

## **Grounds Maintenance Policies**

The Contract allows for subcontracting of Grounds Services. We assign the Contractor(s) to perform grounds work. We also try to get the floater crew to do as much exterior clean-up and weeding as possible.

Overall, we are not well positioned from a budget or staff perspective to maintain higher end plantings and grounds. We are much better suited for mowing and trimming on a macro level. This is always a balancing act when planning landscaping for school projects (what looks good day 1 vs. what will last and what can we realistically maintain). We do pay special attention to the Beech Trees and have those looked at by the City arborist and outside contractor when needed.

We can also, through the contract subcontracting language, support local PTO groups and volunteers to engage in beautification and maintenance. Some schools like Barnard, Edgewood, Jepson, Nathan Hale, Brennan, and others have taken this to higher levels and have school gardens, clubs, make it part of the curriculum, PTO events, etc.

The key here is for GTS to be involved with the planning so that we can support the efforts and steer the planning constructively. We do not want to plant things that will not work or take away from the original design.