

Lyndhurst Elementary Outdoor Learning Project

Project Overview:

Lyndhurst Elementary is excited to create an Outdoor Learning Space—a unique environment designed to inspire creativity, curiosity, and a deeper connection with nature. This innovative “classroom” will serve as an engaging setting where students can participate in hands-on learning experiences while enjoying the benefits of the outdoors.

At the heart of this space will be **polished river rock stone benches**, providing a welcoming gathering place for students to collaborate, explore, and grow. To enhance the space further, we will **incorporate native landscaping**, creating a natural and sustainable environment that supports pollinators, promotes biodiversity, and fosters a deeper appreciation for nature. By including plants that attract butterflies, and other pollinators, we will help sustain local ecosystems while providing students with firsthand learning opportunities about environmental stewardship.

Why an Outdoor Classroom?

Research shows that time spent in nature offers numerous benefits for children, including:

- **Enhanced Learning:** Hands-on activities in natural settings improve academic performance.
- **Creativity & Problem-Solving:** Open environments encourage innovation and critical thinking.
- **Improved Focus:** Exposure to nature helps increase concentration and attention spans.
- **Healthy Habits:** Outdoor activity promotes physical health and overall well-being.
- **Emotional Resilience:** Green spaces reduce stress and support emotional balance.

This space will not only benefit students but also **provide teachers with a dynamic, flexible environment** for instruction. Teaching outdoors offers:

- **Engaging Lessons:** A change of setting enhances student interest and participation.
- **Creative Teaching Methods:** Nature provides a natural backdrop for experiential learning.
- **Reduced Classroom Fatigue:** Fresh air and movement help students stay energized and focused.
- **Stronger Teacher-Student Connections:** Outdoor settings encourage collaboration and informal learning moments.

Unfortunately, children today spend less time outdoors than any previous generation due to limited access to safe and engaging outdoor spaces. This shift has contributed to increasing concerns such as anxiety, attention challenges, and declining physical fitness.

By developing an inviting and enriching outdoor learning environment, we aim to reverse these trends and provide students with the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Lyndhurst's PAC has already raised \$4000 towards the project. With the matching funds from the Playground Development Grant we will be able to purchase 7 stone benches from Northwest Landscaping & Stone Supply:

https://www.landscapesupply.com/catalog/product.php?cat_id=537&pid=9351 With the remaining funds we will complete the space with native landscaping and pollinator friendly plants to create a lush and inviting environment. This final touch will help ensure that our Outdoor Learning Space on our school grounds remains a vibrant and enriching space for our school and greater community for years to come. We plan to place the benches on our lower field that is accessible to the public in off school hours. I've attached the school board's approval of the project. We aim to have the benches installed before the end of this school year. We welcome Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff to share their design expertise in finalizing the landscaping and placement plan, ensuring the space is as functional and successful as possible.

Thank you for your consideration!!

Warmest Regards,

-Ashlee Patrick

Co-Fundraising Chair Lyndhurst Elementary PAC

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Burnaby School District 41
CRA charitable tax number 11881 2940