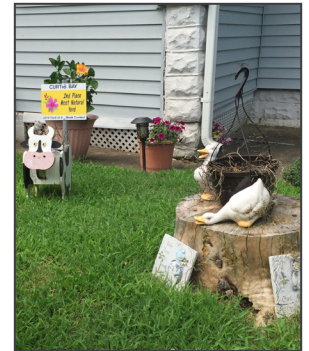




INSPIRE

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

Bay Brook Elementary/Middle School Draft INSPIRE Recommendation Brief



January 2019



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For feedback on this draft, contact:

*Jennifer Leonard (INSPIRE Program Manager) at 410-396-5173 or Jennifer.r.leonard@baltimorecity.gov
Brent Flickinger (Southern District Planner) at 410-396-5936 or brenton.flickinger@baltimorecity.gov*

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Overview: 21st Century and INSPIRE

The 21st Century School Buildings Program

The 21st Century School Buildings Program will support excellence in teaching and learning with flexible and adaptable space, learning areas designed for interaction and collaboration, and technology-equipped classrooms, enabling students to meet today's—and tomorrow's—high standards, and will provide communities with a shared public resource that will enrich their neighborhoods. Baltimore City will benefit from this historic effort to provide the healthy, safe, efficient, and modern school buildings all children deserve. As a result, students in Baltimore City Public Schools will benefit from:

- Replaced or renovated school buildings across the city;
- School environments that support teaching and learning to prepare students for college and career success;
- Schools that become hubs of resources supporting entire communities;
- Modern, efficient, and inspiring educational facilities that also provide recreation and community use; and
- Partnerships that encourage businesses and neighborhood residents to connect with their local schools.

INSPIRE Mission and Objectives

Each modernized 21st Century school represents tens of millions of dollars of public investment into the neighborhood it serves. To leverage this investment, the Department of Planning (DOP) launched the INSPIRE program, which stands for Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence. This planning program focuses on the neighborhoods surrounding each of the schools, specifically the quarter-mile around the schools.

INSPIRE focuses on the quarter-mile area surrounding each 21st Century school in order to build from the school investment. In the Bay Brook plan, DOP looks at the half-mile around the school. Plans include recommendations for improvements that affect residents' quality of life.

- Immediate City investments make streetscape improvements (better sidewalks, crosswalks, street streets, etc.) on “primary walking routes” to help ensure that there is safer pedestrian access to the school.
- Plan recommendations are organized into goals related to the housing market and development; safety; sustainability and sanitation; health, wellness, and recreation; transportation; and self-sufficiency and economic development.

Recommendation Development and Overview

Throughout 2018, the Department of Planning staff worked with members of the school and neighborhoods communities to better understand their neighborhood experiences, concerns, and needs.

- Stakeholders helped inform the following draft recommendations through various community engagement efforts, including school assemblies, back to school events, and student workshops; community festivals and events; surveys; walking tours; neighborhood organization meetings; and more.
- Recommendations from previous plans and assessments were evaluated and included where appropriate. These other plans and assessments, listed below, include recommendations that offer more detail and a more complete plan for the entire Greater Baybrook peninsula.
 - South Baltimore 7 Organizational Assessment and Strategic Planning Report (2018)
 - GBA Vision and Action Plan (2016)
 - Baybrook Opportunity Assessment (a housing study) (2016)
 - Greater Baybrook Retail Study (2016)
 - Brooklyn/Baybrook Community Action Plan, American Planning Association (2016)
 - Farring Baybrook Park Master Plan (2008)
 - Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (2005)
- Residents, nonprofits, advocates, and others are already leading many efforts. In many cases, INSPIRE recommendations will build on what's already happening; introducing each goal area are a few highlights of recent successes and efforts underway.
- Two recently launched efforts, which are referred to throughout the plan are the following:
 - The Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA) was created in 2017, as a result of a planning and visioning effort undertaken in 2016. GBA has a small staff but is supported by a Steering Committee of local residents, nonprofits, advocates, and other stakeholders helping implement their Vision and Action Plan.
 - SB7 was created as part of the City's agreement with Sagamore (now Weller) Development, the developer of Port Covington, in order to receive approval for a tax increment financing (TIF) package of close to a half-a-billion dollars. This agreement with six historically under-resourced neighborhoods provides technical assistance from Plank Industries and funding of one- to two-million dollars a year during the effective time of the TIF (pending sale of bonds for the project). SB7 has developed a strategic plan, and established committees focusing on topics such as transportation, housing, and education (aligning with focus areas from the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan).

Next Steps

DOP staff will seek and incorporate additional community and City agency feedback to these draft recommendations. Staff will finalize recommendations and develop the INSPIRE plan which will include an implementation table and show commitments that have already been made. Presentation to the Planning Commission for plan adoption is targeted for late spring/early summer. DOP staff will work with community members to identify a community project that can be worked on together.

INVEST IN HOUSING AND MARKET-STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITIES

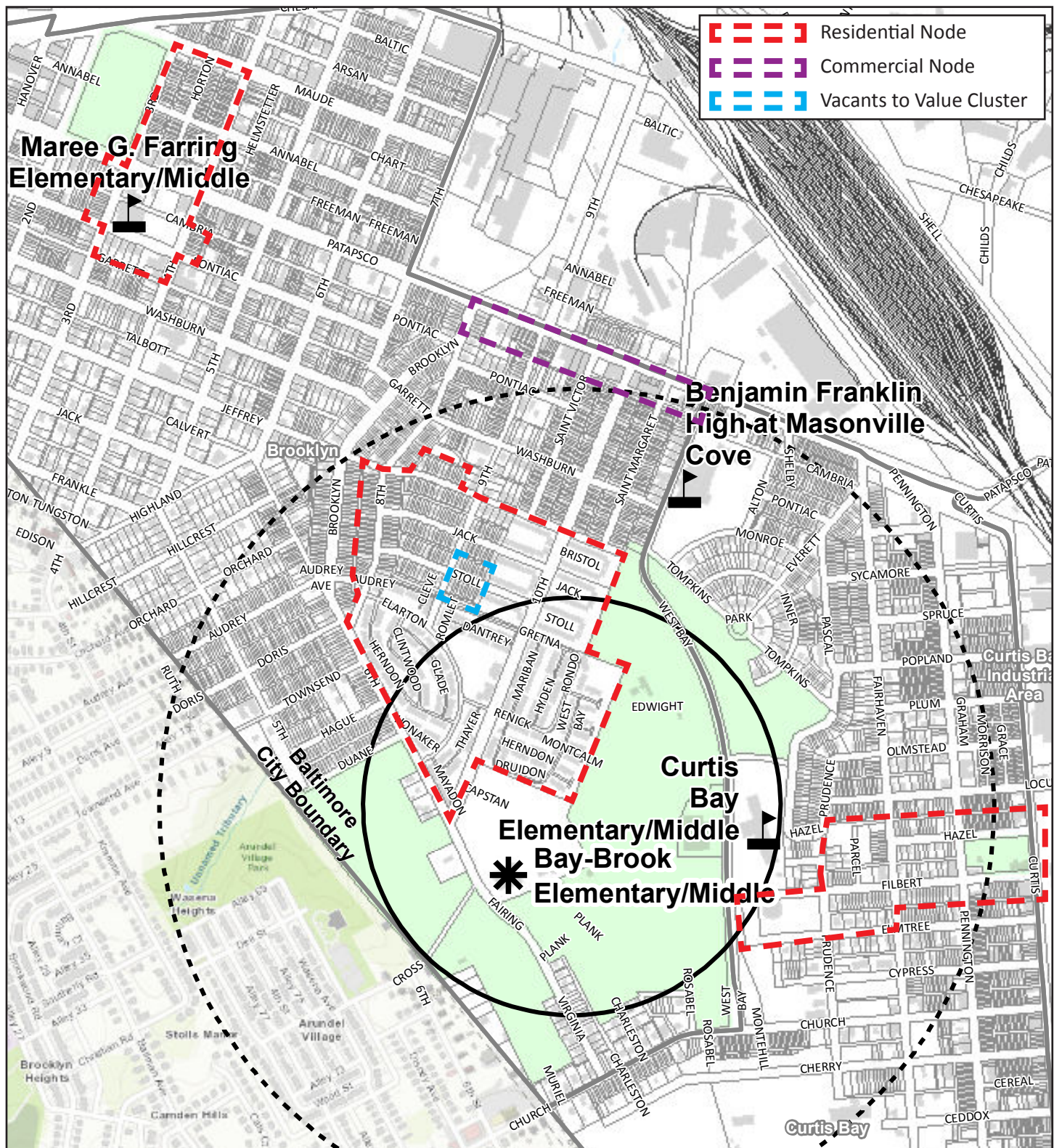
Stabilize the market, focus on existing residents, and enhance block appeal and vibrancy

A few successes and efforts underway

- Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS), a nonprofit affordable housing and community development organization based in Anne Arundel County, has received funding to make safety, health, and energy-efficient, upgrades to owner-occupied homes in Brooklyn and Curtis Bay.
- The South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) work in Curtis Bay will focus on 10 houses that were damaged in a fire in 2017. The United Workers (UW) is working with HCD to acquire the properties and beginning to develop a pipeline of future homeowners. Multiple area lenders have worked together to develop an effective mortgage product.
- Habitat for Humanity will be developing six new affordable homes on Church Street, across from Farring Baybrook Park.
- GBA is working with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to implement streetscaping improvements in the heart of the commercial district at Hanover and Patapsco.

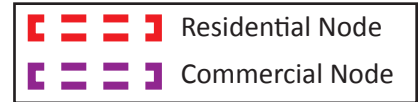
Strategically Focus on a Few Nodes

Because resources are always limited, strengthening the neighborhoods around Bay Brook E/MS will require carefully selecting a few nodes around which to concentrate redevelopment first. In these nodes, stakeholders should conduct a block-by-block survey to identify a solution for each property (rehab and reoccupy vacant properties, assist homeowners in making repairs and energy-efficient upgrades, code enforcement, vacant lot greening, solution for nuisance businesses, etc.). Concentrating resources in these nodes does not preclude taking advantage of other opportunities, but they should be the primary focus. The development of the new school building and other initiatives suggest strategic short-term target areas in which to focus redevelopment resources.



Description of the Nodes

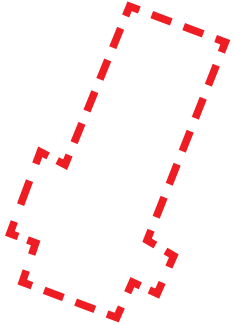
The development of the new school building and other initiatives suggest strategic short-term target areas in which to focus redevelopment resources.



Maree Farring/Garrett Park Node

Maree Farring and Garrett Park will be receiving significant capital investments in the next few years.

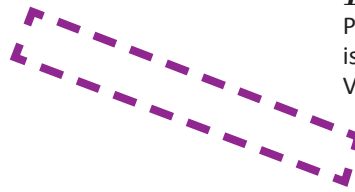
- The Enoch Pratt Library is located in this node, as is the former church building that will become a school addition and community space.
- Housing is fairly stable with higher than average homeownership and a low vacancy rate.



Patapsco Commercial Node

Patapsco Avenue (Brooklyn to West Bay) is a visible gateway to the Academic Village, described in this and other plans.

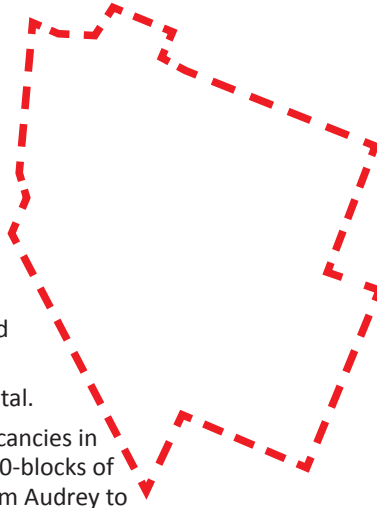
- The West Bay end is one block from Ben Franklin HS.
- Its location across from the courthouse and industrial enterprises presents an opportunity to promote these blocks to businesses for expansion or satellite operations.
- A “spruce up” of facades would enhance the appeal on both sides of the street.



Bay Brook Node

It is important to capitalize on the excitement around the new school and the \$46 million investment while it is still new.

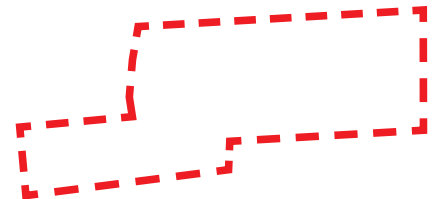
- The school, located within Farring Baybrook Park, is adjacent to the Farring Baybrook Rec Center and Brooklyn Homes, a public housing complex.
- Residential blocks consist of a mix of garden-style apartments, rowhouses, and detached houses.
- There’s a mix of homeownership and rental.
- Some of the largest concentrations of vacancies in the area are in these blocks (800- and 900-blocks of Jeffrey, Jack, and Stoll, and 8th Street from Audrey to Washburn).
- Habitat for Humanity rehabbed some of the units on Jeffrey, Jack, and Stoll a few years ago, and there is a developer rehabbing houses in the 900-block of Stoll (in the V2V Cluster). These blocks are adjacent to Patapsco Landing, a well-maintained market-rate rental complex.



Curtis Bay/Filbert Street Node

This node includes the Curtis Bay Rec Center and park, and the South Baltimore Community Land Trust focus area.

- Residents desire a family-friendly area where children and their families can walk between the school, rec center, park, and garden.
- Housing consists of rowhouses and detached housing with a mix of renters and owners.
- Filbert street is primarily occupied and well-maintained. The 1500- and 1600-blocks of Hazel have the most vacancies.
- The land trust is focused on the 1600-block of Hazel, which is bookended by liquor establishments



Improve Affordable Rental Housing Conditions and Property Management

1. Increase number of responsible landlords.

Encourage good landlords and discourage bad ones. Strategies include:

- Offer free training for landlords
- Use the new rental registration ordinance to crack down on “bad actors”

2. Secure financial assistance for improving rental property conditions.

The City should explore increasing funding, and targeting resources to help owners (including landlords) improve homes.

3. HABC should explore future opportunities to improve Brooklyn Homes.

Reduce the Vacancy Rate

4. Research the vacant properties to understand the reasons for vacancy and develop targeted strategies.

Understanding the context can help stakeholders understand what tools and interventions can be effective.

5. GBA should work with HCD to better understand what the City’s annual tax lien sales reflect and to develop intervention strategies.

6. Acquire and rehab vacant properties

These are a few immediate opportunities:

- HCD should market 4009 8th Street
- Market development opportunities on the 800-blocks of Stoll and Jack to generate developer interest and expand the Vacants to Value Community Development Cluster
- United Workers is working with HCD to acquire 1618-1636 Hazel Street for redevelopment

Target Homeownership Opportunities, Improve Homes, and Stabilize Homeowners

7. Market homeownership opportunities locally and prepare residents to become homeowners.

Solutions include:

- Work with HCD’s Division of Homeownership and Housing Preservation (DHHP) to convene a workshop about homeownership.
- Trusted local organizations or citywide nonprofits should provide homeownership counseling, or connect residents with organizations that do.
- Ideas being explored include incentives that can be used for various types of sales between \$25,000-\$75,000 such as cash, land installment contracts, and lease-to-purchase; a mortgage product for sales between \$25,000-\$75,000 is needed.
- Focus on the most stable blocks or in the strategic nodes.

8. Employers in the area should participate in HCD’s Live Near Your Work (LNYW) program.

Area employers should offer homebuyer incentives for employees living near the business, which could be matched by the City through the LNYW program. Incentives assist first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs.

9. Promote programs to help current and new owners maintain and improve their homes.

Promote programs within the plan area.

- HCD/DHHP offers assistance, including rehabilitation services, home improvement and homeownership incentives, lead hazard reduction grants, and energy conservation incentives.
- HCD’s Baltimore Energy Challenge educates homeowners about lowering energy bills.
- ACDS is working with GBA to make safety, health, and energy-efficient upgrades to owner-occupied houses.

Homeowners must be able to show that they are the owner on the deed. It is critical that homeowners work with an attorney on estate planning and/or probate to make sure they have “clean title” to their property. One organization that can assist, pro bono, is the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS).

10. Trusted area organizations should connect homeowners with legal assistance to ensure they have a will to protect themselves, their homes, and the neighborhood.

Protecting one’s home, and having a legal document to assign where and to whom it will go in the event of the owner’s death is critical. Homeowners should develop a life estate deed along with a will.

Enhance Code Enforcement

11. GBA should develop an ongoing code enforcement partnership with residents and HCD.

GBA will be partnering with residents to identify problem properties in the area and work with HCD’s Code Enforcement division to get them abated. HCD should also develop a proactive rotating inspection schedule.

Promote Strategic Redevelopment or Enhancement Opportunities

12. Rehab and occupy the vacant Brooklyn Homes building adjacent to the Brooklyn Homes Tenant Council/community building.

Redevelopment of this property (across from Bay Brook E/MS) would enable community-focused programs to have an accessible, permanent, and safe location.

13. Amend the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Business Area Urban Renewal Plan (URP) to help support planned redevelopment.

A next step would be to convene a meeting of relevant stakeholders, including HCD, to discuss options.

14. Seek landmark designation for the Filbert Street Water Tower and other historically-significant buildings.

- The Filbert Street Water Tower (1317 Filbert Street)
- The Polish Home Hall (4416 Fairhaven Avenue)
- The church and former Chesapeake Center for Youth Development building (301 E. Patapsco)

15. Work with businesses to enhance the appearance of their properties.

GBA is providing up to \$7,500 matching funds for improvements to businesses that participate in the Baltimore Development Corporation's façade improvement program.

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CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Provide better access to health resources including healthy foods, expand recreational and community activities, and increase community cohesion and civic engagement.

A few successes and efforts underway

- Youth at Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove (Ben Franklin HS) and United Workers led a campaign that halted the development of a trash incinerator in the community, saving the community from detrimental health effects and building a practice for resident leadership and engagement.
- In 2017, the Ben Franklin Center for Community Schools (Ben Center), CSX, and other partners built a new football/soccer field in Farring Baybrook Park, across West Bay Avenue from the high school.
- In 2014 the Family Health Centers of Baltimore (FHCB) opened a site in Brooklyn, and MedStar Harbor Hospital is securing funds to provide a mobile health van to serve South Baltimore.
- The resident-led Filbert Street Garden is a model for community-engaged gardening and education, and is a leader for its composting practices. The garden, which grows fruit and vegetables and keeps ducks, geese, bees, and goats, was recently accepted into Baltimore GreenSpace so it can be preserved.

Expand Access to Affordable Health Care

16. Build on health care efforts already underway.

These are opportunities to enhance efforts already underway, or programs from the past:

- Once Harbor Hospital and community residents select a regular spot for the mobile health van enhance the area with elements such as landscaping and signage.
- FHCB should connect with the area schools, The Well, and other trusted places such as City of Refuge.
- Advocate for University of Maryland Children’s Hospital to reinstate Breathmobile visits to area schools.
- GBA is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to secure EPA funding for citizen science research on air quality.

Prepare Residents for Emergencies

17. Establish resiliency hubs in both Brooklyn and Curtis Bay.

Resiliency Hubs provide safe places for residents to shelter during the day in times of emergency or severe weather events. The Baltimore Office of Sustainability will meet with interested community leaders and organizations to provide more information and discuss how to establish them.

18. Promote the emergency feeding site at Maree G. Farring E/MS throughout the area.

Children attending any Baltimore City school can receive breakfast and lunch there if the district is closed due to inclement weather or other types of district-wide emergencies, as long as conditions have subsided so it is safe to leave home.

Improve the Healthy Food Environment

19. Develop and implement a comprehensive food access strategy.

20. Create and expand opportunities for the schools and neighborhood institutions to work together to improve nutritional knowledge and habits of students and their families.

All of the area schools – along with churches, organizations, and institutions – can work together to improve nutritional knowledge and habits.

21. Encourage healthy food retail and demand, especially at convenience stores near the schools.

Re-initiate the United Way/Harbor Hospital collaboration to use the hospital's purchasing power to pass along wholesale prices for fresh fruit, vegetables, and healthy snacks to corner stores.

22. Re-establish the Harbor Hospital farmers' market.

23. Expand the resources and reach of the Filbert Street Garden.

There could be outreach to students at Bay Brook and Maree G. Farring, as well as with the Brooklyn Homes Tenant Council.

24. Coordinate the use of community space for summer and after school meal programs.

Many locations in the area serve food beyond the school day through the Summer Food Service Program and Afterschool Meal Program. These meals are available to children who are under 18 before the beginning of the school year. Some sites currently providing meals are: the Brooklyn Homes Community Center, the Brooklyn Library, and Farring-Baybrook Rec Center.

25. Participate in the efforts to begin a cooperatively-owned grocery store in Cherry Hill.

Create or Improve Places for Recreation and Play

26. Activate Farring Baybrook Park through capital and programming improvements.

These are immediate actions that could take place, in addition to pathway improvements noted in recommendation #43.

- BCRP should work with community organizations and residents to assess the 2008 Master Plan and work towards implementation.
- Residents from the area should work together to create a Friends of Farring Baybrook Park group to manage programming and promote the park.

27. Improve neighborhood parks.

Activate and program Garrett and Curtis Bay parks. Apply for a MECU Neighborhood Event Grant to fund a robust public event.

28. Create new pocket parks for residents to maintain.

Curtis Bay and Brooklyn-area residents and organizations should identify possible locations for them to create and maintain pocket parks.

29. Improve after-school activities for children.

Ideas include:

- Convene youth to get their ideas.
- Funding and transportation should be sought to ensure the area’s students are able to participate in Living Classrooms at Masonville Cove programming.
- Expand programming from Filbert Street Community Garden to include students from Bay Brook and Maree Farring.
- Organizations, institutions, and community leaders should work together to develop and keep updated a comprehensive list of out-of-school activities for youth.

Enhance Connections through Resident Engagement

30. Improve communication and organization throughout the peninsula.

Area-wide communications outlets could further unify efforts.

- Develop a regular newsletter
- Create signage/information kiosks
- Create shared, or connected, web sites and social media platforms
- Include a designee from each area school to participate in the GBA education work group
- Use central public places as outlets to share information

31. Activate and beautify public spaces through art and creative placemaking.

Resident-led art and beautification opportunities should be pursued. Immediate opportunities include:

- Securing Brooklyn and Curtis Bay as a site for the 2019 Art @ Work program.
- Turning two asphalt lots next to Brooklyn Homes into play lots to encourage children to gather there while they wait for their school bus.

Increase Civic Engagement

32. Ramp up efforts to register eligible residents to vote.

33. Begin preparing for the 2020 Census now.

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring now for temporary jobs (<https://census2020.baltimorecity.gov/2020-census-jobs>). Learn more and get involved. Visit <https://census2020.baltimorecity.gov/> to learn more.

Create a unified academic village

34. Transition Bay Brook E/MS and Curtis Bay E/MS to the community schools model.

35. Create a professional coordinator position tasked with collaboration among the schools, rec centers, and nonprofits.

36. Bay Brook E/MS should pursue opportunities to become a neighborhood hub.

The 21st Century program aims for the schools to become hubs to support entire communities through accessible resources, services, and programming.

37. Enhance the school environment at Curtis Bay ES.

The school requires multiple systems upgrades that should be prioritized in the Baltimore City Public School System capital requests.

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CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE AND CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Improve the natural environment and environmental education.

A few successes and efforts underway

- Students at Ben Franklin HS launched a recycling pilot at the school that led to Curtis Bay residents worked with the Baltimore Department of Public Works (DPW) and BoS to launch a neighborhood-wide pilot to increase residential curbside recycling. Students, along with teens in the SB7 Youth Corps, are also forming a Zero Waste Challenge.
- City of Refuge adopted a City-owned alley lot near their building (9th & Pontiac Avenue). They've conducted a significant clean-up and plan to turn it into a community garden.
- The National Aquarium conducted litter reduction workshops with residents.
- Learning to Overcome Various Life Experiences, a local nonprofit, has worked with residents on many beautification and sanitation projects, including engaging youth.
- The CCB celebrates residents with tidy and decorated yards by stealthily leaving a certificate, yard sign, and Susan B. Anthony dollar coin at "yards of the week."

Increase Environmental Stewardship to Make the Neighborhoods Cleaner and Greener

38. Explore opportunities for Bay Brook to become a "green school"

There are opportunities for the schools to work individually or together to focus on greening, sustainability, and environmental education opportunities. Partners could include faculty, students, administrators, parents, and community members. City and State funding is available to support efforts.

39. Expand community-led initiatives to address trash and litter.

- The schools, neighborhood organizations, and block captains could request more resources from Bmore Beautiful to educate residents about proper storage of trash and recycling, and litter education.
- The National Aquarium should evaluate the need for expanded programming in the area to empower residents to become environmental stewards.

40. Continue to improve vacant lots through the creation of productive green spaces.

Vacant lots scattered throughout the area can become valuable community assets. Projects already happening include:

- Creating the City of Refuge community garden on their adopted lot (BlockLot 7096-050).
- CCB is working with residents to turn vacant lots on Inner Circle (BlockLot 7257-038 and 036) into a community-designed place.

Create Buffers between the Residential and Industrial Areas

41. Create a more effective buffer between the Curtis Bay residential area and industrial coal site.

CREATE CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS

Connect students and residents safely and efficiently to the places they need and want to go.

A few successes and efforts underway

- DOT has completed a design study to make Pennington and Curtis Avenues both two-way streets with a prohibition on large trucks on Pennington to slow traffic and improve the appearance of Pennington.
- The SB7 plan (2018) prioritized evaluating mechanisms to connect Brooklyn and Curtis Bay residents to SB7 neighborhoods, downtown, and other important locations. The SB7 Transportation Committee is evaluating feasibility of a shuttle, MTA service improvements, and alternatives such as on-demand programs.
- A design study for the entire Middle Branch waterfront is underway. A significant aspect is connecting each adjacent neighborhood to the water. Other goals include improving connections among neighborhoods, and designing an attractive, inviting “soft harbor.” The study will be completed in 2019. Implementing the recommendations of this study should lead to improvements in the area.
- The citywide Green Network Plan (2018) identifies and proposes bicycle routes and greening improvements throughout the city, including in Brooklyn and Curtis Bay.
- GBA is working with DOT to design improvements to the Hanover and Patapsco intersection.

Improve Access and Connections

42. Create a clear, safe pedestrian route on Filbert Street from the Curtis Bay Recreation Center to Farring Baybrook Park.

Specific investments should include:

- Safe crossings at Pennington and Curtis
- Installing continuous sidewalks on Filbert

43. Develop safe walking routes through Farring Baybrook Park between Curtis Bay Elementary and Bay Brook Elementary/Middle Schools.

The following improvements should be made before Bay Brook E/MS re-opens, so that students walking have a direct and safe path through the wooded area (see page 24).

- Clear vegetation and resurface existing asphalt path connecting the Myers Soccer Pavilion and the Farring Baybrook Rec Center
- Clear dumping along the trails
- Clear non-native, invasive plants at the entrance of the trail (near the Pavilion and rec center)
- Resurface the existing path through the wooded area up to the rec center
- Fix existing lighting along the path system from the Pavilion to the Rec Center, and from the Rec Center to Church/West Bay

As soon as is feasible, broken lights should be replaced along the other paths leading to the recreation center and school. See pages 23-25 for the complete path recommendations and the Master Plan map.

44. Connect Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to the new aquatic center in Cherry Hill.

BCRP is developing a state-of-the-art recreational/aquatic center in Cherry Hill, the Middle Branch Center at Cherry Hill, to serve all the neighborhoods along the western side of the Middle Branch. Provisions should be made to provide convenient transportation for the residents of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay.

45. Evaluate the feasibility of providing bicycle routes that connect to existing trail systems in Baltimore City and AA County.

These are considerations:

- Access to downtown, the Gwynns Falls Trail, and Masonville Cove
- Baltimore's Green Network plan identifies a route along Hanover Street and east on Garrett and Washburn that goes through Farring Baybrook Park (see page 26). This route should also go along Garrett Park.
- Connect the area with the BWI and B&A Trails in Anne Arundel County.

46. Evaluate how additional parking can be provided for the soccer/football field and for Curtis Bay E/MS.

Improve Transportation Infrastructure

47. Make Pennington and Curtis Avenues two-way streets, with a prohibition on large trucks on Pennington.

DOT has completed a design study and is scheduled to conduct an environmental assessment. The assessment results will help determine the best way to proceed with the intersection reconfiguration.

48. Determine ways to slow traffic on Pennington and improve its appearance.

DOT should begin assessing speed and safety along Pennington, along with traffic calming measures such as additional traffic lights, crosswalks, bump-outs, and tree planting.

49. Study the Potee and Hanover splits at the north entrance to Brooklyn to better manage truck traffic and improve access for cyclists.

DOT should study this area to determine how to better manage truck traffic. The study should also explore turning northbound Hanover and Potee (over the bridge) into two-way streets.

Improve Pedestrian Safety

50. Address speeding on 6th and 10th streets, adjacent to Bay Brook E/MS.

Traffic calming methods – from bump outs to signage to tree plantings – should be explored to slow traffic.

Other things to explore include:

- Additional stop signs on 10th Street
- "Children at Play" signs

51. Connect the neighborhoods to the Patapsco River waterfront.

Residents should participate in the Middle Branch design process (page 16).

Improve Public Transit

52. Support implementation of SB7 plan recommendations to improve transit service.

- Improve reliability of early morning buses that take residents to downtown.
- Expand transit service to access key sites such as Masonville Cove and the Patapsco Light Rail stop.
- Provide a bus link on the Silver Line from Curtis Bay to Route 2.
- Provide easy and frequent transit connections to major service centers such as the Employment Connection Center in Carroll Camden, the Community Action Center in Cherry Hill, and MedStar Harbor Hospital.

53. Evaluate location of bus stops and their safety.

MTA should assess the locations of existing bus stops near Bay Brook E/MS now that the layout of the campus will change. The agency should also improve bus shelters in the neighborhood.

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IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

Create a positive and safe environment for current and future residents.

A few successes and efforts underway

- Safe Streets, an effective violence prevention program that takes a public health approach to violence, will begin in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay in 2019.
- The City selected an area in Brooklyn as a Violence Reduction Initiative (VRI) zone to bring together City agency representatives with Police District Commanders to coordinate public safety resources and address neighborhood issues in an expedited manner.
- GBA operates a Public Safety Task Force that is currently focused on increasing enforcement of laws against prostitution solicitation and connecting women engaged in high risk behaviors to services.

Develop Collaborative and Creative Public Safety and Crime Prevention Initiatives

54. Develop community-driven solutions to safety.

The police, Safe Streets, the GBA Safety Committee, and others should convene the school and Brooklyn Homes police, along with students, parents, teachers, churches, residents, businesses, and organizations in value-driven conversations around safety and crime prevention to collaborate in creating solutions for everyone to work on.

55. Work with the Police Department to deploy VRI Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO) or other resources on the blocks around Bay Brook E/MS.

The NCO and/or other district officers should be deployed to this part of the neighborhood as needed.

56. Bring the innovative LEAD program (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) to the area.

Through LEAD, police officers engage case managers who can provide services such as drug treatment, mental health services, and housing aid.

57. Develop a comprehensive lighting strategy.

This should explore a range of creative ways to brighten dark areas. An example of this is a solar flood light pilot undertaken by residents in Curtis Bay. Other considerations:

- a “lighting campaign” to encourage use of porch and lawn lighting to brighten streets and sidewalks
- installation of motion-activated lights on the back of houses in alleys known for criminal activity

58. Ensure efforts to reduce crime and drugs in the SB7 neighborhoods include a focus on the areas near the schools.

PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Expand employment and workforce development opportunities, and strengthen the business environment.

A few successes and efforts underway

- An area nonprofit, The Well, helps women discover their value and purpose through mentorship, education, and support. In 2018 The Well launched a social enterprise, “Hon’s Honey,” that produces honey, bath, and beauty products made with as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible, including honey from the Filbert Street Garden.
- The Filbert Street Garden is one example of a neighborhood-based project that trains young people on raising and selling food. Its programs teach a love of nature and how working with the land can develop business skills.
- Compost Collective, started by Ben Franklin HS graduates, is an example of aligning entrepreneurship with sustainability.
- The United Way’s Ben Center has convened a workforce task force. While still in its infancy, the group has identified initial priorities.

Build the Workforce and Match Job Opportunities

59. Open a walk-in neighborhood center that includes job and career counseling services.

A long-term goal is to have neighborhood center that residents can visit to receive job and career-related services. In the short-term, one of the local organizations could seek funding for a job/career counselor position, and work with the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development to have regular “office hours.”

60. Engage residents in the workforce development initiative being undertaken by the United Way through The Ben Center.

Ideas being fleshed out include improving relationships with area employers, targeting training programs, and reducing barriers to employment. Residents from the area should be involved with this new initiative.

61. Connect residents with job training, GED programs, and other wrap around services.

Resources are available at these and other locations. Transportation access to these locations is paramount.

- Ben Center and career counseling at the high school
- Community Action Agency in Cherry Hill
- Employment Connection Center in the Carroll Camden Industrial Park
- Harbor Hospital and Brooklyn’s branch of the Family Health Centers of Baltimore

62. Develop targeted programs for young adults and returning citizens.

63. Provide training for entrepreneurs and create an area-wide apprentice program to connect to existing opportunities.

These are some areas to explore:

- Develop skills in urban agriculture, animal husbandry, “farm-to-table”, or food product development through the Filbert Street Garden; establish a tool library to help people with gardening and farming.
- Learn housing rehab or “handyperson” skills, working with the South Baltimore Land Trust or other small developers.
- Become trained in “green jobs” such as solar installation, green roofs, or nursery/gardening skills through Civic Works and other training programs.

There should be programming available to provide training in creating successful businesses.

64. Invest in a partnership to focus on urban agriculture opportunities near Ben Franklin HS.

The Brooklyn-Based Furbish Company installs and maintains green roofs, and the owner is willing to work with local farmers to grow sedum for the business to purchase. There is space to establish a farm for this purpose in Farring Baybrook Park, across from Ben Franklin HS. A first step should be to build the process in which to create a partnership between the City (BCRP, BoS) and school to pursue this idea.

Deliver Resources to Help Residents Thrive

65. Engage nonprofits with expertise in the Latino community to provide support and resources to the growing immigrant community.

GBA, the schools, and churches should continue working to bring organizational resources, such as Latino Economic Development Center and CASA de Maryland, to the area.

66. Incorporate financial literacy training in the school curricula and workforce training programs.

Maryland Cash Campaign is a resource to explore.

67. Conduct an “ID Day” to help residents get vital documents.

Working with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and the Division of Vital Records, an ID Day can provide free access to these.

Strengthen Local Businesses and the Business Environment

68. Work with the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to enhance business development.

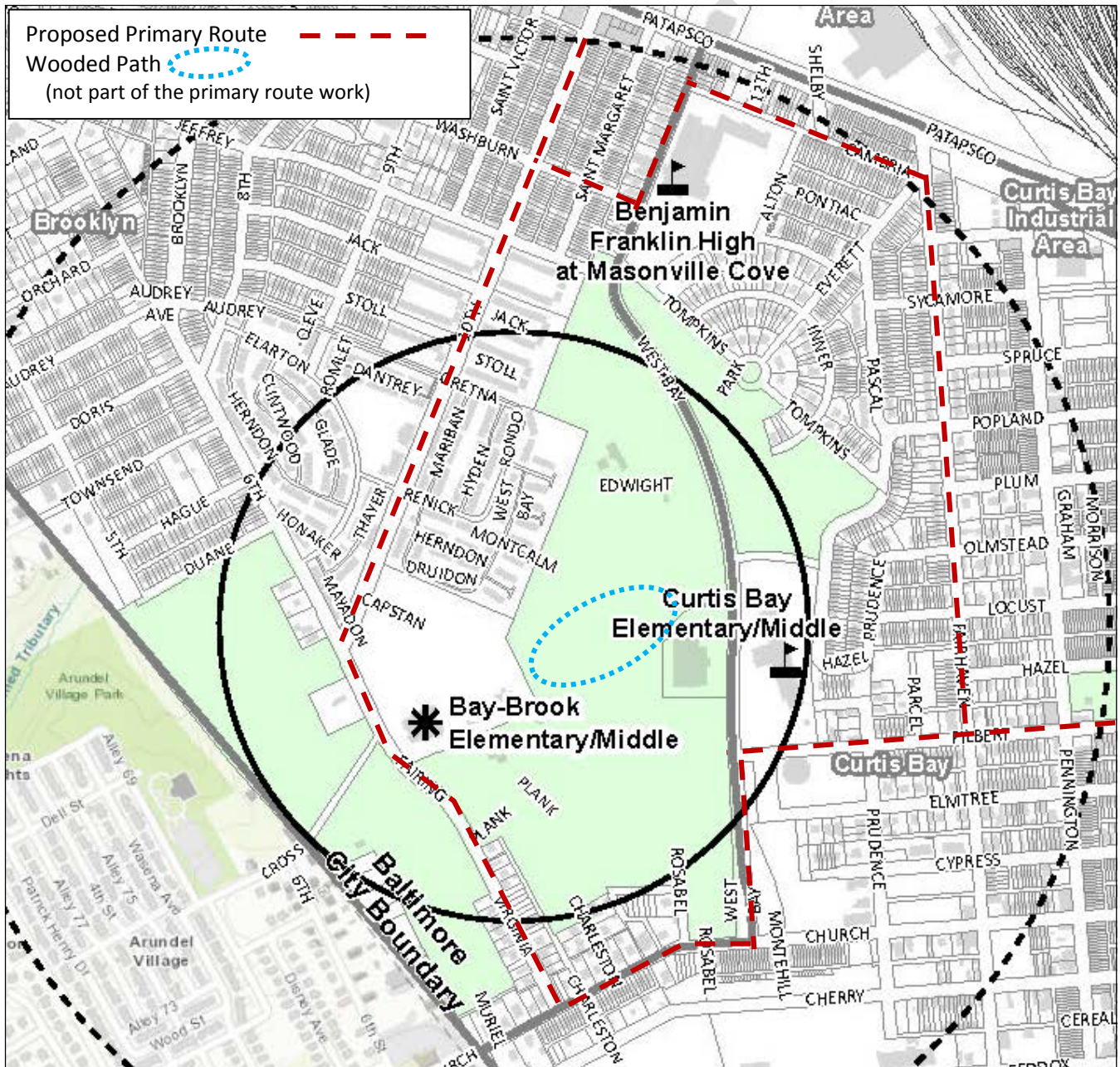
- Seek assistance to inventory businesses to determine if they want to expand.
- Identify the types of businesses missing from the area, and locations for new businesses.
- Revisit efforts to establish a small business association.

69. Explore establishing worker cooperatives for new or existing businesses.

Community Wealth Builders, a local organization, can provide education and resources to individuals and businesses interested in learning more.

Primary Walking Route Map (Proposed)

This map identifies the primary routes leading to the schools. These are the blocks prioritized for consistent streetscape improvements including bringing sidewalks up to a safe and standard condition, repainting or adding crosswalks, and pruning and planting street trees.



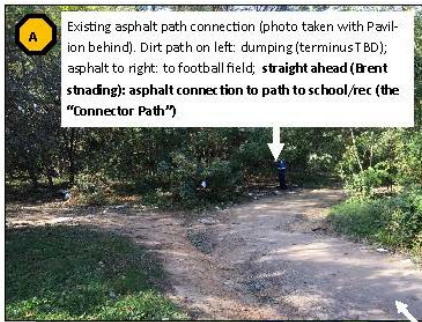
Farring Baybrook Path Improvements (Proposed)

Improving the paths/connections between the Curtis Bay neighborhood and Bay Brook E/MS is time-sensitive due to the modernization of Bay Brook E/MS and the corresponding increase of students walking from Curtis Bay to the school.

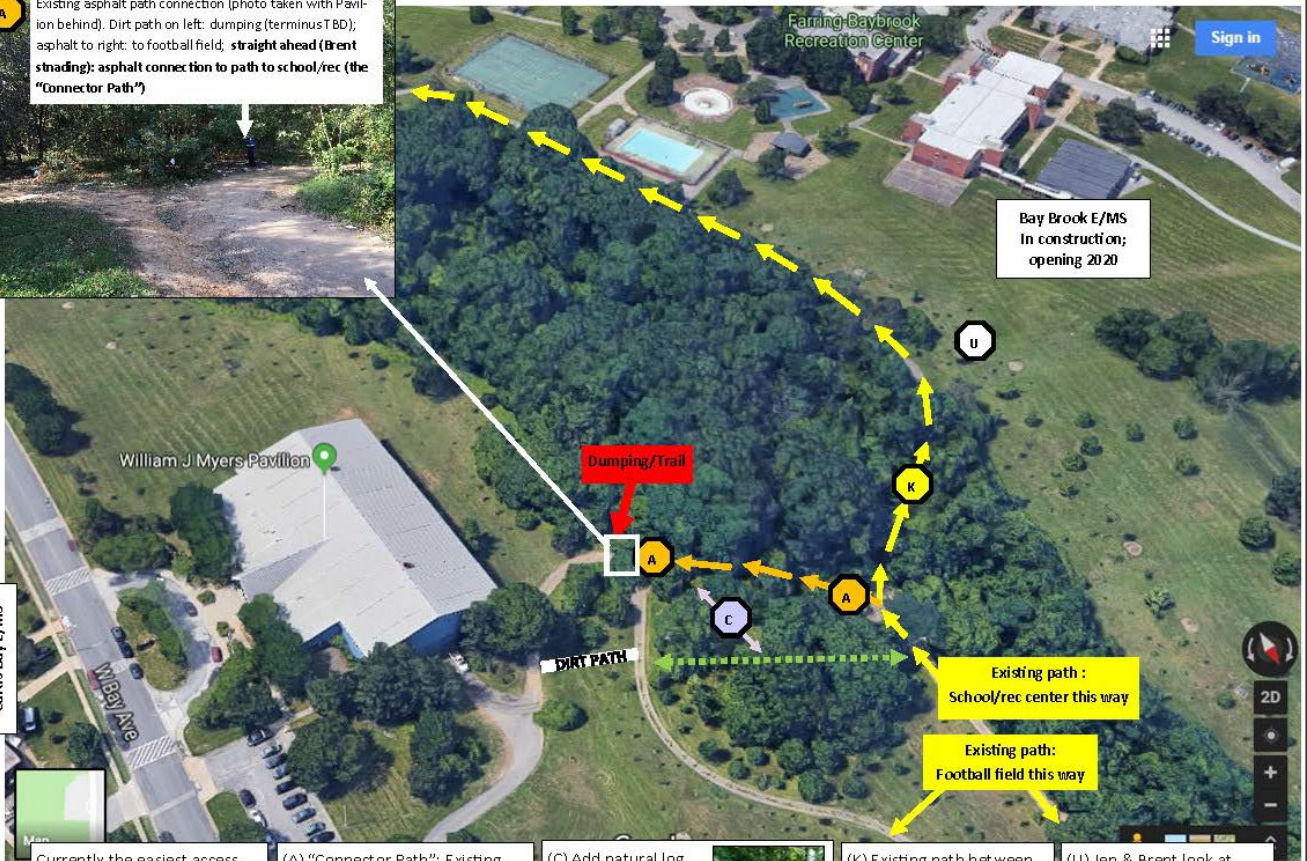
The table below proposes a number of recommendations. Priorities to address before school reopens (A, B, D, K, and L – in bold below) are noted in recommendation # 43. The area is illustrated on the map on the following page.

- A. Clear vegetation and resurface existing asphalt path connecting the path behind the Pavilion with the path to the rec & pool (“Connector Path”)**
- B. Clean dumping along trails**
- C. Add natural log stairs at entrance to forest/behind the Pavilion
(Not necessary if Connector Path is uncovered)
- D. Clearing non-native, invasive plants at the entrance of the trail (near Pavilion and Bay Brook)**
- E. Clearing non-native, invasive plants around the base of desirable trees
- F. Educational signage for plant identification along the path/trail
- G. Limbing of trees, removal of large dead tree
- H. Paint a mural on the exterior wall of the operational Rec Center pool
- I. Fix benches along entire pathway
- J. Add a cityscape viewing bench adjacent to the Pavilion
- K. Resurface the existing path through the wooded area up to the Farring Baybrook Rec Center**
- L. Fix existing lighting along the entire path system from Pavilion to rec center and Rec Center to Church/West Bay**
- M. Assess opportunities to add lighting along the path in the wooded area; implement
- N. Assess existing bridge along wooded path
- O. Add an asphalt path parallel to West Bay to connect to path at Church/West Bay, per BCRP proposal
- P. Tree pruning of recently planted trees
- Q. Trailhead entrance signs; signs along path
- R. Trash cans at entry and exit of trail
- S. Weed Warriors/TreeKeepers certification classes in the community
- T. Potential for Forestry IVM unit to hire professional crew for plant treatment where volunteers cannot reach
- U. Assess connection from path to school site

Mapped items are best-guess locations based on 2 brief walks. They may not be in the exact correct location.



(A) Existing asphalt path connection (photo taken with Pavilion behind). Dirt path on left: dumping (terminus TBD); asphalt to right: to football field; **straight ahead (Brent strading): asphalt connection to path to school/rec (the "Connector Path")**



Bay Brook E/MS
In construction;
opening 2020

Curtis Bay E/MS

William J Myers Pavilion

Dumping/Trail

DIRT PATH

Existing path :
School/rec center this way

Existing path:
Football field this way

Currently the easiest access from Pavilion to existing path to Rec/school. *Have to walk down/up a grassy hill, no path.*



(A) "Connector Path": Existing asphalt path connection! Almost completely buried with dirt, overgrowth, limbs, dumping.

(C) Add natural log stairs (*may not be necessary if uncover Connector Path*).



(K) Existing path between football field, Rec Center, and to park entrance at Church Street. Improve.

(U) Jen & Brent look at school site plan to see how the path could connect to the school grounds.

BCRP Farring Baybrook Master Plan Park Improvements (Concept)

BCRP considered improvements to the greater Farring Baybrook Park in the 2008 Farring Baybrook Park Master Plan. This map is from that plan.



Baltimore Green Network Bicycle Route (Proposed)

This map shows a combined network that could connect the paths identified in the Middle Branch Plan as well as key destinations such as parks, schools, and recreational facilities in Brooklyn and Curtis Bay.

- BLUE: corridors identified for new and enhanced bike facilities
- GREEN and YELLOW: corridors that could potentially include non-vehicular modes, in addition to bicycles, such as walking and jogging



Priority Corridor = Nature and/or community corridors with the strongest potential to create a connected network between major parks, institutions, employment and transportation centers, recreational facilities, and natural assets such as forests, green spaces, streams, and the harbor. Priority corridors can be a combination of existing facilities, planned facilities, and prospective projects.