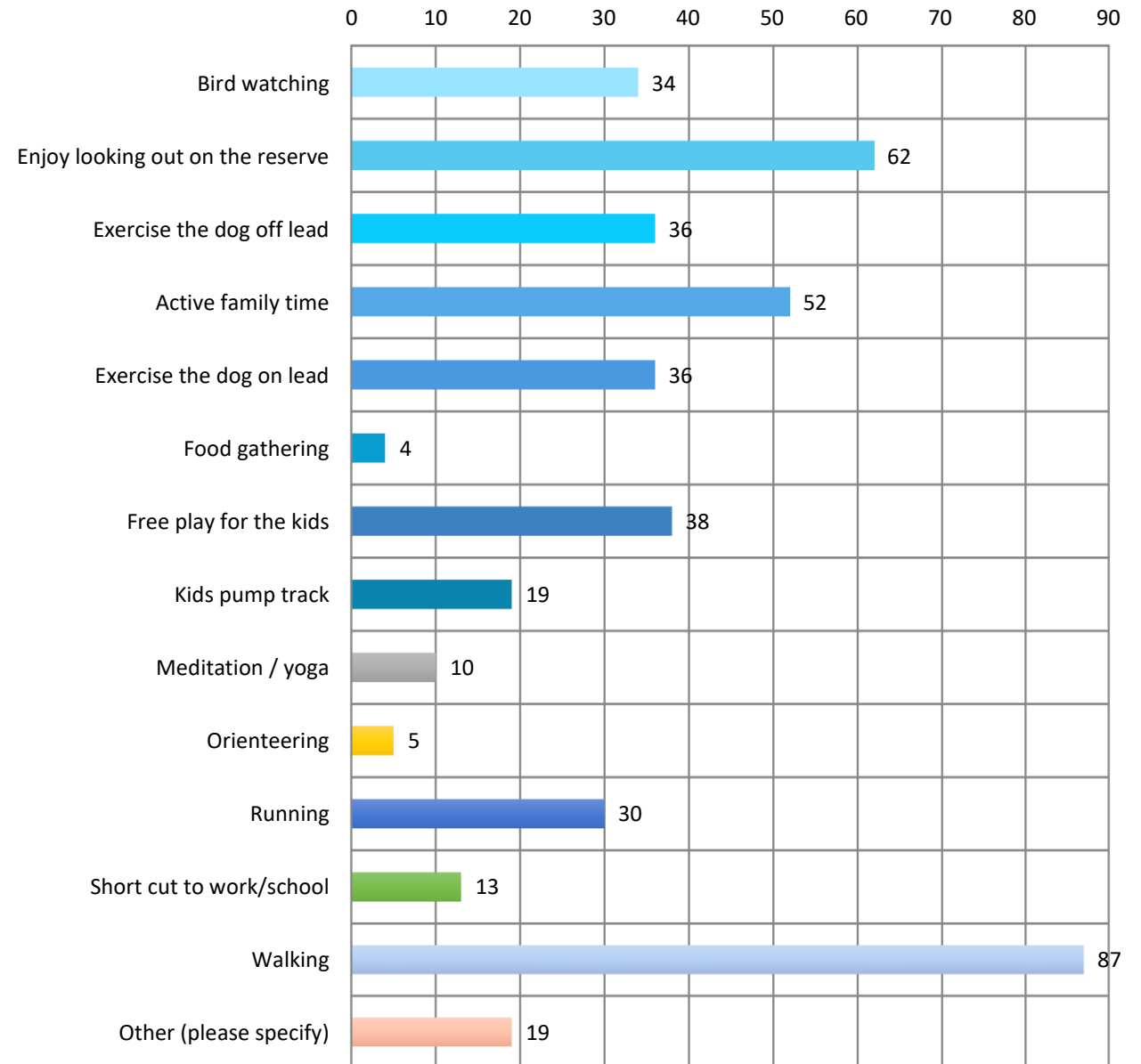
What are the ways that you and your family use Tihi Road Reserve? Tick all that apply

- Over 50% of respondents:

Enjoy looking out onto the reserve; enjoy active family time in the reserve; exercising their dogs and walking through it

- 25% to 50% of respondents:

Enjoy bird watching; send their kids out for free play; and running through the reserve



Q 1 (cont.)

e

MOUNTAIN-BIKING

MINDFULNESS
 School-NATURE-STUDIES Off-road-adventure
 USE-TREE-SPRIGS-SMOKING-FISH Best-asset-in-Tihi-road
 BIKE RIDING Native-birds Outdoor-learning
 RELAX Flying-kites Tennis WILD-MINT-GROWS
 MEETING-NEIGHBOURS-DURING Picnics Exploring
 THEY-LOVE-IT Shortcut MEDITATION
 WALKS Fly-fishing-practice CONES
 PINE Kids-SCAVENGER-HUNTS
 FABULOUS Safe Gather-pinecones Gather-wood
 COLLECT MOREPORKOWLS USED-FOR-40-YEARS
 NICE-QUIET-WALK
 Exercise-Park

The results

Q 2

If you had to pick one MAIN use of the reserve, what would it be?

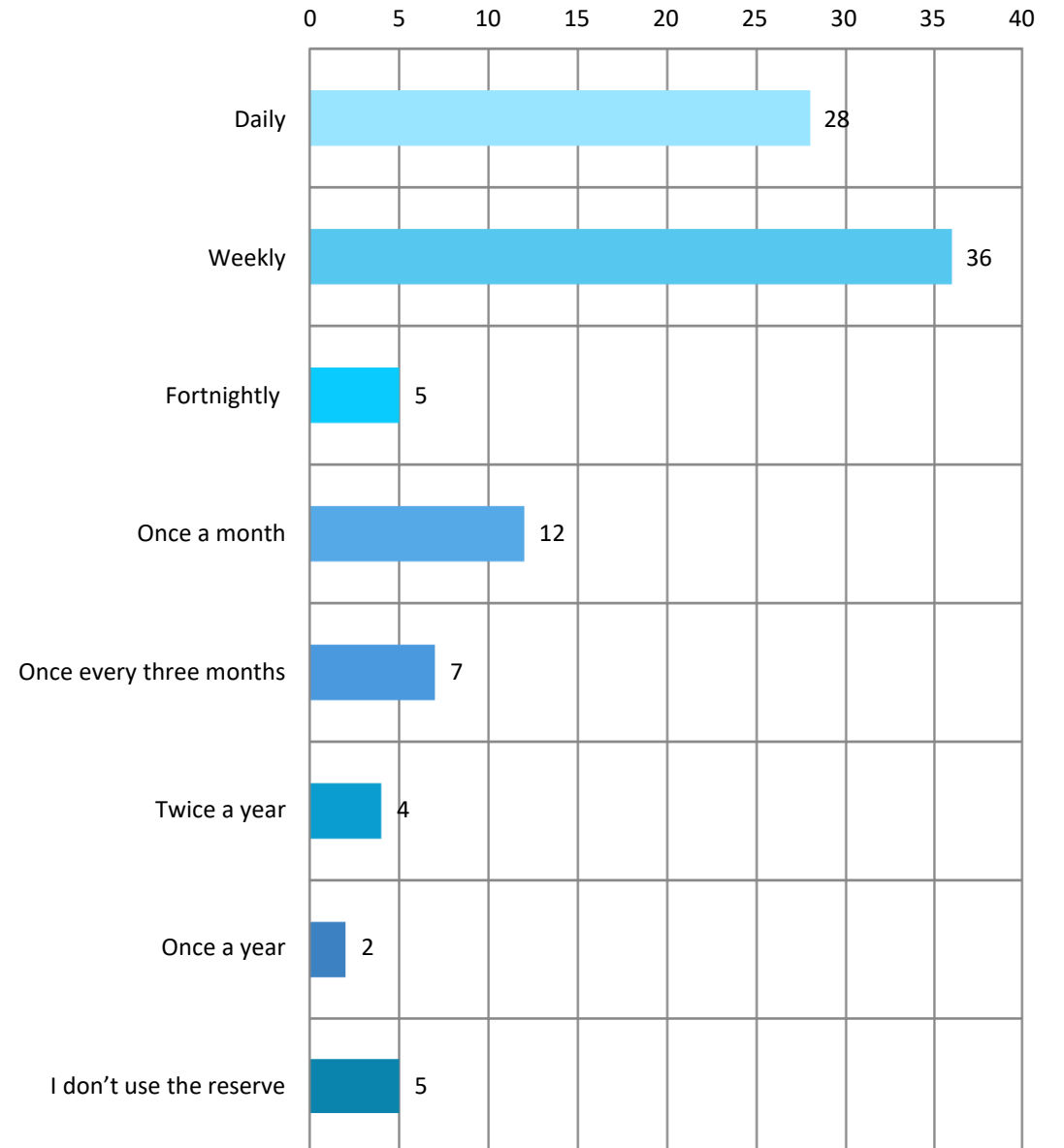


The results

Q 3

How often have you visited TRR this year?

- 68% of respondents use the reserve at least once a week
- 30% of respondents use the reserve daily



The results

Q 3 (cont.)

Why is it that you don't use the reserve?

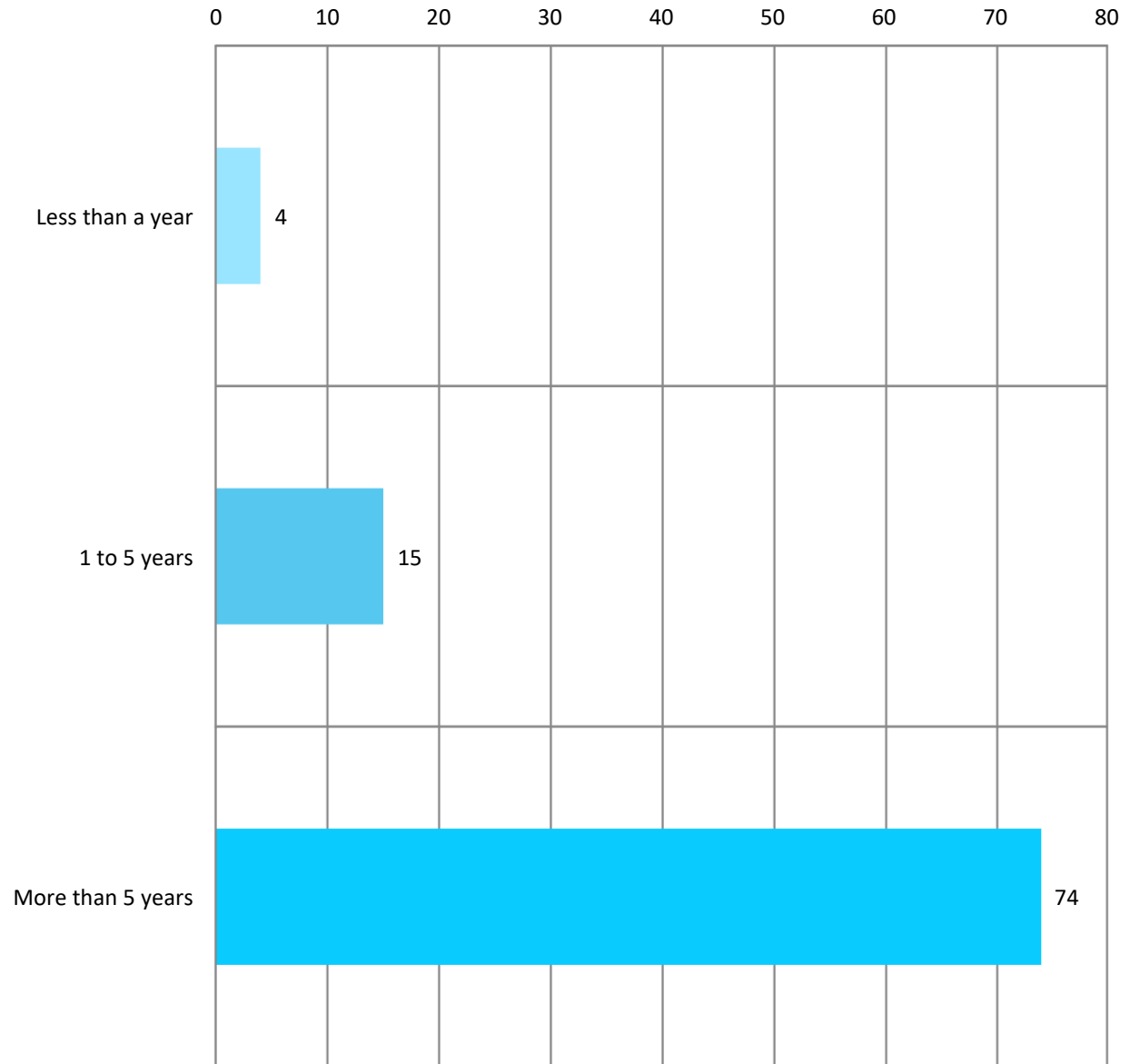
- Only two replies to this one...
- One person uses Whakarewarewa Forest and Centennial park
- The other person used to use TRR daily but now health reasons have ceased this.

The results

Q 4

How long have you lived in the area?
Choose 1

- 79% have lived in the area over 5 years
- 50 years goes to a resident on McDowell Street
- 47 years to a resident on Regent Street
- 40+ years goes to a resident on Day Place
- And on it goes...

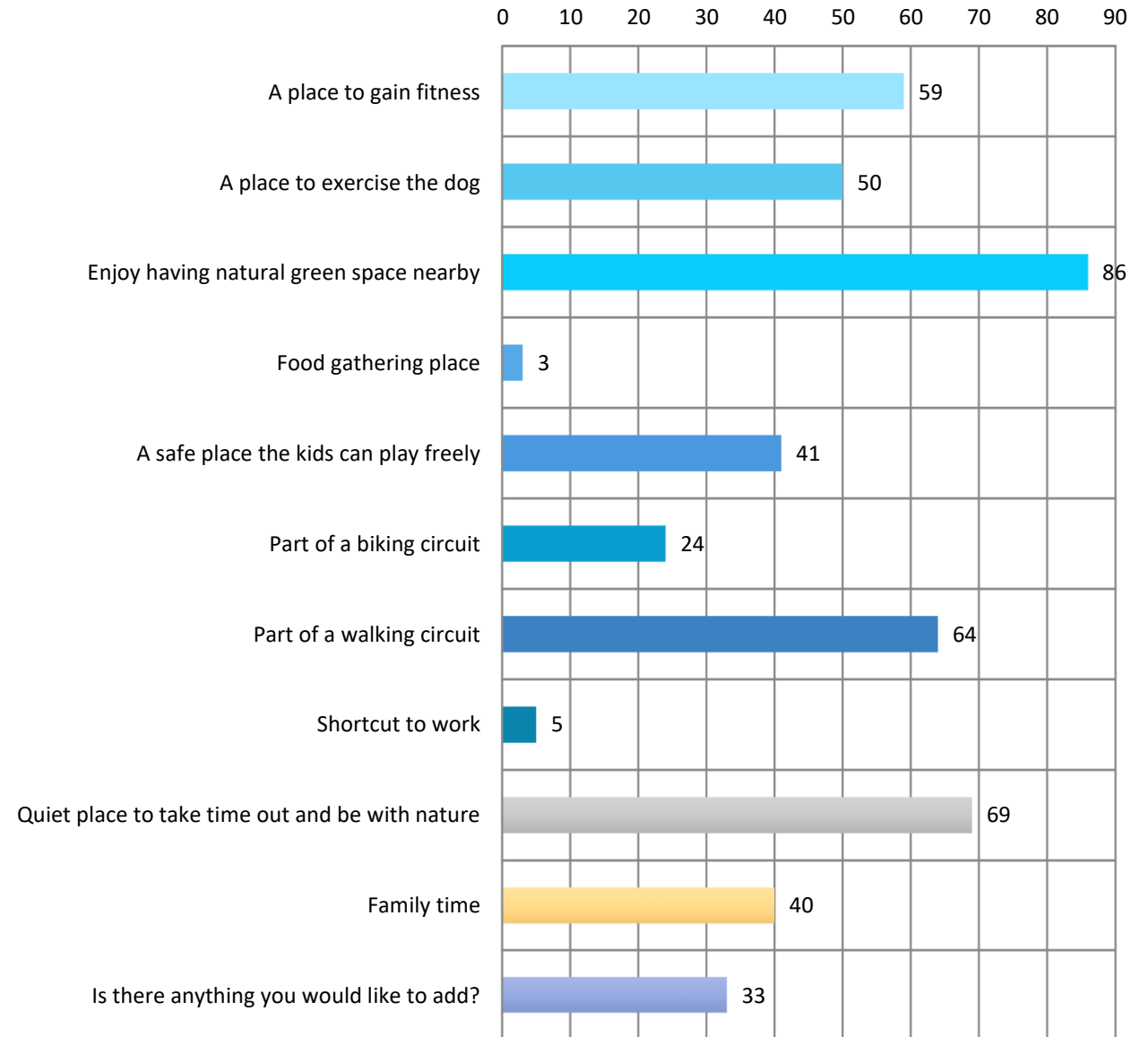


The results

Q 5

What are the main BENEFITS for you and your family when using the reserve? Tick all that apply

- 92% of you said you enjoyed having natural green space nearby
- 73% said they enjoyed a quiet place to take time out and be with nature
- Approximately 65% use the reserve for fitness



feel like walking in
an arboretum.

The results

Q 5 (cont.)

What are the main BENEFITS for you and your family when using the reserve? Tick all that apply

Anything you would like to add?

The tall trees
behind Day
place block our
afternoon sun
in the winter.

Tihi Rd. reserve is
very special to our
family. It is
beautiful and
different in every
season

It is so
beautiful
in its
wildness

The reserve is a great
place for all of
Rotorua. Just need a
plan - plant natives - a
good tidy up and
develop some
different areas

Now it's a
shamble
huge
mess a
shame
really

We love the
reserve in its
natural state.
The wilderness
of it is rare in a
city these days.
Please don't
change that.

We value that it has not been developed and
gives privacy and peaceful outlook . It is a cool
spot in the summer for walks

I have lived
here since
1987. The
neighbourhood
at the time
were
requesting
replacing the
pines with
natives. I still
feel this way.

I hope the reserve is actively managed, through routine re-planting,
especially with native plants and trees.

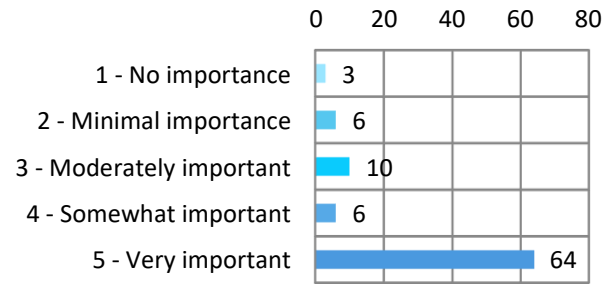
The results

Q 6

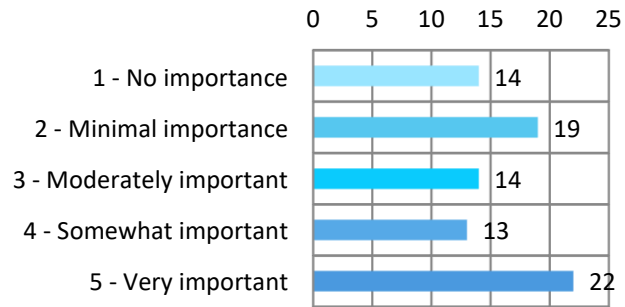
How would you rate the importance of the following to you and your family in regards to TRR?



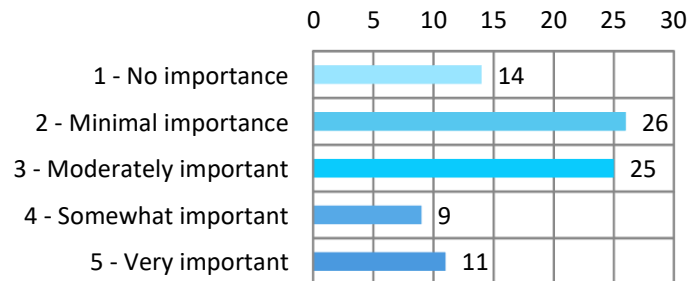
Replanting in native & bird friendly trees



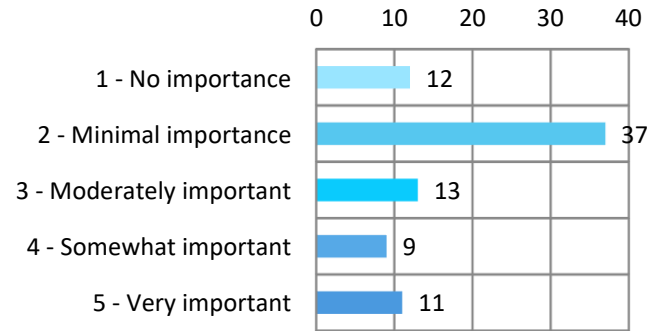
Maintaining a 10m grassy buffer around the reserve



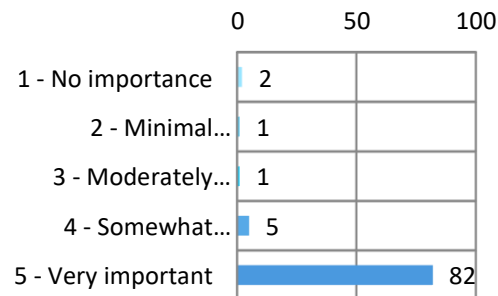
More formal pathways



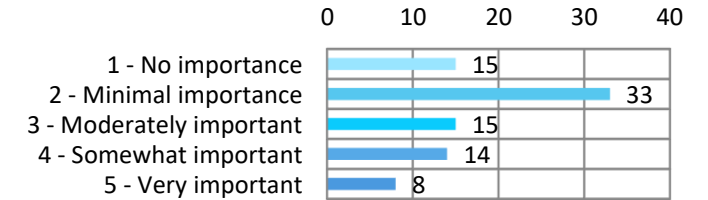
Fruit trees



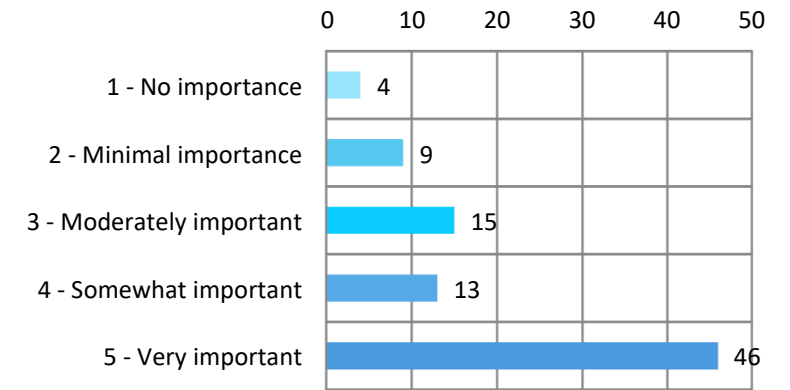
Natural environment



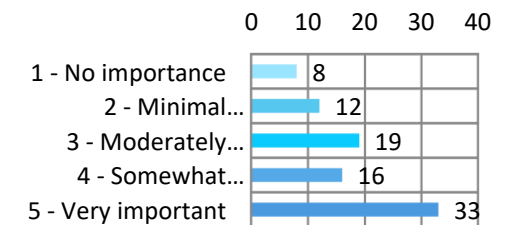
Signage (general info)



Pest control



Selective felling of trees



Our kids like going here and playing digging holes and making jumps for their bikes we have so many formed bike ways

The results

Q 7 Please describe what might help you and your family use the reserve more often?

Getting ready of the majority of the trees that has reach the maturity age, replanting mostly with natives trees, planting small shrubs around the perimeter. Needs more trees/shrubs diversity.

Nothing, we use it all the time

Better pathways and tracks
Kid's bike track, somewhere to sit

Remove some of the very tall trees and lowering the canopy height to allow more sun light to both neighbouring residents and reserve users.

Better tree management.
Proper clean up after felling. More pruning/felling of pines.
Replace with native species.

We utilise the reserve on a daily basis now and would value the reserve remaining in a relatively natural state

Specialist trails e.g. fitness, children's exploration and magical trail.

We love the reserve as it is, we love the mature trees, the wildness and the birds. Please do not change it

Well placed seating

The trees are too big, they sway alarmingly in strong wind and it doesn't feel safe.

The results

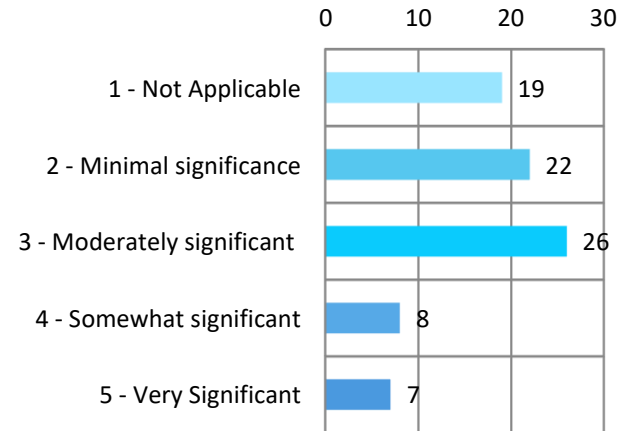
Q 8

What significantly reduces your enjoyment of the reserve?

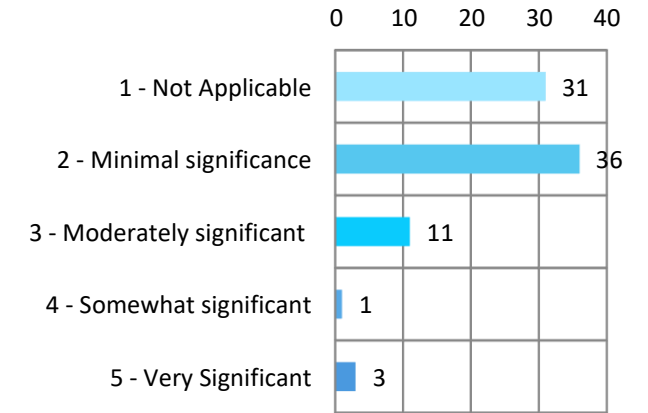
Natural events



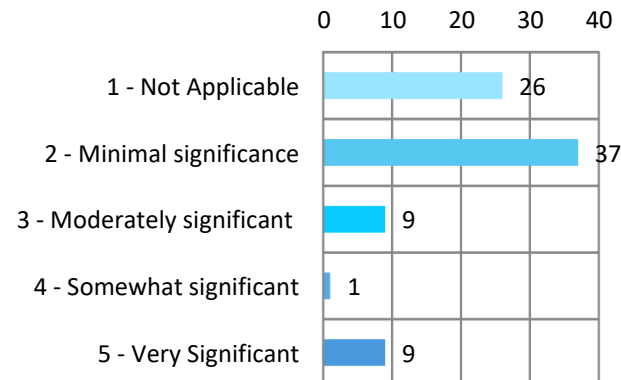
Lack of wildlife



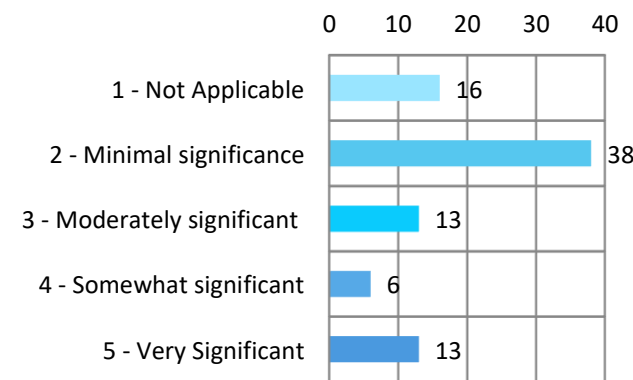
Risk of flooding



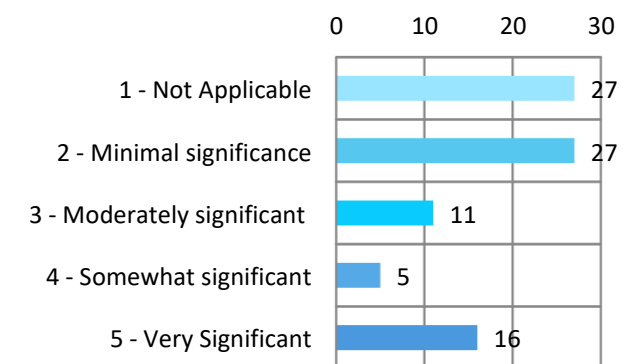
Risk of fire



Risk of tree/limb fall



Shading from vegetation



The results

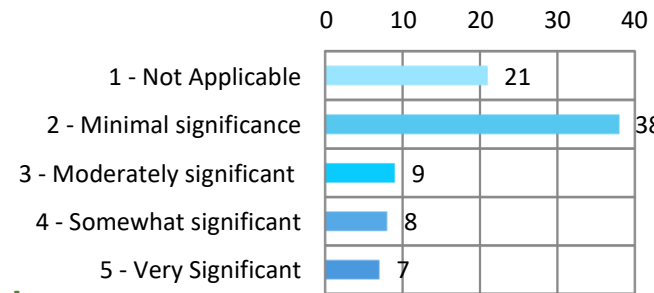
Q 8 (cont.)

What significantly reduces your enjoyment of the reserve?

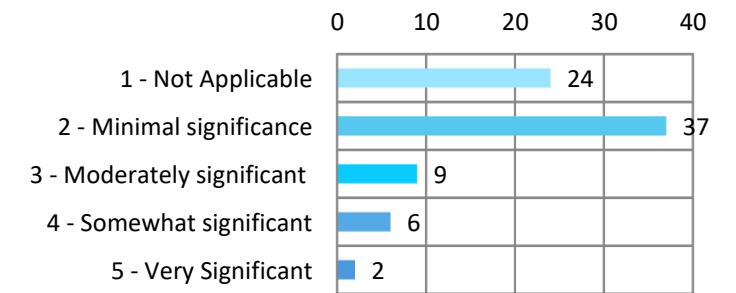
Man made happenings



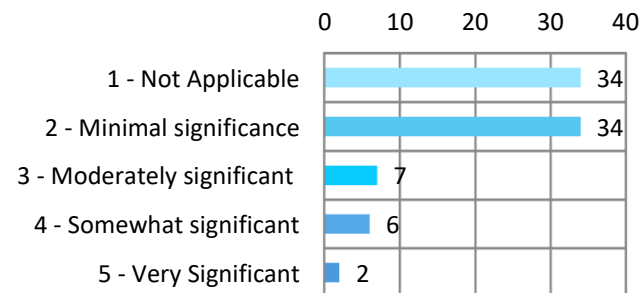
Facilities such as paths/signage.



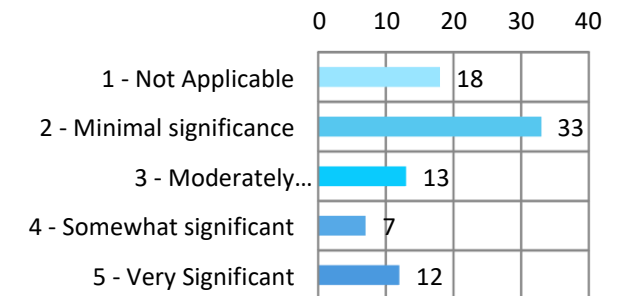
Other users



Lack of knowledge



Personal or family safety

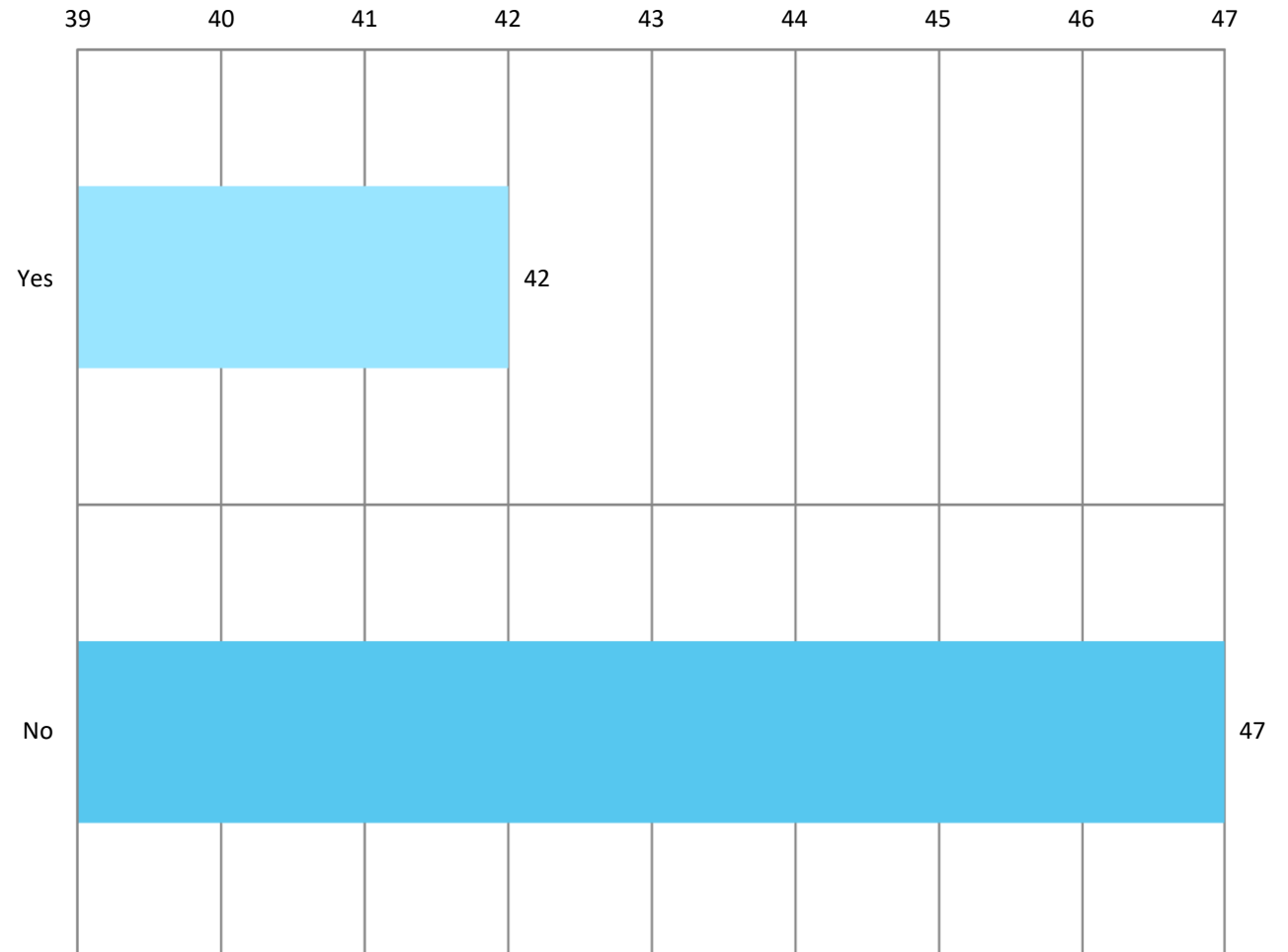


The results

Q 9

Would you like to be put in contact with other people interested in forming a community based “Friends of Tihi Road Reserve”?

- Just over 44% of you wanted to be put in touch with other interested members of the community.
- While exactly 50% of you were happy to leave it as it is.
- Let’s see where we go from here



In summary

- This is a really engaged community that feels a sense of ownership of Tihi Road Reserve.
- There is a real wish to keep the natural, open spaces, high canopy, kids adventure, walking, exercising and dog walking haven that exists now.
- However there is the understanding that some of the mature trees are now too high and need removing so as to stop shading some of the reserve's neighbours.
- A bit of a tidy up would not go amiss but NOT at the expense of the of loosing the naturalness that is there currently.

Where to now?

- Wildlands Consultants Ltd has been retained to develop a plan for Tihi Road Reserve.
- Contact will be made in the New Year with those respondents interested in joining with others to form a community based “Friends of Tihi Road Reserve”.