Design and Maintenance

CREATING A STONGER LINK

Andy Rasmussen, Weisman Design Group

Example Project : Machias Elementary School

Snohomish School District

Landscape Architect : Weisman Design Group Architect: NAC Architecture General Contractor: Graham Contracting Landscape and Irrigation Contractor: Scapes Landscape Maintenance: Snohomish School District Staff

Pre-design process

• WDG met with stakeholders to define use and maintenance goals.

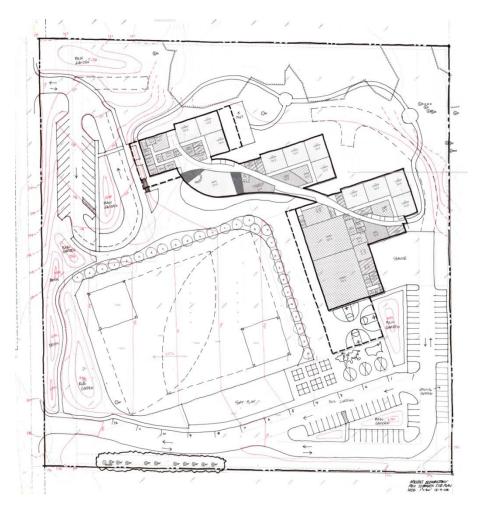
Maintenance staff objectives	Sustainability committee objectives
Basic low maintenance landscapes	Drought tolerant and native plants
More lawn and concrete	Less irrigation intensive lawns
Less planting beds	Rain gardens and on site infiltration
Mow strips to reduce string trimming	Visible stormwater as educational tool
Weed barrier under paths	Use less chemicals
Minimize features to maintain under	Reuse on site water
Anti-skateboard devices or features	Natural features/play areas
Lasting furniture and play equipment	Re-use on site materials
Irrigate lawn areas only Limit lawn slopes to 4:1 where possible	Temporary irrigation at shrub areas

Context



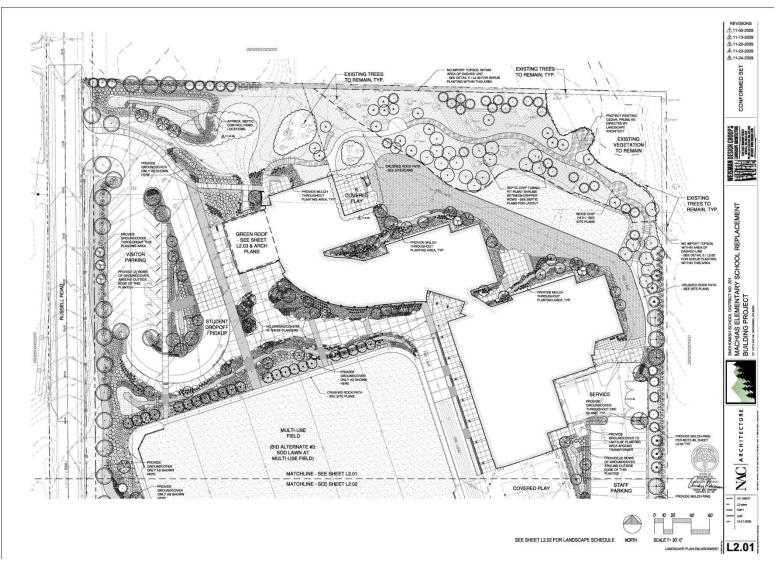
Neighbors are farms, large lots, and Pilchuck River

Early Design Decisions

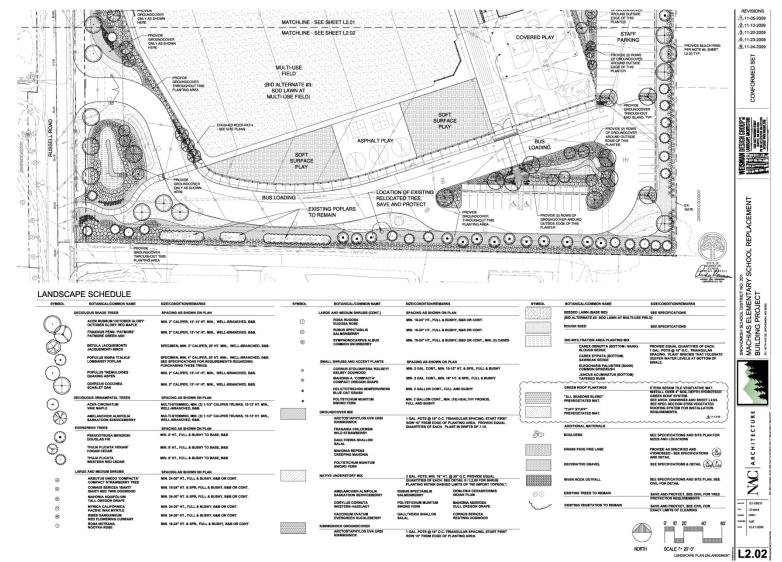


Consolidate lawn at play field. Preserve trees in corner of site. Nature path concept

Final Site-Landscape Plan North



Final Site-Landscape Plan South



Overall Landscape Plan



MACHIAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LANDSCAPE PLAN RENDERING

WEISMAN DESIGN GROUP

Nearly Completed



The school was designed to meet the Washington sustainable schools protocol

Building sustainable features	Site sustainable features
100 Kw photovoltaic system on gym roof	Drought tolerant and native plants
Ground source heating loop under field	50% reduction in irrigation water use
Low emitting materials	Rain gardens and 100% on site infiltration
Re-use of materials from existing school	Reduction in below grade storm water pipe
Natural day-lighting to reduce energy use	Reuse of existing materials
Super insulated building shell	Reuse of existing play equipment
View of nature from all classrooms	No offsite sewer discharge
Recycling during and after construction	Grass pave fire lane
No fossil fuel use for heating/cooling	Demonstration green roof



On site storm water infiltration



• Outdoor learning areas



• Reuse of existing materials



Demonstration green roof

Installation maintenance issues



Removal of invasive blackberry

Installation maintenance issues



• Spring install of rain gardens



Nature trail vs. blackberries



Blackberry wins?



• Window and gutter cleaning



• Mowing around septic lids...



• Weed seeds washing into rain gardens



• Glu-lam benches delaminating



• Gravel jogging path edge



Mowing corners of backstop



• Mowing around kindergarten grow box...



• String trim around sign?



• Wind blown weed seeds...

Lessons learned

 You can't have zero maintenance, but you can work to reduce the amount required while reducing your impact on the environment.

Design and maintenance successes	Maintenance issues to address
Amended soils will encourage plant growth and reduce fertilizer needs.	Techniques for the reduction of fertilizer use at lawns
The right native plants can reduce water use and amount of pruning	Wind blown weeds and district staff realities
Limited lawn areas still meet student active play needs.	Post construction meetings with all stakeholders
Extended maintenance by installer during warranty period can increase plant success and reduce future maintenance needs.	Set expectations and involve the user to take ownership of site maintenance issues
Temporary irrigation can work in perimeter areas.	Incentives for low impact design and maintenance practices.

QUESTIONS?

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