

# **Naturalization Project**

*Crestomere School*



Home of  
the  
Cougars

# *Background Information*

- *Crestomere School*
- *Wolf Creek School Division*
- *Rural School*
- *K-9*
- *Approximately 150 students*

# Timeline

- Initial Planning- September 2006-2007
- Second Phase- September 2007-2008
- Third Phase- September 2008-On going

# The Beginning

- What sparked the idea?
- Moving the portable
- Opportunity to create a natural learning environment

# Process

- *Has been ongoing for the past two and a half years.*
- *During the planning stage we held assemblies and broke into multi-age groups and discussed how the project would look.*
- *We took their input, collaborated with horticulturists, and community members and created the design.*

# Process

- *After researching, collaborating with Jane Reksten, school yard naturalization project leader with the Calgary Zoo, and exploring the idea with staff and community members, we came up with the following vision statement for the project:*

# ***Vision***

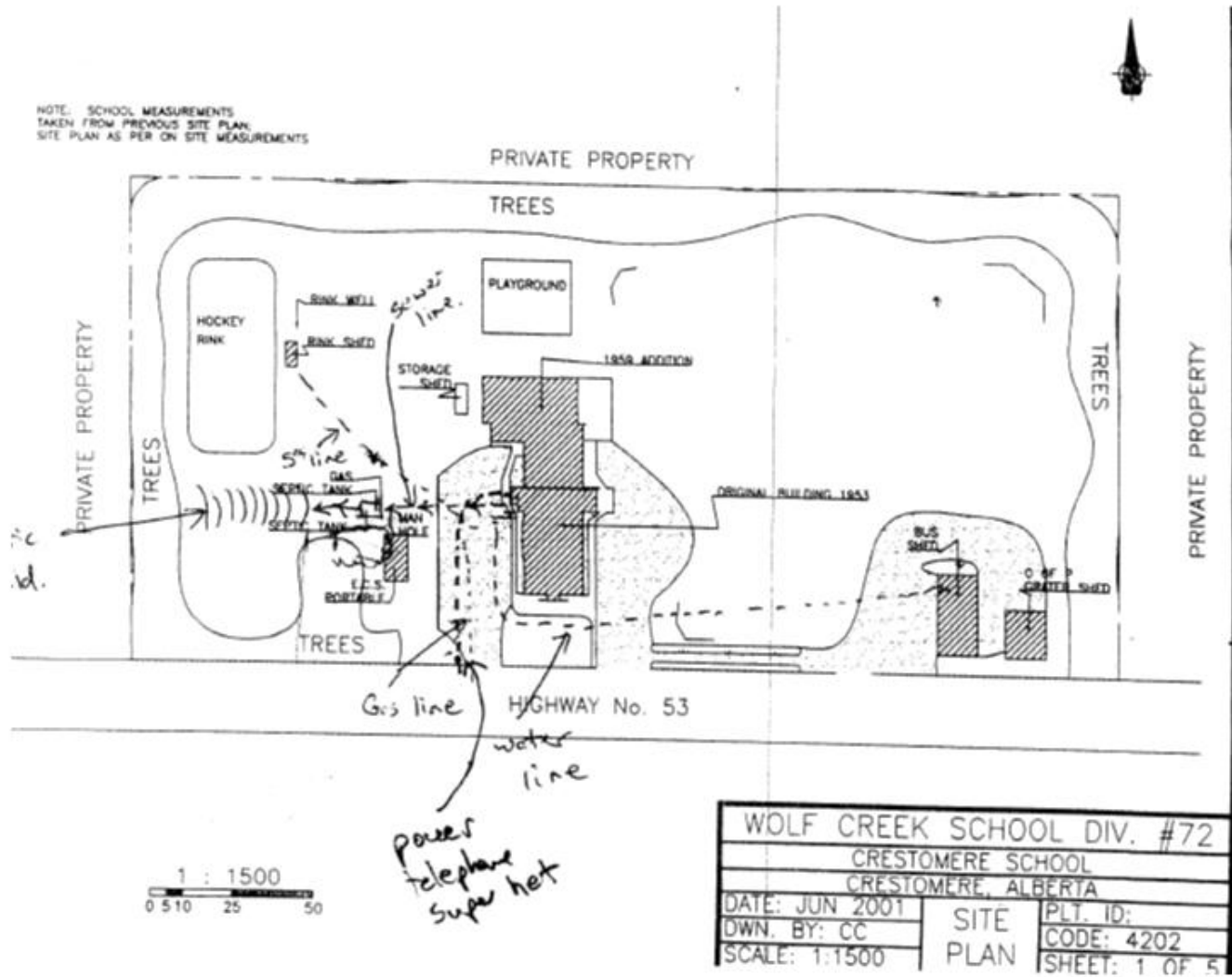
- *To develop and maintain an area of the schoolyard to serve as an outdoor learning centre and a natural setting for other activities such as reading, socializing, and quiet reflection time.*



# Site Description

- Bird and butterfly area, 13m by 7m.
- The boundary is from the parking lot and is bounded by a chain link fence to the south and west.
- 45m long by 54m wide – site area
- Amphitheatre – the outdoor classroom

# Site Plan



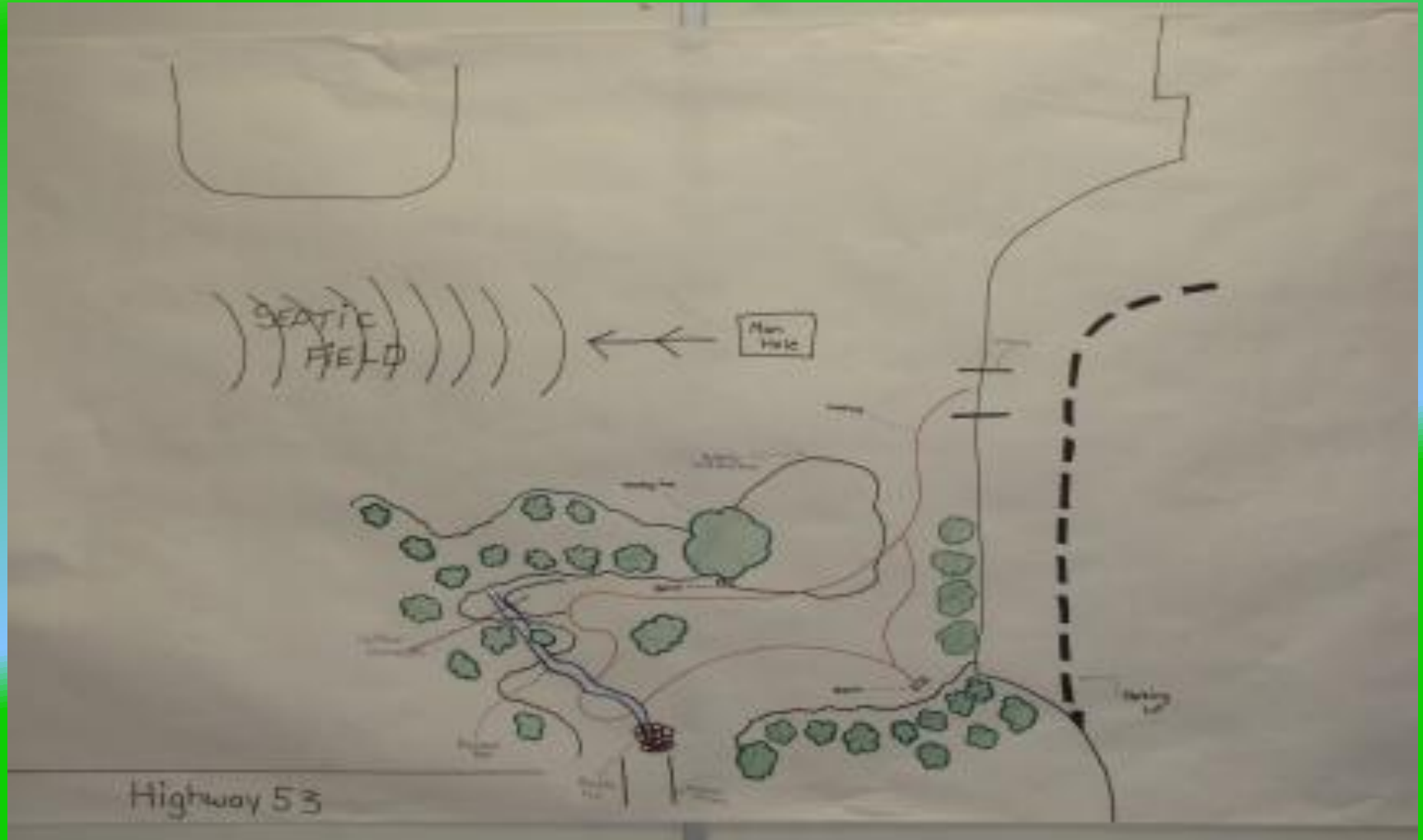


*Before the project*

# Project Description

- Bird and Butterfly area
- Experimental Garden
- Outdoor Classroom
- Winding Pathways
- Dry Creek Bed with bridges
- Signage

# Proposed Plan



# Trees and Plants

- Saskatoons
- Lilacs
- Bee balm
- Dogwood
- Pincherry
- Mountain Ash
- Golden Rod
- Roses

# Signage

- Small wooden signs to show type of plants.
- Large wooden signs to show the way to various places in the garden.
- Plaques to be installed to show list of donors.

# Maintenance

- Once garden is established it will require very little maintenance.
- For the first summer a schedule will be set up for maintenance involving community members.
- Users will be expected to use the garbage cans provided and students and staff will be responsible to ensure garbage is collected every Friday.



# Budget

[Copy of Garden budget1.xls](#)

- Plant Materials
- Support Materials – Teaching resources and tools
- Gravel for pathways
- Mulch
- Labor
- Metal Bridges
- Machinery
- Other materials- Signs, Plaques, Rocks, Concrete Benches, Birdhouses, Bird feeders

# Curriculum Connections

- Science
- Math
- Language Arts
- Arts
- Social

# Sample ideas

- Grade seven – Interactions and Ecosystems
- Setting up quadrants to compare ecosystems and habitats in our community
- Set up a 1 meter quadrant to find and identify organisms and plants
- Growing conditions for healthy plants
- Change variables and compare

# Educational Benefits

- Access to a nearby, cross curricular educational environment
- Opportunity to incorporate and integrate the natural environment into all areas of the curriculum
- Hands on experience with environmental learning
- Opportunities for plant and animal monitoring programs
- Promotion of environmental stewardship

# Follow Up

- Students, staff and community members have a vested interest in the project.
- An evaluation will be done in a year's time to see how well the area has been used and maintained.
- What do we need to improve on?
- Solutions – a group responsibility

# List of Donors

- Crestomere Rec Association
- Mixcor
- Community Members
- West Ponoka 4-H Beef Club
- Proactive Safety Connections
- Expocrete
- Crestomere Anniversary Fund
- UFA in Ponoka

# Working Group

- Since the initial idea was conceived, an option class was created to help facilitate the design process and move the project forward.

Working on the base for the sign was a good way for students to understand working together.

# Working on the sign







# Creating the sign

