

Recent projects: investing in our community assets

Below are some recent projects conducted in alignment to our long-range capital improvement plan. These projects started as administrative recommendations based on needs and condition analyses. They all went through (or for future projects, will go through) our three-step process for prudent decision making: discussion in public at one or more Board of Education (BOE) Finance Committee meetings, discussion in public at one or more BOE meetings, and finally, action in public at a BOE meeting.

Hadley Library Media Center Renovation: This project took a tired, inadequate space and transformed it into the heart of the school. It's now a vibrant, interactive space with loads of daylight, plenty of technology (including Mac) and spaces for individual and small-group work. The LMC opens into the Hadley Courtyard, which was renovated in 2011. [Click here for more information.](#)

Parking and stormwater: New parking lots and underground stormwater systems at Benjamin Franklin (2010) and Hadley (2012) have improved traffic flow and safety, and have provided significantly more stormwater storage, which has benefitted the neighbors as well. A small paved parking area off of Main Street just south of Forest Glen replaced the mud patch that was used for overflow parking (2011).

Exterior improvements: With the help of a Home Depot grant and volunteers, the Benjamin Franklin courtyard was renovated into an outdoor learning area (2010). The Hadley courtyard was renovated (2011), transforming a deteriorated space into an inviting learning area combining permeable pavers, natural areas, a water feature and a small performance area. Benjamin Franklin's vintage Byrant Street entry was restored (2011) with sensitivity to the original design. A new retractable stage and soundproofing panels were installed in the multi-purpose room at Abraham Lincoln (2011).

Interior improvements: All buildings were completely re-painted inside (2011-2013), each in a unique color scheme designed to unify the building and support learning. A new sound system was installed in the Hadley Pods (2012), reducing the need for expensive rentals during student performances.

21st Century Classroom furnishings: By the 2015-2016 school year, the district will have finished transforming elementary classrooms to 21st century classrooms. This project involves outfitting existing classrooms with furnishings and technology suited to flexible, innovative learning. The purchases are part of our normal classroom furnishings replacement schedule. [Click here for more information.](#)

Updated June, 2014