



June 2024

Emily Place improvements

How the design responds to your feedback

The feedback we received through public engagement helped us further develop the updated design.

The following provides an overview of the responses we received and how the updated design responds to your feedback. While not every piece of feedback can be integrated into the design, we reviewed all individual responses received during engagement and we sincerely value your input.

Overall, we received more support than opposition for the direction of the draft concept plan with many who didn't have a strong opinion either way. We received many ideas for a range of additional features.

What you told us	What we're planning
<p>Support for features that improve road and pedestrian safety.</p> <p>You want to be able to move easily and safely around Emily Place, especially on foot.</p> <p>Strong support for measures that make pedestrians the priority and improve pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Specifically, safety improvements at the Shortland Street and Eden Crescent intersections, traffic calming measures, and other pedestrian safety improvements.</p> <p>You also like to see other safety features including handrails to the existing steps in the reserve, lighting, non-slip surfaces and better accessibility.</p>	<p>Use traffic calming measures such as speed humps and reduced road widths to slow vehicles.</p> <p>Introduce a zebra crossing in mid-Emily Place.</p> <p>Remove widened northern footpath on lower Emily Place (installed as part of the Innovating Streets project) but rebuild slightly wider than the original condition.</p> <p>Position garden beds to provide additional separation between people and vehicles in mid Emily Place.</p> <p>We have repositioned the slip lane to make manoeuvring in large vehicles easier and to make vehicular access to and from adjacent buildings easier and safer.</p> <p>We are still proposing a narrower road at the Eden Crescent intersection to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians and to reinforce that Emily Place is one-way at this location. Our updated design removes the proposed raised table at that location.</p> <p>Safety line markings on the road at the Shortland Street intersection to give a visual narrowing of the road. These signal to motorists that they need to slow down at the intersection.</p> <p>Adding handrails for the stairs and lighting in the reserve.</p>



What you told us	What we're planning
<p>Emily Place's green spaces, trees and reserve provide an urban oasis that people value and want to connect with.</p> <p>You told us that Emily Place offers visitors and users a quiet, open, green space seemingly 'hidden' from the hustle and bustle of the city centre. It is what makes Emily Place special.</p> <p>The proposed "greenery" in the draft concept plan is the most popular design feature.</p> <p>You consider "connecting to nature" and "relaxation" as the most important aspects for using the public space in mid Emily Place.</p>	<p>As indicated in the draft concept plan, we are not planning to make changes to the pōhutukawa grove in the reserve.</p> <p>We are still proposing more low-level native planting at the community plaza in mid Emily Place. The new layout provides better separation between pedestrians and vehicles.</p> <p>The updated design keeps the proposed raised planters in the northern area of mid-Emily Place.</p> <p>To reposition the slip lane, we need to remove one exotic tree in mid Emily Place, a Queensland box tree. We plan to replace this tree with two native trees within mid Emily Place.</p>
<p>Emily Place's culture and heritage is valued and should be celebrated.</p> <p>You want us to incorporate and celebrate Emily Place's unique culture and heritage in the final design.</p> <p>You told us that you think more could be done to represent the important history of Emily Place in design work.</p>	<p>In partnership with our project Mana Whenua partners, Ngāti Whatua Ōrākei and Ngāti Maru, we have identified cultural narrative opportunities for the design.</p> <p>These include the celebration of the story of Te Rerenga Ora Iti (the former headland), the original shoreline, and native flora and fauna.</p> <p>The design application opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for storytelling and educational signage.• Incorporating cultural design in feature seating and ground markings• The inclusion of mahi toi (art)• The placement and use of kōhatu (stones/rocks) in significant locations to reflect the site's reclamation. <p>We are discussing planting choices and collaboration opportunities with iwi nurseries. We want to promote the use of native species and source locally where possible.</p> <p>We will continue to work with our project Mana Whenua partners to ensure that cultural design features contribute to telling the story of the area's special and significant history.</p>





What you told us	What we're planning
<p>You have a range of thoughts and feedback about the provision of car parking</p> <p>While the provision of loading zones is strongly supported, with many people wanting to see more loading zone spaces, there is mixed sentiment about what general car parking should be provided.</p> <p>In addition, some residents want to see the legacy 'residents' only' car parking retained.</p>	<p>A total of 42 car parking spaces are proposed for Emily Place. This would be four less spaces than currently provided and one more than shown in the draft concept plan.</p> <p>We are proposing six loading zone space, located in the lower, mid, and upper sections of Emily Place, three more than the draft concept plan.</p> <p>General parking will increase from the existing 31 to 34, two less than the draft concept plan.</p> <p>We are keeping two car share parking spaces. These will be located close to their current location.</p> <p>Whilst we cannot retain the legacy residents only car parking spaces as there is no valid "Resident Only" permit in Emily Place anymore, all "Residents Exempt" permit holders are still able to use any available general car parks in the area.</p>
<p>You think there is scope for more improvements to the concept plan such as improvements to the community plaza and changes to traffic flow.</p> <p>You told us that you want a community plaza, especially one with flat space that could be used for different purposes and in different ways.</p> <p>Seating is identified by some people as an important feature that they would like to see more of.</p> <p>Some people expressed concern that larger vehicles such as emergency vehicles might face challenges manoeuvring and that the design could reduce access from neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>In response, we are proposing a larger open flat space at the top of the community plaza, adjoining the open grass area in the reserve.</p> <p>We are proposing terraced areas to allow better opportunities to gather and utilise the space, while having an on-grade path at the side.</p> <p>We have further refined the design of seating in the proposed community plaza.</p> <p>Features such as a picnic table, a community notice board and cycle parking are also being planned.</p> <p>We have repositioned the slip lane to make manoeuvring in large vehicles easier and to make vehicular access to and from adjacent buildings easier and safer.</p> <p>We strategically positioned the associated garden bed and crossing point to clearly define Lower Emily Place as a one-way environment.</p>





What you told us	What we're planning
<p>You have concerns about anti-social behaviour and want to see improved safety in Emily Place</p> <p>You told us that you want us to carefully consider how we can make Emily Place feel safer and to make sure that any improvements do not contribute to or attract anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>We are looking to improve lighting in the reserve, especially along the central north-south pathway, providing appropriate illumination light levels while reducing lighting impacts on the natural environment.</p> <p>We are also looking at opportunities to improve lighting in mid-Emily Place.</p> <p>The design has been reviewed by an independent Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) specialist</p>
<p>The 4 established palm trees on the western edge of the reserve are well-loved</p> <p>You told us that removing the 4 established Chinese fan palm trees on the western edge of the reserve is one aspect of the draft concept plan that you strongly oppose. In fact, this proposal was almost universally opposed.</p>	<p>We are no longer planning to remove the four established palm trees during our upgrade of Emily Place.</p> <p>The two large Phoenix palms located on both sides of the staircase at the bottom will also be retained as indicated in the draft concept plan.</p>

Additional updates and changes to the design

We have also made other design changes following community and/or stakeholder input, budgetary considerations and technical requirements. Some of these changes are as follows:

Removing our proposal to widen the southern footpath on lower Emily Place

We heard that a wider footpath in this location is less important to some people than other improvements; given budgetary constraints and its relatively limited impact on the investment objectives, we have made the decision to apply the budget to design features that have more community support.

This decision gives us the option of providing additional car parking and loading zones in lower Emily Place.

We will also rebuild the northern footpath on the lower Emily Place slightly wider than its original condition.

How we're managing stormwater

We heard that managing stormwater remains an area of interest for you. Our proposed improvements include increasing catchpit capacity, while realigning the kerb at the northern footpath in lower Emily Place and increase the kerb depth to provide adequate capacity to hold stormwater runoff. The new soft landscaping areas created in mid Emily place will increase stormwater absorption.

We will also be exploring the use of passive irrigation systems as we progress through future design stages.



What can't we change?

The private stairwell at 2 Emily Place

We know that many of you would like to see the stairs at 2 Emily Place reopened. As this is a private accessway, the council does not have the authority to require the property owner to do this. Following recent conversations, we understand that there are currently no plans to open the stairs due, in part, to concerns about personal and structural safety issues related to reopening them.

Keeping legacy resident only car parking spaces

Some people would like to see the 'Resident Only' car park spaces kept. Legacy Resident Only permits, historically used in a few select places in the city centre and Devonport, are being phased out, and this includes the car parks signposted as Resident Only in Emily Place. In addition, we have been advised by Auckland Transport that there are no longer any valid Resident Only permits held by residents of Emily Place, meaning that these car parks are no longer necessary to retain.

If you already hold a Resident Exempt parking permit (a different permit than the legacy 'Resident Only' permit), you can continue to use this permit to park in general on-street parking spaces on a 'first come, first served' basis and exempts you from associated time and paid parking restrictions on eligible streets where the permit is valid for.

Find out more?

To learn more about the benefits of this project and to read a more detailed analysis of the feedback we received during last year's public consultation check out the full engagement summary at progressakl.co.nz

What happens next?

We are continuing to work with technical specialists, Mana Whenua, the Waitemata Local Board and other stakeholders. We will continue to update you about the status of the project as we progress.

As we continue to progress through the design process, we will need to balance community and stakeholder feedback with project objectives, statutory requirements, and the budget that we have.

Our next step is to continue further detailed investigations to help inform the final design.

At this stage, we expect the final design for Emily Place to be available in mid-late 2025. We'll make the final design available to you when it is complete.

We will also communicate with you and keep you informed about the timing and activities for the construction phase of the project once we have a timeline for this work.

Contact us

For information about this project, check out our website progressakl.co.nz

Or email us at emilyplace@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Visit progressakl.co.nz to find out more.

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