



January 9, 2023  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Montessori School of Englewood

Location: WebEx

Present:

Board Members: Karen Anderson (President), Ebonie Townsend (Vice President), Joe Motto (Treasurer)

Depave Chicago: Marty Pat McGuire, Katya Reyna

Meeting taken by: Joe Motto

I. Call to Order

Anderson called the meeting to order. Motto took roll. Those identified above announced themselves present.

II. Depave Chicago

McGuire and Reyna delivered the presentation attached as Ex. A and led discussion concerning a project to transform a portion of the school's asphalt playground into a green space. Discussion was had concerning timelines, approvals, and related matters, as well as a subsequent presentation to the full board.

Anderson made a motion for the Executive Committee to approve continuation of the project according to the preliminary scope and timeline described. Motto seconded the motion. Anderson, Townsend, and Motto all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

III. Renewal of Line of Credit

Discussion was had concerning the prospective renewal of the school's \$250,000 line of credit with Inland Bank. Motto made a motion that the Executive Committee approve the renewal of that line of credit. Townsend seconded the motion. Anderson, Townsend, and Motto all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.



Motto moved that the Executive Committee approve amending the June 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes to indicate officer titles. Townsend second the motion. Anderson, Townsend, and Motto all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

IV. Charter School/Head Start

Nolan led discussion and answered questions concerning various Charter School and Head Start items of interest and goal-setting and reporting for the current year.

V. New Business

Discussion was had as to the following new business items:

- Jonathan White will be nominated to join the board at the next quarterly board meeting.
- It was discussed that Tiffany White and Marcus Robinson are both suffering personal health issues which we understand have made it impractical to fulfill their board roles at present, including completing mandatory governance training. Accordingly, Townsend made a motion to remove White and Robinson from the board at this time. Motto seconded the motion. Anderson, Townsend, and Motto all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- The next quarterly board meeting, to take place at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023, will be held remotely via videoconference.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

# Exhibit A

# The Montessori School of Englewood Meeting with Executive Board

Depave Chicago 2023 pilot project

January 9, 2023



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Charter School



# Depave Chicago 2022-23 - Introduction

## Overview

<b>Goals</b>	Depaving with communities, climate adaptation, developing tools for democratic & liberatory design
<b>Education-oriented</b>	Design activism, hands-on learning, community building
<b>Research-based</b>	Retrofitting imperviousness, urban adaptation
<b>Walder Fdn grant</b>	Develop & launch program here in Chicago, develop network, support <u>a pilot project</u>
<b>Activities to date</b>	Workshop-webinars, network of volunteers
<b>Volunteer network</b>	Over 80 individuals and 15 organizations
<b>Training Program</b>	with Depave (Portland) Katya Reina & Ted Labbe

## PILOT PROJECT GOALS

- Identify project partner** (site host) with shared goals 
- Work with our partner** through project development phases in an organized and supportive manner 
- Engage** our shared networks of volunteers and supporters
- Increase awareness** of depaving design for other communities
- **Remove pavement** (approx 10,000 SF)
- + **Replace w/** healthy soil, plants, nature play, restoration, empowerment
- Complete the successful depave project** in Summer 2023
- Develop the knowledge and tools** to keep going.....(replicate)



## DEPAVE CHICAGO

Launching in 2022-2023!

Depave Chicago is a community depaving program that replaces underutilized parking lots and paved spaces with gardens, pocket forests, and other nature-based designs.



# Depave (Portland) - Background



## MISSION

Depave empowers disenfranchised communities to overcome social and environmental injustices and adapt to climate change through urban re-greening. Depave transforms over-paved places, creates resilient community greenspaces, promotes workforce development and education, and advocates for policy change to undo manifestations of systemic racism.

## VISION

Depave envisions an empowered society living within sustainable cities, built on a foundation of justice, equity, diversity, practicing inclusion and actively undoing systemic discrimination and social and environmental injustice of every kind. Depave imagines a sustainable city as a place where people and wildlife coexist and prosper amidst clean air, clean water, robust urban forests, thriving local agriculture, and healthy communities.



# Depave (Portland) - Collaborator & trainer with Depave Chicago



## Depave Network launched 2017:

- Depave Paradise/Green Communities Canada
- Depave Puget Sound
- Depave Cumberland – Nashville TN
- Depave NEO - Northeast Ohio
- Depave UK

## Informal / emerging:

- Depave Somerville MA
- Depave Detroit
- Depave LA, Sacramento, Denver, Nantes (France)
- Groundwork Trust, RiverNetwork relationships

## Training, advising, info/model sharing, storytelling, and more:

- Advocacy, joint federal funding, other?

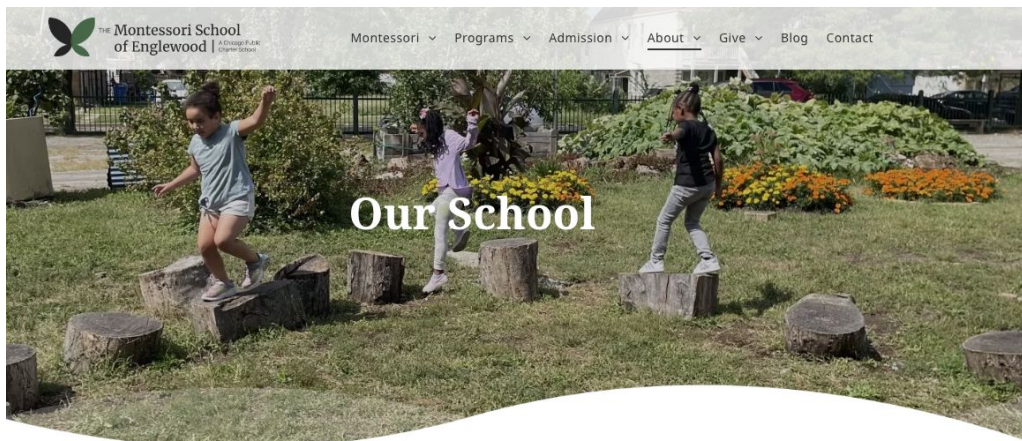


## Training structure and resources:

- Webinars, in-person training and Chicago event
- Library of resources, templates
- Advising, coaching, on-call support / problem-solving



# The Montessori School of Englewood - an ideal partner w/ shared values



## Our Mission is to Prepare Children for Life.

We celebrate each child's individuality and help them discover how they can best contribute to our world and culture. All children are naturally curious and love to learn; we support this innate drive by providing environments that meet children's developmental needs, guided by a staff of loving and well-prepared adults and building a community of families that actively support our mission.

## Here at MSE

### We're bringing Montessori education back to its roots.

- Dr. Maria Montessori, one of Italy's first female physicians, developed this hands-on method of primary education in the early twentieth century. Montessori education rests on the belief that children, particularly those under the age of six, are innate learners, brimming with curiosity. Given the right environment, tools and freedom, prekindergarten and kindergarten students will thrive on their own volition, with specially trained educators present to provide guidance and scaffolding.

- While Montessori education has an overwhelmingly white and affluent connotation in the U.S., that's not the population for whom it was designed to serve. Dr. Montessori worked not with children of the privileged, but with low-income, urban youth, in underserved neighborhoods of Italy's capital. After decades of developing her pedagogy, she took it global, teaching children in Russia, India, Indonesia and beyond.
- At the Montessori School of Englewood, we practice the methodology as it was originally created: for underserved communities. We believe that every child, regardless of economic status, race or gender, deserves the opportunity to receive a Montessori education. We believe that working with our hands, heads and hearts — that teaching the whole child — can lift up communities and build the architects of tomorrow.
- The Montessori School of Englewood is an elementary charter school within the Chicago Public School network. We are located in West Englewood, on Chicago's South Side. MSE is an open enrollment, tuition-free school for children living within Chicago city limits. It was founded in 2012 by Rita Nolan (M. Ed), who still serves as the executive director.

### PROGRAMS

Primary/Head Start (3 - 5 years)  
Kindergarten (5 - 6 years)  
Elementary (6 - 12 years)  
Middle School (12 - 14 years)

### CONNECT

How to Apply  
Contact  
Schedule a Tour  
Careers  
Parents

(773) 535-9255

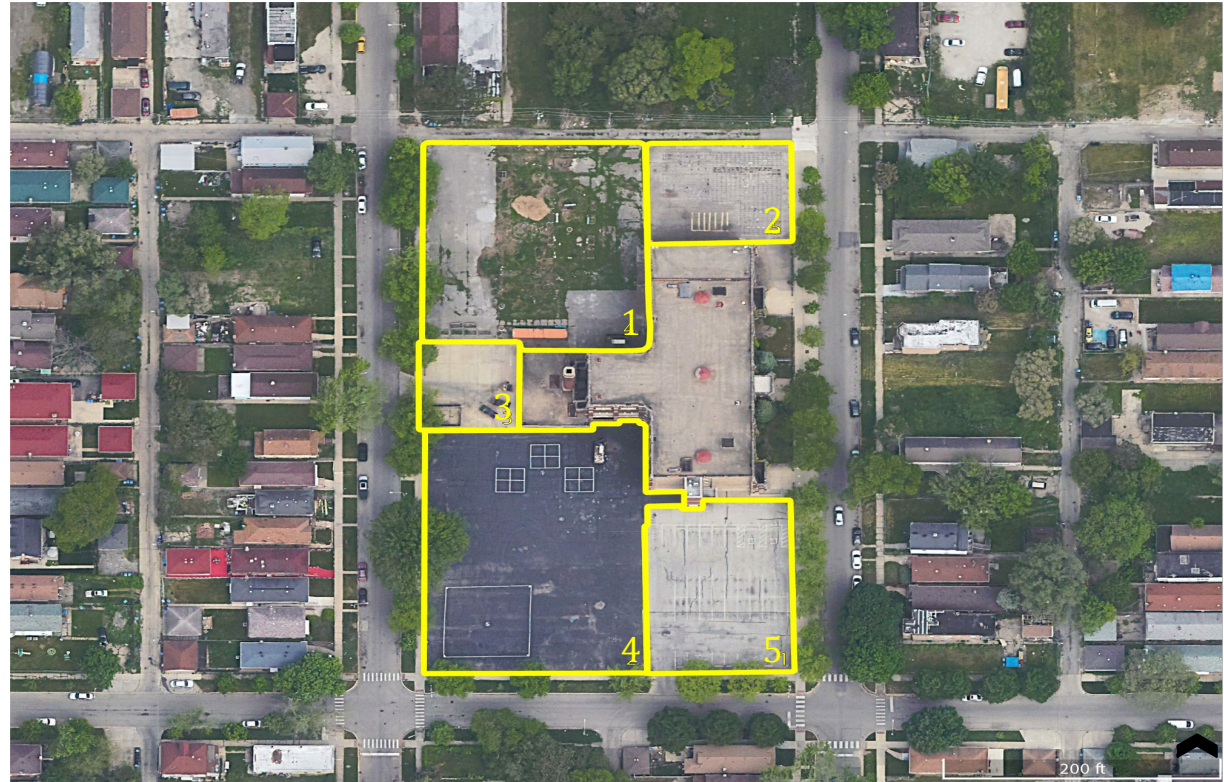
The Montessori School of Englewood  
6936 S Hermitage Ave, West Englewood,  
Chicago, IL, 60636, United States



# The Montessori School of Englewood - school grounds

## Site areas and land cover:

- 1- Garden & class room  
Asphalt, soil, grass 28,000SF
- 2- Future play area  
Asphalt, rubber residue 10,000SF
- 3- Dumpster, beehives  
Concrete 5,500 SF
- 4- Primary play ground  
**Asphalt 35,000SF**
- 5- Parking lot 15,500 SF  
Asphalt 15,500SF



Aerial Image Source: Google Earth Pro



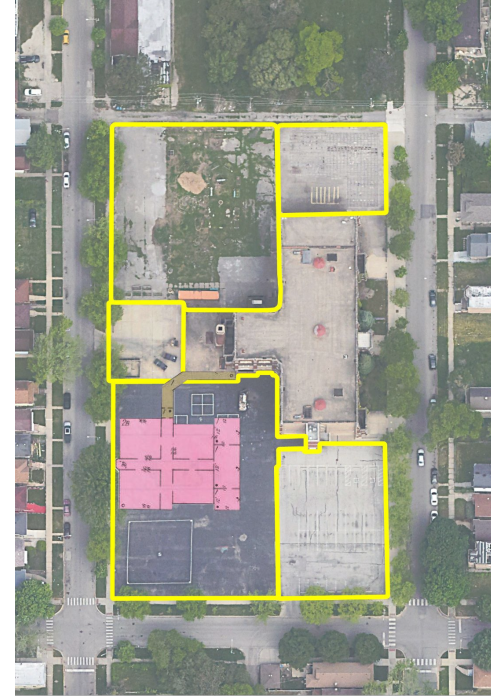
# The Montessori School of Englewood - site history



**1895** -1st school opened 1893  
-Located at 6937 Wood St.



**1925** -2nd school opened 1910  
-Located at 6936 Hermitage Ave.



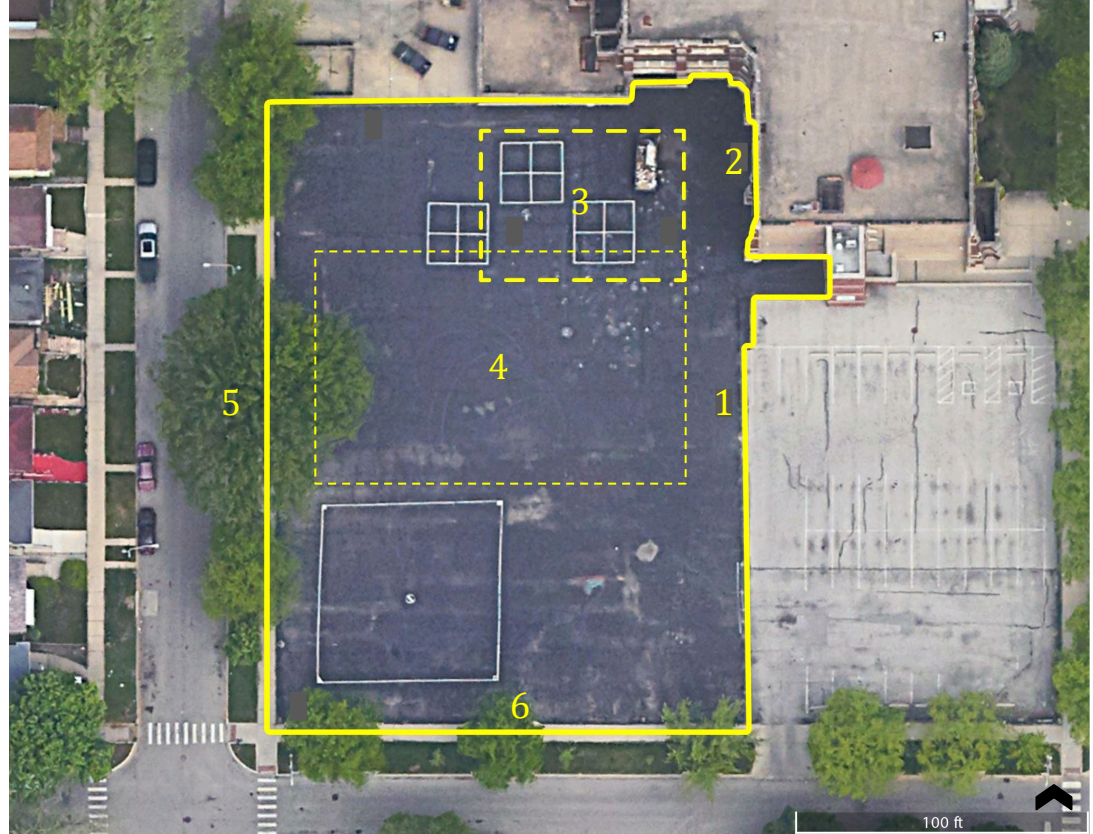
Footprint of former school over the current site.



# The Montessori School of Englewood - existing conditions of depave site

## Existing site:

- 1- Chain link fence at parking lot
- 2- Entry door to school
- 3- Future playground site (CPS/Epstein)
- 4 - Approx. footprint of former school
- 5- Large Elm tree
- 6- Property fence

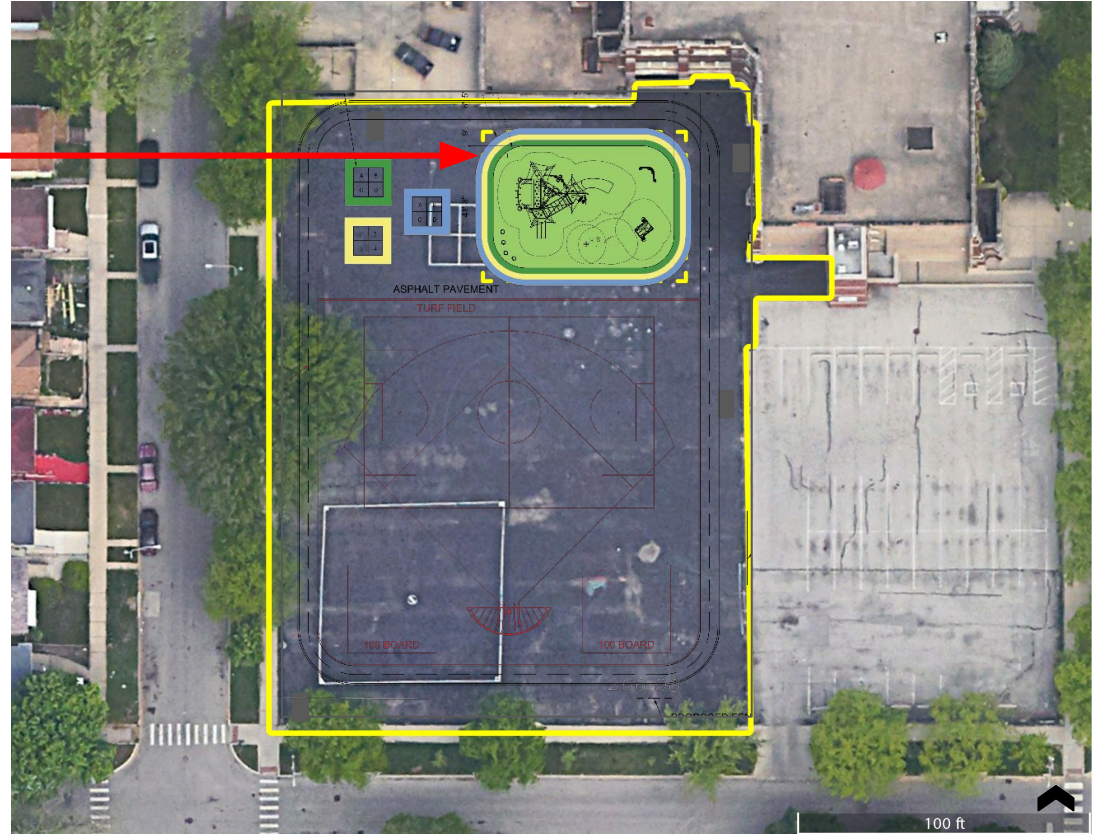


Aerial Image Source: Google Earth Pro

# The Montessori School of Englewood - future site changes

Site development areas:

**Proposed playground** —————→  
by others (Epstein lead designer)  
*April - June*



Aerial Image Source: Google Earth Pro

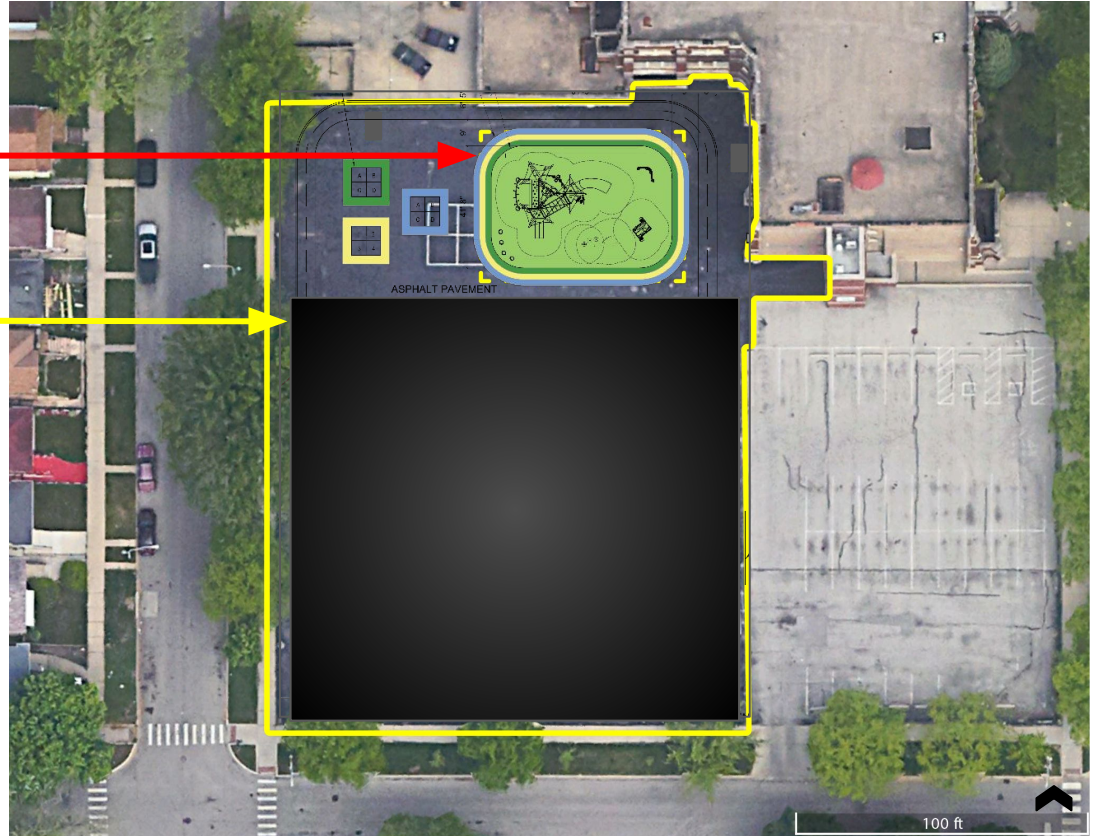


# The Montessori School of Englewood - future site changes

## Site development components:

**Proposed playground** —————→  
by others (Epstein lead designer)  
*April - June*

**Proposed depave site** —————→  
by Depave Chicago/MSE/others



Aerial Image Source: Google Earth Pro

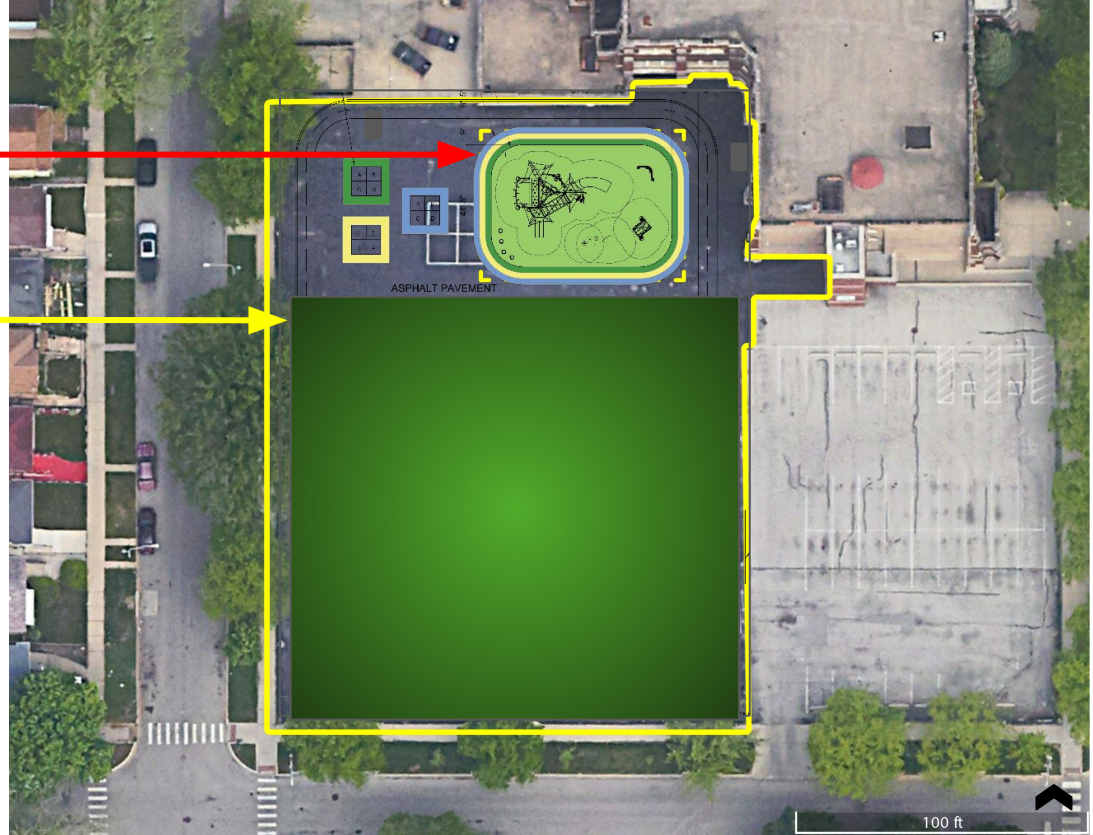


# The Montessori School of Englewood - future site changes

## Site development components:

**Proposed playground** —  
by others (Epstein lead designer)  
*April - June*

**Proposed depave site** —  
by Depave Chicago/MSE/others



# The Montessori School of Englewood - Goals for the Project design

## What we've heard so far:

Safe space for children to play

Children's agency and power in their own space

Engage with nature!

Mix of ecologies/re-wilding/various plantings

Climate adaptation/heat mitigation

Educational programming

Community engagement

Timeline - "It's time to do the depaving"

## Other goals/ideas (big and small):

Cultivate and  
inspire community  
contribution.

Cultivate the  
"Head, Heart, and  
the hand"  
mentality.

Build a school  
culture  
community.

Honor the school's  
identity, design  
should reflect that,  
reflect their (kids')  
power

Create a power  
shift, write the  
next chapter

Use a pedagogy  
of place



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# The Montessori School of Englewood - Project phases/planning

## Site Investigation

Soils cores / soil testing, former uses including former foundations / before winter freeze

## Site Design Process

Inclusive design process (3-4 phases - concepts, schematic design, design development --->construction)

## Cost estimating & Fundraising

Cost estimation at schematic, DD, and final construction estimate

## Approvals/Permitting

Required approvals and permitting for construction

## Depave Event Day & Planting Days

2 Days (Day 1 Training, Day 2 Depaving, subsequent days of excavation), multiple planting days afterward

## Contracting

Pavement removal and subgrade excavation (TBD), soils delivery, pavement and equipment installation (TBD)

## Equipment/materials purchasing

Depave equipment, soils, plants, depave event day supplies, et cetera

## Volunteer outreach/engagement

Communications with volunteer network, assistance with above phases, depave day volunteer coordination!

## Community engagement

Communications w/ West Englewood community, sharing information, engaging input, direct involvement



# The Montessori School of Englewood - Timeline draft

late 2022

Winter 2023

Spring 2023

Summer 2023

Fall 2023

2023

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Start-Up

Site Investigation  
Soils Testing

Site Design Process

Environmental-educational programs

Cost estimating & Fundraising

Approvals/Permitting

Depave Event Day & Planting Days

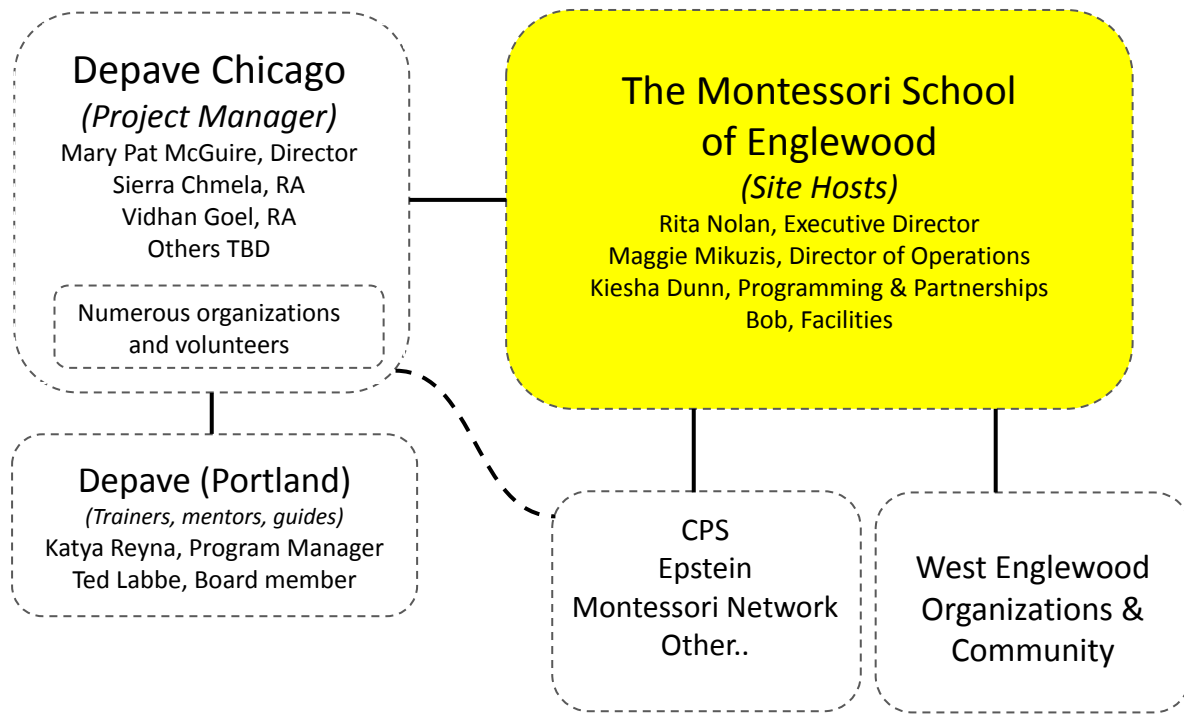
Contracting

Equipment/materials purchasing

Volunteer outreach & Engagement

Community engagement

# Partnership diagram



## Other partners:

UIUC Extension Gardeners  
Grow Greater Englewood  
Conagra  
Trotter Project  
Christie Webber  
Farr and Assoc.  
R.A.G.E  
Englewood Wellness and Life Committee  
Children's Research Triangle



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# The Montessori School of Englewood - Discussion

**Next Steps:**    Soils investigation  
                      Meet with CPS  
                      Start design process  
                      Fundraising

**Feedback & questions?**



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