

Outdoor Classroom at Grayhawk Elementary School

A project by



Process

1. Define Purpose of Space
2. Gather information/site visits
3. Establish Focus Areas
 - Staff Interviews
4. Establish Needs/Wants/Likes
 - Teacher and Staff Survey
 - Parent Survey
 - Student Survey
5. Set Budget
 - Appropriate photos on surveys to set expectations
 - Grants/Community Sponsors

Purpose

- Establish an outdoor educational space appropriate for pre-K – 6th Grade
- Enhance and support Core Knowledge Curriculum
- Able to serve multiple functions
 - Garden
 - Presentation
 - STEAM
- Space for more than one group to use at a time; inclusive of all abilities and ages

Special Thank You to
Mrs. Romm for her
teacher insights



Amphitheater at
Sonoran Sky



Outdoor Chess Set



Pond Area at Sonoran
Sky



Colorful
Amphitheater



Sample Art
Station



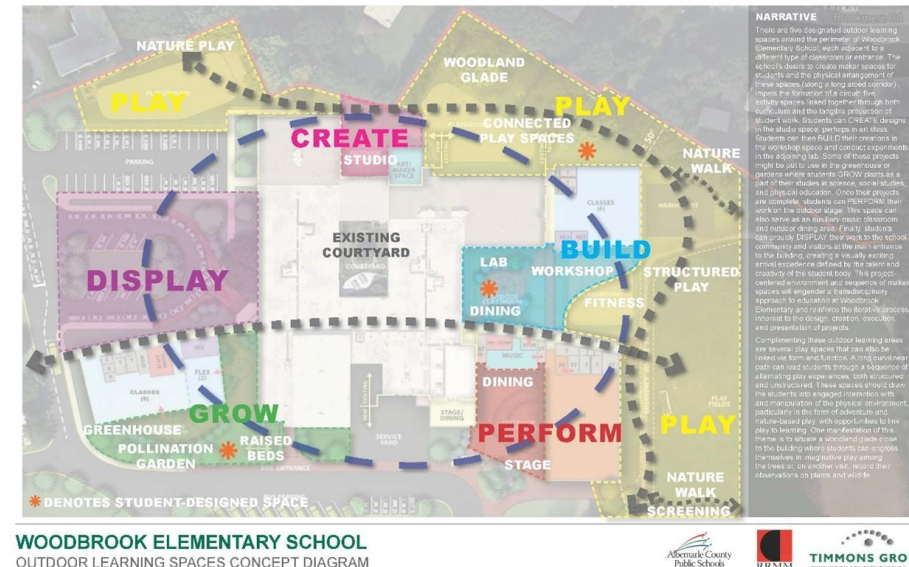
Shaded Amphitheater

Gathering Information/ Site Visits

What We Learned

“Outdoor Classroom” Means Different Things to Different People.

- What does Outdoor Classroom mean to you?
 - Garden Area – Large upkeep, lots of volunteers, expensive, invites wildlife/rodents
 - Gathering Area – shaded; min occupancy 30, optimal occupancy entire grade (90)
 - Play Area
 - Learning Area
 - Art/Creative Area
 - Water Study
 - Weather Study
- One of the best ways to organize the space is by focus area
 - Amphitheater/Gathering/Presenting
 - Creating/Building
 - Intellectual Exercise/Play
 - Garden



Focus Areas

Approx 10,000 ft²

Kinder Parking Lot

76th Street

Amphitheater with
presentation boards

Creating/
Building

Current
Storage
Shed

Intellectual Exercise/
Play

Garden

School Building

Focus Area Activities

Amphitheater

Shared learning and gathering space
Seating and presentation materials
Shade structure



Creating/Building

Space to create art or build with natural materials
Built in Easels
Large open area for group building
Movable tables for experimenting



Intellectual Exercise/ Playing



Weather station connect with local news?



Garden

Raised garden beds for planting, growing, and observing



Next Steps



Establish Budget

- Helps set expectations of the space
- Aids with reaching out to community partners for support
- Allows for solicitation of contractor bids
- Determine district contributions



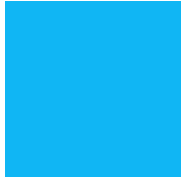
Survey Staff

- Use Google Form
 - What would this space look like to you?
 - How would you use this space in your teaching?
- Pre-approval from Mrs. Pavlik



Survey Parents/Students

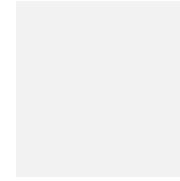
- Sets expectations for the space
- Gives parents/students a voice and involvement in school projects
- STUCO partnership



\$25,000+

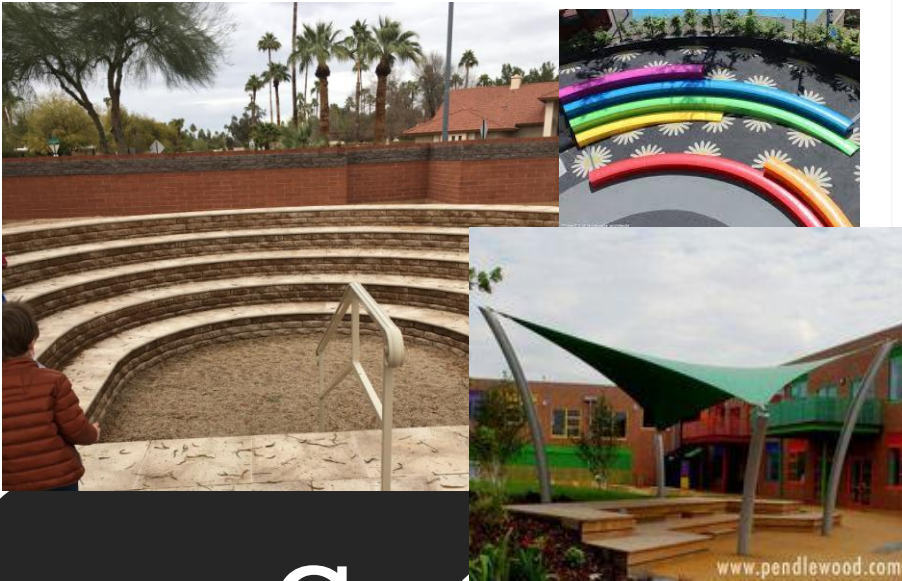


\$5,000-20,000



<\$5,000/parent project

Cost Examples



Estimates based on online research



Shadesailsaz.com

Shade Sails
starts at
\$20/ft²



azturfmasters.com

Turf \$5-7/ft²



homedepot.com

24.9 ft³/\$253

28.4 ft³/\$132

Raised
Planters



remodelingexpense.com

Basic Concrete
sidewalk \$5/ft²



totturf.com

Rubber
Surface \$13-
21/ft²
including base

Ongoing Costs

- District responsibilities: complete fencing, water and electric
- Security installation and monitoring, locked storage supply area
- New line item in annual budget for annual expenses (seeds, plants, fertilizer)

Additional Funding Sources

