Greening of Coolidge HS

Planning, Preparing, Planting, Protecting

Defining
Designating
Designing

+

Ann English, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Department of Environmental Protection,
Rainscapes Program,
Montgomery County Maryland

Coolidge HS + ACE+

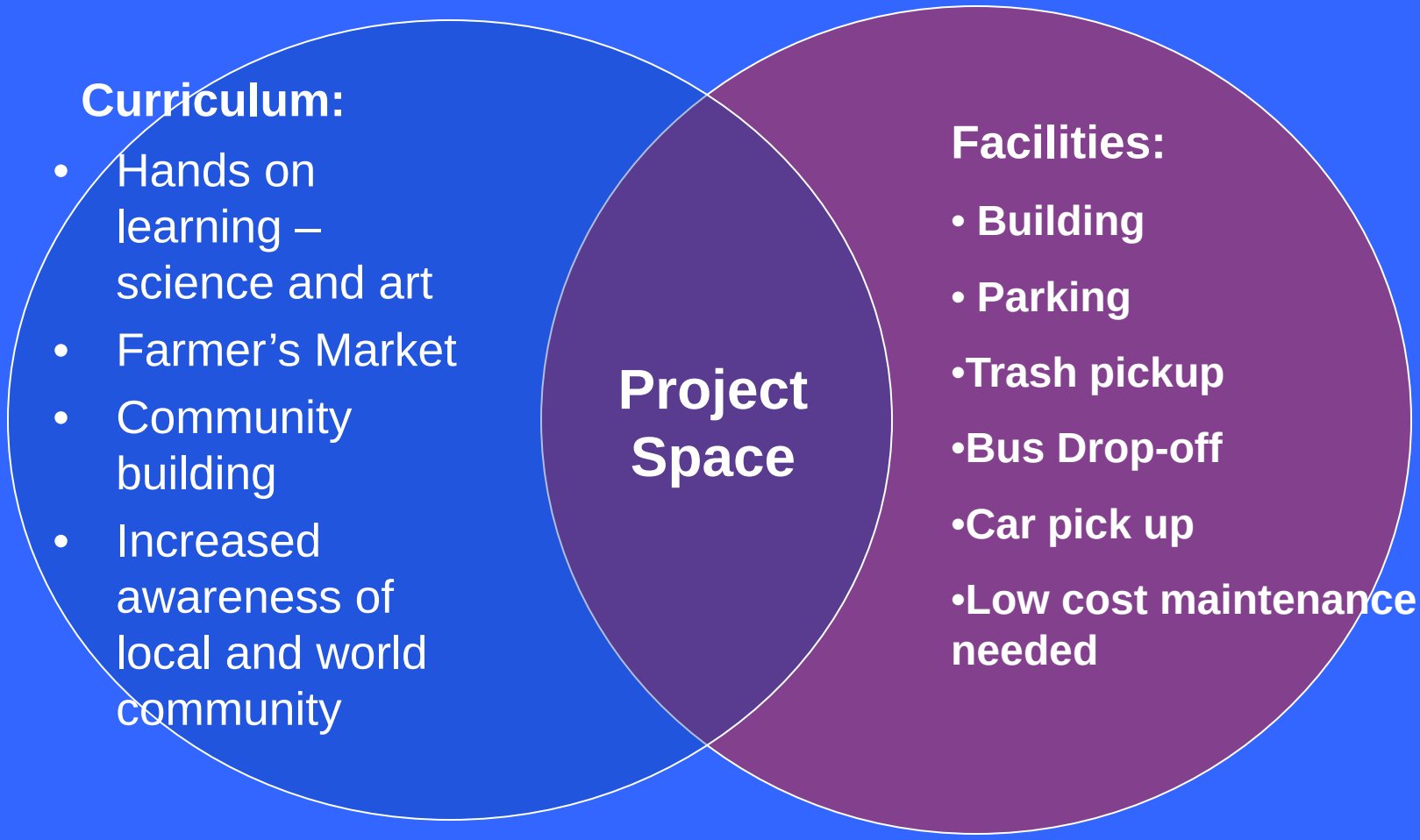
Planning, Preparing, Planting & Protecting :

Define, Designate & Design:

- Develop a site plan map to establish where curricular activities fit with other functional requirements
  - ❑ Integrated environmental site design
  - ❑ Group higher maintenance areas
  - ❑ Use simple shapes and clear boundaries
  - ❑ Enhance site safety
  - ❑ Enhance site aesthetic

- Create Multi-benefit solutions
  - ❑ Create curriculum supportive outdoor spaces
  - ❑ Cultivate volunteer efforts
  - ❑ Create a maintenance manual for grounds

Planning: Defining



Overlapping sets of goals

Planning: Defining

Facilities

Building, Parking, Trash pickup ,
Bus Drop-off, Car pick up
Low cost maintenance…

Hands on learning
science and art
Community building
Farmer's Market
Increased awareness
of local and world
community….

ACE/
Curriculum

Project Space

Environmental
Stewardship
Design
Horticulture
Legacy work

ASLA

Defining: Planting

The Meadow

Explorer's Garden

Maintenance plans as part of every planting effort
Increases the odds of long term success

Designating: Planting

These signs were in place for several years before the plan was phased in

Barnett Shoals Elementary

Multiple Benefits from one space
Designate curricular space outside

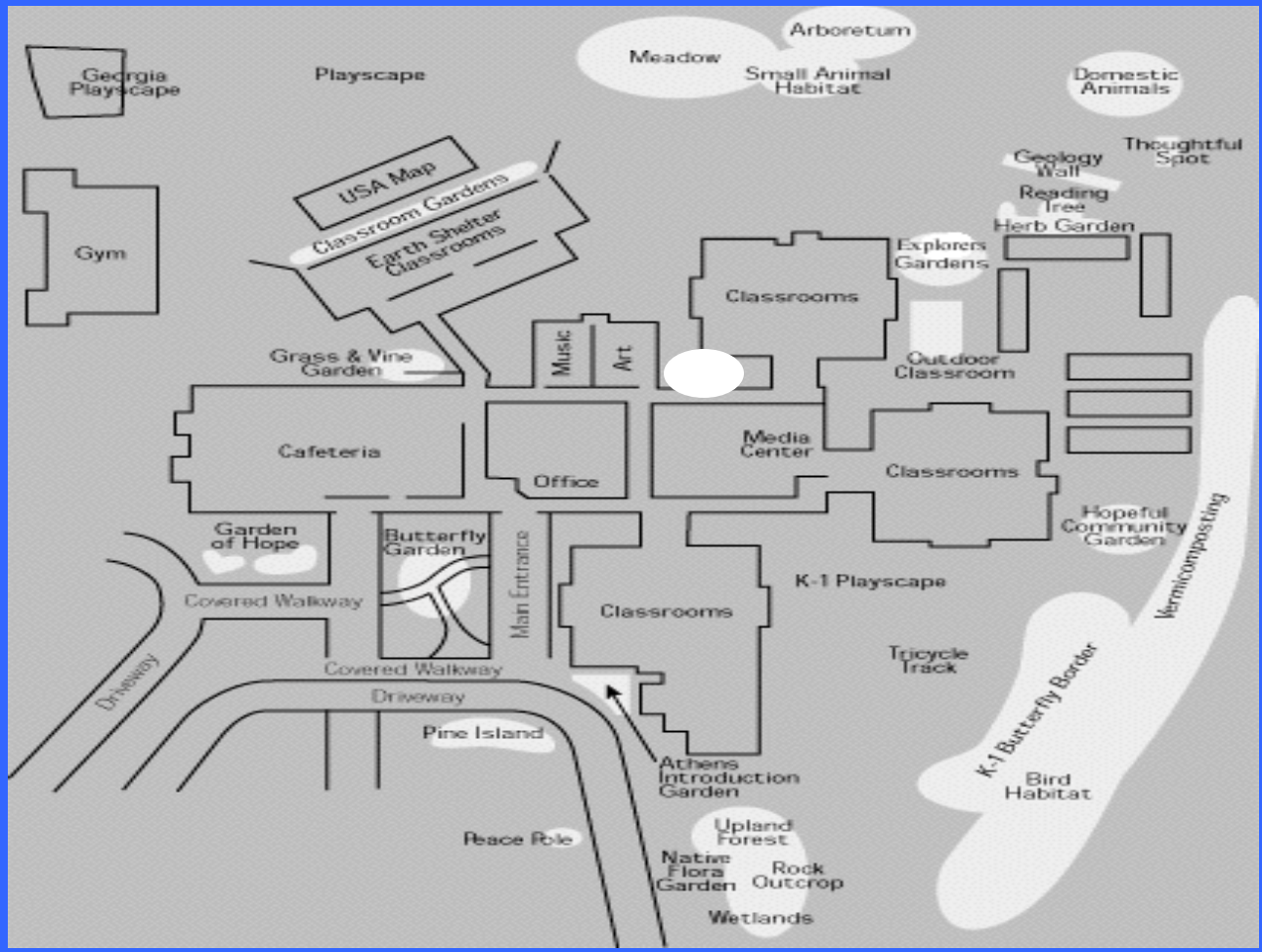
SYNTHESIS

Planning: Designing

- Create School Master Site Plans which INCLUDE CURRICULAR GOALS
- Aim towards integrated, Low Impact Development solutions for stormwater
- Map facilities as they are installed over time

Planning: Designing

Facilities + Curriculum = Cost Savings + Using the outdoors to meet curricular requirements



Designing: Planting

Stormwater Management + Curriculum

Cedar Shoals High School

Barnett Shoals Elementary

SYNTHESIS

SYNTHESIS

Planning: Designating EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- A multi-disciplinary outdoor classroom setting fosters inquiry based education
- The school site is used as a field trip and hands-on learning lab

Designing: Planting & Protecting AESTHETIC BENEFITS

- Outdoor teaching spaces enhance aesthetic character of school
- Attractive facilities promote community pride and care

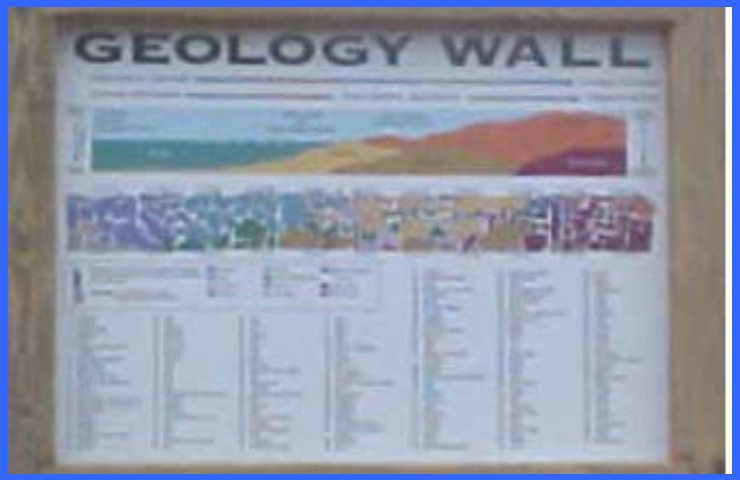
Protecting: Defining SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Improve school image in the community.
- Increase school morale.
- Improve “ownership” of the school by the students.
- Improve relationships of diverse ethnic groups by working together toward a common goal.

Protecting: Designating ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

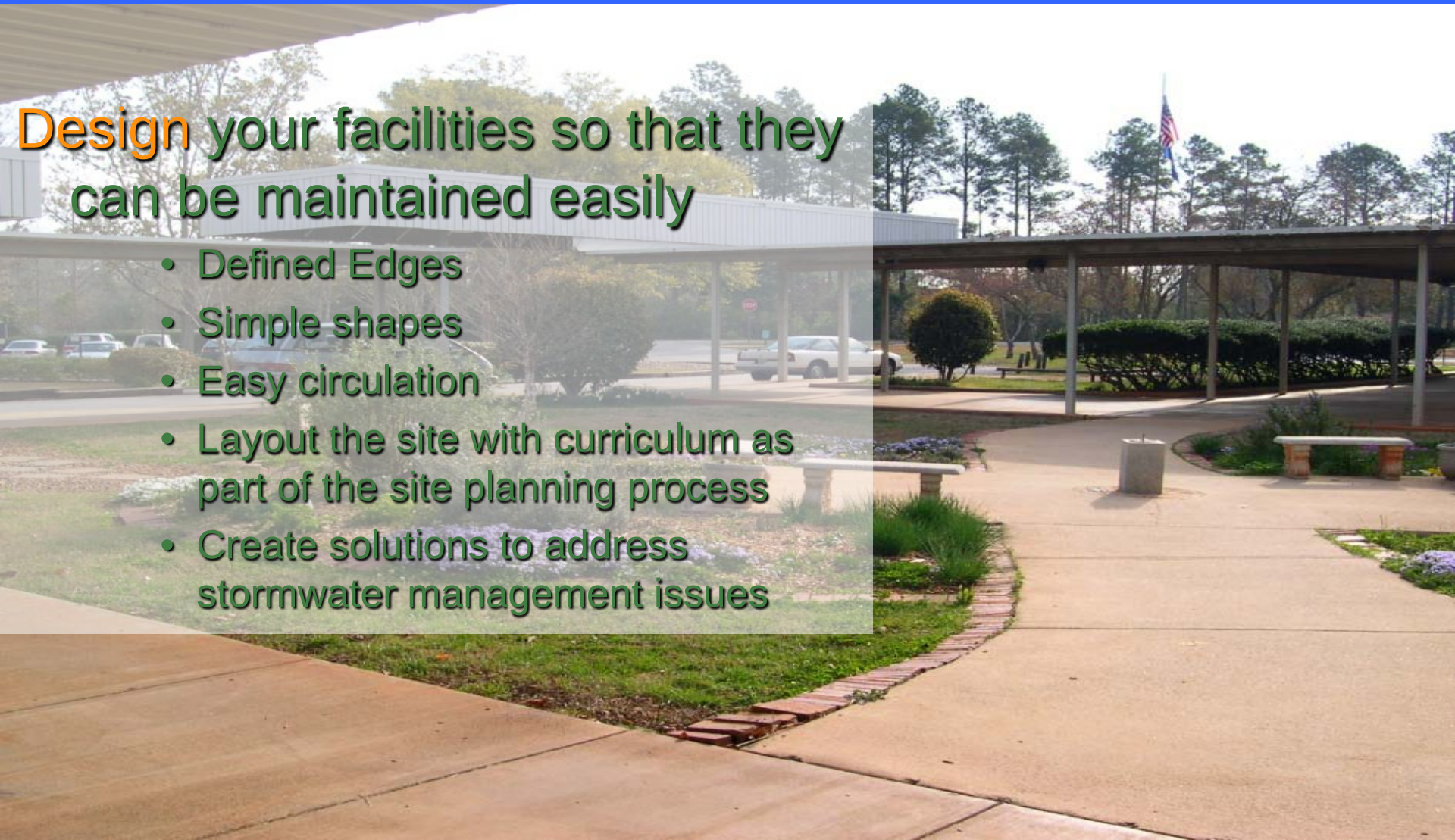
- Reduced mowing means fewer emissions
- Bioretention Stormwater treatment provides habitat value
- Foster an environmental awareness that will benefit the school and the entire community.

Protecting: Designing
Erosion control + Curriculum = Geology Wall



- The geology wall is a retaining wall. Wall stones are organized by geologic process and era of formation. An interpretive map identifying each rock and its location of formation in the earth has been made into a sign. The wall dedication was a celebration for the school.

School Grounds and Landscapes:



Design your facilities so that they can be maintained easily

- Defined Edges
- Simple shapes
- Easy circulation
- Layout the site with curriculum as part of the site planning process
- Create solutions to address stormwater management issues

Guidelines for schools

- Conduct a comprehensive site assessment
  - Identify Desired Educational Opportunities for students on the school grounds
  - Map school grounds features
- Support a strong Stewardship Ethic through design layout
- Enhance safety with careful traffic management planning
- Identify and work with community stakeholders
- Develop a design proposal
- Create tiered maintenance requirements outside
- Submit project to Facilities for approval
- Fundraise
- Schedule the work

Sustainable Example – Failed Stormwater Pond to Successful Rain Garden

THE RAIN GARDEN

Transforming an unattractive and biologically-sterile storm water detention pond into a healthy and beautiful natural environment

Questions?

- Focus on learning in all school spaces
- Design Matters