



BVSD Universal Playgrounds

Location: BVSD Education Center
To: Matt Johnson, BVSD
From: Annie O'Brien, DCLA
Present: Name

Kristin Ashbrook-Kovar
Caitlin Duggan
Shannon Numair
Susan Cousins
Michelle Brenner
Genna Jaramillo
Tanner Dayhoff
Josh Baldner
Kris Stoppenhagen
Matthew Johnson
Tom Blahak
Carol Henry
Lisa Langer
Tory Hancock
Annie O'Brien
Chloe Whittemore

Date: January 14, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm

Company
BVSD, OT
BVSD, OT
BVSD, ADA Coordinator
BVSD, Operations Communicator
BVSD, SPED Director
BVSD, Heatherwood Principal
BVSD, Bear Creek Principal
BVSD, Mapleton and Mesa Principal
BVSD Director, Bond
BVSD PM, Bond
BVSD PM, Gold Hill and Jamestown
DCLA
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DCLA
DCLA

The purpose of this meeting was to review the existing conditions and evaluation matrices for the (5) Phase Three schools of the BVSD Universal Access project.

Bear Creek Elementary School

- Kindergarten Play Area
 - Existing turf mounds in good condition
 - Crusher fines pathway has been resurfaced since 2019 but was muddy after application and may not have had stabilizer in it.
 - Wind, fencing, and windscreens need to be addressed. Windscreens are essential for keeping EWF in place but fence is not strong enough to withstand wind load.
 - May need new fencing, larger diameter posts, or shorter spans between posts
 - Serious draining issues adjacent to Kindergarten classroom door
 - Ice forms in winter
 - Poor grading design, nowhere for water to drain to
 - Existing swings do not have any accessible seats
- Primary/Intermediate Play Area
 - Nature play area well utilized

- Existing play stumps are deteriorating
- Students on the autism spectrum tend to gravitate towards existing nature play zone
- Seating is generally not accessible

Creekside Elementary School

- ECE Play Area
 - Surfacing is all PIP in play area
 - Hot/exposed conditions in summer
 - Shade shelter does not have tables or benches underneath
 - No accessible seats on swings
 - Other swing seats appear to be lower than normal
- Primary Play Area
 - Surfacing is EWF
 - Although this is considered an ADA accessible surface, students in wheelchairs are not able to access these play areas
 - Strong push for more PIP/better access to play structures
 - There is an existing autism program at this school
 - Need for more sensory or social play opportunities
 - Extremely hot/exposed conditions in summer
 - Adjacent trees have died, no longer providing shade
- Intermediate Play Area
 - Surfacing is EWF
 - Extremely hot/exposed conditions in summer
 - Gap in slide at composite may be safety concern
- General
 - No accessible tables
 - Need sensory components
 - Need features that offer respite and shade

Heatherwood Elementary School

- Pre-K/Kindergarten Play Area
 - Existing sandpit attracts feces from animals
 - Too big to be covered at night
 - Need a cover to be compliant with ECE regulations
 - May need to make area smaller so that it can be covered
 - No existing accessible tables
 - PIP not accessible other than over EWF
- Primary Play Area (upper play area)
 - EWF surfacing in play area
 - Most play equipment appears to be original to school
 - Gaga pit needs to have accessible doorway installed, but is ok with students to use in EWF – this was a gift from the 5th grade class
 - This pit may be the most practical to improve and provide accessible elements
- Intermediate Play Area (lower play area)
 - Significant slopes and rough asphalt
 - Little to no ADA access throughout this play area
 - PIP extents does not provide adequate access to existing ADA swing
 - Communication panel was gift from 5th grade class

- Heatherwood to become a STEAM school, inspired by nature
 - The more 'nature looking' the renovations can be, the better
 - Request for more trees, review BVSD application for adding
- High water use at this school, lots of existing grass
- School uses "campus as classroom" – eat outdoors, have lessons outdoors
- Nice seating under trees that has no accessible route to them
- Hillside between building and playground receives high foot traffic and has trouble sustaining turf
 - Students like this area because of the clear boundaries for 500 game
 - Facilities will look into if there is an existing issue with irrigation or turf that can be resolved

Mapleton Early Childhood Playground

- ECE Playground
 - 'Model playground'
 - All play pieces and areas of the playground appear to be used
 - Great mature trees, good shade here
 - Pea gravel is not an ADA surface and no longer compatible with required fall heights
 - Surfacing is a mix of PIP and pea gravel

Mesa Elementary School

- ECE Play Area
 - No swings here
 - Existing building provides good shade for this playground
 - Playground being on north side of building means snow and ice build up and persist
 - Triple shot was removed in summer 2024
 - OTs have provided moveable pieces for ideation play
 - Step at door into building does not provide direct accessible route into play area
- Primary Play Area
 - PIP surfacing installation at existing play equipment has compromised some required access heights
 - Equipment is older
- Intermediate Play Area
 - Lacking sensory and social play opportunities
 - Issues getting up to this play area over rough asphalt
- Lots of use out of the north grass field and boulder seating area
- Most trees installed in 2019 in north grass field have died
- Large swing area does not have any accessible swings

Prepared by:





DESIGN
CONCEPTS

Annie O'Brien
Landscape Designer
January 17, 2025