

Mancos Elementary School

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"In partnership with our community, we will foster safe, positive, and rigorous learning experiences."

November 2, 2016

It is my pleasure to announce Mancos Elementary School, in collaboration with the Town of Mancos, is applying for a GOCO Schoolyard Initiative Grant. This grant supports "...revitalizing school playgrounds and outdoor learning environments with an emphasis on opportunities for nature-based play and learning. The project must provide spaces for outdoor play and learning, which may include natural playscapes, outdoor classrooms, learning gardens, walking paths, environmental education signage, shade, and age specific play equipment."

A major component of the grant is to ensure the project is led by students, with the guidance of a professional design consultant. Students in grades 3-5 that have demonstrated leadership in the initial phase of researching nature-based playgrounds have been chosen for a Youth Task Force to help lead this initiative. The project design team, MIG, was in Mancos October 18-19 and worked with students, staff, and the community on the initial phases of design. The Youth Task Force worked directly with this team on these two days, as well as with K-5 students prior to the visit, and will continue their efforts until the submission of the grant on January 10th.

A requirement of the grant is to secure 25% of the project costs through both cash and in-kind donations. We anticipate the project to cost approximately \$147,000, with GOCO funding \$110,000. Mancos School District will be required to provide \$37,000 in matching funds: \$11,000 in cash and \$26,000 in-kind contributions or donations of services and materials. We would greatly appreciate your help in supporting Mancos students as we pursue revitalizing Mancos Elementary School's playground. Included below is a list of eligible in-kind contributions that may be a possibility for you to provide.

We invite you to attend the Concept Design Presentation and Chili Dinner Fundraiser on November 14, from 5:30-7:00 in the cafeteria. This event will share the Concept Design, identify equipment and services needed, and provide an opportunity for feedback from the community. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute to the Mancos Elementary Playground Project, I would love to discuss possibilities with you. I can be contacted at cepps@mancosre6.edu or 970-533-9867 or 970-570-1744. Thank you!

The opportunity for our school and town is extraordinary. Your support and time to consider contributing to this project is VERY much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you on November 14th, or talking to you outside of the event if you are unable to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Epps".

Cathy Epps
Mancos PK-5 Principal

Examples of eligible in-kind contributions :

- Donated professional services
 - Use of equipment for a discounted rate or donated
 - Reduced rate in services-regular hourly rate is \$100/hour and charging \$90/hour
 - Assisting in equipment installation
- Discounted equipment-a percentage discount on the price of equipment purchased
- Purchasing a portion of the cost or complete cost of equipment-shade structure, bench, swings, etc.
- Donating supplies-paint, pathway materials, etc.