



Dear Senator Findley and Representative Owens,

We are asking for your support in 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.**

More than ever, our kids deserve high-quality, culturally inclusive outdoor spaces while at school. The Trust for Public Land has a fifty-year history of working with communities to create and maintain more than 5,000 outdoor spaces across the United States – transforming schoolyards, restoring trails, and building public parks. Now, they're looking to Oregon to help revitalize schools through the Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards program in the Madras and Ontario School Districts.

At Madras Elementary, Trust for Public Land is partnering with community groups to redevelop the school's outdoor spaces and aging play equipment. The updated schoolyard will be safer, more accessible, and more climate resilient. At Alameda Elementary, updates will provide much-needed shade for the sports fields, new and modern play equipment, and a school garden for new and engaging learning opportunities. Crucially, these plans were created with experts in the field of schoolyards – the students themselves! Their ideas were used in the final designs of both Madras and Alameda Elementary's renovations.

The Trust for Public Land is seeking \$1 million for these two projects to fund construction efforts. The Rural Community Schoolyards program has received outstanding support from parents, local businesses, county governments, advocacy groups, and students. With construction hoping to begin in Summer 2024 for Madras and Spring 2025 for Alameda, your support is critical to helping communities experiencing serious inequality thrive and flourish.

Please consider the generations of students and children who will benefit from modern and accessible outdoor spaces thanks to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Maeda'.

Andrew Maeda

Executive Director of Recreation, Ontario Recreation District

[\(541\) 889-7686](tel:5418897686) | [\(541\) 709-4407](tel:5417094407) | andrew@ontariorecdistrict.com

ontariorecdistrict.com

745 SW 3rd Ave. Ontario, OR 97914