

Please support including 1 million dollars of general funds directly to the Trust for Public Land to support both the Madras and Alameda Rural Community Schoolyard Projects for funding through HB 5201.



# Madras & Alameda Community Schoolyard Projects

Trust for Public Land has launched the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards program, an expanded pilot program, **transforming three outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces that are open to everyone outside of school hours.** We're prioritizing rural communities experiencing the largest health, environmental, and socioeconomic Inequities in the state.

Through our participatory design process, TPL is working with both schools in two phases to ensure extensive and inclusive community engagement in creating a vision for each new community schoolyard. Over the past year, more than 1700 students and community members have come together to help create exciting and culturally relevant designs for both the Madras and Alameda Elementary Schoolyards.

### Madras Schoolyard Construction Costs: \$1.4 million Secured Funding: \$715,000 Funding Needed: \$685,000 Legislative Request for Funds: \$500,000 Timeline: With final community-generated design

concepts approved by the school and district, construction is proposed to begin in the summer of 2024 – funding dependent.

### Alameda Schoolyard Construction Costs: \$1.5 million Secured Funding: \$100,000

Funding Needed: \$1.4 million Legislative Request for Funds: \$500,000

**Timeline:** With final community-generated design concepts approved by the school and district, construction is proposed to begin in the spring of 2025.

# Madras Elementary School

Jefferson County School District

# Madras Oregon, Jefferson County

- 405 students from kindergarten to 5th grade
- 58% of students identify as people of color or multi-racial
- 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch
- 5,300 people live within a 10-minute walk

Madras is home to 7,000 residents in the high desert of Central Oregon. Madras is the ancestral homeland of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Madras Elementary School serves members of the Tribes. The schoolyard is centrally located in the community, and 70% of Madras residents live within a 10-minute walk of the schoolyard. Today, the schoolyard's play equipment is old, and expanses of unshaded asphalt reach high temperatures in the heat. The community-led design for the new schoolyard includes accessible play equipment, shade to protect students from the sun, and interactive elements like musical instruments.

- Central Oregon Health Council
- City of Madras •
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring OSU Extension, Jefferson County Culture & Education Committee
- The Bean Foundation
- High Desert Education Service District• Madras Aquatic Center and •
- Jefferson County Public Health
- Jefferson County Public Library
- Jefferson County School District **SNAP-ED**
- Latino Community Association **Recreation District**
- Madras Parents Club
- Madras Elementary School •
- Madras Faith-Based Network
- Madras Highschool Early Education Program & Key Club
- St. Charles Medical Hospital
- Vamonos Outside

# Alameda Elementary School

Ontario School District

# Ontario Oregon – Malheur County

- 351 students from kindergarten to 6th grade
- 67% of students identify as people of color or multi-racial
- 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch
- 1,000+ people live within a 10-minute walk

Ontario is a community of 11,000 people along the Snake River at the eastern border of Oregon. Alameda Elementary School is located next to Alameda Park, a major hub for youth sports. Residents throughout the county visit the schoolyard and park to participate in sports. While the current schoolyard has lots of space, it has limited and outdated play equipment and almost no shade. Renovating the schoolyard to include new play equipment and shade will complement existing sports fields and provide families with recreational opportunities and gathering spaces during youth sporting events. The community has identified a shaded basketball court, new play structures, and a pollinator garden as priorities for the new schoolyard.

- Alameda Elementary School
- City of Ontario
- Eastern Oregon Border Board
- FUVALCREF
- Four Rivers Cultural Center
- Faith Based Network

- Euture Farmers of America
- Malheur Education Service District
- Malheur County Health Department
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Ontario High School
- Ontario School District

- Ontario Recreation District
- OSU Extension SNAP Ed. Program
- Treasure Valley Community College
- Treasure Valley Community Garden Collaborative

Connecting everyone to the outdoors<sup>™</sup> tpl.org

### **Contact Information**

Kristin Kovalik Oregon Program Director 541.668.4390 Kristin.Kovalik@tpl.org

Amanda Craig **Project Manager** 541.513.8799 Amanda.Craig@tpl.org





# **Connecting Everyone** to the Outdoors

We were founded in 1972 on the conviction that all people need access to nature and the outdoors, close to home, in the cities and communities where they live. We work with communities to create parks and protect public land where they're needed most, as a matter of health, equity, and justice. Over the last 50 years the Trust for Public Land has created over 5,000 outdoor spaces and protected 4 million acres.

### **OUR MISSION**

Our organization is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors.

We believe everyone should have access to the outdoors.

We're working to make sure that everyone has access to safe, quality outdoor spaces to connect with nature and each other. And we're turning data into action and producing research that helps communities create real change.

From community forests to local parks, quality outdoor spaces and places are a fundamental requirement for sustaining healthy, equitable communities that are resilient and prepared for change. They provide social, educational, and cultural gathering opportunities that strengthen community ties and foster community leadership.

# **OUR COMMITMENTS**

The outdoors are essential to our happiness, health, and well-being. Quality parks and green spaces are fundamental for sustaining equitable, resilient communities. Access to nature and the outdoors—close to home, in the cities and communities where people live—is a matter of health, equity, and justice. That's why we work alongside communities across the country to create, protect, and steward the nature-rich places that are vital to human well-being.

# We're driven by four commitments: equity, health, climate, and community.



Park access isn't' equal. The disparities fall along racial and economic lines, but we can close the gap.



By building quality close-to-home parks, we can improve social, physical, mental, and environmental health.



Green spaces make communities more resilient against flooding, drought, heat, and other effects of climate change.



Communities are stronger, more connected, and healthier when they have access to parks and open spaces.

# **OUR INITIATIVES**

### Schoolyards

With help from our partners and supporters, we've created nearly 300 Community Schoolyards™ projects and continue to lead the movement to transform our nation's asphalt playgrounds into vibrant green spaces that are improving student education outcomes and community health and climate resiliency

### • Lands

Since 1972, we've completed thousands of land protection projects, including national and state parks, and community forests, and we've restored tribal and indigenous ancestral lands.

### Trails

Since 1972, we've completed thousands of land protection projects, including national and state parks, and community forests, and we've restored tribal and indigenous ancestral lands.

### • Parks

One in three Americans doesn't have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of home. We're providing more people with places to play, exercise, unplug, and connect with their community members



Madras Elementary School Students at Design Workshop for their Community Schoolyard Project. Madras OR. 2022



Connecting everyone to the outdoors<sup>™</sup> tpl.org

### For more information:

Kristin Kovalik Oregon Program Director kristin.kovalik@tpl.org (541) 322-0133





Chiloquin Elementary Schoolyard Project 2022

# **Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards**

The Rural Schoolyards program partners with students, teachers, and community members to transform outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces providing daily access to nature, outdoor learning, and gathering places that advance the community's goals and reflect local cultures.

The Trust for Public Land is working with the Madras and Ontario School Districts to improve two schoolyards. We are seeking general funds during the 2023 -2025 budget cycle to be used toward capital funding for both projects.

### What community schoolyards can achieve:

### **EDUCATION**

- Teachers report that attendance, behavior, and test scores improve following TPL's schoolyard renovations.
- Renovated schoolyards include outdoor classrooms to give students more time outside during the school day.

### HEALTH

 Access to nature can relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety, lower blood pressure and stress hormones, and increase physical activity.

### EQUITY

 Across Oregon, we're prioritizing rural communities experiencing the largest health, environmental, and socioeconomic inequities.

### COMMUNITY

 We work with local leaders, parents, and especially students to design schoolyards that address the community's priorities and reflect local cultures.

# Madras Elementary – Madras, Oregon

### Jefferson County

With Madras Elementary School students as the designers, we will transform well-worn fields and outdated play equipment into a vibrant green space brimming with art by local artists, interactive play equipment chosen by students, and useful amenities for neighbors. Including; outdoor education space, community gathering space, and recreation equipment accessible to all types of abilities.

Access: 70% of Madras residents live within a 10-minute walk of Madras Elementary School, meaning thousands (5,300) of people will enjoy this renovated schoolyard as a local park open after school hours.

Demographics: 405 children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend Madras Elementary. 58% of students identify as people of color and/or multi-racial and 100% of Madras Elementary students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Madras is the ancestral homeland of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Madras Elementary School serves members of the Tribes. 5.7% of Students enrolled at Madras Elementary School Identify as Native American.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**Latino Community Association Family Access Network Jefferson County SNAP-ED Madras Elementary School** 

**Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Jefferson County Public Health Jefferson County School District** Madras Faith-Based Network

**Parents Club City of Madras** Vamonos Outside St. Charles Hospital

# Alameda Elementary – Ontario, Oregon

**Malheur County** 

Alameda Elementary School students are excited to design a new schoolyard that will include interactive play equipment, landscape, artwork, and recreation amenities that will provide a safe, healthy, and fun space the entire community can enjoy. Including; outdoor education space, shade structures, and community gathering space.

Residents from all over Malheur County visit the schoolyard and the adjacent Alameda Park for youth sports and recreation. New play features at the schoolyard will meet a growing demand for a safe community gathering place.

Demographics: 351 students in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade attend Alameda Elementary School. 67% of students identify as students of color and/or multi-racial. 100% of Alameda Elementary students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Access: More than 1,000 residents live within a 10-minute walk of the schoolyard.

Ontario is the ancestral homeland of the Burns Paiute Tribes and 0.3% of Alameda Elementary students identify as Native American.

**Alameda Elementary School Ontario School District 8c OSU Extension St. Alphonsus Medical** 

# **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**Four Rivers Community Health Ontario Faith Based Networks TV Boys & Girls Club EVALUCREE** 

**City of Ontario Ontario Recreation District** Malheur ESD Malheur County Health Dept.



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Kristin Kovalik **Oregon State Director** 541.668.4390 Kristin.Kovaik@tpl.org

Amanda Craig Project Manager 541.513.8799 Amanda.Craig@tpl.org

Photo credit: Spayne Martinez





Help Students see their Designs in Action. Madras Elementary students designing their own schoolyard, during the Fall 2022 schoolyear. Their ideas became the foundation of the final design concepts for the future community schoolyard.

# **Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard**

# Madras, OR - Jefferson County

Trust for Public Land has launched the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards program, an expanded pilot program, **transforming three outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces that are open to everyone outside of school hours.** We're prioritizing rural communities experiencing the largest health, environmental, and socioeconomic Inequities in the state.

Through our participatory design process, TPL is working with schools in two phases to ensure extensive and inclusive community engagement in creating a vision for each new community schoolyard. Over the past year, more than 700 students and community members have come together to help create exciting and culturally relevant designs.

# Total Capital Construction Costs: \$1.4 million

### Secured Funding: \$715,000

- Roundhouse Foundation \$100,000
- EPA Environmental Justice \$480,000
- St. Charles Health \$15,000
- Robert W. Chandler II Fund \$20,000
- Central Oregon Health Council \$100,000

# Funding Needed: \$685,000

### Legislative Request for Funds: \$500,000

**Timeline:** With final community-generated design concepts approved by the school and district, **construction is proposed to begin in the summer of 2024** – funding dependent.

# Madras Elementary School

Jefferson County School District

- 405 students from kindergarten to 5th grade
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# **Community Stakeholders & Partners**

- Central Oregon Health Council
- City of Madras
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring Culture & Education Committee
- The Bean Foundation
- High Desert Education Service District
- Jefferson County Public Health
- Jefferson County Public Library
- Jefferson County School District
- OSU Extension, Jefferson County SNAP-ED
- Latino Community Association
- Madras Aquatic Center and Recreation District
- Madras Parents Club
- Madras Elementary School
- Madras Faith Based Network
- Madras Highschool Early Education Program & Key Club
- St. Charles Medical Hospital
- Vamonos Outside

# New features requested by the students & community

- Outdoor Classrooms
- Calming Spaces
- Accessible variety of play
- Musical/sensory play
- Community gathering spaces
- Multi-use fields
- Shelter structures from extreme weather
- Drought-tolerant plants
- Art, language & signage that reflect local cultures
- Kindergarten Courtyard w/greenhouse
- New safe and accessible bus pick-up / drop-off





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Help Students see their Designs in Action. Alameda Elementary students designing their own schoolyard, during the Fall 2022 schoolyear. Their ideas became the foundation of the final design concepts for the future community schoolyard.

# **Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard**

Ontario, OR - Malheur County

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# **Total Capital Construction Costs:** \$1.5 million

### Secured Funding: \$100,000

• Roundhouse Foundation \$100,000

Funding Needed: \$1.4 million

### Legislative Request for Funds: \$500,000

**Timeline:** With final community-generated design concepts approved by the school and district, **construction is proposed to begin in the spring of 2025.** 

# Alameda Elementary School Ontario School District

- 351 students from kindergarten to 6th grade
- 67% students identify as people of color or multiracial
- 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch
- 1,000+ people live within a 10-minute walk

Ontario is a community of 11,000 people along the Snake River at the eastern border of Oregon. Alameda Elementary School is located next to Alameda Park, a major hub for youth sports. Residents throughout the county visit the schoolyard and park to participate in sports. While the current schoolyard has lots of space, it has limited and outdated play equipment and almost no shade. Renovating the schoolyard to include new play equipment and shade will complement existing sports fields and provide families with recreational opportunities and gathering spaces during youth sporting events. The community has identified a shaded basketball court, new play structures, and a pollinator garden as priorities for the new schoolyard.

# **Community Stakeholders & Partners**

- Alameda Elementary School
- City of Ontario
- Eastern Oregon Border Board
- EUVALCREE
- Four Rivers Cultural Center
- Faith Based Network
- Future Farmers of America Ontario HS
- Malheur Education Service District
- Malheur County Health Department
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Ontario High School
- Ontario School District
- Ontario Recreation District
- OSU Extension SNAP Ed. Program
- Treasure Valley Community College
- Treasure Valley Community Garden Collaborative

# New features requested by the community

- Outdoor Classrooms
- Calming Spaces
- Accessible variety of play
- Musical/sensory play
- Community gathering spaces
- Multi-use fields
- Covered Basketball
  Court
- Drought-tolerant plants
- Art, language & signage that reflect local cultures
- Student Orchard



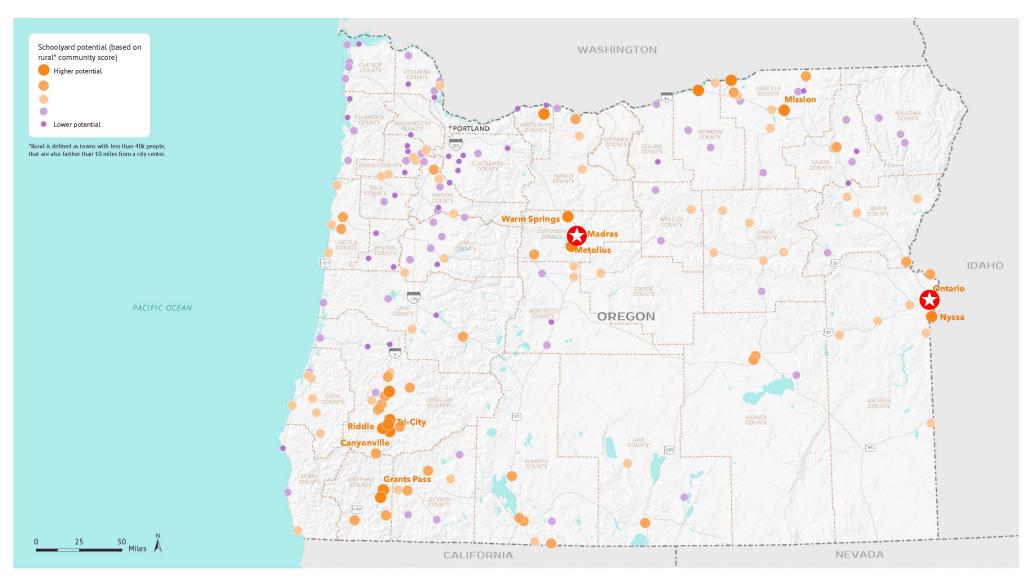


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# Oregon rural community schoolyards analysis

RURAL COMMUNITIES IN OREGON COMPILED BASED ON EQUITY, HEALTH, AND CLIMATE/ENVIRONMENT TO HELP DETERMINE WHERE COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS COULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL

June 10, 2022. Copyright © Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. www.tpl.org



# **Chiloquin Community Schoolyard**

Chiloquin, OR — *Klamath County* 





Chiloquin Elementary School - 2019



Chiloquin Community Schoolyard — 2022



Mural at the new Chiloquin Community Schoolyard *Artist: Len Wilder* 



Chiloquin Community Schoolyard Ribbon Cutting Ceremony — 2022

# **COMPLETED 2022**

# **Community Demographics**



MADRAS, OR Jefferson County



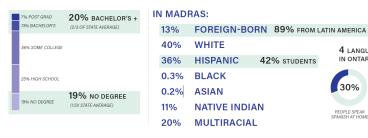
EDUCATION

20s

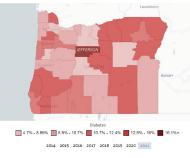
30s

80+

RACE & LANGUAGE

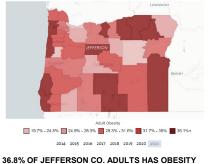






18.3 % OF JEFFERSON CO. HAS DIABETES

ADULT OBESITY



**4** LANGUAGES SPOKEN

68%

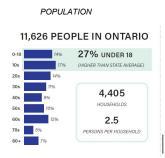
PEOPLE SPEAK ENGLISH AT HOME

IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS

30%

PEOPLE SPEAK SPANISH AT HOME

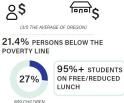
# ONTARIO, OR Malheur County



ECONOMY \$42,568 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$21,974

PER CAPITA INCOME





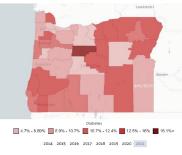
EDUCATION

6 POST GRAD 16% BACHELOR'S % BACHELOR'S (HALF OF STATE AVERAGE) 31% SOME COLLEGE 32% HIGH SCHOO 21% NO DEGREE 21% NO DEGREE (OVER DOUBLE STATE AVERA

RACE & LANGUAGE

	IN	IN ONTARIO:								
S +	IN ONTAILO.									
	1	2%	FOREIGN-BORN 85% IMMIGRATED FROM MEXICO							
	4	8%	WHITE		17 languages spoken in ontario schools					
	4	8%	HISPANIC	62% STUDENTS						
	2	%	ASIAN							
	0	.5%	NATIVE INDIA	N/	56%	70%				
4 <i>GE)</i>			ALASKAN NATIVE							
	8	%	MULTIRACIAL	-	CHILDREN SPEAK SPANISH AT HOME	ADULTS SPEAK ENGLISH AT HOME				

DIABETES



9.7% OF MALHEUR CO. HAS DIABETES

ADULT OBESITY

19.7% - 24.8% 24.9% - 28.3% 28.3% - 31.6% 31.7% - 35% 35.1%+ 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 39.9% OF MALHEUR CO. ADULTS HAS OBESITY

Highest County in Oregon

# **Madras Community Schoolyard**

Madras, OR — Jefferson County





Design Workshop with Madras El. Students



Parents & Guardians Surveys at Winter Concert



Community Partners & Stakeholders Dinner



PARKING LUT OM OTH SE DST ONTH

Final Concept Illustrative Plan, ABLE Studio

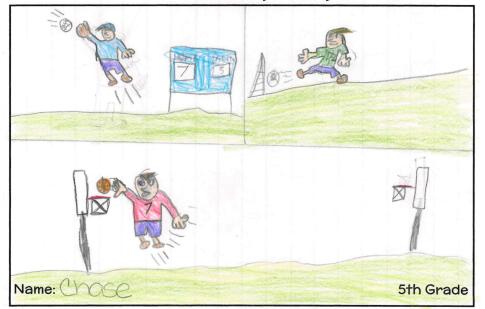
Final Concept Axion, ABLE Studio

# **IN PROGRESS**

Madras Elementary School — Sampling of 30 students Grade 5



Madras Elementary Schoolyard



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Kriow	The	new	$P_0 \vee$	( Physi	twill
be	LETTOR		and for		

# Name: Vi (A)

My name is NIa and iam a 5th grade
Student at madres Elemanthy. What excites me
most about the new school yard is a thee
house! I am looking forward to going to
the they house to play Also to have fun with
freinds. Our School equipment is so old and has
fun anymore. There is not much for us older student
to do. And WR cant wait for the true house !!!!

Madras Elementary Schoolyard

Madras Elementary School — Sampling of 30 students Grade 5



Madras Elementary Schoolyard



lamer hame Ø OTT. 101.0 nauce nornuro 400

Madras Elementary Schoolyard



Hilam Collin, And Our School equipmentis Old and not fun There is hot much for the older students and I cant wait for a Tree house! I cant Mait to Play with MY Friend I Love Tree houses.

Madras Elementary School — Sampling of 30 students Grade 5



Madras Elementary Schoolyard



My name is Mason and lama 5th arade
My name is Mason and Iam a 5th grade student at Madras Elementary. What excites
me mast about the new playaround is the tree house.
The tree house is a good and fun place. Our
equipment is old and boring and not fun at all. So Im
happy for the tree house.

Madras Elementary Schoolyard

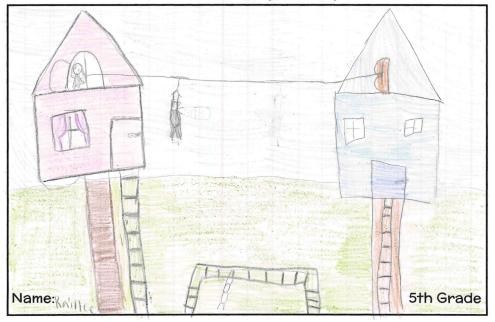


My nome is 100th and I Am a 5th grade student at madras Elementary What excites me made about the new school yard is the zip lin. I Am LOOKing for ward to the tree house be cause the zip lin can be connected to 2 tree he uses out school baskettall have is ald and not that fun but a here basket ball and hope P would be nice.

Madras Elementary School — Sampling of 30 students Grade 5



Madras Elementary Schoolyard



My name is Bainer and Ind Internet 5+11 grade student at madras Element what excites me most about the new school yard is softball equipent and a zipline to go in the tree hols I can't wait to be outsid and Play with My triends and famility this new space.

Madras Elementary Schoolyard

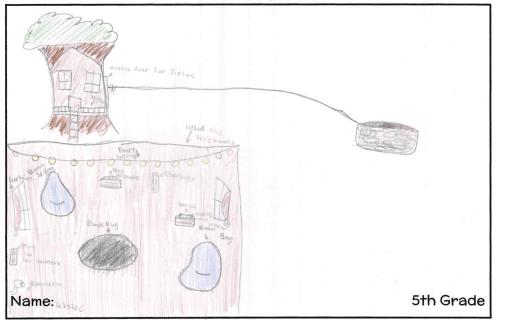


My name is Anivah and I am a 5th grade Student at madress Elementary. What excites me the most about the new school yard is the treehouse!!! I am looking forward to the zipline because it would be fim for the Kids. I can't wait to use the new Playgravial because it would be fimer then then the old playgravide I con't Wait to be outside and Play with my friend and family in this new SPace!!!

Madras Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students



# Madras Elementary Schoolyard



My name is Hhloe. Im a 5Th grade Student at madras Elemetary. What excites me most about the new school yard is a tree house. A tree house could be used for many different things. lik hide and seek, calming area, or like a talking place for you and your friends. Another thing Im looking for word to is a zipline because in my opinion I feel like it would be fan to Kinda fly in the air. For us older stadents it would be really fan to be on a zipline. We could add a ballingt so we can fall in for the zipline.

# Madras Elementary Schoolyard 6 A Å Name: Keyle 5th Grade is keyle and 5th grade hame am a Elementary What excites at Madras school the new me most about Vard is looking forward +0 tree house am zipline because Live never done on a zipline. be outside and play with Wait to cant friends and family in this new space. Our equiptment is old and not fun any more. is not much for older students to do nere and we can't wait for the new tree house.

# **Alameda Community Schoolyard**

Ontario, OR — Malheur County





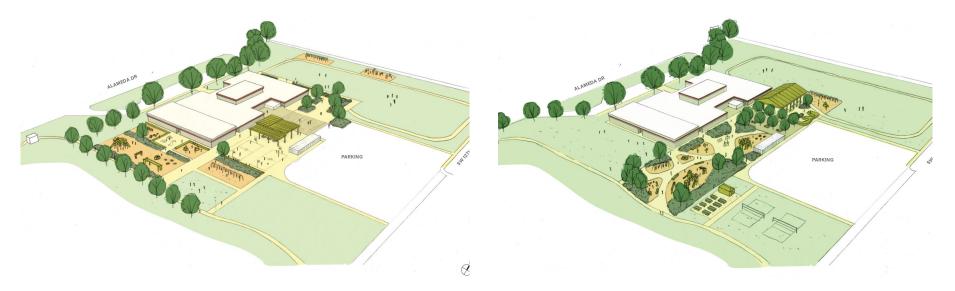
Design Workshop with Alameda El. Students



Design Workshop with Ontario HS Students



Community Partners & Stakeholders Dinner



Design Concept — Option 1, ABLE Studio

Design Concept — Option 2, ABLE Studio

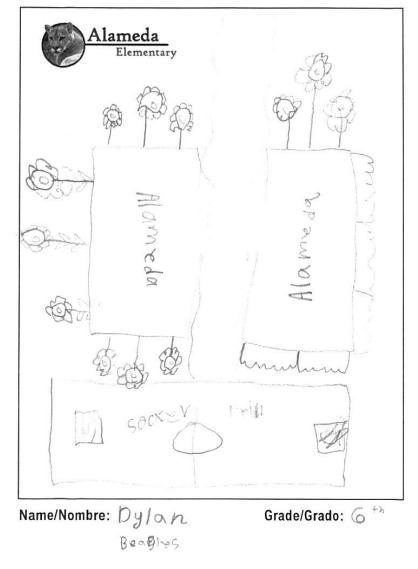
# **IN PROGRESS**

Alameda Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students Grades 4-6TH

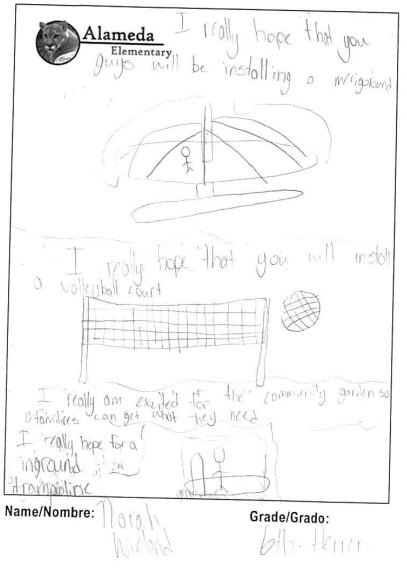


What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

¿Qué es lo que más te enthusiasma del nuevo patio de la escuela primaria Alameda?



What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

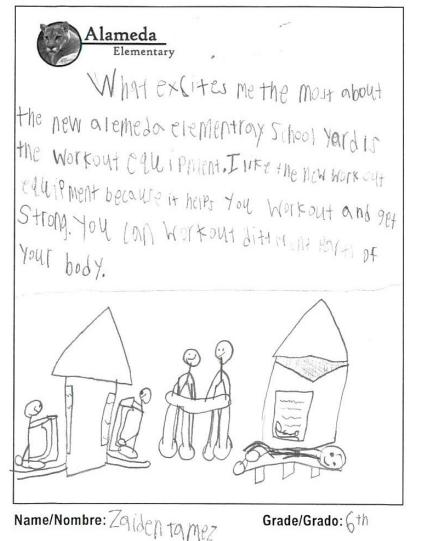


Alameda Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students Grades 4-6TH

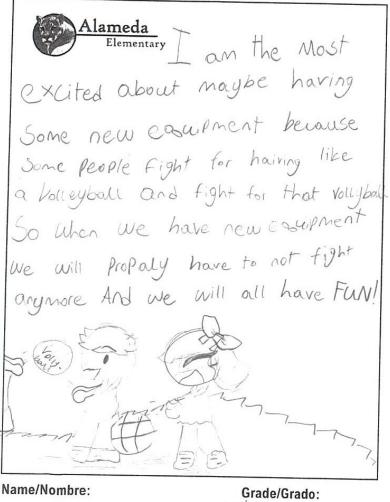


What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

¿Qué es lo que más te enthusiasma del nuevo patio de la escuela primaria Alameda?



What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?



LIL NELL'ALLA'S MOUSSI

Alameda Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students Grades 4-6TH



What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

¿Qué es lo que más te enthusiasma del nuevo patio de la escuela primaria Alameda?

Alameda I Most excites Sett och IStin to muic IT can Gome Name/Nombre: Grade/Grado: 4

What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

Alameda Elementary The thing that excites me is. The swings be cause the Swings. And the basketball court is my favorite Things to play on. I play on basketter the first recess I play baster than then I go to the swings" Name/Nombre: Ange Grade/Grado: Keney

Alameda Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students Grades 4-6TH

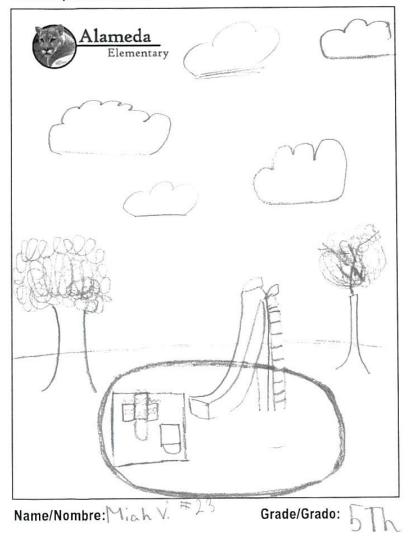


What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

¿Qué es lo que más te enthusiasma del nuevo patio de la escuela primaria Alameda?

Alameda Elementary What excites the the Most about the new alameda School yardis, a Shile, maybe a Volley ball net, Some montey bars, Structure people Grade/Grado: 44 Name/Nombre:

What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?



Alameda Elementary School — Sampling of 100 students

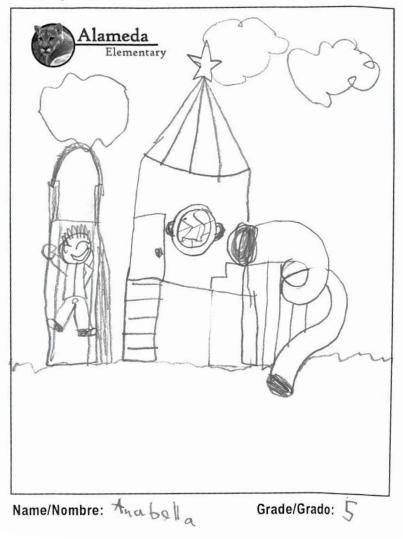


What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?

¿Qué es lo que más te enthusiasma del nuevo patio de la escuela primaria Alameda?

Alameda Elementary I would life if there was a hangout area and like ben ches hear thesoccer goal and white lines to where everything is, Bleachers SPQor 600 Name/Nombre: Grade/Grado: ISON, an

What excites you most about the new Alameda Elementary Schoolyard?



Reference: Letter of Support and Collaboration

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

This letter is in support of the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, and the Madras Elementary Schoolyard Project. TPL partners with students, teachers, and community members to transform outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces, providing safe and accessible access to nature, recreation, outdoor learning, and gathering places that advance the community's goals.

The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the following agencies, groups, and community-based organizations to renovate the Madras Elementary schoolyard in Central Oregon. Madras Elementary Schools educates primarily students of color and represents underserved and underrepresented communities here in rural Oregon. Through an extensive community-led design process, the following partners, along with over 600 students, and greater community members, have collaborated to create a finalized design for Madras' future community schoolyard. Focusing on accessibility, outdoor education, cultural representation, multigenerational gathering spaces, and sustainability, the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard project is scheduled for completion in the winter of 2024.

We ask that you please support the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard programs one-time ask for 1 million in general funds during the 2023 -2025 budget cycle to be used toward capital funding for both the Madras and Alameda Community Schoolyard Projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Team, Partners, and Supporters



Reference: Letter of Support and Collaboration

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

This letter is in support of the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, and the Alameda Elementary Schoolyard Project. TPL partners with students, teachers, and community members to transform outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces, providing safe and accessible access to nature, recreation, outdoor learning, and gathering places that advance the community's goals.

The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the following agencies, groups, and community-based organizations to renovate the Alameda Elementary schoolyard in Ontario, Oregon. Alameda Elementary Schools educate primarily students of color and represents underserved and underrepresented communities here in rural Oregon. Through an extensive community-led design process, the following partners, along with over 1000 students, and greater community members, have collaborated to create a finalized design for Alameda's future community schoolyard. Focusing on accessibility, outdoor education, cultural representation, multigenerational gathering spaces, and sustainability, the Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard project is scheduled for completion in 2025.

We ask that you please support the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard programs one-time ask for 1 million in general funds during the 2023 -2025 budget cycle to be used toward capital funding for both the Madras and Alameda Community Schoolyard Projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Team, Partners, and Supporters













Andrea Buchholz-Principal (abuchholz@ontario.k12.or.us) Lucas Tackman- Vice Principal (Itackman@ontario.k12.or.us) Karla Wilken-Secretary (kwilken@ontario.k12.or.us)

Reference: Letter of Support

January 4, 2024

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature,

Alameda Elementary School enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Alameda students, teachers, staff, and community members have designed a concept for our future schoolyard that will create equitable and engaging green space for education, recreation, and celebrations. This gathering space will be accessible to people of all abilities, something that our community doesn't currently have access to, and will reflect the diverse cultures and histories, of the communities of Ontario, and the greater Malheur County through art, signage, and language.

The Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, will benefit generations of students and community members by providing safe access to the outdoors for the students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

Ontario is a high poverty area, ranking amongst the top in Oregon and nationwide. A space like what has been described could be life changing for the children in our community. Our students are beyond excited for what is to come with your assistance.

Alameda Elementary is proud to be a core partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Trust for Public Lands' one-time ask request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for capital costs related to the Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Andrea Buchholz, Principal



# Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kevin Richards, Board Chair Courtney Snead, Vice-Chair Laurie Danzuka, Board Member Jamie Hurd, Board Member Jacob Struck, Board Member

445 SE Buff Street, Madras, OR 97741 (541) 475-6192 FAX: (541) 475-6856 www.jcsd.k12.or.us

February 13, 2023

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

The Jefferson County School District enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project. a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

Jefferson County School District is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Richards** JCSD 509J Board Chair

Courtney Snead JCSD 509J Vice-Chair

Jay Mathisen JCSD 509J Superintendent



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Cynthia L Jurgensen Development Manager

# Oregon Cultural Trust

### Tax ID #93-1260288

2680 NE Twin Knolls Dr. #110 Bend, OR 97701

412 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street Redmond, OR 97756

715 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street Madras, OR 97741

430 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street Prineville, OR 97754

541.382.4366 info@latca.org www.latca.org



March 1, 2023

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature,

The Latino Community Association (LCA) enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members. As we shift away from the pandemic, opportunities for outdoor activities are needed more now than ever. Community spaces for families to connect, children to play and engage are an important and necessary part of a community.

The LCA mission is to empower our Latino families to thrive, creating opportunities for advancement and building bridges that unite and strengthen our communities. We help families pay their bills, file their taxes, work through legal issues, find work, improve their English, and connect to new opportunities. We are an essential connecting point for our immigrant community to ask questions, have letters translated, get help making phone calls (interpretation) and negotiating payment plans (advocacy). Our programs include Workforce Education and Training, Family Empowerment, Healthy Families, Cultural Enrichment and Youth Rising - all designed to help create a cohesive and diverse community where all people are valued and empowered to participate and contribute to the health and prosperity of Central Oregon.

The Latino Community Association is proud to be a partner in this effort. We respectfully ask you to consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely, thia L -. lurgensen Development Manager 541.815.2401 cunthía@latca.org

**TOGETHER WE THRIVE ~ JUNTOS AVANZAMOS** 

February 6, 2023

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

St. Charles Health System enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

St. Charles Health System is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Todd O Stields

Todd Shields, MBA VP Hospital Administrator, Madras & Prineville St. Charles Health System

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



500 NE A Street, Suite 102 • Madras, Oregon 97741 • Ph: (541) 475-4456 • Fax: (541) 475-0132

February 3, 2023

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

Jefferson County Public Health enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

Jefferson County Public Health is the local health jurisdiction that serves nearly 25,000 county residents. Jefferson County is consistently identified as the unhealthiest county in the state of Oregon by County Health Rankings (a partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin) due to health factors and health behaviors. Less than 50% of the population has access to exercise opportunities (in compassion to 84% of Oregon as a whole) and nearly 1/3 of the adult population reports no physical activity as part of their leisure-time activities. As many of these behaviors and are established while school-aged, the proposed Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project has the potential to have a generational impact on the health of our community.

Jefferson County Public Health is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Michael Baker, PhD, MsPH, CEHS/RS Jefferson County Public Health



Miriam Pope, President Madras Elementary Parent Club 215 SE 10<sup>th</sup> St Madras, OR 97741

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

As a representative of the Madras Elementary Parent Club, an organization created to support our teachers and students by providing experiences and opportunities that go beyond typical every-day learning, we unequivocally support Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

We believe that having a healthy body makes it easier to improve the mind. Having a safe place for the children in our community to gather with their peers during school hours and with their families after school hours to engage in a positive and healthy outdoor environment makes for a happier, healthier, and more resilient community.

Madras Elementary Parent Club is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Miriam Pope, President Madras Elementary Parent Club



241 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street Madras, Oregon 97741 541.475.3351 • www.jcld.org

March 8, 2023

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

The Jefferson County Library District (JCLD) enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County. The project will provide safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports students' and community members' educational, emotional, and physical health.

The JCLD is proud to partner in this effort, and we encourage your full support. Increasing safe outdoor space for our community is an important priority. While we may have public areas available for community use, the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard plan will provide a strategically planned space for learning. The school will make excellent use of the schoolyard during the school day, and other community-based organizations (like the library) will also be able to use the area for some of our outdoor projects. The Community Schoolyard will be an ideal space for many of our summer reading program activities for children.

The library welcomes this exciting project to enhance community learning and engagement significantly. Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

ane Ellen Annes

Jane Ellen Innes Library Director

Vikki Breese-Iverson Oregon State Representative 900 Court St. NE, H-395 Salem, 97301

February 2, 2023

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson,

The Bean Foundation Inc. enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Madras, Oregon.

The Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Madras and the greater Jefferson County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Madras Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

The Bean Foundation Inc. is proud to be a partner in this effort and recently pledged a \$25,000 match grant towards the project. We encourage your full support. Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Madras Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Warmly,

Daleena Green Executive Director, Bean Foundation, Inc. Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

The Ontario School District 8C Board of Directors enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Ontario, Oregon.

The Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Ontario and the greater Malheur County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Alameda Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

[name of org] is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Crining R. Medder

**Board Chair** 

1 Jecolo albism

Superintendent

Reference: Letter of Support

Dear Respective Member of the Oregon Legislature

The Ontario Recreation District enthusiastically supports Trust for Public Land's effort to seek funding for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program, Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project in Ontario, Oregon.

The Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project, a priority for the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program will benefit the community of Ontario and the greater Malheur County by providing safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation space for the Alameda Elementary students during school hours, and the surrounding community when school is not in session. Equitable access to nurturing green space supports the educational, emotional, and physical health of students and community members.

The Ontario Recreation District is proud to be a partner in this effort and we encourage your full support.

Please consider the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyard Program proposal/request for general funds during the 2023-2025 budget cycle to be used for the Alameda Elementary Community Schoolyard Project.

Sincerely,

Andrew Maeda

Executive Director Ontario Recreation District



 $https://www.argusobserver.com/news/alameda-elementary-schoolyard-presents-design-concepts-to-stakeholders-community-partners/article_50b951fe-b9d9-11ed-8164-477564610247.html$ 

# Alameda Elementary schoolyard presents design concepts to stakeholders / community partners

Griffin Hewitt Argus Observer Mar 3, 2023



Landscape architect, Ashley Ludwig at ABLE Studio out of Seattle, gives a detailed presentation showing each of the three designs and the amenities which are built into each design. Further community was given on these designs at the stakeholder / community partner dinner on Feb. 28.

Griffin Hewitt photos | Argus Observer

**ONTARIO** – Alameda Elementary's schoolyard is undergoing some major upgrades and those designs were presented to the community at a stakeholders and partners dinner at Mackey's Public House in Ontario from 6 - 8 p.m.

Amanda Craig, Project Manager / Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards for the Trust for Public Land, said in an email received on Feb. 28 that her organization's Ontario group has conducted previous engagement activities and events to collect information from the community. These engagement events were instrumental in forming the three design concepts presented at the dinner.

These design concepts were sent out "to students, teachers and community members" and surveys followed to staff and parents of Alameda students. Craig also noted that the group is "working with Ontario High School students to get their input on the design options" as an additional component to the process.

### **Building stronger communities**

In analyzing the potential amenities surrounding Alameda Elementary, the group found that there is "no programming" within a ten-minute walk of the school apart from the soccer field, Craig confirmed. The lack of options in the surrounding area is one of the driving forces for having a variety of features detailed for each of the design concepts.

# **Detailing the designs**

Landscape architect, Ashley Ludwig at ABLE Studio out of Seattle, went more into detail on these design concept options, capitalizing on the idea that currently there is no programming around Alameda Elementary and offering insight into the design options and how each could work for this area.

She said that there is "immense nature around Ontario" and how this is considered a "crossroads community" making up a "network of 25 - 30,000" residents.

Also factoring into the designs, said Ludwig, is how the "climate is changing" and these designs reflect adapting to these changes.

Aside from a "connection to nature" another one of the ideas that were integrated into the designs is having "intergenerational spaces" where children, parents and grandparents can all interact together.

She also said how Alameda Elementary has "a lot of land to work with."

### **Ideas from attendees**

Some of those in attendance at the dinner had input on the designs following the main presentation. Concerns were raised about the idea of added plants and trees to the site due to the need for additional water to maintain the new vegetation. Drought resistant plants is the option being explored by the group to offset this potential issue.

Security was the next concern to be addressed. Attendees were reminded that there is a fence that wraps around the school grounds with locking gates and there is no access to the grounds around the clock. Security upgrades will also be part of the overall project, the group confirmed.

Another suggestion from attendees was to have a pollinator garden where lady bugs and praying mantids are raised, allowing the children to learn while seeing these beneficial insects hatch and grow.

Others said that there need to be picnic tables with electrical hookups, in addition to showing support for a space set up for music, as described in the "Porches" design.

### **Community components**

All three of the design concept options include six common features that are a mainstay among the designs. These features are: shade structure, exercise station, basketball, play area, swings and field. The arrangement of these structures / features vary from design to design.

The survey sheet notes that feedback on the design concepts presented will ultimately "shape a final conceptual plan."

**Concept 1**: Loops – Features include: Event structure, lawn amphitheater, tree-shaded play and community garden.

**Concept 2**: Porches – Features include: Hangout seating, art wall, picnic pavilion, music and flexible field.

Concept 3: Plants & Play – Features include: Covered court, grass volleyball, native plants, climbing towers and nature-inspired play.

Important to note, this schoolyard upgrade is a community space which will be accessible to more than students at Alameda Elementary.

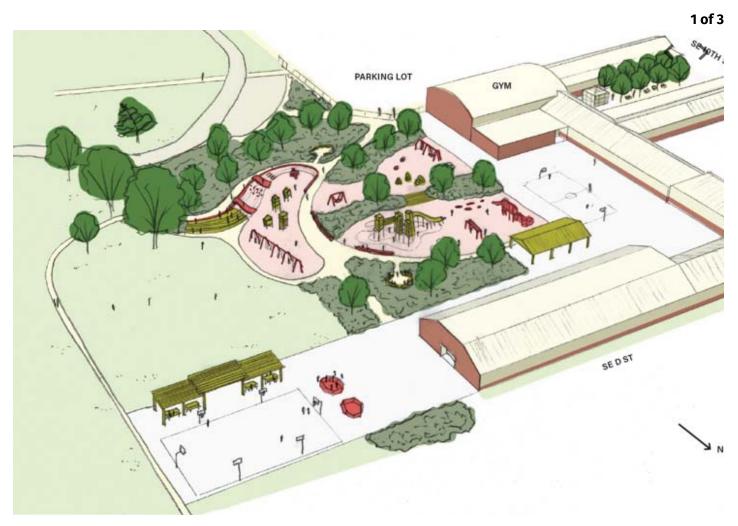
Griffin Hewitt

https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/madras-elementary-debuts-schoolyard-renovationdesigns/article\_4d7d9ac8-95ec-11ee-8c48-cf5c010c47f9.html

FEATURED

# Madras Elementary debuts schoolyard renovation designs

Kiva Hanson **Dec 8, 2023** 



While the design is not final, the overall concept for the design currently features multiple outdoor areas with a variety o landscape features, along with traditional schoolyard play equipment.

Courtesy TPL and ABLE Studios

Madras Elementary was selected at the beginning of 2023 as a Trust for Public Lands community schoolyard project. Now thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, they're over halfway to their fundraising goal.

"We've done lots of community outreach and talking with the schools and now have design concepts and construction plans to really bring this to life not just for the school but for the community," said Amanda Craig, the Oregon project manager for Trust for Public Lands.

The project is set to completely reinvigorate the current playground at Madras Elementary, providing a new space for kids to play and engage with the outdoors, as well as a place for community to enjoy outside of school hours.

TPL has been working all year connecting with stakeholders in the project, including working with students to see what they want in a playground. They've talked with over 700 students, school staff and community members in the process. Students at Madras Elementary got to hear from a landscape architect, and then plan their own versions of the schoolyard.

"It's been so valuable to meet with all the partners in this project to understand what people here really need," said Craig. "The main thing we've heard is a desire to bring nature back to the playground. Instead of a baren area with toys we to include the natural world through native plants, trees for shade, and make areas available for outdoor education."

Craig said another focus was on accessibility since much of the current playground is not accessible to people with different abilities.

The current design of the project meets those goals by adding on to existing play areas, and rerouting the current bus lane, which travelled through the schoolyard. "It was a safety hazard, and also kicked up a lot of dust," said Craig. "Moving it has made it better for everyone, and really increase the size of the playground."

The design was created by ABLE studios, a Seattle based firm that focuses on designing outdoor spaces like parks and gardens.

The new schoolyard adds trees for shade, along with a variety of landscaped areas filled with native plants and landscapes for students to learn from. It also features a shaded courtyard with seating and tables and a pergola for shade around the basketball court, alongside more traditional playground jungle gyms, swings, and slides.

The recent grant from the EPA gives the project \$500,000, bringing them closer to their \$1.4 million goal. TPL also has a statewide GoFundMe for the project, which can be found at <u>https://www.gofundme.com/f/madras-elementary-schoolyard-community-fundraiser.</u>

<u>They ho</u>

pe to break ground in the summer of 2024.

# Kiva Hanson