

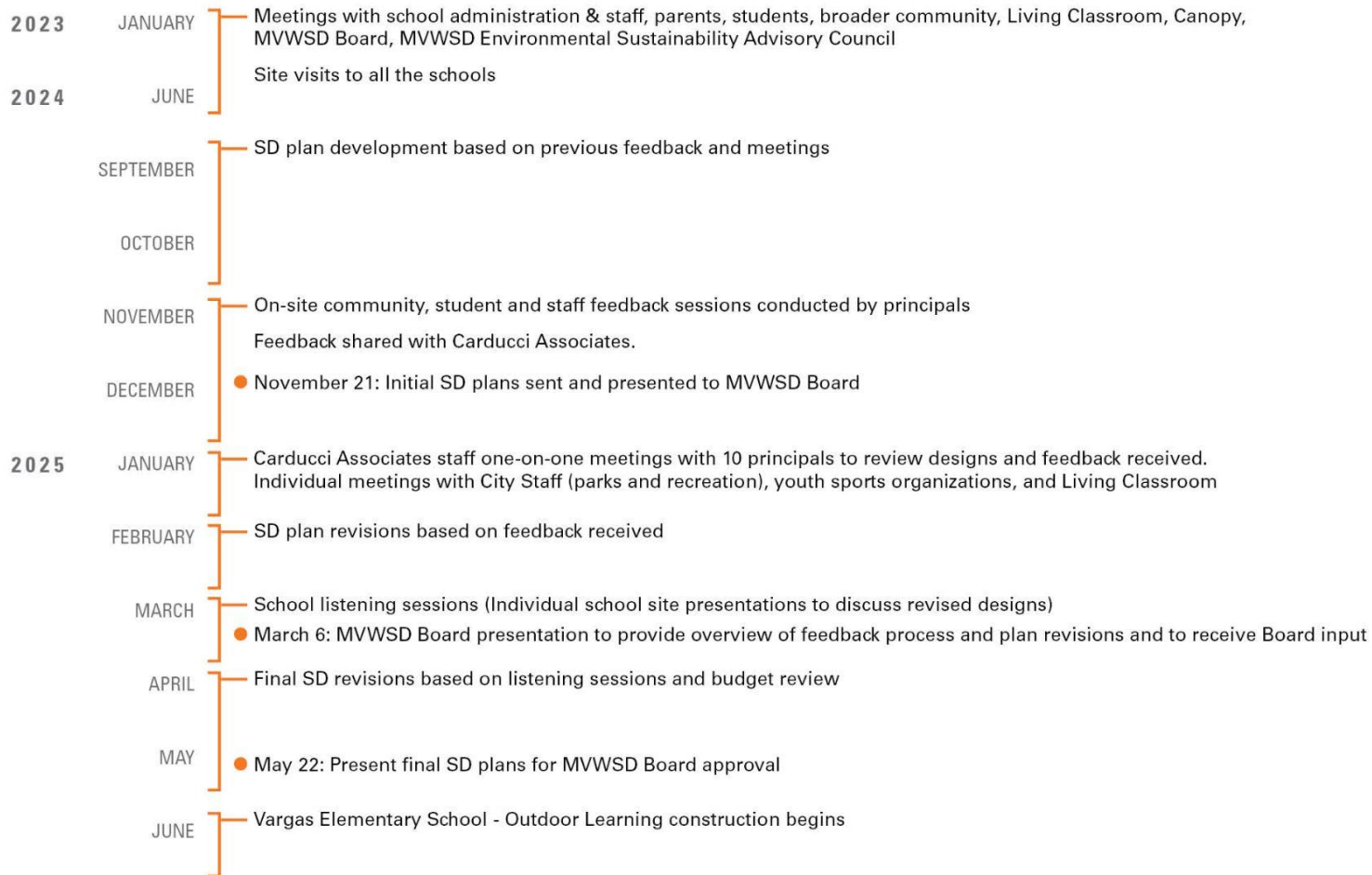


Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Outdoor Learning

MARCH 6, 2025

TIMELINE



EXAMPLE SCHOOL GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL - FEEDBACK

COMMENTS COLLECTED FROM PRINCIPAL-LEAD SESSIONS (STAFF, STUDENTS & PARENTS)

Feedback Note Catcher: Outdoor Learning Architectural Plans

Purpose:

Collect feedback from parents, students, staff, and the community on the proposed outdoor learning architectural plans for schools. Use this note catcher to document insights, suggestions, concerns, and highlights shared during discussions.

*The Community Meeting included a group of parents, several of whom also attend and provide public comment during SSC meetings.

General Feedback:

1. Overall impressions of the outdoor learning plans:

- **Parents:** Overall, parents had questions about the next steps for Measure T and whether priorities had changed. They inquired about opportunities for staff input, which was addressed by reassuring them that staff has been given the chance to provide feedback. Also, questions around new roofing and updating technology for students/teachers were brought up.
- **Students:** The feedback reflects a generally positive reception to the plans, with appreciation for the outdoor learning spaces, increased greenery, and student-centered design, but with concerns about overcrowding in some areas, particularly with the number of trees, and the feasibility of certain elements across all seasons.
- **Staff:** The plans are well-received, with positive feedback on creating more usable outdoor space, moving bike parking to free up central areas, and adding flexible seating and shade throughout the campus.
- **Community:** There was an open invitation, and parents within the community shared their perspectives listed above.

2. Key strengths of the proposed designs:

- **Parents:** In discussions with parents and community members, there was strong support for increased greenery and more outdoor learning opportunities, though questions persisted regarding Measure T, roofing priorities, and updating student/staff technology. Questions were raised regarding potential challenges to student movement on campus, particularly concerns about impeded walking due to raised beds/foliage.
- **Students:** The plans are well-received, with key strengths highlighted in the increased greenery, outdoor learning opportunities, more seating and shade, and improved campus aesthetics, while also addressing environmental concerns like climate change and providing a more welcoming, functional space for students.

- **Staff:** The plans are appreciated for removing the bike parking from the center of campus, improving flow, and for adding more outdoor seating and smaller outdoor classroom areas between the classroom wings.

- **Community:** There was an open invitation, and parents within the community shared their perspectives.

3. Concerns or challenges identified:

- **Parents:** In discussions with parents and community members, there was strong support for increased greenery and more outdoor learning opportunities, though questions arose about the status of mature trees (ie: trees near lunch tables) remaining?
- **Students:** Concerns about the proposed changes focused on potential overcrowding and maintenance challenges. Many highlighted that adding too many trees, particularly in areas 4, 5, and 6, could make the campus feel cluttered and create issues like excessive leaf litter and maintenance demands. Questions were also raised about student access to lunch tables, interference with bike routes, and whether hallways would remain open during lunch. Safety concerns included the risk of injury from stumps or boulders and the need to manage student behavior around movable tables and trees. Some suggested better distribution of trees to avoid uneven clustering and maintaining balance in the design.
- **Staff:** Concerns about the proposed campus changes centered on functionality, safety, and aesthetics. Questions were raised about the rehabilitated basketball court, including whether rims and nets would be restored. Specific feedback by area included:
 - **Area 1:** Has the Science Department been consulted regarding their use of this space for experiments? Does the plan align with their needs?
 - **Area 2:** How will areas between classrooms be monitored during lunch, and will additional supervision be required? Concerns were raised about potential misuse of outdoor chalkboards and the practicality of their installation.
 - **Area 4:** What types of trees will be used over lunch tables, and will falling leaves or bird activity increase the custodian's workload?
 - **Area 5:** Questions arose about the sturdiness and practicality of movable furniture, ensuring it withstands daily use and cannot be easily relocated by students.
 - **Area 6:** The proposed tree placement could obstruct sightlines between the blacktop and grass play areas, raising safety concerns. Additionally, interference with the food line and meal distribution process was highlighted.
 - **Area 7:** The location of the bike cage was criticized for being disruptive near classrooms and visually unappealing. Suggestions included relocating it to a less central location or back to the parking lot.
 - **Additional questions included** whether outdoor classrooms would have protective coverings, how effectively outdoor chalkboards would be used,

GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL - FEEDBACK

ANNOTATED DESIGN FROM MEETINGS WITH PRINCIPALS, LIVING CLASSROOM, CITY AND YOUTH SPORTS

- Outdoor classroom at the science wing (Area 1) is not needed.
- Keep the outdoor classroom area noted between the classroom wings. Remove the other proposed improvements from these areas to eliminate possible disruptions (Area 2)
- Reduce the number of trees proposed in the lunch area. Shade in another manner (Area 4)
- Keep areas 5 & 6 but keep supervision in mind during future development
- Shift the new bike enclosure to the south to make it less visually disruptive (Area 7)
- Add benches to the school entry area and at the baseball diamond
- Develop dedicated Special Needs area in the already fenced off area by the portables
- Provide volleyball court



GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL - REVISED

REVISED SCHEMATIC DESIGN WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN MARCH



EXAMPLE SCHOOL LANDELS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LANDEL ELEM SCHOOL - FEEDBACK

COMMENTS COLLECTED FROM PRINCIPAL-LEAD SESSIONS (STAFF, STUDENTS & PARENTS)

Feedback Note Catcher: Outdoor Learning Architectural Plans

Purpose:

Collect feedback from parents, students, staff, and the community on the proposed outdoor learning architectural plans for schools. Use this note catcher to document insights, suggestions, concerns, and highlights shared during discussions.

General Feedback:

1. Overall impressions of the outdoor learning plans:
 - **It's a nice plan but did not incorporate our highest priority: Kinder playground.**
2. Key strengths of the proposed designs:
 - **Like that the walking path was added. Other features would be nice if the budget allowed but would not be a priority over a playground.**
 - **Living Classroom appreciates the added irrigation to the raised beds.**
3. Concerns or challenges identified:
 - **About ½ the walking path is on the blacktop and cuts through other play space - prefer for the path to be almost entirely in the field but for where it connects to the on-ramp around the playground. Trees are planted in areas where there is hardscape - considerably more money to dig up and plant + irrigation.**
4. Suggestions for improvement:
 - **Add a new Kinder playground and relocate the walking path - these are the big asks from all groups. If the budget allowed, we would like to**

have some of the other components in the plan. See below.

Specific Areas of Feedback:

1. Accessibility:
 - **Ensure walking path is accessible for individuals in wheelchairs and made of a material that is easy for students with disabilities to navigate (and gopher resistant). *Not decomposed granite**
2. Usability for various subjects and activities:
 - **A natural play space for upper grades would be appreciated if the budget allowed - located in the grass area next to the basketball courts.**
3. Integration with existing facilities:
 - **Consider the new restroom in the field when creating the path.**
 - **If the budget allows and the Kinder courtyard is added, consider the pick-up process when designing.**
 - **If the budget allows, added shading for the wheelchair accessible playground would be appreciated.**
4. Environmental considerations:
 - **No decomposed granite and no fake grass please.**
 - **Ensuring proper irrigation for all new trees.**
 - **In addition to added irrigation for raised beds, expand the native garden and the number of**

LANDELS ELEM SCHOOL - FEEDBACK

ANNOTATED DESIGN FROM MEETINGS WITH PRINCIPALS, LIVING CLASSROOM, CITY AND YOUTH SPORTS

- Kindergarten yard improvements (Area 1) and additional seating at entry (Area 2) will be of value
- Seating area outside library won't be used. (Area 3) Make part of expanded Living Classroom Area
- Living Classroom proposes revisions to the expanded learning garden area (Area 4). These will be coordinated after SD
- Staff does not want to focus on improvements between classroom wings (Area 5)
- Adjust the loop route (Area 10) to avoid conflict with soccer field and include the paved area behind the backstop
- Prioritize the addition of a new play structure and expanded play opportunities. Reduce other improvements as needed to allow
- Add new bathroom to plan



LANDELS ELEM SCHOOL - REVISED

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NEXT STEPS: SCHOOL LISTENING SESSIONS

- Amy Imai Elementary School: TBD
- Bubb Elementary School: 3/25/2025
- Castro Elementary School: TBD
- Crittenden Middle School: TBD
- Graham Middle School: 3/7/2025
- Landels Elementary School: 3/28/2025
- Mistral Elementary School: TBD
- Monta Loma Elementary School: TBD
- Stevenson Elementary School: 3/17/2025
- Theuerkauf Elementary School: TBD