
MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OUTDOOR LEARNING SUMMARY

DATE: April 9, 2025

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
City of Mountain View

FROM: Carducci Associates

RE: MVWSD Outdoor Learning Plan Updates

The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) is funding school yard improvements at all 11 middle and elementary schools as part of an Outdoor Learning project. The project seeks to create flexible, dynamic spaces where students, staff, administration, and community members are comfortable, happy, and engaged. Through an emphasis on natural materials, the designs will:

- Support equitable, diverse learning and recreational activities,
- Enhance physical and mental student well-being and happiness,
- Meet District-wide and school-specific goals, and
- Promote and inspire greater connection to and understanding of our natural world.

Since 2022, landscape architects Carducci Associates (Carducci) has been leading an expansive information gathering and participatory design effort. This effort has included meetings with school administration, staff, parents, students, the broader community, Living Classroom, Canopy, the MVWSD Board, and MVWSD Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council; as well as site visits to each of the schools.

At the same time, Vargas Elementary was selected as a pilot site. Carducci presented multiple iterations of the schematic design at MVWSD Board meetings, and the approved design was developed into two phases of work. The first phase focused on planting and was completed in the Winter of 2023/24. The second phase of work focuses on the central hardscape area and will be starting in June 2025.

In the fall of 2024, Carducci staff began developing initial designs for the other ten school sites. They presented these draft concepts at the November 21st MVWSD Board meeting. Over the next 3 months, Carducci gathered feedback on these plans, including meeting and ongoing communication with Mountain View Parks and Recreation staff and representatives of multiple youth sport associations. Carducci has revised the initial concepts in response to that feedback and is now collecting additional stakeholder input on the revised plan through a series of listening sessions. This presentation to the City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission is one of those information gathering meetings.

Carducci will use the Input from these sessions to develop final schematic plans for MVWSD Board approval in May. The District and Carducci staff remain committed to an inclusive design process, ensuring that the final plans reflect the specific needs and aspirations of each school and our community's dedication to providing dynamic, comfortable spaces to learn, play and grow.

For more information and a list of meetings held, please visit the [Outdoor Learning Spaces](#) page of the Mountain View Whisman website.

