



Lamar School District RE-2  
Learning Landscapes

MASTER PLAN



Spring 2012

Lamar Middle School



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Presented by:



Lamar Middle School



# Section One

# 1



- Executive Summary
- Introduction
  - Lamar District RE-2 Background
  - Master Plan Intent and Process
  - Recommendations
  - Learning Landscapes Background

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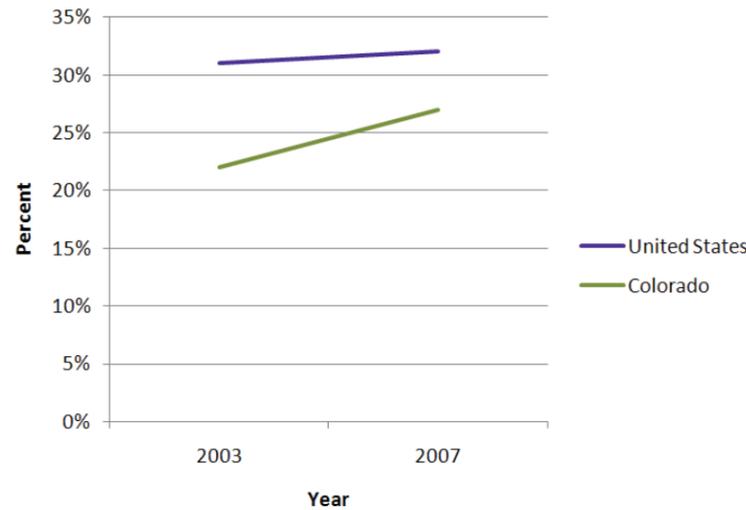


Lamar Middle School

**Introduction**

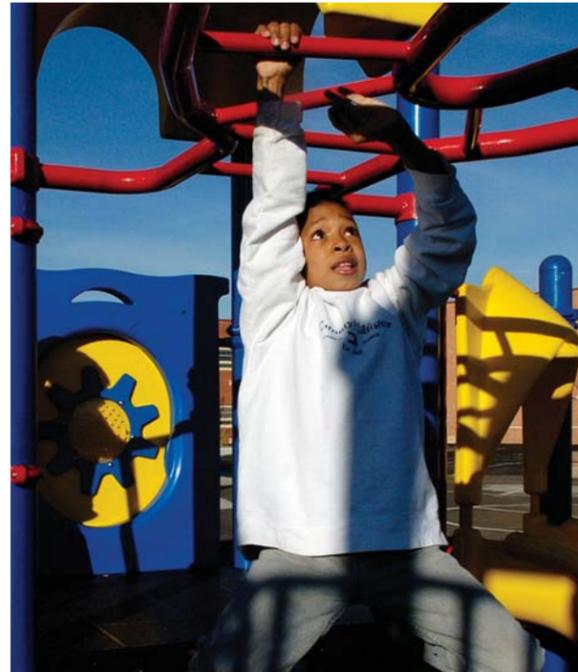
Schoolyards provide an opportunity for the built environment to promote increased physical activity for children and the surrounding community. In addition, studies show that well-planned and equipped schoolyards increase physical activity while also enhancing the learning environment resulting in improved achievement. Such play areas provide physical and mental challenges that translate to improved health and learning attention. Furthermore, with proper design, these areas themselves become outdoor classrooms or learning landscapes and fulfill a secondary goal for many schools to become a positive focal point of the neighborhood; a place to gather and to meet, a place to enjoy, and a place that enhances the community's appearance.

**Children Who Are Overweight or Obese**



Improving schoolyards is a proactive way to benefit health at the community level. The surge in childhood obesity, in recent years, threatens the future health of Colorado. According to the Colorado Health Report Card, published by the Colorado Health Foundation, "Colorado ranks 23rd among the states in the category of childhood obesity, dropping in rank from 3rd to 23rd in just four years." The current ranking signals a rapid increase in the prevalence of childhood obesity that negatively impacts the overall health and well-being of Colorado's children. Preventing and combating the childhood obesity epidemic will require a multi-faceted approach. "It means changing behaviors around food intake, physical activity and our residential community. It means addressing the environment in schools and rethinking our culture to emphasize good health," says James O. Hill Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at the University Of Colorado School Of Medicine.

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In the spring of 2012, Lamar School District RE-2 was awarded an Active Play Areas planning grant from the Colorado Health Foundation. The Colorado Health Foundation believes that if kids are a part of a “healthy school” including, but not limited to, access to physical activity and healthy foods, they will be more likely to learn better and maintain a healthy lifestyle throughout life. In addition, The Foundation upholds that thoughtful design of a new or renovated activity space at a child’s school can promote greater levels of moderate or vigorous physical activity and decrease sedentary activity.

The Active Play Areas planning grant provided an opportunity for the school district to partner with Learning Landscapes at the University of Colorado Denver to develop active play areas master plans for six schools within the Lamar School District RE-2.



The Learning Landscapes program within the Colorado Center for Community Development at the College of Architecture and Planning seeks to strengthen elementary schools and their surrounding neighborhoods by designing playgrounds to promote physical activity and social interaction. With over ninety schoolyard renovations complete in Denver and the greater rocky mountain region, the success of this program is founded on a mutual respect between aesthetic, safety, maintenance, and health issues.

**Colorado Health Foundation**

The Foundation seeks to fund active play spaces for schools designed to promote play and other forms of physical activity. This includes field/ground designs or markings that facilitate games and other forms of movement.

CHF Vision:

Colorado will become the healthiest state in the nation.

CHF Mission:

To improve the health and health care of Coloradans by increasing access to quality health care and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.

To support the goal of Healthy Schools and Healthy Communities, the Foundation seeks to fund active play spaces for schools designed to promote play and other forms of physical activity. This includes inviting playgrounds with active play areas to facilitate games and other forms of movement.

The Active Play Areas Plan supports the Foundation’s following funding strategies:

1. Develop healthy schools -- Expand the number of public schools and preschools that provide health care services, have health and nutrition education, physical education, healthy food in cafeterias and vending machines, and opportunities for physical activity.
2. Promote healthy communities -- Expand access to healthy and affordable foods; provide safe options for physical activity; teach individuals how to manage their chronic disease; and engage parents in raising healthy kids.

Implementation of the Active Play Areas Master Plan can be measured by the Foundation’s following measurable results:

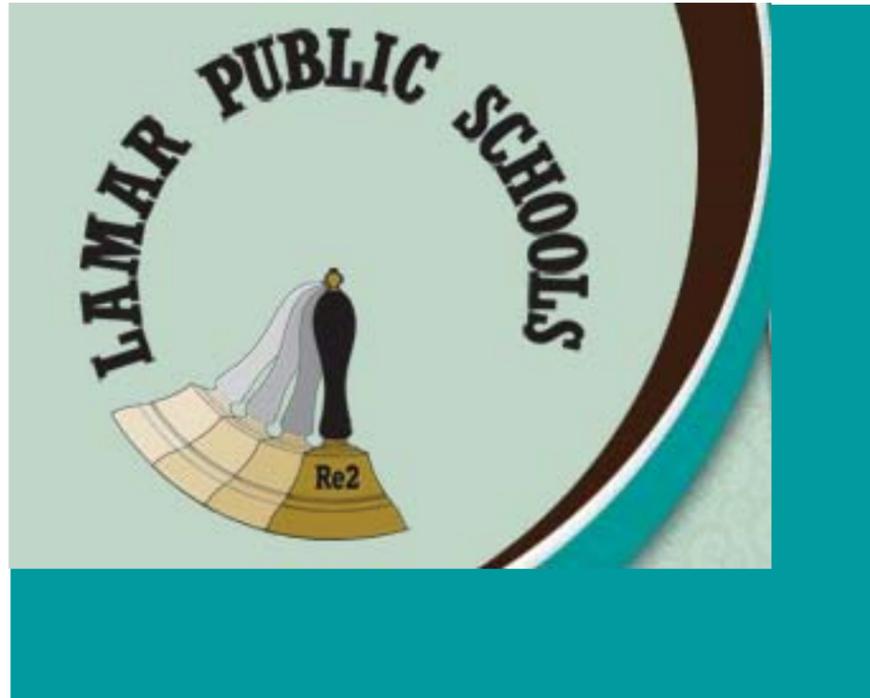
- a) Increase the number of children and adults who engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity.
- b) Increase the number of children and adults who eat adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables daily.
- c) Increase the number of under-served Coloradans who have convenient access to recreational exercise and fruits and vegetables.



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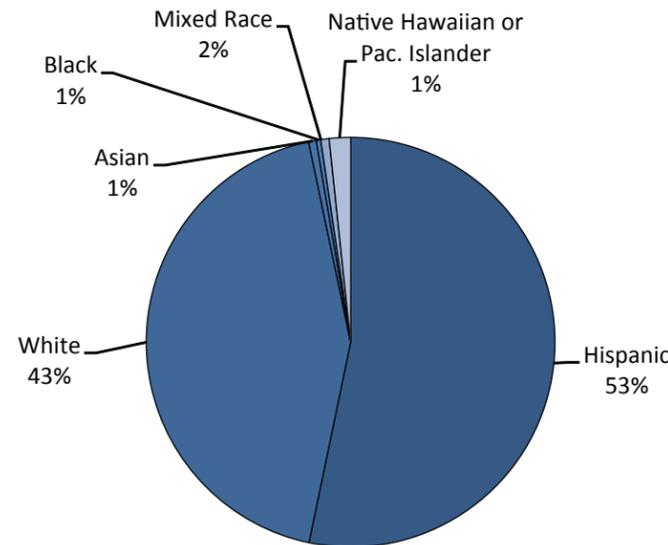


Lamar Middle School



Total Enrollment: 1,667  
 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native  
 0.4% Asian  
 0.6% Black  
 53.3% Hispanic  
 43.4% White  
 0.0% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
 1.7% Two or more

**Lamar District RE-2 Demographics**



which houses a fitness center offering traditional weight room facilities, aerobics and zumba classes, and yoga.

In 2009, the Colorado Department of Education awarded a school wellness grant to the Lamar School District RE-2. This grant awarded \$50,000 per year for the course of three years to support coordinated improvements to the counseling, health education, PE, nutrition, and health services programs in all of the district's schools. This award also allowed for the hiring of a district-wide health and wellness coordinator, Angel Sneller, who has been working to improve health education and physical education through curriculum expansion as prescribed by the district wellness policy.

A recent publication of the Prowers County Public Health & Environment Annual Report lists obesity among its "winnable battles" as described by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The report notes that "creating healthier environments is a good starting place. When children have safe places to walk, bike, and play in their neighborhoods, they're more likely to be active and less likely to become obese." (www.prowerscounty.net)

**Lamar School District RE-2**

Lamar School District RE-2 is the 54<sup>th</sup> largest out of 183 districts in Colorado, with 1,667 students. The district has six schools: one preschool, two elementary schools, a K-6 charter school, and a middle and high school.

The mission of Lamar School District Re 2 is to provide, within a safe environment, meaningful opportunities, experiences, and guidance combined with high expectations that will enable each life-long learner to be a moral, ethical, responsible, and productive member of society. (<http://www.lamar.k12.co.us>)

Lamar School District RE-2 is representative of many cultures. The largest racial demographic groups are Hispanic (53.3%), and White (43.4%), with additional representation from Asian, Black, American Indian and mixed-race students.

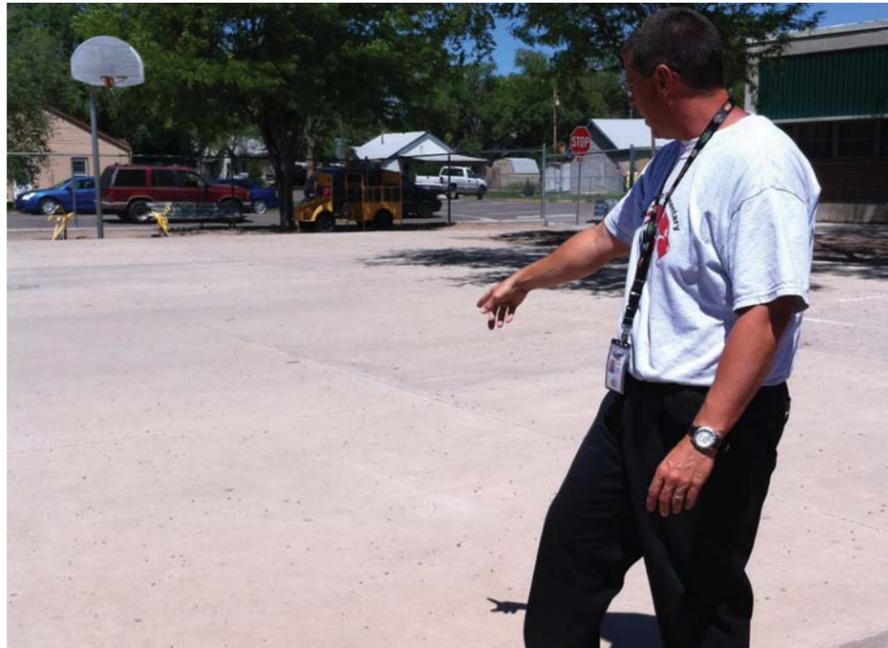
**Wellness**

Lamar's rural setting lends itself to a population with a strong work ethic and an appreciation for the outdoors. Lamar's Parks Department offers a range of activities for residents of all ages, and maintains about 109 acres of developed parks and public lands and 1.4 miles of trail. The Recreation Department offers recreational activities at the Lamar Community Building

**Intent of the Play Areas Master Plan**

The master plans for each school are intended to serve as a roadmap for developing strategies and tactics needed to create an inviting, safe and active play area to increase activity and improve the health of students and surrounding community members. The purpose of the master plan is for the selected schools from the Lamar School District RE-2 to be strategically poised to capture opportunities to improve and expand outdoor/ play areas as funding becomes available. The master plan is intended to be used as a tool for the staff, parents, and district administration to seek funding for future schoolyard renovations and wellness initiatives.

A master plan is a written report and plan that sets forth the structure for future campus improvements. Each school has a vision that speaks to the desires of the school and surrounding community. The vision is further delineated into goals that identify the major



At the school level the collaborative process was guided by each school's design committee and facilitated by Learning Landscapes staff. The committee was comprised of the principal, staff, parents, and community members. The team members helped to identify issues with the existing site, form a vision and goals to guide the planning process, gather information and feedback from people outside the committee, provide feedback on iterations of the plan, administer photo surveys and collect student art work.

This collaborative effort allowed the school to develop an active play areas master plan to reflect the history, culture and curriculum unique to Lamar School District RE-2 in accordance with its mission statement.



components for implementation. These goals are defined through the use of text and imagery. A programmatic list of uses is also developed. Lastly, the master plan sets forth the aesthetic ordering system suggested for use during the design phase to organize the programmatic uses. This plan will provide a framework for fund raising and future construction.

**Planning Process**

The Master Plan process took place from April to October 2012 and involved input at both the district level as well as the individual school level. At the district level the collaborative process was guided by the Wellness Coordinator and school faculty and staff. Learning Landscapes staff consulted with the district team members to ensure the individual school master plans aligned with the existing facility master plan, and the over all vision for the District. The team also discussed strategies for phasing, sustainable maintenance and funding for implementation.



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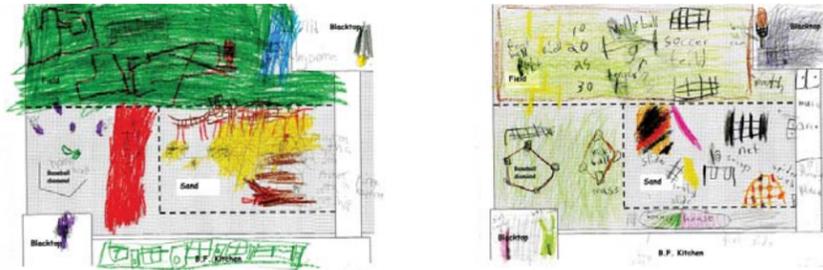


Lamar Middle School



The planning process consisted of the following tasks:

- Design team meetings
- Site inventory and analysis
- Play equipment assessment
- Schoolyard use assessment
- Community engagement
- Photo surveys and student drawings
- Master Plan recommendations
- Cost Estimates and prioritization



Example of Student Drawings depicting "My Dream Playground"

**Recommendations**

Improved play facilities will serve multiple purposes in not only engaging Lamar School District RE-2 students, but the entire community. The following are recommendations for implementation of the Active Play Areas Master Plan at Lamar School District RE-2's schools.

- Install New Age-Appropriate Play Equipment
  - To increase physical activity for all ages and to provide a variety of safe, challenging activities for all students.
- Install a Running Path
  - To provide opportunities for students, teachers, staff and community to be active and encourage each other to get moving.
- Install Climbing Structures
  - To increase upper body strength and coordination, and to enliven the existing active spaces.
- Improve ADA Accessibility
  - Each play area should be accessible to all the students in the school. It is important for all students and community members regardless of mobility, to be able to interact and be active with one another.



- Provide More Hard Surface Games with Educational Elements
  - Input from the design committee and student surveys suggested adding more color on the schoolyard. Students are excited by the color which sparks their creativity during play.
- Incorporate a Vegetable Garden
  - Involving a garden in the learning curriculum can promote healthy eating, community stewardship, educational opportunities, and food literacy.
- Develop Outdoor Learning Environments
  - Incorporate educational charts, graphs, and graphics within the schoolyard to promote continuous learning even during recess activities.
- Develop Community Gathering Spaces
  - Welcoming the neighborhood to gather, play, and exercise in the play areas will help build support stewardship of the community by providing a safe place to be active not just during recess but also after school and on weekends.

- Increase Opportunities for Shade
  - To protect students and visitors from the intense Colorado sun and to provide additional gathering spaces for community members.
- Create an Outdoor Classroom
  - Give teachers the option to instruct students outdoors to interact with and observe the local environment.



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## Learning Landscape History

The first Learning Landscape was built at Bromwell elementary school in 1998 as a result of a six-year collaboration of parents, elementary students, staff, faculty, neighbors, local businesses and University of Colorado Denver (UCD)



landscape architecture graduate students. The vast expanse of asphalt and pea gravel on the Bromwell playground resembled a prison yard, not an environment encouraging activity and child development.

Bromwell parents and community members took action to transform the schoolyard into an active and aesthetically pleasing place for learning and physical activity.

Bromwell's schoolyard renovation project coincided with the end of mandatory busing at Denver Public Schools (DPS). Cessation of mandatory busing meant a renewed interest in Denver neighborhood schools and soon the Bromwell Learning Landscape project evolved into a citywide urban initiative evoking social change and physical transformation of public grounds.

UCD encourages faculty to connect the campus to the community. Landscape Architecture Professor, Lois Brink's Learning Landscapes course proved a tremendous opportunity for civic engagement. Through Learning Landscapes, UCD graduate students are able to stretch the boundaries of landscape design, engage

the community and gain real-world design experience. In 1999 (UCD) College of Architecture and Planning entered into a formal agreement to plan, design, and help build Learning Landscapes at DPS elementary schools throughout the district. The partnership between UCD and DPS has resulted in the transformation of 81 neglected public elementary schoolyards into Learning Landscape Playgrounds.

In 2008 Denver voters expressed satisfaction with the program by passing a multi-million dollar bond initiative to fund the redevelopment of every DPS elementary schoolyard into a learning landscape by 2013.

### What We Do:

With a budget of approximately \$450,000 per playground, Learning Landscapes leads UCD students, elementary schools and community members in the redesign of schoolyards into fun multi-use parks designed to reflect the culture of the surrounding community. The Learning Landscapes project helps reconnect communities with neighborhood schools. The graduate students get meaningful, hands-on experience working with the community to create master plans and designs for a Learning Landscapes schoolyard.

### How We Do It:

By listening and actively involving the school community throughout the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the Learning Landscape schoolyard. Each school is asked to form a Learning Landscape team to help inform design and programming decisions as well as keep a watchful eye for vandalism and maintenance issues after construction is complete. The Learning Landscapes team recruits students, parents and surrounding community help to build, maintain

and improve the Learning Landscape. Each new learning landscapes has a volunteer build day where the school and community volunteers develop a sense of ownership and civic pride by creating outdoor artwork planting gardens, laying sod or building play equipment.

We document and distribute site-specific resources for educators and community members on the outdoor educational elements unique to each Learning Landscape schoolyard. Promoting the programmatic use of the Learning Landscape is critical for the long-term viability and sustainability of these projects.

### Community Involvement

Inevitably each site is used by the community when the schools are not in session. As such we feel it is important to work with community leaders to get feedback on the communities needs and desires to determine how the communities use the site and what other organizations help maintain the site - like the Parks and Recreation, softball leagues, soccer leagues, gardening clubs, etc.



Outdoor Art



Gateways



Climbing Structures



A **Learning Landscape** is a multi-use park for outdoor learning, discovery, creativity and play that celebrates the unique character of the **school and community**.

**Learning Landscapes** are comprised of grass playing fields, age-appropriate play equipment, trees, shade structures, gateways, artwork, outdoor classrooms, gardens, traditional play elements and non-traditional play elements.

**Learning Landscapes** function as local public parks providing much needed open space and social gathering places while fostering neighborhood pride for local communities.

**Educational Elements** tend to be focused on the unique curriculum of each school. Educational elements also tend to be derived from the schools theme, mascot, motto, etc. These components come in the form of games that are super imposed on the hard court surfaces or words, poems, mathematical formulas etc. These educational elements can be tied to the school's curriculum whereby school teachers can use these elements by bringing their classrooms outside. Or the learning components can simply be whimsical things that all the kids do to use their imaginations while playing hopscotch, tetherball, or any activity.

Shade Structure



Grass Fields



Outdoor Classroom



Habitat & Vegetable Garden



Age Appropriate Play Equipment



Maps & Hard Surface Games



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## Section Two

# 2



- School Background
- Existing Conditions
- Playground Assessment



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**School Background Information**

*Location and History*

Lamar Middle School is located at 104 W Park Street in Lamar, CO. The original brick building facing Main St. was built in 1929, and the school underwent alterations in both 1962 and 1986. The school currently has 365 students in grades 6 through 8. Lamar Middle School offers activities and programs designed to meet the needs of most students. This program is essential to the total program of the school and offers opportunities and values to students that the academic program alone does not offer. LMS believes that a school “comes to life” in its activity program; therefore, students are encouraged to participate in at least one activity. Programs include student government, music, yearbook, science fair, and cheerleading. Athletic programs at LMS include football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, track and cross country. The school colors are black and red, and the school mascot is the eagles. (<http://lms.lamar.k12.co.us>)



[lms.lamar.k12.co.us](http://lms.lamar.k12.co.us)

*Neighborhood Context*

Lamar Middle School is located near Lamar’s city center on the west side of Main St. This area serves as a neighborhood hub for events and activities due to its proximity to Savage Stadium and the Lamar Community Building. Additionally, the community utilizes Lamar Middle School’s grounds as a neighborhood park space since many residents are hesitant to cross Main St. where two city parks are located.



*School Philosophy:*

Lamar Middle School believes in accepting the student as he/she is and guiding him/her through varied educational experiences designed to develop his/her abilities, stimulate his/her interests, and challenge his/her potential as a productive citizen in the preservation and maintenance of our society.

*School Motto:*

The schools motto lies within the acronym “P.R.I.D.E.,”  
**P**olite, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**etermination, **E**ngaged.

*School Demographics*

Fall 2011 Enrollment: 329

Male Students: 170  
 Female Students: 159

Free/Reduced Lunch: 69.6% of students

*Racial Make-up of Lamar Middle Students:*

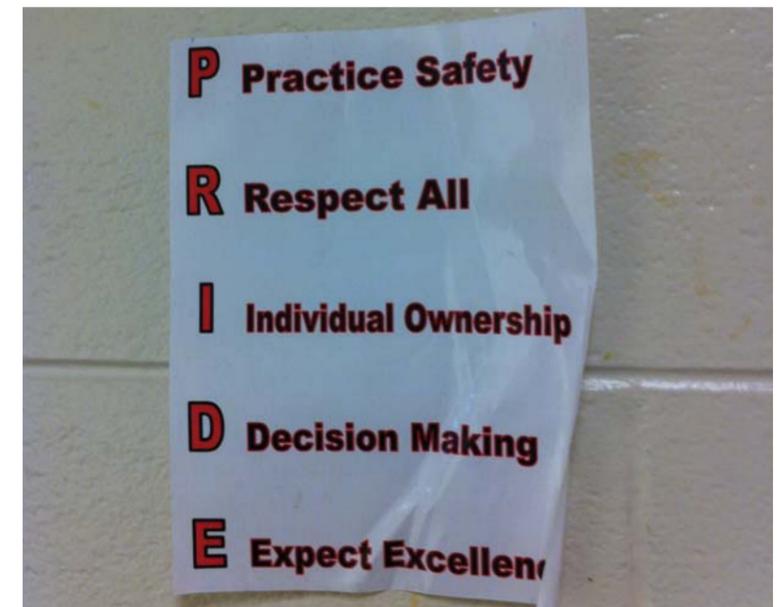
0.6%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
0.3%	Asian
0.0%	Black
54.1%	Hispanic
43.8%	White
0%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
1.2%	Two or more

*Grade Distribution of Students:*

6<sup>th</sup> grade: 109  
 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 107  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 113

*Surrounding Area Demographics*

Lamar Middle School is located within the center of Lamar. The city of Lamar is the County seat of Prowers County with an area population of 12,551. Of these residents, the largest racial groups consist of whites at 81% and people of Hispanic origin at 16%. The median age for Prowers County is 36.7 and the median annual household income is \$28,660.



**Catchment Area**

The catchment area for Lamar Middle School reaches throughout the entire city of Lamar. The city's unique grade level system allocates all students between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Lamar Middle School, who then move to Lamar High School. Students up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade have the option to apply at Alta Vista Charter School which has a lottery enrollment system for students in grades K through 6.



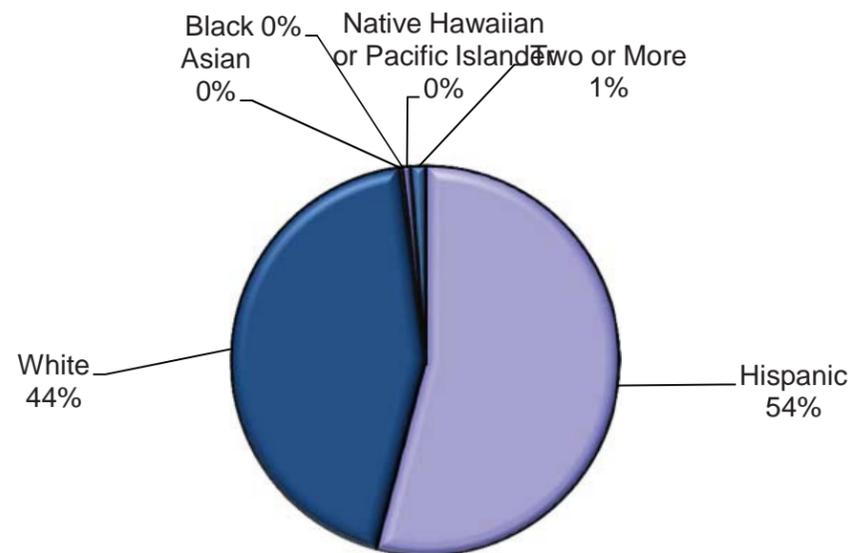
**Site Inventory**

**Existing Conditions:**

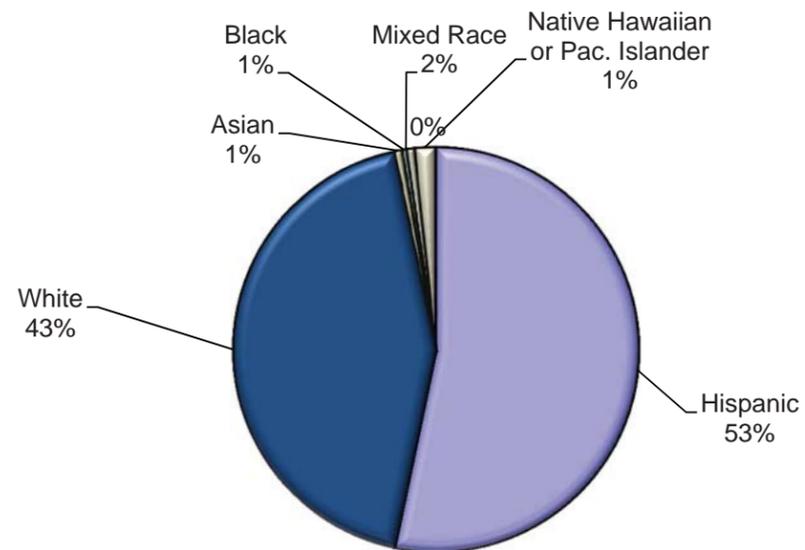
**Equipment & Materials**

Equipment and materials throughout the grounds of Lamar Middle School vary greatly in age and condition. The majority of equipment is track-related; two shot-put rings and two discus rings. The main surfaces are lawn, asphalt, and a few gravel areas.

**2011 Lamar Middle School Demographics**

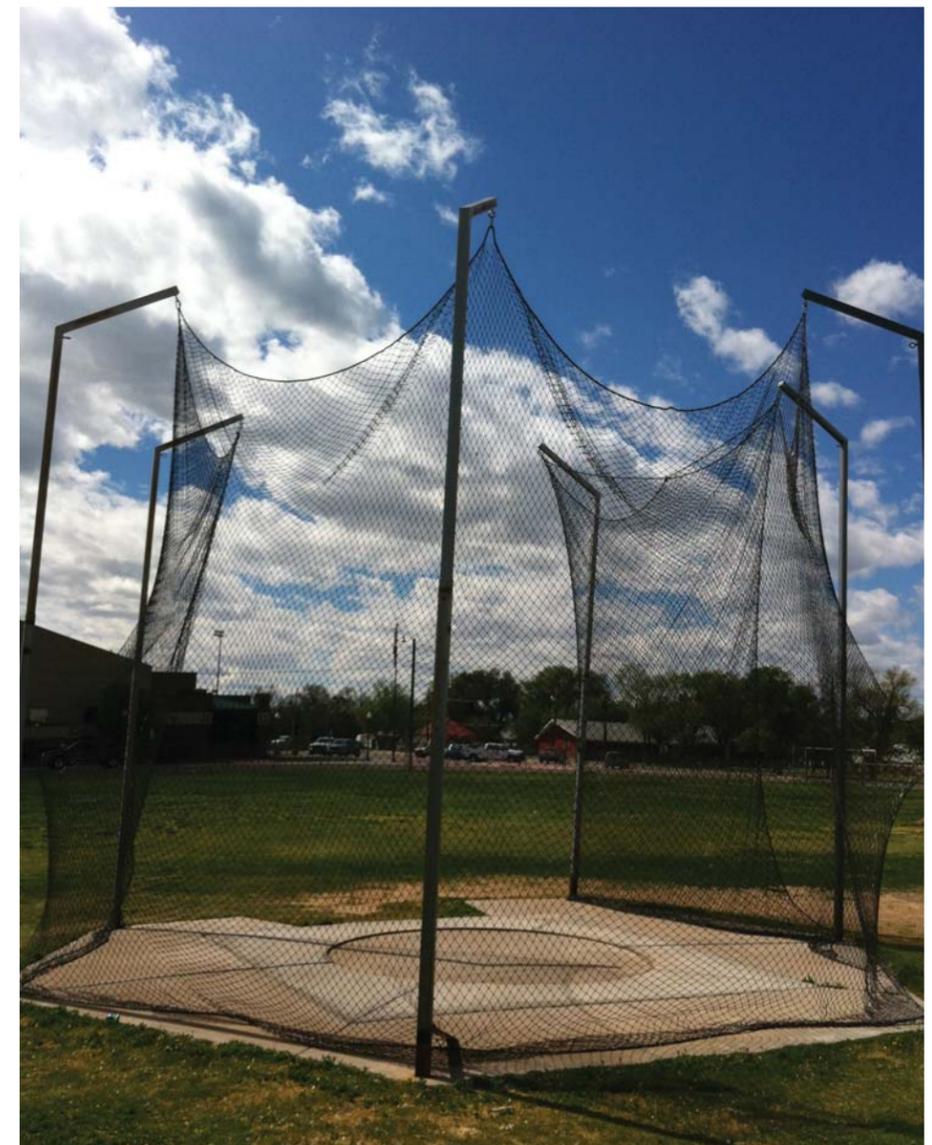


**District Demographics**



**ADA Accessibility**

Accessibility at Lamar Middle School is a design aspect that has been adequately incorporated into the building, but could be improved on the playground. Some surfaces are cracked and uneven, which would make mobility difficult for students and community members with disabilities. The final design will integrate ADA accessibility to ensure universal access to playground structures and activities.



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## Drainage

The majority of the outdoor space is covered with lawn. Due to high clay content in the soil, drainage is a big issue. Water from the irrigation system pools on the surface and is absorbed slowly into the soil. To make matters worse, the soil expands and warps unevenly once the water is absorbed. Increasing areas of permeable surfacing, such as planting beds and lawn with ample soil treatment, could help alleviate drainage problems.

## Safety

The following issues of safety were addressed by the design team during the meetings:

- Goathead weeds are a problem on the grounds; they have thorns that can pierce skin and pop balls.
- Uneven play surfaces lead to student injuries. This is especially clear at the edge of the basketball courts where the edge is exposed and causes a tripping hazard. The asphalt foursquare courts are also cracked and could cause a tripping hazard.
- The ground surface of the field is uneven and difficult to play on. This is partially due to the soil type, and also due to the patchy grass.



Circulation and Site Accessibility

## Parking

Parking at Lamar Middle School is available in front of the school off of Park St. and also behind the school off of Pearl St. These lots, however, are highly congested during drop-off and pick-up. The original plan for the school (ca. 1962) included a parking lot in front that covered the patch of grass left of the main entrance, which the district has thought about building, but this would also eliminate the basketball court since the exit from the lot would have to align with 5<sup>th</sup> St.

## Maintenance

Lamar Middle School's grounds are maintained by the district maintenance department. The goal for the new playground area is to incorporate hardscape, lawn and trees into the design in such a way to allow for easier maintenance. For example, the district has stopped using asphalt for hardscape and has substituted concrete for its durability and longer life-span. Also, the district favors poured-in-place safety surfacing or the modular tile system over loose rubber fill or engineered wood fiber for their increased life-span.

## Existing Landscape Conditions

The grounds at Lamar Middle School are well-used by its students and surrounding community members. The front and sides of the school have many mature trees that provide shade, but the playground area has no trees and, therefore, no shade. The large lawn area west of the school contains a well that has increased the salinity of the soil around it (this well may soon be removed). This has led to patchy grass of varying species, some of which are less desirable than others for their rough texture.



**Playground Assessment:**

The playground at Lamar Middle School is an active space that is an asset to its students, local rec leagues, and surrounding community members. The major element of the playground is the extensive lawn area that covers 82,000 square feet. This lawn is used by students and the community for softball, baseball, kickball, soccer, and football. Unfortunately, the clay soil causes an uneven surface which is worsened by the blend of grasses that also contribute to its unevenness. The field has two backstops, located on the northwest and southwest corners.

The equipment on the playground is mostly oriented toward track events. There are two shot-put rings and two discus rings located on either side of the circular gymnasium. These structures

are between 5 and 7 years old and are utilized by both middle and high school athletes. Additionally, there is a football sleigh located on the north side of the lawn that used for practice.

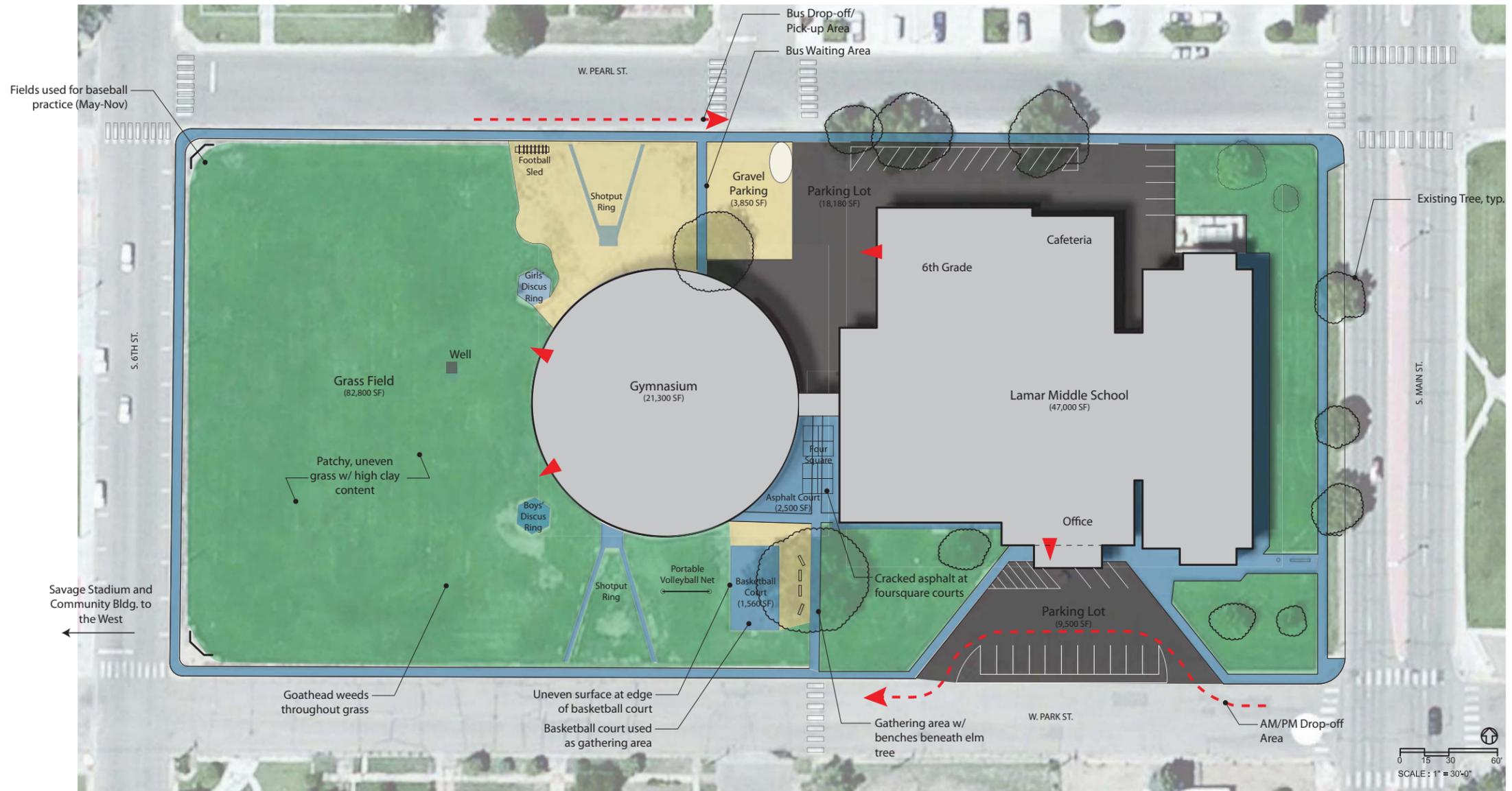
The space that is used most by students is on the south side of the school, directly south of the gym. This area contains a concrete basketball court with benches beside it and a small asphalt pad with two foursquare courts. The basketball court doubles as a gathering space for students before school and during recess, which limits its intended use. The edge of the court is uneven with the adjacent soil, causing a tripping hazard. The seating area next to the court is a popular space for gathering during recess and before school. The foursquare courts are located on a cracked asphalt pad which also creates a tripping hazard. Increasing the amount of hardscape gathering/active areas should be addressed in the final design.



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**Key**

- Hardscape
- Softscape
- Gravel Area
- Parking Area
- Pooling Area
- Snow Storage
- Circulation
- Doors

LAMAR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

## Section Three

# 3



- Design Advisory Team
- Vision, Goals, Wish List
- Master Plan



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**Design Advisory team**

The Lamar Middle School Design Advisory Committee played an integral role in the active play areas planning process. The committee, comprised of the principal, staff, parents, and community members, provided valuable input regarding needs and desires of the Lamar Middle School schoolyard.



**Advisory Team Process**

The design committee gathered input from Lamar Middle School students through the administration of photo surveys. Learning Landscape staff synthesized the information provided by the committee to develop drafts of the schoolyard master plan and the design advisory committee provided feedback on iterations of the plan. This

collaborative effort allowed the school to develop an active play areas master plan to reflect the history, culture and curriculum unique to Lamar Middle School.

**Constituent Concerns, Needs, and Desires**

Concerns:

- High winds and extreme solar exposure must be taken into account when selecting materials and activities.
- Basketball court is used as a gathering space instead of its intended use, creating crowding. The new playground design should include increased hardscape gathering areas.
- The ground surface of the field is uneven and difficult to play on.

Needs:

- Protection from the intense sun and wind.
- Expanded variety of activities.
- Increased gathering space.

Desires:

- Improved grading and drainage at grass field.
- Expanded activity space with ball courts and gathering areas.
- Activity spaces that are spread out through the playground to reduce crowding.

**Defining the School's Vision**

Over the course of several meetings with the design team and teachers, the Learning Landscapes staff helped the school formulate the following vision and list of goals based on the school's desires and needs.

**Vision:**

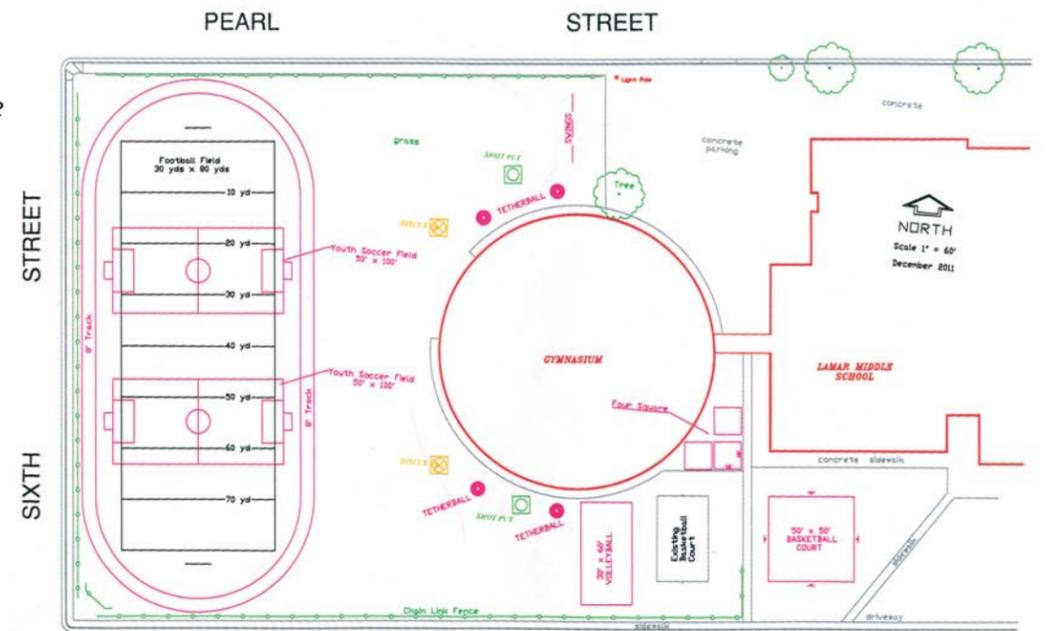
*"Lamar Middle School will create a safe, colorful and inviting outdoor area to become a valuable amenity for the school and its surrounding community."*

**Goals:**

- Create an inviting, colorful, and safe environment for students and the surrounding community.
- Increase physical activity and outdoor learning.
- Offer a variety of play equipment that is appropriate for middle school age groups.
- Create a fully ADA accessible playground.
- Increase the amount of shade and gathering spaces to encourage positive social activity.
- Beautify the schoolyard and highlight school spirit by incorporating the school mascot, school colors, student art, and other elements that students can be proud of.

**Wish List:**

- Shade structure
- Outdoor classroom
- Swings
- Crusher fines jogging track
- Outdoor classroom
- Practice football field



site plan proposed by LMS students

Student Wish List:

The "Wordle" below represents elements students would like to see in their playground based on a student poll conducted by Lamar Middle School. The bigger the word, the more frequent the element was voted for by students.



example of wordle



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## Ordering System Collage

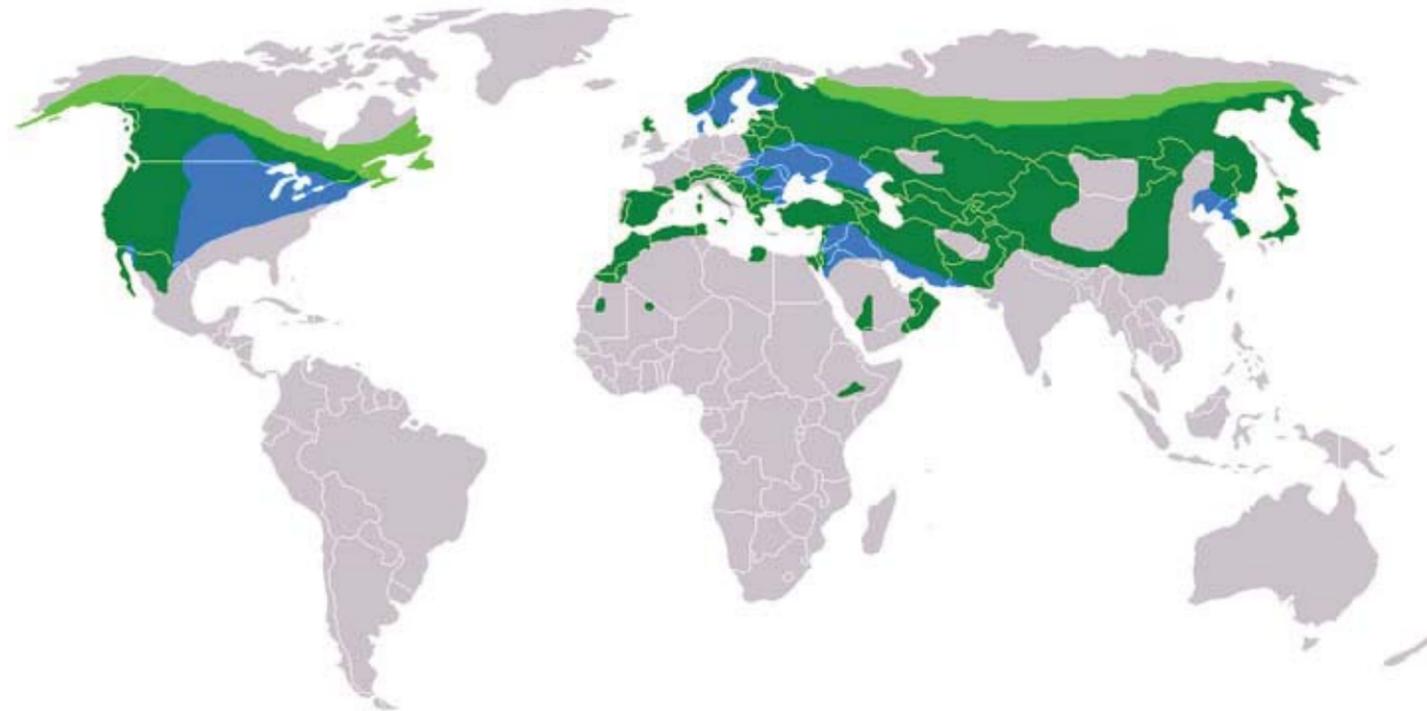
An ordering system or theme to be used in customizing the play areas can be generated from Lamar Middle School's mascot, the Eagle. These images show the Eagle's habitat throughout the world that could be shown graphically on a map, or within finer details of the school's gateway.



[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)



[af.mil](http://af.mil)



[raptorresearchfoundation.org](http://raptorresearchfoundation.org)

**Process Graphics:**

Learning Landscapes developed two conceptual layout plans and sent them to the design advisory team. Each plan shows different options for the layout and placement of certain items on the team's wish list. The placement of the gateway structure, outdoor classroom, shade structure, and play equipment varies slightly in between the plans.

From the two concept plans, the design advisory team selected favorable parts of each to incorporate into the preferred site plan. This plan was developed based on the needs and desires of the school and its community. This master plan proposes an overall design for the playground at the HOPE Center at Lincoln School that can be installed either all-at-once or in staggered phases to suit the funding capabilities of the school. The general idea of the proposed play ground is to provide Lamar Middle School with an inviting and attractive play area, focused on the health of its students and community.



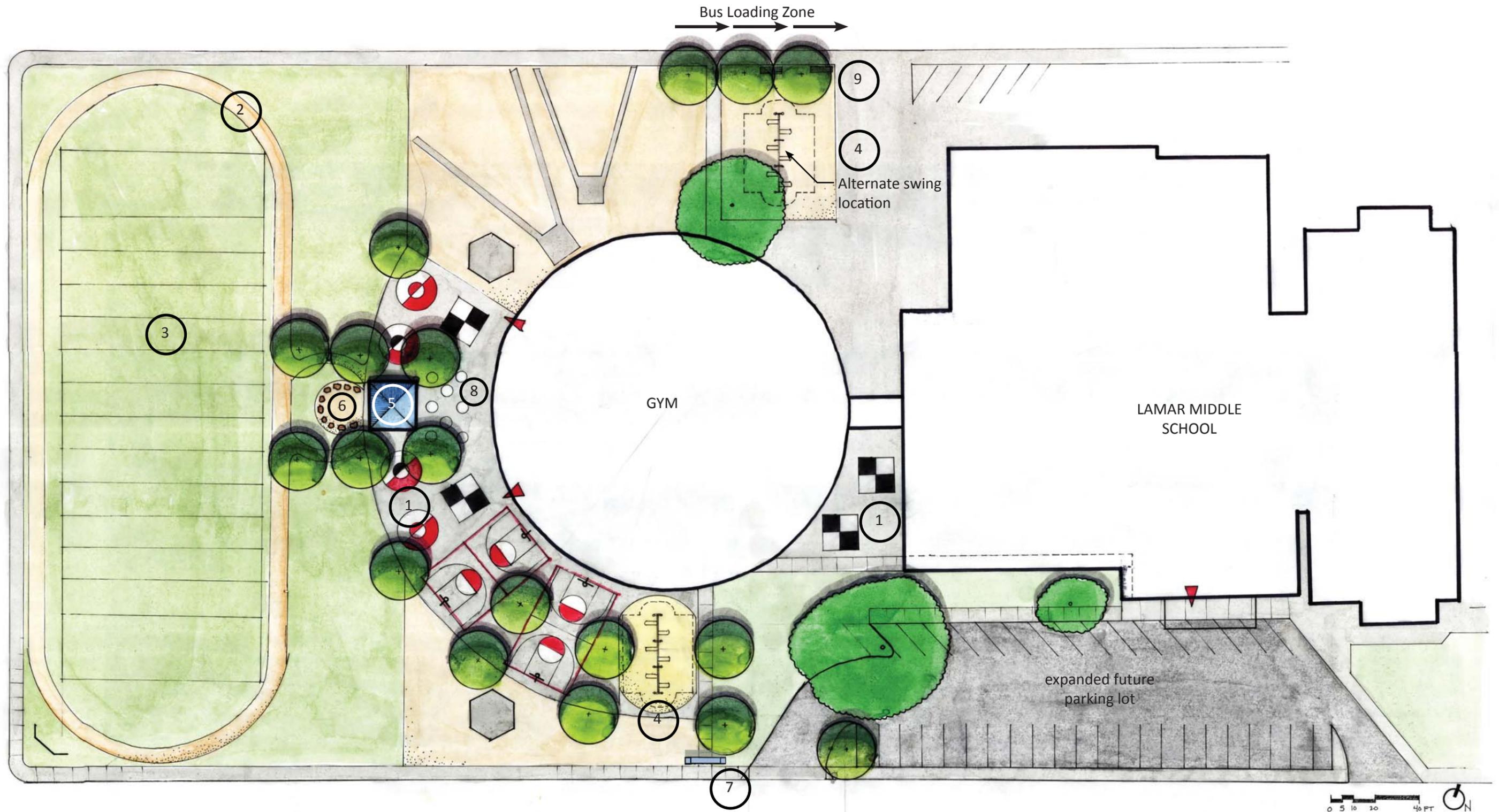
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Lamar Middle School



**Lamar Middle School Active Play Areas Master Plan Description**

Lamar Middle School’s design team came up with innovative ways to show school spirit and improve learning at their school. The school currently maintains a good relationship with the community and would like to further that relationship. Described below are the proposed changes to the Lamar Middle School schoolyard in an effort to fulfill the vision and goals developed by the design team:



1. Expanded hard surface games  
The existing play area has limited space on its basketball and foursquare courts for these activities since the space is also utilized as a gathering area. Expanding the hard surface games will allow for full use of the courts included.

2. 1/7-Mile jogging path  
Lamar Middle School’s playground has existing track events, except for an actual jogging path. This path, made of stabilized crusher fines, will be used by the track team and for PE classes. The path is measured at 1/7<sup>th</sup> mile to allow students to easily calculate their jogging distance.



3. Practice Football Field  
The field at LMS is used heavily by its sports teams, including football. But incorporating a lined field will allow for a more realistic practice space that can be utilized by the team.



4. Swings  
Although middle school students aren’t typically attracted by “playgrounds,” LMS students are particularly fond of their swings. The swings can be used for both active swinging and as a gathering area for group conversations.

5. Shade structure  
The local climate in Lamar is known for its intense sun and heat. Incorporating a shade structure to the schoolyard will allow students, faculty, and staff to find refuge from the sun during hot days. This shelter can also be used as a shelter during wet weather or snow.

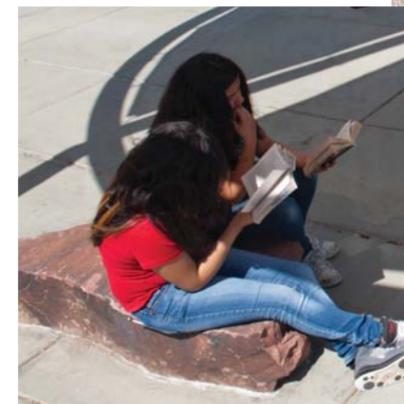


6. Outdoor classroom  
This space will allow for teachers to bring their students outside, when appropriate, for lessons dealing with nature and the environment, or just for a break from the classroom routine.

7. Gateway structure  
The gateway structure announces a visitor’s entrance into the schoolyard and creates a sense of ownership for the school’s students and staff. The LMS mascot, the eagle, could be incorporated into its design.



8. Outdoor lunch area w/ tables and shade  
On days with nice weather, this area gives students a place to sit outside and eat their lunch or play a game on the provided tables.



9. Shaded seating area at Bus Loading Zone  
The existing area near the bus loading zone has no seating and is exposed to the elements. Adding seating and some shade trees in this area will give students a protected place to sit and wait for the bus.



Section Four

4



- Cost Estimate
- Resources
- Acknowledgements

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**Estimate of Probable Landscape Costs**

This estimate includes the expansion of concrete activities, a gateway structure, shade structure and outdoor classroom, stabilized track surface and grading and re-sodding practice football field

Category	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantities	Total Cost
<b>Play Equipment , Structures &amp; Surfacing</b>				
<b>Play Equipment</b>				
Swings (3 bay 6 seat) (Pending final costs)	LS	\$4,000.00	1 \$	4,000.00
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
<b>Play Surfacing (12" EWF Delivered/Installed)</b>				
Swings Area	SF	\$2.50	1,685 \$	4,212.50
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,212.50</b>
<b>Concrete &amp; ADA Accessibility</b>				
Concrete Seat-Wall	LF	\$29.00	0 \$	-
Concrete Flatwork- 6" depth (playground)	SF	\$4.00	14,800 \$	59,200.00
Concrete Flatwork- 6" depth (parking lot)	SF	\$4.00	10,000 \$	40,000.00
Recondition/ seal existing asphalt	SF	\$0.95	2,200 \$	2,090.00
Concrete curb @ parking lot, 8"x6"	LF	\$11.00	360 \$	3,960.00
Concrete Ramp at Play Pits	EA	\$800.00	1 \$	800.00
Concrete Stairs	LF	\$37.00	0 \$	-
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 106,050.00</b>
<b>Site Work</b>				
<b>Grading &amp; Asphalt Striping</b>				
Field Earthwork and Drainage	LS	\$20,000.00	1 \$	20,000.00
Tetherball Striping	EA	\$150.00	4 \$	600.00
Football Field Striping	EA	\$2,000.00	1 \$	2,000.00
Basketball Court Striping	EA	\$400.00	2 \$	800.00
4-Square Striping	EA	\$250.00	4 \$	1,000.00
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 24,400.00</b>
<b>School Design Elements</b>				
Stabilized Crusher Fines @ Outdoor Classroom	SF	\$2.20	1,000 \$	2,200.00
Boulders @ Outdoor Classroom	EA	\$150.00	10 \$	1,500.00
Shade Structure	EA	\$25,000.00	1 \$	25,000.00
Gateway Structure	LS	\$10,000.00	1 \$	10,000.00
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 39,700.00</b>

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<b>Running Track</b>				
Crusher Fines, 8' WIDE X 4" depth	SF	\$1.00	5,940 \$	5,940.00
Crusher Fines Stabilizer	SF	\$1.20	5,940 \$	7,128.00
Steel Edging	LF	\$5.00	1,485 \$	7,425.00
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,493.00</b>
<b>Site Furnishings, Athletic Equipment and Misc.</b>				
Picnic Table @ lunch area	EA	\$1,000.00	8 \$	8,000.00
Trash Receptacle	EA	\$650.00	4 \$	2,600.00
6' Bench	EA	\$850.00	2 \$	1,700.00
Basketball Goal	EA	\$1,200.00	4 \$	4,800.00
Tetherball Poles	EA	\$350.00	4 \$	1,400.00
Permanent or Moveable Soccer Goals	EA	\$1,000.00	2 \$	2,000.00
3' Chain Link Fence @ Swings Area	LF	\$15.00	36 \$	540.00
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 21,040.00</b>
<b>Landscape Planting and Irrigation</b>				
Shrub Bed Soil Prep	SF	\$0.30	0 \$	-
Sod and Soil Prep @ field and play areas	SF	\$0.55	46,000 \$	25,300.00
Irrigation, shrub beds	SF	\$0.75	0 \$	-
Irrigation, sod areas	SF	\$0.55	0 \$	-
Irrigation, tree bubblers	EA	\$60.00	12 \$	720.00
Shade Tree, 3" caliper	EA	\$400.00	18 \$	7,200.00
Shredded Mulch, 4" depth	SF	\$1.20	0 \$	-
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 33,220.00</b>
				<b>Site Improvements Total \$ 252,115.50</b>
<b>Project Start Up</b>				
Typical construction mobilization		\$10,000.00		\$10,000
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Typical infrastructure construction/repair		\$10,000.00		\$10,000
<b>Demolition</b>				
Typical Demolition		\$25,000.00		\$25,000
<b>Architecture Engineering and Coordination</b>				
8% of construction cost		\$20,169.24		<b>\$20,169.24</b>
<b>Owner Representative Fees</b>				
5% of construction cost		\$12,605.78		\$12,605.78
<b>Contingency Cost</b>				
10% of construction cost		\$25,211.55		\$25,211.55
				<b>Project Grand Total \$ 355,102.07</b>
<b>Additonal Features</b>				
Poured in Place (Swing Area)	SF	\$25.00	1,685	\$42,125
				<b>Project Grand Total W/ Additon(s) \$ 393,014.57</b>

**Resources**

National Center for Health Statistics,  
 National Survey of Children's Health, 2003–2007,  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
 Health at a Crossroads  
 2010 Supplement to the Colorado Health Report Card –  
 Colorado Health Foundation  
 Lamar RE-2 School District website (<http://www.lamar.k12.co.us/>)  
 Lamar Middle School website (<http://lms.lamar.k12.co.us/>)

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