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**General Design Guidelines**

1. The goal of TreeMendous PlayHouses is to showcase fun, creative, innovative, and interactive outdoor play structures that incorporate sustainable building methods and materials; and that offer a unique connection to nature, science, and/or the garden.

The playhouses will be viewed and played on by thousands of garden visitors. Therefore, in addition to telling their own unique story in a fun way, they must be durable.

1. The design competition is an important part of the TreeMendous PlayHouses exhibition. In addition to the winning designs that will be built, all design entries will become part of the TreeMendous PlayHouses Design Gallery. All designs submitted (that conform to guidelines) will be displayed in the Hiram Butler House during the exhibition and the design teams will be recognized.

Design Teams selected to build their play house will also receive recognition on signage at the play house.

1. Designs receiving highest consideration will be those that achieve the stated goal of the exhibition: fun, creativity/innovation, interactive for garden visitors, outdoor-focused, and constructed with sustainable materials.

The following weighted factors will be used to determine winning designs:

* 1. (10%) Visitor Safety
	2. (20%) Construction Materials –ability to be recycled or repurposed in some way
	3. (20%) Innovation
	4. (30%) Overall Appeal
	5. (20%) Connection to nature, science, the garden
	6. Construction Materials – cost – must be included for student teams seeking funding
1. Limited material-cost underwriting, up to $1500, will be available to student teams who submit designs that are selected for construction. These structures will be the property of Smith-Gilbert Gardens.

Other teams may be self-funded. Self-funded teams will have the option to remove their play structures at the end of the exhibition.

1. Designs may be site-specific, based on the available sites indicated at the design phase orientation. If the design is site specific, please include in the design concept narrative the site for which the design was created.
2. Design submissions must be received at Smith-Gilbert Gardens no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 10. No exceptions. No designs will be accepted via email or third-party delivery, including US Postal Service.
3. All designs will be reviewed by a Blue Ribbon Panel, including the City of Kennesaw Building Official.
4. All design materials submitted for the TreeMendous PlayHouses Design Competition will become the property of Smith-Gilbert Gardens, and will not be returned at the end of the competition.
5. Winners will be notified the week of 4/23/18.

**Safety**

End-user (garden visitors of all ages) safety must be a top priority throughout the design-build process.

Designs must not place users higher than 29 inches above ground level. Any stairs/steps must be of conventional dimensions and incorporate a handrail.

Consider the possible effect of wind on the structure. Include a stabilizing system in the design if wind shear may be a problem.

Electricity will not be available on site, and therefore should not be incorporated into playhouse designs.

**All design submissions must include:**

1. A concept image(s) mounted on a single 24”x 36” foam-core board – unframed – that includes a bracket for hanging. The image may be artwork drawn by hand or created with software. DO NOT indicate the team’s identity in any way on this piece.
2. A design narrative, not to exceed 500 words. This narrative should include:
	* how the visual concept relates to the stated goal of the exhibition
	* all pertinent safety protections such as handrails, anchor systems, etc.
3. A thumb drive with a PDF of the image.
4. 3”x 5” index card with the team name, names of team members, school/business/organization affiliation, and primary contact information. This index card must be in a sealed envelope, secured to the back side of the image board.
5. **STUDENT TEAMS** must include a materials list with costs itemized to be considered for building materials cost underwriting. Total expenses should not exceed $1500.

Designs should be submitted at Smith-Gilbert Gardens, 2382 Pine Mountain Road, Kennesaw during Garden hours, Tuesday – Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM unless prior approval for other consideration.

If you have questions or would like additional guidance as you work through the design process, please email us at info@smithgilbertgardens.com. We will review your preliminary ideas and sketches and discuss concepts.