

# Harriet Baldwin Schoolyard, Brighton, MA

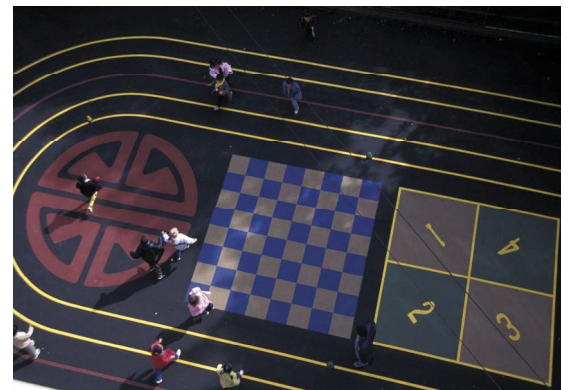
Project Landscape Architect at Johansson Design Collaborative



## Project Information:

The goals for this Boston Schoolyard Initiative project included incorporating the Chinese heritage of the student body, introducing nature into the almost completely asphalted play yard, and separating the yard from vehicular traffic and parking.

The careful design solution makes the most of the yard's tight space. A small play structure and curved low steps, which serve as an amphitheater, are integrated with a multi-level track. The track can be used both for PE classes and the programmed parade at Chinese New Year. At the front of the school, an interpretive nature area was carved out of existing lawn, and leads to a natural, quiet group seating area surrounded by native shrubs. Design details also reflect the school's Chinese heritage which can be seen in the colors of the play structure and pavement graphics, particularly the dragon. The plantings are all natives and are selected for their unique traits such as the hay scent of crushed Sweet Fern. The completed yard now provides a variety of play opportunities and clearly separates play from parking.



Photos by Charles Mayer

Year Constructed: 2002

Holly D. Ben-Joseph, Landscape Architect

Phone: 508.451.3388, email:hollydbj@gmail.com, hdbjlandscapes.com

