

# Southwest Baltimore Charter School

Sustainable Growth Challenge 2017/2018

By: Sherry Russell, Sarah Turner, and Sarah Wallace

# Acknowledgements

- Southwest Baltimore Charter School
- Southwest Baltimore Community
- Dr. Byoung-Suk Kweon
- Erica Brockman
- Karen Brown

# Outline

I. Challenge

II. Site Inventory and Analysis

III.Design Process

IV.Solution

V. Outcomes

VI. Conclusion



# Challenge

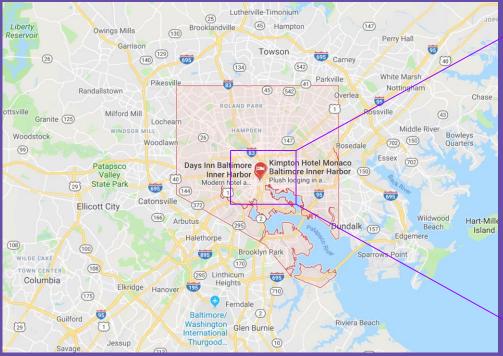
- Provide a unique and age-appropriate play space for students
- Include ADA accessible play equipment
- Address and incorporate extremely steep slope on the school's property
- Incorporate an area to be used as an outdoor classroom
- Provide outdoor seating for teachers and students to enjoy lunch
- Provide a welcoming entrance space for the school
- Provide a memorial for a deceased teacher
- Utilize a grant received by the school for a pollinator garden

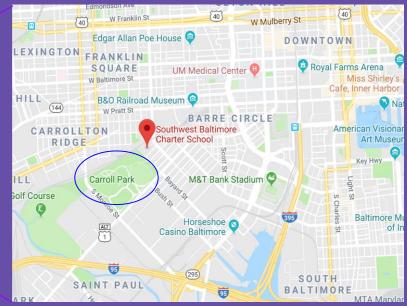




Site Inventory and Analysis

# Site Location





# Southwest Baltimore (Pigtown)

- Drugs, crime, prostitution
- High level of poverty



# Demographics

- Primarily African-American
- Majority of students receive free/reduced price lunch
- Underperforming compared to the state of Maryland

#### Socioeconomic Details **Overall Performance** % Eligible for Free Lunch Southwest Baltimore Charter School Baltimore City School District Elementary Schools % Eligible for Reduced Lunch Maryland Elementary Schools % Ineligible for Free/reduced Lunch Southwest Baltimore Charter School Math Baltimore English Language Arts Maryland 20 0 40 50 Percent Proficient 0 100

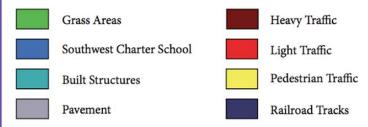
# Site Surroundings





## Circulation





# Sites and Sounds

- Graffiti and limited green space
- Noise pollution
- Distracting activities on hill and at Carroll Park Skatepark



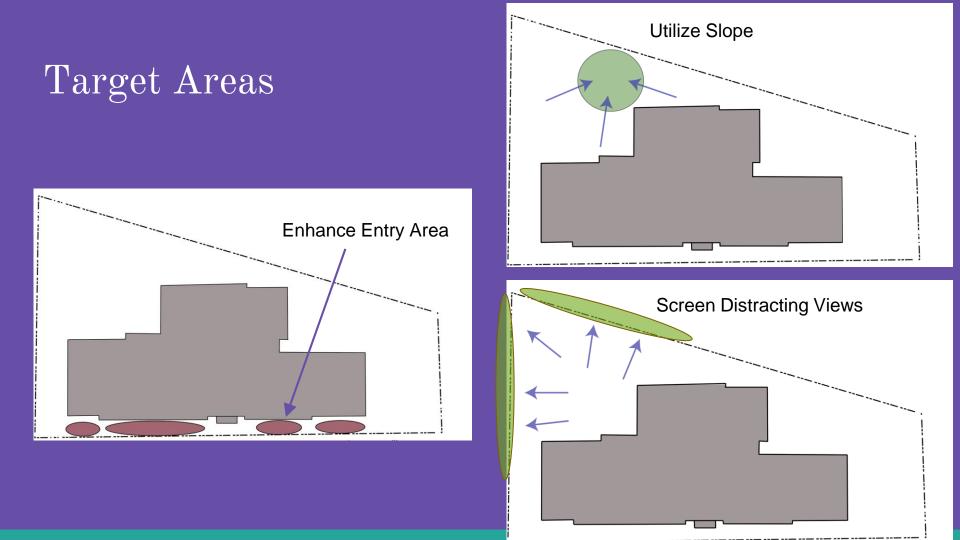


# Hydrology

- Gwynns Falls Watershed
- Location close to Gwynns Falls River





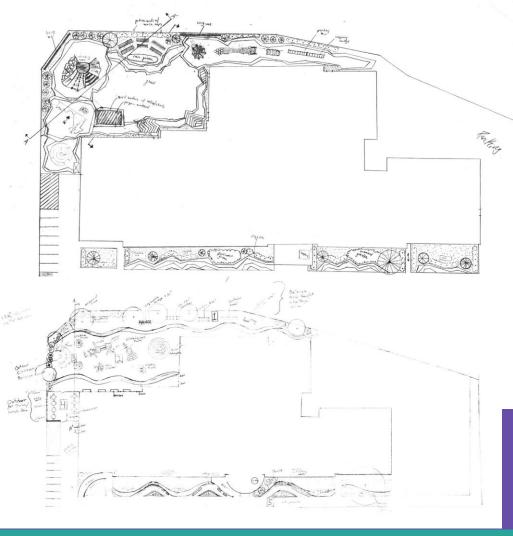


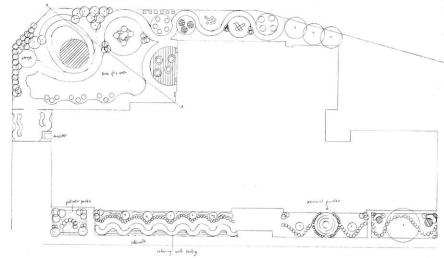


# Site Visit

- Meet with Erica Brockman
- Discuss design program
- Explore school grounds
- Perform Site Analysis









# Design Discussion

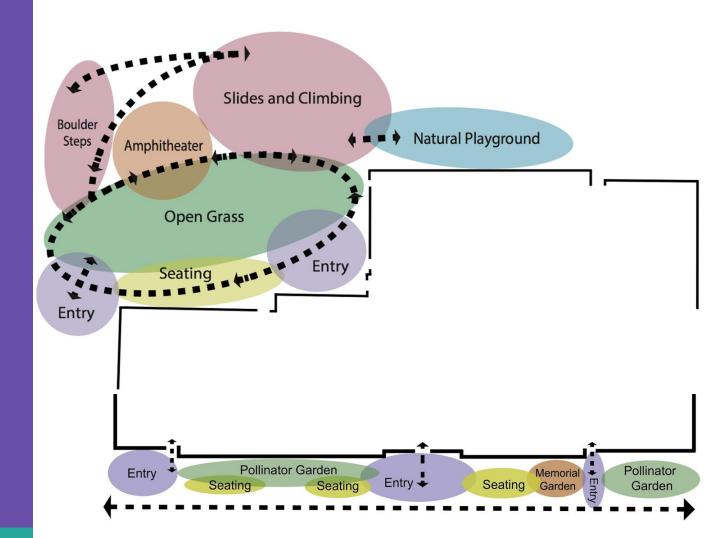


Design Solution

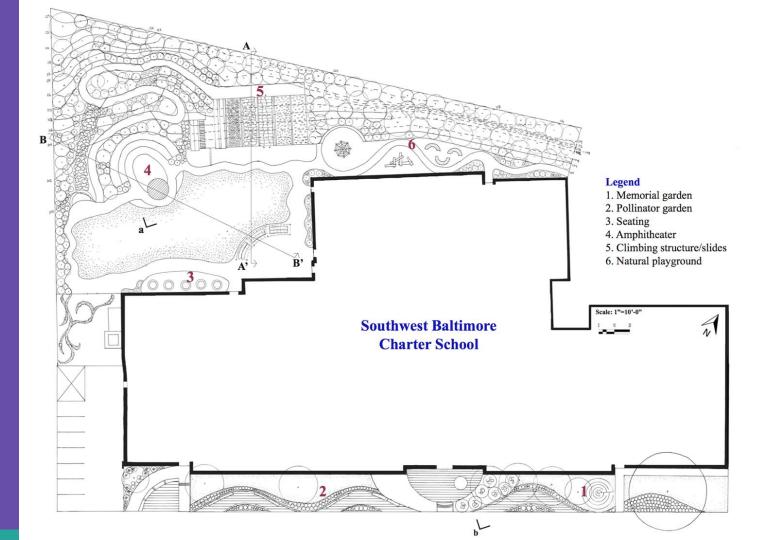
# Goals

- To provide welcoming, age-appropriate play spaces and structures that inspire waves of creativity amongst the students and community.
  - $\circ \quad {\rm Promote \ social \ engagement}$
  - $\circ$  Encourage educational exploration
  - Motivate physical wellness

# Functional Diagram



#### Site Plan



### Amphitheater and Play Structure



# Amphitheater and Open Space (looking northwest)



## Play Structure (looking north)



Platform

Fall Zone ! Path

**Open Space** 

Seating

#### Welcome Area



# Outcomes- Environmental

- Natural play spaces encourage environmental literacy and stewardship
- Amphitheater provides bioretention
- Welcome garden supports pollinators
- Native vegetation support the environment



## Outcomes- Social

- Encourages students with disabilities to attend the school
- Welcome area encourages communication amongst community members
- Provides a safe space for the community



# Conclusion

- Invest in Baltimore schools
- Introduces environmentalism to students
- Provides safe play spaces for students
- Implements memorial for important community member
- Improve student quality of life

