SITE PLAN / RE-IMAGINING THE SCHOOLYARD
The final master plan documented the research, outreach and proposed improvements for the 3.5 acre site. It is used to generate excitement, gain support, and obtain funding for the proposed improvements.
INNOVATIVE OUTREACH

The design team distributed an information gathering packet to teachers to use in their classrooms. It included different activities to do as a class or individually during recess or after school. The team produced a video on YouTube explaining how to use the packet.

Activity: Use the plan below to show us where you like to spend time at recess, after school or on weekends. This activity can also be given to students to ask their parents to fill out and return.

List the activities you currently like to do in the schoolyard. (Do you sit with friends, do you play football, do you make up games?)

List, describe, or draw your ideas for the new schoolyard. What new activities would you like to be able to do in the new design?
INCLUSIVE PROCESS
The design team attended May Fair in nearby Clark Park to reach a broader audience and gain input on both the master plan and possible early action projects.
CO-HABITAT LEARNING
After our habitat learning presentation to the 4th graders, we divided into groups to survey the site. The students took notes, wrote and drew ideas to improve spaces for both play and education purposes.
We talked with 3rd-graders about Landscape Architecture and site analysis. Students were asked how they use the schoolyard and what they would like to see in the future. They wrote persuasive letters to the principal about their wishes.

Dear Mr. Farroh,

I bet you know that plants grow in many different places. Such as a rain garden. I think that the rain garden at PAS should have plants too.

Our rain garden is a horrible mess of offence. It has dirty tires and mud, sticks, rocks, a ball, and a broken window screen. Although we can keep the rocks and the mud dirt, everything else should go. Then we could add water and native flowers.

Also, our rain garden has no plants. A real nice rain garden has plants. Usually those plants are native flowers. Those native flowers do not need fertilizer. Our rain garden does not have those flowers.

Another reason is that kids tend to be more happy around green happy plants. Also when they have fresher air.

Thank you for using your precious time. I hope you consider this. Best wishes.

P.S. A rain garden is growing.
OUTREACH CONCLUSIONS

We tallied conclusions for each group that participated. In general, younger grades wanted more play equipment, while older grades wanted additional places to sit and socialize with friends.
STORMWATER ANALYSIS

Historic research revealed a creek running near the site and early photos showed a pond on the site during its time as the Clark Estate. The existing stormwater analysis shows the school's early adoption of green stormwater management techniques.
EARLY ACTION PROJECT
The design team developed the board game pictured above. Members of the community, faculty, and students played the game to determine which early action project they would implement first. “Creative Community Day” won with volunteers painting games on school sidewalks.
Because the field is so heavily used by the school and surrounding neighborhood, it has become compacted and has stopped infiltrating. Proposed improvements include a larger porous synthetic turf with smaller side fields that allow multiple activities to occur simultaneously.
EXPLORE

The restored rain garden features native plants, a dry stone river that directs water from a nearby roof, stepping stones through the garden and a boardwalk to support group learning.
The outdoor classroom becomes a more formal space that includes a water cistern, test garden beds, tables, and a writing board. This is an ideal place for habitat learning elements like the sundial, bird feeders and houses, and a weather station.
The stage offers a platform for learning and performance just outside the library. The stage doubles as an extension of the playground with a climbing wall, slide, and ramp that connects upper and lower play areas.