

Blessed Sacrament Community Playground

Enhancing the Outdoor Environment
at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

Vision Statement
January 2009

The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community deserves an outdoor environment that is safe for children and adults, supportive of the educational mission of the School and the broader community mission of Parish, environmentally sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, and easy to maintain.

The current outdoor environment adjacent to the Gym presents several challenges to this vision. First, the playground equipment is outdated and difficult to maintain. Second, the athletic field is not evenly graded, with many bumps, hills, and exposed tree roots that present safety concerns. Third, the athletic field is mostly dirt with no grass to support games like soccer and kickball. Finally, the athletic field and playground are adjacent to a large, fenced-in retention pond, which limits the available space and is a real eyesore.

Our vision for the future is:

- New playground equipment that is accessible, sustainable, and promotes child development and health.
- An athletic field that is safe, level, sustainable, and topped with real grass or synthetic turf year-round.
- A retention pond that is either redesigned so that it can be covered over to free up space, or at least enclosed more fully by a taller, more aesthetically pleasing fence structure.

To address these challenges, the BSS Parent-Teacher Organization set aside funds in June 2008 as an investment and began a planning process. This process has included the leadership of both the school and the parish. Going forward, we see the process being a true community-wide project of collaboration, involving not just the PTO but all stakeholders from the school, the parish, and the entire Blessed Sacrament community.

We know that we face difficult planning, financial, and logistical challenges. We will not be able to realize our vision all at once. It will take time and a sustained commitment from all stakeholders. But we also know that we have a strong and supportive community and that with this support and with God's blessings, we can and will realize our vision.