



Founders' Park Improvement Plan



Shade Study Diagram



Perspective A - Proposed Community Entry Sign

Shade Trees

The map to the left shows some preferred locations for the addition of trees to Founders' Park, and the following species should be considered for optimal shade and attractive seasonal color.



- Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*)
The stately oak gives a grand stature & presence to any site. Swamp white oak takes on the appearance similar to other white oaks, while adapting to occasional flooding.
- Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*)
While Bald Cypress is known for its "knees", it is incredibly adapted to climates beyond the swamps of Louisiana, making a great shade tree in flood-prone areas.
- Black Tupelo** (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
Black Tupelo is a unique species perfect for use as a street tree or in a rain garden, providing ample shade. It can be featured as a specimen, turning a beautiful shade of orange in the fall.
- Eastern Tamarack** (*Larix laricina*)
Similar to the Bald Cypress, the tamarack or larch is endemic to more northern climates. It is notable for adaptability to flood zones and vibrant yellow color in the fall.



Perspective B - Proposed Restroom Looking from Playground

Founders' Park

Founders' Park is the most accessible park in Elkader. Its location and comprehensive set of amenities is highly valued by the community and visitors alike. While the walking trails and amenities offer great recreational opportunities, residents note the lack of shade in strategic locations as well the need for permanent restrooms as primary

improvement areas. Because Founders' Park is located in the Turkey River floodplain, special features must be considered with the siting and design of structural amenities such as a restroom. Residents said that the restroom should have shower facilities to further enhance the water recreation experience for visitors. Additional

Founders' Park improvements proposed include tree plantings for improved shade, permeable paving for structured parking, new trail routings for improved connectivity, a new park entry sign along Main Street, and a shade structure renovation to the existing bandshell.

