

To: City of Bainbridge Island Planning Department and City Council  
From: Emily Mansfield  
Date: May 2, 2017  
Re: Madrona School property on North Madison Ave.

I am a resident of North Madison – 14396 Madison Ave. NE – and I am writing to support the Madrona School's plans for use of the property on Madison Avenue for their outdoor classroom activities and activities related to the garden there.

I drive down Madison Avenue every day and I do not believe the school will add enough traffic to adversely impact the neighborhood or inconvenience other drivers. North Madison is already one of more busy thoroughfares on the Island. Commuters by-pass the highway using Hidden Cove Rd. and Madison at all hours of the day. There is already great congestion in the morning caused by parents driving children to Bainbridge public schools instead of having them use the school buses. The number of cars heading to Wilkes or the schools on Sportsman's Club with a single child passenger vastly outnumber the few cars that will come to Madrona.

There are immeasurable benefits to families and communities from providing children with daily outdoor education and learning from gardens and nature. Madrona School is modeling a form of education that I wish were available in our public school system. This model requires a sizeable, accessible property which Madrona was fortunate to find on Madison Avenue. I strongly support them in moving forward with their plans.

There are a number of private education facilities – schools, day care homes, after-school activities -- on this Island, some on busy streets and some tucked away in truly quiet neighborhoods. We manage to accommodate the need for this diversity, not giving in to NIMBY-ism, with creative solutions that grow out of each particular circumstance. I feel certain there is a way for Madrona School to be a responsible part of the North Madison neighborhood and I am happy to welcome them.

Thank you,  
Emily Mansfield  
14396 Madison Ave. NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA