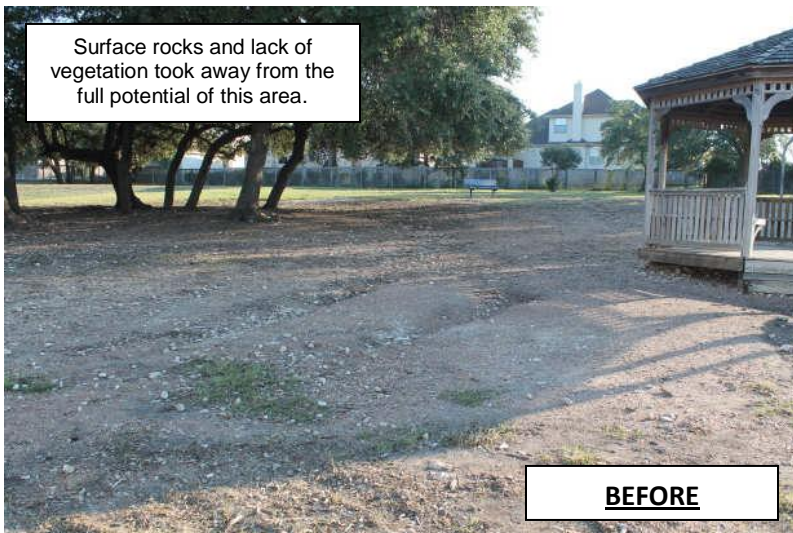


Whitestone Elementary Playground Improvement & Healthy Campus Initiative Spring 2016 Update

Whitestone PTA's goal with the Playground and Healthy Campus Initiative is to bring the greatest possible potential out of the school's available area to encourage new instructional uses and improve the quality of physical activities that take place on our grounds daily, promoting an active and healthy life style for our 840+ students, while encouraging their curiosity of nature and the outdoors.

In the spring 2013, the Whitestone PTA, in partnership with **Keene Roofing** and our many generous donors, **raised over \$55,000**. With these funds, the Whitestone PTA started construction on the Playground & Healthy Campus Initiative that summer with the improvement of the Sports Field and the play area by the K-2nd Playscape.



The well-known landscape contractor **The Grass Patch** joined the initiative and performed the work at cost, allowing us to install high quality materials over the largest possible area within our budget.

New ditches were built to correct drainage around the field; existing irrigation was reworked and new sprinkler zones were installed (controlled by a new solar-powered panel); over 1,100 cubic yards of new topsoil was brought in; new mulch was placed in shady areas; and finally, new Bermuda Tiff 419 sod was installed. Our students will enjoy running and playing on this high quality athletics grass for years to come!



There little grass on the Sports Field and kids played on dirt and rocks.



The Field was re-graded, drainage was reworked, and new topsoil & sod were installed.



In the spring 2014, our Whitestone Family, in partnership with **Collins Advanced Dermatology Institute**, **Keene Roofing** and our many generous donors, **raised over \$62,000**. With these funds, the Whitestone PTA completed Phase 1B of construction.



Two shade structures were installed over the main playscape areas. Our gratitude goes to **Collins Advanced Dermatology Institute** for donating the shade structure over the K-2nd playscape. Our students were so excited to see their shaded playground when they returned to school in August 2014!

The commercial concrete contractor, **Universal Construction**, built four picnic table concrete slabs and a new running track at COST. The entire track was re-graded for optimum running performance and to reduce erosion. A concrete ribbon was built at level to improve safety of our little runners and **Austin Landscape Supplies** brought in over 72 cubic yards of fresh crushed granite to resurface the track. Our students have been using the amenity daily. A special thank you to **Keene Roofing Inc.** for sponsoring the improvement of the running track.





Five large commercial grade picnic tables and 3 trash cans were installed under the oak trees on the new concrete slabs, providing a great area for students to gather and socialize. These areas have been put to a lot of use since inauguration and were a welcome addition at our outdoor events such as Running Club, Pioneer Day, Fall Fest, etc. Thank you to our generous **Picnic Table Sponsors** for donating the picnic table sets.



What's Next with the Playground Initiative?

Our next goals with this initiative are to:

- Solve the Courtyard drainage problems
- Build an outdoor science classroom in the Courtyard
- Install commercial grade picnic tables and trash cans on concrete slabs
- Install a shade tarp over the area
- Install raised garden beds for outdoor planting/gardening

Our start date for all of this work is contingent on funding. We expect this phase to cost \$50,000 to \$60,000. In the spring 2015, our Whitestone Family, through our many generous donors, **raised over \$20,000**. This year, we need at least another \$30,000 raised to accomplish all of our goals for the next phase.

Please join us at “**Dine and Unwind for the Wildcats!**” on **May 20, 2016**, at *The Oasis on Lake Travis* to support this worthy cause. All of the profits from this fundraising event go to the Initiative. To buy your tickets online or to donate directly to the Playground and Healthy Campus Initiative, go to the “Store” tab on the Whitestone PTA website. Ticket order forms are due Friday, May 13, 2016.

<http://whitestone.my-pta.org>.