

Kōrero mai | Let's talk

MacFarlane Park - tree planting plan submissions

Q1 Full name

Short Text Bec Roper-Gee

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice Other: Park is key location for local community connection and collective activity which I support with Shirley Village Project

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

The community will continue to lose iconic mature oaks from Emmett and Riselaw St so this park as urban forest is extremely important for emotional wellbeing, relief from heat in summer and the many other benefits of trees as outlined in the Urban Forest Plan.

Locals are very pleased to see the complete circuit path in the Northern park and exercise equipment. I can't emphasise enough how important the toilet upgrade is. It is the most frequently raised issue with the park amongst residents, who would like it moved closer to the playground.

This is consistent with the November 2024 CPTED review which recommended "Remove the toilet block and fence off the area behind the rugby store shed to prevent access".

The other issue frequently raised is lighting - locals would either like to be able to use the park in the evening or already do with the current lack of lighting and would like it to be easier and safer. This is linked to the high number of residents with no car who are not only recreating on foot but undertaking essential day to day transport and value direct routes. The CPTED review recommended regarding the central path in the northern park (from Emmett St to Skipton St): "Consider removing lighting from this path altogether or upgrading the lighting. An upgrade should consider gradual transition of lighting, more light coverage and better quality of lighting.

From a CPTED perspective it seems that lighting this path serves no purpose and that it could lull people into a false sense of security that it is safe at night." For the aforementioned reasons locals do not accept the view lighting is counterproductive for safety. There is also desire for lighting along the paths in the middle and southern sections of park.

Additional information:

- The open space for activity adjacent to Jebson St is very appreciated - in addition to regular activities with children in this space, it was used for a very successful event (focussed on responsible dog ownership) on Saturday 27th and we hope to hold further events
- The walnut trees are great, the sole existing walnut is very thoroughly harvested and more will be appreciated.
- The existing Totara trees are not identified, the plan for them and reasoning needs to be explained
- We really appreciate the consideration of edible planting in the southern park

Q1 Full name

Short Text Joanna Gould

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice Other: Lived in a flat (8 years) at the back of the Acheson Avenue Shopping Centre, access off Service Lane.

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

1. MacFarlane Park North

- Tree Sizes & Locations:

Council would be better investing in Medium/Large Trees (to provide shade/protection for people/birds), planted along the paths (tree tunnel like Emmett Street) & away from the edges of the Park (bushes/Small Trees block visibility), due to already identified issues in the below reports:

Lucas Associates "Shirley MacFarlane Park Community Concept Plan"

<https://www.lucas-associates.co.nz/index.php/community-plans/shirley-concept-plan-2/>

"A feature of the area is the tree lined streets which are a result of George Malcolm's design".

<https://www.10shirleyroad.org.nz/george-brington-malcolm/>

The Emmett Street trees are very visible, well loved landmark & part of the heritage/history in Shirley.

<https://www.10shirleyroad.org.nz/emmett-street-trees/>

<https://www.10shirleyroad.org.nz/significant-trees/>

Boffa Miskell "MacFarlane Park CPTED Review"

https://www.10shirleyroad.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BM230806_CPTED_ReportMacFarlanePark.pdf

2. Clustering of buildings limits views into park,

5. Blind Spots,

10. Flooding,

12. Overgrown/over mature planting,

11. Proportions of the mid park entrance/entrapment,

15. Closed-board fencing.

Please do not add the 'Small (3)' trees beside the Acheson Avenue Service Lane, as they will block visibility.

As a former resident of a flat accessed off the Service Lane, this area has issues with anti social behaviour at night time.

A concrete pad still remains at this location where a seat needed to be removed.

Street lighting is bright at this location to act as a deterrent.

- Proposed Footpath:

Great to see this included, after many years advocating for a path to improve accessibility around the Park & to address safety issues.

Route needs to be closer to the Sports Fields (dry location for spectators watching Winter Sports) & further away from the back fences/existing trees & bushes, to avoid safety issues/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

- Proposed Exercise Equipment:

Needs to be in a visible location overlooked by residents homes for 'natural surveillance' (not behind the Toilet & Changing Room building). North end of the Park or by the Basketball Court.

- Existing Playground:

Reinstate the swing set that was removed (for the MacFarlane Park Centre) overlooking the Sports Field (closest to the Acheson Avenue Service Lane).

The swing set was well used by adults as seating (to provide 'natural surveillance' over the Park), with the ability to face both ways while watching their children on the Sports Fields, Playground & Basketball Court.

2. MacFarlane Park South

- Many residents & unsupervised primary aged children walk along this central path to Shirley Primary School/Shirley Road.

- New Trees need to be planted away from the edges of the Park/residential back fences due to safety issues.

- The area from the Flying Fox to the back of Shirley Primary School has flooding issues, which may not be suitable for the proposed 'Walnut Trees' & 'Small Trees' in this area either side of the central path.

- There are too many new 'Small' Trees proposed in this section of the Park. Concerns over lack of visibility/entrapment. Dogs are often off leash in this area.

- Medium/Large Trees along the central path would provide protection from the sun for walkers & a tree corridor for

birds, linking up with the existing MacFarlane Park Birdsong Trail, near Acheson Avenue.
<https://www.10shirleyroad.org.nz/local-green-spaces/> (6. Birdsong Trails)

Response No:
3

Contribution ID: 44456

Q1 Full name

Short Text Ann Powley

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice Other: I work and walk in the park

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text
I have already had input through SCT, but wanted to add one thing we forgot to mention...
The plan shows that the totara trees will be gone. IF at all possible can this be re-looked at, as it was community who planted them and are watching them grow, and they are now looking pretty good. They are no closer to the path than an existing big tree. I do understand that Council need to work around practicalities and pathways and think you do a great job, but perhaps there needs to be more of a discussion around the totara trees...thanks.

Q1 Full name

Short Text

Shirley Community Trust

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice

Other: We run events and activities in the park

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

Placement and number of stations of exercise equipment.

We would like 3 or 4 stations, and some to be located closer to the Park Centre / Acheson Ave shops / existing playground & basketball area. One of the stations is too close to the existing terrible toilets that are a safety issue and need to be dealt with pronto!

Footpath in north part of park. Can this please be a complete circuit within the park.

Southern part of park:

Great to have open space for play retained.

Great to see walnut trees coming. Look forward to connecting over exact location of fruit trees in Food Forest adjacent to Community Garden.

Response No:
5

Contribution ID: 44423

Q1 Full name

Short Text

Grace Posthuma

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice

Other: Shirley Rugby League Club

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

That is awesome to hear that the city council is planning to plant more trees. You may or may not know that the Shirley Rugby League club (with help from Stacey Holborough from the city council) have engaged RSL to perform a full feasibility study to look into the possibility of building a new SRLC clubrooms on MacFarlane Park. At this stage we do not know if we will make the move and if we do move we don't know where we will be located on the park. I just thought that it might be worth making sure that you know as trees might need to be moved if we are able to build on the park in the future.

Response No:
6

Contribution ID: 44420

Q1 Full name

Short Text Gaynor Dyet

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice I visit/walk through the park

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text Yes, recommend for the footpath to be a closed circuit within the northern section of MacFarlane Park and that there are more than 2 exercise areas, thanks

Q1 Full name

Short Text

Daniel Gregory

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice

I live next to the park

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

Hi there,

I love the idea of more trees in our park, I just have a couple of things I hope you'll consider :)

1.

If possible, in the area highlighted (where it says 3 small trees), would it be ok to only plant trees that have a max height of 4 meters? In winter, any trees above this height block sun into our house which makes it really cold and hard to keep mould free.

Grasses perhaps? or small natives? We love lancewoods, native coprosmas, Dwarf Kōwhai, Weeping Māpou, Canterbury Plains Tree Daisy, Muehlenbeckia?

2.

Could you please consider removing one existing tree that has started rotting? many branches have rot, and in the past it has dropped a big branch right onto the pavement under it (quite a hazard). It's also really tall and blocks our light. Some community members have taken to DIY pruning it, which is a bit risky as they are not arborists.

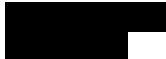
3.

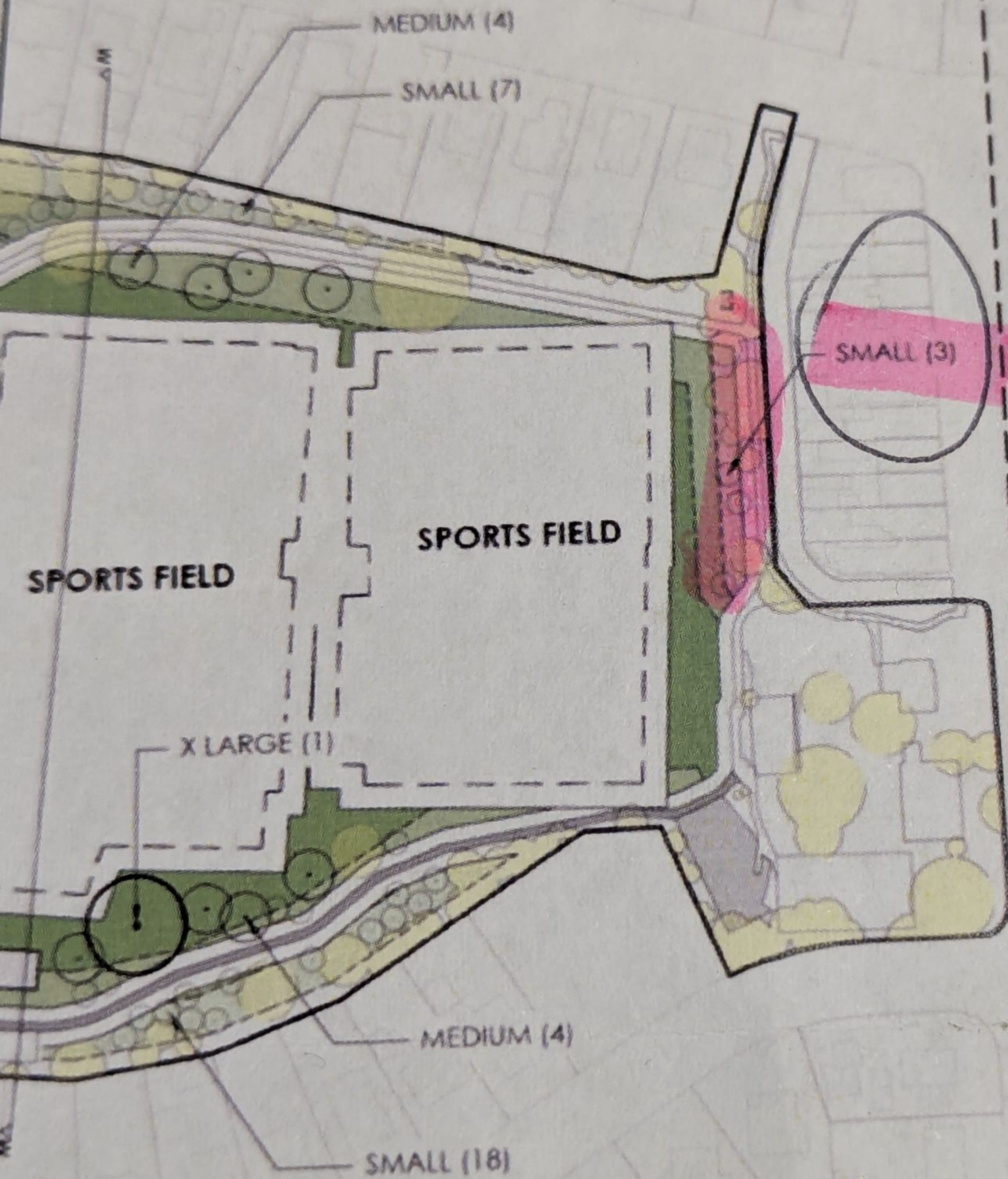
If possible, it would be amazing if the new trees don't have seeds or leaves that will fly everywhere (the ash trees that are currently there have little seeds that go absolutely everywhere, blowing inside through the louvers, and covering the inside of our house (lol).

It would be ideal if the new trees were natives for this reason.

Thanks so much for your consideration!

All the best,
Dan Gregory.





TOILET AND
CHANGING
ROOM RENEWAL
(INDICATIVE SIZE
AND LOCATION)

SHEET 4672500-AL-M-033











Response No:
8

Contribution ID: 44156

Q1 Full name

Short Text

Rose Ruth

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice

Other: I live in the area

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

Sun aspect of current properties, not being shaded in years to come.

Density of trees, safety at night for people walking and biking through the area.

Rubbish bins are needed

Response No:
9

Contribution ID: 44134

Q1 Full name

Short Text

Aimee Biddington

Q3 What is your relationship to the park?

Multi Choice

Other: I work in Shirley and use the park for different things.

Q5 Is there anything the tree planting team needs to consider before this proceeds to the community board for a decision?

Long Text

Making sure the playing fields and other spaces are still clear. Tree roots won't damage property or pathways.