INSPIRE

Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence

Mary E. Rodman Elementary

April 5, 2019

Investing in Schools + Neighborhoods

21st CENTURY SCHOOLS
BALTIMORE

City Schools, Maryland Stadium Authority, Baltimore City, and the State are investing nearly one billion dollars to renovate or replace schools.

21st Century has 3 goals:

- Transform student opportunities and achievement
- Improve engagement and wellbeing of communities
- **Help revitalize neighborhoods and communities**

INSPIRE
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The Planning Department launched the INSPIRE program to focus on the neighborhood immediately surrounding each of the 21st Century schools.

Concentrate improvements around the school:

- Improve the environment and quality of life
- Take concrete action towards the community's long-term vision; guide private investment

There's a Lot Being Planned/Happening…

21st CENTURY SCHOOLS
BALTIMORE

INSPIRE
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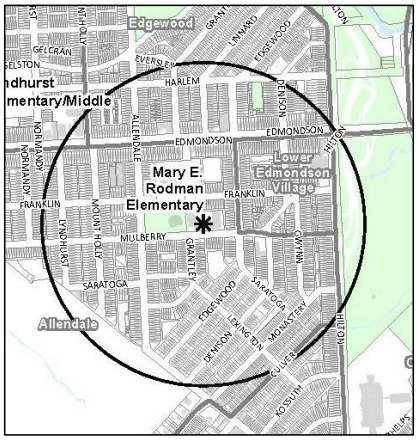
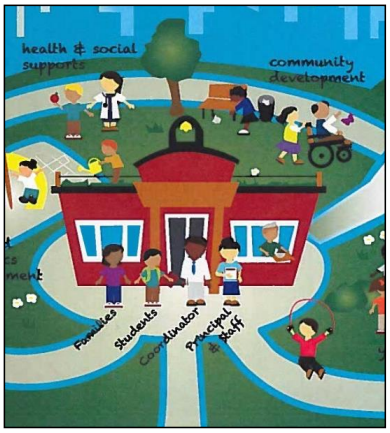
FAMILY LEAGUE
OF BALTIMORE





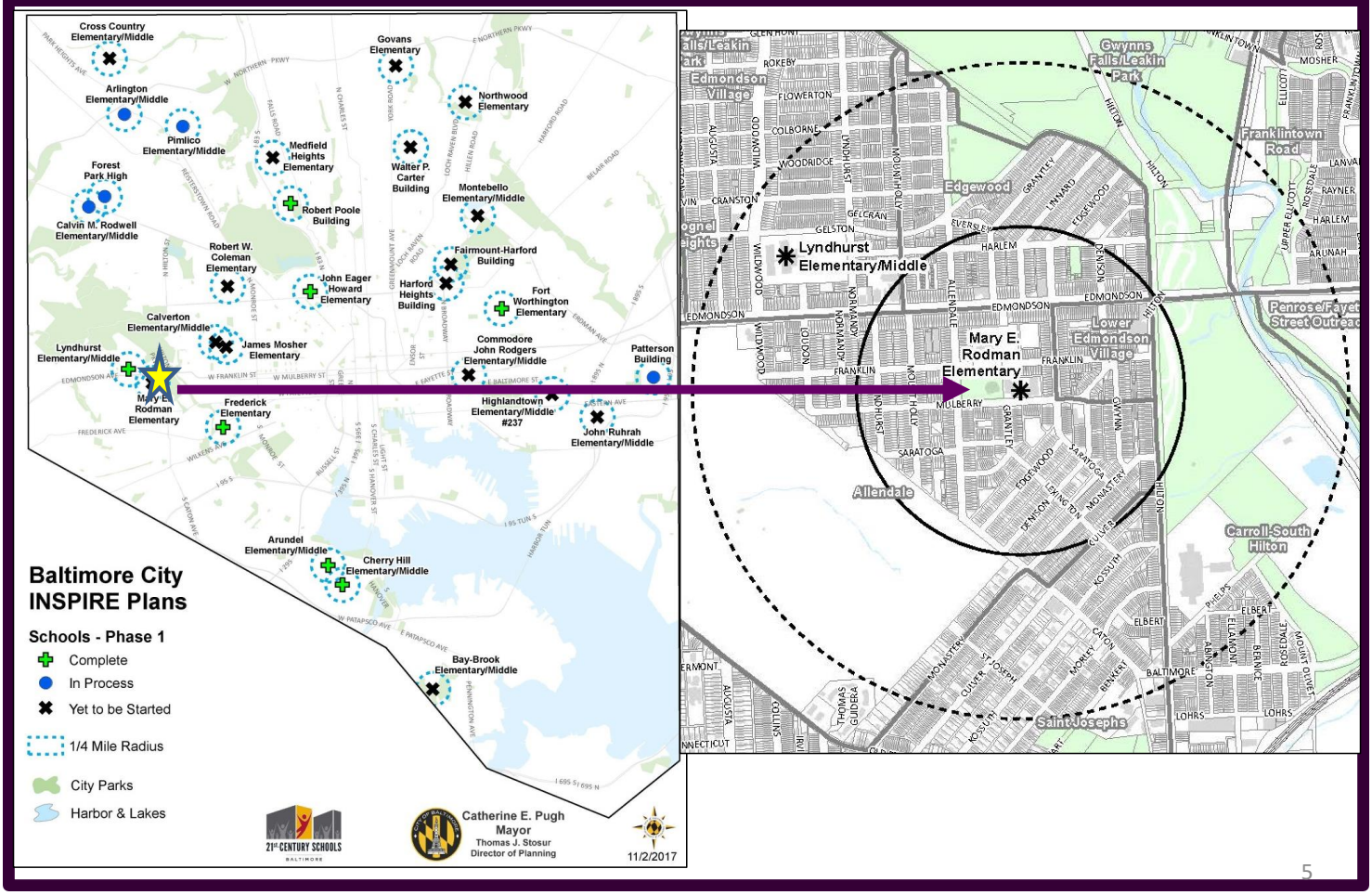
School Site

Around the School

Partners & Resources

21st Century Activity Timeframe

Rolling-out INSPIRE Citywide and at Mary E. Rodman



INSPIRE: What It Is (Overview)

- A **plan**
  - Improve quality of life and guide community's long-term vision
  - Recommendations for short-and long-term activities and investments
  - Adopted by the Planning Commission
  - City investments
  - Community-based/public space project

- A **process** to develop and begin to implement the plan
  - Gather information
  - Draft and review recommendations
  - Write, review, and implement

Activities, Investments, Recommendations

Preparing for Opening Day

City agencies have committed to streetscape improvements (sidewalk repairs, crosswalks, street trees, etc.).

Where: Along the Primary Walking Routes

Area-Specific Recommendations

Improvements in the environment and QOL of students, their families, and neighborhood residents/businesses (housing market and development; safety; sanitation; sustainability; health, wellness, and recreation; transportation; and self sufficiency).

Where: Throughout INSPIRE area, nearby

Community-Selected Priority Project

INSPIRE funds implementation of one of the recommendations.

Where: Throughout INSPIRE area

Process = Engagement + Implementation

LISTEN: GATHER INFORMATION

Workshops, Surveys, Steering Committee Involvement, "Field work" (community walks)

CREATE: DRAFT & REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

DOP Drafts, City Agency Involvement, Steering Committee Involvement, Workshops

DELIVER: FINALIZE & IMPLEMENT PLAN

DOP Finalizes , Shares with Community, Presents to Planning Commission, Implements

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- INSPIRE Workshops
- Community Meetings & Events
- Steering Committee Meetings
- School Events
- Student Workshops & Projects
- Fieldwork/Community Walks
- Subject-area Workshops
- Project Voting
- Project Charrettes

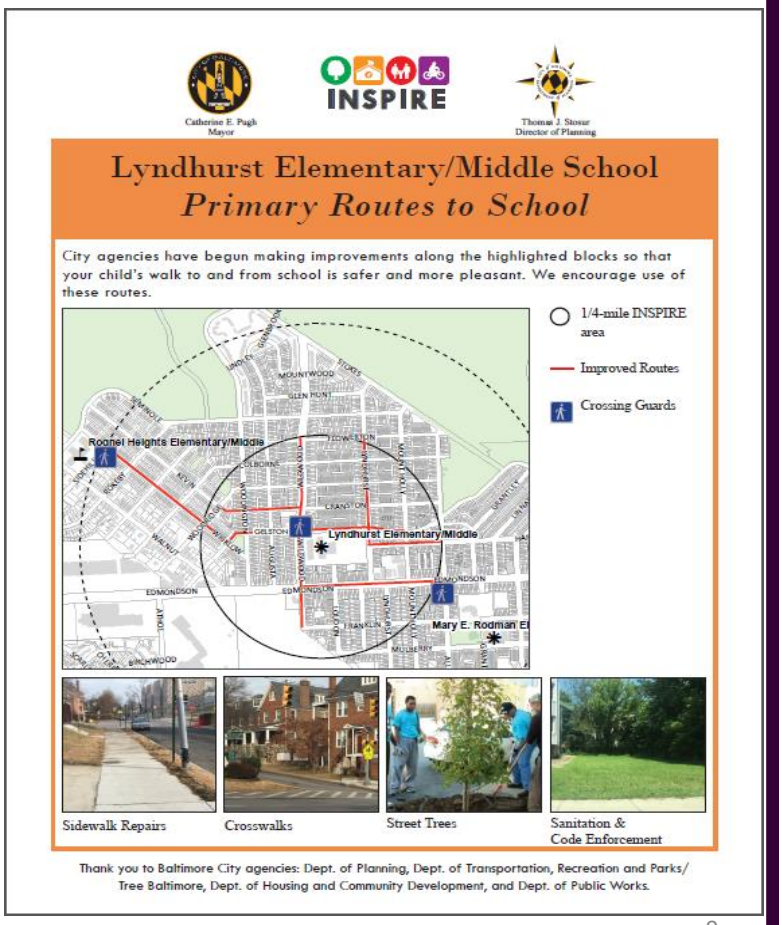
Although much of the plan will be implemented after adoption, there is investment and activity throughout the process.

Recommendations: Primary Walking Routes

Preparing for Opening Day

City agencies have committed to making these improvements:

- Repairing sidewalks
- Repainting or adding crosswalks
- Marking Safe Routes to School
- Assessing crossing guard deployment
- Pruning & planting street trees
- Replacing missing/broken lights
- Boarding open vacant buildings
- Picking up trash and maintaining vacant lots



Recommendations: Half-Mile around the School

- **Housing & Market Strength:** *Have diversity in housing type, housing quality; remove blight; focus on retail and other development*
- **Environmental Sustainability:** *Improve the natural environment*
- **Transportation:** *Connect people to the places they need and want to go*
- **Sanitation**: *Have clean sidewalks, vacant lots, alleys, and other areas*
- **Improve Safety**: *Make people feel and be safe*
- **Health and Wellness**: *Ensure there are places for people to recreate, play, and come together; provide better access to healthy foods*
- **Economic Self-Sufficiency:** *Expand employment and workforce development opportunities*

Implementation: Examples

- A community organization near Arlington Elementary adopted a City-owned lot and is turning it into a community/school garden.

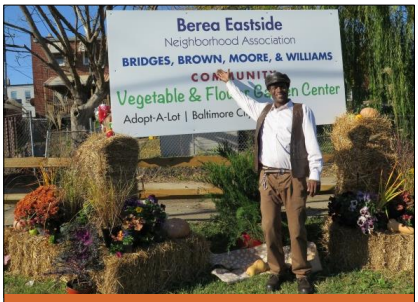
- Frederick Elementary School worked with partners to develop a walking school bus to provide adult leaders to safely guide children to and from school every day.

- Baltimore's Housing and Community Development department is rehabbing City-owned properties directly facing Pimlico Elementary/Middle.

- A master plan is being completed for a park near Dorothy I. Height Elementary. INSPIRE and BRNI funding will implement park plan. Youth artists installed a mural in the park through Art @ Work.

Community-based Priority Projects

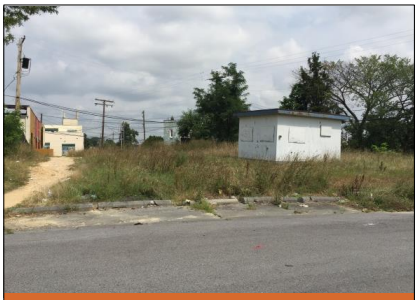
Some of the projects being assessed



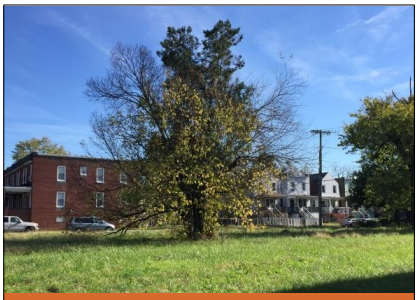
Fort Worthington:
Community & School Garden

John Eager Howard:
German Park Improvements

Lyndhurst:
Veteran Memorial Garden



Arundel + Cherry Hill:
Landscaped Lot & Path



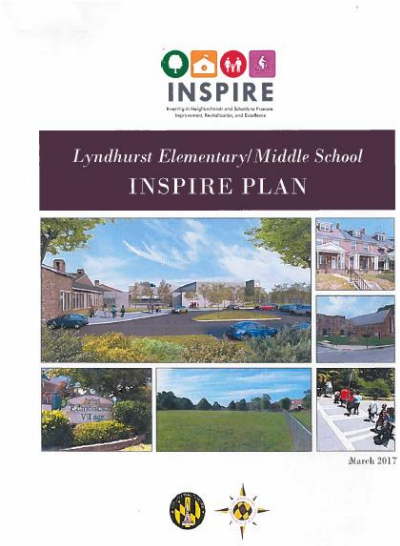
Arlington:
Community Garden

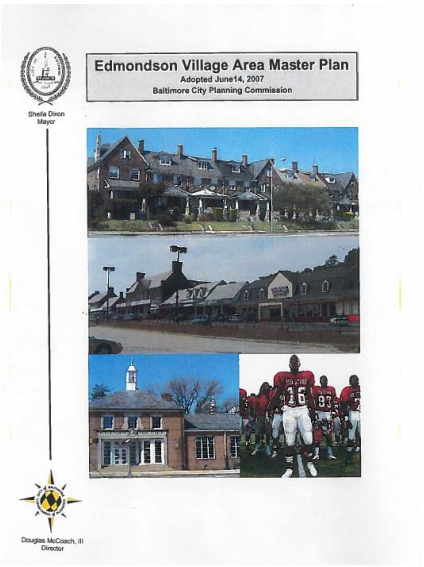
- Murals
- Play Spaces
- Community Signs
- Artistic Fencing
- Traffic Calming
- Façade Improvement
- Public Art
- Community Signs
- More

Review of Plans in the Mary E Rodman Area

- Lyndhurst - Wildwood Elementary Middle School INSPIRE Plan (Adopted March 2017)

- Edmondson Village Area Master Plan (Adopted June 2007)





Discussion

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE AND WANT TO ENHANCE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS WORK IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

WHAT EVENTS, MEETINGS, OR ACTIVITIES ARE COMING UP THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

INSPIRE Steering Committee

A small Steering Committee of community volunteers will work closely with INSPIRE process and serve as ambassadors.

- **Listen**
  - Outreach
  - Introductions
  - Share important history/priorities
  - Community Walks
- **Create**
  - Recommendation prioritization and feedback
  - ID subject-area workshop interest
- **Deliver**
  - Community-based project participation
  - Planning Commission participation

Sign up if you're interested in participating!

Questions and Next Steps

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Community Survey

Community Walk