

Countryside School Project



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Schematic Design | Site Plan Option 2



- Bus drop off lane located along Dedham St. North
- Parent drop off (Blue Zone) located along Dedham St. East
- Staff parking lot located to the west
- Van drop off lane located at staff parking lot
- Softball practice field located as far to the southeast as possible to maximize play area
- Existing school to remain, operating during construction
- Playground and equipment to be accessible (universal design)
- Playground components include half court basketball, wall ball zone, painted asphalt play areas
- Outdoor learning opportunities include raised garden beds, pollinator garden, outdoor classroom

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Schematic Design | Proposed First Floor



The Countryside School project is currently in the feasibility and schematic design phase in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA.

On June 21st, the MSBA Board of Directors voted to recommend the preferred schematic design for the Countryside School Project. What this means is that they have carefully reviewed the project, they agree with and support the work done to date, and that Newton is now authorized to move into [Module 4 – Schematic Design](#).

On July 12th, we gave a presentation to the Design Review Committee and a recording of that meeting can be viewed [here](#).

At this point in the design, we know that the building will be new construction, we know that it will be located on the northeast corner of the site, and the site plan and building floor plans are beginning to get firmed up.

In the coming months we will continue to work through the feasibility design phase with a focus on refining the site plans, floor plans, massing, and stormwater approach to move towards Site Plan Approval which is anticipated to occur in the fall. Simultaneously we will need to work with the Countryside community, neighborhood, and other stakeholders to decide whether we want to keep the Countryside students in the current school while the new school is constructed, or whether we should move them to the swing school at 191 Pearl Street until the new building is complete. The current design allows for the students to stay put if desired, but we will need to work through the construction logistics, parking, and neighborhood impact as we carefully consider this decision.

We've still got a tremendous amount of design work left to do, but you can review all project information, presentations, and materials at countrysideelementaryschoolproject.com.

We anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at countryside@newtonma.gov. The next Countryside School Building Committee and Community meeting is on Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00pm and you can register for the meeting by clicking [here](#).

Lincoln-Eliot School Project



PROPOSED PAINTS



PROPOSED FLOORING



PROPOSED MILLWORK



The view above is what staff, students, and parents will see as they enter the school. The library has become the heart of the school, with great sight lines, ample natural light, and a welcoming feel.



The auditorium is also taking shape. This will be an incredible asset for Lincoln-Eliot and the entire community.



You'll see in the above image that we have been working with the staff, community, building committee, and design review committee to deliver an addition that helps place the emphasis on the

new main entrance, while creating an addition that respects the existing building and the surrounding neighborhood.

The Lincoln-Eliot School project is nearing the end of the final design phase. Our focus over the past few months has been refining the design of the addition and several interior spaces in the existing building and adding details to the interior spaces and the site features. With both the interior and exterior design firmly in place, we are now focused on the intricate design details and specifications which will allow the contractors to make our collective vision become a reality. The project is on track to begin selective demolition in the fall of 2023, and complete construction in the summer of 2025. The following is the project milestone schedule:

**PROJECT SCHEDULE
UPDATE**

2023

July 12	DRC/SBC Meeting
July 13	90% Bid Documents Review
July 27	Comments due from DRC (2 weeks)
Aug. 9 or 16	DRC/SBC Meeting DRC Vote on 90% Bid Documents
Aug. 31	Final Construction/Bid Documents
Sept. 7	Bid Phase
Nov. 2	Award / Start Construction, 18-month duration

2025

May 1	Complete Construction
July/Aug	School Move-in

DRC – Design Review Committee, SBC – School Building Committee

On July 12th, we gave a presentation to the Design Review Committee and a recording of that meeting can be viewed [here](#).

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at lincolneliot@newtonma.gov, or you can check out our project website at lincolneliot-necp-projects.com.

Franklin School Project

New Construction Option Site Plan



The above option is one of dozens, (as seen below), that we are currently studying for the Franklin School Project, but it is the approach that the Franklin School staff near unanimously supported during the visioning session.



In the coming months we will be working with the Franklin community, neighborhood, and stakeholders to evaluate new construction versus addition and renovation.

We've started to hear what stakeholders see as the opportunities and challenges for maintaining a portion of the existing building. While we've got lots more outreach left to do, the below is a running list of what we have heard so far.

Opportunities and Challenges Associated with Maintaining a Portion of the Existing Franklin School

Maintaining the entire existing Franklin School is impractical, would be a detriment to the education program, and would be significantly more expensive than new construction. Furthermore, the modification of the existing building would be so significant that the result would be extremely insensitive to the historic building. However, maintaining a portion of the existing building is viable and has several opportunities and challenges.



The dark brown portion in the above image would be the portion of the existing Franklin School building most viable to be maintained. This includes the primary façade on Derby Street, the pitched roof, and the cupola.

Opportunities:

1. Maintains a portion of the existing historical building.
2. Maintains the curb appeal of a historical building.

3. The classrooms in the portion of the existing building that could be maintained are positioned in a favorable north/south solar orientation.
4. Some of the interior architectural details found in historic buildings would be impractical in a new building.

Challenges:

1. The main floor of the existing building is fourteen feet above grade, requiring ramps, stairs, and lifts at the original entrance to the facility.
2. The renovation/addition is estimated to cost \$10M or more than new construction.
3. The renovation/addition would mean a longer construction schedule, displacing and/or impacting students for a longer period.
4. The renovation/addition requires a larger building site footprint, limiting onsite parking, green space, and other site amenities.
5. Although the program can be met, the renovation/addition approach requires compromises in how we achieve that program from a site, building design, and floorplan perspective.
6. The only viable renovation and addition options save a small portion of the overall existing building. Therefore, the environmental benefits of embodied carbon reduction by saving a portion of the existing building are outweighed by the increased carbon footprint resulting in heating, cooling, and maintaining a larger volume of space.
7. The renovation/addition would prevent the option of keeping the Franklin students in their neighborhood during construction. Students would need to be bused/driven to the swing school at 191 Pearl Street for two years.
8. To maintain the original historical main entrance as the primary entrance, the modifications needed to comply with universally accessible design features would result in a drastically altered façade that would look significantly different than the current building and would be historically insensitive.
9. To maintain the original historical main entrance and façade without major modifications, the primary entrance would need to be shifted to the new construction addition portion of the building. The original historical façade and entry would then be overshadowed by the new construction portion of the building. This approach would also be insensitive to the historic nature of the existing building.

The opportunities and challenges that we've heard for the new construction approach are pretty much the inverse of the above list. If you've got more to add to this list, please let me know.

We've still got more outreach and information to gather before we begin to build consensus on this important decision one way or another, but this decision needs to be made in the coming months so that we can maintain our project schedule and advance the design process. Once this decision is made, we will need to evaluate all the different options whether the decision is new construction or addition and renovation. Another critical decision we will need to make together will be the use of swing space. If the decision is to renovate the current building, then the student will need to move to 191 Pearl Street during construction. If the decision is to build a new school, then one option would be to leave the students in the current Franklin building, build a new school on the fields, move the students into their new school, and then demolish the old school and replicate the fields in its place.

That said, we must approach this one step at a time, but I wanted to make sure everyone knows the decisions we have ahead of us.

A big thank you to the Designer Selection Committee, who helped us select CHA Project Management as our Owner's Project Manager. You can see more about their firm [here](#). CHA is working hard to get up to speed, and they will be generating a formal project website soon.

Our next Franklin School Building Committee and Community meeting will be on Thursday, August 3rd at 6:00pm. You can register in advance for this meeting by clicking [here](#).

Last month the Franklin School staff helped us refine the vision for the Franklin School Project. Their input was wonderful, and it was great to see the care and dedication they have for the students and the future of the Franklin School.



We anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027.

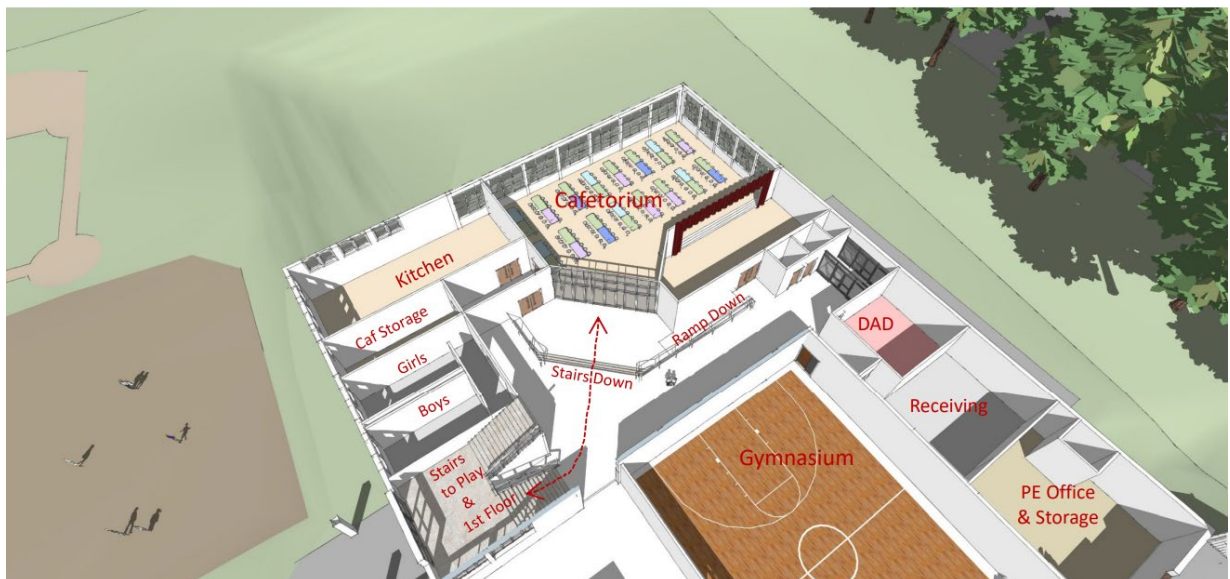
To review the presentation, project information, and materials you can go to our project website [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at franklin@newtonma.gov.

Horace Mann School Project



The above image shows some of the notes from the Horace Mann School staff visioning session.

Ground Floor Cafetorium Lobby



Connection to Cafetorium and Lobby Below



After receiving project funds a few weeks back, the team for the Horace Mann Project is already hard at work. Over the past few weeks we have organized several subconsultants to complete a site survey, test pits and borings to confirm the below ground conditions, and much more. From a design perspective RDA Architects is working to show some options for how we can introduce a full basketball court into the site plan, as this was something that the Horace Mann community requested last fall when we paused the project.

Our next meeting of the Horace Mann School Building Committee and Community will be on Thursday, August 10th at 6:00pm. You can register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

To learn more about this project you check out our website [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at horacemann@newtonma.gov.

Newton Center for Active Living, NewCAL, Project



The Newton Center for Active Living, NewCAL, Project is still going strong. Over the past month we have been hard at work refining the design details and specifications that will help make Newton's collective vision a reality. The work we're doing on the design has not changed what we have presented to the community at all, but rather it's the efforts needed to provide the design details the contractors will need to make it all come together.

While BH+A Architects is working to button up the design, our Owner's Project Manager, NV5, is working with my team to move the process along to prequalify interested contractors. This process

ensures that only high-quality contractors with relevant project experience can bid on the NewCAL Project. Contractors will be bidding on the project over the next 3 weeks.

Work will begin this fall and we'll be reaching out to invite people to the groundbreaking ceremony as we get closer. We are anticipating that the project will be complete in the Fall of 2024. While the work to make the building project is ongoing, we're still working with the Department of Senior Services and the entire project team to review furnishings, color patterns, and technology equipment. We will share updates on these areas as they become available.

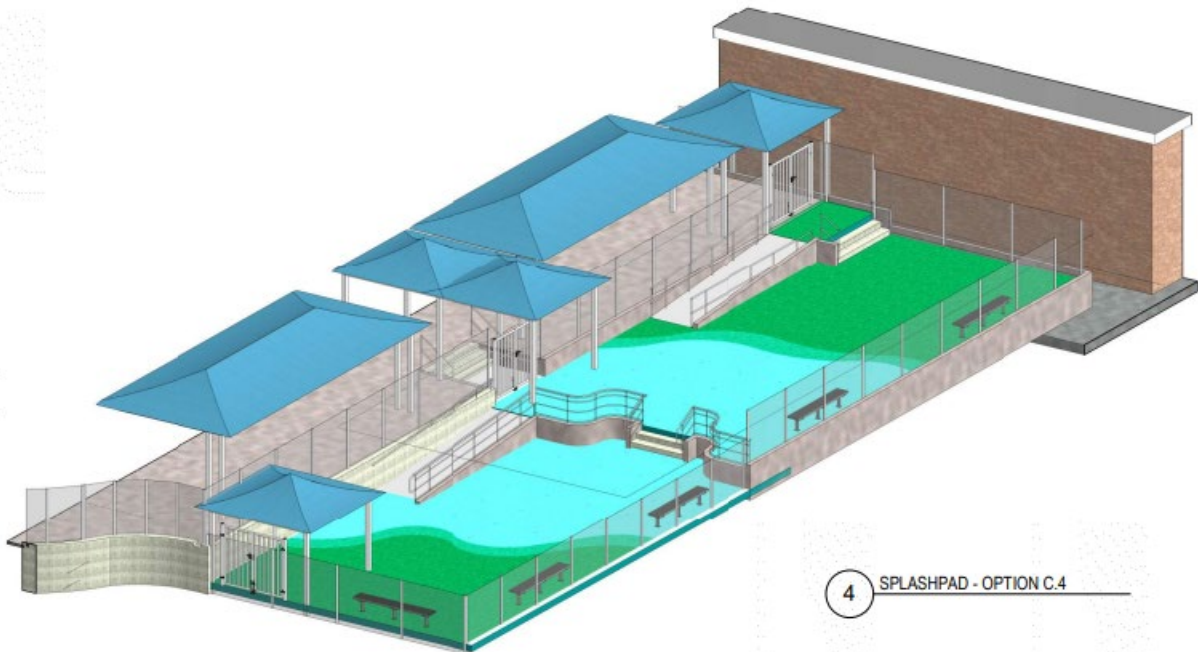
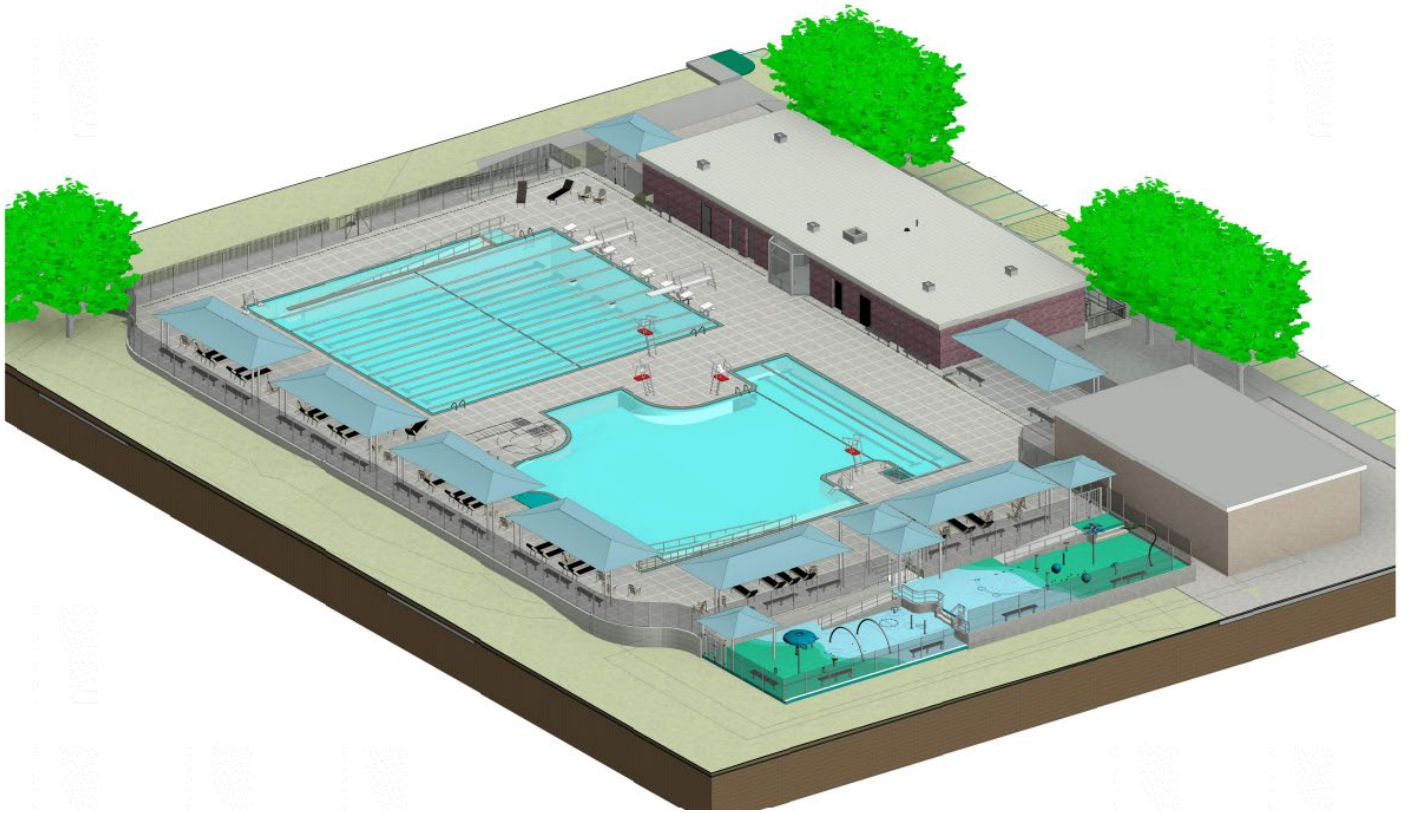
Where we are in the midst of finishing the detailed design and the procurement of contractors, we do not have anything new to present to the community and therefore we will not be having a NewCAL community meeting Thursday evening.

Prior to starting construction, we will have a community meeting to discuss the construction activities, project schedule, impacts, and we'll answer any questions that our residents may have.

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all about the project, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Additional project info, meeting recordings, and presentations can be found at newcal.projects.nv5.com. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at newcal@newtonma.gov.

Gath Pool Project



4 SPLASHPAD - OPTION C.4

The Gath Pool Project is now in the final phase of design. Over the past few months we have been working with our design team from BH+A Architects, the Design Review Committee, Parks, Recreation, and Culture, and Mary Pohlman from the Newton Bluefish as we finalized the design. At this point we are focused on the process of publicly bidding the project to various contractors. Bids are due in August, and our goal is to start selective demolition in September. As soon as the pool

closes, we have plenty of work to do to make the site, pool, and building ready for work, so you may see us coming into Gath just as you're walking out on the last day of the season.

We are slated to complete construction next spring in advance of the 2024 swim season.

The new pool design and all previous project materials can be viewed at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gathpoolproject>.

Members of the Design Review Committee at their March 29th meeting voted unanimously to approve the site plan and schematic design for the project. You can watch the recording from that meeting by clicking [here](#).

The funding for this project is a share between ARPA funds applied by Mayor Fuller, state funds secured by Representative Kahn, and a large amount of funding from the Community Preservation Committee.

Since several residents have asked me, this project does include an ample splash pad which can be seen in the above images. The splash pad will have two areas. One for the little ones, and one for the older children, or children-at-heart. (No judgement!)

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at gathpool@newtonma.gov.

Ward and Underwood School Initiative

In fall 2022, the Newton Public Schools established a task force and contracted with a consultant to address facility, educational, and enrollment challenges at Underwood and Ward elementary schools. As documented by the previous work of a prior task force, both Underwood and Ward occupy buildings that are nearly 100 years old and both schools are experiencing enrollment declines that are impacting the educational experience of students.

Newton Public Schools initiated the Underwood and Ward Facility and Enrollment Study to look at the future of the two schools. Mayor Fuller allocated \$100,000 in ARPA funds to hire consulting firm to work with a task force to identify options to address facility, educational and enrollment challenges. The Public Buildings Department worked with the Designer Selection Committee, DSC, to publicly advertise and solicit proposals from various firms to assist with this initiative. [Perkins Eastman](#) was unanimously recommended by the DSC and subsequently approved by Mayor Fuller.

A task force made up of parents, principals, educators, our consultants, School Committee and City Council members, and staff from the City and Newton Public Schools met several times over the past few months.

To read a recent update on this initiative from Newton Public Schools Superintendent Nolin please click [here](#). To read more about this initiative please click [here](#).

Police Facility Project

Using ARPA funds previously authorized by Mayor Fuller, we have been working on a comprehensive project to improve the physical conditions of Police Headquarters, and the Police Annex and Garage. While we are still very early on in the process, we know that this project will result in a significant improvement in the Police facility infrastructure.

Complementing the ongoing investment of more than \$2M for the replacement of the HVAC system, which will be complete in a few weeks, and information technology and communications upgrades, the Police Facility Project includes but is not limited to upgrades to the following building systems and areas:

- Security
- Accessibility
- Electrical
- Lighting
- Plumbing
- Roof
- Masonry
- Finishes

In addition to the improvements to the building systems, this project will evaluate how best to utilize the spaces throughout the existing buildings. We will be evaluating how best to adjust the buildings and the use of the facilities to optimize the adjacencies and functions of the Newton Police Department.

One major priority of this project will be to create a new appropriately sized dispatch center, with the adjacent support spaces needed to train new dispatchers and to ensure that the Dispatch Division has everything they need to support Newton Police, Newton Fire, and the entire community. Although this is a major project priority, the improvements to the facilities will benefit every member of the Newton Police Department.

This project will also include a training room similar to the one shown below that was recently built for the Medford Police Department.



Our work to date has been focused on evaluating the existing conditions of the building systems in each of the three Police facilities, as well as the development of a program. The program is a document that identifies the space needs for every function in the department both now and in the future. I like to refer to this document as the recipe for the cake we're baking.

In the coming months we will be working with the City Council to bring their voices into the conversation and to schedule our first community meeting to start the conversation on that front as well.