

# The George Washington Carver Victory Garden & Farm: Growing Hope & Reclaiming Our Community

Columbus, Georgia



Presentation for City Council  
March 2021

**By Ronzell Buckner & Dr. Irene Shaver**



**REALM** | Ed Hoffman

# **TURN AROUND COLUMBUS**

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“empowering and inspiring youth with hope, opportunities, and the tools to succeed through community based education.”

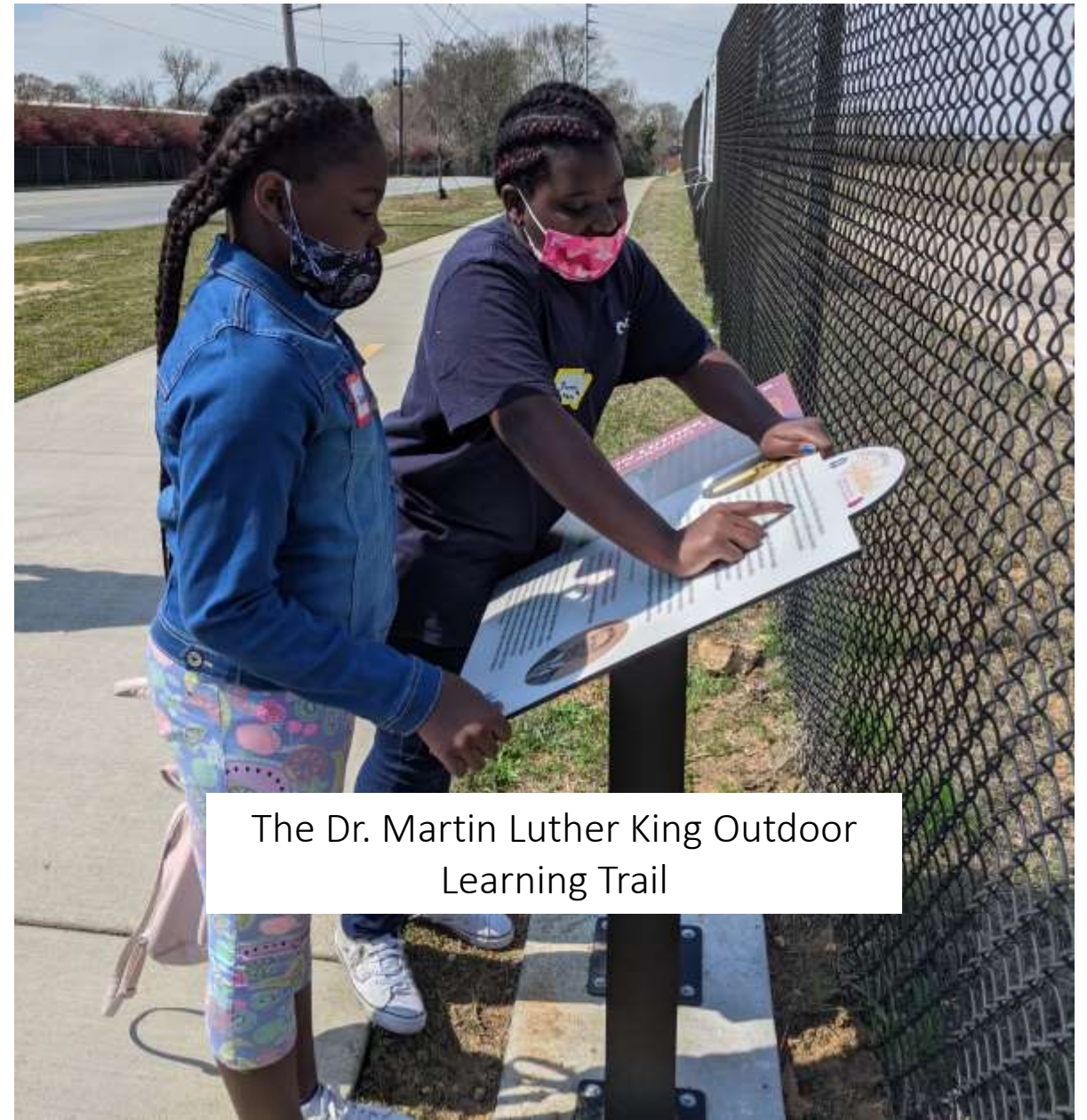
# Our Legacy: Taking Back Neighborhoods



Community Drug fighters: Charlie Mae Banks & Zelma Hennessey

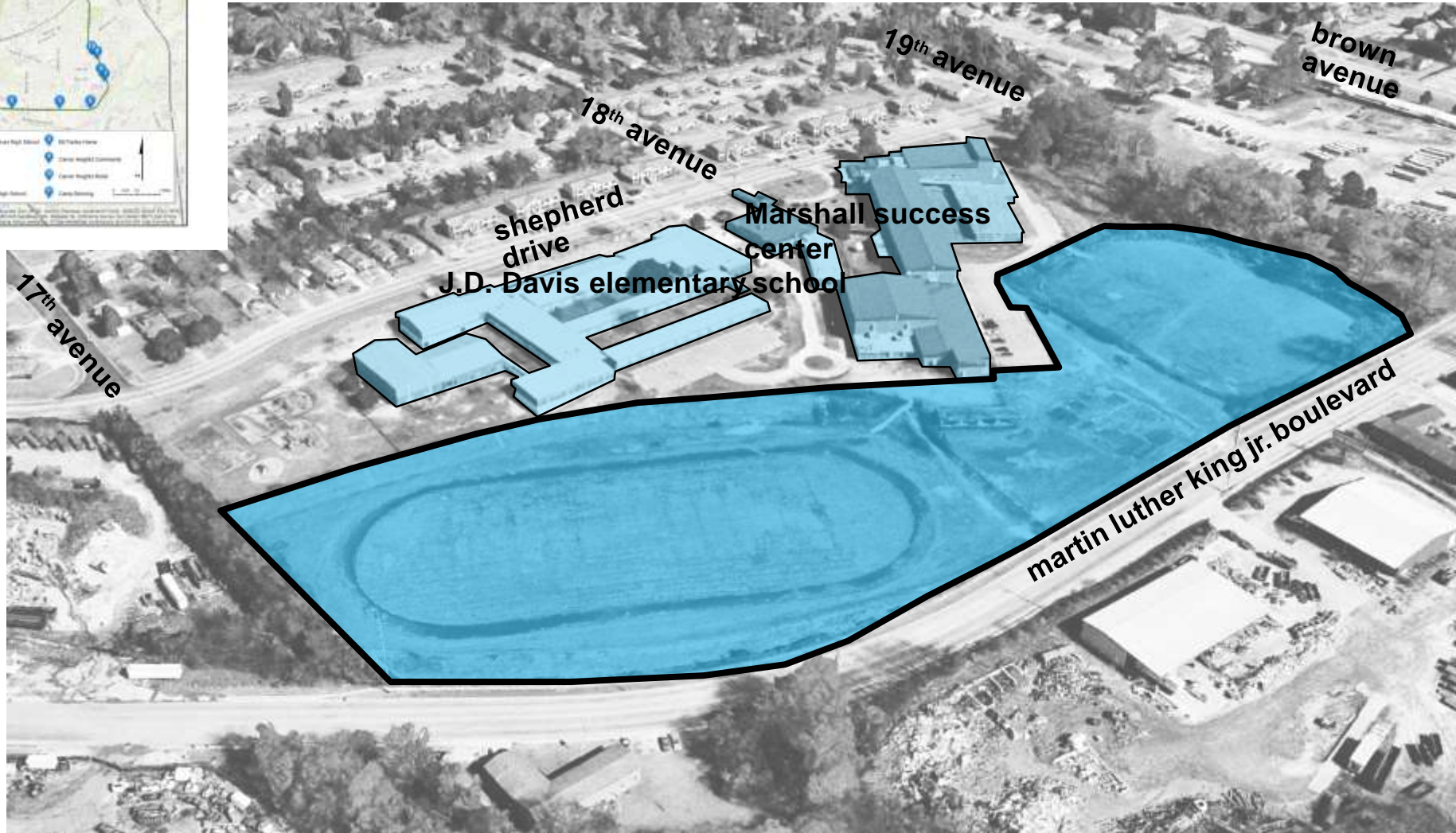


The G.W. Carver HS Renovation



The Dr. Martin Luther King Outdoor Learning Trail

# Where We Work



The grounds immediately south of j.d. davis elementary school & Marshall Success Center holds nearly 10.3 acres of undeveloped and underutilized land.

# Our Why

## Our Community



Poverty Rate  
(rate is 3X Columbus)



Of population is eligible for food assistance.



Food desert

### The Top 3 health problems:

1. Diabetes
2. Heart Disease
3. Poor nutrition



High crime rate, one of "Most dangerous" neighborhoods

## Our Children



1 in 5 children are hungry



Are on free and reduced lunch



Say they want to start their own business



Say they will invent something to change the world

**Strategic investment changes all these factors.**



# Principal Initiative

Turn Around Columbus is creating a 10-acre youth-run farm and community-based learning and innovation center to reclaim this community from cycles of poverty and violence and to create a new path forward for youth and their families of opportunity, hope, health, and productive community engagement.

# Project Milestones





Homegrown Hope  
Saturday Elementary  
Program





# The Farm & Hope Dealers Program





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# The Design:

Turn Around Columbus'  
vision for community building  
and experiential education coupled with  
strong professional urban design elevates human  
behavior, creates economic opportunity, and  
restores dignity.

# Overall Vision

J.D Davis  
elementary school

Marshall success  
center

east  
production field

learning  
center

west  
production field

*martin luther king jr.  
boulevard*

# Overall Vision



Marshall success center

Repurposed Pavilion

stage

classroom

fruit orchard

kitchen/restrooms

marketplace

firepit

community garden

entry

martin luther king jr. boulevard



# The Firepit



# Teaching Kitchen & Marketplace



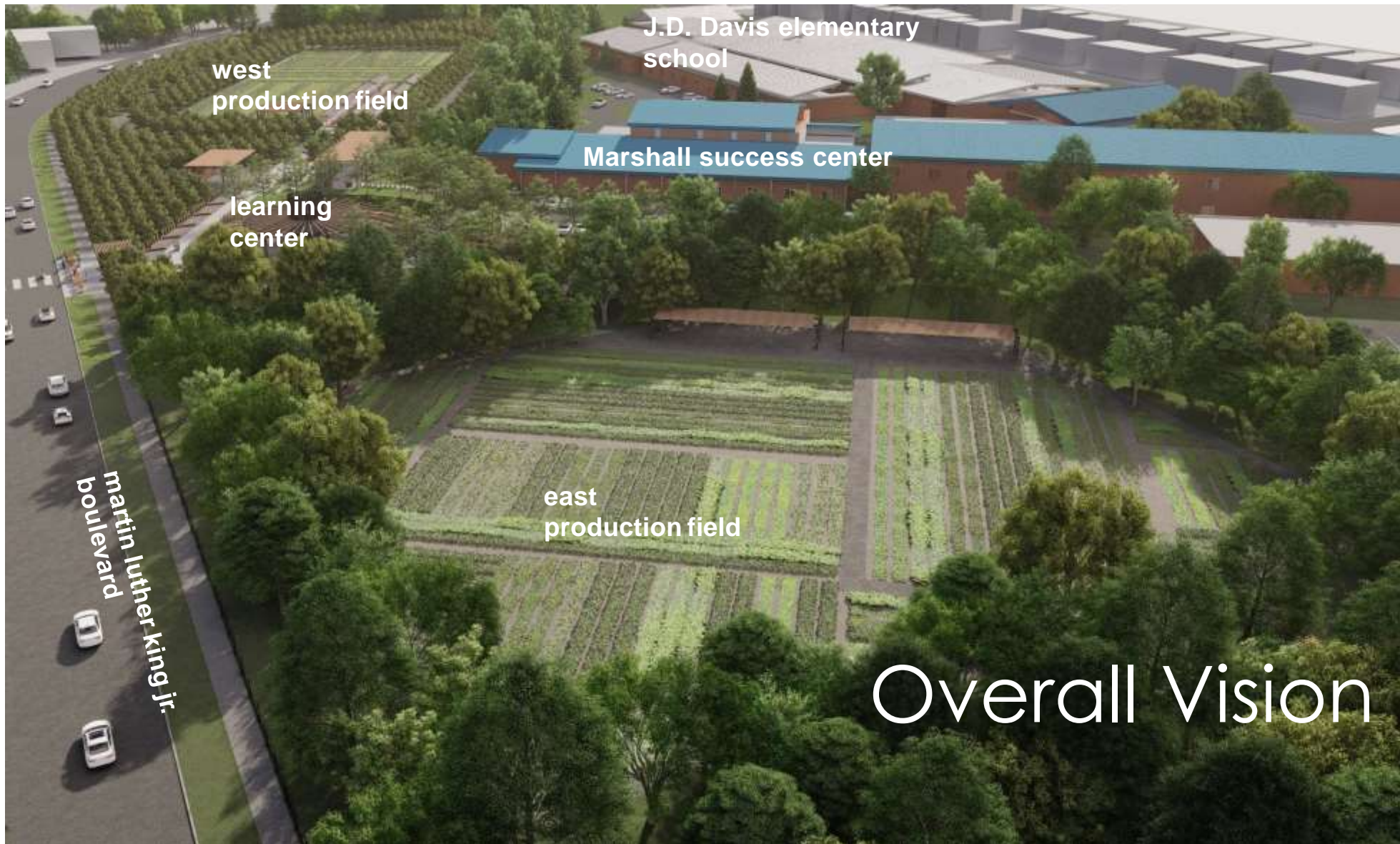


# Children's Garden



# Classroom

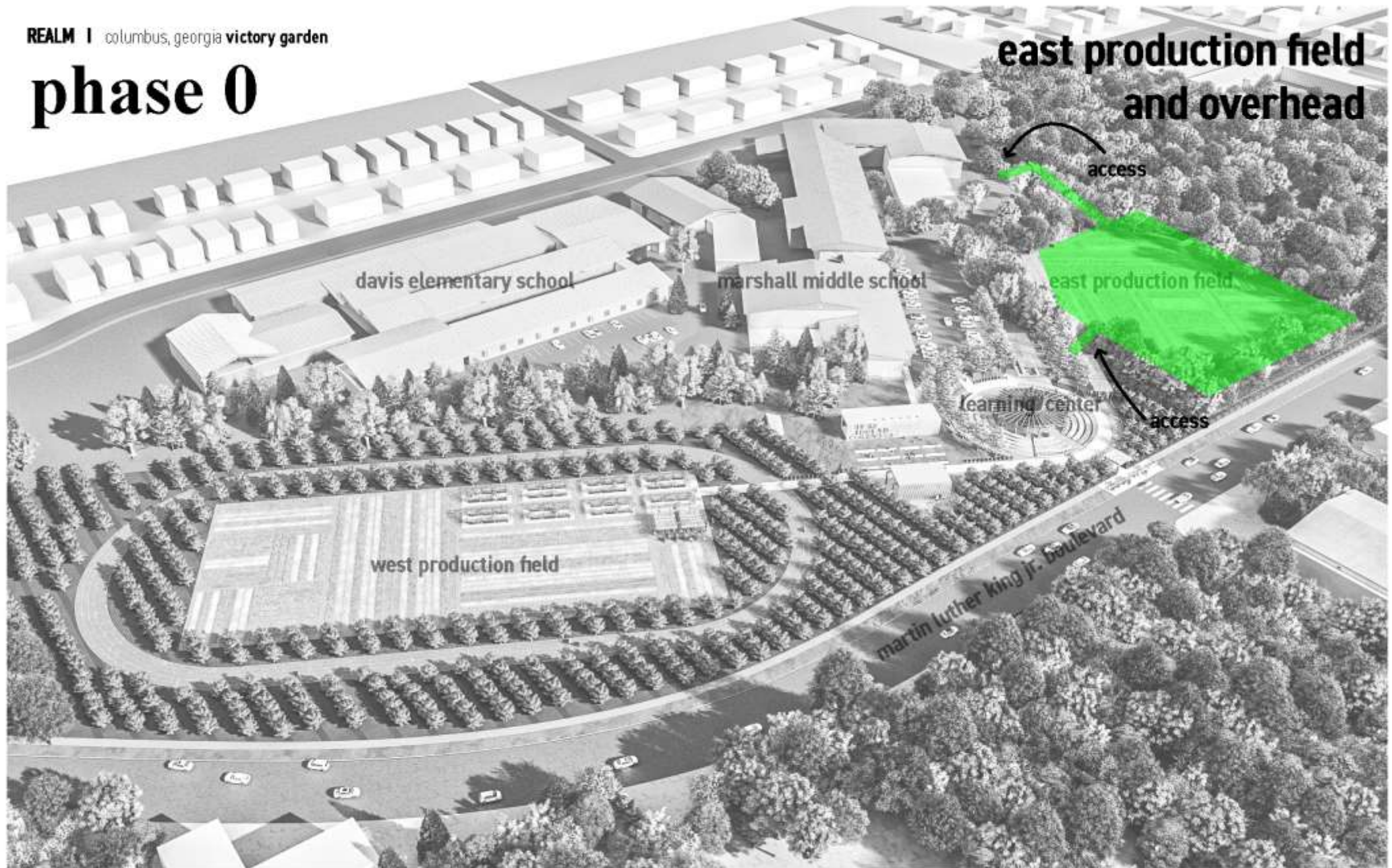




# Overall Vision

REALM I columbus, georgia victory garden

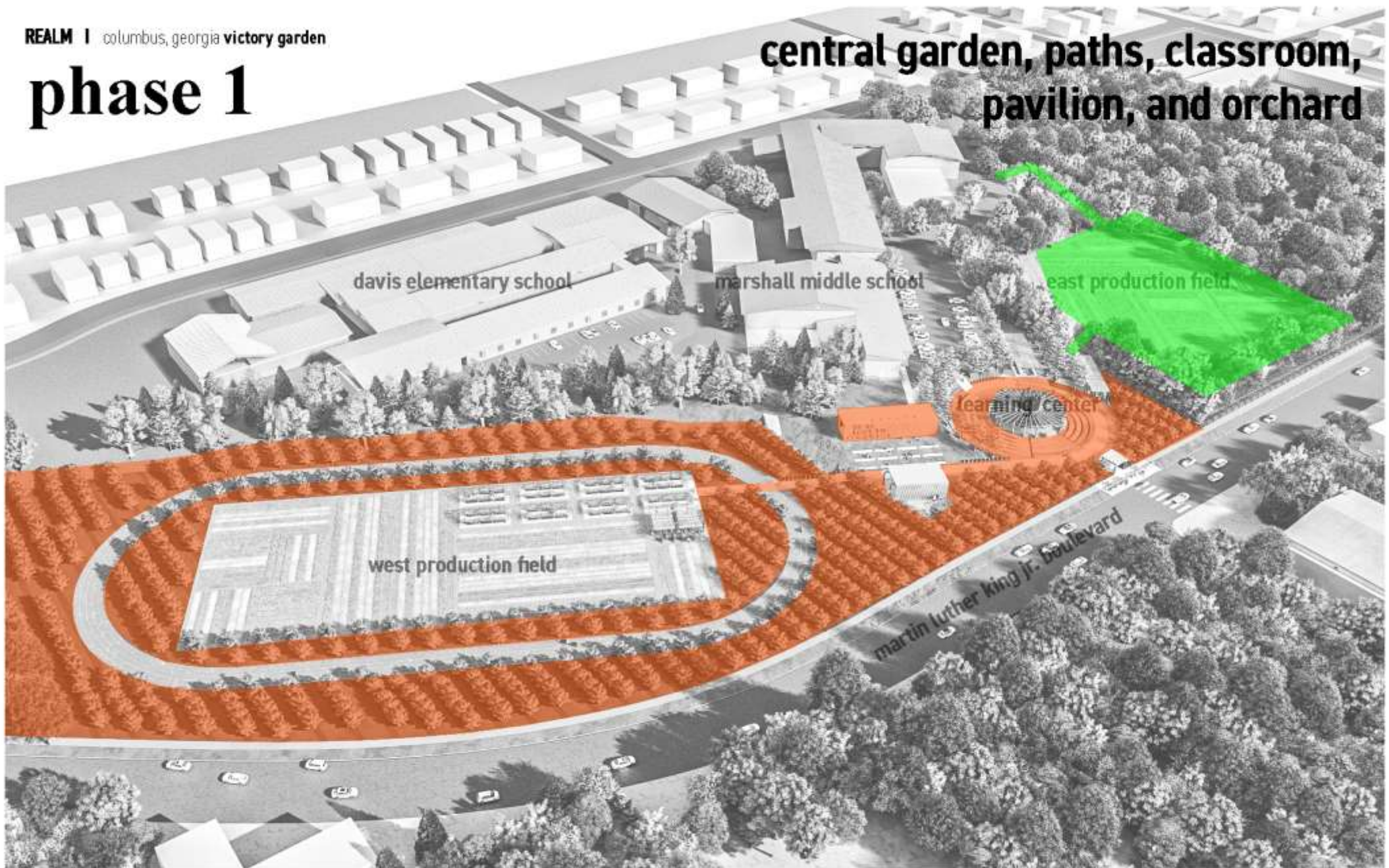
# phase 0



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# phase 1

central garden, paths, classroom,  
pavilion, and orchard



davis elementary school

marshall middle school

east production field

learning center

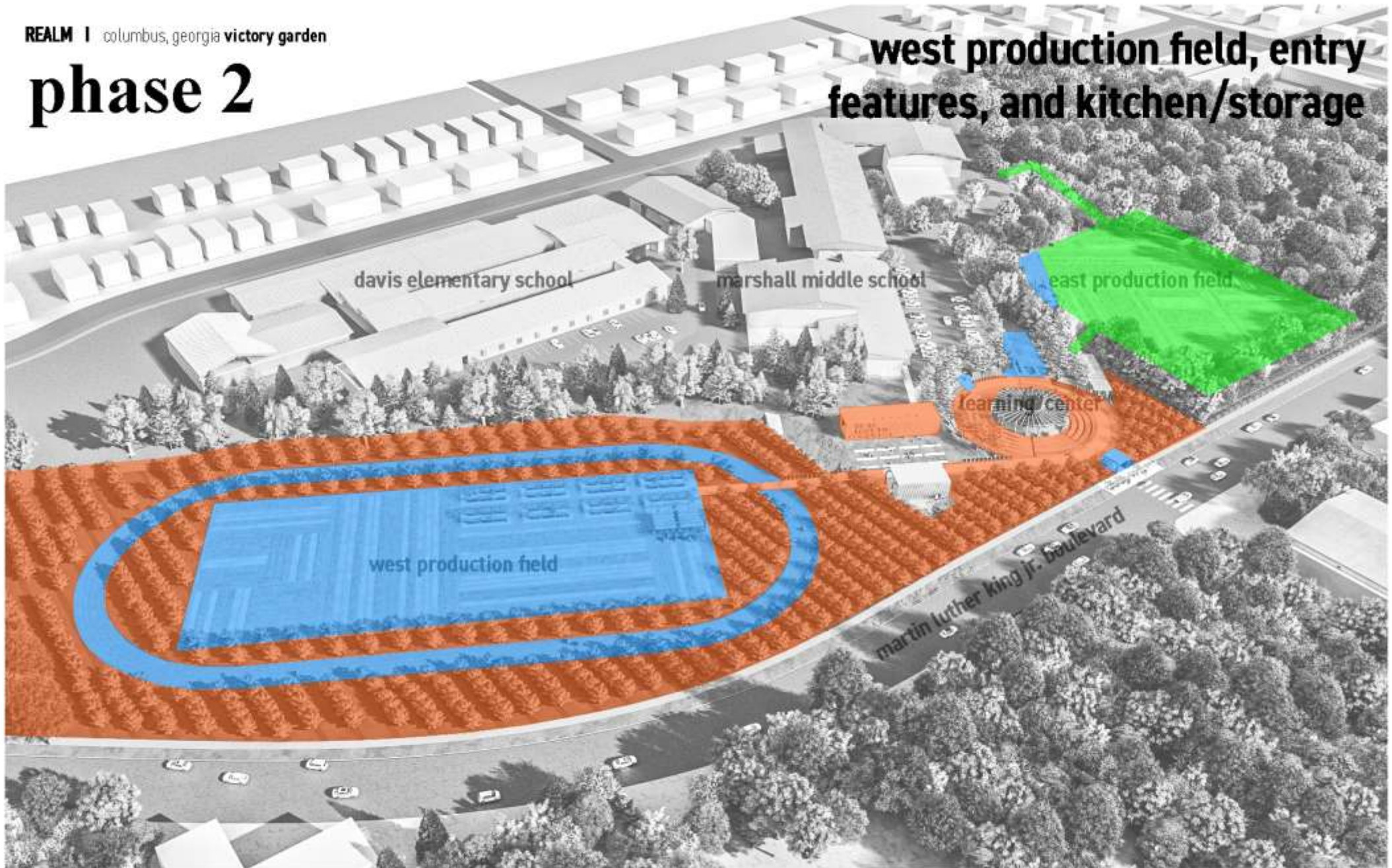
west production field

martin luther king jr. boulevard

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# phase 2

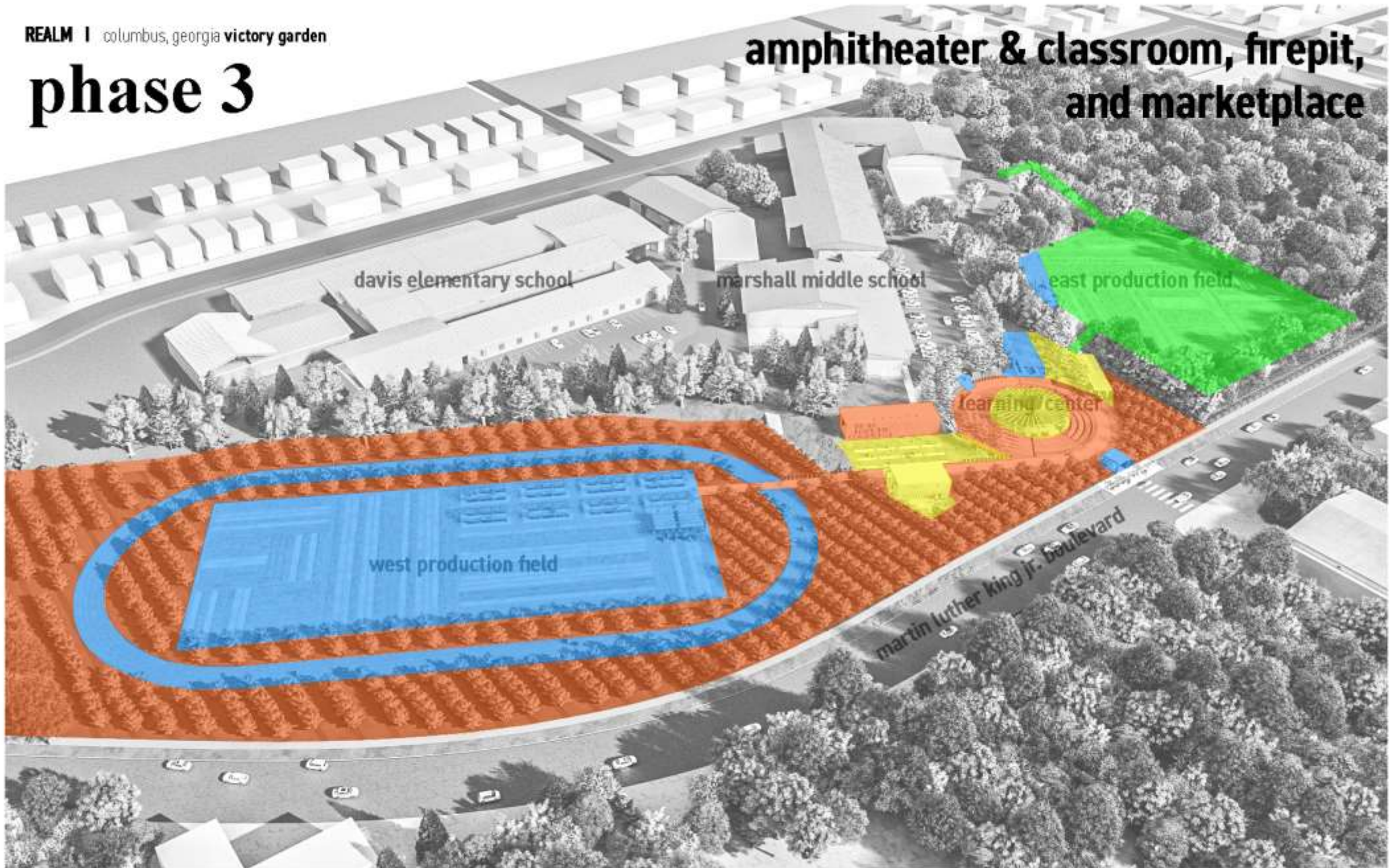
west production field, entry features, and kitchen/storage



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# phase 3

## amphitheater & classroom, firepit, and marketplace



# We are seeking 4.9 Million

Phase 0 (2020-21)	Phase 1 (2021-22)	Phase 2 (2022-23)	Phase 3 (2023-24)
\$643,175.00	\$1,581,202.00	\$1,475,945.00	\$557,112.00

Hard Cost Total (all phases)	\$4,257,434.00
Estimate Total (all phases + contingency)	\$4,925,434.00
Cost per square foot (entire project)	\$11.14

To reclaim this community, educate, restore hope and opportunity, generate peace, and forever change the trajectory of young people's lives.

## **Our Partners**

Muscogee County School District

J.D. Davis Elementary

Fort Valley State University

Tuskegee University

Midtown Inc.

Columbus Housing Authority

Columbus Water Works

Keep Columbus Beautiful

Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley

Chester's BBQ

Dragonfly Trails

Rawson Strong

Teen Resource 5

Masters of the Arts Youth Organization

American Youth Film Festival

Turnaround America Inc.

First African Baptist Church

Home ACE Hardware

2WR

Hecht & Burdeshaw

## **Our Donors**

City of Columbus Crime Prevention Program

Department of Public Health-SNAP ED Program

Brad Turner

Galen Shaver & Judy Anderson

Charlie Ray

Ed Hoffman

## **Our In-kind Donors**

REALM Collaborative

Ed Hoffman

2WR

Hecht & Burdeshaw

Fort Valley State University

## **Our Volunteers**

J.D. Davis Teachers and Principal

Kenneth B. Walker Residential Home Residents

Carver High School Football Team

Shaw High School 4H Program

Northside High School Honor Society

And many more...



**149 people have  
volunteered just this year!**



# Support Us & Join Us on the Farm:

1. Make a **financial contribution** on our website <http://turnaroundcolumbus.com> or send a check to Turn Around Columbus 612 Dirk Way, Columbus, GA
2. Come **volunteer** mornings during the week or Saturdays/Sundays 11-1.
3. **Visit** us: Lets book a city council tour/workday at the Farm!
4. **Buy** our produce, plants, eggs, & honey!
5. **Donate** tools, materials, or skill share.
6. **Spread** the word, connect us with resources or people, and generate support for our project!
7. **Sponsor** a raised bed/flower box along the Dr MLK Jr Outdoor Learning Trail.
8. **Sponsor** one or more of our youth entrepreneurs.
9. **Partner** with us! Contact TAC by phone: [706-940-2101](tel:706-940-2101) or [turnaroundcolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:turnaroundcolumbus@gmail.com)
10. **Invite us** to speak to your group or organization either live or electronically.

Questions:



LETS ROOT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER AND  
WATCH EACH  
OTHER GROW