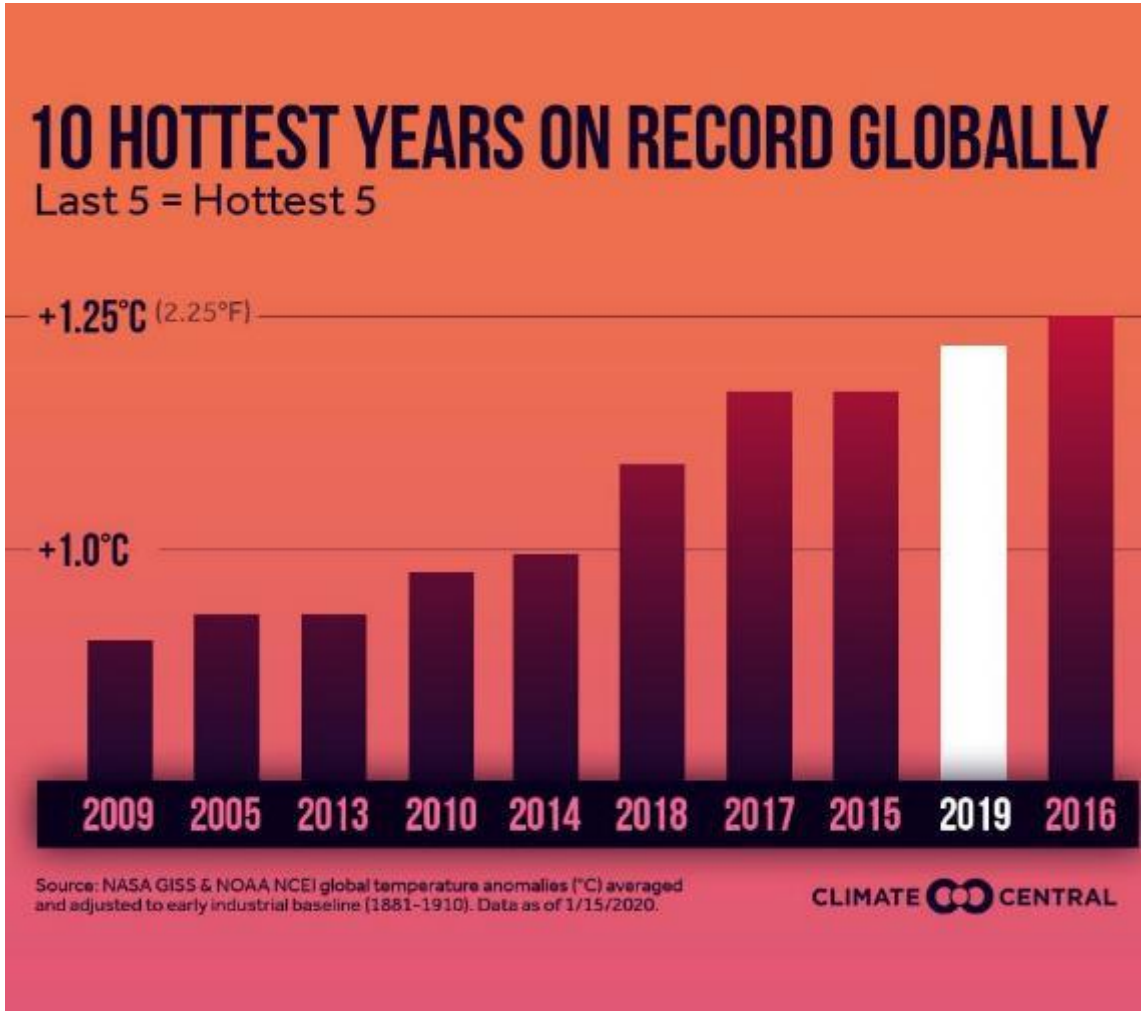
Green Schoolyards

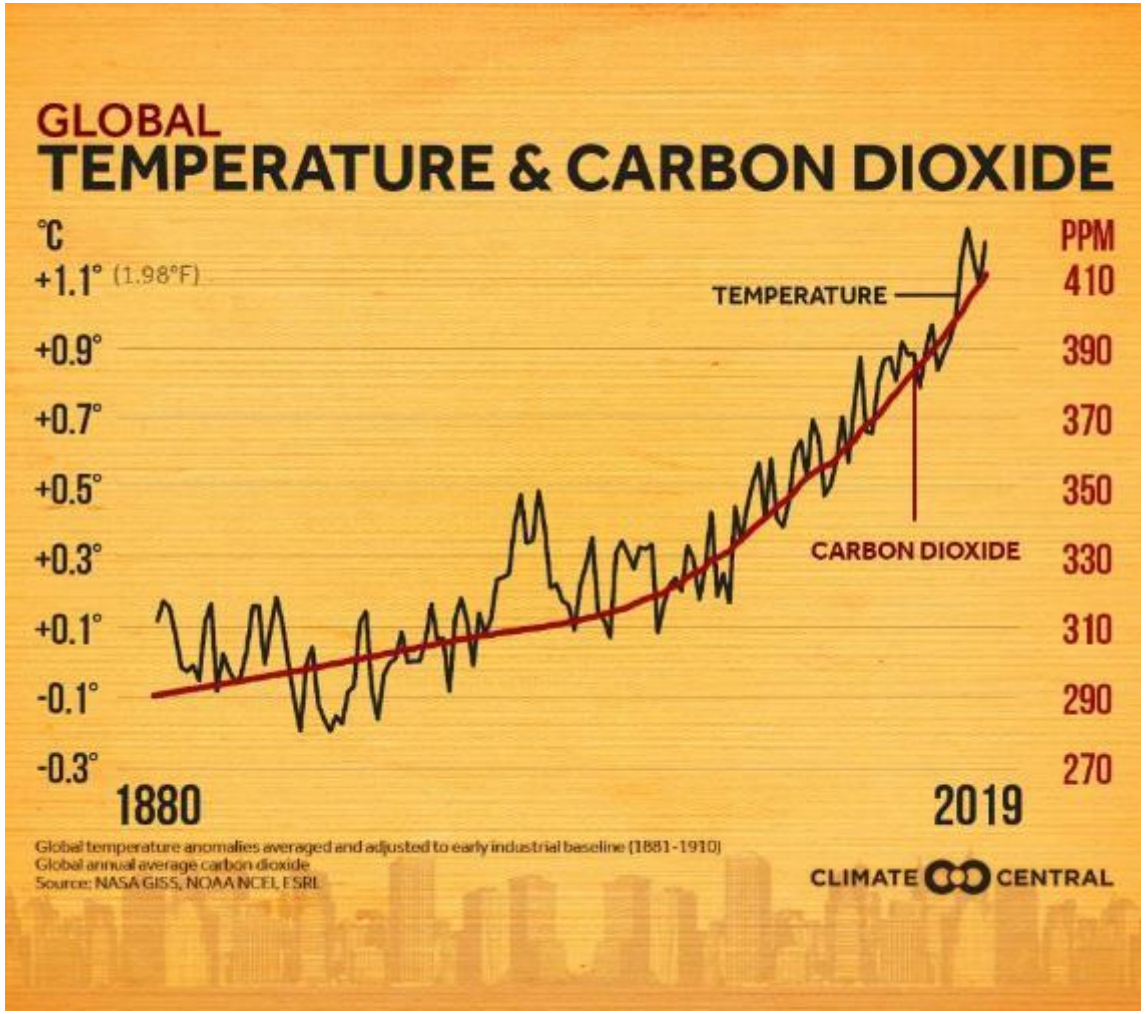
Maximizing stormwater and resilience benefits

Our mission

LAND FOR PEOPLE

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring **healthy, livable communities** for generations to come.

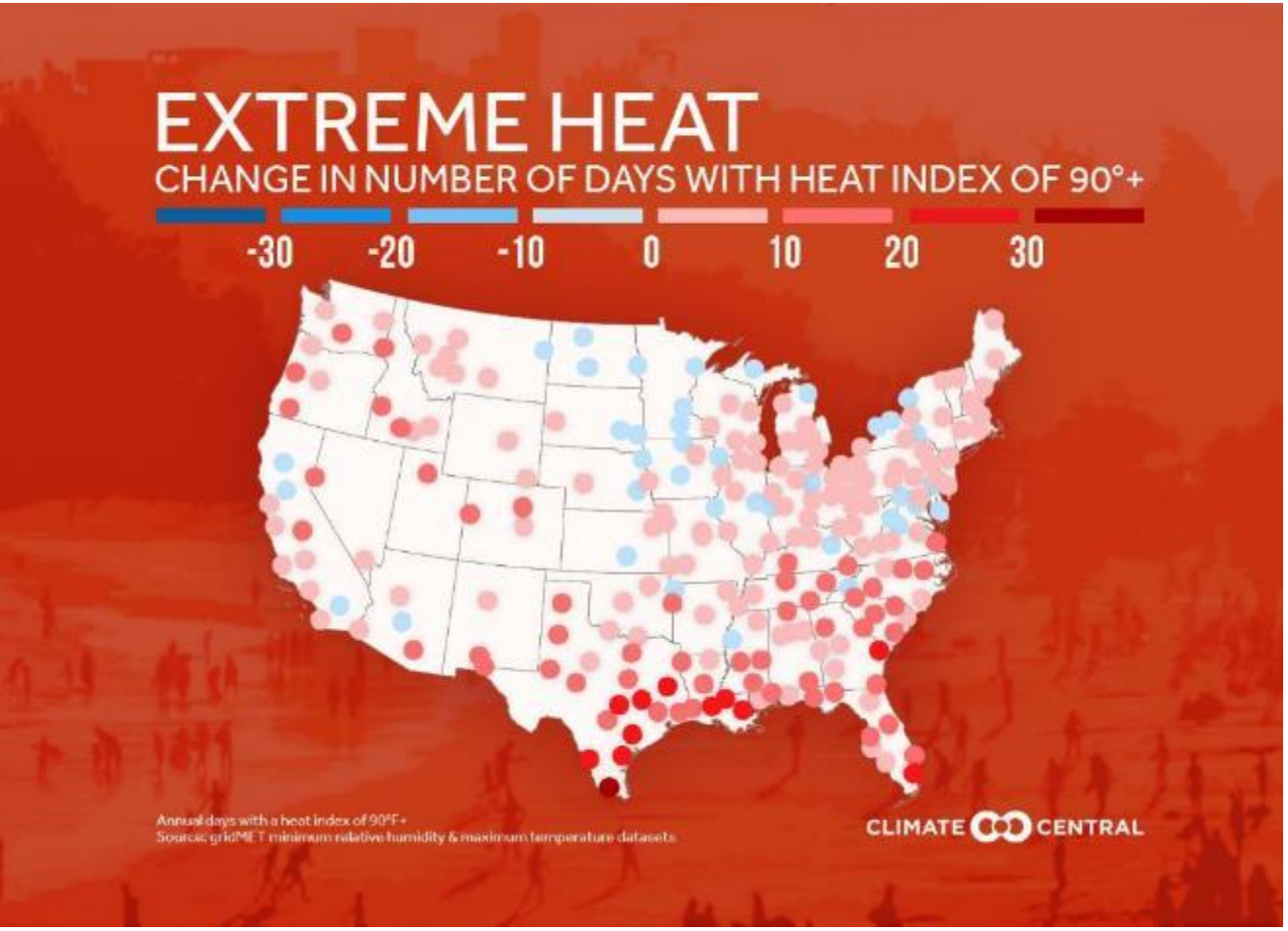




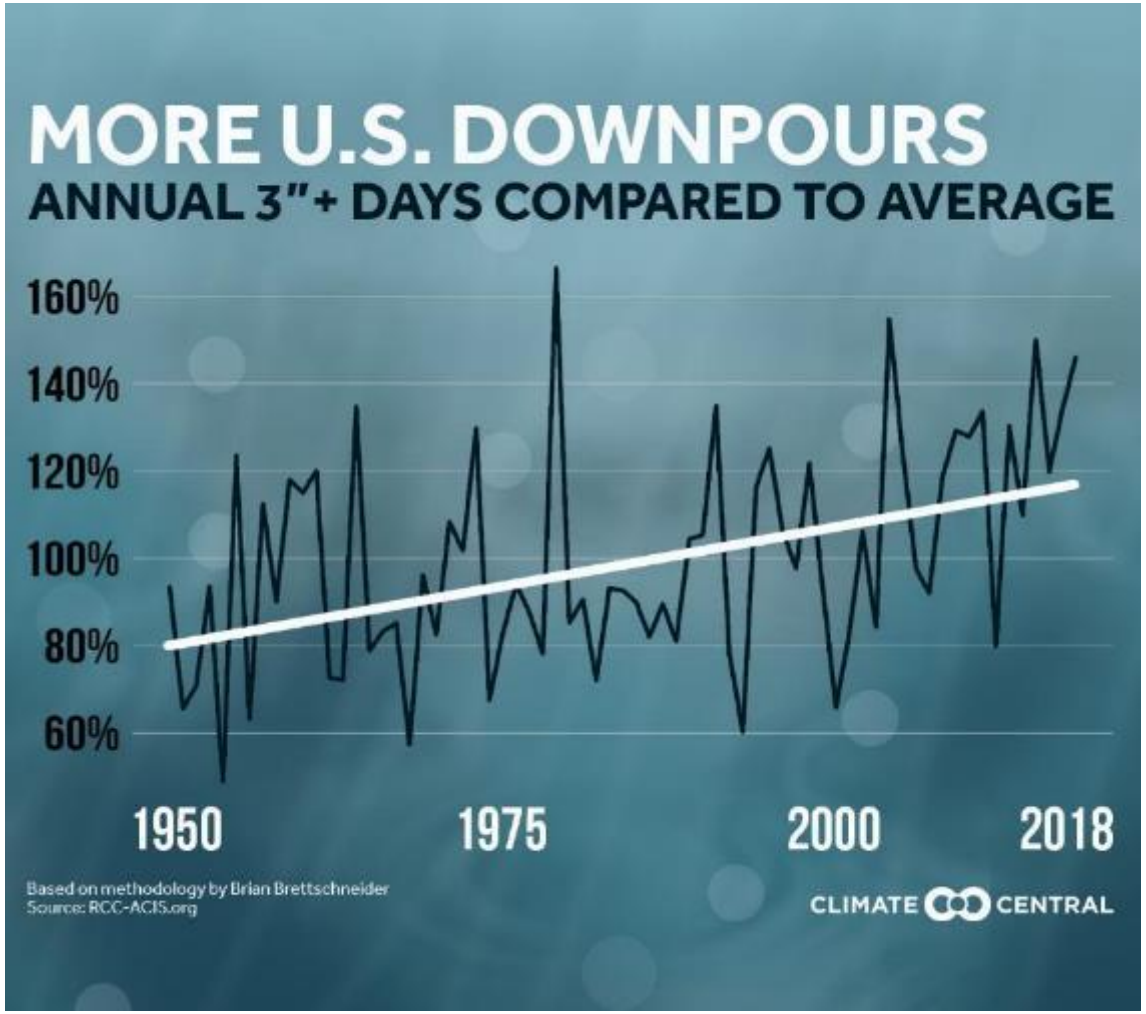
The climate crisis

Extreme heat

The #1 climate health hazard

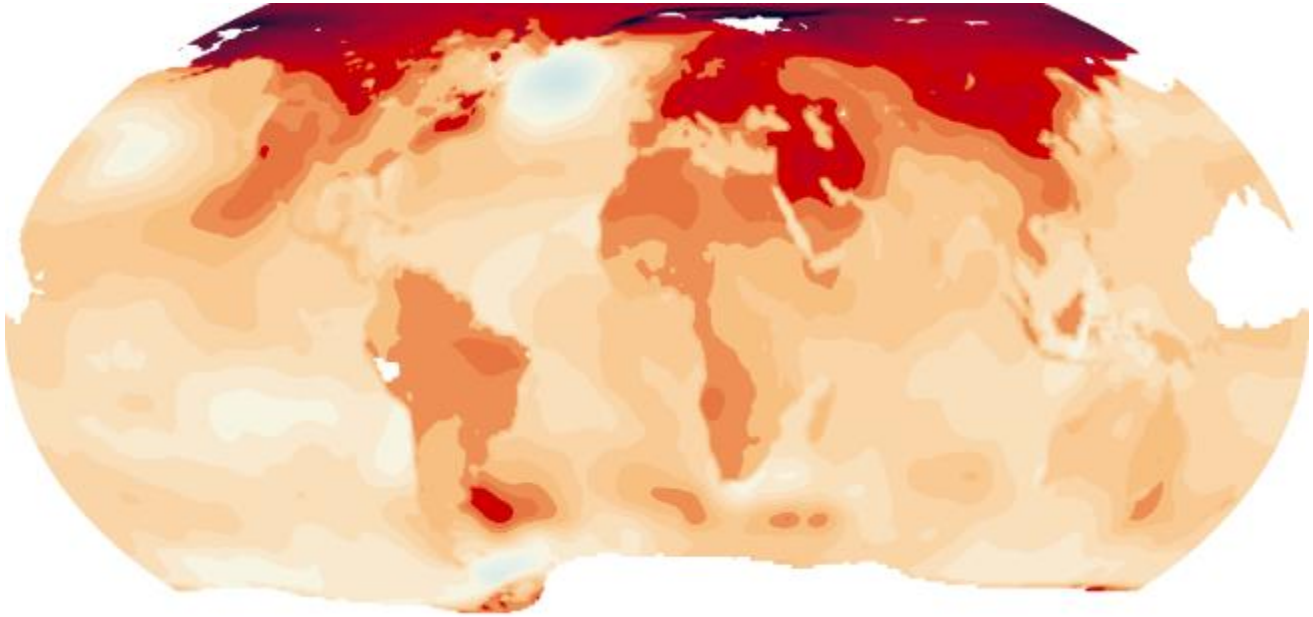


- Heatwaves have nearly tripled compared to the long-term average
- On average, extreme heat kills more people each year than all other weather-related hazards combined



Increased flooding

We have to reduce emissions



Washington Post, 9/11/19

We have to limit local risk

Rolling Stone, 8/27/19

MS354K, New York, NY

A transformative approach to building community resilience

MS354K, New York, NY

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

MS354K, New York, NY

A vibrant future

We have the power to…

- **Create safe places** for our children to **learn and play**
- **Educate** the next generation on the **value of nature**
- **Reduce** nuisance flooding and **improve** water quality
- **Protect our most vulnerable** from extreme heat

CS154, New York, NY

Green schoolyards

Meeting city climate goals

- **Cool** urban heat islands
- **Minimize** flooding
- **Improve** water quality
- **Clean** the air
- **Absorb** carbon from the atmosphere
- **Build** environmental literacy
- **Create** the next generation of environmental stewards

Coopers Poynt School Camden, NJ

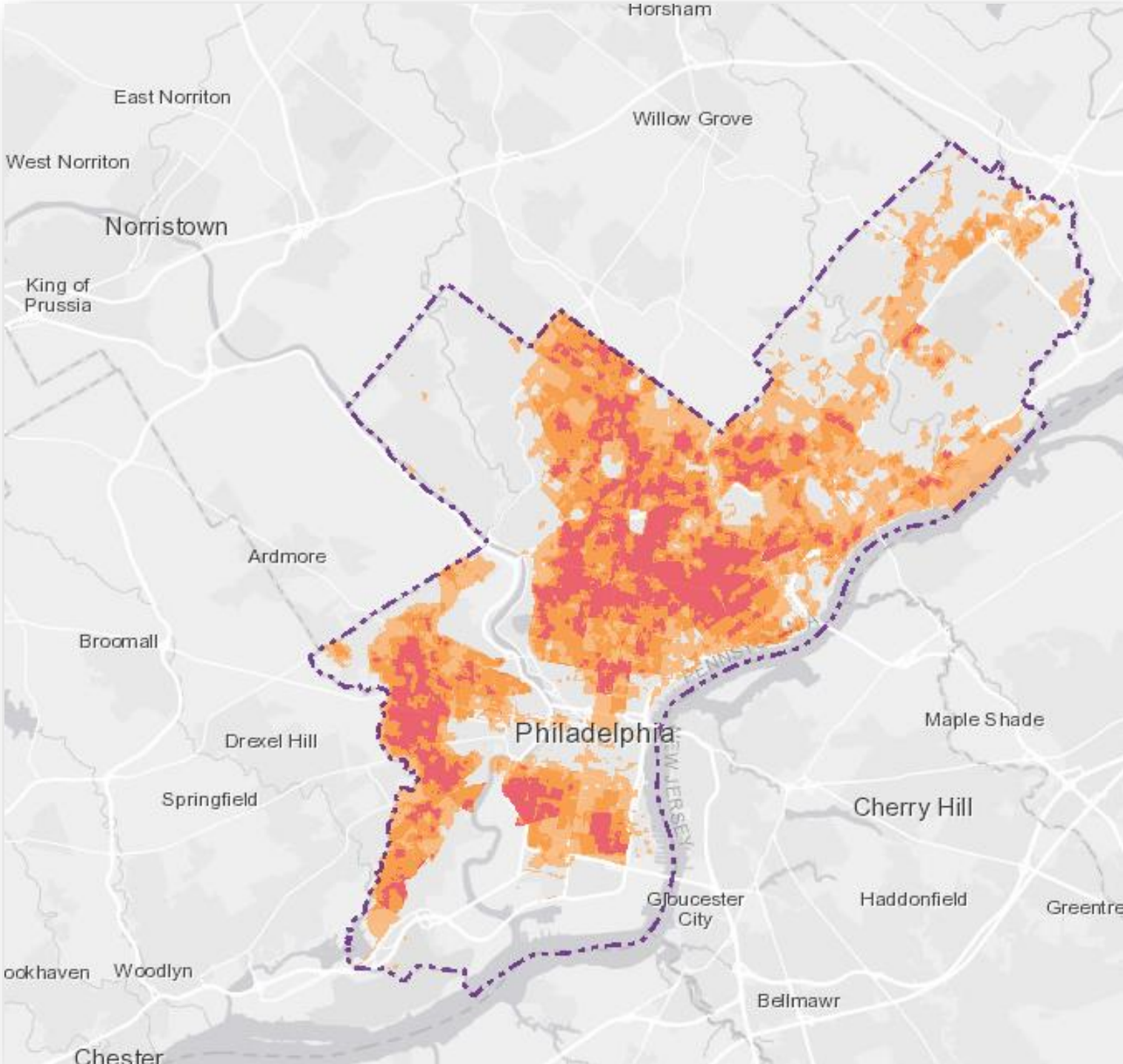
Our approach

- Use **data** to pinpoint project sites that provide the greatest return on investment
- Lead **participatory design**, engaging marginalized residents and children
- Design and construct high-quality **green infrastructure**
- Support **stewardship and maintenance**
- Scale up through **partnerships**

Data-driven decision-making

We create **best-in class GIS based mapping** tools that we make publicly available

- These tools help pinpoint where green infrastructure can provide the most benefits.
- They include **health, climate, equity,** and green infrastructure suitability metrics to **help identify opportunities for multi-benefit projects**.



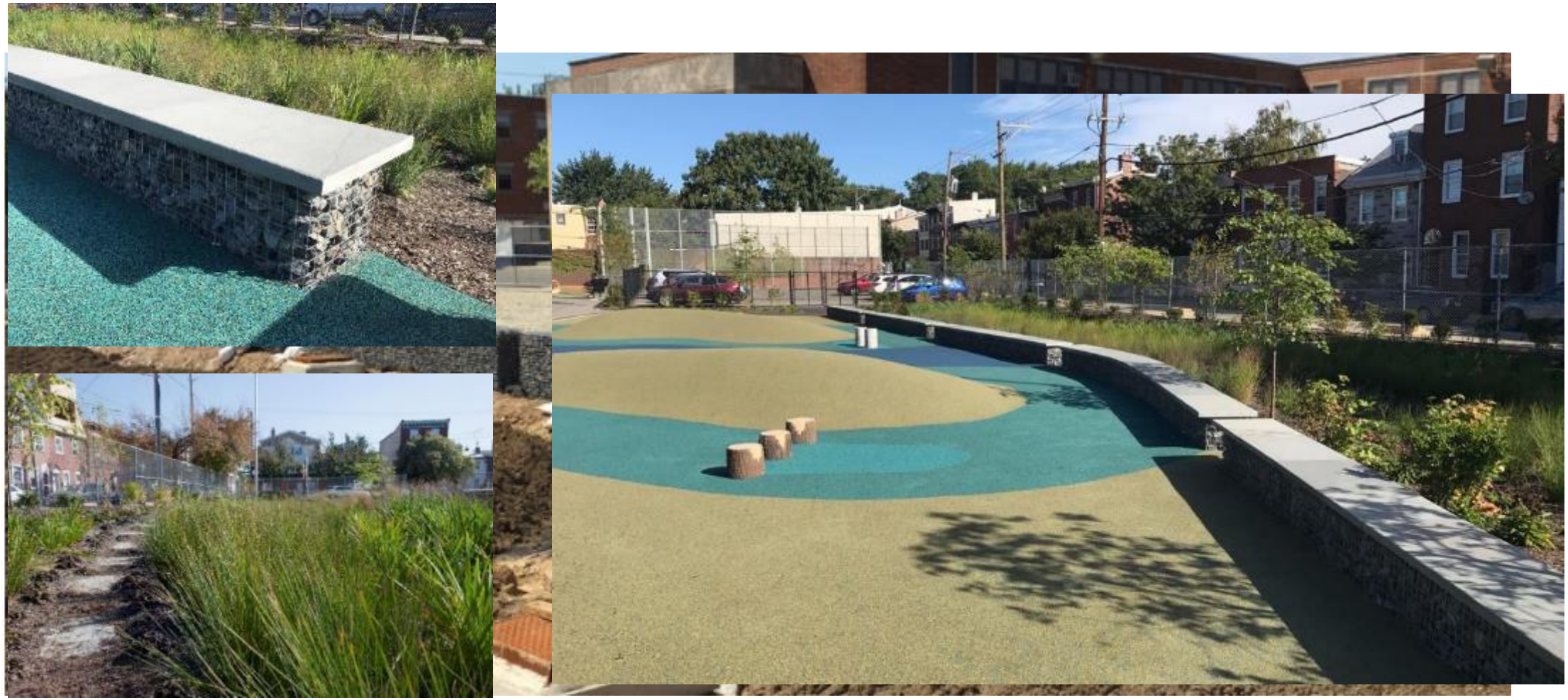
Participatory design

Our participatory design process involves the students in the creation of the green schoolyard. Through this, students:

- Are **invested in the long-term success** of the schoolyard
- **Learn about environmental challenges** and **contribute to the solution**
- **Practice real life skills and civic engagement**, like budgeting, voting and presenting ideas
- Feel a sense of **pride and achievemen**t

Environmental Education

Through the participatory design, **students learn** about stormwater management, green infrastructure, and environmental stewardship.



Alexander Adaire Schoolyard, Philadelphia

Design and construction of green infrastructure

Rendering of permeable pavement

EM Stanton Elementary School, South Philadelphia

Oakland rain garden

Green infrastructure BMPs

EM Stanton Elementary School, South Philadelphia

Stewardship and maintenance

Thank you.