

**From:** [Jason Callahan](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Cady](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment of Project 2020104385: Inspiring Kids Preserve, for March 11th hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:07:02 PM

---

I am writing to express my support for project 2020104385, which is an agenda item for the March 11<sup>th</sup> public hearing. This project, which would establish a children's environmental education center within the Shoreline Master Program jurisdiction, is a well-considered proposal that would provide Thurston County with a unique and important facility that connects the community to its natural environment in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Shoreline Management Act. Once completed, this facility will be a lasting and valuable gem for Thurston County.

Thurston County has a bounty of natural resources. From its marine shorelines, rivers and streams, forests, and parks, the county is a treasure trove of natural wonders. It is, however, still poor in options for its residents to visit the natural world and learn from it. This project, appropriately named the Inspiring Kids Preserve, will create a much needed opportunity for school children to touch, feel, and experience the natural world that is so close yet so far away for them. Best of all, it is being proposed by an organization that has a deep connection and history with the community. It also has the financial wherewithal to see through the commitments inherent in a project of this impact.

Thank you,

Jason Callahan  
1207 Irving Street SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
253-569-0942