



NATIONAL COVID-19
OUTDOOR LEARNING
INITIATIVE

CREATING
OUTDOOR SPACES

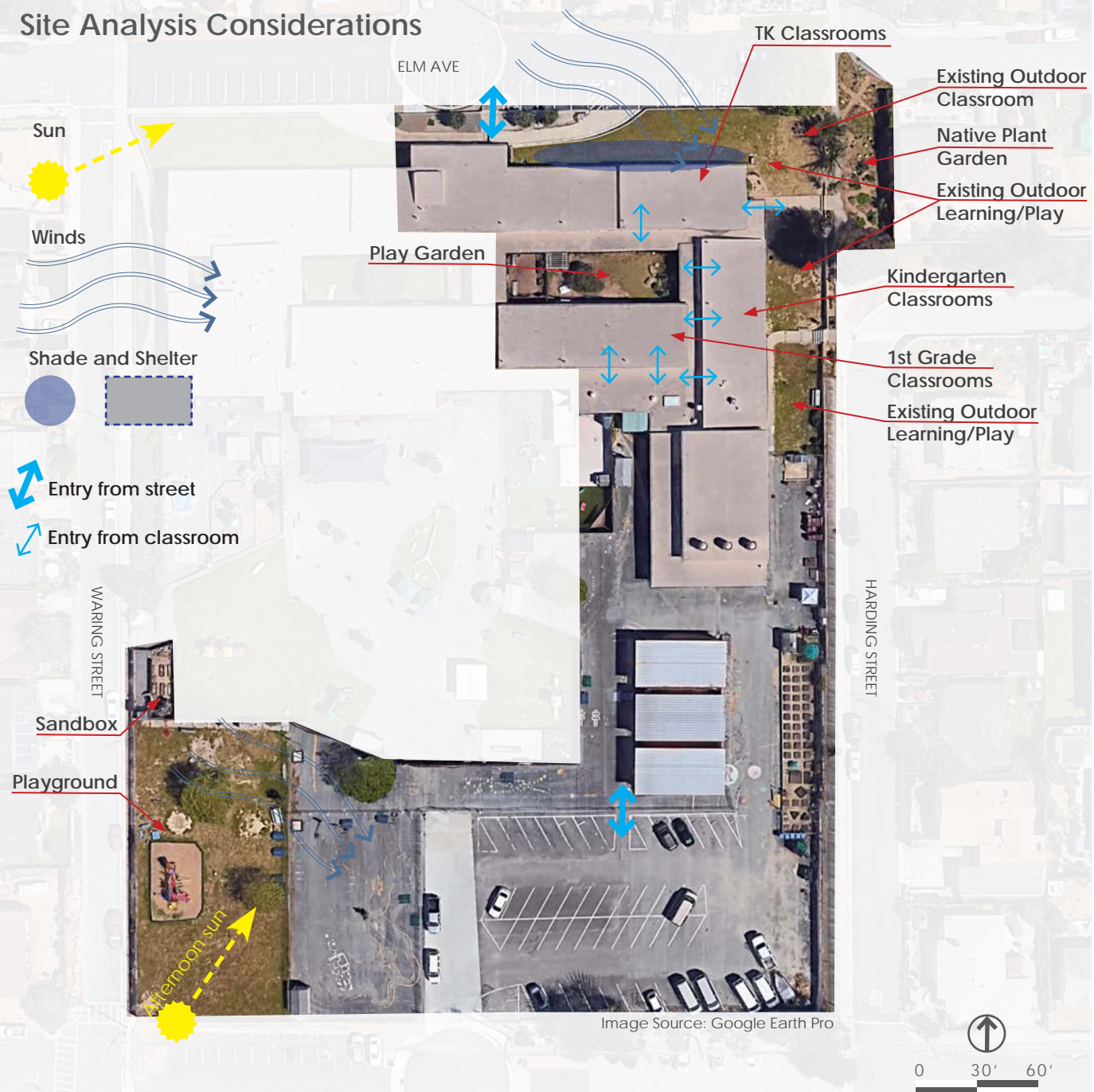
EMERGENCY
SCHOOLYARD
DESIGN VOLUNTEERS



MONTEREY BAY CHARTER — PACIFIC GROVE AND SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA

Monterey Bay Charter School is a Waldorf inspired K-8 school located on two campuses along Northern California's beautiful Pacific Coast. The Seaside campus houses 90 kindergarten and first grade students and has beautiful landscaped outdoor play areas and a native plants learning garden. The goal at the Seaside campus was to provide additional outdoor learning spaces. The Pacific Grove campus houses 435 second-eighth grade students and has spacious green fields bordered by mature oak trees. This campus goal was to provide one outdoor classroom per grade. Outdoor learning is an important part of the school's curriculum and the community is enthusiastic about expanding outdoor learning long-term.

Site Analysis Considerations



Monterey Bay Charter School Campus in Seaside, CA

School Characteristics

Students

- Serving 90 students in Kindergarten and 1st grade
- All students are distance learning
- Request for outdoor classrooms to accommodate students in cohorts for hybrid learning
- Goal is to increase the frequency of outdoor learning long-term; outdoor learning is an important part of the school curriculum

School Grounds

- Suburban location, school campus is shared with another school
- Minimal levels of noise from street
- Open space areas can get very dusty/sandy
- Students use classrooms in 3 buildings on northeast side of the site
- Some outdoor storage available; space to add if needed
- Native plant garden is part of Ocean Guardian program

Climate

- Fall - weather is typically cool, crisp, mostly dry; Winter - occasional rain and cold mornings with fog; Spring - mild and sunny; Summer - mild with occasional hot days.

NOTE: These diagrams are intended to provide visual concepts to assist schools in planning. They are neither intended nor may be used for construction. Green Schoolyards America, Earth Island Institute, the Emergency Schoolyard Design Volunteers, and the partners of the National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative do not assume responsibility or liability for the technical accuracy of drawings or for any unauthorized use.

Monterey Bay Charter School Seaside, CA

Site Photographs



Photographs

1. Outside of kindergarten classrooms space for outdoor classrooms
2. Existing seating circle/class - great example!
3. Shaded area next to building good site for classroom, however this area gets cold according to teachers
4. Play Garden provides hands-on learning
5. Stones in Play Garden provide opportunity for small group learning
6. Large Playground: Areas under/near trees are good for classrooms if no shade canopies available
7. Large Playground: Open space (no shade) in playground area will work for classrooms with a canopy

Photos: Lilia Pharazyn & Anna Harrison

Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Using Existing Tree Canopy and Shade for Mild Weather

Monterey Bay Charter School
Seaside, CA

Scenario #1: Low Cost



Climate Considerations

- Local climate varies seasonally
- Classes will require protection from sun and rain and appropriate clothing to keep everyone warm and dry

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as “Plan A” when the weather is accomodating; go inside or online when it is raining or too cold
- Place seating in areas where existing tree canopies or buildings provide morning or afternoon shade

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

- Use areas adjacent to buildings and trees; add low cost seating (mats, stumps, benches, and/or existing desks/ tables)
- Add storage sheds for class materials
- Preserve space for gardening and nature play

Scenario #1: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 42 students in 5 seating areas
- Capacity: 46% of enrolled students

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Potential Outdoor Classrooms Providing Light Shelter for Sun or Rain



(2) Existing active gardening/experiential learning areas

natural screen or divider (straw bales, willow, potted plants or other)

(9) 20' x 20' shade canopy for 8 students

entry from street

entry from classroom

(4) storage cart or box

Monterey Bay Charter School Seaside, CA

Scenario #2: Moderate Cost

Climate Considerations

Build on Scenario #1

- Install shelters to protect from rain and sun. Ideal shelters could be adjustable in height to allow winter sun.
- Add outdoor heaters and/or provide rain gear so students will be dry and warm when weather is wet and cold

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as "Plan A" when the weather is accommodating or in mild rain; go inside or online when it is too cold or harsh

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

- Add low cost seating (mats, stumps, benches, and/or existing desks/tables)
- Install shelters to protect from rain and sun
- Add storage sheds for class materials
- Preserve and activate space for gardening and nature play

Scenario #2: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 72 students in 9 covered seating areas
- Capacity: 80% of enrolled students

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Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Providing Infrastructure to Support School Programs



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Monterey Bay Charter School
Seaside, CA

Scenario #3: Green Infrastructure Investment

Climate Considerations

Build on Scenario #2

- Add low, planted hills (hugels) on top of grass to provide habitat garden and shield the area from the street
- Provide potted trees for green views and to divide outdoor class areas, to be replanted in ground later

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as "Plan A" when the weather is accomodating or in mild rain; go inside or online when it is too cold or harsh

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

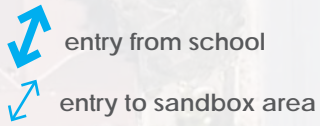
- Preserve and activate space for gardening and nature play
- Leave room and flexibility for long-term outdoor classroom vision ideas

Scenario #3: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 82 students in 10 covered seating areas
- Capacity: 91% of enrolled students

Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Providing Infrastructure to Support School Programs



(1) New active gardening/experiential learning area
 natural screen or divider (straw bales, willow, potted plants or other)

(6) 20' x 20' shade canopy for 8 students
 (4) storage cart or box
 (5) planted organic "hugel" berms to provide habitat/garden and shield from street

Sandbox Area

Movable Picnic Tables

Play Structure with Woodchip Groundcover

Open Space - Groundcover is Dry, Dusty

School Parking - Below the Grade of the Playground

WARING STREET



Monterey Bay Charter School Seaside, CA

Enlargement: Playground

Notes

- This configuration of shade canopies allows for one classroom at each end of the site where up to 24 students can be safely spaced under the three canopies. Depending on needs of the school, a fourth canopy could be added to accommodate 32 students.
- The elevation of the playground is advantageous - despite its location next to the street and parking, the playground is raised above street level. Planting hugel berms or using natural screens can create a more inviting environment.

Photographs

1. The movable picnic tables can be arranged to create small group breakout areas.
2. The play structure is the central feature of the site and could be further enhanced by adding adjacent gardening space. Try to maintain open play space surrounding the play structure area.
3. This open area along the southern perimeter of the site is well suited for the addition of shade canopies. Dust mitigation can be achieved by using a groundcover such as wood chips/mulch.

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Site Analysis Considerations



Monterey Bay Charter School Campus in Pacific Grove, CA

School Characteristics

Students

- Serving 435 students in 2nd through 8th grades, and one kindergarten class
- All students are currently distance learning
- Request for outdoor classrooms to accommodate students in cohorts of 15 for hybrid learning (i.e. 2 days on campus/ 3 days distance learning)
- Goal is to increase the frequency of outdoor learning long-term; outdoor learning is an important part of the school curriculum

School Grounds

- Suburban location, school campus has majestic ancient oak trees and the site is shared with another school
- Minimal levels of noise from street
- Play areas include forested areas and open grass field
- Students use classrooms in 4 buildings
- Some outdoor storage available; space to add if needed
- Edible garden, woodshop and other hands-on learning is integrated into the curriculum

Climate

- Fall - weather is typically cool, crisp, mostly dry; Winter - occasional rain and cold mornings with fog; Spring - mild and sunny; Summer - mild with occasional hot days.

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Monterey Bay Charter School Pacific Grove, CA

Site Photographs



Photographs

1. At the front of the school this sloped grass area can accommodate stadium style seating for classrooms
2. Learning garden has some benches and tables and can accommodate more seating
3. Shaded area next to building good site for classroom
4. Area nicely sheltered by buildings and trees
5. Shade from building and trees create good environment for classes
6. Area near woodshop (pergola) flat, open and shaded
7. Shade from building and good access to classrooms provide useful space for outdoor classes

Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Using Existing Tree Canopy and Shade for Mild Weather

Monterey Bay Charter School
Pacific Grove, CA

Scenario #1: Low Cost

Climate Considerations

- Local climate varies seasonally
- Classes will require protection from sun and rain and appropriate clothing to keep everyone warm and dry

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as "Plan A" when the weather is accomodating; go inside or online when it is raining or too cold
- Place seating in areas where existing tree canopies or buildings provide morning or afternoon shade

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

- Use areas adjacent to buildings and trees; add low cost seating (mats, stumps, benches, and/or existing desks/tables)
- Add storage sheds for class materials
- Preserve space for gardening and nature play

Scenario #1: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 224 students in 27 seating areas
- Capacity: 52% of enrolled students



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Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Providing Light Shelter for Sun or Rain

Monterey Bay Charter School
Pacific Grove, CA

Scenario #2: Moderate Cost

Climate Considerations

Build on Scenario #1

- Install shelters to protect from rain and sun. Ideal shelters could be adjustable in height to allow winter sun.
- Add outdoor heaters and/or provide rain gear so students will be dry and warm when weather is wet and cold

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as "Plan A" when the weather is accomodating or in mild rain; go inside or online when it is too cold or harsh

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

- Add low cost seating (mats, stumps, benches, and/or existing desks/tables)
- Install shelters to protect from rain and sun
- Add storage sheds for class materials
- Preserve and activate space for gardening and nature play

Scenario #2: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 288 students in 35 covered seating areas
- Capacity: 66% of enrolled students



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Potential Outdoor Classrooms

Providing Infrastructure to Support School Programs

Monterey Bay Charter School
Pacific Grove, CA

Scenario #3: Green Infrastructure Investment

Climate Considerations

Build on Scenario #2

- Add low, planted hills (hugels) on top of grass to provide habitat garden and shield the area from the street
- Provide potted trees for green views and to divide outdoor class areas, to be replanted in ground later

Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Use outdoor classrooms as "Plan A" when the weather is accomodating or in mild rain; go inside or online when it is too cold or harsh

Use and Augment Existing Infrastructure

- Preserve and activate space for gardening and nature play
- Leave room and flexibility for long-term outdoor classroom vision ideas
- For new pathways consider using materials like stabilized decomposed granite for ADA accessibility

Scenario #3: Outdoor Capacity

- Max: 288 students in 35 covered seating areas
- Capacity: 66% of enrolled students



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