



School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The school or its district has in place and is willing to provide a link to or a copy of a non-discrimination policy, upon request. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Name of Principal:

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name:

(As it should appear on an award)

**Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space*

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Shantee Jude-Williams

Shantee Jude-Williams (Jan 30, 2024 17:03 CST)

_____ Date:

(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent:

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)



District Name:

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

[Handwritten Signature] Date:
(Superintendent's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

- 1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
- 2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
- 3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency:

Name of Nominating Authority:
(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

[Handwritten Signature] Date:
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: October 31, 2026

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



Hawthorne Elementary School - Milwaukee

Hawthorne Elementary is nestled in a quiet, working-class neighborhood on the northwest side of Milwaukee. Serving approximately 300 students in K3 through 5th grade, Hawthorne is a school where students will become critical thinkers who value teamwork, diversity, and social change in order to become future leaders and positive community members. Hawthorne Elementary has been actively working on reducing environmental impacts and costs, improving the health and wellness of our staff and students, and working to increase environmental literacy by redeveloping our schoolyard, providing students with extracurricular activities, learning experiences in nature, and making improvements to our building. Through a grant with Reflo, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee, Hawthorne was able to have approximately 35,813 sq. ft. of asphalt removed and replaced with new green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas. Our schoolyard has an outdoor classroom area and green infrastructure that includes bioswales and a large underground cistern. Additionally, the inclusion of a variety of native plants, allow for unique spaces on the schoolyard that can represent natural Wisconsin ecosystems. The plan manages approximately 84,353 gallons of stormwater per rain event. As part of the redevelopment, 39 new trees were planted and 5,000 square feet of native habitat was restored. Hawthorne has been installing LED lights, filtered bottle filling stations, and is committed to energy-saving practices. All Hawthorne staff and students were involved in the planning and transformation of the schoolyard. The school community is also actively involved in caring for our new schoolyard. The Hawthorne Green Team Club educates students and staff, while also doing a weekly trash cleanup, recycling program, and starting a school garden. Teachers are including environmental curricular connections in their lessons, participating in field trips with Nearby Nature, Discovery World, visits from UWM Urban Ecology program, and students are experiencing nature right outside their classroom doors with our Green Schoolyard playground.

Pillar 1: Reducing Environmental Impacts & Costs

Hawthorne Elementary's conceptual plan called for the removal of approximately 35,813 sq. ft. of asphalt and replacing it with new green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas. The design included an outdoor classroom area and green infrastructure features including bioswales and a large underground cistern. Additionally, the inclusion of a variety of native plants, allow for unique spaces on the schoolyard that can represent natural Wisconsin ecosystems. The plan manages approximately 84,353 gallons of stormwater per rain event. As part of the redevelopment, 39 new trees were planted and 5,000 square feet of native habitat was restored.

Hawthorne School has been able to reduce environmental impacts and costs by installing LED

lighting within the building, using computer power management settings on the computers and smartboards, monitoring energy costs by tracking monthly energy consumption and costs, and removing personal appliances.

The school educates staff and students on what should and should not go down the drains and has been utilizing “ecologically friendly” landscaping methods on school grounds. Students from the Green Team Club are doing weekly trash pick-ups and alongside the school engineer, are continuing to improve our whole school recycling plan to continue to teach staff and students about what items can be recycled and best practices that everyone can bring into their homes. All classrooms have blue recycling bins with visuals on them. The students learn what can be put in the blue bin and what waste goes in the trash bin. Hawthorne’s cafeteria reduces waste by using daily school attendance to plan for the number of meals, uses recyclable lunch trays, and separates out the empty milk cartons for recycling. We are currently looking into how we can start a composting program, though due to cost and funding, the Green Team is planning to start this on a smaller level. Students and staff are always encouraged to use reusable water bottles as there have been two filtered bottle filling stations installed in the school.

Hawthorne is continuously informing parents of different ways to reduce transportation emissions by riding the school bus, walking to school and/or carpooling with family members. We also encourage parents to park their cars and walk up to the school for drop-off and pick-up during the school day. Transportation practices are discussed at the beginning of the year Open House and reminders are sent home to parents through the school messaging system. Hawthorne strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students and families.

Survey Responses:

The school district abides by all the following laws & regulations governing Wisconsin schools, including:

- Provide safe and healthful facilities – Statute 121.02(1)(i)
- Testing for Lead and Asbestos – Statute 254
- Mercury Ban – 2009 Wisconsin Act 44
- Indoor Air Quality – 2009 Wisconsin Act 96

The following policies exist in the school or district:

- School board approved energy policy, sustainability policy or resolution, or similar.
- Environmentally-responsible products purchasing policy. (Durable, low off-gassing, recycled content, reusable or recyclable, third party certified, local, chemical-free)
- Well-publicized no-idling policy that applies to all motorized vehicles (including school buses and parent drop-off/pick-up).
- Food procurement from local and "environmentally preferable" sources.
- Providing healthy classroom snacks.

Energy efficiency or conservation measures that have been implemented include:

- LED lighting installation.

The conservation practices used at the school include:

- Computer power management settings
- Monitor energy costs by tracking monthly energy consumption and costs.
- Removed personal appliances such as portable space heaters or mini-fridges.

The school/district works with an energy management services provider: Conservice, an energy tracking data management service.

The school implements water conservation measures, including:

- Educates students and staff on what should and should not go down the drains.

The school practices "ecologically-friendly" landscaping methods on school grounds, including:

- Water efficient, or native plant landscaping.
- Do not use fertilizers OR Careful application of fertilizers to reduce runoff impact

The school has green infrastructure on the grounds: (i.e.: rain garden, green roof, bioswale, porous pavement)

- 3 bioswales
- large underground cistern

Additional evidence of reducing environmental impacts:

Nathaniel Hawthorne's conceptual plan called for the removal of approximately 35,813 square feet of asphalt and replacing it with new green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas. The design included an outdoor classroom area and green infrastructure features including bioswales and a large underground cistern. Additionally, the inclusion of a variety of native plants, allow for unique spaces on the schoolyard that can represent natural Wisconsin ecosystems. The plan manages approximately 84,353 gallons of stormwater per rain event. As part of the redevelopment, 39 new trees were planted and 5,000 square feet of native habitat was restored. New LED lighting was recently installed in the hallways and in the gym/cafeteria. Teachers and Green Team Club members are educating students on recycling practices in the school.

Pillar 2: Improving Health & Wellness

Since our schoolyard redevelopment, improving the health and wellness of students and staff at Hawthorne has been a priority. The school is continuously monitoring lead, asbestos, mercury, and the indoor air quality. All educational spaces in the district were provided HEPA Air Purifying Units in 2021, HEPA filters are changed at least annually, and more frequently as needed in highly occupied spaces. Federal ESSER II funds were used to Test and Balance the air handling system at Hawthorne, and TAB work was completed in Oct 2023. Federal ESSER II funds were used to remove aging carpet and asbestos flooring in four classrooms and replace with more cleanly hard surface floor tile, completed in Nov 2022. The school engineer

completes monthly inspections of the school structures for mold, moisture, and water leakage, and monitors indoor air quality and changes air handling unit filters. Hawthorne is using ecologically friendly landscaping methods such as not using fertilizers, and using pest management strategies with IPM Institute of North America. The bathrooms have faucets that automatically turn off to conserve water, and the school has installed two filtered bottle filling stations and are encouraging all students and staff in the building to use reusable water bottles.

We have been focusing on providing several opportunities for physical activities for our students using our redeveloped schoolyard, such as soccer, flag football, basketball, cheerleading, and Girls on the Run. We have over 60 students that participate in these after school activities. Students are able to play Gaga Ball during recess, utilize the new green soccer field, basketball hoops, and four square courts. With the redevelopment, a nature play area was created, and students are able to use their imagination to play and explore on wooden beams. The track around the “green island” also provides a safe space for staff and students to walk laps during recess and it provides the community with a space to walk or run after school hours.

We also have an after-school Green Team Club that has over 20 students from 1st through 5th grade participating. All Hawthorne students and staff are welcome to be a part of the after school Green Team Club! Students and staff in the Green Team Club participate in urban birding activities, we learn about Wisconsin native plants and trees that are on our schoolyard, and learn about the purpose of our bioswales and how our school helps provide stormwater management to the community. Green Team Club students are learning about growing plants, creating a school vegetable garden, composting practices, and planting a pollinator garden. Hawthorne students help maintain our schoolyard by doing weekly trash cleanups, educating students and staff on recycling practices, how to take care of the plants, birds, and animals we may see, and keeping an eye on our native plantings and trees.

Hawthorne is part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program through the district, providing students with fruit or vegetable snacks and nutritional education information twice per week. Before and after the redevelopment, 3rd and 4th grade students were active participants in the Green & Healthy Schools Children’s Healthy Learning Environment Research project by the Medical College of Wisconsin. Students were part of the research to measure the impact that a green schoolyard can have on the physical and mental well-being of students. This information will help inform future green schoolyard projects in the district and continue to build support for school greening efforts. The school health team has also focused on student and staff wellness by providing resources on physical and mental health wellness activities available in the community.

Survey Responses:

Hawthorne has a wellness committee that creates an overall school health plan. Students and staff spend a minimum of 2 hours, beyond recess and organized sports, learning outside per week.

Hawthorne has many opportunities for staff and students to experience outdoor educational opportunities, physical activity, and nature-based recreation right at school. Teachers make curricular connections by utilizing the Outdoor Discovery Cart that was provided by Reflo, we have had environmental education programs with Reflo on our schoolyard, and we also make arts connections by using the outdoor amphitheater for student plays, performances, and art installations. Our art educator has utilized the space for group art projects using chalk, and the Green Team Club made bird feeders for our trees. The student Green Team Club also does weekly cleanups, while the whole school does a schoolyard cleanup on Earth Day. There are musical instruments outside on the playground that students play with every day during recess and wellness breaks. Support staff utilize the green schoolyard to take students outside for movement breaks, restorative circles, and mindfulness activities. Students at Hawthorne participate in birding activities and take care of our native plants and trees by “adopting a tree.” We have many opportunities for physical activity including a walking club, playing in our nature play area, playing soccer and football on our new grass field, and playing Gaga Ball in our new Gaga Ball Pit. Our traffic garden gives students who are working on bike safety a place to practice. We are doing container gardening in our new greenspace during the spring and we are providing our students and families with opportunities to experience our greenspace through Open House events, the Fall Harvest Fest, and End of the Year Field Day.

Our school implemented, or continued, improved environmental health practices and procedures to improve indoor air quality in the last 12 months:

- Monthly inspection of school structures for mold, moisture, and water leakage.
- Improved indoor air quality to prevent exposure to asthma triggers.

Drinking water in our school was tested for lead and other contaminants in the last 12 months.

Our school or district developed the IPM program with the help of a community partner.

Additional evidence of supporting health and wellness of students and staff:

Our engaged building engineer performs monthly inspections of school structures for mold, moisture, and water leakage, and the air handling unit filters are changed every 90 days. A filtered bottle filling station was added in September 2022, and the district filters all drinking water sources. Those filters are changed annually, or more frequently as needed. All educational spaces in the school have been provided with HEPA Air Purifying Units and the filters are changed as needed. In November 2022, aging carpet and asbestos flooring were removed in four classrooms and replaced with more cleanly hard surface floor tile.

Students and staff at Hawthorne were involved in the planning and implementation of our schoolyard redevelopment project. Students in the 3rd and 4th grade were also active participants in the Green & Healthy Schools Children’s Healthy Learning Environment Research project by the Medical College of Wisconsin. Students were part of the research to measure the impact that a green schoolyard can have on the physical and mental well-being of students. The school health team has focused on student and staff wellness by providing resources on physical and mental health wellness activities available, and the parent coordinator plans an annual Mental Health and Wellness Night for staff, students, and parents. Support staff, including the school psychologist and school social worker are able to utilize the outdoor spaces for groups, social-emotional learning

activities, and wellness breaks. Special education and regular education teachers are able to provide students with movement breaks, the opportunity for students to see how being outdoors can increase their mental health and well-being, learn mindfulness practices, and learn self-regulation strategies that we can do outdoors. Hawthorne provides extra-curricular activities for students such as soccer, football, basketball, cheerleading, and Girls on the Run, a social emotional learning and physical education program for girls in the 3rd through 5th grades. Hawthorne also just started hosting a Girl Scout Troop, which is led by parents of students in the school. Students and staff are encouraged to use reusable water bottles, and the school has provided these for students also. Hawthorne students help maintain our schoolyard by doing weekly trash cleanups and keeping an eye on our native plantings and trees. We have partnerships with Nearby Nature, Discovery World, and Reflo for educational opportunities, and help students learn about nutrition by participating in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable program. Hawthorne was awarded the Green Principal of the Year, Most Engaged Engineer, Green Educator of the year, and Most Engaged Green Team award this year at the 7th annual Green and Healthy Schools Conference this year.

Pillar 3: Increasing Environmental Literacy

Staff at Hawthorne have been able to utilize the outdoor spaces to provide students with new experiences in learning right outside their classroom door. The space has been beneficial for our youngest learners to have positive social-emotional experiences and learn about safety. Our K3 Head Start classroom provides the foundation to foster active parent involvement in learning and social activities at school. Students in K4 are able to complete the outdoor learning component in the Frog Street Curriculum, which includes learning about the plant life cycle. The new asphalt markings on the schoolyard have supported physical activity as well as math and social studies curriculum. K3 through K5 students have been able to practice pedestrian safety by riding their bikes around a central track and traffic garden, learning how to follow directions, and have been learning the different road signs. Our youngest learners also begin to gain perspective on what is going on in their community; what it looks like, who lives there, and the different natural habitats surrounding them.

1st graders learn about their community and cultivate their curiosity and wonder by using the Reflo cart to explore the outdoors using magnifying glasses and nature observation containers. The outdoor classroom/amphitheater has been used to put on the annual 2nd and 3rd grade "Elephant and Piggie Readers Theater Show," and 2nd and 3rd grade students have also been able to observe and learn about weather, clouds, and biodiversity in ways they were unable to before. The 4th grade students study native Wisconsin plants, which are now right outside their door. 4th and 5th graders have also been able to set up outdoor experiments on energy and motion, as well as participate in programming with Nearby Nature Milwaukee, an environmental justice and equity initiative formed to build healthier and more resilient communities that celebrates natural areas, enhances a community's value and improves health and wellness. Special education teachers are working with small groups in the outdoor setting to release energy, do team building exercises, learn mindfulness practices, and increase engagement when learning. We have been able to use the outdoor green space to help support

relationship-building within our school community, strengthen learning experiences for students, and engage families in educational and recreational activities that help Hawthorne achieve the goals of educating the whole child. All students and staff participate in Earth Day activities, including sewing seeds, learning about the plant life cycle, and learning about how to take care of our schoolyard and surrounding environment.

Students and staff at Hawthorne have been able to learn more about how much we can impact our environment since the addition of our newly redeveloped schoolyard. With the addition of our three bioswales and native plantings, we have been able to be a part of the community's ability to become more sustainable and improve the health of our local biodiversity. We now have students that are more in tune with their surroundings and are more aware of how these green spaces are impacting their daily lives.

Since we have been able to be a part of the Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee (GSCM) and the local greener, healthier schools community, we have been able to be provided with professional development opportunities, learning and field trip opportunities such as on-site programming with Reflo, 5th grade field trips with Nearby Nature, and programming with Discovery World. Our 2nd and 3rd grade science teacher is also connecting with the Neighborhood House to provide students with opportunities to go to the Neighborhood House Nature Center and attend an annual Maple Sugaring field trip. Teachers have attended the annual Green & Healthy Schools Conference for several years and participated in many activities. In 2023, our team was recognized for our green and healthy efforts at the GHS Conference and voted by our peers and guests by winning Green Principal, Green Educator, Most Supportive Building Engineer and Most Engaged Green Team of the year. Staff participated in the Children's Healthy Learning Environment PD offered in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Bike Fed, Reflo and MPS Phy Ed Dept in April 2023. In addition, our K4 teacher has an Early Childhood Outdoor Education Certificate and has attended LEAF professional development programming focused on learning outdoors. Our staff brings these experiences back to the school and shares best practices with our school community.

Hawthorne is one of the district's sites for providing Saturday STEM camps for students in K5-5th grade. Hawthorne is also committed to increasing students' exposure to STEM activities through our monthly "Genius Club," where students are given many different opportunities to explore different topics and activities which includes many hands-on activities and brain-based engagement. All K4 through 5th grade students are participating, and some examples of Genius Clubs include coding, toy engineering, and snap circuits.

The school is working toward creating a school community that is very involved in maintaining the new green spaces, which will hopefully lead to students becoming stewards for any environment that they are in. The student leaders who are part of the Green Team Club have given presentations to staff and their peers on the "dos and don'ts" for our Green Schoolyard, where students each had a station and taught the ways we take care of certain areas of the schoolyard. Students are also working on making the school recycling program more effective

in partnership with our school engineer. Students on the Green Team are leaders in helping their peers maintain and take care of our schoolyard by “adopting a tree,” reminding students to be gentle with the plants and trees, and keeping the areas clean. We also enjoy using our new space for school events that bring in our families and community members. We utilize the schoolyard for nature exploration, community events, STEAM projects, open houses, field days, and special events. Our annual beginning of the school year Open House, Harvest Day, and Field Day all use the outdoor space and bring families, school staff, and community members and businesses together.

Hawthorne has a strong green team with participation from both students and staff. Students at Hawthorne provide leadership in advancing green and healthy practices in the school. The Green Team Club participates in urban birding activities, learns about native plants and trees, the purpose of our bioswales and how our school helps provide stormwater management to the community. The Green Team members also have provided students and staff with the information they know about respecting wildlife and how our schoolyard is benefitting the surrounding community. The students who are part of the Green Team Club gave presentations to staff and their peers on the “dos and don’ts” for our Green Schoolyard in the spring. The students each had a station and taught the ways we take care of certain areas of the schoolyard. Students are also continuing with implementing a recycling program in partnership with our school engineer. Green Club members teach students and staff about what items are recyclable using visual aids, then collect items in the recycling bins for the building engineer. Students on the Green Team are leaders in helping their peers maintain and take care of our schoolyard by reminding students to be gentle with the plants and trees, and keeping the areas clean.

All students have opportunities to participate in organizations or clubs related to nature, the environment, or the outdoors, and over 60 students participate in these after school programs:

- Student Green Team/Birding Club
- Soccer Team
- Football Team
- Basketball Team
- Cheerleading
- Student Ambassadors
- Girls on the Run
- Girl Scouts

The school has a staff position dedicated to sustainability efforts and staff (teaching or non-teaching) have participated in professional development or training related to green & healthy concepts:

- Children’s Healthy Learning Environment PD (MPS/Reflo/Medical College of Wisconsin & WI Bike Fed – April 12, 2023)
- Annual Green & Healthy Schools Conference (7th annual - August 2, 2023)
- Alverno Early Childhood Outdoor Education Certificate (K4 teacher)

Green and healthy concepts are included in the curriculum at every grade level. All grade levels learn about sustainability practices, the plant life cycle, where our food comes from with the help of the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program, and students in the 4th grade learn specifically about Wisconsin's native plants and animals. Kindergarten students participate in farm-to-school programming, by attending learning journeys at Oak Ridge Farm annually. Teachers from kindergarten through 5th grade utilize the outdoor spaces to increase their students' knowledge of the surrounding community. The teachers encourage their students to ask questions about what they see outdoors, learn different ways to increase their well-being through physical activity, and learn about natural and cultural systems. Students and staff utilize the school building and outdoor spaces as extensions of classroom learning.

Types of areas available for outdoor learning include:

- Food, herb, or vegetable garden
- Habitat, pollinator, or native plants garden space
- Outdoor classroom

In the summer of 2022, the outdoor schoolyard was redeveloped and all Hawthorne staff and students were part of this planning process. All staff members attended redevelopment planning meetings for the years prior to construction, and still are part of the school Green Team efforts to maintain the schoolyard and increase outdoor educational opportunities. The new construction included natural playscape elements that nurture childhood creativity, foster wonder and imagination, and inspire healthy risk-taking. It also created the addition of stormwater green infrastructure including bioswales, stormwater diversions, and native plantings that help to better manage stormwater on the school grounds improving the aesthetics, biodiversity, recreational facilities, and the health of local watersheds. The redevelopment project built an outdoor classroom and performance stage, both completed with natural seating options, to help facilitate ecoliteracy and all of the benefits that comes with outdoor learning, and provides a setting for the performing arts. The development project helped to reduce the amount of asphalt on the school grounds, and was a central component of the redevelopment plan. Along with new green space, earthen mounds, and tree plantings, Hawthorne added colorful pavement markings and gaga ball pits to support exercise activities and game play. The student green team club and annual Earth Day celebration helps maintain the schoolyard by doing trash cleanups and learning about the maintenance and stewardship of our new green spaces.

Our school provides regular communication to staff, students, and families about green & healthy practices and accomplishments. We use our school bulletin boards, messaging system, send home information via newsletters and flyers, have events at our school for our families and community, and have students present information to staff and students regarding our new green spaces.

In March 2023, Hawthorne held a Mental Health & Wellness night. We provided resources regarding wellness activities and different programs in the community/school district. We had a mindfulness/yoga session and provided families with a wellness "toolbox."

Additional evidence for increasing environmental literacy:

Students and staff at Hawthorne have been able to learn more about how much we can impact our environment since the addition of our newly redeveloped school yard. It was not known how much impact our concrete yard had on the ability for the surrounding community to manage stormwater and how it affected people's homes. With the addition of our three bioswales and native plantings, we have been able to be a part of the community's ability to become more sustainable and improve the health of our local biodiversity. We now have students that are more in tune with their surroundings and are more aware of how these green spaces are impacting their daily lives. Since we have been able to be a part of the Green and Healthy School community, we have been able to be provided with professional development opportunities, learning and field trip opportunities such as on-site programming with Reflo, 5th grade field trips with Nearby Nature, and programming with Discovery World. The school is working toward creating a school community that is very involved in maintaining the new green spaces, which will hopefully lead to students becoming stewards for any environment that they are in. We also enjoy using our new space for school events that bring in community members.

Additional Information:

- Schoolyard Redevelopment Project Webpage - <https://refloh2o.com/hawthorne>
- Schoolyard redevelopment before: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E_EfRUa-e2SxU1pxPynGHEFrVDBEpf6y/view?usp=sharing
- Schoolyard redevelopment after: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LTq7DaqYjpM8Jc877>
- Overview redevelopment video: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/YUervKJWEfwTYZey5>
- 7th Annual Green & Healthy Schools Conference Recap and Award Winners: <https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=bb67f1fd100d2b5acf03ec583&id=d6da129367>

Future plans and goals related to school sustainability:

Hawthorne teachers are planning to utilize the green schoolyard more often for learning in the two outdoor classroom spaces. We also plan to continue to utilize our space for family and community events, where we can also educate families on how to reduce their carbon footprint and save on energy costs. We are also still planning and working on constructing a space for having more permanent raised bed gardens. We plan to have a pollinator and vegetable garden to support more programming surrounding these topics. We plan to continue to create a more robust recycling program led by the student Green Team and plan to focus on the entire school community's mental and physical health and wellness by implementing more mindfulness activities outdoors, having FoodWise educators come in and teach about nutrition, and continuing to sign up for at least one school team per season through Milwaukee Recreation.