

The expansion of Fernwood Elementary School is designed to remove 16 portables and replace with built structure that adds 13 new permanent classrooms, 2 music rooms, 2 multi-purpose rooms, as well as revisions to the site to provide new on-site parking locations and improve vehicular circulation and revising the play areas for fully accessible inclusive play. There will be limited internal remodeling to select portions of the existing buildings.

The new building is proposed to be constructed in what is currently the parking lot area south of the existing main building. This location allows for a significant improvement to school security as it allows for a single point of entry, provides a clear front door, and solves the current issues of un-registered visitors crossing over the regular circulation paths of students. This location can also allow for safe separation of construction from the occupied school use areas. A new or temporary parking area will need to be developed in the northwest corner under a separate, but project-related permit.

Improvements to the existing entry plaza, including pedestrian connections to the new building, are proposed, as well as a new entry plaza for the new building itself. Accessible drop-off areas and safety measures such as bollards to protect pedestrians will be provided. The new entry plaza, existing courtyards, and other outdoor pedestrian areas will be designed to be long lasting and serve both functional and aesthetic needs. Opportunities for students, faculty, and visitors to gather in small and large groups, in both active and passive ways, have been explored and encouraged in the site development process, provided that they fit within program needs.

A fully fenced play area is proposed on the north end of the site and will include an inclusive, soft-surface playground, hard surface play area, outdoor learning spaces and a multi-use play field. Creative and unique play structures, hard and soft surfacing materials, game striping, ball walls, and learning panels will be provided. The intent for the multi-use field is to be sized for U-12 soccer, however no specific sport striping is planned, so that the use of the field remains flexible.

The project schedule includes:

- Conditional Use Permit Submittal November 2023
- Building permit Submittal December 2023
- Make ready construction activities to occur in February – April 2024 (preparing safety measures, services, and other preparation activities.
- Construction work to proceed on-site in the Spring of 2024
- Construction of new or temporary parking and drop-off zones are anticipated prior to construction of the building (approximately April - June 2024).
- Construction start of the new building in Summer 2024.
- Open for school use at the start September 2025