

Introducing Bradford Quiet Play Area “Chill Zone” Concept



February 2026

Why Bradford's playground needs a quiet area

- Each child is different and has different needs during recess and lunch
- The playground and field offer options for active play
- Creating a 'quiet play' area would also offer a space for manipulative play, and/or to relax, recharge, or take a break from sensory overload.
- We want to make sure that ALL children's needs are accounted for
- A quiet area/chill zone would:
 - Support the full range of developmental needs and learning outcomes,
 - Encourage the exploration of different interests and needs, and
 - Promote individual or small-group play, which can lead to more collaboration, problem-solving, and cooperation as children direct their own play.

Designing for Diversity

Key inclusive features of quiet play area could include:

- Reading areas
- Sensory spaces
- Manipulative play (checkers, chess)
- Playful garden elements
- Outdoor classroom space
- Incorporate natural elements (sand and water play)
- Connecting with nature

Inspiration for Chill Zone



Moveable tree cookies stimulate children to create their own adventure pathways.

1. Encouraging Manipulative Play



Moveable logs and stumps offer many play opportunities like balancing, as well as building, pulling, and rolling.



2. Incorporating Natural, Playful Garden Elements to Create new Spaces



This sensory garden incorporates fragrant herbs between stepping stones, surrounded by plants of various colors and textures.



Vine teepees are a great first step in a Nature Play Space™. They are playful, simple, compact, and can support vegetables.

3. Creating New Spaces for Reading

Offer children different seating options where they can find a quiet space to read



4. Establishing Spaces to Dig, Create, and Imagine



Raised planters are perfectly suited for creating enchanted villages of all types.



Sand play in this yard is nicely bounded with stumps and plants to provide play props.



Fairy villages can be scaled to fit any outdoor space.

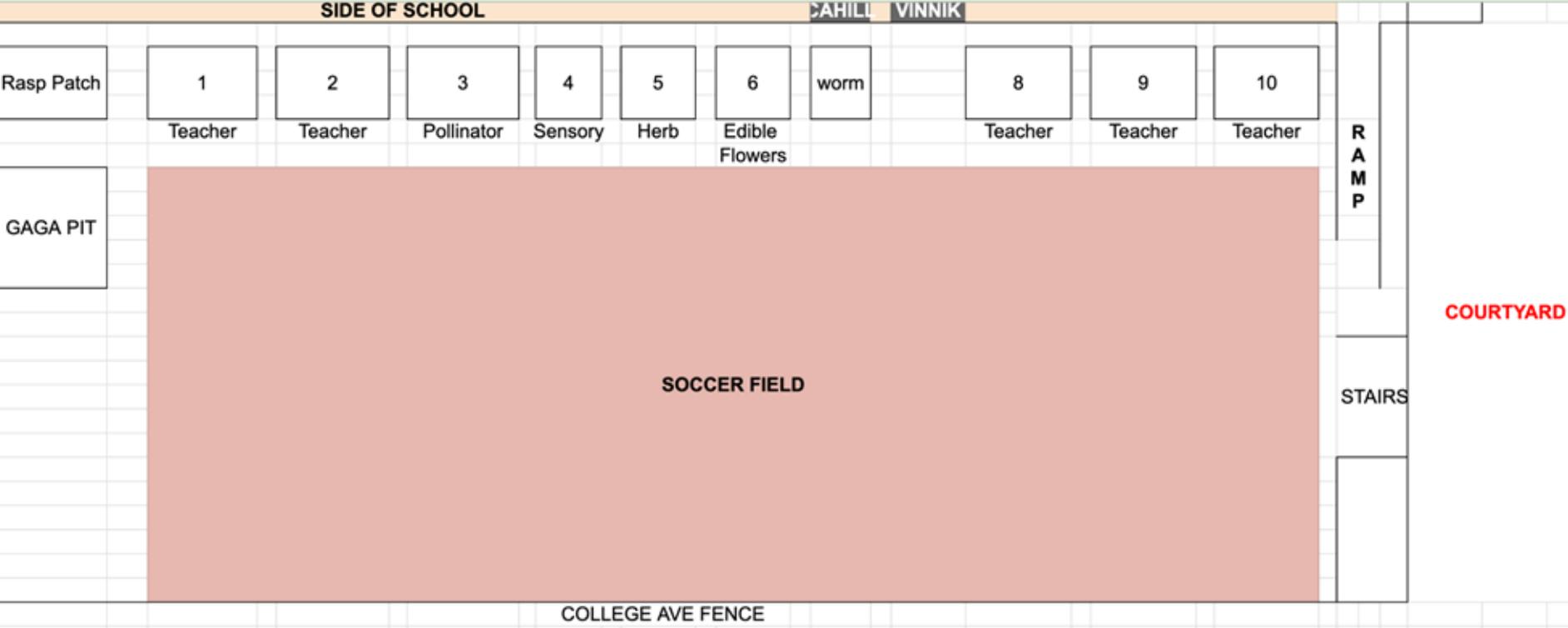
5. Facilitating Opportunities to Connect with Nature



6. Creating Outdoor Classroom Space

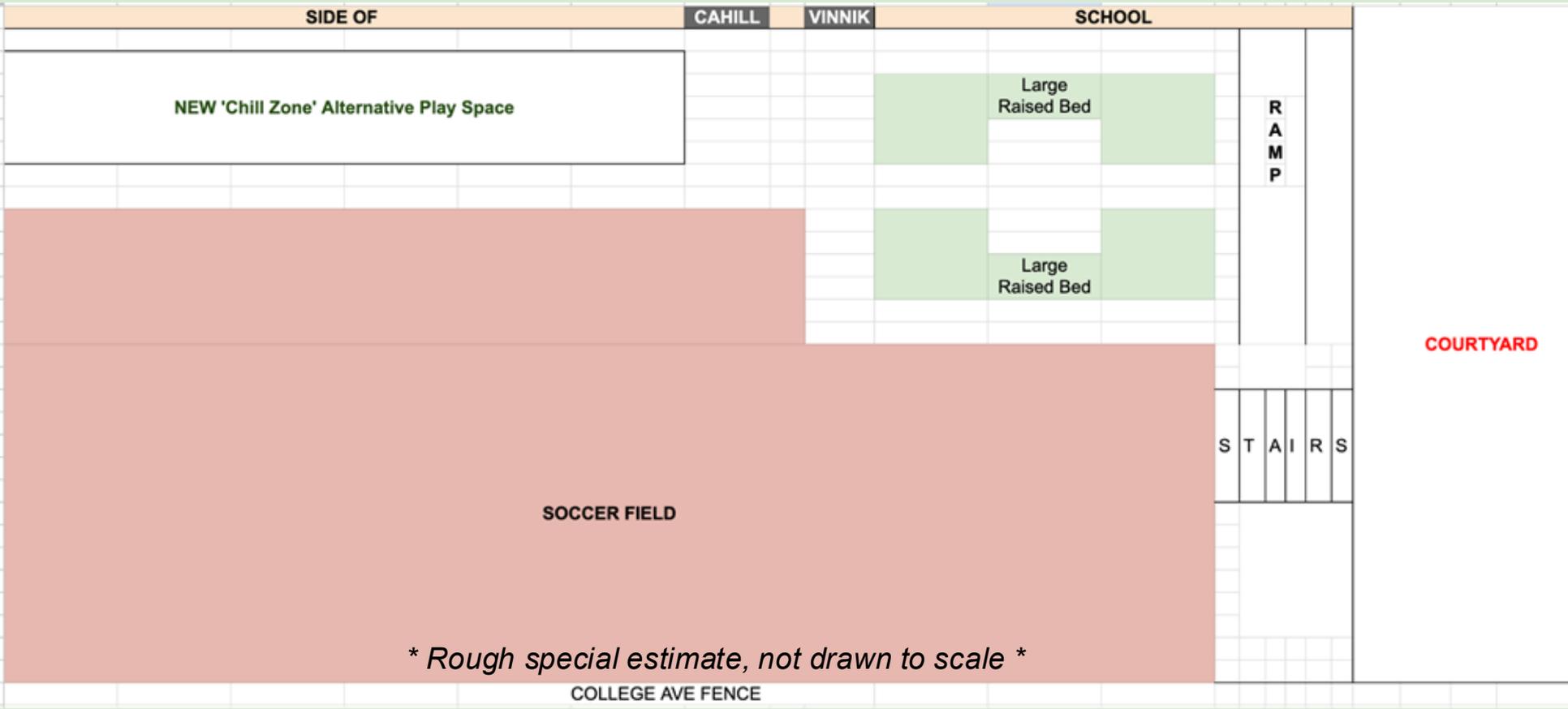


Current Bradford Field Layout



** Rough special estimate, not drawn to scale **

Possible Future Layout

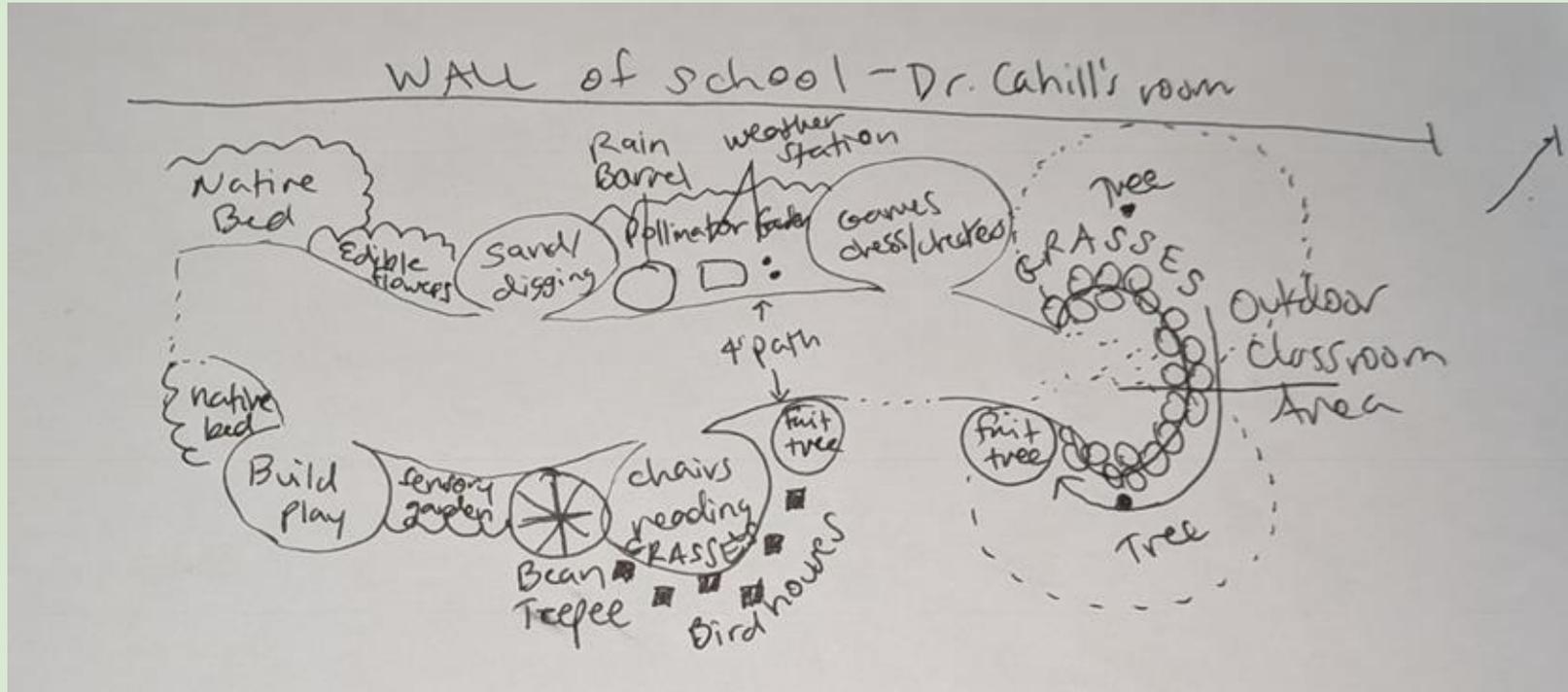


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COLLEGE AVE FENCE

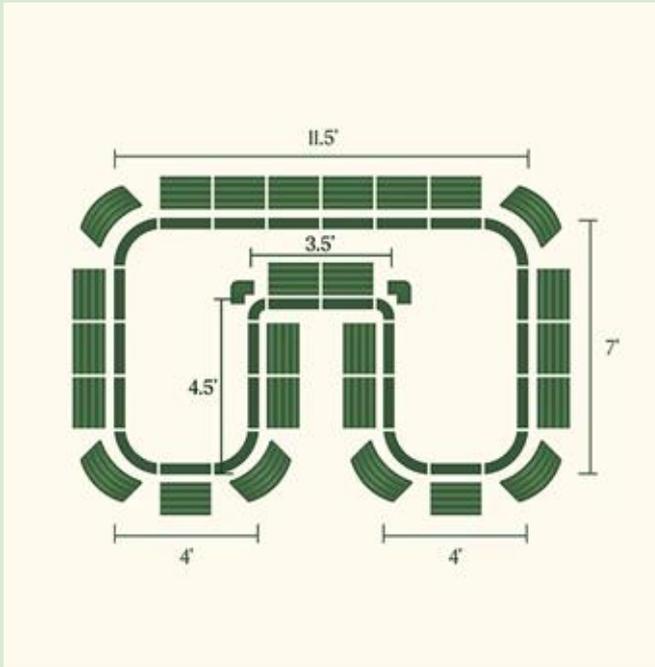
Initial Sketch of Chill Zone Concept

The area is envisioned as a meandering path with different spaces off of each side for children to access manipulative and quiet play. Natural elements such as shade, water, sand, and rocks will be incorporated.



Concept for Reconfiguration of Raised Beds

New raised beds under consideration have longevity, concentrated growing, and can engage more classes.



Existing raised beds would be incorporated:

- Herb garden
- Sensory garden
- Edible garden
- Pollinator garden

They will also include ample space for continued teacher/classroom involvement and growing.

Why now?

- The Bradford community has been discussing its need for a quiet play area for many years
- 2026 marks the celebration of Bradford's centennial year
- The recent landmark gift offers a unique opportunity to dedicate funds to a multi-year project that will benefit every child at Bradford as well as many future generations to come.