

## Hudson landscaping Q&A - April 2025

Following are responses from VSB project management to questions that came up during the April PAC meeting.

### **What are the types of trees that are being planted on the Hudson Site?**

The trees to be planted have been carefully chosen by the landscape architect to fit well with the grounds plan, and for optimum growth in the soil and light conditions. These include: several Katsuras, Birch trees, Aspen, and Honeylocust. As well, all large trees surrounding the school and grounds will be maintained. These trees are in contract currently. If the PAC is interested in potentially funding additional trees, this can be a conversation (via the school admin) with VSB Grounds after the trees in contract are planted. It is recommended that the current landscape plan be enacted to see what the grounds look like prior to any additional plantings.

### **Can the landscape architect share more about the bioswale?**

There will be a bioswale adjacent the field and parking lot. The bioswale is designed to accommodate surface stormwater runoff from the parking lot. The bioswale retains this stormwater runoff by providing surface storage in the swale itself and allows for infiltration into the soil, helping to maintain rainwater on-site and reduce peak flow entering the storm sewer system. The bioswale is planted with species that thrive in the fluctuating stormwater levels, and they assist in reducing the amount of pollutants that enter the stormwater system, and includes rocks and trees. The bioswale will be fenced, with three gates. Students and staff will be able to access the bioswale for learning opportunities, when it is dry.

### **General Grounds Plan**

The new Hudson playground has a planned install this summer. It will be located behind the school, off the back courtyard, with several trees behind it. North of the playground there is will be a basketball court with four poles and hoops. The field will be located in the northwest corner and will include soccer goal posts. There will be a school garden area directly east of the addition. The garden area will have a limestone base and include eight planter boxes, four picnic tables, and the community harvest table. The bioswale will be located to the east and south of the field. A paved walkway will run along the south end of the school to the east edge of the addition. Additional bike racks will be installed on the new grounds. The south and west portions of the site adjacent the York Avenue and Maple Street will have natural ground cover. The east and south sides of the plaza garden will have long benches, and the plaza will be surrounded by a decorative fence. A staff parking lot with several accessible stalls will be located on the southeast corner of the grounds.