

MILLER COMPANY landscape architects

April 7, 2025

Atherton Planning Department
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, CA 94027

Subject: Variance application for Atherton Library Children's Nature Garden.

Situated on the west side of Atherton Library, set under an existing linear grove of towering Redwood and Oak trees, the garden design provides an accessible nature filled experience for children to explore, gather, learn, and dream.

The design team has met with Atherton Library staff, neighbors attending community meetings, and adjacent neighbors to review the plans. The design provides for full accessibility throughout. A new accessible ramp connects the existing northwest paved pathway to the existing deck area. New paving on the west side of the building will provide an extended area adjacent to the staff room and replace the existing decomposed granite paving that is currently degrading the building's siding. Children will navigate through the ground level garden area on an accessible engineered wood fiber pathway system that connects the various project elements.

The following project components require variances to complete the project design:

1. Willow Hut located at the northwest corner of the garden is located 7'-9" away from the library building and 11'-0" away from the property line. The height of the Willow Hut is 8'-0".
2. The 8'-0" tall property line fence is designed to match the height of the existing fence that was constructed when the library was built making for a continuous fence along the property line.
3. The edge of the "Tree House" located between two existing redwood trees is 4'-2" away from the property line and is within the required 10'-0" setback. It is elevated 12" above existing grade and is 9'-0" tall at its peak measured from ground level.
4. A new accessible ramp connecting the existing paved pathway to the existing deck is located 2'-1" away from the building at its closest point. It is designed to keep clear of existing utility vaults that serve the building.

Please confirm that you have received this letter and if you have any questions regarding the project please call or email me and I will get back to you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Miller