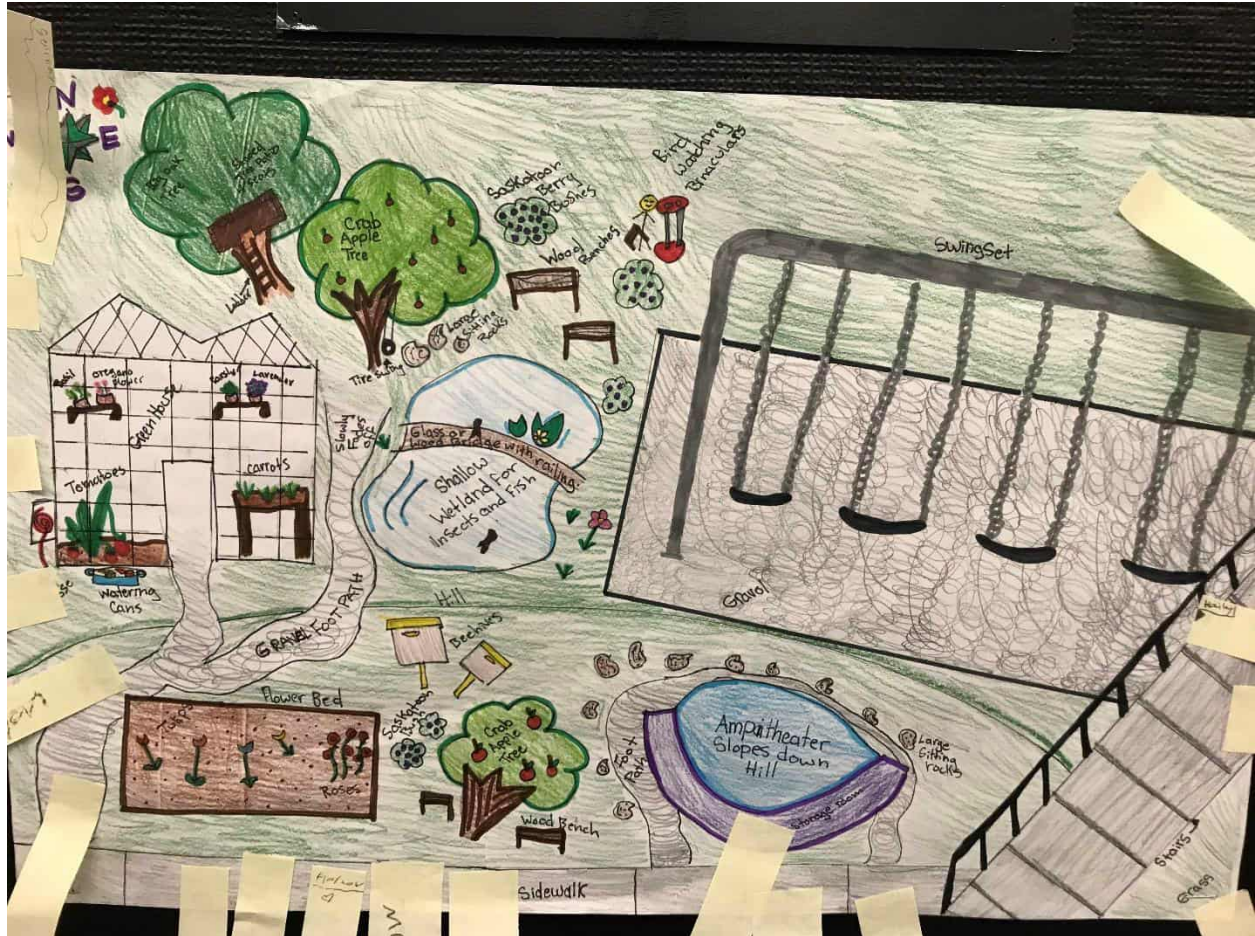


# North Haven Learning Grounds Phase 1



Winning student concept voted on by the entire student body at North Haven School.

January 2023

North Haven Learning Grounds goals:

- Improve mobility options
- Create a space for outdoor learning, exploration and gathering
- Increase biodiversity and natural habitat
- Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Key elements of the Learning Grounds design which support project goals include:

- accessible pathways to improve mobility options
- creation of shade to cool site users
- outdoor classroom as a space to learn and gather
- spaces to play and to reflect for emotional and physical wellbeing
- native species to increase biodiversity
- Truth and Reconciliation connections for intercultural understanding

### Project Summary

The staff and students at North Haven school began the project early in the 2020/2021 school year. Visioning for the project had students consider “what kind of world do you want?” Concept drawings and location selection was led by Grades 4 to 6 after making observations of the school grounds. They used resources from the Kainai First Nation to learn about local native plant species, applied mathematical knowledge to budget aspects of the project, wrote persuasive writing pieces, and presented concepts to other students. Children throughout the school voted on student concepts to inform the Learning Grounds design. With these ideas as a guide, the Parent Association was tasked with bringing the project to life.

Over the course of the past year and a half, a committee of parents, working closely with the school administration, secured project funding and commissioned a design based on the students' chosen concept. We watched with growing excitement as construction took place over the summer.

The idea of community and belonging is further expressed through seven beautiful wolf cutouts, one per class along 48 Avenue. These were created during an artist residency with the students by our North Haven neighbour, Indigenous artist and business owner, Chance Bellegarde of Redman Customs. The wolves are a visual acknowledgement of residential schools and Indigenous history, and the importance of belonging within one's community.

We celebrated the transformation with a Grand Opening event in early October 2022, and newly constructed pathways allowed a community member using a wheelchair to access the space with ease. Students, staff, parents and community members were honoured to have a Knowledge Keeper present to speak of the importance of community and our connections to the land. He also blessed the Learning Grounds with an offering of sage. Students delighted the group with a song adapted for the occasion and ending in a “wolf pack” howl. Each class in the school has since used the outdoor amphitheatre for class meetings and spent time contemplating the newly developed area.

The North Haven Parent Association, supported by students and school staff, will continue to monitor and maintain the Learning Grounds. Accountability for maintenance of the Learning Grounds, and potential future phases is with the Learning Grounds Steward, a newly formed role on the North Haven Parent Association. Association bylaws have been updated to require funding for maintenance.

### Project Timeline

- Fall to Winter 2020/2021: Initiation and in-school planning
- Spring 2021: Students conduct site surveys, consider project location and create designs
- April 2021: North Haven School Council (NHSC) presents Learning Grounds proposal to North Haven Parent Association (NHPA) seeking project coordination and funding
- April 2021: NHPA Learning Grounds committee created
- May 2021: Students select main location; approved in principle by Calgary Board of Education (CBE)
- May 2021: School-wide vote on top two student designs, selected design included on cover page.
- May - June 2021: Vendors (3) engaged for scope and costs (reGenerate Design, Ground Cubed, Year-Round Landscaping).
- October 2021: reGenerate Design selected, conceptual design initiated
- Fall 2021: Stakeholder and student design engagement facilitated by vendor
- February 2022: Conceptual design produced by selected vendor
- February 2022: Engagement and consultation initiated with Redman Customs, Indigenous artist
- May 2022: In-school residency with Chance Bellegarde of Redman Customs
- June 2022: Phase 1 detailed design finalized, CBE formal approval
- June 22, 2022: Wolf mural installed on 48 Avenue fence
- July 11, 2022: Phase 1 construction initiated
- August 31, 2022: Construction complete
- September 2022: Additional student planting
- October 6, 2022: Dedication and opening celebration

### Volunteer Events/Participation

Date	Task/Description	Number of Participants
August 13, 2022	Planting 28 native woody shrubs.	21 including 6 children
August 20, 2022	Moving and placing finishing gravel in areas inaccessible to bobcat.	13
October 6, 2022	Grand Opening	Estimated 175 Entire school population (138 students, plus staff members), sponsors, community members including volunteers and parents.
Not applicable	Total Participants throughout project, including fundraising.	Estimated Total: 250 Planning committee: 9 parents, 3 staff Fundraising: 57 individual community donors Watering/weeding: 9

### Project Details

<p>Components Installed</p>	<p>60 seat stone amphitheatre/outdoor classroom  2 (approximately 105m) accessible pathways  Approximately 129m<sup>2</sup> green space sloped for water harvesting  9 Trees planted  51 shrubs planted</p>
<p>Tree Varieties</p>	<p>1 White Spruce  2 Paskapoo Poplar  3 Lodgepole Pine  3 Trembling Aspen</p>
<p>Shrub Varieties</p>	<p>3 Saskatoon  8 Wolf Willow  8 Potentilla  9 Buffaloberry  23 Raspberry</p>
<p>Groundcover seed mix (&lt;40cm height)</p>	<p>Northern Wheatgrass  Fringed Brome  Canada Wildrye  Slender Wheatgrass  Rough Fescue  Sheep Fescue  Junegrass  Green Needlegrass</p>

Funding

<b>TOTAL : \$140,200.92</b>	
Grant Awards	LSF Action Fund \$400 Tree Canada \$3,500 Calgary Arts Development Assoc \$3,800 Parks Foundation – Stella Conceptual Design Grant \$4,935 Calgary Foundation Neighbour Grant \$7,500 Enbridge Fuelling Futures \$13,950 TD Friends of the Environment Fund \$14,850 Field Law \$15,000 Parks Foundation Building Communities \$30,000 <b>TOTAL: \$93,935</b>
Corporate donation/volunteer funds/matching, and Local Business Sponsors (\$500 - \$1,000)	Calgary Fine Dentistry \$500 Trace Associates \$1,000 Dale Green Realty \$1,000 Whitecap Resources \$1,100 Pembina Pipelines and other matching \$4,920 Pelican Pier \$1,000 LDA \$1,000 Mortgage Connection \$1,000 Alberta Treasury Branch \$1,000 TD \$500 <b>TOTAL: \$12,941.60**</b>
Individual Donations	\$9,555.53
NHSC/NHPA funds	\$19,500
NHPA Fundraisers	School sports day: \$1,201.52 Donation Drive (Value Village): \$407.70 Growing Smiles (plants): \$880.77 Bottle Drive: \$1,413.80 Garage Sale: \$365.00 <b>TOTAL: \$4,268.79</b>

\*Amounts shown exclude 2.65% fee taken for use of on-line donation with receipts from Parks Foundation Project Support Program. Supplemental funds will be used for Phase 2.

Project Cost

<b>TOTAL: \$128,753.59</b>	
Design	Conceptual Design: \$4,935 Detailed Design: \$4,875
Soil for front flower beds (LSF Action fund)	\$400
Artwork with installation and Indigenous Consultation	\$6,235.74
Banner for donor recognition	\$211.48
Construction contract documents	\$154.35
Construction	\$111,942.02



Photographs



Before construction, view facing south. June 22, 2021.



Before construction, view facing north. June 22, 2021.



Before construction. View facing east. June 22, 2022.





Wolf mural collaboration by students and Chance Bellegarde of Redman Customs on 48 Street NW. July 2022.



Preparation for, and work at volunteer planting event August 13, 2022.





Well deserved break after volunteer gravel placement August 20, 2023.



Construction fence down and ready to explore! North Haven Learning Grounds August 31, 2022.



Initial student use on the first day of school September 1, 2022.



Grand Opening event with students, school staff, volunteers, community members and sponsors. October 6, 2022.





North Haven School parents and students get together Friday near an area of the schoolyard where they are fundraising to build a mini park next to their school in hopes of attracting more students to keep the school open. The project includes paths, vegetation and an outdoor learning space. *CASIN YOUNG*

## Global Energy Show returns

Worldwide lineup planned for event

JOSH ALDRICH

The last time the Global Energy Show ran in Calgary in 2019, the energy sector was in a completely different position.

Oil and gas was still recovering from the bottom falling out of the industry in 2014-15 and the sector was still grappling with the idea of transition.

That transition is now in full force, complete with net-zero plans in the oilsands and large investments in renewable and green energy, including hydrogen, wind, solar and geothermal, as well as growth in carbon capture technology. Meanwhile, oil and gas have shot back up to a new boom partially boosted by geopolitical forces and growing demands globally.

Nick Samain, vice-president North America for dmg, which is hosting the event, said the gathering this year is not about one branch of the energy sector. It's about all of it and having honest conversations about the direction of the industry, while understanding there is no one single source of energy that can meet the world's needs.

"What the Global Energy Show can't be, and isn't, is just another conference of energy people talking to energy people in a bubble out here in Alberta, and everybody cheering when somebody says the right things on all the things that we need to do, and the conference closes ... and that national perception of Canadian energy remains the same," he said.

"We invite people to come to a respectful, safe, inclusive environment and just come as yourself, meet the people, and may be surprised."

The exhibition will be global more than just name, with the changing perspective on work the sector is in Alberta.

Organizers are preparing to 30,000 people from more than 10 countries to come to the Stampede grounds from Tuesday to Thursday this week.

The conference will open with former Liberal cabinet minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, discussing the role of Indigenous communities and contributions in the sector. One of the major keynote speakers will be former Texas governor and former U.S. secretary of energy Rick Perry on Wednesday morning.

There will be discussions on clean and renewable energy at conversations with represent-

## Parents fundraising for outdoor learning space

Group says new features could help attract more students to k-6 school

EVA FERGUSON

Parents at a northwest public school are fundraising to build an outdoor learning space in hopes of attracting more students and keeping the low-capacity school open.

North Haven K-6 school is listed as having low enrollment, less than 70 per cent capacity, in this year's Calgary Board of Education Student Accommodation Plan, meaning it could be considered for closure in the next few years.

But parents are doing everything they can to keep the community school vibrant, trying to raise \$350,000 to build a "Learning Grounds" on the school site with an amphitheatre, pathways, native vegetation and Indigenous artwork.

"We have to up our game a little, and show that this outdoor space creates a school that is really part of a community, a community that has ownership of their school," said Jessica Conlin, who has two students at the school in grades 3 and 5.

"That, I think, is really the table stakes, what could really up the

ante and get more kids here."

Conlin explained that while the community surrounding the school is full of young families, many students are busing out to attend programs of choice, including French Immersion, Mandarin and Traditional Learning.

As well, Conlin says North Haven has lost students to the new Northern Lights School in Coventry Hills, which just opened in September 2020 about a 10-minute drive away.

Conlin explained that while she respects families who make different choices for their kids, she wishes more would stay in the community because it creates a tight-knit group of families.

Renee Bellavance, who has two kids at North Haven in grades 2 and 4, agrees that a community is more vibrant, and safer, when kids attend their community school.

"For those of us who choose to send our kids to North Haven, we want to be a real part of the community, which means knowing we can send our kids up the street, and there's always a family there that they know."

The parents have already raised close to \$150,000 to start the first phase of the Learning Grounds this summer, completing the amphitheatre by fall, which will include rectangular boulders for seating 60 students in an outdoor classroom.

Planting and gardens will also get started, Bellavance said, not only as learning opportunities for students, but for the whole community to enjoy.

Bellavance added that there are also many seniors in the community who would benefit from the outdoor space, pathways and shade that it will provide.

Indigenous artwork will include wood carvings of seven wolves made by students during an in-school residency with Indigenous artist Chance Bellegarde, one for each grade from kindergarten to Grade 6.

Once complete, the project area will include about 5,250 square feet for the outdoor learning spaces, and about 90 metres of accessible pathway.

Last month, the CBE released its Three Year Student Accommodation Plan, which listed up to 46 schools as having low enrollment, or capacity below 70 per cent. Many are inner-city schools, but a growing number are in out-

er-lying communities like North Haven, which is just east of Nose Hill Park.

CBE officials are working to balance enrolment under a new funding framework where the province provides operation and maintenance grants to schools that have 85 per cent capacity or more.

"With 36 actively developing communities in Calgary, we strive to provide equitable access for all students to quality learning environments and choice of programs and use space and resources effectively, which is why CBE is actively looking at solutions for North Haven School," said CBE spokeswoman Megan Geyer.

While parents at North Haven hope the new Learning Grounds might help move them off the CBE's list of low-capacity schools, they know not all communities have the time, the resources or the advocacy skills to fundraise for unique projects.

Sheila Taylor, CEO of Parks Foundation Calgary, says her non-profit is eager to help communities like North Haven build outdoor spaces like the Learning Grounds. "This space has been so thoughtfully designed both for the students and the community."

Taylor said the foundation provided \$30,000 to get the North Haven project started, but the non-profit is also eager to support other communities that may not have the same strong advocacy.

The Parks Foundation is now supporting up to 100 outdoor projects with local sports groups, community associations and schools. [eferguson@postmedia.com](mailto:eferguson@postmedia.com)

## Police car crashed responding to

Calgary Herald, June 6, 2022

# Learning Grounds: North Haven Students Drawings Become Real!

by Emerson Dick



North Haven Elementary School

2021 April is when the school-wide project first started. Teachers and students decided to start a naturalization area at the school. The students were asked to draw a design of what they wanted in the naturalization area. Then they had to write persuasive paragraphs to go along with their drawings to tell how the design would enhance learning at North Haven School.

Many students entered and presented ideas. The school community voted on all of the designs. Many students voted for the interesting aspects of many designs. One design had the most votes. The student design was full of many great ideas. When asked the question what she liked from her plan and what she would change. She said, "I would be most excited to see the tree house because it still follows the rules because it's like a play structure and I would change the beehives and the pond because they are not really necessary and have no use."



North Haven Community Newsletter April 2022

This project brought the school community together and will give the students a chance to learn in a new environment and to learn outside of the classroom. This project has gone through many phases and is almost at the point for it to come to life. This plan started from talking about it, to a paper plan by students, then a meeting with the School Council to get a committed group of parents to help out.

The students put together a proposal for a grant for flowers for the front flower bed in the front of the school. In June, the students used the grant money to enhance the flower bed and soil. After this they did projects about specific things they wanted in the naturalized area.



North Haven students planning sheet

The teachers have done so much work and research for this project. Further on, the parents wrote many grants and hired a landscape designer to raise funds for the project. They also got the school community to vote for the Field Law Grant. They won the grant of \$15,000. Now, in February a new teacher has been introduced to this idea of a naturalization area. Grade 5/6 teacher Ms. Poitras said, "I think it is a great opportunity for the students to collaborate and put their ideas into action".

The students, parents, and teachers have been working hard to make this design come true. With all their work from April 2021 to February 2022 is outstanding. The students and community can't wait to see this hard work pay off.



## North Haven Learning Grounds Update

The North Haven Learning Grounds project continues with final review and CBE approval expected shortly after the time of writing, in early April.

To allow time to raise funds, the project has been split into two phases, with the installation of Phase 1 planned for this summer, and installation of Phase 2 expected in the summer of 2023.

Phase 1 is focused on the area to the northwest of the school building and will cost an estimated \$135,600. Construction will begin this year (summer 2022) and includes:

- Outdoor classroom with boulders
- Accessible pathways
- Boardwalk
- Naturalized meadow
- Planting

Phase 2, with planned installation in the summer of 2023, is focused on the area to the northeast of the school by the swings and the playground with an estimated additional cost of \$195,000.

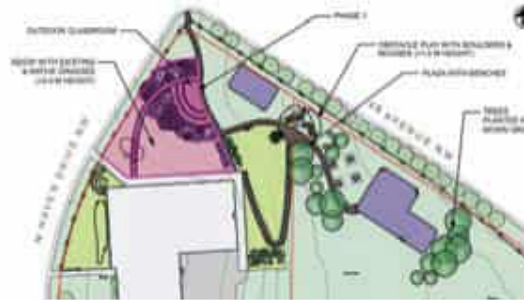
Over \$110,000 has been raised through grants and fundraising efforts thus far, significant progress towards the expected \$330,000 budget. We are currently seeking additional project sponsors and accepting donations on our website – all donations over \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt thanks to our partnership with Parks Foundation Calgary. Recognition opportunities are available for major donors – reach out to the Learning Grounds Committee at northhavennatural@gmail.com to learn more!

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

- Parks Foundation Calgary
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Enbridge Fueling Futures
- Field Law
- Calgary Foundation
- Tree Canada
- LSF Action Fund

Donation details, full colour designs, and further information are available on the North Haven Parent Association website, [www.northhavenparentassociation.weebly.com](http://www.northhavenparentassociation.weebly.com).

*The North Haven Parent Association Learning Grounds Committee*



Design by reGenerate Design Ltd. and sponsored by Parks Foundation Calgary

### We've partnered with SkipTheDepot!

What is SkipTheDepot? A door-to-door bottle collection service that makes refundable recycling and fundraising easier than 1, 2, 3.

1. Download the app and book a pickup using <https://app.skipthedepot.com/nhca>.
2. Place your bags outside.
3. Receive a refund or donate to us!

SkipTheDepot will allow everyone to donate directly to our organization with ease. Spread the word by sharing our SkipTheDepot posts on social media!

### Got Bottles?



Download the app and donate to us today!

**SKIP THE DEPOT**

### Sweet Happiness

Every month has its own birth flower(s) associated with it. Along with the general beauty of spring, May brings with it a gorgeous set of birth flowers. The hawthorn and the white lily-of-the-valley symbolize hope and the sweet return of happiness. If that doesn't sound like a breath of fresh air – I don't know what does!

## Murals with Mr. Chance

*by Addyson Aho and Hunter Widdifield*

North Haven School gets the chance to make life-sized wolf murals with Mr. Chance. Chance Bellegarde is a Cree artist who is going to help us make each class a mural masterpiece.

Each class of North Haven School got a handout with a wolf on the front and were asked to draw a mural to represent the community and things we have done to help the school and community. All the students got a say in their class's final wolf.

Each student made their own wolf with things they have done and what they think represents the community, belonging, and helping one another. Our wolves are an acknowledgment that our school is welcoming unlike the way residential schools were for Indigenous children.

When each wolf was done, the class voted on a wolf and took the ideas from that wolf to make the class's final wolf with the feedback of all class members.

Mr. Chance will help the students turn each final wolf into a wooden life-sized wolf to put on the school fence.

"I want to see if it will catch the neighbours' eyes when they drive by," Brady stated. He thought it would be interesting to have a piece of art everyone could see.

The school is excited to see the finished product on June 10 and can't wait to see what you think of the finished project.



*Each class made a draft of their final wolf for the outdoor mural.*

## Reflections on the Wolf Mural at North Haven School

Chance Bellegarde of Redman Customs worked with the students at North Haven School this past spring, creating the painted wolves you can now see displayed on the school fence at the corner of 48 Avenue and North Haven Drive. Below are his reflections on the residency.

"It is often within the smallest of communities where you find some of the deepest-rooted connections. Since February of 2019 I have had the privilege of calling North Haven my home. Something about this place, the people, and spirit that surrounds this community just resonates with me so deeply. It reminds me of a teaching that I have learned and want to share with you.

Sweetgrass. One of my favorite teachings is that of a braid of sweetgrass. It reminds us of how strong we are when we are together. There are three sections to each braid of sweetgrass and for each section there are seven strands or blades of grass.

The first section teaches us that when we move along in our journey, we must do so in a way that respects and honours those who came before us. The seven parts of this section represent the seven generations who came before us: our parents, grandparents, great grandparents... our ancestors.

The second section represents our seven sacred (grandfather) teachings that we strive to live by: respect, humility, honesty, courage, love, truth, and wisdom.

Finally, the third section teaches us to walk our path thinking of the seven generations to come: our children, grandchildren...

I want to thank you all for welcoming me and my family into this community. You should all be very proud of what this space represents. Having the opportunity to share space with such incredibly kind, caring, and thoughtful children was such a blessing.

To the parents and caregivers of these incredibly smart, talented, and caring children, I want to thank you for teaching them to have such open hearts and minds.

To the students, you should be so incredibly proud of yourselves. Remember that what you have done will have such a lasting impact on this wonderful community.

To the future/prospective residents of this great community, we welcome you.

Ay-hiy,

*Chance Bellegarde\**



## The Learning Grounds Becomes a Reality!

*Submitted by The North Haven Parent Association Learning Grounds Committee*

As you may have seen by now, the North Haven schoolyard has been transformed!

We celebrated the transformation with a Grand Opening event in early October. Students, staff, parents, and community members were honoured to have a Knowledge Keeper present to speak of the importance of community and our connections to the land. He also blessed the Learning Grounds with an offering of sage. Students delighted the group with a song adapted for the occasion and ending in a "wolf pack" howl.

The staff and students at North Haven school began the project in April 2021, a relatively short time to transform a bare, grassy slope into an outdoor amphitheatre featuring native trees, shrubs, and an accessible pathway to allow for use by all our community members. The idea of community and belonging is further expressed through the beautiful wolf cut-outs along 48 Avenue. These were created during an artist residency with the students by our North Haven neighbour, Indigenous artist and business owner, Chance Bellegarde of Redman Customs. The wolves are a visual acknowledgement of residential schools and Indigenous history, and the importance of belonging within one's community.

Students were involved from the beginning, with Ms. Hastie, our Grade 5/6 teacher taking the lead in connecting curriculum to the project. Students surveyed the schoolyard and developed design ideas that were voted on by the entire student body. With these ideas as a guide, the Parent Association was tasked with bringing the project to life.



Over the course of the past year and a half, a committee of parents, working closely with the school administration, secured project funding and commissioned a design based on the students' chosen concept. We watched with growing excitement as construction took place over the summer.

The generosity of so many people who gave both time and money was humbling in its magnitude.

The North Haven Parent Association, supported by students and school staff, will continue to monitor, and maintain the Learning Grounds. We also plan to expand the project as funding allows. Phase 2 will extend accessible pathways and add planting for shade.

We invite all our neighbours to come and enjoy the North Haven Learning Grounds. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours, and take the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of community, belonging, and being within the landscape of our corner of Calgary.

Finally, thank you! Sponsors from within and beyond the community are celebrated with a banner on 48 Avenue. To all of our volunteers, donors, staff, and students - all those who supported the project - thank you for being part of our community and supporting the Learning Grounds as a place for all. We've really done something special here.



Conceptual Design



Phase 1 Detailed Design

Note optional planting area north of the pathway was not completed.

