

Ecology Project Report

October 2021

1. Project Canopy: We are moving ahead with our planting plans after a review from Suzanne McGinn and Jay Reynolds. Alex and I met onsite with Heather McCargo, Wild Seed Project founder, and she also approved our plans and expanded our species list. A class from SMCC will help plant an area this Friday the 22nd and students from Waynflete will help plant on the 27th. We hope to order more trees and shrubs before the end of October.
2. Slide hillside: The scrambling walls near the slide work really well, however we are moving forward with our original plans to include a rope hand railing. This will not only help users climb up the scrambling walls, but will also prevent them from trampling our new plantings. Public Works has agreed to install three or four cedar posts on both sides for the railing. We'll purchase the supplies from The Lumbery. We ordered and planted shrubs and small trees near the "tree fort" and in several open spaces above and below the slide. After the posts and railing have been installed, we'll plant shrubs on the remainder of the hillside.
3. Maintenance: We've been hard at work at our sites. Areas in the Cliff Walk Landscape have been cleared for the upcoming Project Canopy plantings. Cliffside looks great and Alex has been prepping the beds for winter. We hope to replace the temporary wooden stakes and sisal rope around the biofilter pond with an upgraded system to better delineate the paths. We also hope to revamp several sections of the Children's Garden meadow and to increase the biodiversity of the plant species.
4. Outreach: I'm giving several talks this month about the Children's Garden and we are planning a walking tour for November to highlight the restoration along the Cliff Walk.

Thank you! Andrea