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PUBLIC
LAND™



TPL worked with students and community members to reimagine the schoolyard at Riddle Elementary to include new, safe and interactive play features and amenities.

Riddle Community Schoolyard

Douglas County, Oregon

The Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards

program works hand-in-hand with communities to transform outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces. Newly renovated with interactive play equipment and amenities selected by residents, these green spaces give students daily access to nature and serve as community parks outside of school hours for everyone to enjoy.

We partner with community members, teachers, and especially students to design schoolyards that advance the community's goals and reflect local cultures.

Our vision is for dynamic, nature-rich schoolyards to be a model for creating more equitable rural communities statewide.

Riddle, Oregon

Located in Southwestern Oregon, Riddle is home to 1,185 residents surrounded by the lush valleys of the Cow Creek and Umpqua Rivers. Riddle has a rich history in timber, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, which continues to this day.

Riddle and its surrounding communities are the ancestral homelands of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians and has deep cultural significance to the Tribe and their history.

The existing schoolyard at Riddle Elementary School is outdated and floods during periods of the year. The students and community members deserve a safe and accessible park and gathering space to learn, play and grow together.

Riddle Elementary Schoolyard

Riddle Elementary students worked with TPL and a landscape architect to create a new design for the space that will transform the school's asphalt play areas, well-worn fields, and outdated play equipment into accessible vibrant green spaces brimming with art by local artists, interactive play equipment chosen by students, and useful amenities for neighbors.

Once complete, students and the community will have daily access to the beautiful outdoor space that they designed.

School Demographics:

- 199 children in kindergarten through 6th grade attend Riddle Elementary
- 19% of the student population identify as minorities
- 76% of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch assistance program.
- 38% of Riddle residents live within a 10-minute walk of Riddle Elementary School



Community Partners

- City of Riddle
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Education Department
- Riddle Chamber of Commerce
- Riddle Downtown Development
- Riddle Elementary School
- Riddle Middle/High School
- Riddle Roots Community Projects
- Riddle School District
- RISE: Riddle Inspiring Serving Everyone

Project Costs and Funding

Construction Budget: \$1.2 million

Funding (secure): \$450,000

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation

Oregon Community Foundation

Roundhouse Foundation

Federal Community Green Infrastructure

Private Funding (pending): \$200,000

Ford Family Foundation

Public Funding (request): \$550,000

Photos: Amanda Craig

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