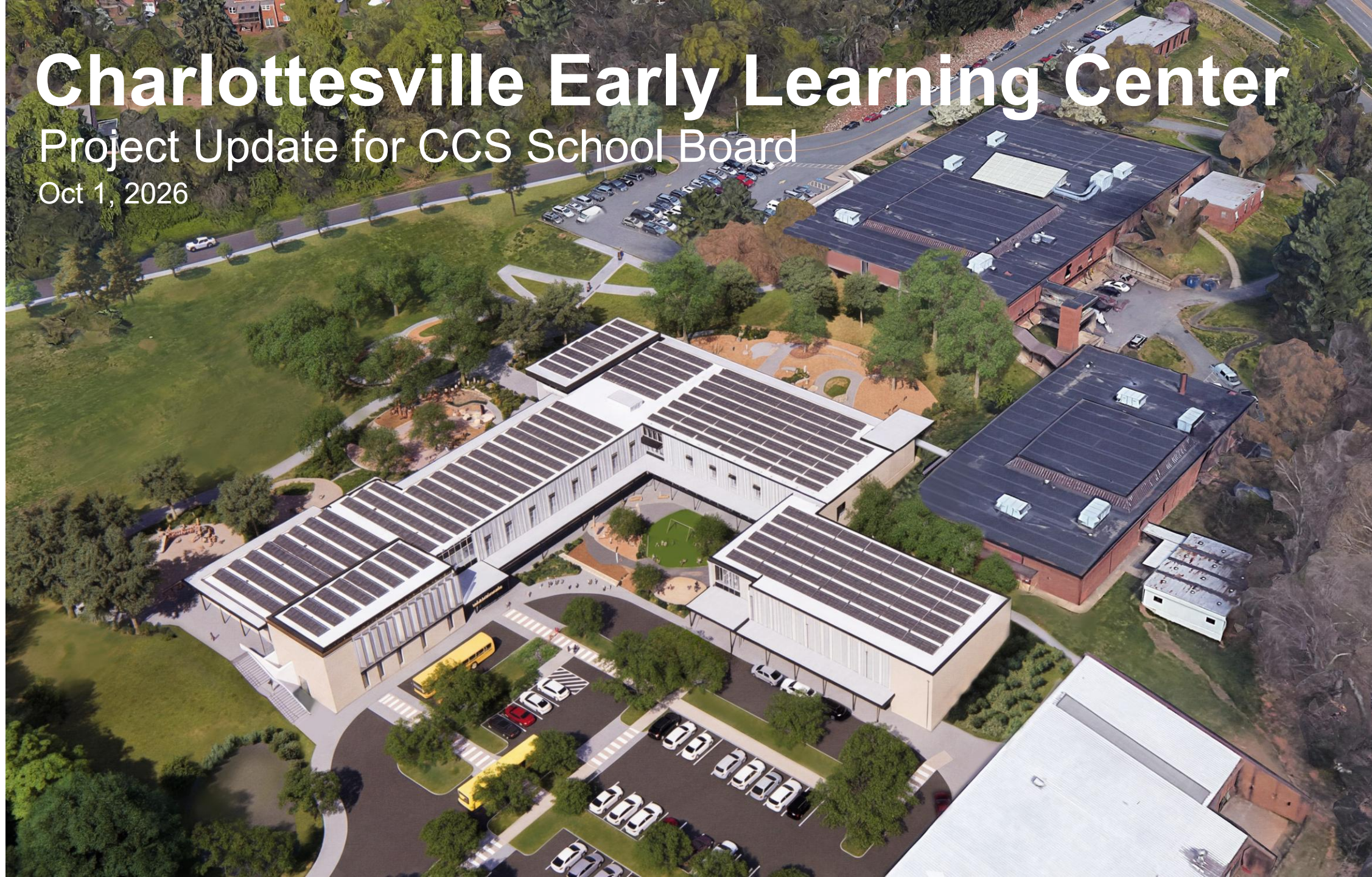




Charlottesville Early Learning Center

Project Update for CCS School Board

Oct 1, 2026





CELC Project Vision

- A **child-centered, joyful, and resource-rich institution** designed to support the flourishing of Charlottesville’s young children, their families, educators, and staff. **Children leave “kindergarten strong.”**
- A **model of Early Childhood best practices** – in operations, physical environment, and educational outcomes
- A **welcoming place of community** with strong family partnerships that serves as a multi-generational center for access to services and resources.
- **High level of facility quality** to serve students, inspire teachers & promote retention, & reflect family dignity.
- Designed with **future program expansion** in mind.
- Design that balances safety and school security with access to outdoors and sense of openness.
- Design that **inspires, uplifts, and supports health and wellbeing for all occupants** (beauty, comfort, daylight, acoustics, & connection to nature).
- A facility with **rich environmental variety** (indoors and outdoors) easily accessible to children within their daily routine.
- **Design centered on inclusion of children with special needs** with accessibility at the center and integrated, therapeutic environments throughout building.



How Many Classrooms?

New Early Learning Center

Maintain the existing scope of services

19 classrooms

13 : 1 avg = 260; @ 90% utilization = **234**

15 : 1 avg = 300; @ 90% utilization = **270**

Future Expansion

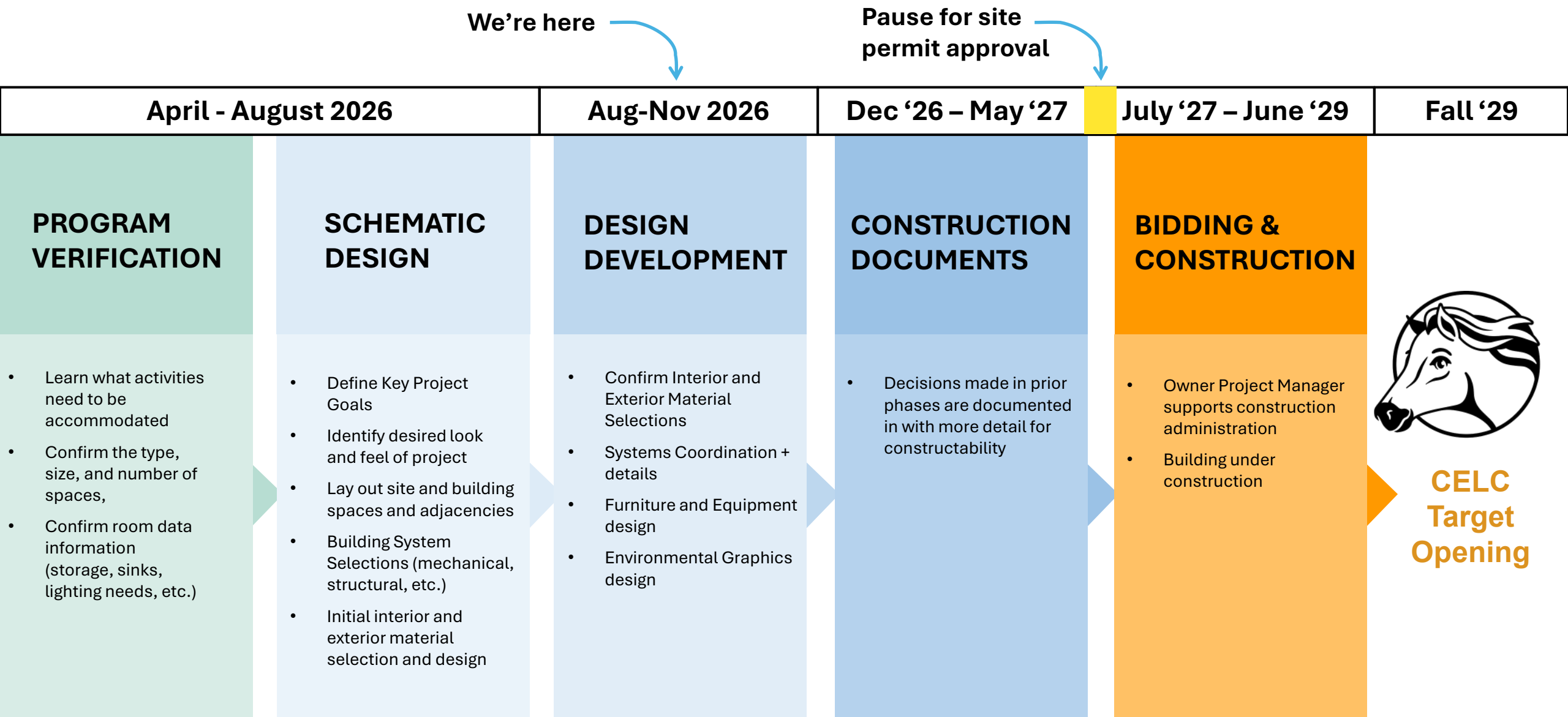
Increase the 3-year-old program size to match the 4-year old program, providing a two-year sequence for all enrollees (improves outcomes)

+ 12 classrooms

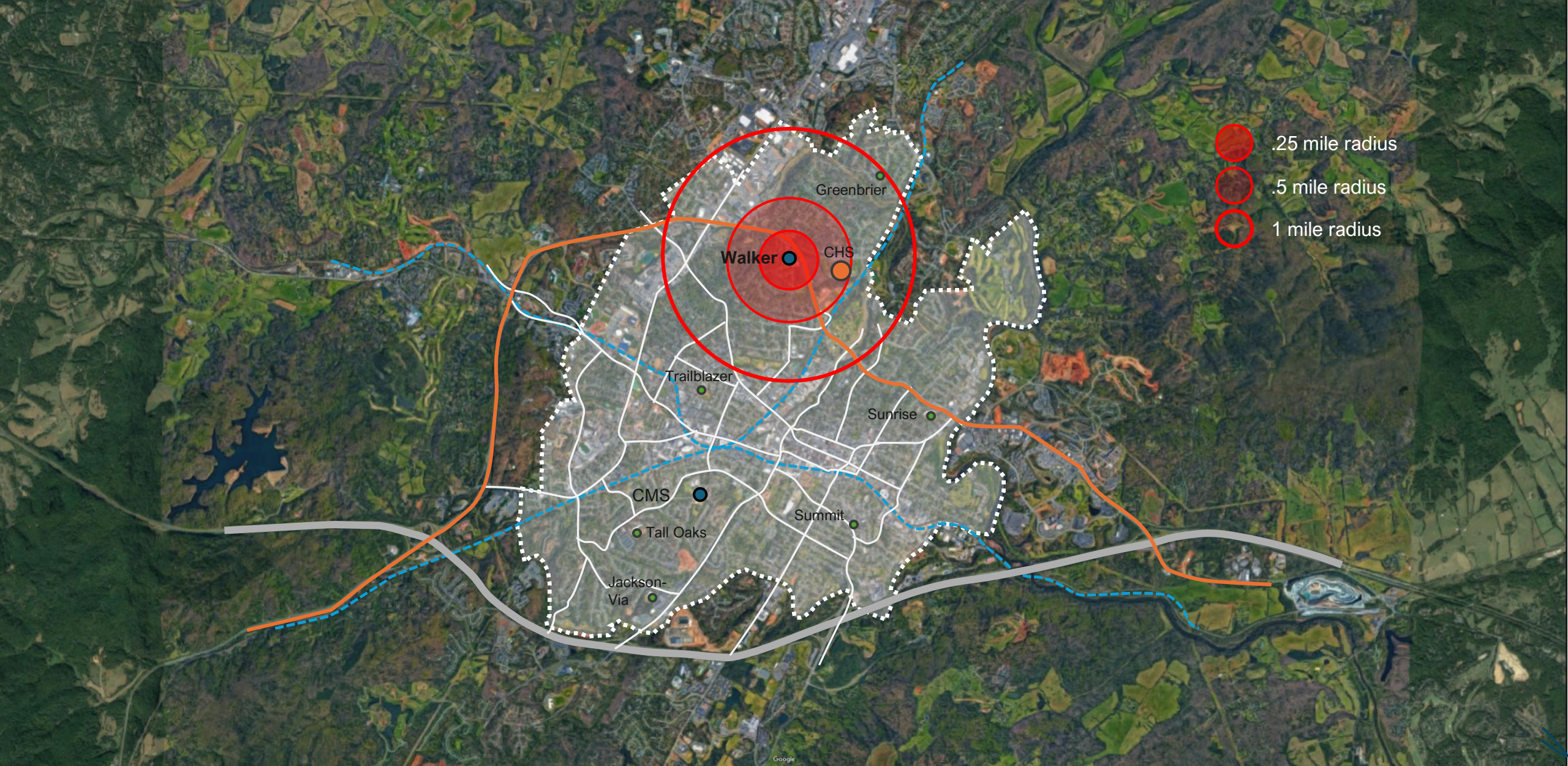
13 : 1 avg = 416; @ 90% utilization = **374**

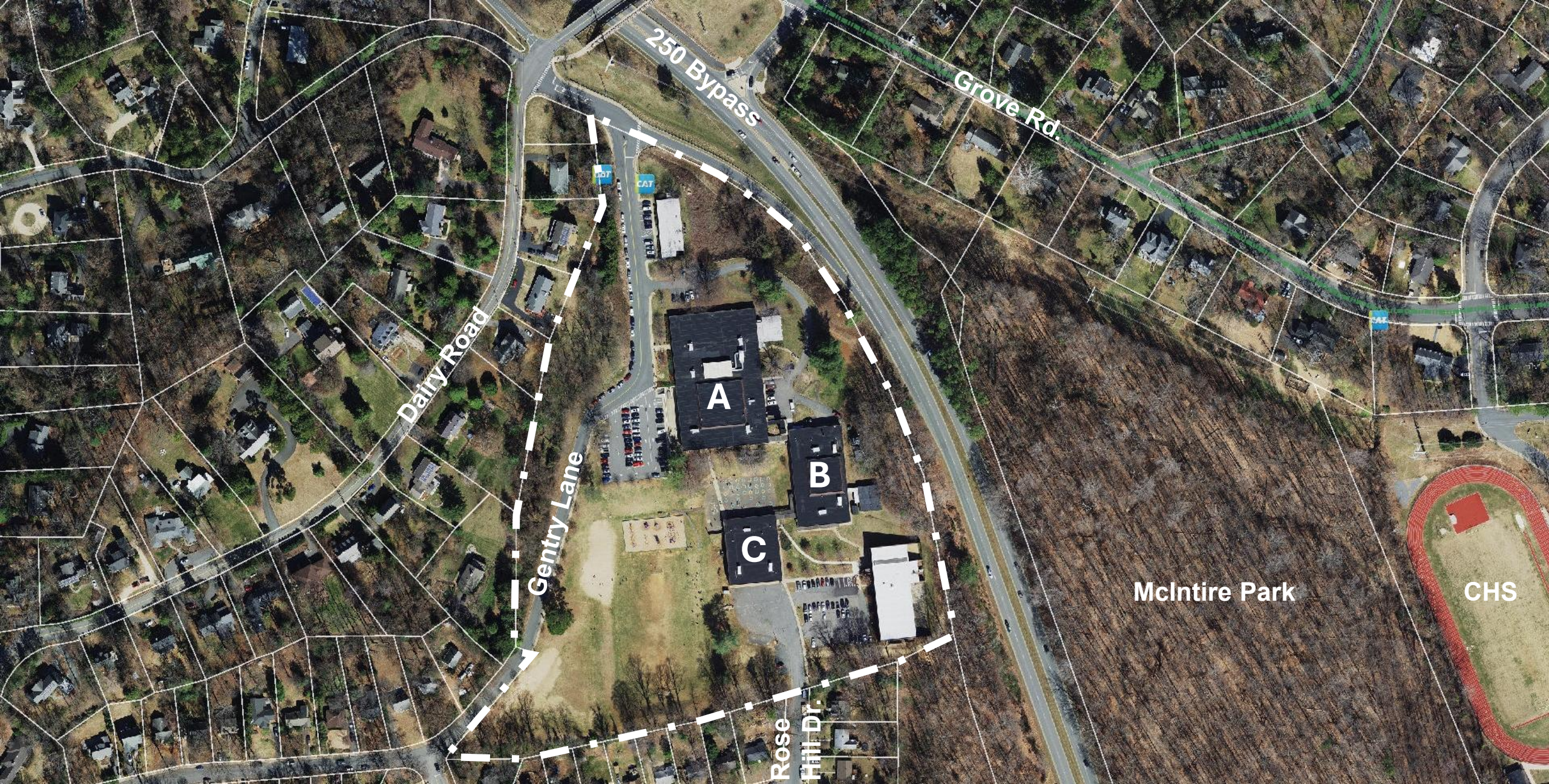
15 : 1 avg = 480; @ 90% utilization = **432**

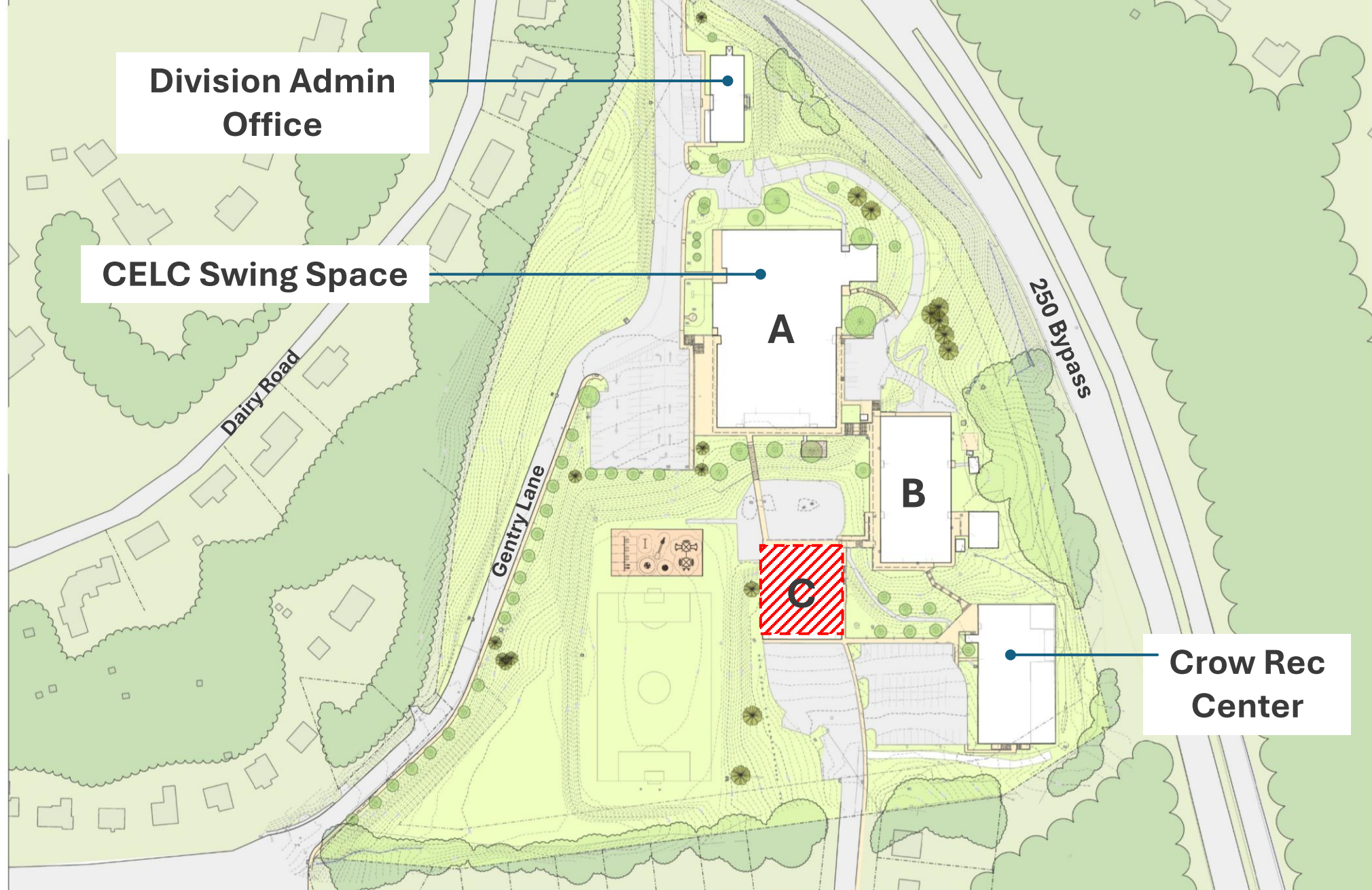
Sized for some growth (2025-26 = 15 Classrooms)

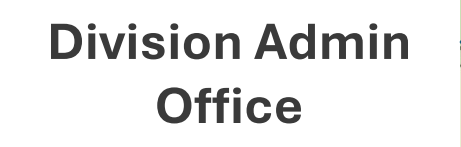


Fall 2029 Occupancy depends on 10-month Site Permit Approval

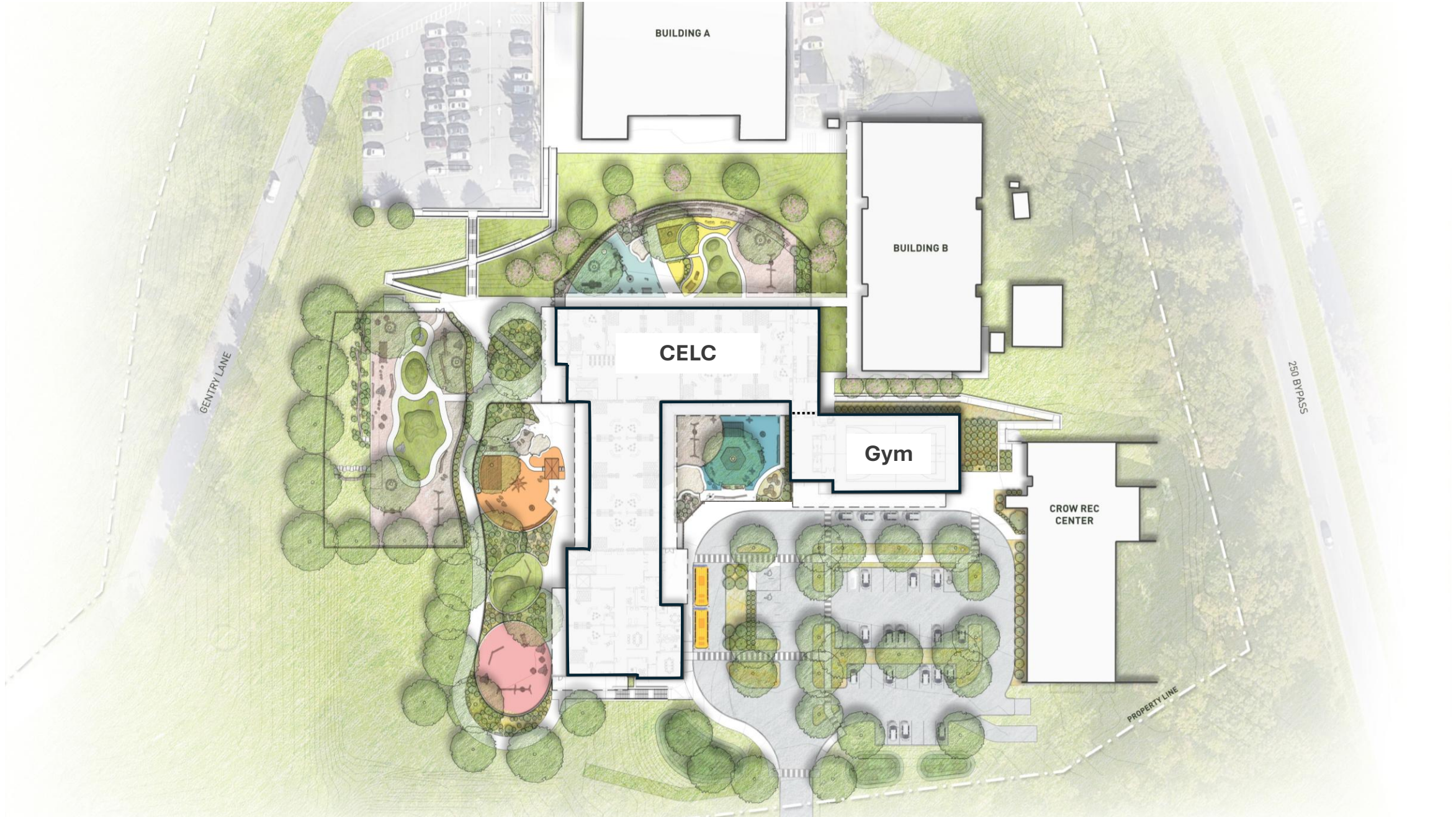








Crow Rec Center







Who we've been meeting with

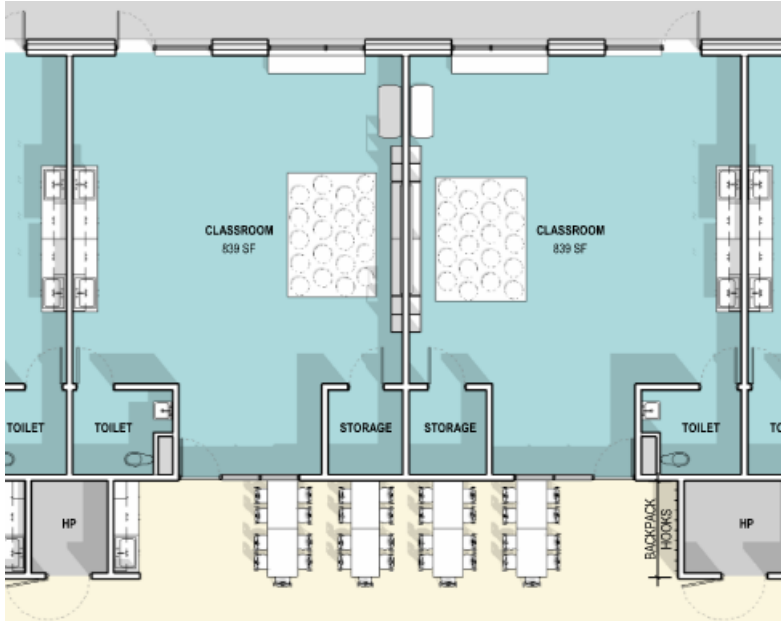
- **Charlottesville Capital Development Division**
- **CELC Leadership**
- **CELC Educators**
- **CELC Families**
- **Charlottesville Office of Sustainability & Resilience**
- **CCS Division Leadership**
- **CCS IT**
- **CCS Transportation**
- **Charlottesville Facilities Maintenance Division**
- **Parks & Recreation**
- **Charlottesville Fire Marshall**



Input from children & families

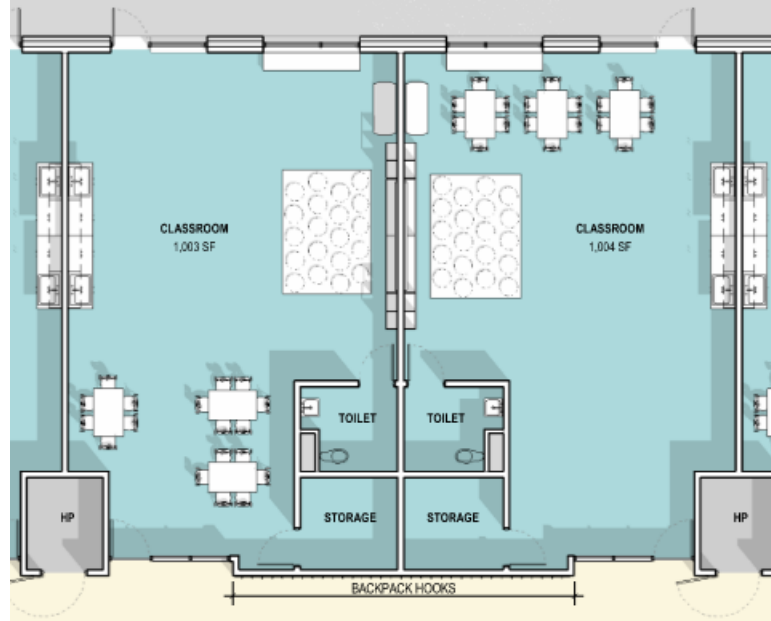


OPTION 1 – “INDOOR MESSY SPACE” IN CORRIDOR



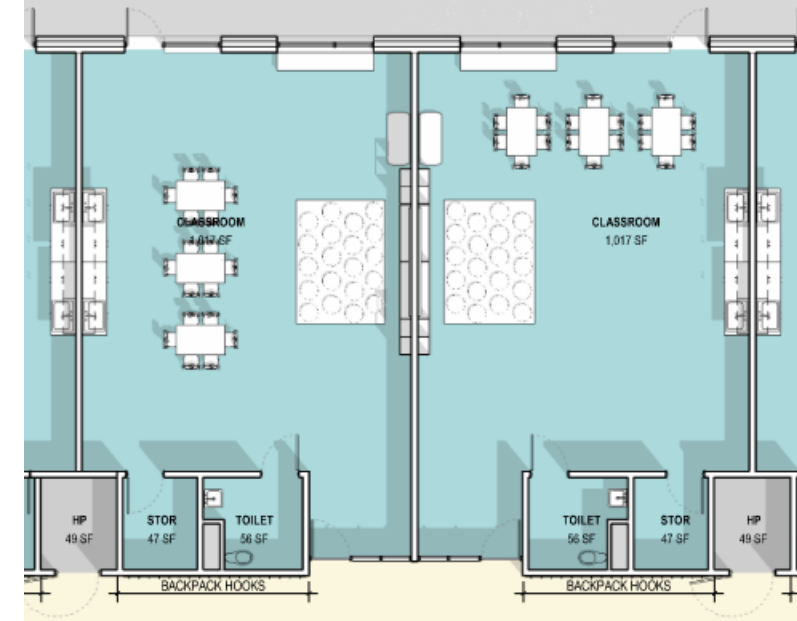
- Classroom = 840sf
- Hooks across the hall for half the classrooms
- Acoustics Concerns

OPTION 2 – “FOUR SQUARE”



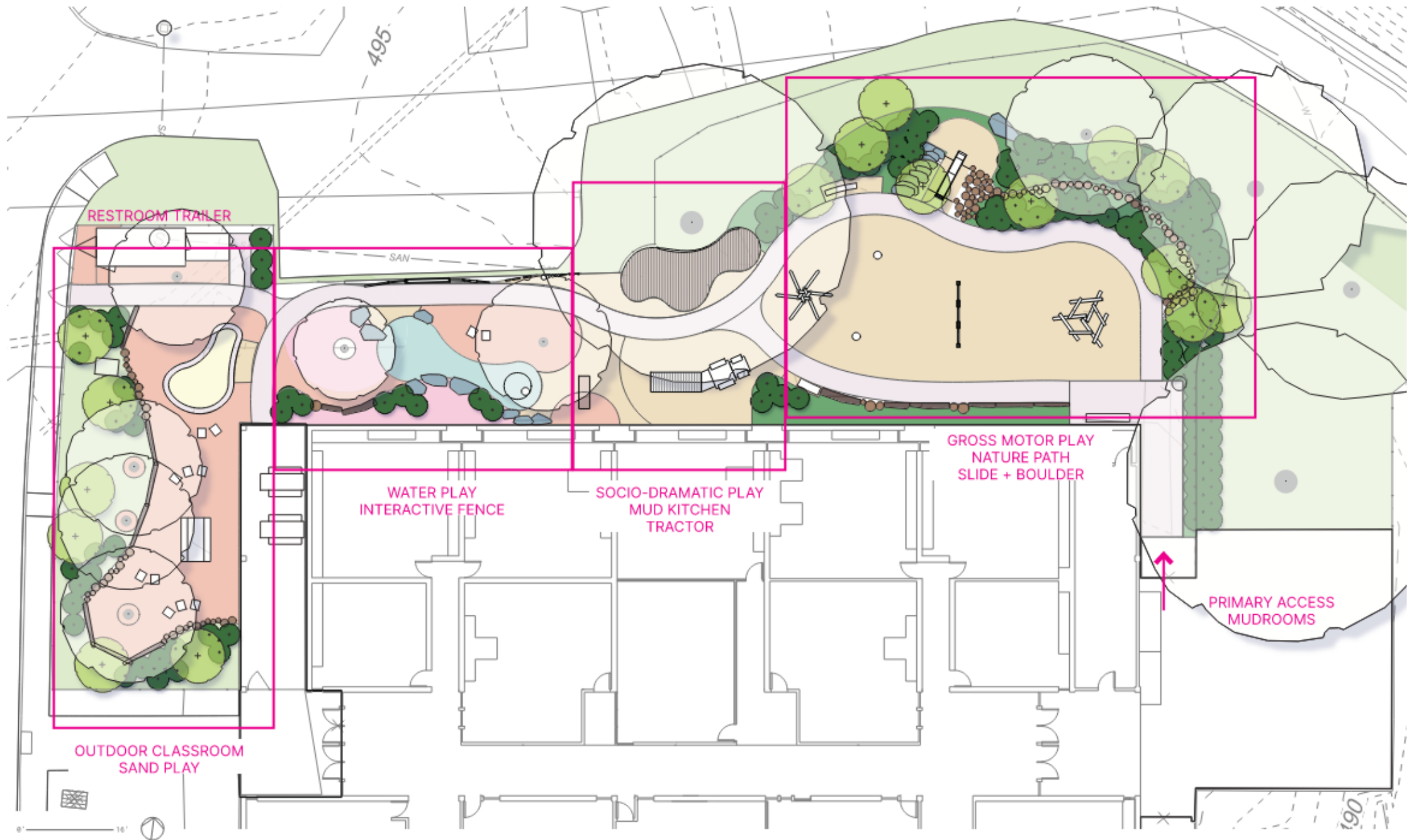
- Classroom = 1000sf
- Hooks outside the classroom doors
- Flexible table locations inside classrooms

OPTION 3 – “LINEUP”

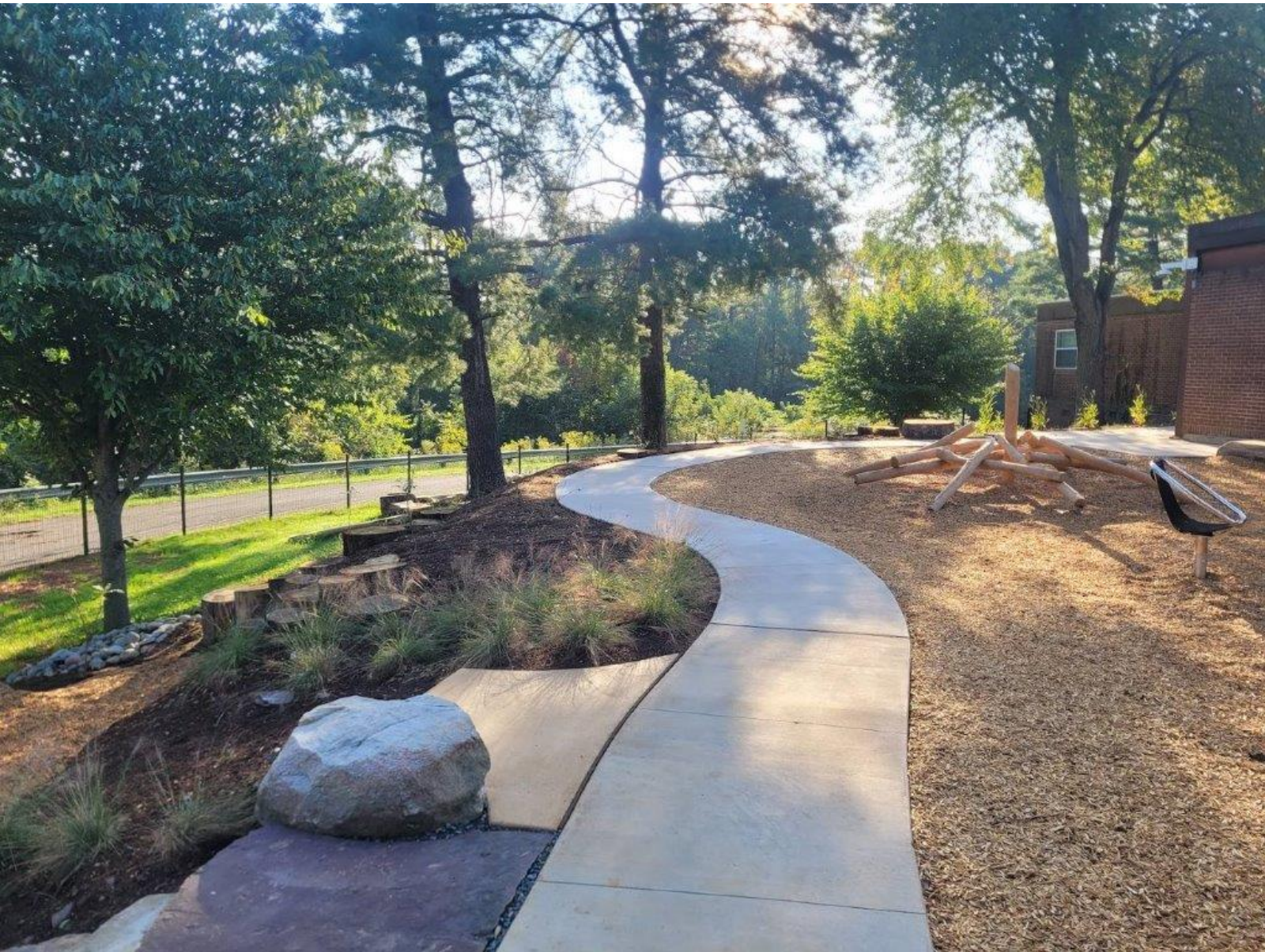


- Classroom = 1000sf
- Hooks outside the classroom doors
- Flexible table locations inside classrooms





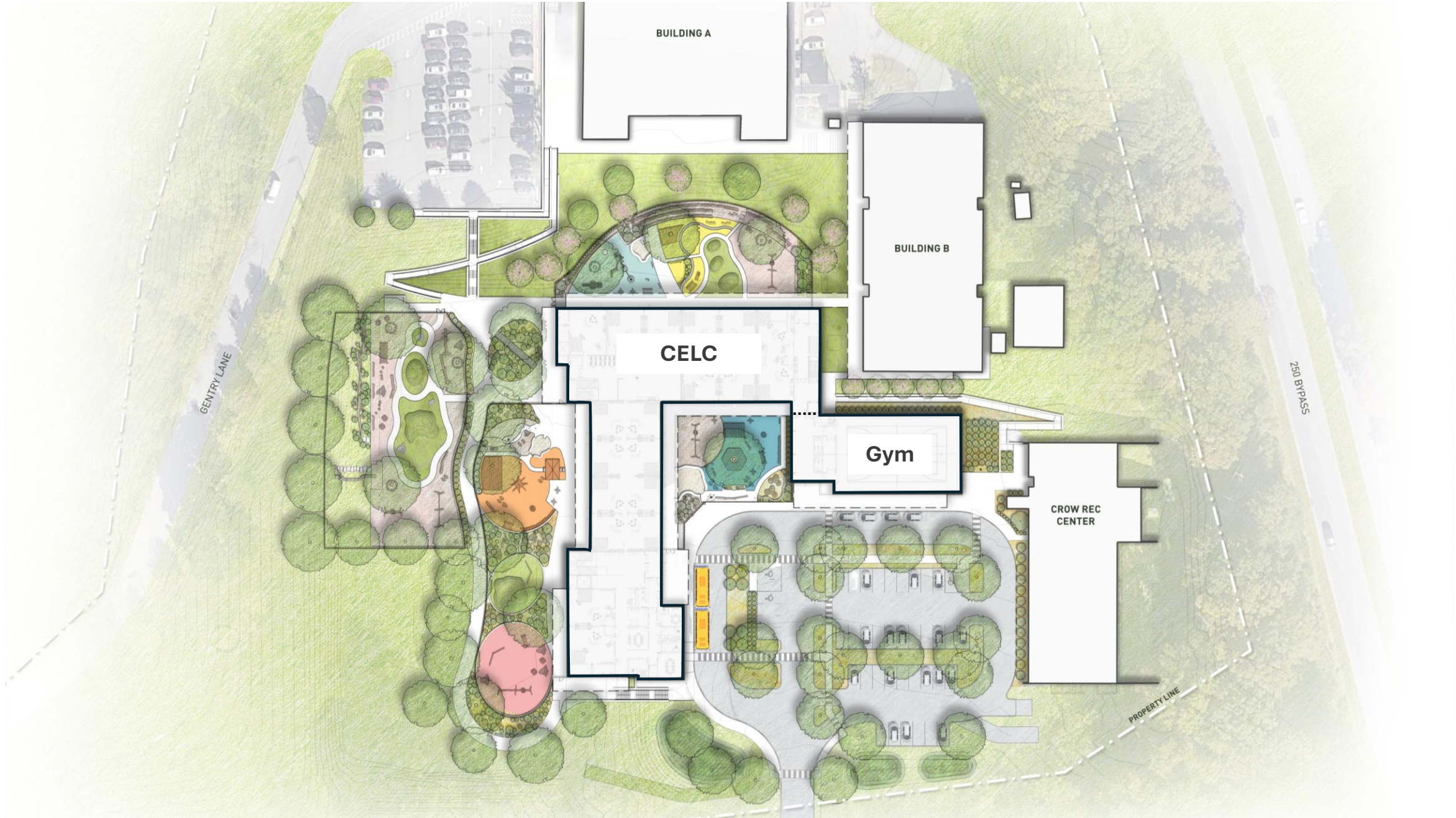








Teachers planning for use of new outdoor classroom



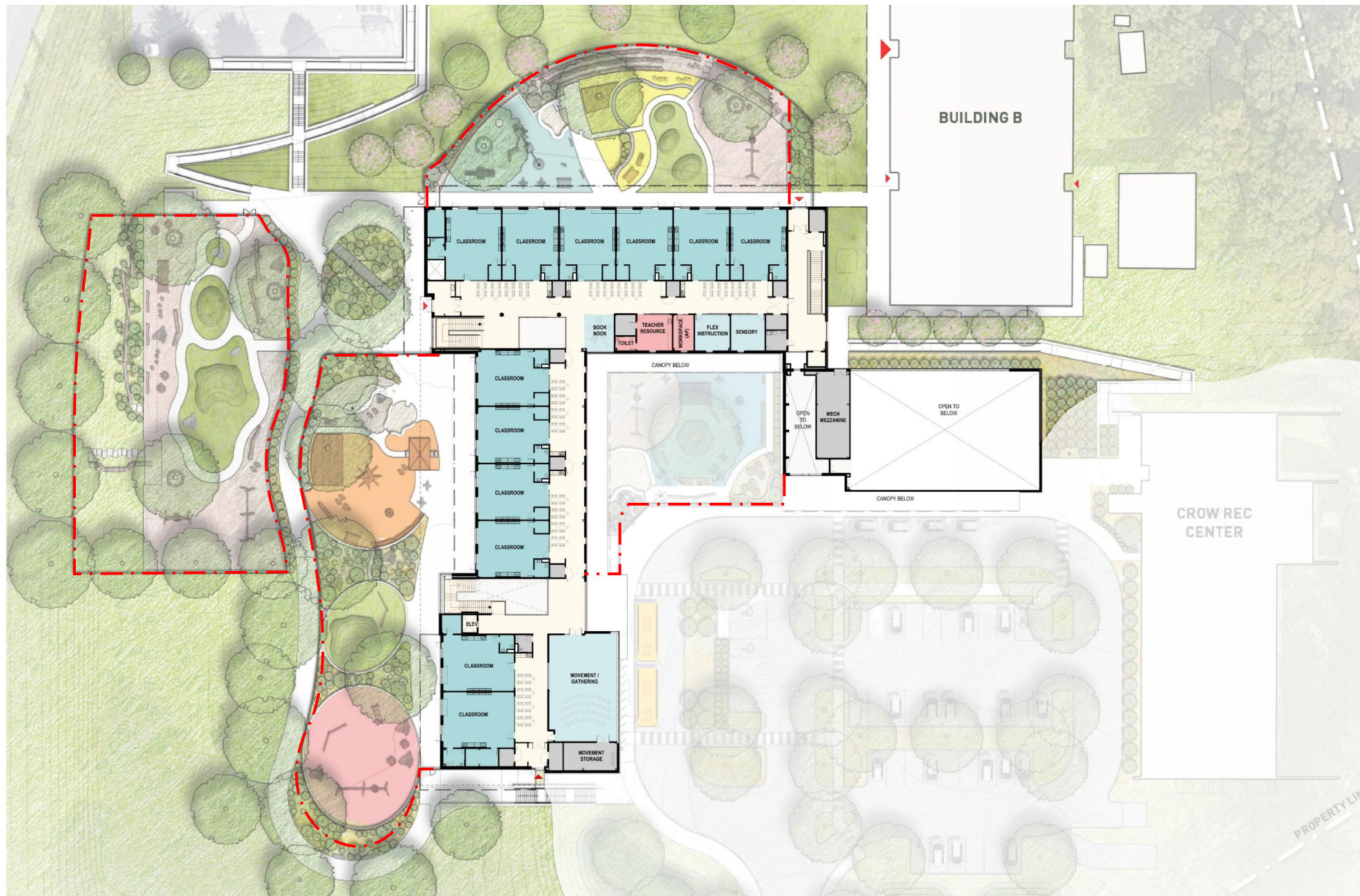


CELC Front Door, approached from Rose Hill Drive



Bus loop







Level 2 Outdoor Classroom



Level 2 Outdoor Classroom