



WATSON ELEMENTARY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Watson Elementary Playground Committee is working to respond to the pressing need for an inclusive and accessible playground at the school. In the absence of such a space, we have children deprived of important opportunities for recreation and social activity.

With the help of the school administration and other community stakeholders, the addition of a new accessible playground will help eliminate harmful barriers to play and help promote physical fitness and social connections, fostering self-esteem and overall well-being for our students and resident neighbourhood children. In partnership with donors, we can invest in accessible and inclusive spaces that will make an invaluable contribution to our community and enrich the lives of students, families, and residents alike.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Watson Elementary is a vibrant and diverse K-5 school located in Chilliwack, BC. Our school serves a student population of over 450 and is situated across from the community of Garrison Crossing, on the Stó:lō unceded traditional territory of the Pilalt, Semá:th and Ts'elxwéyeqw tribes.

At Watson Elementary, we prioritize creating a positive, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment that encourages every student to reach their full potential. Our dedicated staff members are committed to academic excellence and are willing to go above and beyond to ensure that each student receives the support they need to succeed. In addition to our daily programming, we offer various programs onsite to further support students, including StrongStart, preschool, and after-school programs.

Watson Elementary is part of the Chilliwack School District 33, which encompasses a network of 20 elementary schools (K-5), five middle schools (6-8), and five secondary schools (9-12). The School District's facilities are attended by more than 14,000 full and part-time students and are served by approximately 1,800 teachers and support staff.



ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Watson Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is formed to be a voice of the parents to build communication and connection between home and school to support the well-being and growth of our students. Our chief mandate is to foster the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being of children through the promotion of effective communication and co-operative participation between members of the home, the school, and the community.

The PAC is comprised of parent volunteers who have been elected as executives and committee coordinators, as well as all parents and guardians of registered students. We encourage all parents and guardians to attend PAC meetings to stay informed, get a chance to share your ideas, find out about volunteer opportunities, and support our great school!

As an extension of the PAC, we have delegated the task of fundraising for this project to the Playground Committee. This committee is a group of dedicated volunteers committed to bringing about these playground upgrades to create a fun, safe, and engaging playground that meets the needs of all students.

ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Chilliwack, located in the Lower Mainland of southwest British Columbia, is situated about 100km away from the bustling city of Vancouver. Bounded on the north by the Fraser River and on the south by the Canada-United States border, the city is surrounded by stunning natural beauty, including tall mountain peaks, forest, and rivers.

With 8% of the population identifying as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit (FNMI), and 11% consisting of visible minorities, the city takes great pride in the rich cultural tapestry that make it what it is. In recent years, Chilliwack has experienced steady growth, with a growth rate of 8.4% over the past 5 years. The estimated population stands around 101,700, including the First Nation communities within the city boundaries.

Especially relevant for this project, there is a relatively high proportion of residents under the age of 14—accounting for 19% of the population. This highlights the importance of having access to exciting activities and services catered to this population.



PROJECT NEED AND RELEVANT RESEARCH

Watson Elementary and its surrounding neighbourhoods, are in urgent need of an accessible and inclusive playground. The current playground equipment, consisting of two pods, was not installed with barrier-free features in mind, resulting in inadequate recreation offerings for children with mobility, developmental, or sensory limitations. The playground surfacing only exacerbates this equipment issue, as it is virtually inaccessible for those who use mobility aids.

As an example, we currently have a student using a wheelchair and is unable to play alongside her peers on the playground due to the current design and structure.



Watson student onlooking current playground pod

The 2022 Participation Report Card on Physical Activity reported that only a mere 6 percent of children with disabilities met the recommended physical activity guidelines for Canada, compared to 28 percent for the general childhood population. Without the development of this new playground, these children, who are already disproportionately underserved by public facilities, will experience additional barriers that prevent them from participating in physical activity and socializing—raising serious concerns for their immediate and long-term health.

PROJECT DETAILS

In order to address this issue, our committee is collaborating with Watson Elementary and Habitat to initiative the development of a third pod focussed specifically on accessibility and inclusivity. With assistance from Habitat our vision will be brought to life as they work to provide equipment that will enable every child to fully participate and enjoy the play experience. This will be achieved by installing several features specifically designed to accommodate children of varying abilities in addition to a specially designed playground surface; the surfacing will be a combination of pour-in-place rubber and engineered wood fibre. This smooth, soft surfacing will enable easy access to equipment while augmenting the safety of the space—creating an approachable and inclusive environment that welcomes all.

At its completion, the new playground is sure to be a cherished and valuable addition to our school and wider community. At the moment, fundraising efforts are underway as we actively engage the community, local businesses, and organizations to secure the necessary finances. Through the collective effort of our community and generosity of donors like yourselves, we believe that we can reach our fundraising goal and accelerate the installation of this essential playground addition.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

The primary aim of the playground development is to augment the existing playground by creating an additional pod intentionally designed to serve the diverse needs of children in the community, especially those with disabilities. For these individuals, and children more generally, this space will not only increase physical activity and socialization but will produce benefits that reach every aspect of their life. By providing a space suited to their needs, we are working to empower children to actively participate and engage in play that will foster a sense of accomplishment and boosting their overall self-esteem.

Through our efforts to promote and support outdoor play opportunities, we are intervening early in the lives of these children to help ensure sufficient resources are available to support healthy development; this includes improved gross motor skills, mental and emotional wellbeing, social capacity and teamwork, and learning and attention.

Beyond the four walls of the school, the new playground is expected to benefit the broader community. Our school grounds serve as a gathering place, bringing together families and residents from the surrounding neighborhoods. Improving our facilities will enhance the overall experience and satisfaction of these resident families, helping to forge a stronger community and increasing the quality of life in our city.

These considerations have important long-term implications and will have ripple effects in the community. As we work to improve the recreation facilities in the area, we are increasing the likelihood that families will remain in the area and support the local economy. Therefore, by investing in the wellbeing and inclusivity of our children, we are also building a stronger and more prosperous community for everyone.

PROJECT TIMELINE

We are enthusiastic to have started Phase 1 of our project by installing the Northside play structures in the fall of 2024. Ideally, we would be thrilled to be in a position to complete the remainder of the project in 2025. If we receive the remainder of our funding this may be a possibility, however if we are unable to secure it, we will be required to postpone this until the summer 2026.

A tentative timeline would be as follows:

Fundraising	Ongoing
Final Design/Order Equipment	March 2024
Construction	October 2024
Grand Opening	TBD
Project Closeout	TBD

PROJECT FINANCES

Our project has made significant financial strides since its inception. We have received the enthusiastic support of the Lions Club and Rotary Club of Chilliwack, as well as the Chilliwack Foundation Grant. Continued fundraising and collaborations with groups like yours are key to reaching this target and we look forward to the possibility of partnering with you.

REVENUE

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Watson Elementary School (confirmed)	\$72,000
Chilliwack Foundation Grant	\$10,000
Rotary Club of Chilliwack Fraser (pledge)	\$50,000
Lion's Club	\$5,000
Fundraising Remaining	\$181,543
Total	\$318, 543

EXPENSES

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Supply of playground equipment	\$161,432
Installation of playground equipment	\$41,728
Supply and install surfacing	\$100,214
GST	\$15,169
Total	\$318, 543

SUPPLEMENTART INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION

Legal name: Watson Elementary School

CRA Number (Chilliwack School District) : 888699790RR0001

Main contact: Kelsey Ohs

Main contact phone number: 604-880-8697

Main contact email: kelsey_ohs@hotmail.com

WATSON ELEMENTARY CONTACT LIST 2023/2024

PAC/Playground Committee:

Kelsey Ohs, Playground Committee, PAC Chair - kelsey_ohs@hotmail.com / 604-880-8697

Kele Nash, PAC Co-Chair - kele.nash@shaw.ca / 604-845-5353

Sam Atwell, Playground Committee Partner - long.samantha34@yahoo.ca / 778-344-7287

Justin Nearing, PAC treasurer - Justin.f.nearing@gmail.com / 778-837-6663

School Admin:

Jackie Berkes, vice principal - jackie_berkes@sd33.bc.ca / 604-858-9477

Lisa Fugger, vice principal - lisa_fugger@sd33.bc.ca / 604-858-9477

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the information above, the following appendices have also been included:

- Appendix A – Project Quote
- Appendix B – Site Details
- Appendix C – Letters of Support

Watson Elementary



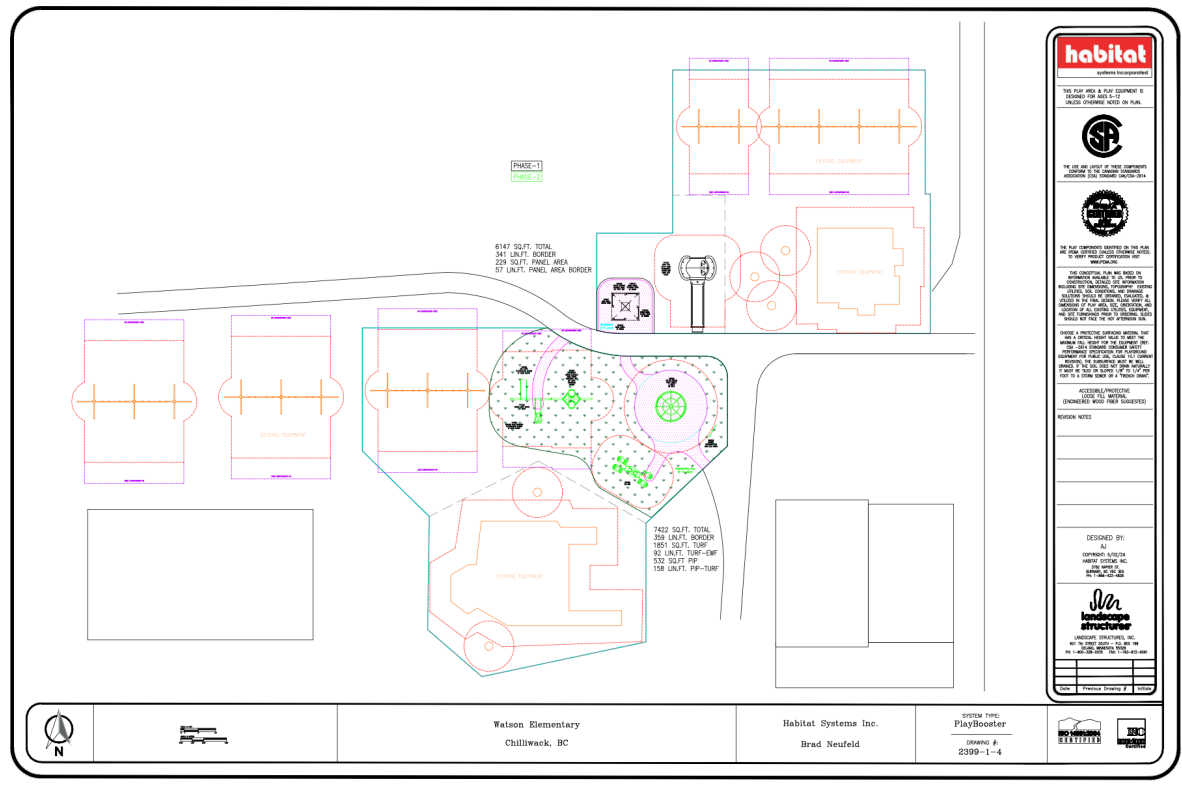
landscape structures

Watson Elementary

habitat systems incorporated

2399-1-4 • 5.5.2024

© 2024 Landscape Structures. All Rights Reserved



APPENDIX A: PROJECT QUOTE



Pricing 2399-1-2

Supply playground equipment (Landscape Structures Inc.)	\$161,432.00
Install playground equipment (Habitat Systems Inc.)	\$41,728.00
Supply and Install 3000 sqft of Pour in Place Rubber and 30 yards of EWF	\$99,660.00
Installation of the above Habitat's wood fibre surfacing	\$554.00
Subtotal	\$303,374.00
GST @ 5%	\$15,168.70
Total	\$318,542.70

Listed taxes are applicable and need to be paid by purchaser. Pricing in this quotation is valid for 30 days, unless otherwise stated. Pricing includes freight costs to site. Equipment Delivery is approximately 26 weeks from date of order. Standard installation projects 28 weeks from date of order.

If you wish to place an order, please sign where indicated below and fax back to our office to (604) 294-4002 or toll free at 1 (866) 294-4002.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Acceptance: PO _____ Title: _____

Number (if applicable): _____

Delivery Address: _____

Installation Address: _____

Site Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Invoicing Name & Address: _____

Colours/Palette: _____

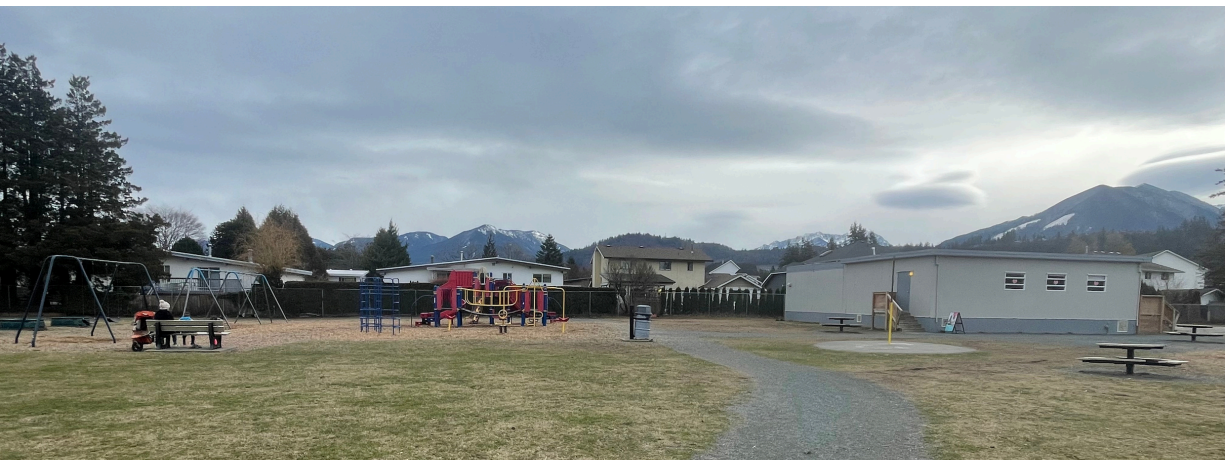
Habitat Systems Representative (Office Use Only)

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Acceptance: _____ Title: _____

Landscape Structures Inc. (LSI) grants you a limited, worldwide, royalty-free, non-transferable, non-sublicensable and non-exclusive license to download, reproduce, adapt, modify, display, and create derivative works based on the model. LSI owns all right, title and interest in and to the model as well as any modifications, derivatives or improvements made thereto by you, as licensee, including without limitation all Intellectual Property Rights therein. As licensee, you shall ensure that use of the model, as well as any modifications, derivatives or improvements to the model, is marked with appropriate copyright notices in a reasonably prominent position containing at least the text "© Landscape Structures Inc."

APPENDIX B: SITE DETAILS



APPENDIX B: SITE DETAILS



Satellite image from Google

July 18, 2023

Re: Funding for playground at Watson Elementary School – 45305 Watson Rd.
Chilliwack, BC

To Whom It May Concern:

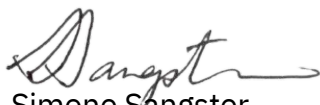
This letter confirms that School District #33 (Chilliwack) is the landowner of Watson Elementary School, located at 45305 Watson Road in Chilliwack BC.

The school district has plans to construct a new universally accessible playground on the school site once the funds are in place and the design and plans are approved. This playground design has also been reviewed with the school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

Thank you for taking the time to consider the funding application made by the PAC, and we look forward to a partnership with your organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the contact details below if you have any further questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Simone Sangster

Secretary Treasurer

604-703-1781

simone_sangster@sd33.bc.ca



To whom it may concern,

March 14, 2023

I would like to express my full support for the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee in their application for funding so they can create an accessible and inclusive play space that will improve the overall health and inclusivity of its student population and surrounding community. This project would address the need for playground equipment that would be inclusive and accessible, especially for those with disabilities, developmental delays, and those who use mobility aids.

The Watson Elementary PAC work tirelessly in their efforts of supporting the school community. The volunteers of the Playground Committee are very committed to making this project become a reality. If they were to receive this funding, this would help Watson Elementary school and surrounding community become more vibrant, active, and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Terry Bateman, Principal
terry_bateman@sd33.bc.ca
604-858-9477



CITY OF CHILLIWACK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 21, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

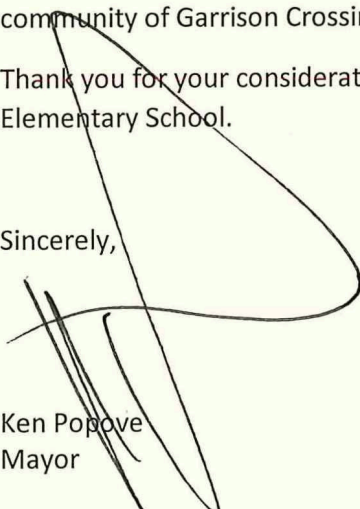
I am writing in support of grant funding applications from the Watson Elementary Parent Advisory Committee for the creation of accessible and inclusive play structures at Watson Elementary School. This initiative contributes to Council's vision to support an inclusive, diverse, and accessible community where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

The Mayor's Task Force for Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility has identified accessible play as an action item for the City's goal to improve facilities, services, parks and public spaces for persons with disabilities. This project aligns with that goal. It would also support the Watson Elementary community of 500 children, the programs hosted onsite which includes, but not limited to, a StongStart program, preschool and after school programs.

I know this inclusive playground would serve the surrounding residential communities and nearby community of Garrison Crossing.

Thank you for your consideration to fund equipment for this inclusive playground for children at Watson Elementary School.

Sincerely,



Ken Popove
Mayor



10 – 620 Royal Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 1J2

To whom it may concern,

March 28, 2023

I would like to express my full support for the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee in their application for funding so they can create an accessible and inclusive play space that will improve the overall health and inclusivity of its student population and surrounding community.

This project would address the need for playground equipment that would be inclusive and accessible, especially for those with disabilities, developmental delays, and those who use mobility aids.

The Watson Elementary PAC work tirelessly in their efforts of supporting the school community. The volunteers of the Playground Committee are very committed to making this project become a reality. If they were to receive this funding, this would help Watson Elementary school and surrounding community become more vibrant, attractive, and healthy. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cathy Poole'.

Cathy Poole

Vice President, Children and Youth Services

YMCA BC

P: 604-320-5805

E: cathy.poole@bc.ymca.ca

March 20, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my full support for the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee in their application for funding so they can create an accessible and inclusive play space that will improve the overall health and inclusivity of its student population and surrounding community.

This project would address the need for playground equipment that would be inclusive and accessible, especially for those with disabilities, developmental delays, and those who use mobility aids.

The Watson Elementary PAC work tirelessly in their efforts of supporting the school community. The volunteers of the Playground Committee are very committed to making this project become a reality. If they were to receive this funding, this would help Watson Elementary school and surrounding community become more vibrant, attractive and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Laura Callaghan
Early Childhood Educator
Watson Just B4 Preschool & StrongStart
laura_callaghan@sd33.bc.ca





**Chilliwack
School District**

March 17, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to express my full support for the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee in their application for funding so they can create an accessible and inclusive play space that will improve the overall health and inclusivity of its student population and surrounding community. This project would address the need for playground equipment that would be inclusive and accessible, especially for those with disabilities, developmental delays, and those who use mobility aids.

The Watson Elementary PAC work tirelessly in their efforts of supporting the school community. The volunteers of the Playground Committee are very committed to making this project become a reality. If they were to receive this funding, this would help Watson Elementary school and surrounding community become more vibrant, attractive, and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Driscoll".

Nicole Driscoll
District Principal of Early Learning
Chilliwack School District
nicole_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca
Ph: 604-794-5553 (ext. 2233)
Cell: 604-798-0955

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my full support for the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee in their application for funding so they can create an accessible and inclusive play space that will improve the overall health and inclusivity of its student population and surrounding community. This project would address the need for playground equipment that would be inclusive and accessible, especially for those with disabilities, developmental delays, and those who use mobility aids. It would allow the children with disabilities in our community a new opportunity to participate with their peers. There is a significant discrepancy in the weekly amount of physical activity children with disabilities participate in, as in 2022 only 6 percent of children with disabilities met the recommended physical activity guidelines for Canada compared to 28 percent for the general childhood population (Participation Report Card on Physical Activity, 2022). Those numbers are not where they need to be and creating spaces where all children can play together is an important way we can help increase children's physical activity.

The Watson Elementary PAC work tirelessly in their efforts of supporting the school community. The volunteers of the Playground Committee are very committed to making this project become a reality. If they were to receive this funding, this would help Watson Elementary School and surrounding community become more vibrant, attractive, and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Blair Dinsdale Physiotherapist SD33
E-mail: richard_dinsdale@sd33.bc.ca
49520 Prairie Central Rd
Chilliwack BC V2P 6H3
Cell Phone: 604 819-2496

Occupational Therapy Letter of Support



April 5, 2023

To whom it may concern,

The Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee is applying for funding to create an accessible and inclusive play space at Watson Elementary school in Chilliwack. I fully support their tireless endeavor.

Currently Watson has an older outdated playground that does not match the needs of the school or community. The playground structures do not allow students with mobility and developmental issues play with their peers and the surface limits accessibility. There is no accessible playground in the community within a comfortable walk distance from the school, limiting the recreation choices of the families nearby.

A new accessible playground would allow students and families with a wide variety of challenges to increase their physical fitness, enhance communication skills, build social connections, and enjoy the freedom of playing together.

I am grateful for all the hard work, time, and effort the Watson Elementary PAC Playground Committee is putting into this project. A new accessible and inclusive playground will be a valuable contribution to a healthier community. I whole heartedly endorse their application and thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Vinchoff'.

Cheryl Vinchoff
Occupational Therapist SD33
Cell 604-845-1657
49520 Prairie Central Rd
Chilliwack BC V2P 6H3
Office number 604-794-555