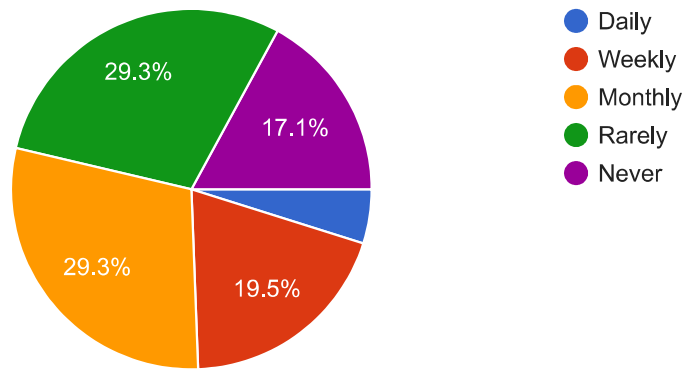


### Question 1: How frequently do you visit Ginter Park Branch Library?

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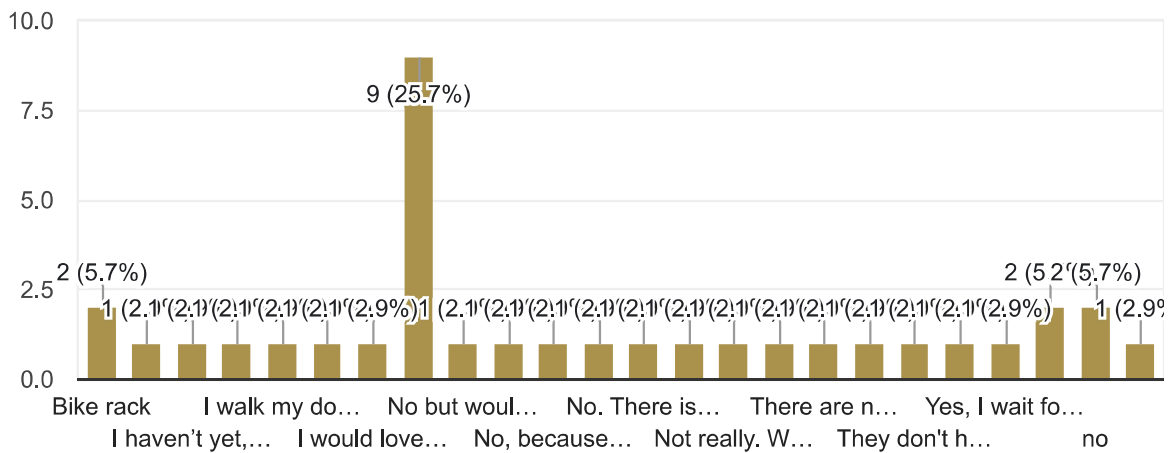
41 responses



### Question 2: Do you use outdoor spaces at the library? If so, which spaces do you use?

[Copy](#)

35 responses



Question 3: What do you like about the outdoor spaces at the library? What don't you like about the outdoor spaces at the library?

33 responses

n/a

Love the compost bins and front yard. Would like to see something done to beautify the surrounding grass near the old Azalea Mall site.

There are only sidewalks around the bldg no outdoor spaces to sit at.

Not aware of any to use

I like shade and lots of birds/squirrels

I have never entered the Ginter Park Library but I have walked past it many times. Have noticed it has the space to create a great outdoor space for patrons to enjoy.

are there any?

N/A

The outdoor areas are not that pretty and there is often trash. I would love for there to be a small playground or play area.

It is nicely manicured but there isn't a lot of space to walk around or sit and with kids is dangerous next to a relatively busy intersection

Not familiar with them

theres nowhere to sit

The outdoor space is right on a busy intersection where people frequently speed, no fence for kids to play safely.

It's green space though it is minimally maintained and not attractive as it could be. The flower bed, next to Brook side entrance, is especially sad. And mulch is piled up on tree trunks, aka volcano mulch which encourages disease.

Small and not designed to be used. Just a front lawn.

The library has a lovely outdoor area which would be enhanced by some seating for users.



I drive past often and it is quite unattractive. It also has extremely limited wildlife value

From my minimal exploration, it seems like a lot of open lawn space which is not always the most useful.

There are no outdoor spaces at the library such as benches or other areas to sit. The trees, shrubs, and other plant-life on the grounds do enhance the beauty of the library facility.

Our girls like the Ripple painting on the storm drain, dislike seeing trash discarded on the side of the road

I like that they could be useful and welcoming. What I don't like is that they are just dull right now.

Simple and well kept, but not designed to be occupied

There are some nice trees, and plantings/landscaping as well as a few bike racks.

Clear views

I love the big old trees! I wish it was easier for people to engage with the outdoor spaces--it feels like much more of landscaping designed to be looked at and not interacted with. It's also a lot of grass lawn which I don't love and I wish that space was utilized better. I also wish there was a bit more screening with trees or bushes from the road at least in part of the outdoor space. It can feel very exposed and I think people are less likely to use the outdoor space because it's right by cars driving fast and doesn't feel private or serene or anything like that.

Like: creates a welcoming setting for the library. Don't like-no amenities for use. Non native plants and mundane design. Lost opportunity for learning

I am filling out this survey to beg you not to make winding sidewalk along city streets. It makes walking further and in the summer and winter it is brutal.

Fresh air, shaded areas, comfortable seating

There are virtually no cons to having outdoor spaces; they act as educational spaces for young children for events like learning about plants/gardening. Green spaces enhance an individual's experience, and support a community's mental and physical health.

Like: The big tree is good! Dislike: The roses gotta go, it's only a matter of time until they get the weird gross rose disease.

While not natives, the magnolia is nice and shades the building; the hydrangeas are terrific colors. Grounds are tidy, but not necessarily inviting.



All there is is a patch of grass and surrounded by a huge empty parking lot?



#### Question 4: What amenities would encourage you to use outdoor spaces at the library?

37 responses

Benches, shaded seating

Maybe a playground for kids. Picknick table or chairs to sit and read.

Shade; comfortable seating

Shade, fountains, wildlife

Water sounds, rock formations, natural benches and shady areas

seating

N/A

Seating, native plants, pollinator garden, space for children to visit

Benches, beautiful garden area, fenced area for kids, kids outdoor space (play area, sand or rock pit, mud kitchen, outdoor storytime space, etc).

Playground, walking path, picnic/benches

As a RVA Master Gardener, I am always interested in "teaching gardens" with local native plants supported by signs with key information about them and their place in our ecosystem, food web, and water quality. Similar signs would address the native fauna that use the plants for habitat, larval hosts, food, pollination, etc.

benches, bird feeders

Fence or plant border so kids don't run into street

Benches maybe a picnic table or two

Specific area to sit and read - with shelter or shade. Multiple areas even better.

A covered patio area with seating would be great.

Seating, lots of native plants, hedges to enclose space and block ugly views

Outdoor seating, picnic tables, shaded areas, fruit trees or community garden / open harvest space



Park benches or other outdoor furnishings (like a picnic table), shade structures. Music/art installations, interactive displays. Native plants.

Any amenities would be an improvement. Replacing the giant, neglected parking lot and abandoned building behind it with green space and development would be nice.

Shady outdoor seating both individual and small groups

I don't live close, but I do support the greening of all RVA libraries + spaces.

Benches, shade trees

I would like to see outdoor reading spots/ park benches, perhaps a picnic table and community garden, additional landscaping

Shaded benches

A picnic table or benches. And I would LOVE a raised bed or two for vegetable/herb/flower gardening where the public can grow what they like and the library can use the beds for educational programming!

Seating, interesting plantings, explanatory signage

Comfortable shaded seating. Spaces to attach hammocks. Native plants that have seasonal color interest.

Comfortable seating, shade, trash & recycling cans

Shaded seating spaces; group seating spaces; open-layout spaces (not-enclosed)

Seating, more rad plants.

Shade

n/a

Bike/skate park

Addorondack-type chairs? Benches.

More greenery, places for families and groups to explore/mingle/act as a third place

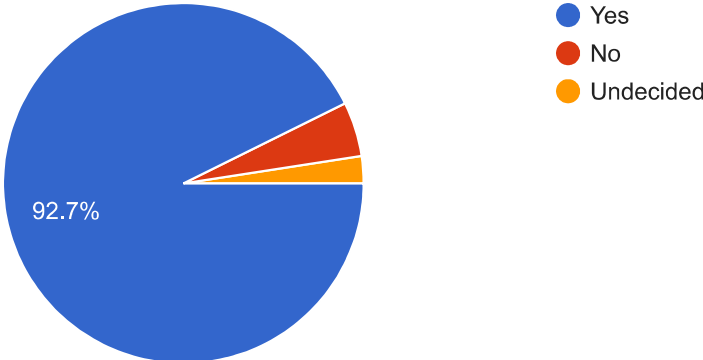
Shade, picnic tables. A water fountain would be awesome! Lots of runners go by there. Owl boxes!



Question 5: Non-native and invasive tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species provide little ecological value. Do you support the replacement of non-native and invasive plant species on library grounds with native plant species?

 Copy

41 responses



Question 6: Do you have any preferences regarding the native tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species to be planted on library grounds? If so, please share your thoughts below.

35 responses

No

Flowering trees, plants that can be used as food (herbs, vegetables, etc)

Don't murder the crepe murdles. Don't trim them every year, let them grow like they are supposed to so they can thrive.

Don't have the knowledge without looking at a book informing me of what is native here.

Defer to experts.

Beautyberry bush

None

It would be great to add native plants but to use the shrubs that are there now too

Those appropriate for specific locations and objectives throughout the grounds

pollinator attractors please. Echinacea etc.

Hydrangeas, hellebores, azaleas - all frequently seen in Ginter park

something drought resistant and can thrive with little care

No.

would be great to incorporate host plants as an educational opportunity for kids

As many trees and plants that produce fruit or food. Community space can also feed people, for free!

No preference.

Would be nice to plant something that provides shade

It would be nice to see some flowering plants at various times of year. And since we have such warm winters lately, some winter interest would be welcome. Also, huge evergreens take up a





lot of space.

n/a

No irrigation

Anything that is low maintenance and appealing

I love any kind of edible native plants as well as native flowers, we have so many beautiful ones! Something like sochan combines those two things

Include year-round interest, carefully research placement.

I'd like a mix of evergreen and deciduous natives. Beautyberry is a hit in my neighborhood.

Redbud trees, columbine, goldenrod, echinacea

Golden ragwort, Wild geranium, hydrangeas, sweet pepperbushes, American beautyberry, carolina rose, Coneflower, Chrysogonum virginianum, Blue mistflower, yarrow, Anemone  
Trees: Eastern Redbud, willow oak

Any VA native species would be amazing!

Not really, but it'd be nice to have a variety of stuff that blooms at different times throughout the year and provides some good winter interest during the off months.

Plant native as much as possible

plants that can provide shade + mosquito repellent if possible

Dogwood. Mountain laurel. Native things I'm magnolia family don't provide much shade.

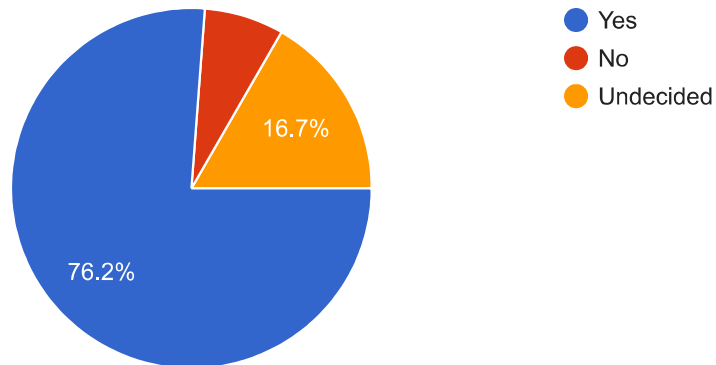
Anything native is great!



Question 7: Impervious surfaces such as parking areas and streets yield stormwater when it rains. Do you support the removal of some asphalt and parking spaces in the library's parking area?

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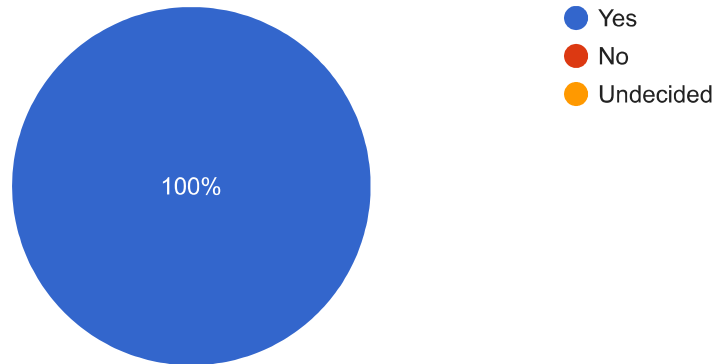
42 responses



Question 8: Rain gardens intercept stormwater before it becomes stormwater runoff. Do you support the installation of rain gardens on library grounds to reduce stormwater runoff and create habitat for wildlife?

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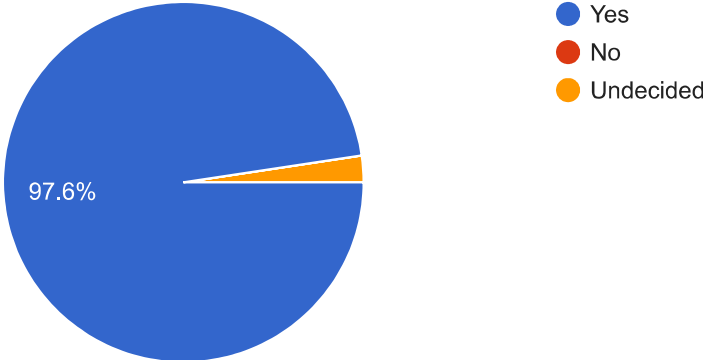
42 responses



Question 9: Do you support the installation of public art on library grounds?

 Copy

42 responses



## Question 10: Is there anything else you like to share with the planning and design team?

26 responses

Biggest key for me is connecting the library to the surrounding grassy fields, and making them flow together.

The parking lot is already adequate size. Don't make it smaller. My mother uses the library all the time. Maybe replace the asphalt with open paving, the lattice ones with dirt/grass inbetween, instead but don't take away the parking that is already there.

Parking is already limited; if remove spaces, limits patron access

Thank you!

If you want public art, it should be calming. The peaceful environment which public libraries offer is why I love to visit them so often.

Please please please consider something for kids outside here!! We don't have any walkable kids area to Ginter Park/Bellevue, and perhaps it would bring others to our tiny neighborhood library branch! But anything to spruce up the outside area would be wonderful here!

Add a playground too!

Would love a place that you can play with kids safely with barrier to intersection, even just safe place to put a blanket down and read a book.

Public art, creation of habitat, removal of asphalt would be lovely.

There is a GRTC bus stop on Brook Road outside of the library - incorporating this somehow into the plans would be a great bonus.

I was branch manager at Ginter Park for 15 years and am thrilled to see this finally happening!

Please incorporate natives and use as an opportunity to educate on ecological principles

As an employee of the library, I would like to encourage having safe outdoor areas for patrons to sit outside of the library. Site amenities would attract families to use our outdoor spaces for reading or picnics during warmer weather. Benches on our grounds, near the vicinity of the main road or parking lot, would assist older patrons waiting for rides or the bus. Our outdoor areas have space that are far enough from the building that noise would not be a hindrance for library operations.



Would really like to see a broader development on the huge parking lot behind it that fits with whatever you do at the library. Is this the most efficient spending to divert water from our combined sewer system by putting in the rain garden or could we better focus that effort somewhere else that contributes more in heavy storms.

We may need some irrigation. Also, my thanks!

n/a

Looking forward to this!

I'm sending an email as well, but I'm a new employee at Ginter Park working in teen programming and I'm very interested in getting involved in this project and collaborating any way I can! I have a background in gardening and some native landscaping in my previous job with Richmond Parks, and I'm super excited to hopefully bring that here. Very excited to hear about this project!

Is there an opportunity to borrow from the adjacent field on the Azalea Mall site to install bluebird boxes or bat houses on Library property.

Is there a way to provide handicapped access more directly from the bus stop?

Can the Westwood entrance be made accessible?

I am filling out this survey to beg you not to make winding sidewalk along city streets. It makes walking further and in the summer and winter it is brutal. I love the native plants near the north Ave library but despise that sidewalk. I'd love to see it torn out and replaced with a straight sidewalk and then more shading natives installed along it.

I am happy that green spaces are being developed in Richmond communities.

Excited for this work!

thank you for taking comments and thinking about these solutions.

I know these are strong opinions for someone who visits less than monthly – I'll visit more when I retire from Henrico libraries. ;-)

Thank you for your work on greening public spaces!

Can the huge parking lot be purchased?

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