



# Atlanta Community Schoolyards

## Program Update

**Schools in under resourced communities lack the features students need for learning**

*JW Dobbs Elementary, Atlanta, GA*



**TRUST FOR  
PUBLIC  
LAND™**

# Transforming Schoolyards provides students and their community with places to learn, play, and thrive outdoors

**ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOLYARD RULES**

Schoolyards are a special place for learning and play. To keep them safe and enjoyable for everyone, please follow these rules:

- All games and activities that could damage the lawn are restricted.
- APIS permit required for events or organized athletics.
- No selling of food or other items.
- No weapons, smoking, illegal drugs, or chewing tobacco.
- No alcohol.
- No pets or animals, except for service or guide dogs.
- No glass, bottles, or sharp objects.
- No drones, remote-controlled planes, etc.
- No amplified music, spitting, inappropriate language, verbal abuse, or fighting.

Violators may be restricted from future use, ejected, fined, or assessed damages for repairs.

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*JW Dobbs Elementary, Atlanta, GA*



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARD PROGRAMS ARE BASED ON THE NEED FOR MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PARKS

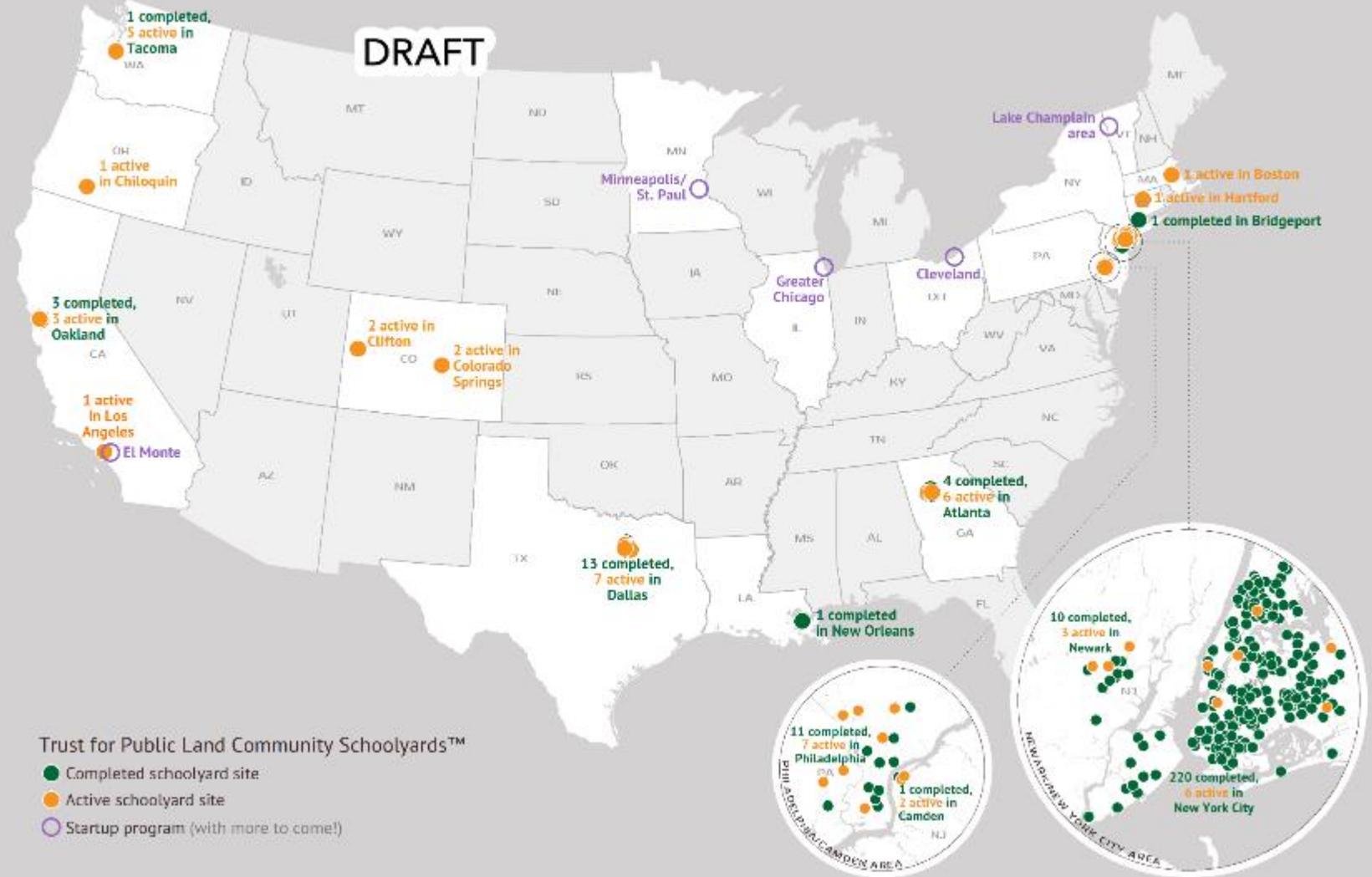
- The purpose of the **Community Schoolyard Program** is based upon **Trust for Public Land's** mission of connecting everyone to the outdoors. TPL's vision is to connect everyone to within a 10-minute walk of a park.
- School campuses are often one of the largest property owners in their respective cities and counties and have environmental conditions and features that lend themselves as community gathering places
- TPL works with each school's students, faculty, and surrounding community to envision, invest in, and implement a space that is utilized as an outdoor learning area during the school day and as a public park after school hours.

DRAFT

TPL has created **12 robust schoolyard programs across the US**

Invested in **close to 300 schoolyard sites**

Connected more than **4 million people** within a 10-minute walk of a community schoolyard

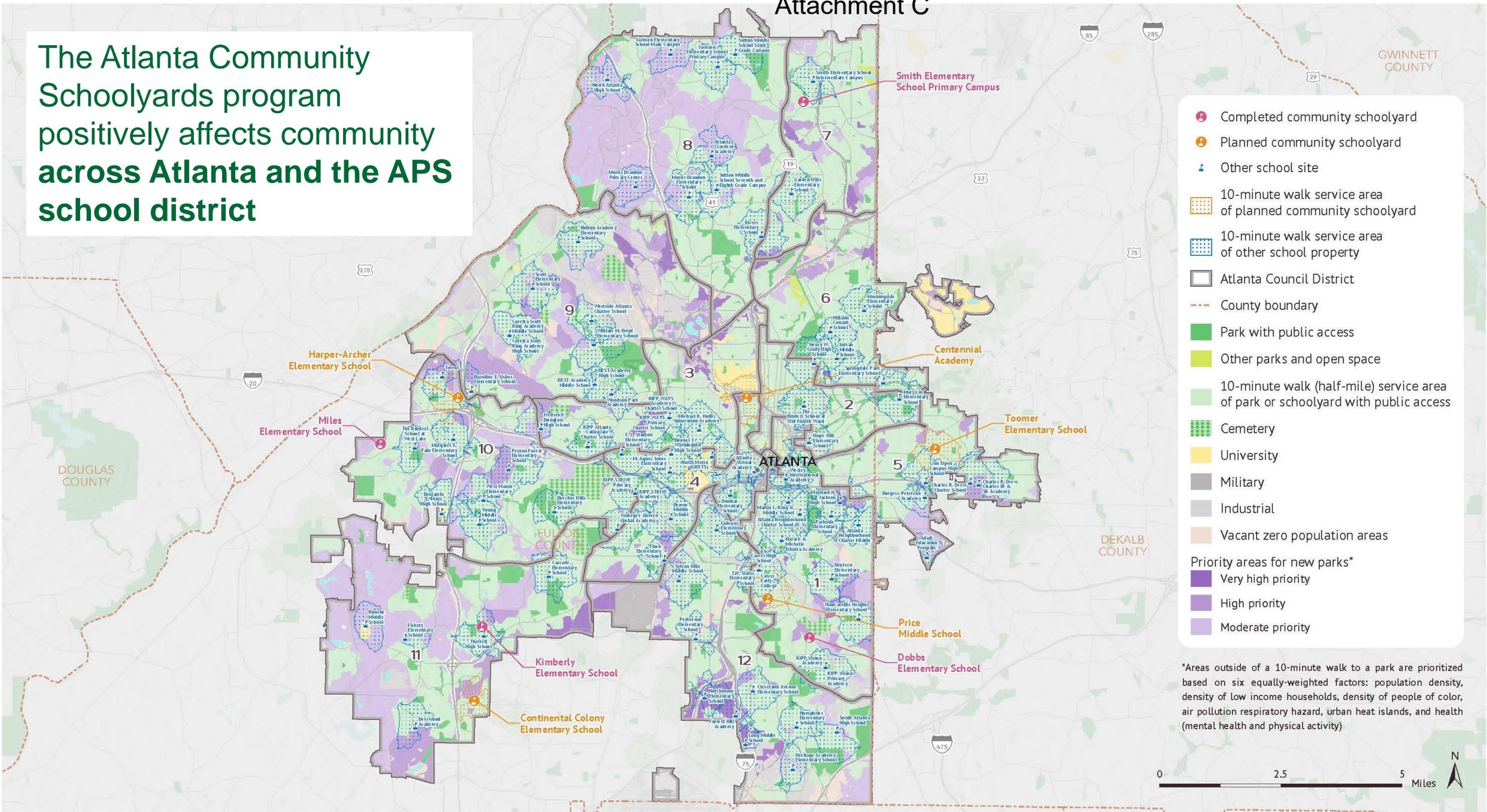


Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

# Schoolyard Programs across the country

Nearly 300 transformations

The Atlanta Community Schoolyards program positively affects community across Atlanta and the APS school district



- Completed community schoolyard
- Planned community schoolyard
- Other school site
- 10-minute walk service area of planned community schoolyard
- 10-minute walk service area of other school property
- Atlanta Council District
- County boundary
- Park with public access
- Other parks and open space
- 10-minute walk (half-mile) service area of park or schoolyard with public access
- Cemetery
- University
- Military
- Industrial
- Vacant zero population areas
- Priority areas for new parks\***
  - Very high priority
  - High priority
  - Moderate priority

\*Areas outside of a 10-minute walk to a park are prioritized based on six equally-weighted factors: population density, density of low income households, density of people of color, air pollution respiratory hazard, urban heat islands, and health (mental health and physical activity)

# Over the past 3 years, the Atlanta Community Schoolyard program has made a difference at the school sites where we have recently celebrated openings



Kimberly Elementary



Dobbs Elementary



Miles Elementary

Additionally,

- **Smith Elementary** is complete and open to the public with a ribbon cutting date to be determined
- **Harper-Archer Elementary** is under construction
- **Centennial Academy, Continental Colony Elementary, Price Middle School, and Scott Elementary** are in construction permitting
- And **Toomer Elementary** is currently on hold

## Much has been accomplished by our dynamic team

- **Trust for Public Land and Park Pride** have raised close to **\$2M** for improvements to 10 Atlanta Public School campuses
- **Trust for Public Land and Park Pride** have worked closely with each of the 10 schools to develop a park design for their community
- **Urban Land Institute** has inventoried all walking routes within a 10-minute walk of each site and developed a report that details inaccessible and unsafe environments
- **7 unique volunteer groups** totaling close to 400 individuals have helped construct and install 4 of our projects so far

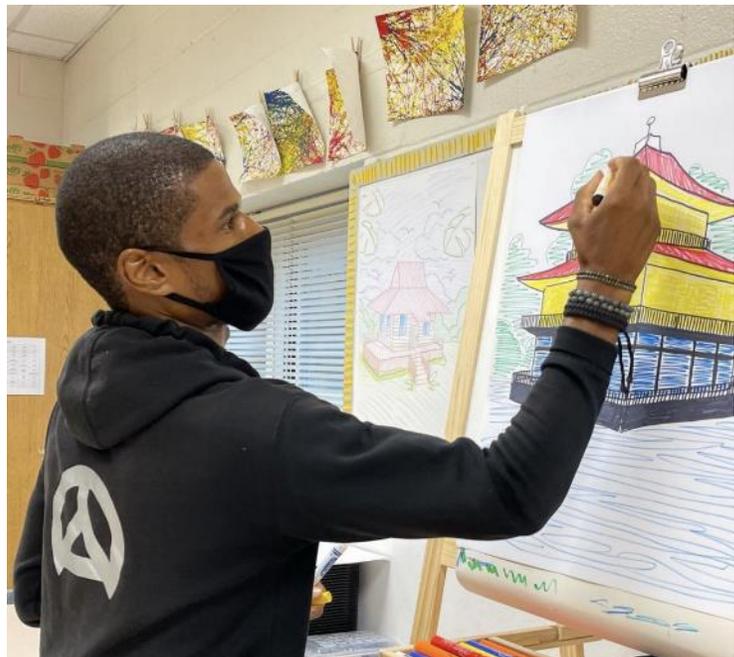


# During this time, we have made a significant impact with each of the 10 schools' communities

- **6,265 Atlanta residents** will now be within a 10-minute walk of park
  - Including 1,143 residents under the age of 19,
  - 576 seniors,
  - And 998 low-income households
- **660 students** have been exposed to environmental and design professions through participatory design process
- At least 2 APS schools will have received **STEM certification** in part from our involvement with their schools
- The Atlanta Community Schoolyards program continues to **gain attention locally and nationally** through media and through our corporate partners



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders at Sarah Smith explore international architecture, belonging, and different meanings of “home” through art.





*Smith Elementary, Atlanta*



## And we are preparing to make an impact outside of Atlanta

- This Fall, **Fulton County School District's Stonewall Tell Elementary** will be our first school outside of Atlanta
- **DeKalb County School District** leadership has expressed interest in our program based on our partnership with Park Pride at **Columbia Elementary**
  - We are in the process of developing an budget and implementation strategy
  - And scheduling site visits to our Atlanta sites with DeKalb's County's interim Superintendent and Board of Education

*Columbia Elementary, DeKalb County, GA*



Each school has at least 3 lessons developed for their curriculum in coordination with school staff that helps the students understand the value of parks and their specific space

## Curriculum

- Defining and Measuring Your Site
- Documenting Site Conditions
- Career Exploration
- Analyzing Environmental Justice
- Ecological Address
- Nature Bingo
- Drawing Your Park
- Building a Model of Your Park

**Harper-Archer Community Schoolyard**

**HARPER ARCHER ELEMENTARY EST. 2019**

Welcome back to school! You are part of the design team to improve the Harper-Archer Elementary track as a community schoolyard! Follow the instructions below to learn more about the schoolyard map on the other side of this sheet.

Need a ruler? Cut on the dotted line below!

**1** Find the compass rose. (Hint: it's shaped like a cross or a star.) Label north, south, east, and west on the edges of the map.

**2** Look at the scale in the corner of the map. Hold your ruler up to the scale, making sure the 0 on your ruler lines up with the 0 on the scale, and see what number is at the one inch mark. Fill in the blank in this sentence:

On this map, one inch represents \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

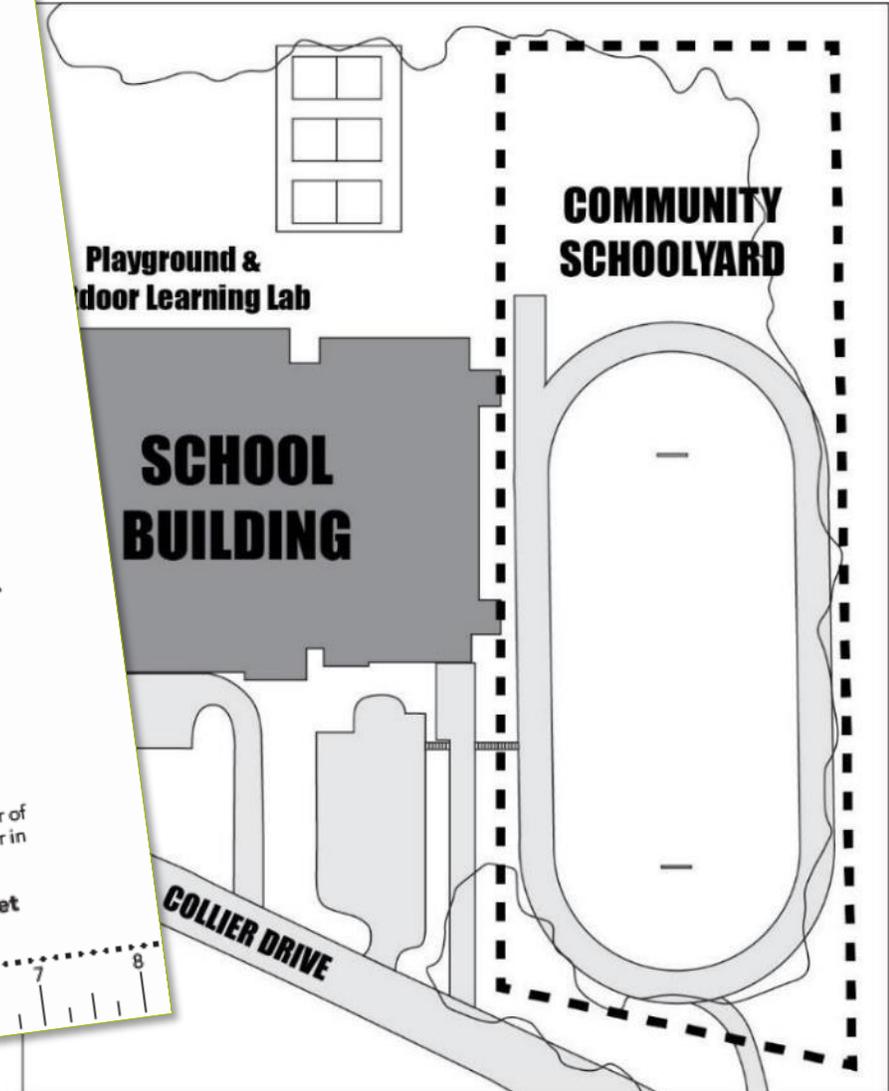
**3** Using your ruler, measure the dashed lines along all 4 edges of the schoolyard in inches. Add up their lengths to find the perimeter.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ inches

**4** Congrats! You found the perimeter in inches. But remember Question 2: one inch on this map represents a certain number of feet in real life. Multiply to find the true schoolyard perimeter in feet.

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ feet

(Question 3 answer) (Question 2 answer)





Students, our key design partners, get familiar with the project site.







Dobbs Elementary, Atlanta



# Centennial Academy - YMCA Schoolyard Site

## Attachment C



**Place for families to learn & explore together**



**Social seating areas with shade**



**Outdoor musical instruments & murals**



**Sculptural seating/climbing structures**



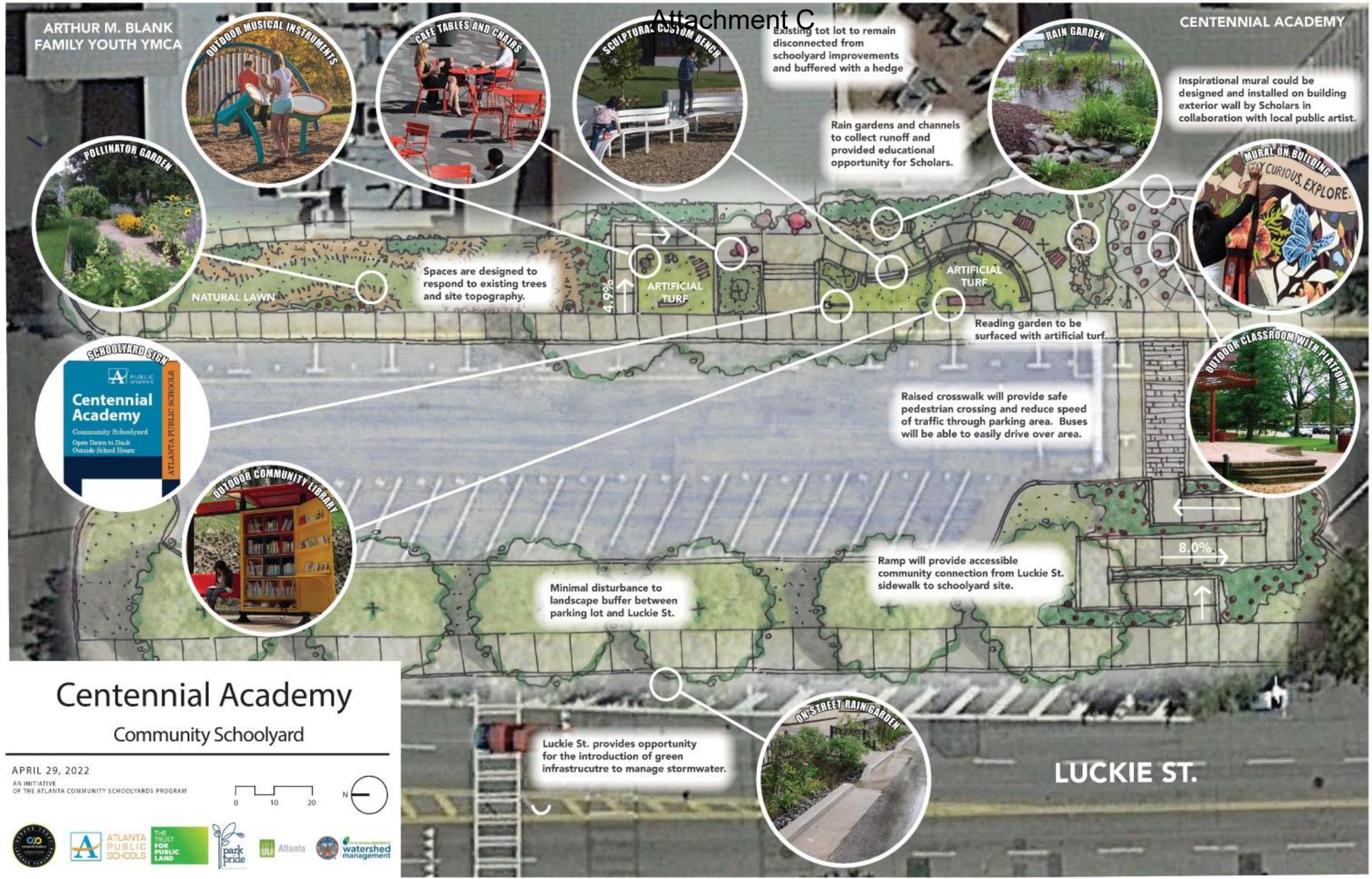
**Educational rain gardens**



**Free and eye-catching public library**

# Attachment C

CENTENNIAL ACADEMY



ARTHUR M. BLANK  
FAMILY YOUTH YMCA



Existing tot lot to remain disconnected from schoolyard improvements and buffered with a hedge

Rain gardens and channels to collect runoff and provided educational opportunity for Scholars.



Inspirational mural could be designed and installed on building exterior wall by Scholars in collaboration with local public artist.



NATURAL LAWN

Spaces are designed to respond to existing trees and site topography.

4.9%

ARTIFICIAL TURF

ARTIFICIAL TURF

Reading garden to be surfaced with artificial turf.



Raised crosswalk will provide safe pedestrian crossing and reduce speed of traffic through parking area. Buses will be able to easily drive over area.



Minimal disturbance to landscape buffer between parking lot and Luckie St.

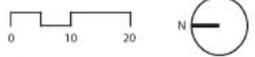
Ramp will provide accessible community connection from Luckie St. sidewalk to schoolyard site.

8.0%

## Centennial Academy Community Schoolyard

APRIL 29, 2022

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS PROGRAM



LUCKIE ST.

Luckie St. provides opportunity for the introduction of green infrastructure to manage stormwater.

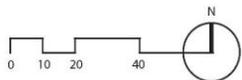




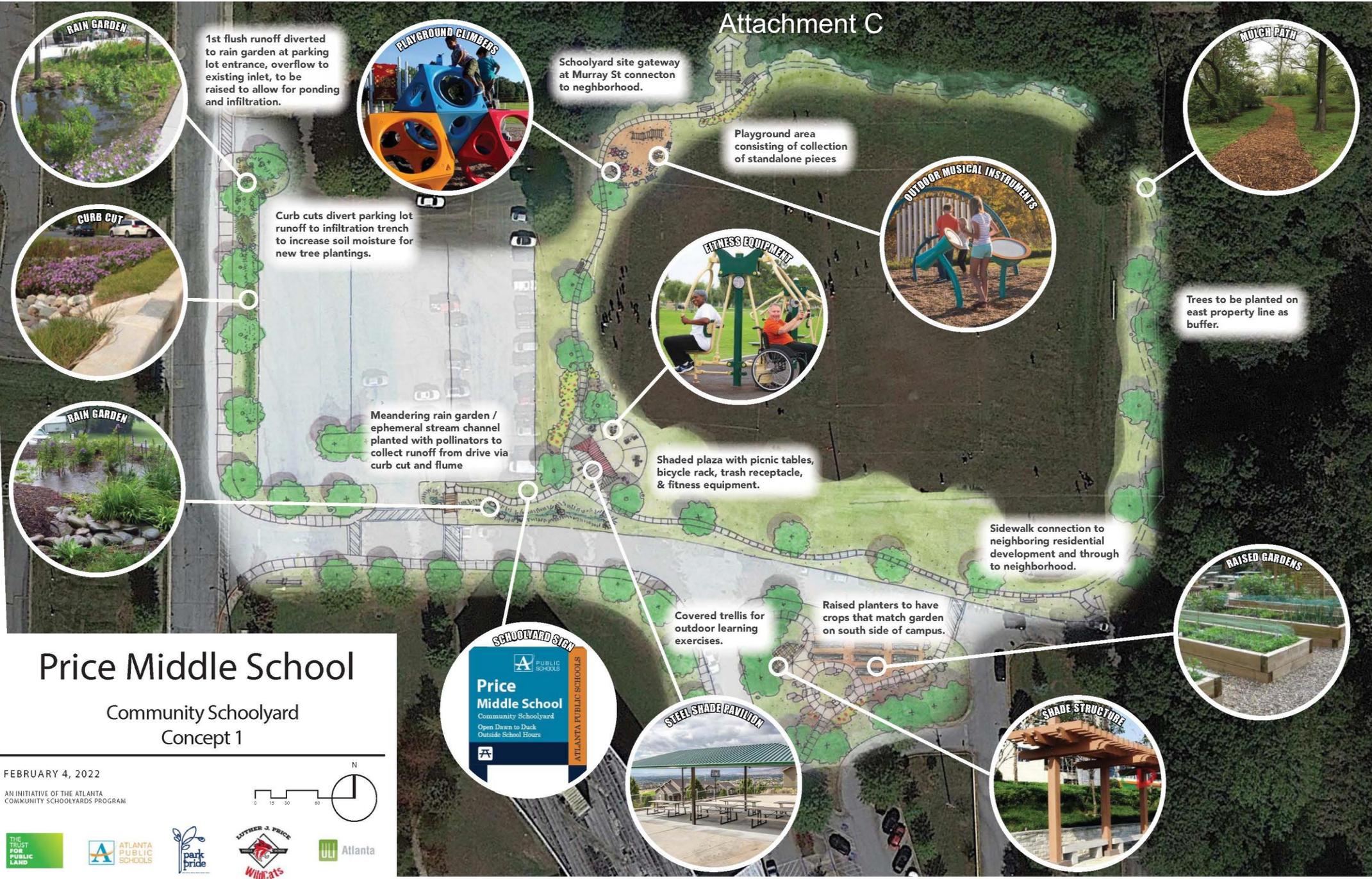
Continental Colony Elementary School  
Community Schoolyard - Concept 1

APRIL 13, 2022

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS PROGRAM



# Attachment C



1st flush runoff diverted to rain garden at parking lot entrance, overflow to existing inlet, to be raised to allow for ponding and infiltration.



Schoolyard site gateway at Murray St connection to neighborhood.

Playground area consisting of collection of standalone pieces



Trees to be planted on east property line as buffer.



Curb cuts divert parking lot runoff to infiltration trench to increase soil moisture for new tree plantings.



Shaded plaza with picnic tables, bicycle rack, trash receptacle, & fitness equipment.



Meandering rain garden / ephemeral stream channel planted with pollinators to collect runoff from drive via curb cut and flume

Sidewalk connection to neighboring residential development and through to neighborhood.



Covered trellis for outdoor learning exercises.

Raised planters to have crops that match garden on south side of campus.

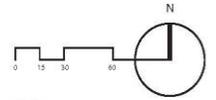
## Price Middle School

### Community Schoolyard Concept 1



FEBRUARY 4, 2022

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS PROGRAM

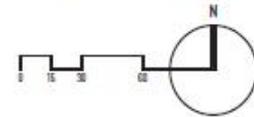


# Attachment C

# Toomer Elementary

## Community Schoolyard Concept 2

FEBRUARY 4, 2022



AN INITIATIVE OF THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS PROGRAM

