



Tillicum Elementary School Engagement Report

Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency

April 2025

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Introduction

The Greater Victoria School District and the District of Saanich identified a collaborative, climate-focused opportunity to improve the Tillicum Elementary School site through green infrastructure. The project is also a product of a renewed passion initially expressed by the school's Parent Advisory Council to plant trees on the property.

Through informal feedback avenues within the school's learning community and at the District level, the project grew to include a rain garden to address a flooding and drainage issue due to the slope of the concrete near the school's playground. An outdoor classroom was also added to the project, incorporating an educational space into the landscape design.

Thanks to the efforts of the municipality of Saanich, the project is being generously supported by a \$396,865 grant from the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream of the Provincial Community Engagement Preparedness Fund. This is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The project as a whole has many benefits of which contribute to the municipality's desire to increase tree canopy cover in the Tillicum-Burnside neighborhood and satisfy climate action goals within their Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project.

Purpose

This document aims to capture public feedback on the proposed landscape design of the Tillicum Elementary site gathered through an open house and online survey.

The goals of the engagement were to inform the public about:

- 1) The Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project, a partnership project coordinated by the District of Saanich to mitigate climate change and upgrade the Tillicum-Burnside area with more tree canopy cover.
- 2) The importance of climate change awareness and the impacts of extreme heat and rainfall.
- 3) Native tree planting, vegetation, and raingardens and their ability to mitigate climate hazards.
- 4) The importance of Indigenous knowledge when restoring and caring for natural areas.
- 5) Future project engagement opportunities including a blessing of the land when the time comes to begin planting, in-class learning for students and staff, and a ceremony to celebrate the project once completed.

Feedback on a proposed design focused on:

- 1) Tree and shrub planting (with split rail fencing in various areas on the school site)
- 2) A potential raingarden (subject to grant body approval).
- 3) An outdoor classroom (subject to funding).

Communications & Advertising

Invitations to the open house (including QR code and link to the online survey) were sent to the following groups:

	Group	Medium	Date
1	Senior Leadership Team & Official Trustee	Email with PDF Invitation	February 27, 2025
2	Four Houses	Email with PDF Invitation	February 27, 2025
3	Tillicum Staff & PAC	Email with PDF Invitation	February 27, 2025
4	Tillicum Families	School Messenger	February 27, 2025
5	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Email with PDF Invitation	February 27, 2025

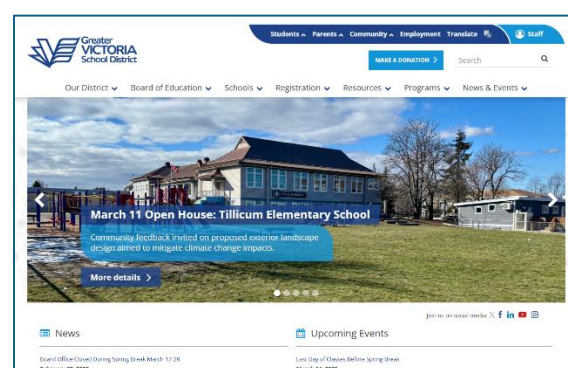
After invitations were sent out, a media advisory was distributed to promote both the open house and the survey which was to go live the same day, March 11, 2025. The media advisory was sent to local radio stations, TV stations, and newspapers (CFAX, CTV, CHEK, Times Colonist, Black Press, etc.) and earned coverage via the [Times Colonist](#), [Black Press](#), and [Victoria Buzz](#). The media advisory was also posted to the School District's website and advertised on the home page of the website using the banner slide function.

The open house and survey were advertised through print ads in Black Press newspapers and on the School District's social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook).

Flyers promoting the open house and the feedback survey were distributed to 131 houses in the Tillicum neighbourhood on March 1, 2025. The flyer/invitation is included as **Appendix A** within this report.



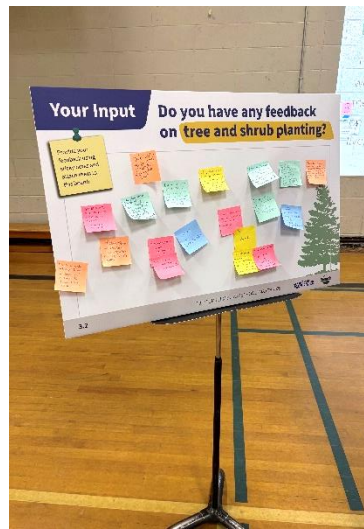
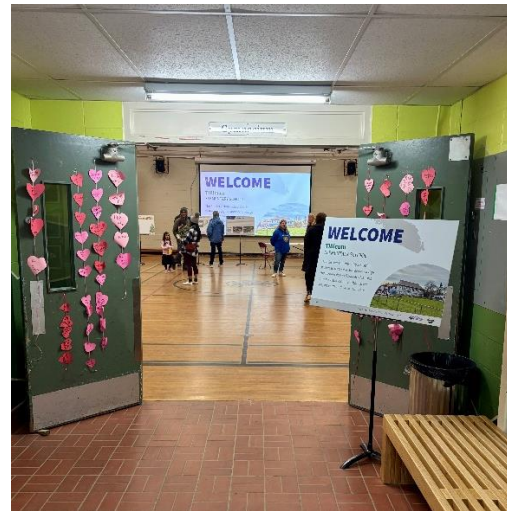
Print ad for Black Press Media



Website banner

Open House Event Summary

- Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- Location:** Tillicum Elementary School Gymnasium
- Format:** In-person drop-in gallery style display of boards and informal Q&A with project experts
- Attendees:**
- ~70 community members (school staff, parents/caregivers, Tillicum neighbours)
 - 3 GVSD representatives (Communications, Indigenous Education, Facilities)
 - 2 GVSD Senior Leadership Team members
 - 2 Tillicum Elementary Administration (Principal and Vice Principal)
 - 2 District of Saanich representatives (Sustainability, Engineering)
 - 1 MDI Landscape Architects Inc. representative
 - 1 Indigenous Education Department representative
 - 1 Island Health, Safe and Healthy Schools



Open House Information Boards

There were 20 boards (**Appendix B** with **Appendix C** including transcribed comments) that were presented to the public in a gallery-style format:

- Two welcome boards with a Territorial Acknowledgement
- A section detailing background information such as the larger scope of Saanich's Green Infrastructure Project, climate projections, benefits of green infrastructure, alignment and strategy, and funding information.
- Multiple copies of the proposed landscape design
- A pair of boards detailing the tree and shrub options with opportunity for feedback
- A pair of boards detailing the importance of rain gardens with opportunity for feedback
- A pair of boards detailing an outdoor classroom with opportunity for feedback
- A section outlining next steps including where we are in the process, ongoing engagement in the classroom and during upcoming groundbreaking / blessing of the land ceremony
- A final board for additional feedback with contact information for both the School District and Saanich Parks department

Participants were encouraged to provide responses to the prompting questions using sticky notes, or by filling out the online survey. Paper comment cards were available for attendees, should that be a more accessible option than moving about the space or accessing the online survey.

All feedback was recorded and incorporated into this document.

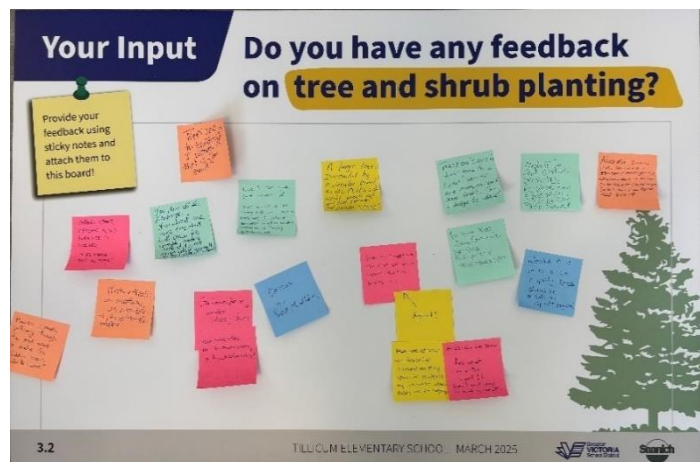
Summary of Feedback Boards

3.2 Feedback on Tree and Shrub Planting

Question: *Do you have any feedback on tree and shrub planting?*

Respondents supported the tree and shrub options listed with the majority of them commenting that they appreciated the focus on Indigenous plants.

Multiple comments mentioned the urgent need for shade and expressed hope for mature trees to be planted so that shade could make an immediate impact (rather than waiting for saplings to grow). Although we understand the desire for urgent changes to be made in terms of increasing shade, we want to ensure that the trees we plant have the best chance of survival. Planting younger trees have a better chance of thriving in a new environment due to their faster growth rates and energy allocation, resiliency, and lower maintenance needs.

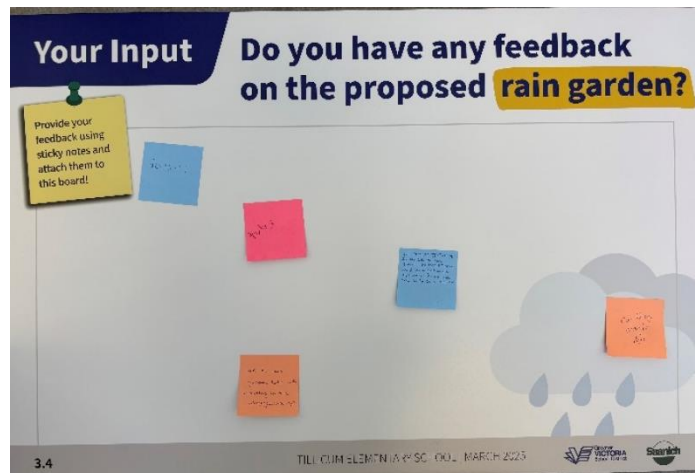


3.4 Feedback on the Rain Garden

Question: *Do you have any feedback on the proposed rain garden?*

Comments suggested to plant flowers in the rain garden. Indigenous plants and perennials that thrive in wet environments will be prioritized for the rain garden.

Some attendees were curious if the garden would double as a play area. The rain garden will be surrounded in split-rail fencing and will not be an area for children to play. Sectioning this area off will reduce the 'muddiness' of the area and allow plants to thrive.

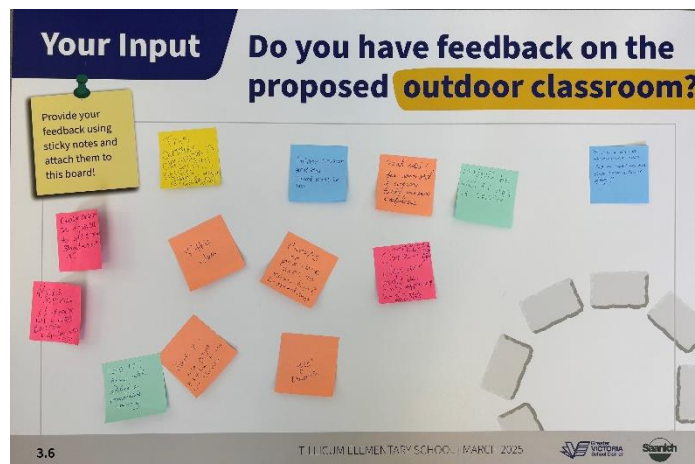


3.6 Feedback on the Outdoor Classroom

Question: *Do you have any feedback on the proposed outdoor classroom?*

All comments supported the idea of an outdoor classroom.

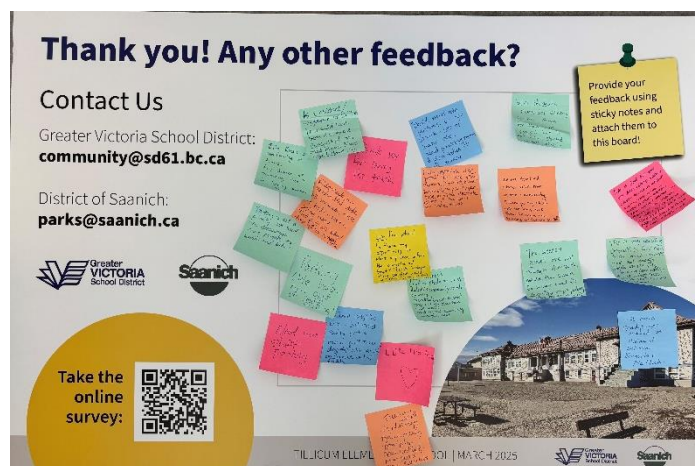
Some suggested improvements to the idea to ensure the area could be used year-round including the possibility of a cover to protect from sun and rain. In the future, funding for a trellis or other type of cover could be considered.



3.6 Other Feedback

Question: *Do you have any other feedback?*

Many comments raised concerns outside the scope of this project including existing road construction and parking (both on street and staff lots). This feedback has been shared with District of Saanich staff who have had discussions with the community on these topics.



Online Survey

The school district also produced a public survey. The 5-question survey was posted on the website and was open from March 11 to April 8. The survey was promoted through the same avenues as the open house, using a QR code to direct community members to the digital survey. There was a total of 51 responses. Respondents included neighbours, parents/caregivers, community members, and staff. A copy of the survey (**Appendix D**) and response summaries (**Appendix E**) are included in this report.

The survey focused on the same three focus areas as the open house:

Trees and Shrub Planting

Many comments expressed gratitude for prioritizing Indigenous plants and for including a large selection. Some suggested additional species and encouraged educational opportunities about the plant regardless of the species chosen.

Some comments expressed concern for the inclusion of plants with berries, particularly snowberries. Snowberries and other Indigenous plants with berries that are proposed for the site usually fruit during the summer months when schools are not in session. Such species occur on other SD61 school sites and throughout the wider community. Split-rail fencing, signage, education, and supervision are all ways to ensure that children respect nature and refrain from digesting berries.

Rain Garden

We received positive feedback for both the aesthetic benefits of a rain garden amid the concrete near the playground as well as the benefits of flooding mitigation and storm water filtration. Some comments suggested adding multiple rain gardens and suggested that this feature be present for all schools and new builds. As with many great ideas, this is currently a budget limitation for this project.

There were some questions about adding trees to the rain garden for added shade. Yes, younger trees will be included in the rain garden design.

There was some concern for children playing in the rain garden and for it to end up collecting garbage. Split-rail fencing and maintenance will alleviate these concerns.

Outdoor Classroom

Much support for this feature, with some referencing positive experiences with outdoor education opportunities at other schools.

Many suggested a cover for the outdoor classroom to support with shade/rain cover. In the future, there may be an opportunity for a cover to be added dependent on funding.

Conclusion

The Greater Victoria School District will consider all feedback collected and aims to inform the community about future updates on this project. This report will be included in the April 29, 2025 Board of Education meeting where the Official Trustee will be presented with the engagement findings.

Appendices

Appendix A	Open House Invitation/Flyer
Appendix B	All Boards
Appendix C	Boards with Transcribed Sticky Note Comments
Appendix D	Online Survey
Appendix E	Survey Results

Appendix A: Open House Invitation/Flyer



Open House: You're Invited!

March 11, 2025 at 4:00pm | Tillicum Elementary School

The Greater Victoria School District and the District of Saanich are hosting a collaborative open house on Tuesday, March 11 at Tillicum Elementary School to gather feedback on a proposed design for the school's exterior landscape. The design aims to mitigate growing climate change impacts through the planting of Indigenous trees and plants. The project design also includes a raingarden and outdoor classroom, subject to funding.

All members of the community are welcome to drop-in and share their input between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. We look forward to creating collaborative spaces together.

Can't make the open house? Take the survey!



Survey opens on March 11: visit www.sd61.bc.ca or scan the QR code to have your say!

This survey closes on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 4:00pm.

Email community@sd61.bc.ca if you need support.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

www.sd61.bc.ca

Page 1/1



Appendix B: All Boards



WELCOME

Tillicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.



1.0
TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025





Background Project Overview

The **Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project** is a partnership project coordinated by the District of Saanich to mitigate climate change and upgrade the Tillicum-Burnside area with extensive tree and vegetation planting and the creation of multiple rain gardens at the following locations:

- 1 Residential Roads Around Tillicum Elementary School**
Construction of rain gardens, plantings, and road and sidewalk improvements began in early 2025 and are expected to be completed in the fall of 2025.
- 2 School Grounds of Tillicum Elementary**
Today, we are asking for your input on the proposed landscape design on school property, which includes tree and shrub plantings as well as a rain garden and outdoor classroom.

This project is being generously supported by a \$396,865 grant from the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream of the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

2.1
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Background Climate Projections

The latest regional climate projections show that major weather events such as heat domes, wildfires, storms, and extreme rainfall will be more frequent and extreme in the future.




Infographic summarizing key projections for the 2050s time period:

- By the 2050s*, on average:
 - More days above 25°C and even up to above 30°C
 - Less temperate and longer dry spells
 - More days of heavy rainfall (40-60 mm or more)
 - Less snow and less frequent snow
 - Longer, hotter, and more frequent heat waves
 - Cooling demand will be higher
 - Longer amounts of rainfall occurring in a single day
 - Heating demand will be lower

*under a high emissions scenario

Timescales for weather, climate, natural climate variability, and climate change:

DAYS	MONTHS	DECADES	CENTURIES
WEATHER			
Precipitation			
Cloudiness			
Cyclones			
Heatwaves			
NATURAL CLIMATE VARIABILITY			
El Niño, La Niña cycles			
Pacific Decadal Oscillation			
Arctic Oscillation			
CLIMATE CHANGE			
Human-induced global warming			
Sea level rise (natural and human-caused)			
Changes to extreme weather			

Learn more and read the report: 

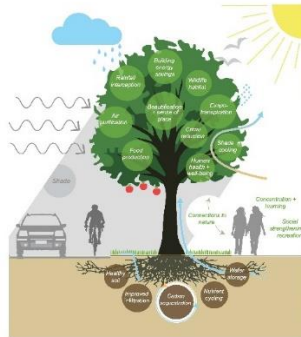
2.2
TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Background Green Infrastructure Benefits

Green infrastructure such as trees, rain gardens and natural areas, offer many benefits including:

- 1 Resilience to Climate Change**
Trees provide shade, cool the air and paved surfaces, reduce severity of storm impacts, reduce domestic water usage, and remove carbon dioxide from the air.
- 2 Biodiversity**
Protecting and recovering Indigenous plants unique to this region can produce complex ecosystems that live for centuries and become lively habitats.
- 3 Human Health and Wellbeing**
Tree canopies promote physical fitness, decrease social isolation, reduce anxiety, and contribute to a sense of wellness.

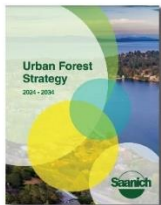


2.3

TILLICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Background Goals and Alignment



Learn more:



The project is also intended to support multiple goals and targets within:

Saanich's urban forest is crucial for the health and well-being of residents and is vital for livability of the community. The Urban Forest Strategy has three primary goals:

- Goal 1.** Protect, connect and enhance the urban forest in harmony with built and natural environments.
- Goal 2.** Foster a culture of community care for the urban forest.
- Goal 3.** Manage the urban forest adaptively based on experience, knowledge, and relationships.



2.4

TILLICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Design Proposed Landscape Design



LEGEND

Existing Asphalt	Existing Play Area	Wood Chips	1 Tree Planting
Existing Concrete	Tree and Shrubs	Sealing Stones	2 Cluster Planting
Existing Lawn	Rain Garden	Split Rail Fence	3 Rain Garden
			4 Outdoor Classroom

3.0

TILLICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Your Input Tree and Shrub Planting

Trees

- ✓ Bigleaf Maple
- ✓ Autumn Flame Scarlet Maple
- ✓ Red Sunset Red Maple
- ✓ Red Alder
- ✓ Pacific Madrone
- ✓ Tupelo
- ✓ Shore Pine
- ✓ Douglas Fir
- ✓ Garry Oak
- ✓ Red Oak
- ✓ Western Red Cedar

Rain Garden Plants

- ✓ Soft Common Rush
- ✓ Slough Sedge
- ✓ Hardhack

Perennials

- ✓ Oregon Fern Lily
- ✓ Camellia
- ✓ Chocolate Lily

✓ Indigenous species

Shrubs

- ✓ Dwarf Red-Twigged Dogwood
- ✓ Red-Twigged Dogwood
- ✓ Red Flowering Currant
- ✓ Snowberry
- ✓ Cowslip
- ✓ Tall Oregon Grape
- ✓ Dwarf Oregon Grape
- ✓ Woody Sandpiper
- ✓ Yarrow
- ✓ Sward Fern
- ✓ Chokeberry
- ✓ Tufted Hair Grass
- ✓ Camas
- ✓ Noddy Rose
- ✓ Salal
- ✓ Red Huckleberry
- ✓ Salmonberry
- ✓ Blackcap Raspberry
- ✓ Lady Fern
- ✓ Miners Lettuce
- ✓ Bulbous Rose




3.1 TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025






Your Input Do you have any feedback on tree and shrub planting?

Provide your feedback using sticky notes and attach them to this board!



3.2 TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025

Your Input Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are landscape features consisting of sunken garden spaces where storm water runoff can pool and infiltrate into deep soil and/or take excess water to storm drains. The proposed rain garden (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is located on the Orillia Street side of the property and designed to manage water runoff and flooding from the large paved play space. The rain garden will also enhance biodiversity, as different species can thrive in this type of habitat.

Example of Rain Garden in SDEs

Craigflower Elementary School Rain Garden



Students and staff planting in 2022.



Two years later in 2024, the rain garden is thriving.

3.3 TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025




Your Input**Do you have any feedback on the proposed rain garden?**

Provide your feedback using sticky notes and attach them to this board!



3.4

TIL LICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025

**Your Input****Outdoor Classroom**

Outdoor classrooms provide all students with a space to learn in the fresh air and sunlight. The space helps facilitate meaningful engagement with nature, especially for Indigenous Education. The outdoor classroom may also be used for special events and gatherings.

There are various outdoor classrooms within the District. The proposed design (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is based on the recently completed outdoor classroom at Esquimalt High.

Example of Outdoor Classroom in SD61

Outdoor Classroom at Esquimalt High School

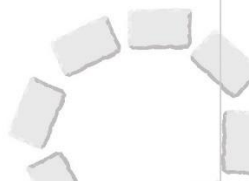


3.5

TIL LICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025

**Your Input****Do you have feedback on the proposed outdoor classroom?**

Provide your feedback using sticky notes and attach them to this board!



3.6

TIL LICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Timeline Where Are We in the Process?

- 1 Initial design informed by Tillicum Elementary Administration, PAC, Facilities Department, Indigenous Education Department, District of Saanich, and Elders Advisory Council.
- We Are Here!**
2 **March 11, 2025:** Public feedback sought to finalize a fully-informed design.
- 3 **Summer 2025:** Preparation of staffing and site.
- 4 **End of Fall 2025:** Planting begins after a blessing of the land and alongside school-wide education and in-class activities.

4.1

TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Next Steps Ongoing Engagement

- 1 **In-classroom and School Learning**
Understanding Indigenous ways of being and knowing are crucial to the care and respect of natural areas.
- 2 **Online Survey Open Until April 8, 2025**
Take more time to share your thoughts or pass along the link to a friend or family member.
- 3 **Groundbreaking / Blessing of the Land, Indigenous Art, and Celebration Ceremonies**
More information coming soon!

Take the survey:



4.2

TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Thank you! Any other feedback?

Contact Us

Greater Victoria School District:
community@sd61.bc.ca

District of Saanich:
parks@saanich.ca



Take the online survey:



Provide your feedback using sticky notes and attach them to this board!



TILlicum ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MARCH 2025



Appendix C: Boards with Transcribed Sticky Note Comments

3.2 Tree and Shrub Planting

- Love it. More green stuff, thumbs up! Main concern is kids being kids and trampling everything. A balance between creating something immersive vs fencing everything off.
- Trees next to buildings? I wonder if that is fire smart?
- Yes love all the plantings. How about one more tree that will grow big (maybe seating around it) on North side of asphalt on East side of school
- Great start! Hedging along Burnside is needed. More shade the better!
- How can we create pathways through the treed areas to enable the children to access into the nature?
- Mature trees; as mature as possible. Try to get shade ASAP
- Salmonberry under shady trees
- Love the idea of salmonberry and huckleberries
- Camas. Try Red huckleberry
- A large tree surrounded by a circular bench on the Orilla side would break up all that concrete and provide SHADE!
- Evergreen trees along Burnside for noise mitigation and street beautification
- Asphalt in front of school (Orilla St), for shade have a fast growing tree planted such as a Dogwood
- TREES on Burnside should provide a visual barrier and dampen sound from traffic. Can a hedge be added?
- Wouldn't it be nice to supply some shade in middle of asphalt play area?
- Need for shade for southeast asphalt area (Orilla). Recommend a 20'x20' planter with fast growing tree(s). This will reduce heat build up.
- Somewhat disappointed the giant old barren asphalt desert is staying as-is
 - *Separate sticky note referencing the above note:* Agreed!
 - *Separate sticky note referencing the above note:* Alternative opinion: the blacktop is essential play space for students esp. in winter when the fields are so soggy
 - *Separate sticky note referencing the above note:* Re: Alternate Opinion. How about one or two trees? It doesn't take many to make an impact!

3.4 Rain Garden

- Daisies
- Tulips
- Will the rain garden help with flooding in the playground too?
- Will there be opportunity for the kids to move through the trees? They could have pathways throughout to ensure more spontaneous interaction?
- Can they play in it?

3.4 Classroom

- This outdoor classroom is necessity!! :) So crucial to promote outdoor learning!
- Outdoor classroom: Is it possible to add a covered structure over it?
- Bus stop on Burnside will need better lighting with trees
- Love it! Agree with adding a removable covering
- Overall, it's a nice project and important to avoid tree clustration
- <3 this idea


- Yes! Durable
- Canopy
- Outdoor classroom great idea. Covered would be nice.
- Outdoor classroom would be greatly appreciated as on the design plans. Important for connecting kids w nature + showing ownership over what happens in nature
- Great idea! Yes some sort of covering would increase usefulness
- It would be nice to have it covered
- Build a arbor structure over top of seating for vine-types + reduce heat!!

X Any Other Feedback

- I like the trees <3
- School stuff is nice—but could easily put a 1-way pull thru (Alb-> Orillia) on Burnside end of fields
- Need more staff parking
- Parking (we have run out of staff parking!
- Parking is not a priority—we need to encourage more people to walk and bike!
- Sidewalk on residential side will increase risk to kids—more xing road. Just put all school drop off on school side
- Trees are great. Is planting taking away from play space? I'd pick play space over shrubs
- Bike Racks are overflowing at times. Any chance of expanding them? le adding another rack?
- Thank you for leaving the track
- Love the plans! Is there any opportunity to plant any trees within the concrete out front? Thick hedging along Burnside would be ideal! (sound, pollution)
- All the trees creating shade for all the students and community sounds amazing. Rain gardens will be great also love the classroom rock outside. Making our community more beautiful.
- The grass + gravel are not needed on Albina Rd, use this space for wider road for drop off/pickup + parking. Lawn rarely get cut.
- As a resident/neighbour on Orillia it would have been nice to be consulted on road plans 5 yrs ago before they dug up my lawn
- Don't need rain gardens on our streets—lots of lawns etc. Need parking more + plan takes it all away
- Rain gardens are great for long term planning, it's a wet biome. Roads can't get larger, time to find alternate modes of transport for some trips
- We are thrilled about more trees in the community. Although my child will be long gone from Tillicum I am thrilled for future students
- Will students consider collecting acorns, if not for their own project but to get trees started for next school
- Plan is good but does not accommodate student safety re: drop off and pickup cars turning around in middle of street, dumpsters being loaded and unloaded....tragedy waiting to happen—suggest modify running track so a pick-up zone utilizing Maddock and school side of fence to create a traffic circle
- This is very exciting. Overall, I feel there is too much concrete and not enough shade on the site. Please consider adding a few select trees in the vast expanse of cement
- 2 more speed bumps needed on Albina St between Burnside + Maddock

Appendix D: Online Survey

English (United States)



Tillicum Elementary - Landscape Design Feedback


The Greater Victoria School District and the District of Saanich are seeking feedback on a proposed design for the exterior landscape of the Tillicum Elementary School site. The project is part of Saanich's Green Infrastructure & Climate Resiliency Project which aims to mitigate growing climate change impacts by increasing tree canopy cover and building rain gardens. Thank you for your voice and for completing this survey by 4:00pm on April 8, 2025. Responses are anonymous, and results will be shared with the Official Trustee.

More information: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/community/tillicum-greeninfrastructure/>

The Greater Victoria School District and the District of Saanich wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

* Required

Proposed Landscape Design



LEGEND

- 1 Tree Planting
- 2 Cluster Planting
- 3 Rain Garden
- 4 Outdoor Classroom

1

Which of the options below best describe your connection the Greater Victoria School District? *

- ☐ Representative of one of the Four Houses: Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria, or Urban Peoples' House Indigenous Advisory
- ☐ Parent/Guardian/Caregiver
- ☐ Staff Member
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Tillicum/Gorge/Burnside Resident
- ☐ Other

2

A variety of trees and shrubs have been proposed in collaboration with the District of Saanich and the Greater Victoria School District with feedback from the Indigenous Education Department and the Elders Advisory Council. Species have been selected based on their likelihood to thrive in the Tillicum area, taking into account rainfall, soil type, cluster planting options, etc.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed selection of trees and shrubs? *



Trees

- ✓ Bigleaf Maple
- ✓ Autumn Flame Scarlet Maple
- ✓ Red Sunset Red Maple
- ✓ Red Alder
- ✓ Pacific Madrone
- ✓ Tupelo
- ✓ Shore Pine
- ✓ Douglas Fir
- ✓ Garry Oak
- ✓ Red Oak
- ✓ Western Red Cedar

Shrubs

- ✓ Dwarf Red Twigged Dogwood
- ✓ Red Twigged Dogwood
- ✓ Red Flowering Currant
- ✓ Snowberry
- ✓ Downspout
- ✓ Tall Oregon Grape
- ✓ Dwarf Oregon Grape
- ✓ Woody Sunflower
- ✓ Yarrow
- ✓ Sword Fern
- ✓ Osoberry
- ✓ Tufted Hair Grass
- ✓ Camas
- ✓ Nootka Rose
- ✓ Salal
- ✓ Red Huckleberry
- ✓ Salmonberry
- ✓ Blackcap Raspberry
- ✓ Lady Fern
- ✓ Miners Lettuce
- ✓ Baldhip Rose

Rain Garden

- ✓ Soft Common Rush
- ✓ Slough Twinge
- ✓ Hardhack

Perennials

- ✓ Oregon Fawn Lily
- ✓ Camas
- ✓ Chocolate Lily

✓ Indigenous species

Enter your answer

3

Rain gardens are landscape features consisting of sunken garden spaces where storm water runoff can pool and infiltrate into deep soil and/or take excess water to storm drains. The proposed rain garden (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is located on the Orillia Street side of the property and designed to manage water runoff and flooding from the large, paved play space. The rain garden will also enhance biodiversity, as different species can thrive in this type of habitat.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed rain garden? *

Example of Existing Rain Garden in SD61

Craigflower Elementary School Rain Garden



Students and staff planting in 2022.




Two years later in 2024, the rain garden is thriving.

Enter your answer

4

Outdoor classrooms provide all students with a space to learn in the fresh air and sunlight. The space helps facilitate meaningful engagement with nature, especially for Indigenous Education. The outdoor classroom may also be used for special events and gatherings. There are various outdoor classrooms within the District. The proposed design (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is based on the recently completed outdoor classroom at Esquimalt High.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed outdoor classroom? * 

Example of Existing Outdoor Classroom in SD61

Outdoor classroom at Esquimalt High School



Enter your answer

5

Any additional feedback? * 

Proposed Landscape Design



Enter your answer

You can print a copy of your answer after you submit

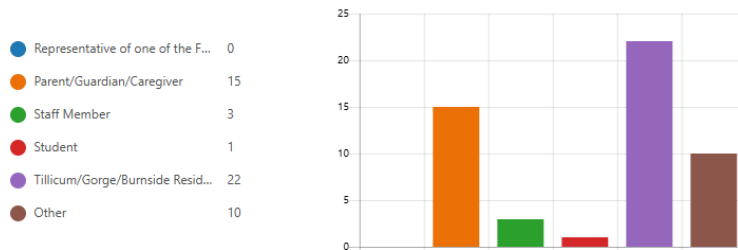
Submit

Appendix E: Survey Results

SECTION 1

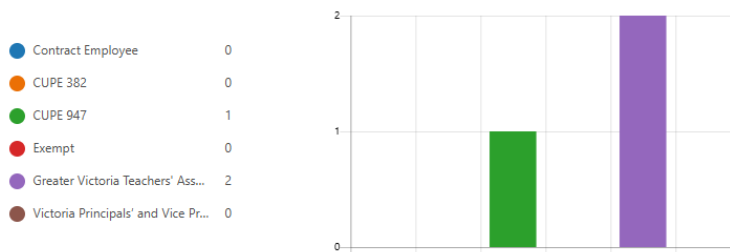
Question 1 [Multiple Choice with “Other” Text Option]:

Which of the below best describes your connection to the Greater Victoria School District?



Question 2 [Multiple Choice]:

To which employee group do you belong?



Question 3 [Open Text]:

A variety of trees and shrubs have been proposed in collaboration with the District of Saanich and the Greater Victoria School District with feedback from the Indigenous Education Department and the Elders Advisory Council. Species have been selected based on their likelihood to thrive in the Tillicum area, taking into account rainfall, soil type, cluster planting options, etc. Do you have any feedback on the proposed selection of trees and shrubs?

- There isn't going to be enough rain for cedars in the near future. Planting should focus on Garry oak meadow species and arbutus and other drought-tolerant species to improve viability. Food for wildlife and food for foraging residents should also be emphasized.
- N/A
- Selections sound good to me.
- Looks great
- No
- Nothing to add. Looks good.
- Maple trees and lillies
- Looks great!
- What about using the Miyawaki Method for a densified area on the grounds?
- these all look amazing. It is great to see so many native plants.
- Beautiful and practical suggestions!
- Seems good to me
- Love the selection of native plants

- If experts have been consulted then who am I to differ. Well done
- Looks like a good list to start with.
- Love it that you have chosen native species! Thanks for being a leader and example and hopefully an inspiration in this regard
- None
- Trees. Shrubs always end up looking unkempt and it's a lot of work to maintain. Lillies are toxic to animals.
- Love this idea of a rain garden hope lots of flowers too 😊 and the trees will give shade that is much needed
- All sound beautiful
- The selections look appropriate.
- Love that you have a variety of native plants. This will provide good habitat and native plant learning environment for the students.
- Love the idea of mostly indigenous species, with flowers!
- No
- Looks great!
- Fruit trees, food forest plants, FN medicine, KEXMIN
- Seems like a good variety.
- Looks good
- its sounds great, but kids will for sure try to eat all the berries, even the poisonous ones - great opportunity for education!
- Good to see a focus on local + Indigenous species
- Looks good!
- No
- Each year we have issues with all the chestnuts falling on the schoolyard and the children throwing them at each other. I would prefer to not have trees that totoms like this.
- The more the better!
- Hi, I am a landscape gardener and designer with more than a decade of experience. Here are my 2 cents:
 - Snowberry = toxic - please, we would prefer edible, kid friendly berries wherever possible. Such as:
 - Vaccinium ovatum - much less finicky than red huckleberry and also evergreen. It often has berries in the fall still when kids return to school. It's often used, even in commercial landscaping.
 - Also, please add some Saskatoon berries (Amelanchier) for spring flowers and summer berries, for both birds and neighbourhood residents.
 - For lower maintenance costs I would also avoid fussing about small annual stuff like miner's lettuce, or fancy natives like fawn and chocolate lilies. Remember dogs and kids and people in general will be trampling all over the place! We need tough as nails perennials. All perennial except maybe Slough sedge will require regular weeding and are in danger of being affected by dog activity and foot traffic, so unless they are being used in a sort of island to itself, educational area, I would not recommend.
- Indigenous plants would be great. Nothing that can become invasive
- Love that you're using native plants
- Good selection

- Yes its all a waste of money. stop bike lanes that no one uses then maybe use the money from that for this useless project
- Arbutus trees are very difficult to transplant and are unlikely to survive. Red Alder trees are prone to failure and are not really appropriate unless given lots of room (ie in a larger naturalized area).
- Indigenous species preferred.
- I support the use of climate resilience native species with cultural significance.
- Sounds good!
- In 2024, I planted a mini-forest in my yard in this neighborhood, using essentially this identical list. So, I think this is wonderful. I can tell you that Pacific madrone (aka Arbutus) are known to have a very high mortality rate upon transplantation, despite the fact that they seem to thrive in extremely rocky areas in nature. Nine months after planting, 2 out of 3 of my transplants are dead and the last one is hanging on for dear life.
- Just wondering if the snowberry has any toxicity issues with the younger students
- They all sound great
- Good
- Stick to native plants that will survive in our west coast environment and are self sustaining.
- Native species would be preferred
- Nice
- Children are more vulnerable to heat-related illness (dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke) and skin damage from UV radiation, which can increase the risk of melanoma later in life. Providing sun safe and heat resilient settings for this group is critical to reducing these negative health impacts; and it also supports outdoor play opportunities which is critical for children's mental, physical and social development.
 - Green space is associated with improved health outcomes. For example, trees can capture and filter air pollutants which can improve air quality and are also associated with reduced air temperatures and relief from heat stress at a street and neighbourhood scale. Studies also suggest that having access to urban trees/local green areas fosters physical activity, provides mental health & well-being benefits and is associated with decreased stress and risks of chronic conditions. In addition, while all members of a community can benefit from exposure to green space, increasing access to nearby green space offers opportunities to reduce health inequities.
 - A couple of situations that may introduce ecosystem disservice: 1) when green space is poorly maintained or perceived as unsafe, it may increase stress and decrease health and well-being of residents 2) tree pollen can exacerbate allergies for some people stressed trees (e.g. due to drought) can also produce more pollen.
 - To maximize the health benefits of vegetation, consider tree and vegetation selection and placement with respect to climate resilience (e.g. suitable to site/environment; mitigates urban heat island effect, air pollution, stormwater runoff), allergens, aesthetics and maintenance
 - Sources: 1) Climate Change, Population Health and Health Equity (CPHA, CHASE, OPHA, 2023); 2) Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit (PHSA 2018); 3) Shade Lookbook: A guide to designing sun safety (BC Cancer, Sunsafe BC, UBC, 2024); 4) Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate (Health Canada, 2024); 5) Factsheet: Tree stock selection (link: <https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/resources/factsheet-tree-stock-selection>); 6) Climate change, health equity, and the built environment: Public Health Practice Guide (ORCCA 2025)

Question 4 [Open Text]:

Rain gardens are landscape features consisting of sunken garden spaces where storm water runoff can

pool and infiltrate into deep soil and/or take excess water to storm drains. The proposed rain garden (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is located on the Orillia Street side of the property and designed to manage water runoff and flooding from the large, paved play space. The rain garden will also enhance biodiversity, as different species can thrive in this type of habitat. Do you have any feedback on the proposed rain garden?

- Rain gardens are excellent ideas. Please integrate them everywhere they can possibly be placed on the schools' grounds.
- N/A
- Good idea.
- Rain gardens are great and should be considered in all new builds
- Ensure nothing poisoning to children
- Great idea.
- Good plan
- Is it meant for a place to play too? Or will the kids be asked to stay out of it? If so, I'm not sure about cutting into the kids play area for outdoor time as it's already not huge.
- great addition to the campus.
- A great way to beautify the school. In addition, to filter the water before getting into the stormwater system.
- Should be well suited for Tillicum school too!
- Great!
- I like it!
- Subject to funding? Of no \$ then what ?
- I appreciate that a rain garden is being included.
- Good idea
- None
- Makes sense to have
- What a fabulous idea and I love this as we also live on Orillia st so will love seeing the transformation ❤️
- Will be lovely if it is properly maintained
- A rain garden is very needed in this area. There is a high amount of pooling and flooding during rain in this area. There is a lot a significant amount of concrete. It would be great to break it up with a rain garden. I think this is a high priority.
- Yay! Great idea!
- More rain gardens would be ideal, if space allows. With increasing precipitation, it's important to build more green infrastructure in paved settings. Add in more veggie gardens too!
- Sounds great
- Great upgrade!
- I would like to see more extensive use of rain gardens around parking / paved areas
- I hope this gets implemented. Rain gardens are essential features of urban green infrastructure, and they can also serve as an educational opportunity for students to learn about biodiversity and climate change.
- I think rain gardens are always a good idea, always good to add more green space
- its awesome
- Nice way to get kids involved in local ecosystems
- Is there an initiative to build more rain gardens in the future?
- No

- Putting a rain garden on the outside of the fence would be a good idea
- Amazing!
- Great idea in terms of that specific spot which always floods in the winter! I wonder if Saskatoon berries (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) could be planted at the edges with hardhack? They love a moist ditchside.
- There is limited rain control
- Sounds like a great plan. Is there a way to tie it into class learning? Not just as it's being put together but for future years as well?
- Perhaps integrating even more rain gardens
- More wasted moneh
- They typically become garbage collectors so as long as the school staff have funding to clean out I think this is a great spot.
- Great inclusion. We need more rain gardens. I created one in our back yard and it has been great in controlling water/rain run-off in our sloping lot.
- I support the rain garden design. I would like to see additional rain gardens on the Albina St. or Burnside sides to manage and treat runoff.
- Epic!
- Since an over-arching goal is to increase canopy cover in this neighborhood, is there any chance you could add any type of trees here?
- No issue with this
- Awesome
- Good
- Try to create an environment that is self sustaining
- No
- Nice
- Climate hazards (e.g. stormwater flooding, extreme heat events) can result in direct health impacts (e.g. injury, impairment, heat exhaustion, exacerbating of existing conditions) and indirect health impacts (e.g. due to school operation disruption, infrastructure damage). Nature-based solutions, such as rain gardens, enhance resilience and safety to climate hazards. It also increases natural environments/greenspace which has health co-benefits as aforementioned. (Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate)

Question 5 [Open Text]:

Outdoor classrooms provide all students with a space to learn in the fresh air and sunlight. The space helps facilitate meaningful engagement with nature, especially for Indigenous Education. The outdoor classroom may also be used for special events and gatherings. There are various outdoor classrooms within the District. The proposed design (subject to funding) for Tillicum Elementary is based on the recently completed outdoor classroom at Esquimalt High. Do you have any feedback on the proposed outdoor classroom?

- An outdoor classroom should also include a community garden or food garden for students, so that they can plant and tend both native and cultivated species as part of their education.
- Yes
- Great to have this as an option for outdoor learning.
- Totally support this. My grandchildren love outdoor school opportunities at Marigold. Kids are starved for nature based outdoor activities .
- Great idea fresh air

- High support for outdoor classrooms.
- Love this idea!
- Great sharing circle
- Outdoor classroom should be a shaded, with tall trees or with a simple structure. Without a shade or rain cover the usefulness drops dramatically.
- fresh air for the kids, will make learning so much fun!
- Excellent proposal!
- Love it!
- 10/10
- I like it
- No shade?
- Great idea; what about a covering, even a “fabric”, to protect from rain and sun?
- The outdoor classroom would benefit from a cover or canopy of some kind, so that it could be used in any weather.
- Always good to get kids outside and away from technology
- It's an awesome thing and hope it happens was wondering if it could have like a gazebo over it so could still go out when it rains ☁
- That will be great for the kids
- This is very needed at Tillicum Elementary. I hope that the partners can find funding to make this project happen.
- No
- Love it! Options for shade/shelter or mobile chalkboards would be great too!
- No
- Maybe some more trees
- larger capacity in outdoor classroom. Outdoor music / percussion
- This is good.
- we need more of these!!
- more plants!
- I hope it will be more aesthetic than this gravel pit
- Could there be a rain or cluster garden attached to the outdoor classroom? Perhaps it could add insight for the students for them to see and learn about the benefits of these gardens directly in their “classroom”.
- Will there be any covering of the outdoor classroom for use during rain or hot days (for shade)
- I think an outdoor garden space for a classroom would be fantastic. I would even like it to be covered. Would you even be better for our students?
- Love it!
- Love that it's circular
- Sounds great
- Seems like a nice idea I would love to see it at least partially covered (for shade or to use while the weather is mild but possibly raining)
- Any protection from jagged rock edges?
- same as all other answers more waste of money
- This would be fantastic for the students and teachers.
- Great idea. As an ex-teacher, I would have loved to have this option. I used a cemetery across the street from a high school that I taught at, in the 70's, as an outdoor classroom! the residents didn't mind.!
- Planting trees near the outdoor classroom would help provide shade for students.

- Those rocks look uncomfortable to sit on. No back support. Please only do this when the weather is nice, and put some camping chairs in there or something.
- This will be magical once you have some canopy cover to shade, shelter it.
- Great idea
- Comfy seating and circles are great
- Good
- Your design concepts are elaborate and expensive looking. What is the cost?
- Would a roof be helpful to make this an all-season learning space?
- Nice
- Consider heat, sun safety and shelter from changing seasons and weather conditions in the outdoor classroom design for year-round use. Co-design with students, teachers, IED staff etc. to support its use. Designing the outdoor classroom to be multi-purpose or with multi-purpose elements can also benefit the neighbourhood. Providing an inviting, inclusive outdoor space for broader community use beyond school hours can strengthen social cohesion. Also consider designing the outdoor space for all ages and physical abilities.

Question 6 [Open Text]:

Any additional feedback?

- More trees on the Orillia Street side, please, as this is the south side and it can shade the grounds.
- N/A
- No additional feedback, but thoughtful of you to gather community feedback.
- So pleased this is happening
- Trees along burnside would be nice it's so stark currently
- I think this looks great and I look forward to seeing it.
- Outdoor classroom
- I would suggest leaving the field on the left for sports and not include cluster planting over there. The kids use it for soccer and in the proposed plan i don't see space enough for soccer nets and games, just the track.
- A thicker double layer of tall trees along Burnside would enhance the separation from the busy roadways noise and exposure.
- How can we help for this project to go forward?
- I'm a retired primary schoolteacher. Initiated there and used well at my elementary school.
- Is that a running track? Gravel? Rubberized?
- Hope this retains the ability to have dogs in the field after school hours as it's a valuable community space for non-students after hours. The design is great - love the addition of more trees in the area and native plantings!
- Make it happen quickly and cost effectively. EG keep SD employees out of it
- Looks like a good start and hoping it can grow. My vision is a paradigm shift so those who own land or spaces that include land, like this, shift to consider how it could be used more responsibly to either grow food or habitat. Nudge the new building on Tillicum and the bingo hall site to plant natives, include rain gardens. Link this to the native plant garden in the gorge park community garden and the native plant garden at Burnside and Wascana. Thank you for this. Let's do more! Laurie Jones.
- The pavement on the Orillia side is a barren ugly space. Yes I understand that you need a hard surface for children to play on when the fields get squishy and muddy in the winter. But could there even be a single tree with a potential to grow very large with possibly some seating around it to provide shade and beauty? Like a big leaf maple?

- None
- Outdoor classroom would be less noisy and less distractions on the other side of the school and closer to the actual school portable.
- What a great addition of trees and flowers making the school and community a more comfy space to hangout and have a lunch under the trees and maybe one of those walking stories 😊
- The more trees the better!
- Many more trees and shrubs are needed for this neighbourhood and school grounds. There are very few areas of shelter and coverage at Tillicum. I hope this project proceeds well.
- No
- Happy to see that green landscaping is a concern, however I think there could be more green coverage than is represented in this plan. Replace some of the turf!?
- Looks better than existing space
- I love it
- I had hoped the forested / treed areas would be more extensive
- Seems like a solid plan to me!
- N/A
- nope!
- Nice to see a schoolyard that isn't just concrete and turf
- It would be nice to see more rain gardens surrounding the building!
- Will the student population be able to be involved in any of the work?
- I am fine with doing some garden worker around the school grounds, but we need to make sure that we have a soccer field for the students to play so we need to have a field that has two goals and it would be preferred on the Maddock School field as we also use that Field for track practice
- PLEASE get rid of the frisbee golf! I've seen way too many times adults almost hitting kids with frisbees after school and weekends. They don't belong on a little kid school ground. Move them to Hampton.
- No
- Sure
- I was personally hoping that it would include a learning garden for the students. Where classes would learn how to plant/grow/compost through out the year.
- Nice layout
- same as all other answers more waste of money
- The planting at the corner of Maddock and Orillia takes away one of the only usable baseball backstops for the immediate neighbourhood that is not over programmed like the ones at Hampton. I see parents and young kids using this to practice on the weekends all the time. I would leave that particular area alone so that it can be used for active recreation.
- As an avid gardener but not a landscape designer, this looks great to me.
- Planting additional trees on the fields will provide more shade for students and help meet canopy cover targets. Under story planting around the trees would support tree health.
- nope
- Burnside is really loud and busy, so tree plantings that block sound and dust will be nice. Trees and shrubs that provide food for the community and wildlife should be considered, eg. beaked hazelnut, saskatoon etc.
- Although they are not native, I do like the idea of the sunset Maple And the autumn Scarlet with good fall color. It is a nice sign of seasonal change for the neighbours and I'm sure staff and students as well.
- We're excited for all of it! Time outside is amazing 🍁
- None

- I love the fact that you are enhancing the tree canopy and understory
- No
- Nice
- Island Health encourages consideration of other measures to mitigate urban heat island effect from the paved surface and additional shade and shelter. - Landscape design that also promotes broader community use beyond school hours can expand recreational opportunities and foster social connections, thereby promoting healthier neighbourhoods. - Consider how the green infrastructure project can be woven into broader school strategies or planning that address other Tillicum Elementary School learning and health priorities (e.g. Indigenous land-based learning, food security/nutrition, physical activity, mental health active transportation, inclusivity etc.) By integrating and coordinating this project with other learning or health goals, there may be opportunities to seek additional grant funding, community partnerships and other supports. -If there are questions or further details requested regarding feedback provided, Island Health welcomes the opportunity for follow-up conversation.