

BIRABI MEMORIAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

PROJECT-1: CAMPUS-WIDE RESTORATION AND BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this project is to help restore the aesthetic appearance for which BMGS was known. While BMGS was famous for its dedication to the preparation of students for academic success; the campus itself was a tourist attraction for most first-time visitors to Bori because of its picturesque landscaping and beauty. Those who attended the school before the civil war and immediately after the war can still recall how some Bori residents would visit the campus on Saturdays to take pictures of themselves with campus scenes as their background. Today, the canopy trees that once adorned the main roads of the school are all dead or removed; the football field that used to be full of green grass which made it one of the most attractive fields on which to play football in Rivers State is now devoid of green grass; in fact, huge portions of the field are often without grass and students, with nowhere else to play football are faced with playing on a bare surface and the risk of injuries during every fall. The trees, flower beds and shrubs that were once in front of every major building on campus are all gone due, in part, to neglect and lack of appreciation.

The campus restoration and beautification project which the BMGS Alumni Association, Inc., is about to embark upon is intended to correct and restore some of what have been lost over the years. This project will be implemented based on the plan outlined in this document. There are nine areas of the campus [tagged as A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-(I-K)] where the tree planting and decoration will occur as identified in Figure 1 and Table 1 below.

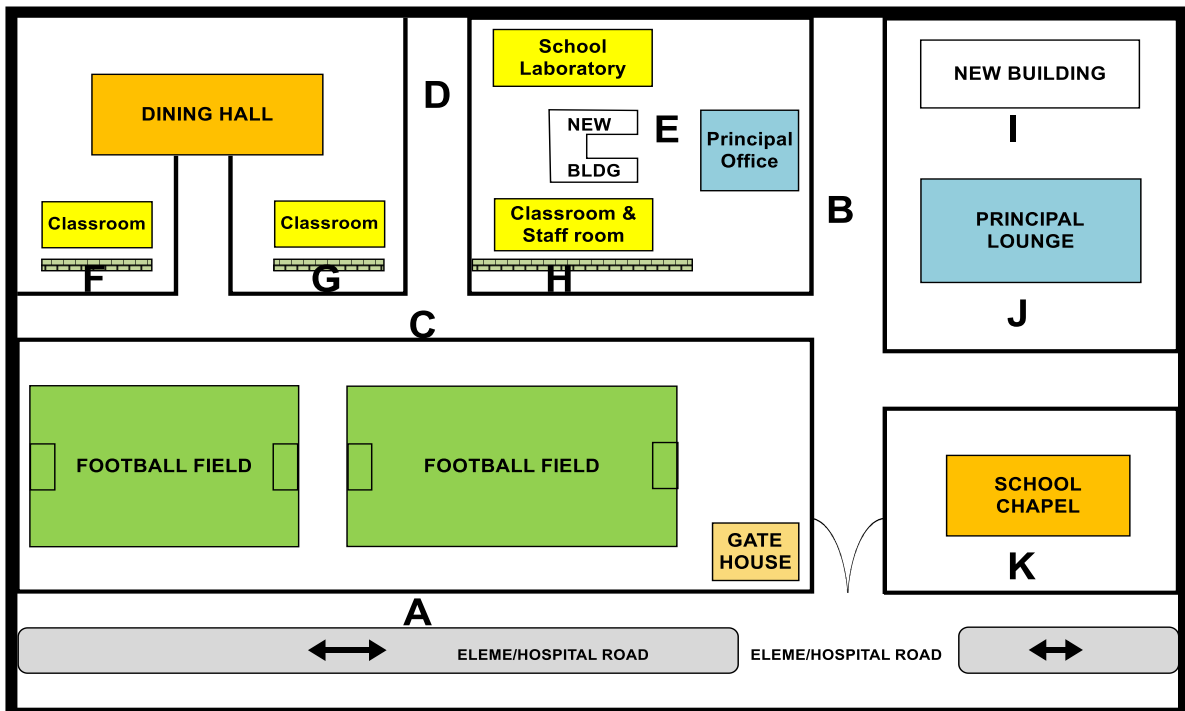


Figure 1: BMGS Site Plan for Tree Planting Project

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

Part A; Along the Boundary of the School and the Highway:

The school is boarded in the front by the highway from PH to Bori known as Hospital Road. It measures 1318ft (399.3m) by length, that is, from the road leading to the Matron's house by Yeghe bridge to the road leading to Ngbubee's village by the gas station opposite KCC Primary School, Bori. One line of trees will be planted along the fence by this roadside, preferably, masquerade tree (as shown in Figure 2) which is an ornamental tree with a conical shape that grows very tall very rapidly.



Figure 2: Masquerade Tree

Part B; Along the Main Road into the School:

This is the road from BMGS main gate to teacher's quarters (where Meneogu, Ibor, Nwikiabe all of blessed memory used to live in the old days). It measures 900ft (272.7m) by length. This main road into the school will be adorned with trees on both sides, preferably, step tree which is a canopy tree whose branches are arranged in a layered stepwise fashion (as shown in Figure 3 below).



Figure 3: Step Tree

Part C: Along the Road from the Principal's House to the Matron's House.

This is the road leading from the frontage of the principal's house (Chinwah's house) to the matron's and Agumah's houses by the girl's hostel (in the old days). It measures 1152ft (349m) by length. Ornamental canopy trees, preferably the type that will produce flowers once a year, will be planted on both sides of this road. The type of tree proposed for this part is magnolia. It is an ornamental canopy tree with purple leaves and produces white flowers with a sweet aroma once a year in May and June (as shown in Figure 4 below).



Figure 4: Magnolia Trees

Part D: Along the New Road by Aggrey House:

This is a new road constructed between Aggrey house and the classroom/principal's office area of the campus. It leads to the new Senior Secondary School (SSS) classroom blocks and the workshop. It measures 553ft (167.5m) by length. The two sides of this road need to be planted with shade trees that will enhance gas sequestration, beautify, protect and ameliorate the environment as applicable similar to Areas A, B and C. Step tree could be planted in this area as well or any other type of canopy tree.

Part E: The Area Between the Classroom Blocks and the Principal's Office:

This is the area between three blocks of buildings (school lab; new SSS Classrooms/staff room and the principal's office). It covers the front and back of each of the three blocks of buildings. The length is 439.4ft (133m) on either side. These areas are behind the Junior classroom blocks of our days that overlooks the football field. It will be best for planting assorted fruit trees to support food supply in due season for the benefit of students and staff. The type of local fruit trees to be planted will be selected later with input from the BMGS Alumni Association, Inc., and the school principal at the time. Examples include mangoes, pears, oranges; etc.

Part F: The Area in Front of Gbarazia and Kingston Houses

This is the frontage of Gbarazia and Kingston houses which is now converted to Junior Secondary School (JSS) Classroom blocks. By the corridor is already constructed a flower bed with capstones but the bed is not well stocked with flowers. The bed measures 163ft (49.4m) by length. We will restock the bed with a variety of flowers

including roses, hibiscus flowers and variegated plants with leaves that look like flowers. See Figure 5 below.



Figure 5: Sample Flower Bed for Area F

Part G: Area in Front of Aggrey and Crowther

This is the frontage of Aggrey and Crowther houses which is now converted to JSS classrooms also. There is no flower bed constructed here. We will need to construct a flower bed with capstones and stock it with flowers to enhance the aesthetic value and outward uniformity of these blocks. It measures 115ft (34.8m) by length.

In between these two blocks of buildings is the road leading to the former dining hall. This road is okay as it is. Figure 6 is a sample of what could be planted in this segment.



Figure 6: Sample Flower Bed for Area G

Part H: The Area in Front of the Junior Classroom Block

This is the Junior students (1-3) old classroom block. It is now part of the JSS classrooms block. It looks directly at the football field and is separated from it by the road leading to Matron's house on one side and the new road leading to the new

Senior Secondary School classroom blocks on the other side. We may wish to construct a flower bed in front of this classroom block as well and plant it up with assorted ornamental plants as in F and G to further enhance the aesthetic value of the whole front view of the school and prevent students from trespassing on the lawn as often as they may wish thereby endangering the lives of grasses. Figure 7 is a sample of what could be planted in this segment.



Figure 7: Sample Flower Bed for Area H

Parts I,J,K:

These are areas beside the principal's house where a new building is being set up, the principal's frontage and the two sides of the school chapel which still remains as it was in old days. There are sufficient trees already planted in these areas. However, we need to clear falling and aging plants and replant new ones.

Table 1: Project Scope of Campus-Wide Planting Implementation

Sites	Distance covered (length)	No of plant species required
A	1318ft (399.3m)	52x2 104 seedlings at 25ft x 25ft spacing between the plants.
	Total A =	104 potted seedlings (step trees)
B	900ft (272.7m)	27x2 = 54 stands at 25x25ft spacing between the plants
	Total B =	54 potted seedlings
C	115ft (349m)	46x2 = 92 seedling at 25ft x 25ft spacing between plants
	Total C =	92 potted seedlings
D	553ft (167.5m)	22x2 = 44 potted seedlings at 25ft x 25ft spacing
	Total D =	44
E	439ft (133m)	20x3 = 60 stands of assorted indigenous fruit trees to be distributed around this area
	Total E =	60 potted seedlings
F	163ft (49.4m)	Restocking of this flower bed need up to 50 assorted types of ornamental plants and some cuttings that we can source locally.
	Total F =	50 potted ornamentals
G	115ft (34.8m)	(a) Construction of flower bed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capstone 77 @ N??? per 18" by 3" block • Cement 5 bags @ N??? per bag • Labour (2) @ N??? per day • White sand (1 trip) @ N??? per trip • Topsoil (2 trips) @ N??? per trip (b) Stocking of flower bed with ornamentals 40 assorted types @ N??? each
	Total G =	G = (a+b)
H	112ft (33.9m)	(a) Construction of flower bed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capstone 75 @ N??? each • Labour 2 @ N??? each • Topsoil (2 trips) @ N??? each (b) Stocking of flower bed with 40 ornamentals @ N??? each
	Total H =	H = (a+b)
(I-K)		Clear falling and aging plants and replant new ones.

Note:

- The 1 trip of white sand and 5 bags of cement made provision for in G will be used to complete work on Bed H.
- All these works cannot be done in 1 day. The job can be done leaving behind one line of planting to be done on the special day arranged for planting by old boys, students, and staff of the school (tree planting day). This will make it participatory, giving all stakeholders a sense of belonging.