William Penn Charter School Master Plan

Location:	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Client:	William Penn Charter School
Size:	42 acres
Cost:	Non-disclosed
Status:	2014-2015

The campus-wide landscape plan represents a shift in thinking about modern landscapes and reinforces the idea of campus as classroom with myriad active and immersive opportunities for outdoor learning. The plan exemplifies modern land management and is built on the premise that the campus landscape should function like the forests of yesteryear treating rain water as a resource. Enriched landscapes foster the return of wildlife providing cross-disciplinary learning opportunities in styles ranging from formal to informal. The goal is a showcase of our rich, native habitats, interpreted in ways that all can appreciate. The positive effects of robust, healthy ecosystems developed through land management changes will be felt throughout two watersheds. In addition to the aforementioned ecological benefits, the landscape types clarify way-finding and create a hierarchy of spaces that include some very special places for people.

The lower school, one of the first site interventions, offers the slate for immersive play experiences, set within a tapestry of native ecosystems. Nature play is the guide for children grades 4–5: water and sand play, places for running, swinging and climbing and manipulatives like sticks and rocks, logs and boulders allow for new experiences to be created at each visit.



Lower School Rendering

to share.

The landscapes

should be models

for other institutions

Lower School Plan

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Landscape Character Plan

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