



**Kathryn Senor Elementary School  
Accessible and Inclusive Playground Addition  
Grant Partnership Proposal**

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# Garfield School District No. Re-2

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Lisa Pierce, Assistant Superintendent

Board of Directors  
Britton Fletchall, President  
Fathom Jensen, Vice President  
Tony May, Board Member  
Chance Jenkins, Treasurer  
Cassie Haskell, Secretary

May 28, 2024

Dear Members of the City Council,

I enthusiastically support Kathryn Senor Elementary School's efforts to secure grant funding for new, inclusive playground equipment. This initiative is a vital investment in our children's well-being and an essential step towards ensuring all students have equal access to recreational opportunities.

Kathryn Senor Elementary opened its doors in 1997 and has provided an excellent educational environment for the children of New Castle for over two decades. However, the playground facilities have seen minimal upgrades since their initial installation. As a result, the current playground is outdated and no longer meets the diverse needs of our student population.

The need for a new playground has become even more pressing with the recent adoption of a new Significant Support Needs (SSN) program at this school. This program serves students with various physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, requiring specialized equipment to facilitate their safe and enjoyable participation in playground activities. Unfortunately, our existing playground lacks the necessary features to accommodate these students, limiting their ability to engage with their peers and enjoy the benefits of outdoor play.

The impact of an inclusive playground on this community cannot be overstated, as the playground also serves the general public when school is not in session. The proximity of the playground to other parks, soccer fields, and trail systems would provide the town with a unique opportunity to offer a recreational complex open and accessible to all. It would promote physical activity, social interaction, and emotional well-being for all children.

I wholeheartedly support Kathryn Senor Elementary School's mission to secure funding for this project and urge you to consider the profound positive impact this new playground will have on our students and community. Investing in an inclusive playground is an investment in the future of all our children, ensuring they have the opportunity to grow, learn, and play together.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Project Nuts and Bolts**

**What:** We (KSE PTAC and Garfield RE-2 School District) are seeking a partnership with the Town of New Castle to apply for grants to build an accessible and inclusive playground addition for Kathryn Senor Elementary School.

### **Who:**

- Parent Teacher Action Committee (PTAC) at KSE
- Garfield RE-2 School District
- Staff, students and parents at KSE
- Star Playgrounds

### **Why:**

- This playground sits in the center of a New Castle residential neighborhood and is fully open to all members of the community outside of school hours and all summer long. This would provide not only the school, but the entire community with a safe and accessible space for children to play.
- Our current playground is inaccessible to individuals with mobility challenges due to the nature of the surfacing surrounding the equipment (pea gravel) and the nature of the equipment itself. We propose the addition of a fully accessible surface (poured in place rubber surfacing) and new, ADA compliant playground equipment that would allow children of all abilities to integrate and play together in a safe and engaging environment.
- This past year, KSE started a new Significant Support Needs (SSN) program that will increase the number of children enrolled at the school who would require these modifications. KSE is excited to offer this program and have the capabilities to teach all children. In the past, these students have been directed to other schools in order to best meet their needs. Unfortunately, the district is not able to provide funding for these necessary playground upgrades.
- There is no playground like this (with rubber surfacing and a focus on accessibility) anywhere in New Castle.
- This is the original playground that was built with the school in 1997.

### **Project Details:**

- Resurfacing a portion of the playground with poured-in-place (PIP) rubber surfacing for accessibility and safety (The playground is currently filled with pea gravel. Pea gravel is not ADA accessible.)
- Removing outdated and broken equipment.
- Providing new, modern, and accessible playground equipment.
- Because of the large size of this playground, this project would renovate a large portion, but not the entire playground. Some of the old equipment that is still in good condition would stay (swings, balance beams, monkey bars). \*See attached site plan for a better idea of which area we are hoping to place the rubber surfacing and new equipment.

**Location of Project:**

- Kathryn Senor Elementary School at 101 Alder Ave. (rear playground on the Northeast side of the school)
- Located in the heart of Castle Valley, walking distance to residential neighborhoods
- Close proximity to ViX Ranch Park, dog park and soccer fields.

**Timeline:**

- Grant submission – August/September 2024
- Grants awarded and Budget finalized – December 2024
- Equipment ordered – Winter 2024/Spring 2025
- Building commences – Spring/Summer 2025

**Funding:**

- Total project budget: \$200,000
- PTAC has been fundraising for the past two years and has secured ~\$50,000 through a combination of cash and in-kind donations
- To cover the remaining \$150,000 needed to complete the project, we have identified two viable grant options:
  - Great Outdoors Colorado Community Impact Grant
  - Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District Joint Grant

**How can the Town of New Castle help?**

**Partnership Proposal** - We are asking that the Town of New Castle partner with Garfield RE-2 school district so that we can apply for these grants. Neither of these grants allow the district to apply alone, but by partnering with the Town we would be eligible applicants. We have researched and vetted numerous grant options, and these are the best fit for our purpose. Below we have detailed what the Town and District responsibilities would be within this partnership.

**GOCO Community Impact Grant****Town responsibilities:**

1. Fill the role of primary applicant
2. Provide a point of contact
3. Signed resolution

**District responsibilities:**

1. Fill the role of Fiscal Agent
2. Write the grant
3. Provide a project manager
4. Provide matching funds
5. Front total project cost prior to reimbursement

## **How can the Town of New Castle help? (Continued)**

### GCFMLD Partnership Grant

#### Town responsibilities:

1. Fill the role of joint applicant
2. Complete the Attestation form

#### District responsibilities:

1. Fill the role of Fiscal Agent
2. Write the grant
3. Provide a project manager
4. Provide matching funds
5. Front total project cost prior to reimbursement



### Current Playground Photos:



## Examples of New Accessible Equipment

(Actual equipment will vary depending on amount awarded and current sale catalog.)

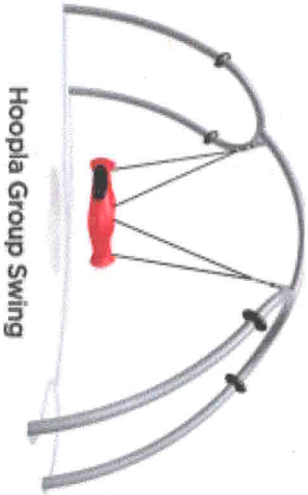




## Examples of New Accessible Equipment

(Actual equipment will vary depending on amount awarded and current sale catalog.)

### Kathryn Senor ES Playground Ideas Standalone Play





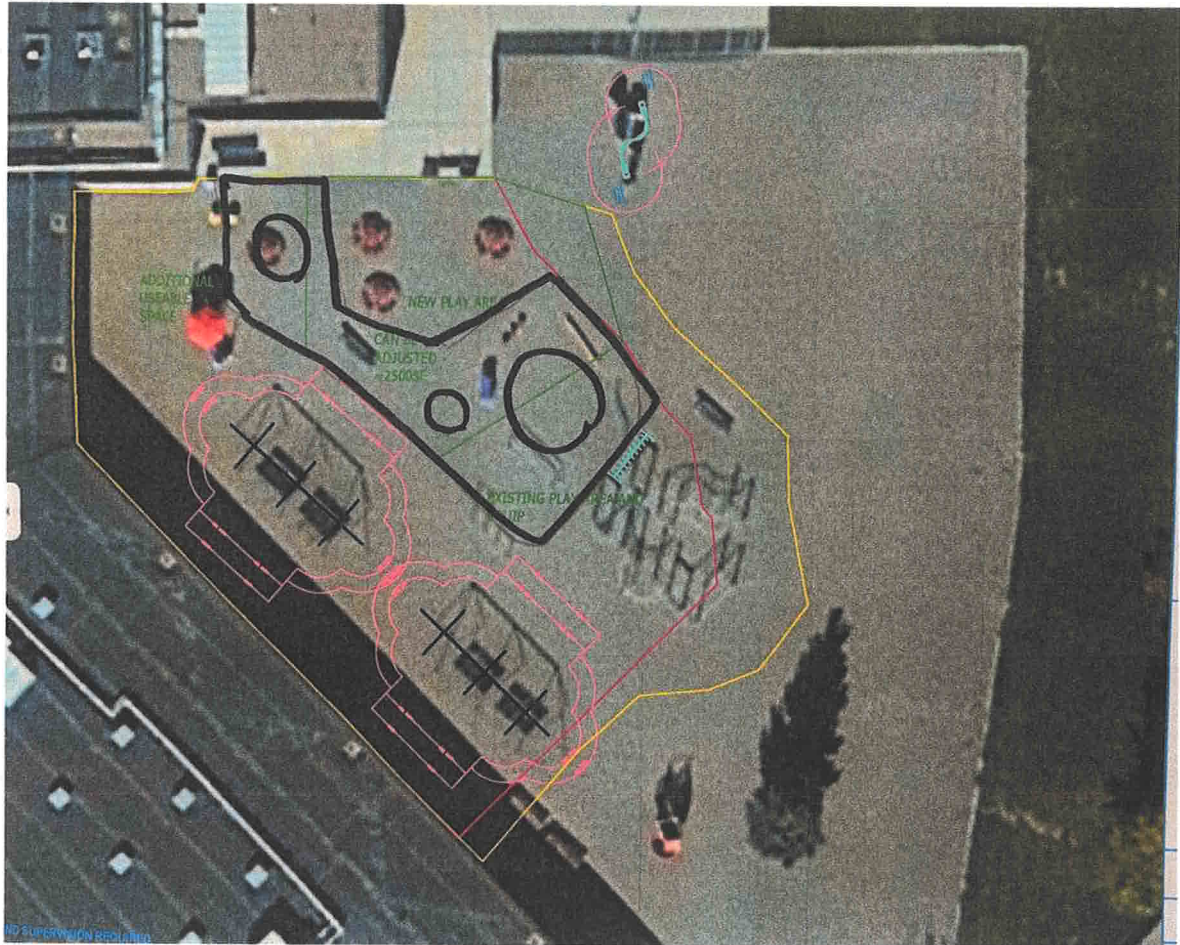
## Examples of the poured in place (PIP) rubber surfacing

(Actual equipment will vary depending on amount awarded and current sale catalog.)



## Playground Site Plan

Accessible surfacing (poured in place rubber) and accessible equipment to be placed in area outlined in black. New playground area is approximately 2500 sq ft.





## Playground Arial View

Showing proximity of KSE playground to VIX Park and KSE Soccer fields

