

Royal Oak Middle School Greening & Forestry Plan

Technical Resources Program
Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed

City of Covina | Daniella Andrade
Charter Oak Unified School District | Robert Lind



Project Overview

Develop a feasibility study that meets the SCWP guidelines to determine our project's suitability for a stormwater program

- **Primary Objective:** **1)** increase public access to recreation, **2)** enhance educational environment in a manner that mitigates climate change
- **Secondary Objective:** Develop the property such that the resulting development will provide a multitude of benefits, including but not limited to: Education, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and public access.
- **Project Status:** Planning and Design
- **Total Funding Requested:** \$400,000.00

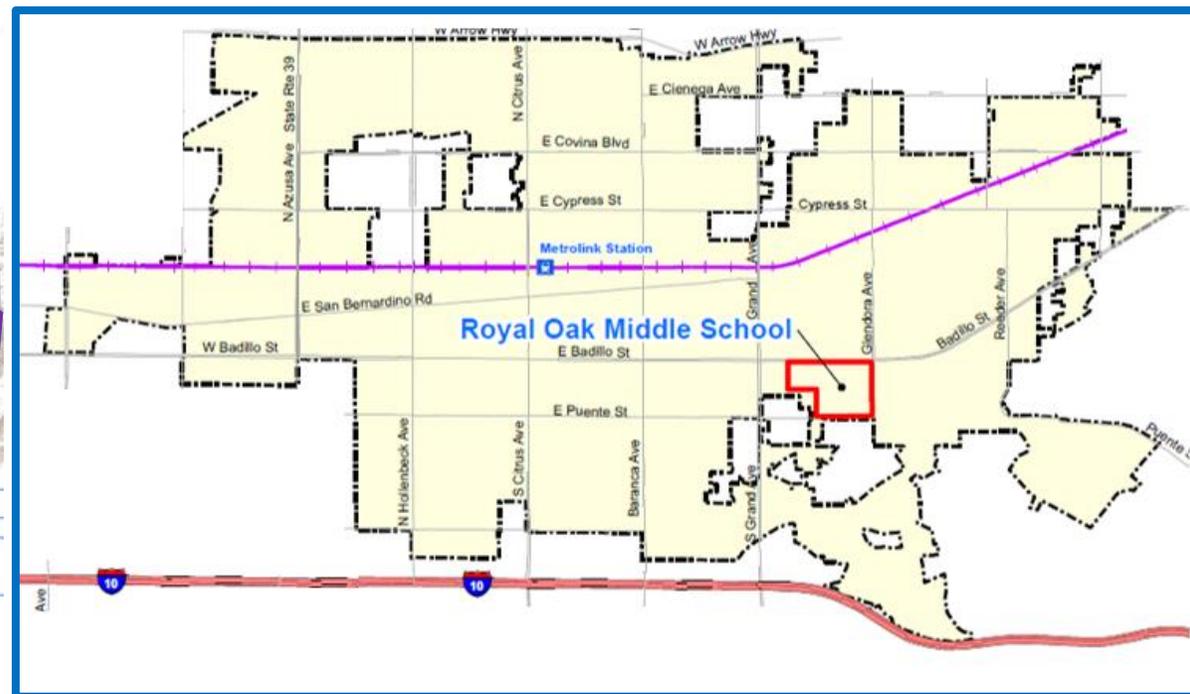




Project Location | *Watershed*

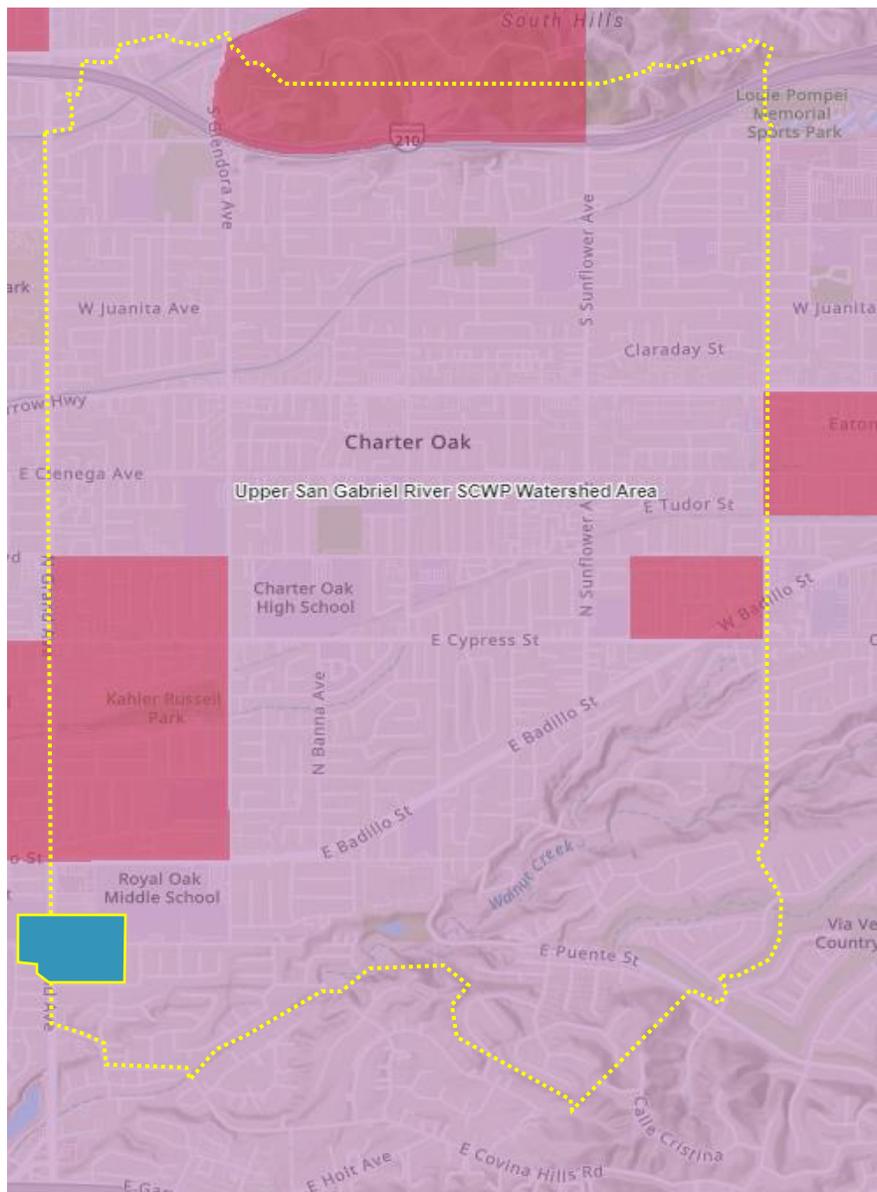


Royal Oak Middle School
303 Glendora Avenue
Covina, CA





Project Location | *Disadvantaged Communities*



SCWP Digital Library, - 2020 DAC Data Layer

The Royal Oak Middle School property is **not** located within a DAC; however, the school serves a student population that overlaps with several DACs

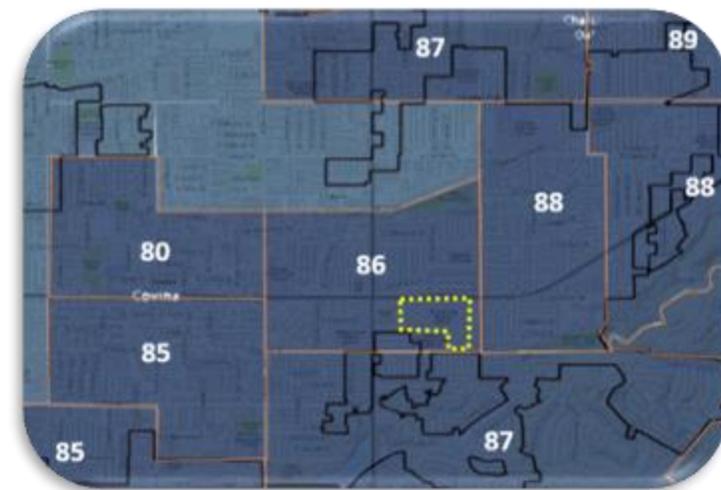
Free & Reduced Meal Program (FRPM)

Students enrolled in K-12 who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based on family size and annual income. To be eligible, a family's income must be less than the established rates (California Department of Education).

78% of students in Covina Proper, and 74% of Royal Oak Middle School Students are eligible for FRPM

PM 2.5

Areas immediately surrounding Royal Oak have PM2.5 levels in the highest 20% of PM2.5 readings. High PM2.5 often overlaps with heat-vulnerable, highly paved neighborhoods





Project Background | *Existing Conditions*



Feasibility Study Project Extent

Charter Oak Unified School District Property Extent

Spatial constraints

- Adult School Property
- District Plans for solar parking lot/solar carports
- Emergency Designation
- low feedback



Project Background | *Existing Conditions*





Project Background & Partnership

1965 – Royal Oak High School

1985 – Middle School 6-8

2007 – Middle School 7-8

Reduced student population resulted in reduced maintenance of athletic fields, as middle schools typically do not operate JV/V sports programs, unlike their high school counterparts.

2007-2018 District sought solutions

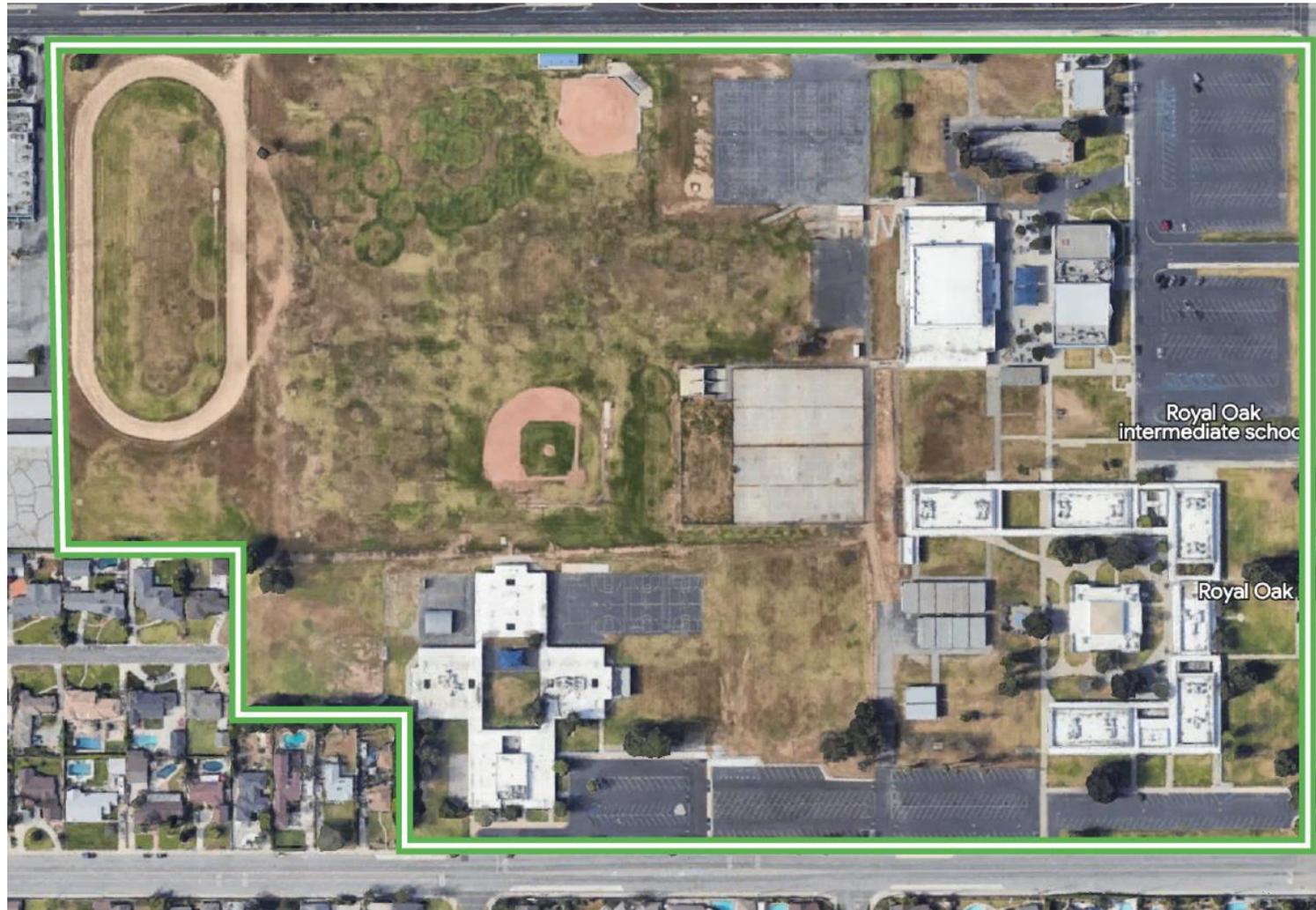
Considered downsizing the property as a funding strategy to build a new campus to fit the needs of this specific campus. Met with community opposition.

2022 – Partnership with the City of Covina

Partnership memorialized for collaborative effort to enhance the property for mutual benefit. This includes applying for grant funding.

Jan 2024- June 2025 – Royal Oak Middle School Greening and Forestry Plan (CALFIRE)

Community Outreach & Design of Outdoor areas to include OLEs, increased tree canopy, etc.





Project Details



- 1** Outdoor Learning Environments
- 2** Remove approx. 11,000 SF of asphalt
- 3** ~ 3/4 mile loop
- 4** Bioswales
- 5** Maintain/enhance areas for sports
- 6** 400 new trees min 15 gallon, various species. Concept does not show existing trees.
- 7** micro forest to attract birds and pollinators



Project Details



- 6** 400 new trees min 15 gallon, various species. Concept does not show existing trees.



Project Details





Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$400,000	Design	Conduct necessary technical studies/assessments. Use information collected to refine the design prepared under the CalFIRE grant.

Dependent on the findings from the feasibility study phase/level work, the city and District are amenable to updating the plans that have been completed under the CALFIRE Grant scope to enhance features to the appropriate capacity for stormwater capture.

The team proposes to concurrently design the recreational areas. **After this task, the next steps would include:**

- Formal submittal to the Division of the State Architect for review/permits
- Apply for implementation dollars. (e.g., Regional competitive SCWP).



Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

Anticipated Benefits

- **Re-grading property to collect stormwater/stormwater runoff in designated areas of campus**
- **Reducing impervious surfaces**
 - Decrease in the impact of non-point source pollution by diverting water to designated areas (e.g. bioswales)
 - Increase local water supply by allowing water to percolate into the soil
 - Reduce runoff **from** campus onto local streets. Existing grading on the property may result in muddy stormwater runoff from campus.
- **Installing 400 trees at a minimum of 15-gallon and climate-appropriate shrubs/plant species.**
 - update irrigation system to include drip irrigation.

MAWA = 954,180
ETWU = 496,877





Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions

- **Community Investment Benefits**

- Design was rooted in community feedback and preserving open space
- Increase recreational opportunities for the public
- Urban heat reduction and improved air quality through increase in tree canopy
- Support school programming through use of OLEs

- **Nature Based Solutions**

- Installation of bioswales alongside OLEs to collect and infiltrate stormwater
- Establishing over 400 15-gallon trees of climate appropriate variety
- Establishing shrubs of climate appropriate variety

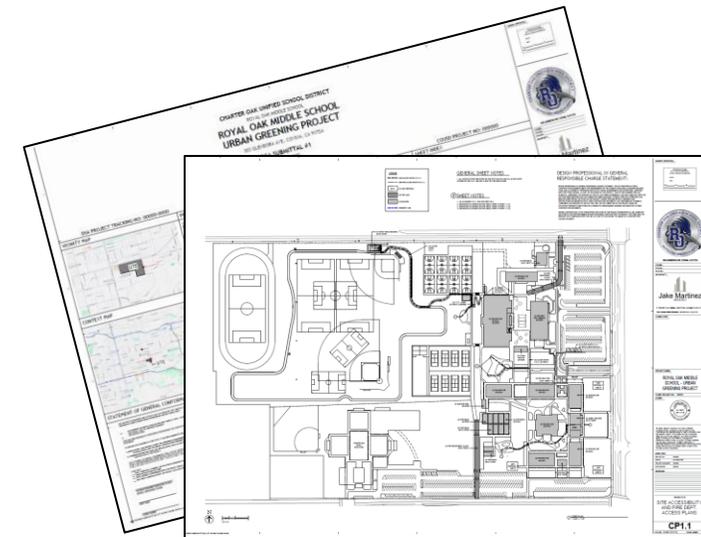


Leveraging Funds and Community Support

Leveraging Funds

CALFIRE Green Schoolyard Grant

\$248,000 – CalFIRE (\$198,000), City of Covina (\$25,000), Charter Oak Unified (\$25,000). The project consisted of a community outreach program and up to shovel-ready construction document preparation. The areas of focus included the exterior field and the exterior portion of the upper campus. Athletic components are not eligible.



Community Support

CALFIRE Green Schoolyard Grant

The City & District acquired the assistance of a local nonprofit, Active SGV, to spearhead the community engagement program for the green schoolyard grant.





Leveraging Funds and Community Support



Three in-person pop-ups
 One staff meeting
 Mailers sent to ½ ½-mile radius
 Social media posts and boost
 Online survey (246 responses)
 Printed materials
 In-person canvassing over 300 homes
 Text messaged to over 20,000 Covina residents
 Second set of mailers sent to ½ ½-mile radius to show the resulting concept





Leveraging Funds and Community Support

Pre-design

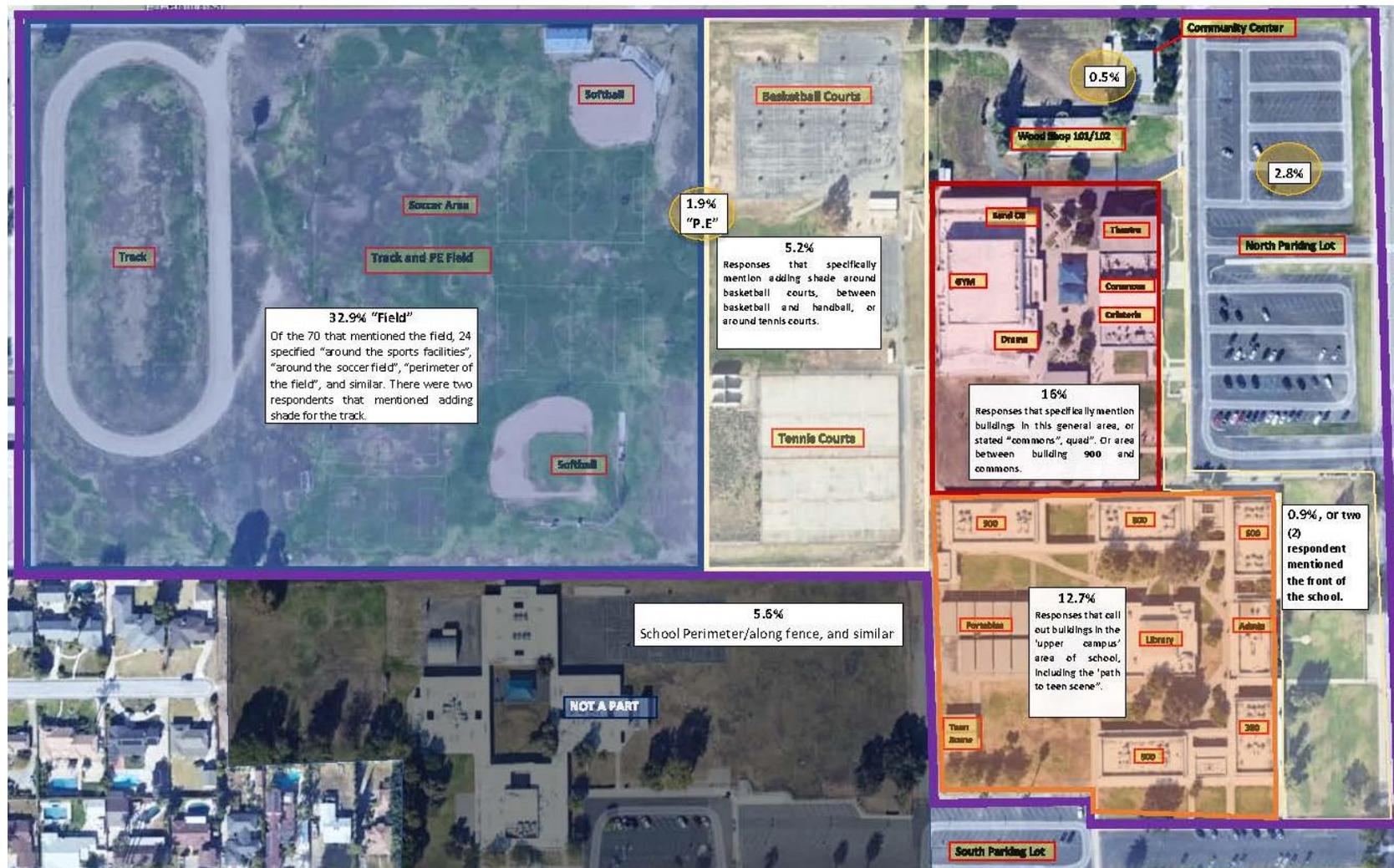
Over 40% use the property for Basketball, Soccer, and Baseball

Common Concerns include Safety, Maintenance, and preserving open space for the community

Top 5 greening elements:
Increase Trees, Walking Paths, Picnic Areas, Community Garden, Water Conservation

Additional (Open ended):
Better field/lawn, shade, track, water play, pollinator garden

Where to add more trees/shade?
Most responded "field", but 24/70 specified to keep field open.





Leveraging Funds and Community Support

Draft Concept

What do you like most about the design?

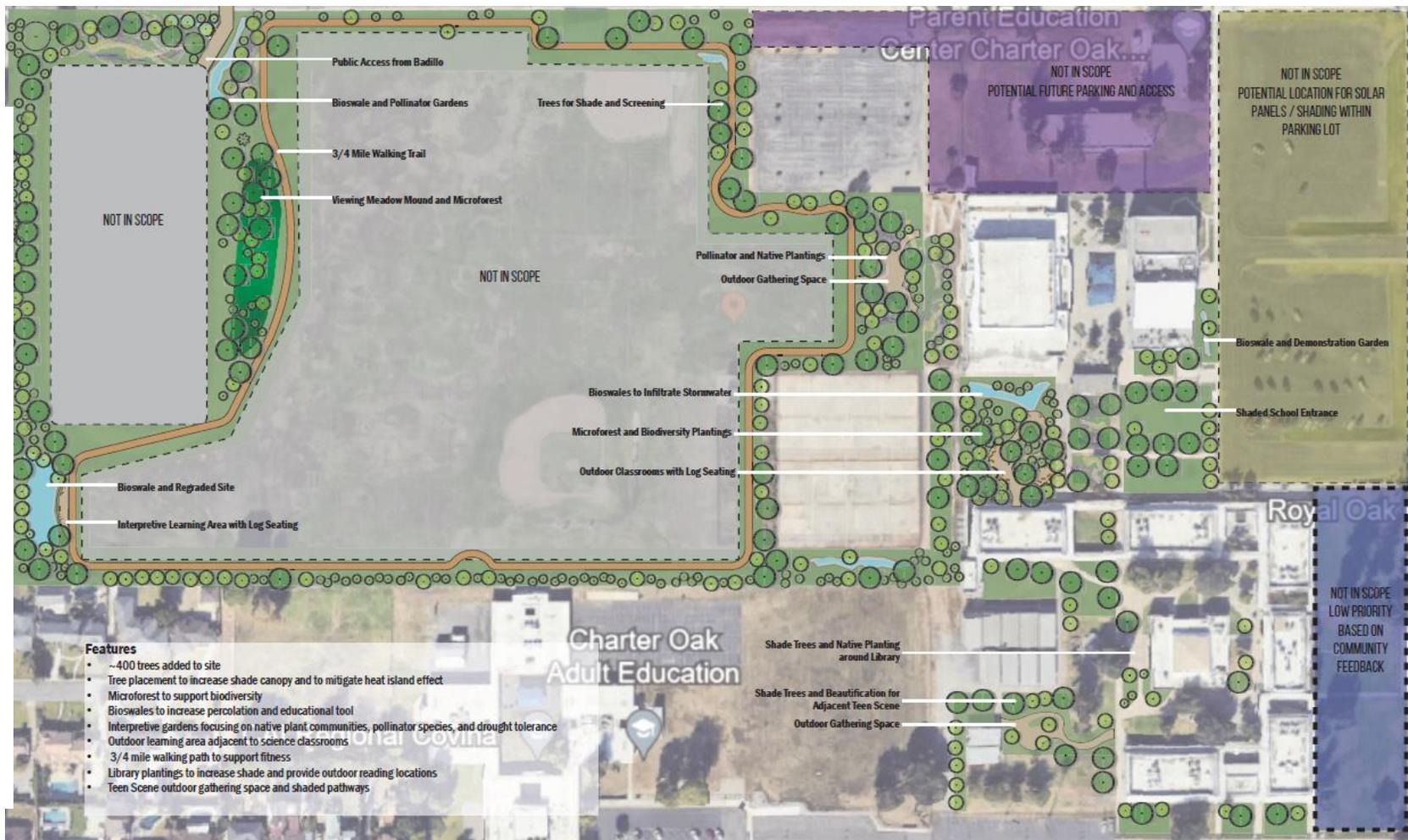
- Outdoor classrooms
- Shade is a great idea
- Like how it didn't turn into homes or condos
- Lots of trees
- Added trees
- Keep it green is a great idea + drought tolerant
- More shade and contact with nature

Opportunities for improvement?

- Provide access/link walking trail to parking
- Benches instead of logs
- Green space for AYSO
- Provide lights for the walking trail at night to make it safe
- Find partnership to upgrade soccer, baseball and track field "not in scope" so that final project is cohesive

Anything else?

- Great idea! Our kids need the shade. Thank you.
- Love the addition of greenery. Will there be something interactive for youth + families
- Really like the shade
- In front of the library – fresh green plants in the sitting area, water area.
- Add signs of plant names





SCW Program Goal C: Improving Public Health

Strategy 3.1 - Evaluate open space and large lot potential, particularly on school campuses (program wide priority)

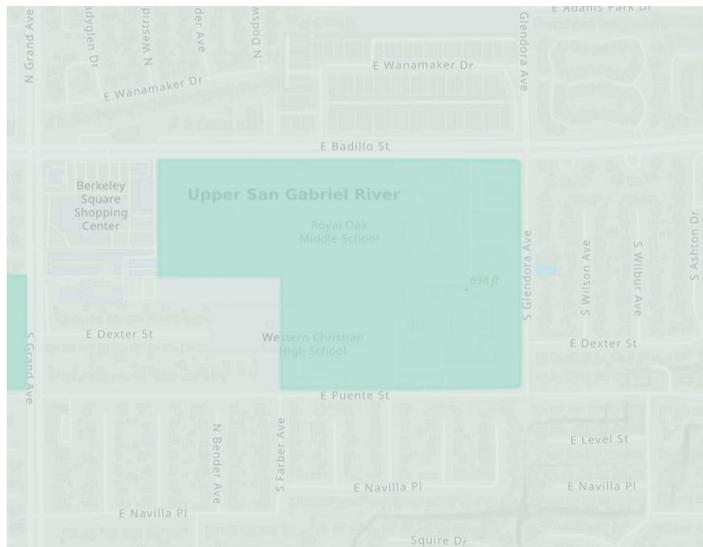
Strategy 3.3 - Implement projects located at schools and in flood control channel right of way

Strategy 3.4 - Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high need communities.

Strategy 3.5 - Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change

Deliver Multi Benefits with Nature Based Solutions and Diverse Projects

Strategy 4.3 - Deliver nature based multi benefit projects/programs that improve water quality while addressing community priorities/concerns



Composite

General Opportunity to improve water quality only (General)

High Multiple benefit opportunity across planning themes 3+

Improve water quality

General Bacteria, Phosphorous, and Zinc load reduction

Improve Public Health

High Green space at schools creation

High Canopy, Cooling, and shading surfaces creation



Questions?

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