



ELBERT PARK IMPROVEMENTS MASTER PLAN

POCAHONTAS, IOWA
JANUARY 21, 2021

CITY OF
Pocahontas



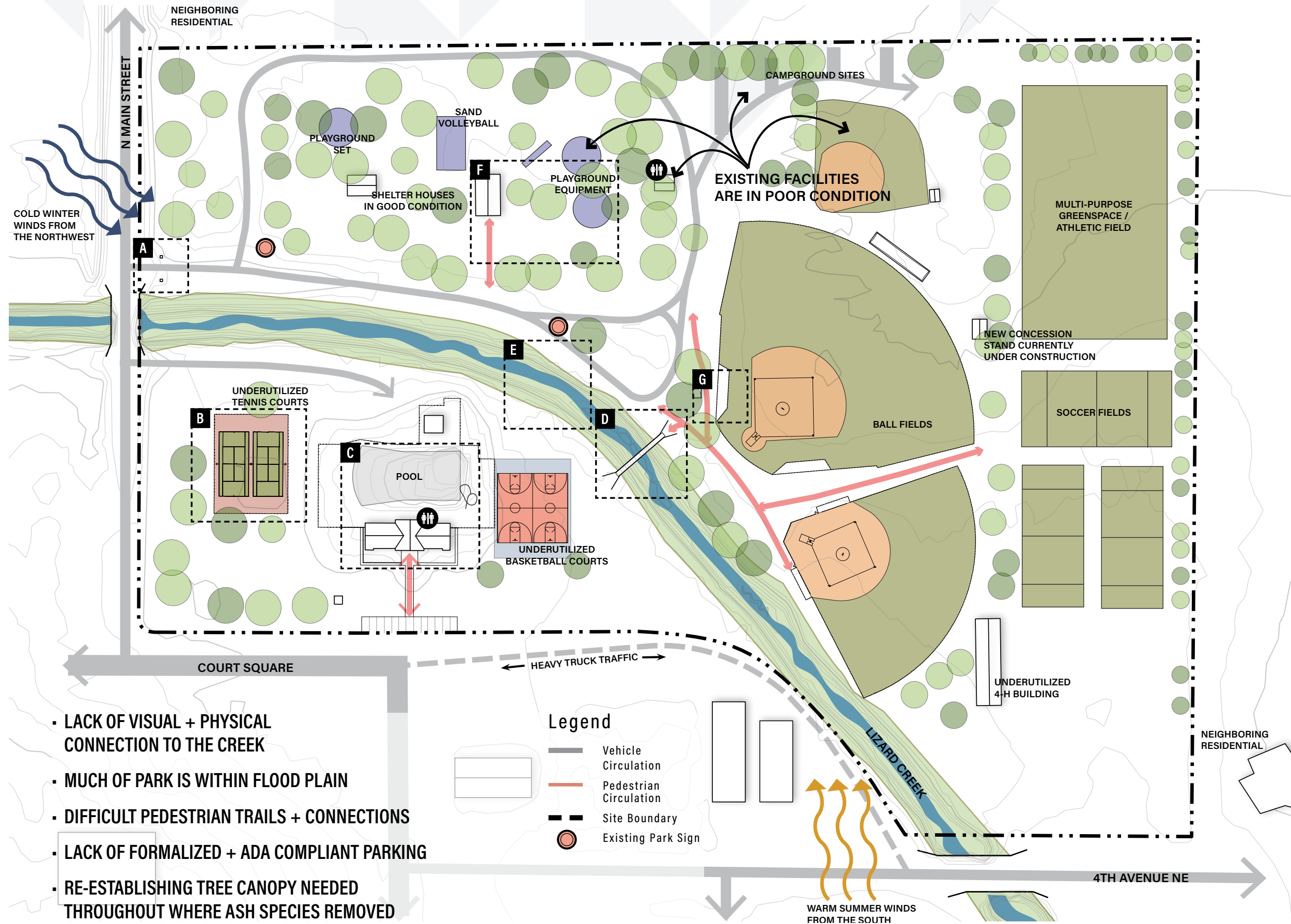
This plan, undertaken by ISG in 2020 was prepared exclusively for the City of Pocahontas.

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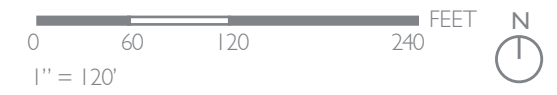


ISG Project: 24726
December 2020

SITE ANALYSIS | EXISTING CONDITIONS



- LACK OF VISUAL + PHYSICAL CONNECTION TO THE CREEK
- MUCH OF PARK IS WITHIN FLOOD PLAIN
- DIFFICULT PEDESTRIAN TRAILS + CONNECTIONS
- LACK OF FORMALIZED + ADA COMPLIANT PARKING
- RE-ESTABLISHING TREE CANOPY NEEDED THROUGHOUT WHERE ASH SPECIES REMOVED





COMMUNITY POOL BUILDING + TRUCK TRAFFIC ROAD OFF OF COURT SQUARE

Looking northeast towards the historic WPA building, currently used as support locker rooms and bathrooms for the community pool. The front entry is directly adjacent a wide road used primarily for heavy truck traffic and storage.



EXISTING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT + SHELTER HOUSES

The north side of the park has many large existing mature trees within the playground equipment area.



EXISTING BATHROOM

Currently in declining condition, could be repurposed as an open air shelter or removed completely.



GRAVEL DRIVE OFF MAIN STREET

Looking northeast towards primary entrance pillars, and Lizard Creek with park entry sign, playground and shelter houses in the background.



BASEBALL / SOFTBALL FIELDS

There are three existing fields within the park of various sizes.



SOCCER + BALL FIELDS

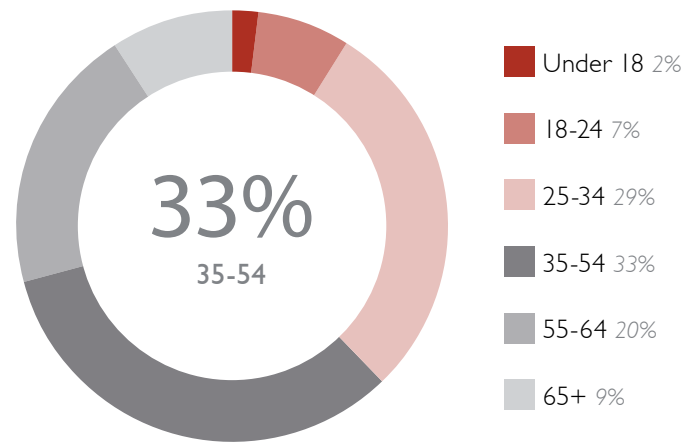
Looking southeast towards the soccer and ball fields, the park is largely open in this area for recreational play. Tree buffer adjacent neighboring residential lots is needed.



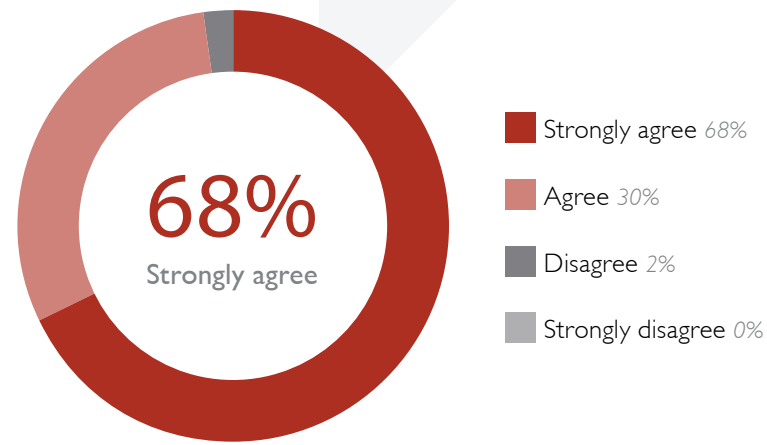
NORTH ROAD LOOP + CAMPSITES ENTRANCE

Difficult road alignment conflicts with entrance to camp sites.

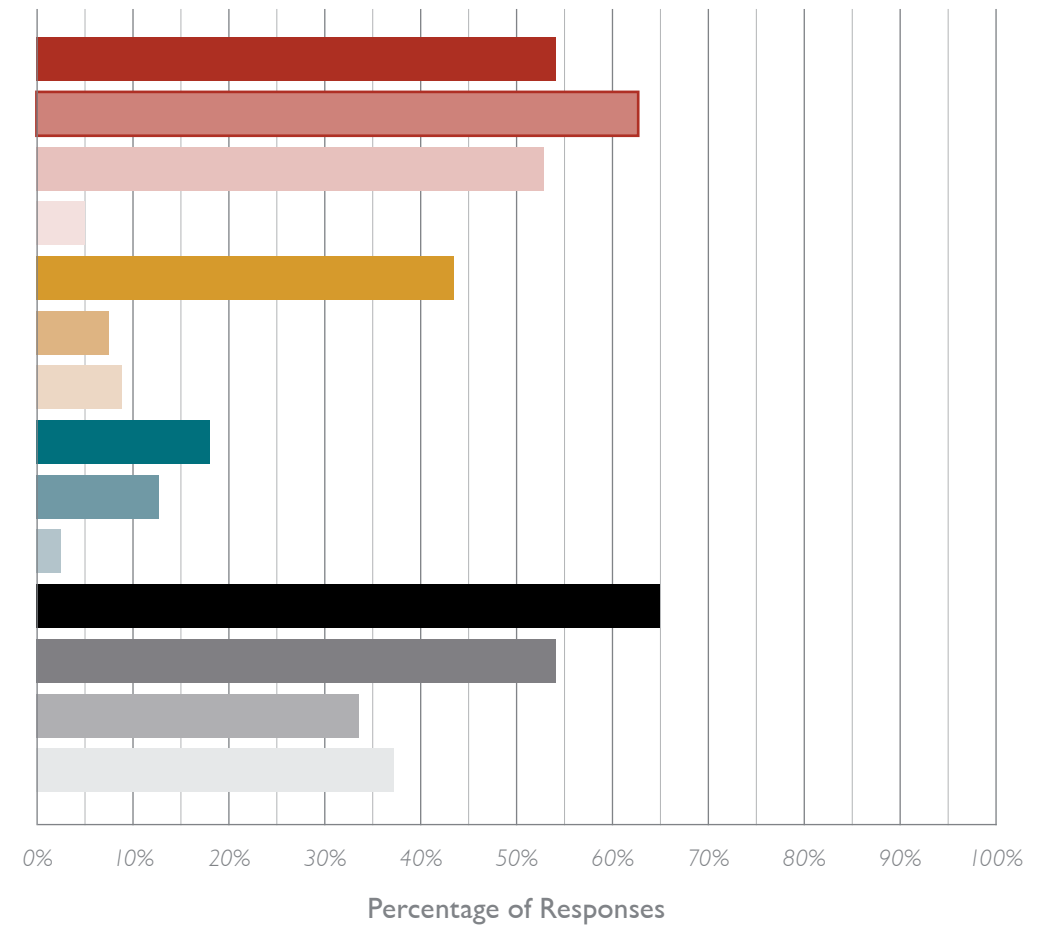
▶ What is your age range?



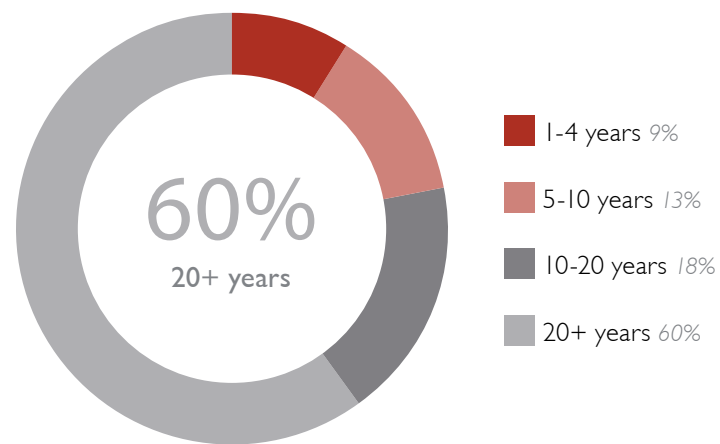
▶ Do you think Elbert Park could have more amenities?



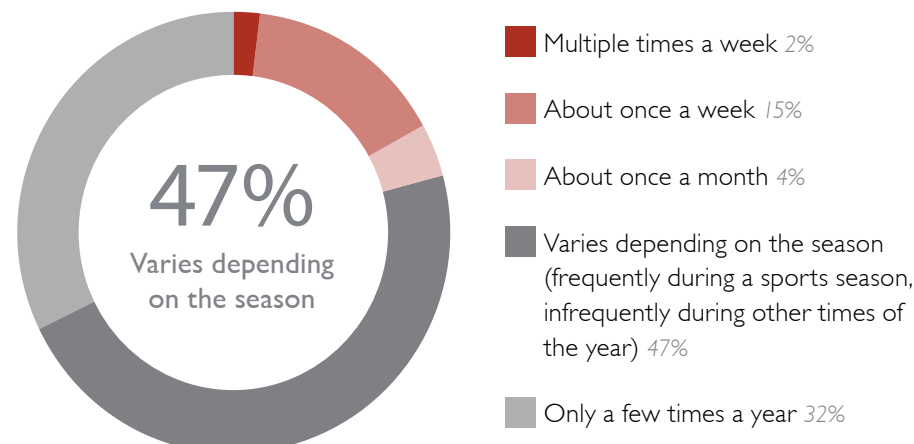
▶ What amenities do you and your family use at (and near) Elbert Park?



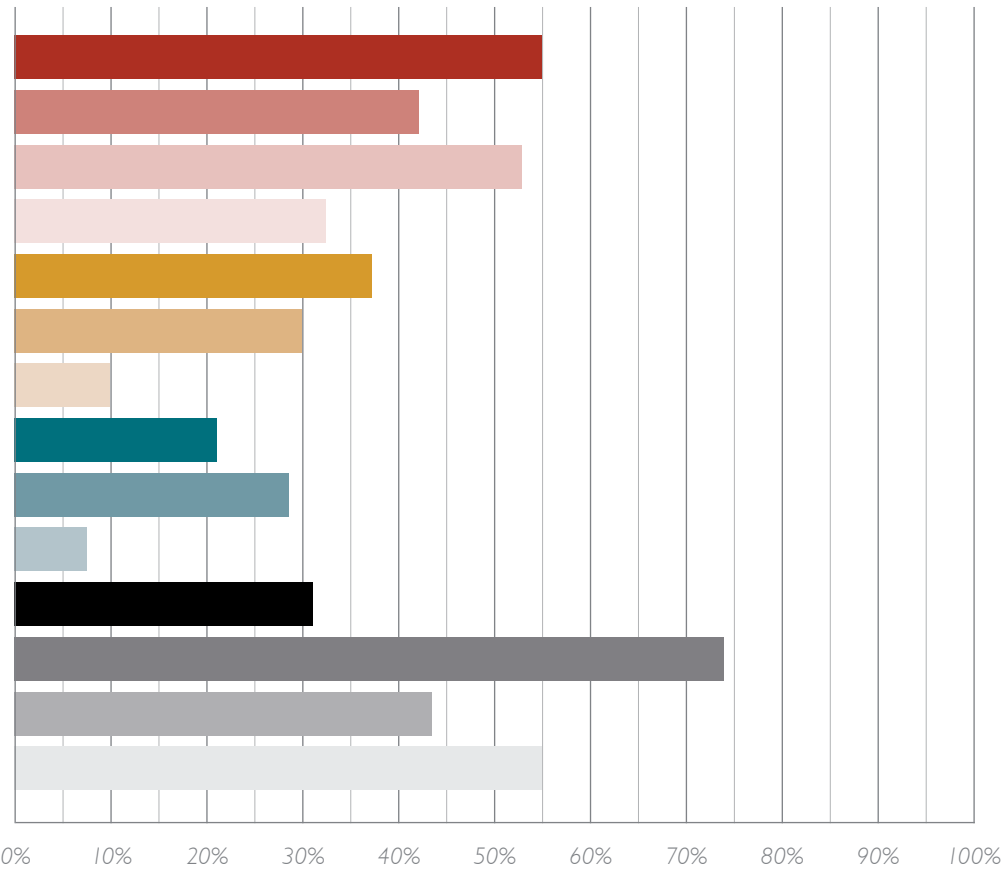
▶ How long have you lived in or around Pocahontas?



▶ How frequently do you visit Elbert Park?



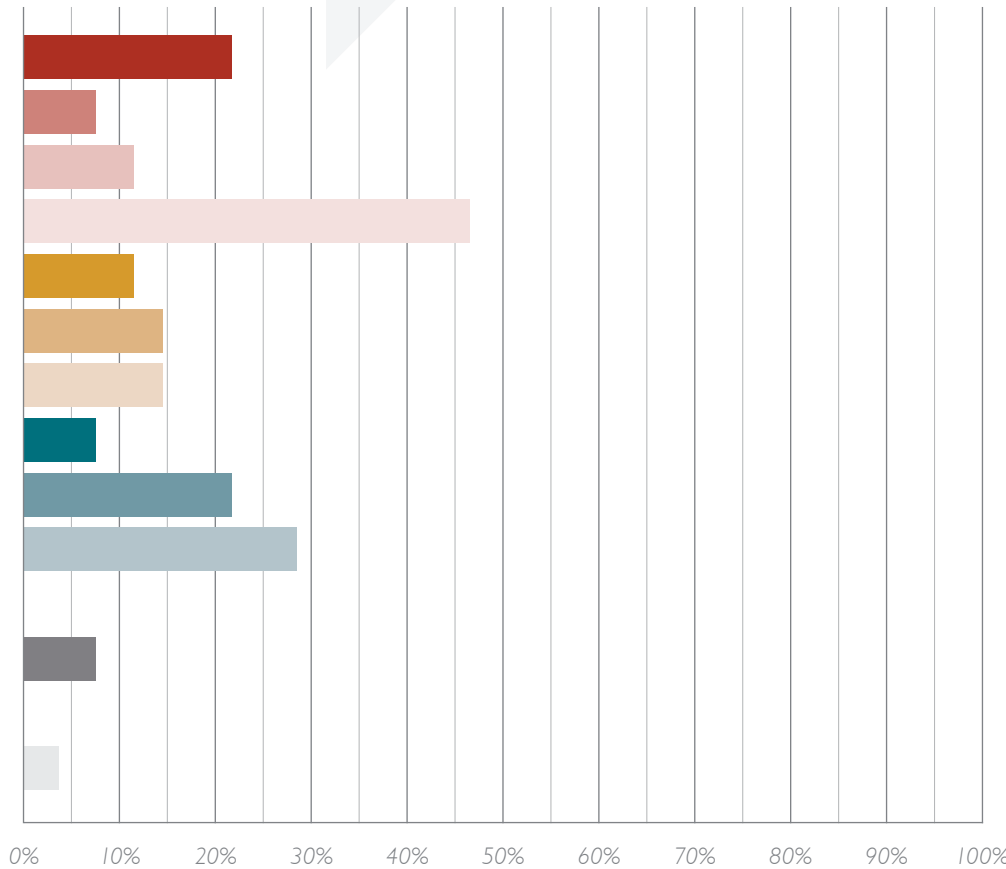
► What amenities do you think could be improved and/or refurbished at Elbert Park?



Percentage of Responses

- Playground Equipment (Stand alone items on the east side) 55%
- Playground Set (Large equipment on the west side) 42%
- Swing Sets 52%
- Sand Volleyball Court 33%
- Shelter House 37%
- Grills near Shelter Houses 30%
- Campgrounds 10%
- Basketball Court 21%
- Tennis Court 29%
- Soccer Golf Holes 7%
- Walking on the road around the park 31%
- Bathrooms 74%
- Baseball Fields 43%
- Soccer Fields 55%

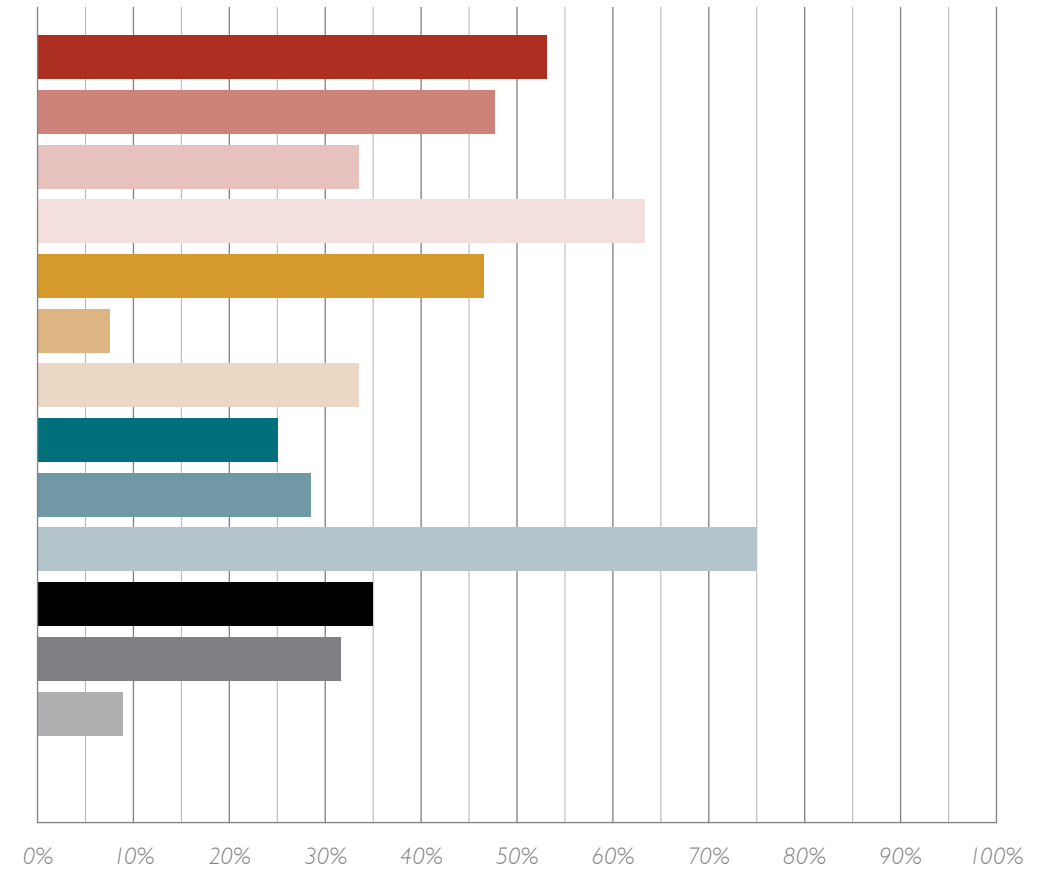
► What amenities do you think should be removed at Elbert Park and not fixed or replaced?



Percentage of Responses

- Playground Equipment (Stand alone items on the east side) 21%
- Playground Set (Large equipment on the west side) 7%
- Swing Sets 11%
- Sand Volleyball Court 46%
- Shelter House 11%
- Grills near Shelter Houses 14%
- Campgrounds 14%
- Basketball Court 7%
- Tennis Court 21%
- Soccer Golf Holes 29%
- Walking on the road around the park 0%
- Bathrooms 7%
- Baseball Fields 0%
- Soccer Fields 4%

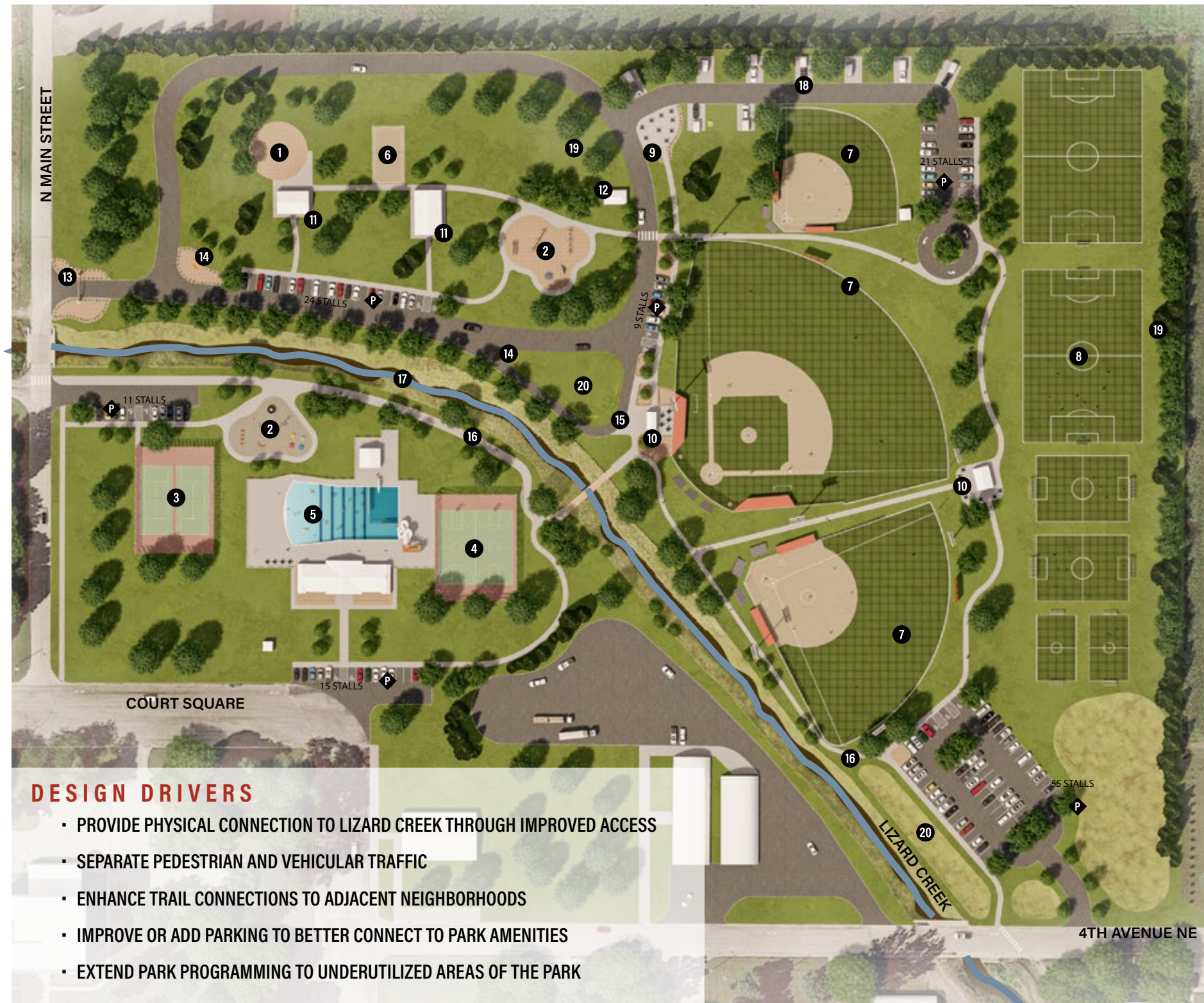
► What amenities would you like to see added to Elbert Park?



Percentage of Responses

- New playground equipment set for ages 2-5 year-old kids 53%
- New playground equipment set for ages 5-12 year-old kids 48%
- Inclusive, accessible playground equipment 33%
- Splash pad 64%
- Variety of swing set options 46%
- More soccer golf holes and signage for them 8%
- Frisbee/Disc Golf 34%
- Pickleball Court 25%
- Walking trail just within Elbert Park 28%
- Walking trail through Pocahontas that passes near Elbert Park 75%
- Showers in bathroom facilities 35%
- Designated parking spots 31%
- Other 9%

Survey created by the Pocahontas Chamber of Commerce



DESIGN DRIVERS

- PROVIDE PHYSICAL CONNECTION TO LIZARD CREEK THROUGH IMPROVED ACCESS
- SEPARATE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
- ENHANCE TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS
- IMPROVE OR ADD PARKING TO BETTER CONNECT TO PARK AMENITIES
- EXTEND PARK PROGRAMMING TO UNDERUTILIZED AREAS OF THE PARK

RECREATION AMENITIES

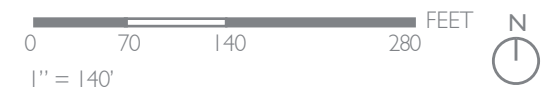
- EXISTING PLAYGROUND SET AREA**
 - Added concrete walks and improved access
- NEW PLAYGROUND AREA**
 - New equipment to replace existing outdated playground set and swings
 - New natural playscape adjacent pool
- EXISTING TENNIS COURTS**
 - Resurfacing and striping to accommodate tennis, pickleball, bean bags, and trike track
- EXISTING BASKETBALL COURTS**
 - Restripe courts and new lighting
- EXISTING COMMUNITY POOL**
 - Updated water play features
- EXISTING SAND VOLLEYBALL**
 - New equipment and needed maintenance on sand
- EXISTING BALL FIELDS + BATTING CAGES**
 - Existing field locations, layouts and batting cages to remain
 - New backstops, bleachers and modern dugouts
- SOCCER FIELDS**
 - Restripe all fields and add new goals
- CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE**
 - Central gathering space with fire pits, game spaces and seating area

BUILDINGS + STRUCTURES

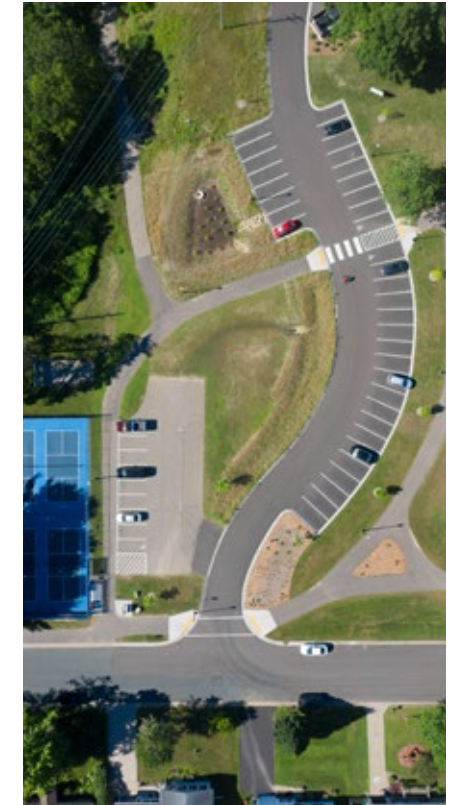
- EXISTING / NEW CONCESSIONS**
 - Create plaza space around with outdoor seating
 - Enhanced planting areas provided
- EXISTING SHELTER HOUSES**
 - Added concrete walks and improved access
 - Added adjacent parking

PARKING + CIRCULATION

- PARKING AREAS**
 - Improved ADA access
 - 10 existing parking spaces preserved
 - 125 additional parking spaces
- MAIN ENTRY**
 - Improve sense of arrival with new added gateway arch to existing pillars
- PARK SIGNAGE**
 - Enhanced plantings surrounding existing park entry sign
 - Relocated ball field entry signage
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION + DROP-OFF AREA**
 - Defined roadway loop with easy drop-off for ball fields
 - Additional parking spaces provided
- TRAIL NETWORK**
 - Separate pedestrian access from vehicular traffic to reduce conflict
 - Provide connections to residential neighborhood to the south and west
 - Create comfortable network to connect park amenities
- LIZARD CREEK EDGE**
 - Encourage safe water access
 - Provide water access points with limestone boulder steps down to water's edge
 - Add riparian edge plantings
- CAMPGROUND EXPANSION**
 - 9 concrete camp pads with picnic tables + fire rings
- NEW TREE CANOPY**
 - Establish new tree canopy where ash species trees removed to encourage biodiversity
 - Enhanced buffer plantings along adjacent lots and residential neighbors
- BIORETENTION AREA**
 - Stormwater management areas added adjacent proposed parking







WATER ACCESS FEATURES

Limestone steps down to the water's edge provide a physical connection to Lizard Creek.

ENHANCED GATEWAY

Utilizing the existing pillars at the front entry, creation of a new overhead gateway feature will give users a sense of arrive to the park and set the tone for the character and new amenity improvements.

PEDESTRIAN TRAILS + CIRCULATION

Separation of pedestrian access and vehicular traffic reduces conflict points and provide connections to residential neighborhood to the south and west. Creates comfortable recreation networks to connect park amenities and experience enhanced native landscape vegetation.

NATIVE VEGETATION

Expanded prairie vegetation and naturalized restoration areas provide seasonal variety and reduce maintenance cost after an established period. Tree canopy should be preserved where possible and restored where removal is required, along with establishing an understory flowering native tree palette. See plant palette for recommended species information.

WAYFINDING

Provide a sense of character and experiential graphic art, while giving users a visual cue to destination points and trail markers throughout the park.

EXPANDED PARKING + BIORETENTION

Designing parking to be strategically located throughout the park provides easy visitor and ADA access locations, while limiting visual and environmental impact to any one location. The use of bioretention areas and green stormwater infrastructure can help filter contaminants and pollution from impervious surfaces, as well as, slow the rate of stormwater runoff.



SPORT COURT RESURFACING

Resurfacing and restriping the tennis courts to provide more community play opportunities by providing tennis, pickleball, trike track and bean bag. Providing lighting and restriping of the basketball court will improve community access availability to later in the evenings.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

New playground sets to replace outdated equipment will meet current safety standards and provides an endless variety of options for themes, setup and equipment selection.

NATURAL PLAYSCAPES

Provide an alternative to traditional playground equipment with more opportunity for kids to creatively explore natural materials in a less regimented sense of play.

CAMPGROUND + RESTROOM / BATHHOUSE

New restrooms and shower facilities would better support the additional campground sites. Concrete RV pad provide opportunities for visitors in a wider variety of weather conditions with simple support amenities of a fire ring and picnic table.

BALL FIELDS

Improved pedestrian circulation, and concession plaza space. New dugouts, backstops and bleachers.

KEYSTONE RIDGE DESIGNS FURNISHINGS OPTIONS



Carson bench



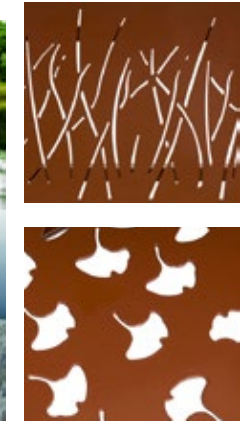
Carson bike rack



LANDSCAPE FORMS FURNISHINGS OPTIONS



Lakeside Collection



ANOVA FURNISHINGS OPTIONS



Cosmopolitan accessible picnic table



Airi 6-foot bench



Airi litter receptacle



Canyon bench



Allure bike rack



Trail site furnishings for bicycle users with fix-it station, bike racks, solar power, seating and lighting



Outdoor sport court lighting



Natural limestone steps to water access



Interactive public art with water

PRECEDENT IMAGERY | PLANT PALETTE



WHITE OAK
QUERCUS ALBA

The white oak is a large, strong, imposing specimen with a long life span and beautiful fall color. It's wide spreading branches form an upright, broad-rounded crown.



ALNUS GLUTINOSA
BLACK ALDER

A tough adoptable plant; few pest problems; tolerates short term flooding; flower and fruiting best in full sun; easy to transplant.



EQUISETUM HYEMALE
SCOURING RUSH

This species features rigid, rough, hollow, vertically-ridged, jointed-and-segmented, bamboo-like, dark green stems (to 1/2" diameter at the base) which rise up from the plant rhizomes. Each stem node (joint) is effectively marked by a whorl of tiny, stem-clasping, scale-like leaves which are fused into an ash-gray sheath (1/4" long) ending in a fringe of teeth.



PANICUM VIRGATUM 'SHENANDOAH'
SHENANDOAH SWITCH GRASS

Prized for its unmatched foliage color. Fast growing green leaves emerge with red tips in spring, darkening through summer, and turning burgundy in fall. Airy reddish-pink flowers in summer. Use for mass background plantings or in containers. Herbaceous perennial.



SPOROBOLUS HETEROLEPIS
PRAIRIE DROPSEED

A fine-textured grass for the landscape with tall, slender stalks that display airy, remarkably fragrant, late summer panicles. Dense, mounded foliage turns deep copper-gold in fall. Attractive accent, or easy care ground cover, if planted in mass. Long-lived and trouble free. Rarely self-seeds. Deciduous.



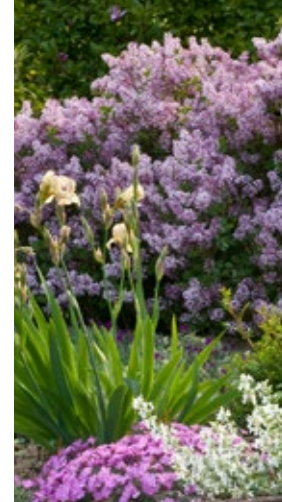
ECHINACEA PURPUREA
PURPLE CONEFLOWER

Hardy, drought-tolerant, purple coneflower will provide color in the summer and structure to planting beds. Mixed with native grasses, the perennial flower will seed freely and seed heads will provide a sculptural form and food for gold finches and other birds in the winter; A variety 18-36" tall is suitable in this context.



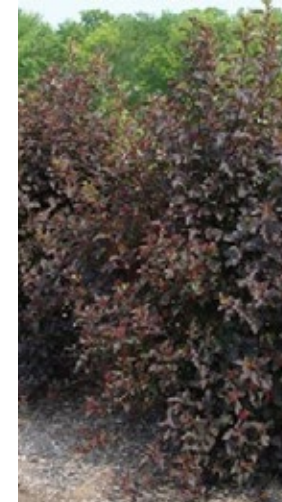
RHUS AROMATICA
'GRO-LOW' SUMAC

This fragrant sumac cultivar is a dense, low-growing, rambling shrub which spreads by root suckers and typically grows only to 1-2' tall but spreads to 8' wide. Trifoliate, medium green leaves turn attractive shades of orange and red in autumn. Leaves and twigs are aromatic when bruised (hence the species name). Fruit is attractive to wildlife.



SYRINGA MEYERI 'PALIBIN'
DWARF KOREAN LILAC

A dwarf, spreading lilac with reddish purple buds that open to fragrant, pale lilac flowers. Blooms profusely in midseason, typically mid-May, and first flowers at an early age. Use in shrub borders with an evergreen background or plant in groups to form a low hedge. Deciduous.



PHYSOCARPUS OPULIFOLIUS 'MONLO'
DIABLO NINEBARK

The stunning deep purple foliage of this versatile shrub makes it a standout in the garden. Plant en masse to create a richly colored, dense hedge or screen. Profuse creamy white flower clusters adorn the foliage in summer. Foliage can become green in high heat or partial shade; tolerates moderate drought in cooler summer regions. Deciduous.



SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM
BLUE HEAVEN LITTLE BLUESTEM

Narrow, upright, grassy foliage makes a great vertical accent for a border or container. Emerges blue, develops pink and burgundy hues in late summer, and turns a rich copper in fall. Slender stems rise up with purplish panicles. Tan seed heads persist into fall. Perfect for bird-friendly landscapes. Herbaceous perennials.

