



Acknowledgments

SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MASTER PLANNING TASK FORCE

Mike Weilbacher - Former Executive Director

Erin Mooney - Interim Executive Director

Kristina Murray - Director of Environmental Art

Steve Kaufman - Board of Trustees

Stephen Goin - Director of Land & Facilities

Sarah Watrud - Director of Early Childhood Education

Casey Darnley - Director of Development

Jenn Asplundh - Board of Trustees

Joanne Dahme - Board of Trustees

Dina Bleckman - Board of Trustees

Tom Kehoe - Board of Trustees

Amy Krauss - Director of Marketing and Communications

Aaliyah Ross - Director of Education

John Carpenter - Board of Trustees

SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STAFF

Zaina Asaad

Beatrice Kelly Nick Tonetti Becca Ryder Patricia Boyle Robin Wilson Caroline Linz Ciel Blau Sam Bucciarelli Claire Dubois Sarah Clemency Sidney Glisan Donna Struck Justine O'Gara Sky Templeton Kate Galer Stephanie Stundon Lisa Shore Tom McCarty

Margaret Clarkson

Matt Steuer

Maya Synnestvedt Megan Partridge

SHAWMONT VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

UPPER ROXBOROUGH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DESIGN TEAM

Ari Miller - Hinge Collective

Alexa Bosse - Hinge Collective

Brenna Herpmann - Hinge Collective

Jamie Unkefer - DIGSAU

Samantha Ding - DIGSAU

Taylor Boyd - Boyd Project Controls

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Executive Summary

Founded in 1965 as one of the first nature centers in a large American city, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education is located in Upper Roxborough on 365 acres of protected open space, a working forest with meadows, streams, artificial ponds, and well-used trails. With a long-standing tradition of environmental education, the Center has figured into the life and imagination of many generations of Philadelphians – as a place to play, explore the woods, observe natural phenomena, and escape the urban and suburban built environment.

In the past decade, Schuylkill Center has radically expanded its programs and educational offerings. It is home to an established nature-based preschool, regularly continuing education seminars, and classes as well as large-scale public events and festivals. They have undertaken a series of environmental art installations in order to broaden our understanding of natural processes and provoke public dialogue about conservation and environmental stewardship.

As the Center grows more ambitious in its reach and programming scope, competition for space has also increased, revealing that some parts of the campus become easily congested, and aren't well-designed to host multiple groups graciously, despite ample space. Meanwhile, other important ecological and historical assets such as Brolo Farm, the former Urban Farm, and Weil House lay fallow, lacking a clear vision for their future. In addition, the Center could be better connected to both its neighbors and to itself. Missed path connections, steep or overgrown trails, spotty signage, and minimal ADA accessible walking surfaces all limit access to some of the Center's most magical spots.

The new masterplan responds to the increased need for strategic and thoughtful spatial organization of its most well-used parts, better trail system legibility, increased connection to the surrounding neighborhood, and a programming vision for some of the Center's most under-used yet important assets. The plan builds on previous planning efforts, elaborating on some of the ideas that continue to have traction, while also threading new directions and emphasis that respond to today's challenges.

The masterplan was shepherded by the Schuylkill Center's master planning Task Force, comprised of members of the Board of Directors and Schuylkill Center staff. The voices of the surrounding communities were solicited through an online survey as well as several public meetings with neighborhood groups

MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Ensure the ability to steward the land into the future
- Increase usable programmable spaces
- Improve visibility of and accessibility to the Center
- Be a destination for nature play and environmental art
- Strengthen connection to neighborhood residents

KEY SITE STRATEGIES

- Expand the accessible trail network and improve clarity of loop trails.
- Improve edges and entries to foster connections to the neighborhood, adjacent partners, and assets.
- Develop an Edge Campus that capitalizes on the already existing natural and historic amenities.
- Strengthen the Core Campus by improving traffic flow, increasing legibility and variety of spaces around the Visitor Center, and improving accessibility.





1993 Andropogon Associates Masterplan

This document provided a framework for translating the Center's mission into a coherent physical plan in order to enhance the organization's educational programming.

SALT Design Studio Masterplan 2013

SALT DESIGN STUDIO led the development of a Master Plan for the Schuylkill Center. The focus of the planning process was distilling the image and brand the Schuylkill Center wanted to present to the public, and translating that vision into a coherent and memorable landscape.

VISION 2025 2015

To prepare for Schuylkill's 50th Anniversary in 2015, The Center's Board and staff created new mission and vision statements, adopted a core set of values, fashioned a five-year strategic plan, and began a thorough reimagining of their 340 acres, resulting in Vision 2025, an outline that guides the next ten years of growth for the Center, its land and its facilities.

2015 **ENGAGING THE EDGE: STREETSIDE CONCEPT DESIGN**

Viridian Landscape Studio & Haddad | Druggan

Viridian and the Schuylkill Center worked with Haddad Drugan to design a new street front that weaves environmental art, land restoration and environmental education into an the entry sequence along Hagys Mill. Viridian also designed a new pedestrian gateway to connect The Center to the Schuylkill River Trail, which was implemented shortly after, completing one of the primary recommendations of the 2013 masterplan.

2017 **EXTERIOR SIGN SYSTEM**

Cloud Geshan Design

Cloud Geshan and the Schuylkill Center developed design standards for signage and communications.

2019 VISITOR ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

ThinkGreen

ThinkGreen was contracted to update and improve the pedestrian front entrance to the Visitor Center, including a new entrance path, a small garden, new seating and improved lighting.

TALL TREES NATURE PLAYSCAPE 2021

Studio Ludo

Studio Ludo created a conceptual design to improve and revitalize the Tall Trees Nature Playscape as a dynamic, inviting and engaging magnet for children and families.

BROLO FARM SITE HISTORY 2021

SBK and Partners

SBK researched the history of the Brolo Farm site. The goal for the project was to provide the Schuylkill Center with a better understanding of the history of the site to inform future plans for these resources.

2023 **Hinge Collective Masterplan**

Past Planning

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education has worked with many talented consultants and partners to develop plans that have guided investment in improvements to the land and facilities. Many of these plans have resulted in significant improvements including a new inviting entrance along the Schuylkill River Trail, new wayfinding and informational signage, and an improved entrance plaza at the Visitor Center. Although many of the past plans have had positive impacts there are many promising ideas that were never implemented.

This document is a masterplan update that follows 10 years after the last masterplan effort. Many of the recommendations that are represented in this document build on the many good ideas of previous planning that are still relevant today. This plan offers updated solutions to overcome the barriers to implementation that previous plans had faced.

The updated solutions presented in this masterplan have been crafted in close collaboration with Schuylkill Center leadership and staff and represent achievable ideas. This plan includes impactful projects that can be achieved with minimal capital investment as well as big ideas that would bring new attention to the Center and it's place as a leader in environmental education.

Masterplan Scope

This masterplan update was developed to address the following key challenges:

- Improve edges, entries, and connections to the surrounding community
- Incorporate the Brolo Farm site and historic structures into the rest of the Center, both physically and programmatically
- Organize the space around the visitor center to the best advantage and programmatic function and clarify circulation
- Identify the best use of the structure known as "Weil House"
- Find a new life for the former urban farm site along Hagy's Mill Road
- Connect to the land known as the "Boy Scout Tract" to the rest of the Center

These were identified by Schuylkill Center leadership and staff as areas of focus because of recent changes to how the land and facilities are used or because they were longstanding issues that have been hard to address in the past. It should be noted that the staff at the Wildlife Clinic were included in the masterplanning process, but there was not a focus on developing a new vision for the Wildlife Clinic as part of this effort. It is recommended that a new vision for the Wildlife Clinic be developed as part of a separate planning process.

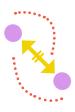


Existing Conditions

The Schuylkill Center's many natural and historic amenities are unique to the Philadelphia region. Yet through site visits, interviews, public surveys and meetings, a dominant theme emerged. Many of these amenities are often hidden from view, not easily accessed on foot or by car, and not well connected to each other. Additionally, some areas of the campus are uniquely endowed to host multiple activities, yet are under-programmed. On the flip-side, other areas are beset with conflicting uses and space competition.



1. EDGES AND ENTRIES AREN'T INVITING: The edges of the Schuylkill Center are overgrown and not well maintained. The edges should reflect the Center's high ecological and social value in the community and in the city of Philadelphia. Improving the street appeal of the Center will go a long way towards amplifying its presence in the neighborhood, signaling to passersby that the Center is worth visiting, and increasing its appeal across a broad section of people. Entries also lack clear visibility and ease of use.



EVELOPMENT

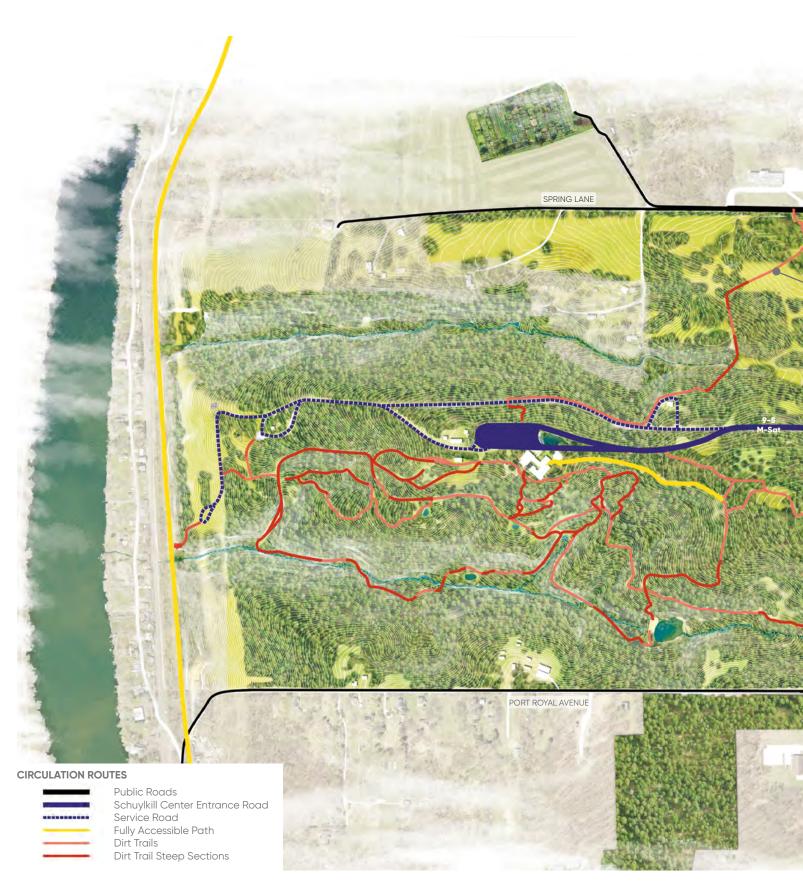
2. THE DOTS ARE DISCONNECTED: The ADA compliant Widener Trail has the potential to become the backbone of the Center, yet it does not connect to the front of the Visitor Center, and stops short of many important destinations. Many dirt trails could be connected in clearer loops that lead to and from the Visitor Center. Currently there are no pedestrian connections to and within the Boy Scout Tract.



3. AMENITIES ARE UNDERDEVELOPED: Several important natural and historical amenities remain underdeveloped and not well connected to the Visitor Center and legible onstreet entrances. Developing program for these spaces, and connecting them to the core and to the edge will exponentially increase Schuylkill Center's dynamism, range of offerings, and sustainability.



4. HIGH COMPETITION FOR SPACE: The greas ground the Visitor Center lack clear legibility and functionality for the many programs that occur here. Different groups compete for space. Vehicular traffic flows create congestion, while pedestrian routes are disjointed and contribute to erosion. The very popular Pine Grove also suffers from over-use, with both Nature Preschool, visiting school groups and the general public flocking here for magical nature play.



Accessibility

The Schuylkill Center has many lovely trails to explore, and according to surveys, are the most oft-cited reason people visit. Given that trails are one of the Center's most important assets, more attention should be given to increasing their legibility, connectivity, and accessibility. Currently only one single trail is fully ADA accessible, yet it stops short of connecting the Visitors Center to other important landmarks and entry points. Many of the Center's steep dirt trails don't connect to create loops that begin and end at the Visitor Center, also limiting people's ability to way-find or choose a path that fits their abilities.

Vehicle accessibility can also be improved with clearer entrances, well maintained roads and parking lots and better signage. Landscape maintenance along road edges will also go a long way towards increasing legibility and accessibility.

ENTRANCES

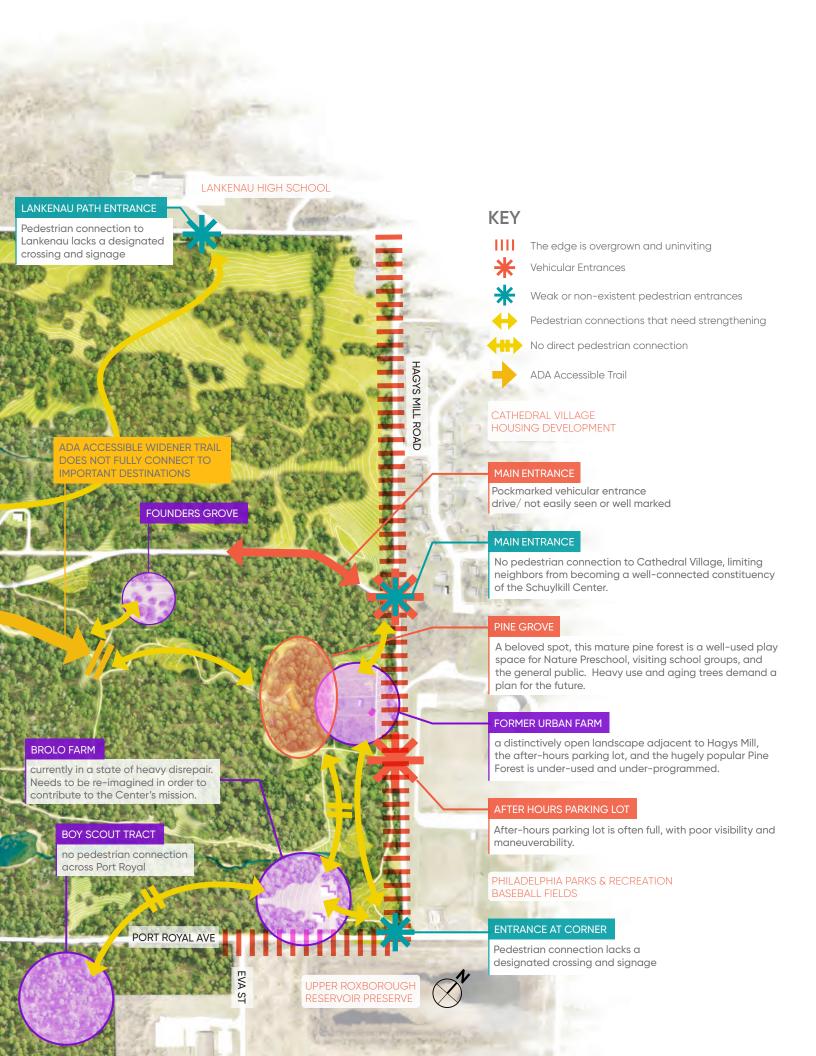
The path between Lankenau and The Schuylkill Center is not well-defined or used. Lack of signage, common trail elements and materials, and overgrowth of invasives and other vegetation inhibit use of this trail.

The main entrance road is often pitted with deep potholes.

The after-hours parking is not easily entered or exited from Hagys Mill due to poor visibility. The lot is often fully subscribed on the weekends, limiting the number of visitors who can access the Center. Survey respondents cited exposure to the street making the lot feel unsafe.

There's currently no crosswalk at this intersection to help make connections to the Boy Scout Tract, the Reservoir, and the SEPTA stop.





Hagys Mill Edge

The Schuylkill Center's main interface with the surrounding community is along Hagys Mill Road between Port Royal Avenue and Spring Lane. Both the Center's main entrance drive, as well as its after hours parking lot are accessed along this stretch. Nevertheless, the Center's street presence along Hagys Mill does not welcome visitors nor adequately advertise the Center's existence and the many wonderful spaces that are close at hand.





LANKENAU PATH ENTRANCE





PINE GROVE



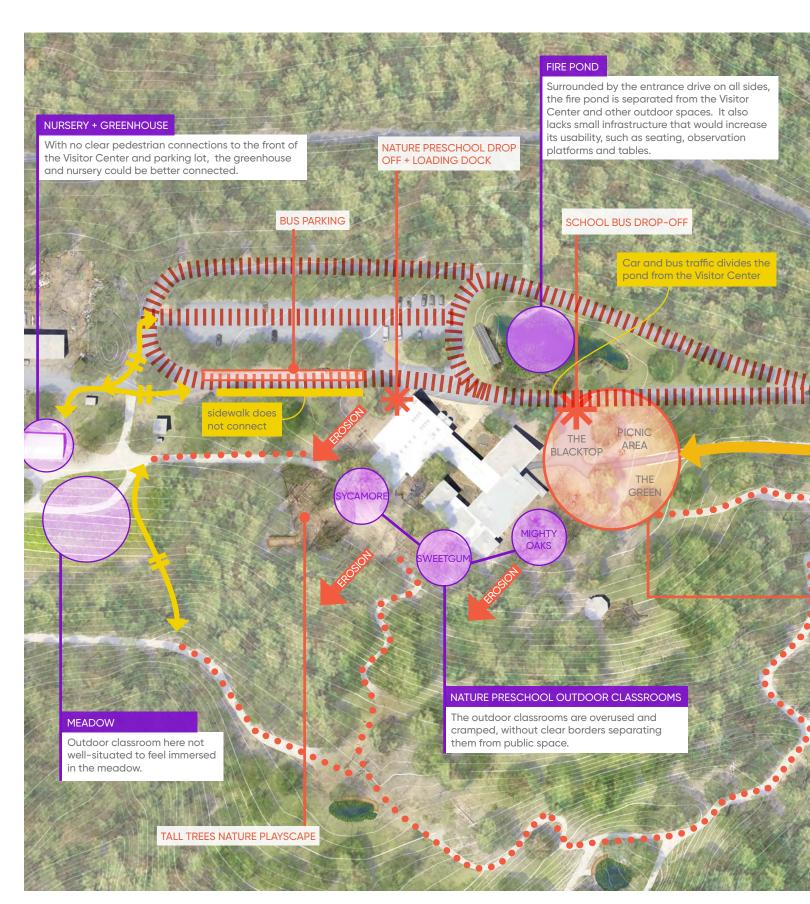
MAIN ENTRANCE

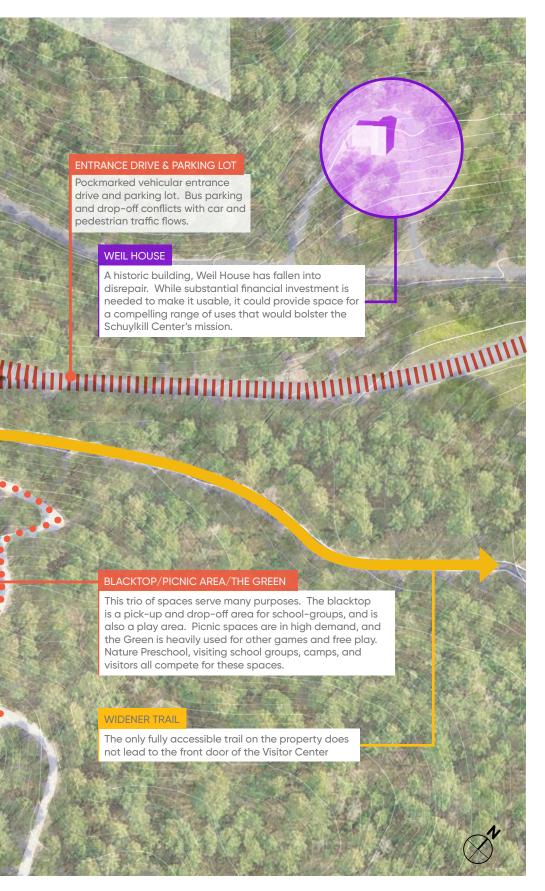






CORNER OF PORT ROYAL AND HAGYS MILL





Visitor Center

The heart of the Schuylkill Center, the Visitor Center plays multiple roles. The reception hub for visitors, the Visitor Center has a staffed information desk, gift shop, interpretive and educational displays, restrooms and informal and formal gathering spaces both within and adjacent to the building. Community events and classes are held at the Visitor Center, the nearby Pavilion and Amphitheater, and on the adjacent Green and Blacktop. The Greenhouse is also a locus of activity, selling native plants to the public. Meanwhile, the Nature Preschool has dedicated space within the building, as well as three outdoor classrooms on its southern and eastern sides. The preschool, as well as visiting school groups use the Green and Blacktop daily. Center leaders and staff have identified the need to reorganize and clearly articulate a variety of outdoor spaces around the Center, while streamlining traffic flows in order to ease congestion, and provide ample room for the many concurrent activities taking place here.







Schuylkill Center staff meeting





Presenting plan options at Naturepalooza



Site visit & observation



Site visit & observation



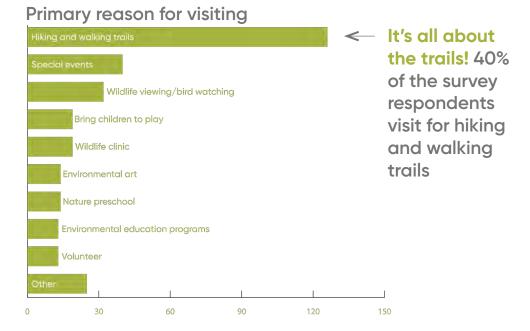


Project Timeline

INFO GATHERING November 2022 - March 2023
Document review
———— Site observation
——— Masterplan Task Force – goal setting
Staff Meeting - listening & idea generation
———— Public Survey (open January - March 2023)
——— Upper Roxborough Civic Association February Meeting
Interviews & Small-Groups with key stakeholders
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT March 2023 - May 2023
——— Masterplan Task Force – charrette
——— Follow-up discussions with project advocates
——— Masterplan Task Force meeting – draft strategies review
——— Naturepalooza Draft Site Strategies - Public Open House
——— Masterplan Task Force meeting – prioritization
——— Upper Roxborough Civic Association May Meeting
PLAN DEVELOPMENT May 2023 - August 2023
Staff Meeting
——— Masterplan Task Force meeting
——— Draft Plan Review: Masterplan Task Force and Trustee
——— Upper Roxborough Civic Association Preview
FINAL PLAN August 2023

Engagement Takeaways

The outreach and engagement strategy for this plan was guided by the master plan task force which included members of Center staff and the Board of Trustees. It included oneon-one interviews with stakeholders and staff, an online survey that invited public feedback, and a public event. This process highlighted how people use the Center, how they want to use the Center, and how the design of the Center could better serve their needs. The recommendations that are contained in this document are based on the needs and concerns expressed during this process.

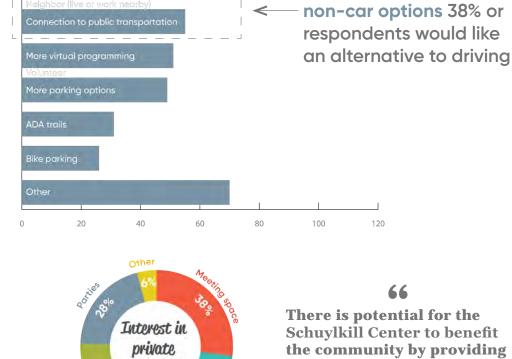


How could the Schuylkill Center be easier to access?

a meeting space.

- Survey, 19096

share your thoughts and win a native plant! Survey Link: tinyurl.com/ SCEESurvey The Schuylkill Center wants to hear from you as they plan for their future. Fill out the survey to contribute to an updated master plan.



events

Soria to enon

Better access to the grounds during off hours



THE ABILITY TO STEWARD THE LAND INTO THE FUTURE SHOULD BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ALL PLANS

Most visitors come to the Center to experience nature and wildlife Managing invasive species require constant management Climate adaptation and succession planning is critical

More energy and resources should be focused towards conservation and good stewardship.

- Survey, 19143

THERE ARE BOTH OVERUSED AND UNDERUSED ASSETS

It's a challenge to expand programming or host multiple groups at the same time Create more immersive educational opportunities at sites not frequently used There are erosion challenges near the outdoor classrooms There needs to be better setup for multiple groups to use the space at once, and pavilion space to use for shelter or home base.

- Staff meeting

ACCESS TO THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER IS A CHALLENGE

Accessible trails with frequent tables, benches, and resting places will make it easier for people with physical limitations to visit

The Center is difficult to access without a car

The entrance could be more inviting

I wish there were more activities that take older folks limitations into consideration.

- Survey, 19128

NATURE PLAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ART MAKE THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER UNIQUE

Increase opportunities for nature play
Provide a variety of experiences to attract a diversity of visitors
Increase awareness of what the Center is doing

Would love to see more play and art opportunities throughout.

- Survey, 19147

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY ARE IMPORTANT

More opportunities along the edge There are opportunities for partnership There are opportunities to be more of a public resource I'd LOVE to have a trail around the perimeter. Something that allows visitors to see the space but not necessarily be IN it."

- Survey, 19128

99



Masterplan Goals

- 1 ENSURE THE ABILITY TO STEWARD THE LAND INTO THE FUTURE
- INCREASE USABLE PROGRAMMABLE SPACES
- IMPROVE VISIBILITY OF AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THE CENTER
- BE A DESTINATION FOR NATURE PLAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ART
- STRENGTHEN CONNECTION TO **NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS**







IMPROVE PUBLIC **FACING EDGES** CATHEDRAL VILLAGE IMPROVE VEHICLE ENTRANCE EDGE CAMPUS BASEBALL FIELDS IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN **ENTRANCE** UPPER **EVA STREET ROXBOROUGH RESERVOIR**

Key Moves

The site strategies highlighted in this masterplan stem directly from the feedback gained via public surveys, meetings and input from The Schuylkill Center's staff and Board. The following 4 key moves provide the framework for improvements that meet the masterplan goals.

- 1. CONNECTION AND ACCESSIBILITY: Expand the ADA compliant Widener Trail to become the backbone of the Center, connecting the visitor center all the way to the corner of Hagys Mill Rd and Port Royal Ave. Improve clarity of loop trails to various destinations. Connect to the Boy Scout Tract and develop a trail network there
- **2. EDGES AND ENTRIES:** Improve edges and entries to foster connections to the neighborhood, adjacent partners, and assets.
- **3. EDGE CAMPUS:** Develop an Edge Campus that capitalizes on the already existing natural and historic amenities. The Edge Campus will broaden the Schuylkill Center's community interface, providing easily accessible destinations, and points of entry.
- 4. CORE CAMPUS: Strengthen the Core Campus by improving traffic flow, increasing legibility and variety of spaces around the Visitor Center, and improving accessibility.



CATHEDRAL VILLAGE **HAGYS TRAIL** CATHEDRAL **OUNDERS** VILLAGE GROVE CONNECTOR BIRD BLINE MEADOW PINE GROVE **WIDENER TRAIL** BASEBALL **FIELDS BROLO FARM** IIPPFR ROXBOROUGH RESERVOIR

Connection and Accessibility

The trails are one of the most loved aspects of the Schuylkill Center, however there is room for improvement to increase accessibility, connect to points of interest, and strengthen relationships with neighbors.

WIDENER TRAIL

The existing Widener Trail is the only wheelchair accessible path at the Schuylkill Center and it leads from the Visitor Center and dead ends at the Bird Blind. Extending Widener Trail as a paved, handicap accessible path will open up more of the Schuylkill Center to people with limited mobility. This path would run from the existing pedestrian entrance at the corner of Hagys Mill Road and Port Royal Ave all the to the Visitor Center, inviting visitors of all kinds to walk in and explore the Center.

HAGYS TRAIL

Portions of this path already exist and are used for maintenance access, however, the path that runs along Hagys Mill road is rarely used by visitors because it does not connect to any points of interest or to any exterior neighbors that may want use it. An improved Hagys Trail can provide a way for both Lankenau High School and residents of Cathedral Village to access the Schuylkill Center Trail system. This path would also provide a safe route to Lankenau students who are connecting to the bus stops at Ridge and Port Royal Avenues.

LANKENAU TRAIL

Students at Lankenau High School participate in internship programs at the Schuylkill Center and they use an informal trail that runs from the High School to the Visitor Center. This trail should be formalized and more clearly marked to make it easier for access the Center.

CATHEDRAL VILLAGE CONNECTOR

The Cathedral Village housing development is directly next to the Schuylkill Center, but there is no way for residents to access the center on foot. There is an existing Philadelphia Water Department easement that can be used as a way to develop a new path that connects directly to the Hagys Trail and to the rest of the trail network.

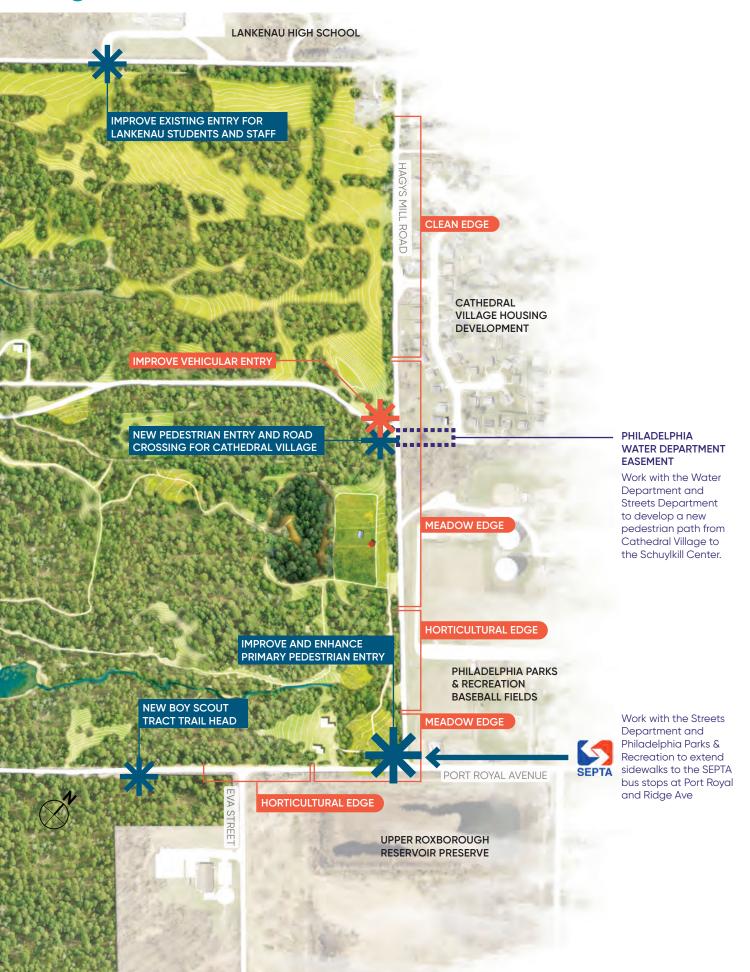
CLARIFIED LOOP TRAILS

A signage package for the Schuylkill Center has already been developed that would help to provide guidance to visitors. Some paths should be modified to create more loops that access similar destinations like a "play loop".

BOY SCOUT TRACT TRAIL CONNECTOR

New trails should be developed in the Boy Scout Tract in the future. Brolo Farm can be the site of the trail head for a connector trail to access this new trail network.

Edges and Entries



Clean Edge

- remove only invasive tree species
- remove understory along the road and maintain a wide mown strip

maintenance level



initial investment



Meadow Edge

- remove all existing trees and shrubs within six feet of the road and maintain a narrow mown strip
- remove all invasive species
- Maintain a wide meadow strip

maintenance level



initial investment



Horticultural Edge

- remove all existing trees and shrubs within six feet of the road and maintain a narrow mown strip
- remove all invasive species
- add new native flowering trees and shrubs

maintenance level



initial investment











RAIN GARDEN DESTINATION

Remove invasive plants and add native flowering plants to create a demonstration rain garden with a loop path and observation deck.



CATHEDRAL VILLAGE CROSSING

Add traffic calming and a new pedestrian crosswalk to create a connection between Schuylkill Center trails and sidewalks in the Cathedral Village housing development.

FUTURE PINE GROVE

Plant species of Pine that are likely to be adapted to climate change in this area and in the existing Pine Grove.

ART/PLAY FEATURES

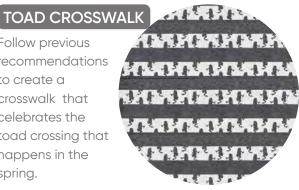
Create destinations for play and environmental art along the Widener Trail extension and in the meadow adjacent to the Pine Grove.



FOOD FOREST

Restore this section of degraded forest by removing invasive plants and adding plant species that are edible as a place to teach about foraging.

Follow previous recommendations to create a crosswalk that celebrates the toad crossing that happens in the spring.



Edge Campus

The plan for the Edge Campus organizes existing and proposed points of interest to create a destination for visitors that is welcoming and accessible. Features such as the Pine Grove are already well loved by visitors and students, but they are hard to access from the

Visitor Center. This plan includes a new vehicular entry at Brolo Farm that provides more access gives this historic site new life and purpose. New features build on what is already there and capitalizes on the strengths of the Schuylkill Center. The former urban farm site is re-imagined as a meadow

place for nature play and canvas for environmental art. The Pine Grove is expanded with climate adapted Pine species. A new food forest offers opportunities to learn about foraging. An existing stormwater basin is restored as a demonstration rain aarden.

BROLO FARM

Brolo Farm is an 19th century farmstead that includes a farm house and barn. The farmstead has been the subject of interest for previous master planning efforts, however the site remains unused and has been to far from the main hub of activity at the Visitor Center to warrant significant investment. The plan for

the Edge Campus imagines Brolo Farm as the public entrance to access the improved and new destinations at the southeastern portion of the property. A new gravel entry drive and parking lot for 25 cars replaces the "after hours" parking lot on Hagys Mill Road. This creates a much safer and more functional vehicular entry. The Brolo Farm site is strategically located as a place of connection to the Upper Roxborough Reservoir, new trails at the Boy Scout Tract, and the extended accessible Widener Trail. The historic farmstead has potential to be its own destination for hosting educational programs or as a place for passive recreation and nature play. The historic structures are re-purposed to provide additional amenities and



Brolo Farm Structures



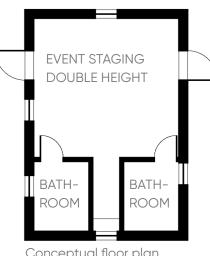


THE FARM HOUSE

BARN PAVILION

FARM HOUSE

The existing farmhouse structure can be stabilized and re-purposed to accommodate restrooms, program support and storage space to make programming at the Edge Campus viable independent of the infrastructure support currently available closer to the existing Center. This use will preserve the historic character of the farmhouse with minimal exterior modifications.



Conceptual floor plan of Farm House

THE BARN PAVILION

The barn can be re-purposed as a partial ruin and open pavilion using the foundation and parts of the masonry walls to define the space and preserve the existing historic footprint of the farm. A new overhead structure will replicate the existing roof line to provide shelter.

Core Campus

Recommendations for the Core Campus build on the strengths of previous master planning efforts while incorporating feedback from staff about how the space is used and maintained. This plan seeks to formalize informal functions and expand the capacity of the grounds to support existing and future programming. A centrally located activity lawn and education plaza provides a more welcoming arrival sequence with a variety of parking and drop off locations for more efficient and less intrusive vehicular



traffic while creating a stronger connection to the accessible Widener trail. Redirecting the driveway around the existing Fire Pond creates a more cohesive and functional core Campus.



- PRESCHOOL ENTRY PLAZA formalized entry point for access to outdoor classrooms and nature play area from the main parking lot
- **NEW PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM**
- **OBSERVATION DECK** educational opportunity for hands on investigation of fire pond
- **ACTIVITY LAWN** a level multi-purpose clearing for games, gathering, and educational programming at the center of the public core
- **EDUCATION DROP OFF AND BUS LAY-BY** a vehicular loop in advance of the main parking lot creates a dedicated drop-off location for buses, ride share vehicles, and camps
- **EDUCATION PLAZA** multi-purpose paved area to accommodate drop-offs and other programming
- **EDUCATION PAVILION** covered space sufficient to hold ~45 students
- PICNIC GROVE additional formalized picnic area for groups, camps, or other gatherings

View of arrival at core campus looking toward activity lawn and pavilion





Weil House

The office space needs for the current Schuylkill Center staff are not being met with the existing center. While updates to the existing building will be part of a future study, they can be met in the short term with the Weil House structure which is currently being stabilized.

The master planning task force and design team explored other options that ranged from staff housing to rent-able office space for allied organizations or small businesses, which remain viable options that could be further explored in the future. The masterplan recommendation is to convert to office space which would serve the immediate space needs and would require minimal investment.

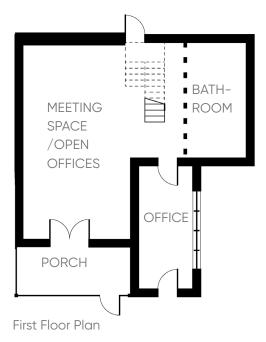


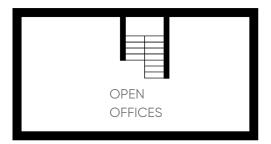
Front view of Weil House



Rear view of Weil House

CONCEPTUAL FLOOR PLANS





Second Floor Plan



CONNECTING WEIL HOUSE

The connection between the main offices at the Visitor Center and the new offices at Weil House can be connected with a new trail that meets the Widener Trail.

Common Elements Style Guide

SITE FURNITURE

The outdoor furniture at the Schuylkill Center should be a bridge between the Visitor Center's mid-century, clean line aesthetic, the historic buildings scattered on-site, and also the Center's immersion in and care for the natural world. Primarily made of sustainability harvested wood, benches and chairs should evoke a subtly modern yet classic look.



ADIRONDACK CHAIRS

Use: communal spaces at the Core and Edge Campuses, and other important gathering spaces and focal points scattered across the campus.



BENCH 1

Use: Gathering spaces and other important focal points such as scenic overlooks, and along trails.





Use: Nature Preschool play and gathering areas, and other focal points for environmental education.

Picnic tables serve many purposes at the Schuylkill Center. Heavily used by the Nature Preschool, the tables are also important for hosting outside school groups during the week. Increasing the number of defined picnic areas, as well the number of picnic tables will not only help Schuylkill's educational programs needs, but also graciously accommodate other visitors looking to gather and rest in a beautiful natural setting. Likewise, incorporating movable tables and chairs will also provide the Center and their visitors the opportunity to occupy various spaces comfortably, whether to seek shade or sun, gather as a group, or sit alone with work or a book. These movable pieces provide a pop of color in the landscape, and reflect the Schuylkill Center's official colors.



PICNIC TABLES

Use: at all picnic groves, at the Education Pavilion, and within each nature preschool classroom.



MOVABLE TABLES

Use: at entry plazas and other flexible spaces where people congregate. Can be brought out for special events.



MOVABLE CHAIRS

Use: at entry plazas and other flexible spaces where people congregate. Can be brought out for special events.

PAVING

The paving materials palette has already been partially established in recent renovations of the Schuylkill River Trail entrance and the Visitor Center entrance. Formally codifying and augmenting these material choices, and using them for future improvements and projects will help to create a cohesive visual language and strengthen the Center's identity.



EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE Use: paving at entry plazas, formal outdoor spaces.



CHIP SEAL ASPHALT Use: paving on all ADA accessible paths.



Use: paving on driveways and in parking areas



Use: accent paving on entry plazas and/or at other gathering spaces.



Use: as seating, play elements and vehicular deterrents



Use: as visual accents in exposed aggregate concrete plazas, and as pavers in other less formal gathering spaces. Thick slabs should be used as stair treads to echo the pedestrian entrance at the Schuylkill River Trail.

SCREENS AND FENCES

Employing a common vocabulary for screening and fencing will effectively convey to staff, student and visitors which spaces are open to exploration and which spaces are reserved for certain groups or uses. By using natural materials already found in the landscape, these elements can blend in, while still being recognizable, and often artful.







WATTLE WALLS

Use: for screening utilities, creating no-access zones, partitioning classrooms and other outdoor education spaces, or possibly as deer fencing.

Use: to delineate Nature Preschool zones and other protected areas.

LIGHTING

The Schuylkill Center should use lighting judiciously and strategically to make sure the Center is safe and inviting at night for special events, while also remaining DarkSky approved to minimize light pollution. Catenary lighting can be used to create zones of activity with minimal intrusion in the landscape. Pedestrian-scale light poles can be installed at prominent locations such as entrances, around buildings and parking areas.





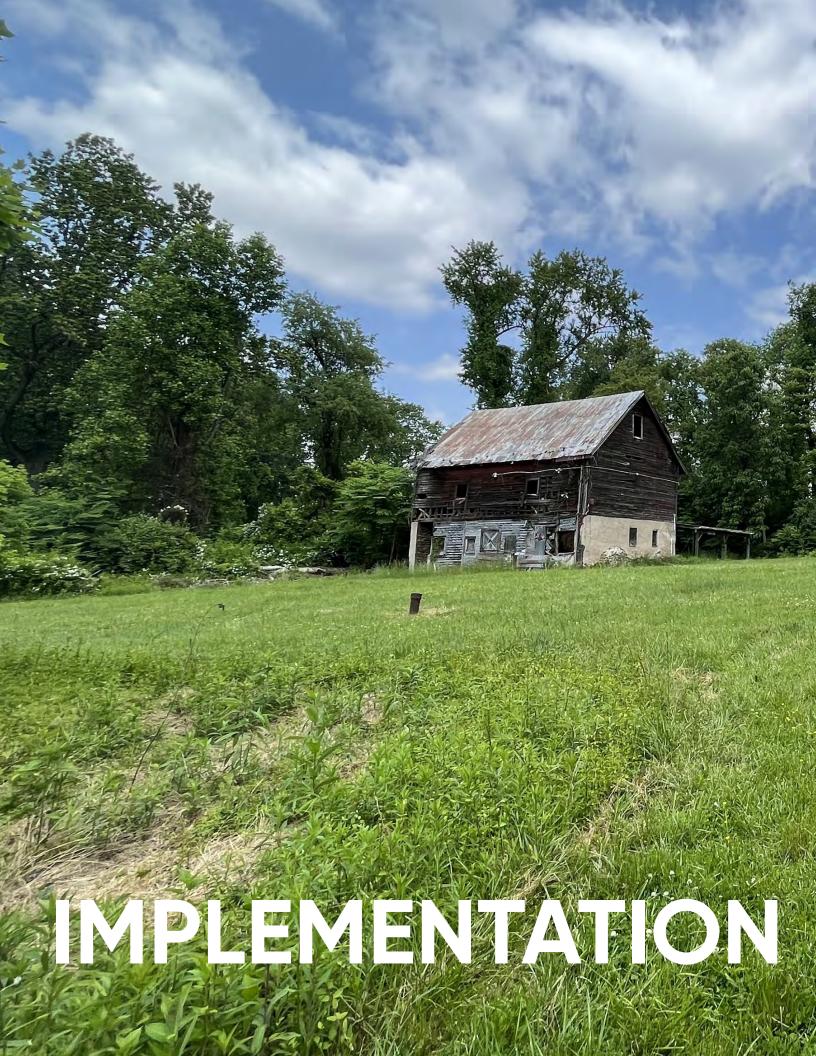


CATENARY LIGHTS

Use: for gathering areas and special event spaces.

POLE LIGHTING

Use: for high traffic zones and safety.





Cost Estimate

The following is an opinion probable costs for the construction of each of the elements in this masterplan that represent capital improvements. It must noted that these costs do not represent maintenance or operational costs that would be associated with these improvements. Assumed maintenance tasks are provided in the "Maintenance Assumptions" section. It is critical that cost associated with maintenance and operations be calculated by Schuylkill Center staff and included in the overall costs of each of the recommendations outlined in the masterplan.

This cost estimate does not include "soft costs" associated with design services. Design services can be estimated at 10% of construction costs for projects with construction costs over \$300,000, and at 20% for projects with construction costs below \$300,000. Not all of the elements of the masterplan will require design services.

The following cost estimate includes 15% markup for general contractor (GC) profit as well as a 10% contingency markup to account for unforeseen circumstances and adjustments.

This cost estimate projects future costs at 5-year intervals assuming an average rate of inflation of 3%.

A.	Connection and Accessibil	Quantity itv	Unit	Unit Cost	GC	al 2023 (incl. C profit and entingency)		otal 2028 add 3% / Year)	(A	tal 2033 dd 3% / Year)	Notes
A.1.	Widener Trail	,									
	Resurface existing pavement Tar and chip pavement	1,024 2,347	SY SY	10 15 subtotal	\$	12,800 44,000 56,800	\$	65,847	\$	76,334	New tar and chip surface on existing aggregate base All new tar and chip path, 8' wide
A.2.	Hagys Trail										
	 Restore existing trail Trail Markers 	1,740 10	LF EA	3 300	•	6,525 3,750					Clearing and minor rerouting As currently installed (not per Cloud Geshan)
	3. New hiking trail	2,400	LF	5	\$	15,000	φ.	20.701	Φ.	77.0/7	Standard hiking trail, 6' wide
A 7	Lankenau Trail			subtotal	\$	25,275	\$ 	29,301	\$	33,967	
A.3.	Formalized hiking trail Trail markers Wood bridge	1,400 10 15	LF EA LF	3 300 700 subtotal	\$ \$	5,250 3,750 13,125 22,125	\$	25,649	\$	29,734	Clearing and minor rerouting As currently installed (not per Cloud Geshan) wood bridge w/ conc abutments @ Meigs Run, 6' wide
A.4.	Clarified Loop Trails				Ė	•		•		•	
	New hiking trail connections Trail markers	800 40	LF EA	5 300 subtotal	\$	5,000 15,000 20,000	\$	23,185	\$	26,878	Standard hiking trail, 6' wide As currently installed (not per Cloud Geshan)
A.5.	Boy Scout Tract Hiking Trails										
	New hiking trails Trail markers	3,500 10	LF EA	5 300 subtotal	\$	21,875 3,750 25,625	\$	29,706	\$	34,438	Standard hiking trail, 6' wide As currently installed (not per Cloud Geshan)
	Connection and	ty Total	\$	149,825	\$	173,688	\$	201,352			

B.	Edges and Entries	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total 2023 (incl. GC profit and contingency)		(A	Total 2028 (Add 3% / Year)		tal 2033 dd 3% / Year)	Notes
B.1.	Cathedral Village Entry										
	1. Crosswalk	1	LS	2,500	\$	3,125					Standard zebra crosswallk
	2. Tar and chip pavement	167	SY	15	\$	3,125					New tar and chip path, 6' wide
	3. Signage trail map	1	LS	3,000	\$	3,750					Cloud Geshan TR-1 Trail map
				subtotal	\$	10,000	\$	11,593	\$	13,439	
B.2.	Lankenau Entry										
	1. Crosswalk	1	LS	2,500	\$	3,125					Standard zebra crosswallk
	2. Tar and chip pavement	167	SY	15	\$	3,125					New tar and chip path, 6' wide
	3. Signage trail map	1	LS	3,000	\$	3,750					Cloud Geshan TR-1 Trail map
	4. Rebuild wood stair	1	LS	2,500	\$	3,125					Wood stair, 10 steps
				subtotal	\$	13,125	\$	15,215	\$	17,639	
B.3.	Hagys and Port Royal Co	orner Entry									
	1. Toad Crosswalk	1	LS	3,000	\$	3,750					Custom thermoplastic crosswalk with toad motif
	2. Signage trail map	1	LS	3,000	\$	3,750					Cloud Geshan TR-1 Trail map
	3. Curb ramp	1	LS	1,250	\$	1,563					Asphalt curb ramp at widener path start
	4. Boulder barriers	2	EA	3,000	\$	7,500					boulders to prevent vehicular access, 1.5-2' dia.
				subtotal	\$	16,563	\$	19,200	\$	22,259	
B.4.	Boy Scout Tract Trail Cor	nnector									
	1. New hiking trail connection	550	LF	12	\$	8,250					Standard hiking trail, 6' wide
	2. Minor earthwork	10	CY	50	\$	625					
	3. Crosswalk	1	LS	2,500	\$	3,125					Standard zebra crosswallk
				subtotal	\$	12,000	\$	13,911	\$	16,127	
B.5.	Edge Improvements - Cl	ean Edge									
	1. Earthwork	42	CY	40	\$	2,103					Create level ground area to facilitate mowing
	2. Tree removal	30	EA	800	\$	30,000					Remove tree and grind stump
	3. Invasive plant removal	0.31	Acre	5,000	\$	1,921					Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	4. Turf grass seed	1,488	SY	2	\$	2,789					Prep soil, hydroseed turf grass
		subtotal					\$	42,677	\$	49,474	
B.6.	Edge Improvements - Me	eadow Edge									
	1. Earthwork	83	CY	40	\$	4,138					Create level ground area to facilitate mowing
	2. Tree removal	37	EA	800	\$	36,900					Remove tree and grind stump
	3. Invasive plant removal	0.35	Acre	5,000	\$	2,157					Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	4. Meadow seed	1,671	SY	5	•	10,442					Prep soil, drill seeder, straw cover
				subtotal	\$	53,637					
B.7.	Edge Improvements - Ho										
	1. Tree removal	30	EA	800		30,000					Remove tree and grind stump
	2. Invasive plant removal	0.28	Acre	-		1,722					Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	3. New shrubs and perennials	1,200	SF	25		37,500					Container shrubs and perennials
	4. New trees	120	EA	600		90,000					2" cal. understory trees flowering trees
					\$	6,250					Plastic protection preimter fence
				subtotal	\$	165,472	\$	191,827	\$ 2	222,380	
	E	dges and E	ntrie	es Total	\$	307,609	\$ 3	356,604	\$	413,401	

		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total 2023 (in GC profit an contingency		otal 2028 add 3% / Year)			Notes
C.	Edge Campus						,		,	
C.2.	Art and Play Features									
	1. Nature play element	3	EA	6,000	\$	22,500				Stacked boulders or logs with wood chip base
	2. Art installation	5	EA	7,000	\$	43,750				Average art installation cost
				subtotal	\$	66,250	\$ 76,802	\$	89,034	
C.3.	Food Forest								·	
	1. Remove invasives	1.90	Acre	5,000	\$	11,866				Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	2. Tree saplings	52	EA	400	\$	25,845				2" cal trees with tree protection stakes and fencing
	3. Permanent deer fence	1,130	LF	40	\$	56,500				Wood post and welded wire mesh and 2 gates
	4. Sigange - interpretive	2	EA	2,000	\$	5,000				Cloud Geshan - interpretive sign
	5. Signage - gate	2	EA	75	\$	188				Cloud Geshan RG1 - small regulatory sign
				subtotal	\$	99,399	\$ 115,231	\$	133,584	
C.4.	Future Pine Grove									
	1. Remove invasives	0.53	Acre	5,000	\$	3,300				Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	2. 10-12' trees	15	EA	300	\$	5,625				Tree sapplings and deer protection per tree
				subtotal	\$	8,925	\$ 10,347	\$	11,995	
C.5.	Rain Garden Destination									
	1. Remove invasives	1.18	Acre	5,000	\$	7,356				Remove invasize shrubs and herbaceous plants
	2. New shrubs and perennials	30,000	SF	8	\$	300,000				Container shrubs and perennials
	3. Path - woodchips	487	SY	5	\$	3,042				6' wide wood chip path
	4. Observation deck	150	SF	125	\$	23,438				Wood deck and railing 15'x10'
				subtotal	\$	333,835				
	·	Edge Co	ımpı	ıs Total	\$	508,409	\$ 589,386	\$ 6	583,260	•

		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	G	al 2023 (incl. C profit and ontingency)	(Ad	tal 2028 dd 3% / Year)	Total 2033 (Add 3% / Year)	Notes
D. C.1.	Brolo Farm Brolo Farm Landscape Impro	avomont.	· C							
C. I.	Earthwork	312	.s CY	20	¢	7,811				Grading for driveway, Parking, paths and lawn
	Tar and chip pavement	544	SY	15	\$	10,202				Accessible pathways not including Widener path
	3. Gravel pavement	1.529	SY	8	\$	14,330				Driveway and parking lot
	4. Precast conc. wheelstops	26	EA	800		26,000				At gravel parking lot
	5. Picnic tables	5	EA	500	-	3,125				The graves parking let
	6. Trash Receptacles	4	EA	250	•	1,250				
	7. Boulder barriers	6	EA	3,000		22,500				Boulders to prevent vehicular access, 1.5-2' dia.
	8. Boulder scramble	1	LS	8,000	\$	10,000				2 sets of stacked boulders of 2'-3' in diameter
	9. Meadow seed	2,700	SY	5	\$	16,876				Prep soil, drill seeder, straw cover
	# Turf grass seed	621	SF	2	\$	1,164				Prep soil, hydroseed turf grass
				subtotal	\$	113,259	\$	131,298	\$ 152,211	
D.1.	Farm House				\$	171,844				
	1. Demolition	1	LS	10,000	\$	12,500				
	2. New roofing	700	SF	18	\$	15,750				
	3. Exterior restoration	1	LS	15,000	\$	18,750				
	4. New windows	14	EA	750	\$	13,125				
	5. New doors	2	EΑ	2,250	\$	5,625				
	6. Interior walls, doors & finishes	1	LS	12,500	\$	15,625				
	7. Bathrooms	2	EA	7,500	\$	18,750				
	8. HVAC system	1	LS	11,250	\$	14,063				
	9. Electric service / Power & lighting	1	LS	21,125	\$	26,406				
	# Security system / Initial install	1	LS	5,000	\$	6,250				
	11. New septic system	1	LS	20,000	\$	25,000				
_				subtotal		171,844	\$	199,214	\$ 230,944	
D.2.	Barn Pavilion				\$	148,125				
	1. Demolition	1	LS	5,000		6,250				
	2. Framing	1	LS	50,000		62,500				
	3. Canopy / roof	1,300	SF	25		40,625				
	4. Masonry	1	LS	14,500		18,125				Reconstruct walls and pointing
	5. Security system / Initial install	1	LS	2,500		3,125				
	6. Electric Service / Power & Lightir	1	LS	14,000		17,500		474	A 100 0 / -	
	subtotal				•	148,125	\$	171,717	\$ 199,068	
		Brolo Farm Total				433,228	\$ 5	502,230	\$ 582,222	

E.	Core Campus	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	GC	al 2023 (incl. C profit and intingency)	Total 2028 (Add 3% / Year)	otal 2033 Add 3% / Year)	Notes
E.1.	Driveway and Parking								
	Demo existing drive	641	SY	2.50	\$	2,003			
	New gravel drive	726	SY	7.50		6,810			
	3. Wheel stops	60	EA	125		9,375			
				subtotal	•	18,189	\$ 21,086	\$ 24,444	
E.2.	Fire Pond					·			
	1. Demo existing solar array	1	LS	9,000	\$	11,250			
	2. New liner / pond restoration	8,200	SF	25	\$	256,250			includes draining, dredging, and new HDPE liner
	3. New meadow planting	1,333	SY	5	\$	8,333			
	4. Observation deck	260	SF	125	\$	40,625			
				subtotal	\$	316,458	\$ 366,862	\$ 425,294	
E.3.	Pedestrian Paving								
	1. Tar and chip paving	1,889	SY	15	\$	35,417			Includes preschool entry plaza and playspace path
	2. Wood chip paths	1,000	SY	5	\$	6,250			
	3. Cobble curbs	480	LF	20	\$	12,000			Inlcudes flush curbs and 6" curbs
	4. Wood chips at classrooms	1,889	SY	5	\$	11,806			
				subtotal	\$	65,472	\$ 75,900	\$ 87,989	
E.4.	Pavilion								
	1. Framing	1	LS	45,000	\$	56,250			
	2. Canopy	1,100	SF	25	\$	34,375			
				subtotal	\$	90,625	\$ 105,059	\$ 121,792	
E.5.	Fences and screens								
	1. Loading dock screen and gate	70	LF	45	\$	3,938			wood posts with wattle branch screen
	2. Split rail fence at classrooms	610	LF	5	\$	3,813			
	3. Wattle screens for mech. units	410	LF	15	\$	7,688			
				subtotal	\$	15,438	\$ 17,896	\$ 20,747	
E.6.	Site Furniture and Lighting								
	1. Picnic tables	16	EA	500	\$	10,000			
	2. Adirondack chairs	6	EA	200	\$	1,500			
	3. Pedestrian light posts	8	EA	1,500	\$	15,000			12' lamp posts
				subtotal	\$	26,500	\$ 30,721	\$ 35,614	
E.7.	Misc. Landscaping								
	1. Demo existing blacktop	478	SY		\$	1,493			
	2. New meadow at building	1,222	SY	5	\$	7,639			
	3. New boulders	12	EA	600	\$	9,000			3'-6' diameter boulders
	4. Lawn (sod)	778	SY	4	\$	3,403			Lawn installed as sod
				subtotal	\$	21,535	\$ 24,965	\$ 28,941	<u>-</u>
		Core Co	ımpı	us Total	\$	554,217	\$ 642,489	\$ 744,821	

		0	11-14	Unit	Total 2023 (inc				Mata
		Quantity	Unit	Cost		C profit and ontingency)	(Add 3% / Year)	(Add 3% / Year)	Notes
F.	Weil House								
F.1.	Farm House								
	1. Demolition	1	LS	10,000	\$	12,500			
	2. New roofing	1,300	SF	18	\$	29,250			
	3. Exterior restoration	1	LS	15,000	\$	18,750			
	4. New windows	15	EA	750	\$	14,063			
	5. New doors	2	EA	2,250	\$	5,625			
	6. Interior walls, doors & finishes	1	LS	22,500	\$	28,125			
	7. Bathrooms	1	EA	7,500	\$	9,375			
	8. HVAC system	1	LS	18,750	\$	23,438			
	9. Electric Service / Power & Lightin	· 1	LS	30,000	\$	37,500			
	# Security system / Initial install	1	LS	5,000	\$	6,250			
	11. Septic System	1	LS	15,000	\$	18,750			
				subtotal	\$	203,625	\$ 236,057	\$ 273,655	
F.2.	Landscaping								
	1. Repair gravel drive	1,111	SY	5	\$	6,944			
	2. Connector path to Center	444	SY	5	\$	2,775			wood chip path 6' wide
				subtotal	\$	9,719	\$ 11,267	\$ 13,062	_
		Weil I	Hous	e Total	\$	213,344	\$ 247,325	\$ 286,717	-

Maintenance Assumptions

The following is a list of the assumed tasks that represent the increase in maintenance associated with each of the recommended improvements described in this masterplan. This is not a complete or exhaustive list, however this can be used as a starting point for identifying the true costs of each element. A complete maintenance cost for each project should be determined by maintenance and operations staff at the Schuylkill Center and included in the total cost of each improvement.

Maintenance tasks are divided into "recurring" and "life cycle" tasks. Recurring costs refer to activities that would occur on a regular basis. This could be as frequently as daily, or as infrequent as annually. Life cycle tasks are activities that would need to occur at some point in the future as needed but are not anticipated to occur with any regularity.

A. Connection and Accessibility

A.1. Widener Trail

Recurring Tasks

Leaf blowing

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair bridges

Pavement repairs

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

A.2. Hagys Trail

Recurring Tasks

Mow grass sections

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

A.3. Lankenau Trail

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair bridges

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

A.4 Clarified Loop Trails

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

A.5. Boy Scout Tract Hiking Trails

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

B. Edges and Entries

B.1. Cathedral Village Entry

Recurring Tasks

Leaf blowing

Remove debris

Life cycle maintenance

Pavement repairs

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

B.2. Lankenau Entry

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for entry clearing / visibility

Life cycle maintenance

Repair stairs

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

B.3. Hagys and Port Royal Corner Entry

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for entry clearing / visibility

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

B 4 Boy Scout Tract Trail Connector

Recurring Tasks

Remove debris

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace trail markers and signs

B.5. Edge Improvements - Clean Edge

Recurring Tasks

Mow grass sections

Remove debris

Remove emergent invasives

B.6. Edge Improvements - Meadow Edge

Recurring Tasks

Mow grass sections

Mow meadow sections

Remove debris

Remove emergent invasives

B.7. Edge Improvements - Horticultural Edge

Recurring Tasks

Mow grass sections

Remove emergent invasives

C. Edge Campus

Recurring Tasks

Mow around elements

Remove debris

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace elements

C.3 Food Forest

Recurring Tasks

Remove invasives

Check on deer protection

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace sections of deer exclosure

Repair / replace markers and signs

C.4 Future Pine Grove

Recurring Tasks

Remove invasives

Mow surrounding meadow

C.5 Rain Garden Destination

Recurring Tasks

Remove invasives

Remove debris on paths

Pruning for path clearing

Life cycle maintenance

Repair observation deck

D. Brolo Farm

C.1. Brolo Farm Landscape Improvements

Recurring Tasks

Empty trash cans / trash pickup

Mow grass sections

Mow meadow sections

Remove debris on paths

Replenish gravel on drives and parking

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace picnic tables

Repair / replace lighting

D.1. Farm House

Recurring Tasks

Empty trash cans / trash pickup

Service bathrooms

General building cleaning

Service HVAC systems

Service septic system

Life cycle maintenance

General repairs / address vandalism

E. Core Campus

Driveway and Parking

Recurring Tasks

Replenish gravel on drives and parking

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace wheelstops

E.2. Fire Pond

Recurring Tasks

Mow meadow sections

Remove aquatic invasives

Service aeration equipment

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace wheelstops

Repair / replace liner

Repair observation deck

E.3. Pedestrian Paving

Recurring Tasks

Replenish wood chips

Life cycle maintenance

Repair paving

E.4. Pavilion

Life cycle maintenance

General repairs / address vandalism

E.5. Fences and screens

Life cycle maintenance

General repairs / address vandalism

E.6. Site Furniture and Lighting

Life cycle maintenance

General repairs / address vandalism

E.7. Misc. Landscaping

Recurring Tasks

Mow grass sections

Mow meadow sections

Life cycle maintenance

Repair paving

Weil House

Recurring Tasks

Empty trash cans / trash pickup

Service bathrooms

General building cleaning

Service HVAC systems

Service septic system

Life cycle maintenance

General repairs / address vandalism

F.2. Landscaping

Recurring Tasks

Replenish wood chips

Replenish gravel on drives and parking

Life cycle maintenance

Repair / replace wheelstops

