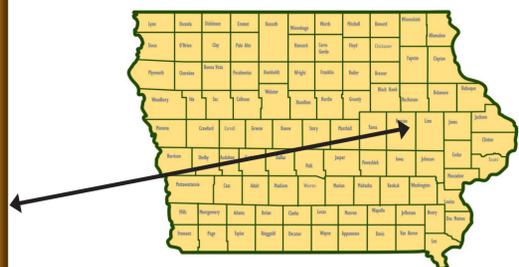




TREES FOREVER Growing Futures Schools



Aerial view from southwest (left)

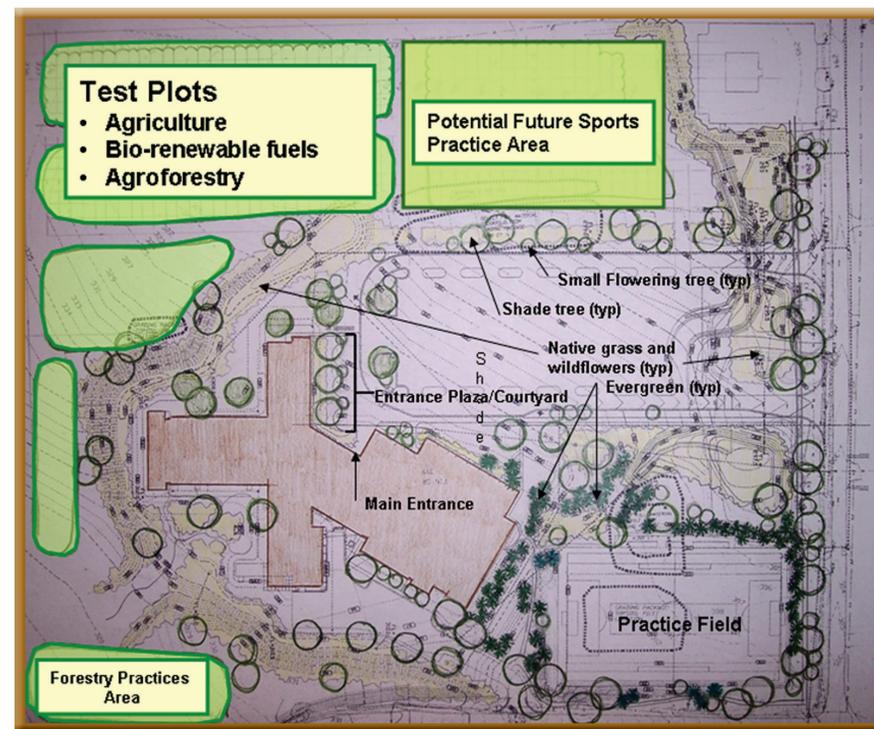
Same view with suggested landscape plan (below)

In 2005, Trees Forever created the *Growing Futures* program as a way to reach and inspire students in conservation and agricultural careers.

Working with a dedicated administration, teachers, and community leaders of Vinton - Shellsburg High School in Iowa, Trees Forever has created a model outdoor classroom and a prototype for "Growing Futures Schools." Together we are linking science and other curriculum directly to a comprehensively designed campus. Students along with faculty, families, and environmental professionals will

have the opportunity to spend more time outdoors (together), creating a supportive atmosphere for learning and career development. Research shows that students retain better with learning experiences outdoors, especially when combined with inspiring educators and career experts.

The campus has been designed to be an example of good conservation and environmental stewardship.



Vinton - Shellsburg High School - Landscape Master Plan

Key principles of the landscape plan:

- ◆ Create opportunities for learning in all areas of the site
- ◆ Minimize erosion
- ◆ Maximize infiltration and filtration of storm water
- ◆ Focus on native plants in a natural appearance
- ◆ Plant trees for both summer and winter energy efficiency
- ◆ Design for minimal maintenance and seasonal interest

Vinton - Shellsburg High School

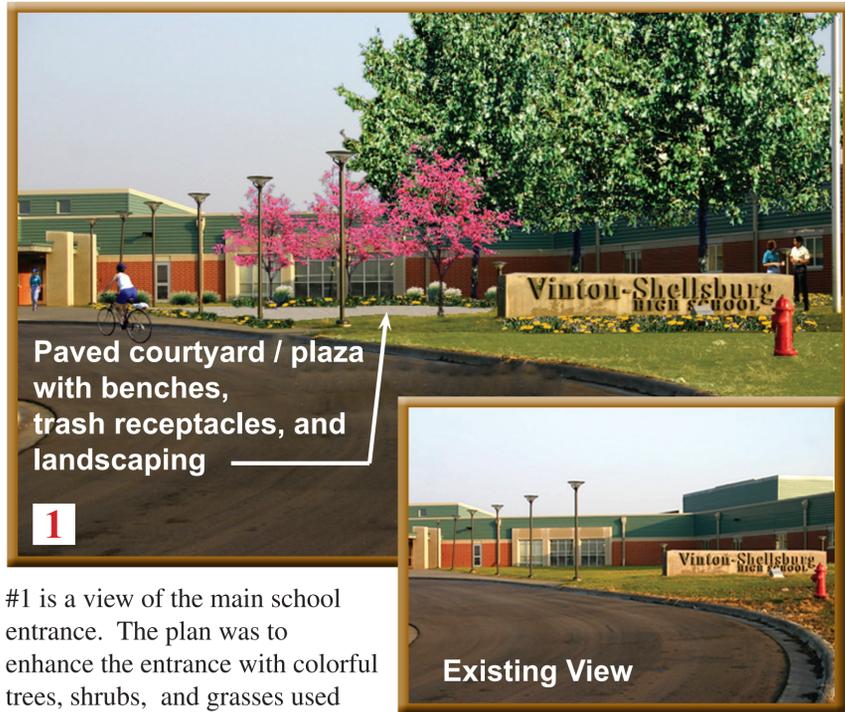
MODEL LANDSCAPE PLAN

Prepared by Roger Hunt, Trees Forever Landscape Architect



TREES FOREVER Growing Futures Schools

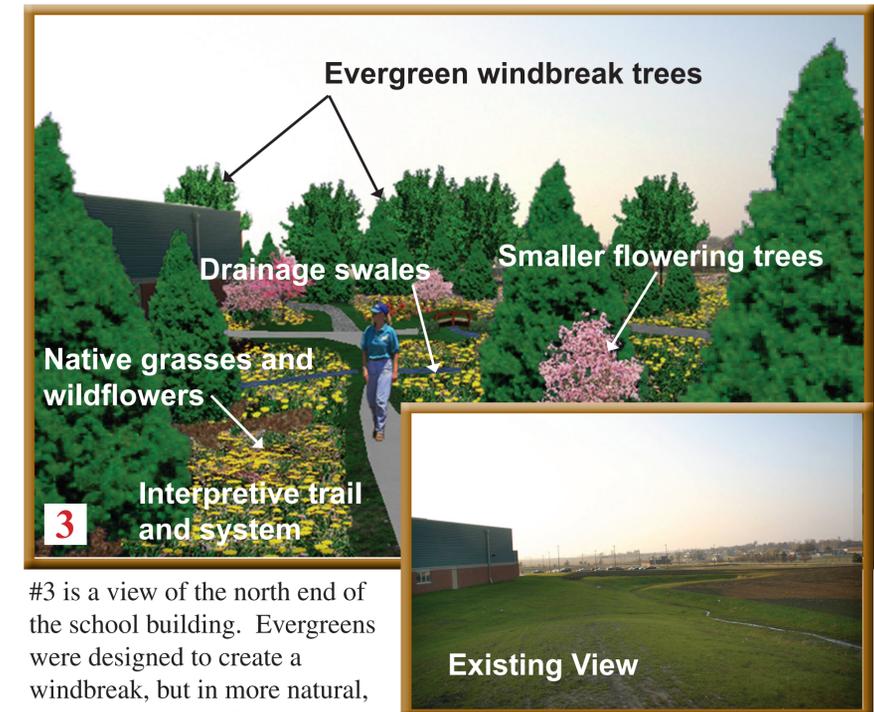
The images below show the existing conditions at the school site and image edits of how they might look once the plan is implemented. An image edit is an excellent tool to use to convey a concept to the public.



#1 is a view of the main school entrance. The plan was to enhance the entrance with colorful trees, shrubs, and grasses used in combination with a paved pedestrian plaza (gathering place), benches, trash receptacles, and lighting. Some of the same plants found in a natural setting on the site are used in a more garden style/urban way.



#2 is a view of the frontage street where the campus meets the community. Here the design allows for a transition between traditional mowed turf and the more natural landscape of the campus. Shade trees and flowering trees are used to invite people to use the sidewalk/trail and to slow street traffic.



#3 is a view of the north end of the school building. Evergreens were designed to create a windbreak, but in more natural, random spacing. Native grasses and wildflowers are planted in the drainage swales and fronting the evergreens to minimize mowing, maximize filtration and infiltration of storm water runoff, and to create a variety of color and texture throughout the year. A pathway/trail is planned to facilitate movement through the campus landscape to learn about its function and for recreation. Instructional signage will be located along the path.

Visionary Curriculum tied to Campus Outdoor Learning Lab

AgriScience Academy

- ◆ Agriculture and Conservation
- ◆ Horticulture and Greenhouse Management
- ◆ Forestry and Agroforestry
- ◆ Environmental Science

Geospatial Academy

- ◆ Intro to Precision Farming
- ◆ Using Arc View
- ◆ Quantifying Environmental Benefits
- ◆ Learning from Designers and Researchers

Career Academy

- ◆ Mentoring by Farmers and Ag Experts
- ◆ Outdoor Activities with visiting College Educators
- ◆ Hosting Regional Career Fairs
- ◆ Community Learning Exchanges

Thanks to Trees Forever Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™ major sponsors:

- ◆ Syngenta
- ◆ Iowa Farm Bureau
- ◆ GROWMARK
- ◆ NRCS

Additional site funds provided by:

- ◆ Alliant Energy
- ◆ Iowa DOT Living Roadway Trust Fund

“Planting the Plan” in Phases

(See plan at right) Since most of the campus landscape will be planted by students and community volunteers as part of a learning experience, phases were developed that met the various needs of the different grants. Phasing is an important way to implement large scale projects with limited resources, while enhancing the educational experience for all ages.

