

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

March 2024

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

General John J. Pershing, born September 13, 1860 in Linn County, Missouri, was the most accomplished and celebrated American war hero of the early 20th century. Pershing's small town upbringing supplied him with a work ethic that would be instrumental in his prestigious military career, earning him the highest rank our nation has to offer.

In 1866, John F. Pershing, a prominent merchant, and wife Ann Thompson Pershing purchased and moved into a rural Gothic Revival residence (circa 1858), located in Laclede, Missouri. John F. and Ann were accompanied by their sons John Joseph (age six) and James Fletcher, and daughter Mary Elizabeth Pershing.

Years later, the nationwide depression of 1873 drastically affected the Pershing family. Overextended, John F. sold his business ventures and became a traveling salesman; Ann let rooms in their home for boarders; and John J. and James had to reduce their time at school to work nearby farms to help make ends meet.

John J. would eventually have to delay his hopes of attending college, and instead turned to teaching at the Prairie Mound School, located approximately 10 miles south of Laclede. Eventually, his teaching salary allowed him to attend classes at Kirksville Normal School (now Truman State University) where he received his teaching degree. It was then that Pershing saw a newspaper article concerning the competitive exam for entrance into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Pershing took the test on Oct. 20, 1881, qualified and was nominated to West Point, where he graduated in 1886.

Second Lt. John J. Pershing's first assignment in 1886 was with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Baynard, N.M., where he conducted operations against the Apache Indians led by Chief Geronimo. He fought with the 6th Cavalry in 1891 on the Dakota-Nebraska border where Chief Sitting Bull was killed, and the 10th (Black) Cavalry in the Battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War in 1898.

In 1900, he was assigned to the Philippine Islands, was an observer of the Russo-Japanese War in Manchuria in 1905, and in 1906 was promoted from Captain to Brigadier General by President Theodore Roosevelt. He returned to the Philippines in 1909, where he became governor of the Moro province, and led campaigns against the Moros, who by 1913 no longer posed a threat to American rule. In 1914, Pershing took command of the American forces on the Mexican border in the campaign against the revolutionary leader Francisco "Pancho" Villa.

In 1917, Pershing was sent to France as commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. His tasks included organizing, training and supplying an inexperienced

force that quickly grew to more than 2 million. These American troops bolstered the spirits of European allies and helped defeat the Central Powers in 1918. On September 3, 1919, the 66th U.S. Congress awarded the rank of General of the Armies of the United States to John Joseph Pershing (the highest military rank in the United States Army, and posthumously awarded to George Washington in 1976).

During his military career, Pershing was also a professor at the University of Nebraska and an assistant instructor at West Point, where he was given the name "Black Jack" due to his previous affiliation with the black cavalry. Pershing won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1932 for his memoirs, "My Experiences in the World War."

General John Joseph Pershing died on July 15, 1948, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with highest military honors. He was preceded in death by his wife (Frances Warren) and three daughters who perished in a fire in 1915. Only his 5-year old son, Warren, survived the fire.

The Pershing home was the only permanent residence in which John J. Pershing would ever reside; all other abodes were provided by the military. The Pershing family left Laclede in 1885, but after his worldwide military exploits, he would still return to visit this house in Laclede from time to time.

By the 1950's, the home had fallen into a state of disrepair. The Pershing Park Memorial Association (PPMA), a group interested in memorializing General Pershing after World War I, acquired the home in Laclede in 1952 and transferred it to the State of Missouri. The home was restored and opened to the public in 1957 as a state historic site.

Parcels surrounding the home were added over the decades until the entire block, less the southwest corner, was acquired by the state. A heroic scale statue of General Pershing was relocated to the site from its original location near the state capital in 1968. In 1983, the PPMA erected the Wall of Honor around the statue. With the assistance of the PPMA, the Prairie Mound School was rescued from destruction, and moved to the northeast corner plot in 1983. The Hall House was used as a state residence until 1999, then converted to serve as office and public contact space.

In 2008, the PPMA proposed expanding the interpretation of Pershing's life and entered into an agreement to acquire a suitable platform to enhance the nation's sole historic site dedicated to General John J. Pershing. In January 2017, an additional block of land and building was transferred to the state of Missouri to be converted into a World War I memorial garden and Pershing Memorial Museum and Leadership Archive.

In May, 1969, the site was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in September, 1977, the site was designated a National Historic Landmark.

MISSION STATEMENT:

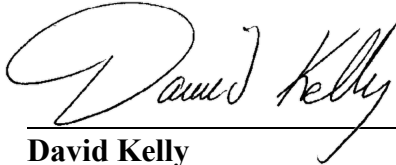
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STATE HISTORIC SITE**

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

March 2024

APPROVED BY:



David Kelly
Director, Missouri State Parks

05/20/2024

Date



Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

04/25/2024

Date



Dustin Webb
Regional Director, Northern Region

4-5-2024

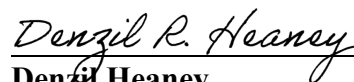
Date



Brett Barnes
Deputy Regional Director, Northern Region

04/08/2024

Date



Denzil Heaney
Superintendent

4/24/2024

Date

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

March 2024

Location: Linn County
Established: 1952
Size: 5.62 Acres

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INTRODUCTION

General John J. Pershing, born September 13, 1860 in Linn County, Missouri, was the most accomplished and celebrated American war hero of the early 20th century. Pershing's small town upbringing supplied him with a work ethic that would be instrumental in his prestigious military career, earning him the highest rank our nation has to offer.

The house known as the Pershing Boyhood Home was originally constructed in 1858 by Dr. Nathaniel Harris. In 1866, John F. Pershing along with wife Ann Thompson, purchased the approximately 3,800 square foot home and townscape. The eldest of three children, John Joseph, was six years old at the time of purchase. John J. lived in the house until his departure for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1881. This was the only real civilian home Pershing had. In Pershing's later years, particularly those immediately following World War I, he was fond of returning to the area.

The predominant design of the home is Rural Gothic Revival with curvilinear gingerbread trim on the gables, molded pinnacles at the apex of the roof, and hood molds over the windows. The home has a native limestone masonry foundation and the walls are wood platform framing with clapboard siding. The interior walls are lath and plaster over brick between the wall studs on the first floor. The roof is cedar shake. Three brick wood burning fireplaces and stoves heated the home. The home has a main parlor, library, lining room, serving room, pantry, kitchen, and a storage room on the first floor. A master bedroom, two additional bedrooms, and a walk-in attic are located under the peaked roof line.

The townscape itself reflects the basic needs of an 1860 to 1880 period family in northern Missouri encompassing a home, cellar, privy, and smokehouse. Other aspects of the townscape which do not remain are the stable/barn and family garden.

By the 1950's, the home had fallen into a state of disrepair. The Pershing Park Memorial Association (PPMA), a group interested in memorializing General Pershing after World War 1, acquired the home in Laclede in 1952 and transferred it to the State of Missouri. The home was restored and opened to the public in 1957 as a state historic site.

Parcels surrounding the home were added over the decades until the entire block, less the southwest corner, was acquired by the state. A heroic scale statue of General Pershing was relocated to the site from its original location near the state capital in 1968. In 1983, the PPMA erected the Wall of Honor around the statue. With the assistance of the PPMA, the Prairie Mound School was rescued from destruction, and moved to the northeast corner plot in 1983. The Hall House was used as a state residence until 1999, then converted to serve as office and public contact space.

In 2008, the PPMA proposed expanding the interpretation of Pershing's life and entered into an agreement to acquire a suitable platform to enhance the nation's sole historic site dedicated to General John J. Pershing. In January 2017, an additional block of land and building was transferred to the state of Missouri to be converted into a World War I memorial garden and the Pershing Memorial Museum and Leadership Archive.

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SITE GOALS

- Preserve the natural and cultural resources located within the site's boundaries;
- Provide recreational opportunities and public use facilities compatible with the site's mission, resources, and public needs;
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience;
- Provide administrative support facilities to ensure successful operation and maintenance of the historic site.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- Pre-military life of John J. Pershing: 1860-1882
- Pershing in Perspective: An evaluation of his military career (1882-1948) and his place in American history.
 - West Point to San Juan
 - Foreign Service
 - Commanding General (1914-1924)
 - Retirement and Declining Years
- Missouri's Role in World War I

SITE STRUCTURES

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Sqft</u>	<u>Const. Year</u>	<u>Historic</u>
Pershing Memorial Museum and Leadership Archives	7,800	1996	No
Flammable Storage Shed	36	1966	Yes
Storage Building # 2	120	1966	Yes
Maintenance Shop	308	1966	Yes
Garage - next to office	415	1967	Yes
Storage Building # 1	168	1967	Yes
Privy	42	1858	Yes
Summer Kitchen	144	1858	Yes
Pershing Boyhood Home	3,799	1858	Yes ^{*,**}
Office	3,260	1930	Yes
Prairie School	936	1874	Yes

*National Register of Historic Places

** National Historic Landmark

USE AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site's development should support the preservation and interpretation of the Pershing Boyhood Home, Prairie Mound School, and extant remains of the grounds and artifacts; and provide appropriate accessibility for historic site visitors.

1. Designate Visitor Center Area

The area encompassing the Pershing Memorial Museum and Leadership Archives/Site Office (Visitor Center) is to be designated as the new Visitor Center Area.

2. Improve Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is to be improved through exterior updates (to give it the appearance of an official MSP structure), foundation recovery, airlock system addition, industrial storage development, water foundation addition, and replacement/repair of tourist information racks.

3. Improve Parking

Parking improvements across the historic site are to include ADA parking at the Visitor Center, development of overflow parking and bus turnaround near the corner of Ausmus and Olive Street, and mill and overlay at the leased parking lot near the church.

4. Construct Maintenance Shop with Attached Public ADA Restroom

A new maintenance shop is to be constructed east of the Visitor Center, providing adequate workspace for site staff. Additionally, an attached ADA restroom is to be incorporated into the maintenance shop's construction. This restroom will serve the public and will also be available for use when the Visitor Center is closed. Lastly, the area surrounding the shop is to be designated as a Service Area.

5. Designate Special Event Area

The open space south of the Visitor Center and Ausmus Street is to be designated as a Special Event Area for outdoor programming, events, and performances.

6. Improve Walking Paths and Building Access

Walking paths and building access across the historic site is to be improved. These improvements will include the concrete sidewalk along Prairie Street, gravel paths, benches, and ADA picnic tables to be added where appropriate. However, to preserve historic landscapes, no new paths will be developed south of Hall House.

7. Restore the Prairie Mound School House

The Prairie Mound School House will be restored to a one-room schoolhouse or similar setting after the new museum opens. This restoration will feature hardwood floors, current unisex bathroom, and reconstruction of the ADA access ramp. Additionally, restoration would also include potential replacements for the windows, shingles, and HVAC system.

8. Demolish Structures

Pending approved demo memos, unused and non-significant structures throughout the historic site, such as the old maintenance shop, the garage/shed, chicken coop, outhouse, and Hall House (depending on the feasibility study) will be demolished. Multiple such structures have been identified as unsafe and will be removed as a preemptive measure.

9. Rehabilitate the Pershing Boyhood Home

The Pershing Boyhood Home will be rehabilitated to include foundation repair, rebuilding of the root cellar, replacement of the HVAC system, new paint, installation of a climate system to help preserve artifacts, and an ADA access ramp.

10. Develop a Themed Activity Area

A themed activity area for children to play and learn will be developed in the area just south of Ausmus street and next to the designated Special Event Area.

11. Install EV Charging Station

An EV charging station will be installed to include two parking areas directly east of visitor center garage door, to be completed along with improvements to the parking lot identified in proposed development #3.

Special Considerations

- Pulling team members away from the historic buildings will be negated by the installation of security cameras and alarm systems across the historic site.
- Though the EV charging station only received 47% approval from the public via online surveys, the decision to include the EV charging station was made due to its ideal location with proximity to other charging stations in the state. Additionally, the historic site is an

Affiliate Welcome Center (Missouri Division of Tourism), which offers tips, insights and important information to travelers exploring Missouri.

- The proposal to relocate the statue and wall of honor was withdrawn due to strong opposition by citizens via survey responses as well as public meetings.
- Many comments were received concerning the relocation of the American War Mothers Memorial from Pershing State Park to Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site. This memorial was historically designed to be located at Pershing State Park with accompanying ADA access and interpretive signage. Additionally, in recent years the memorial has undergone significant restoration. With these considerations, the American War Mothers Memorial will remain at its current location.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS

- Update and/or completion of the site's General Management Plan
- Hall House feasibility study
 - Determine if demolition is appropriate or if there is viability for other uses.
- Visitor center foundation recovery assessment

PROJECT PHASING

- Phase 1
 - Rehabilitate the Pershing Boyhood Home
 - Designate Visitor Center Area
 - Designate Special Event Area
 - Improved Parking
 - Install EV Charging Station
- Phase 2
 - Improve Visitor Center
 - Improve walking paths and building Access
 - Construct Maintenance Shop with Attached Public ADA Restroom
- Phase 3
 - Demolish Structures
 - Restore the School House
 - Develop a Themed Activity Area

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

ACQUISITION UNITS

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Public Input

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. Throughout the CDP process, MSP staff participated in on-site events. These events, one an open house and the other a visit to the park during the annual “Pershing Days” celebration, allowed staff the opportunity to discuss the CDP with park-goers and residents, and collect additional survey data concerning the proposed development projects. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process:

1. **Public Survey #1, October 25, 2022 - November 23, 2022**
 - a. n = 26
2. **Public Meeting, September 9th, 2023 (Pershing Days)**
 - a. n= 45
3. **Public Meeting, November 8th, 2023 (Open House)**
 - a. n = 5
4. **Public Survey #2, November 8th – December 7th**
 - a. n = 13

Communication methodologies: Press release, legislative letters, social media posts, mostateparks.com/CDP, email bulletin, and QR business cards/flyer.

CDP Team Members:

- David Kelly – Division Director
- Brian Stith – Division Deputy Director
- Laura Hendrickson – Division Deputy Director
- Dustin Webb – Northern Region Director
- Brett Barnes – Northern Region Deputy Director
- Denzil Heaney– Historic Site Superintendent
- Jana Keune – Park Specialist
- Ken McCarty – Natural Resource Program Director
- Dr. Mike Ohnersorgen – Cultural Resource Management Program Director
- Kim Dillon – Cultural Resource Management Section Chief
- Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director
- Don Stier – Design Section Chief
- Ryan Dunwoody – Planning Section Chief
- Daniel Engler - Planner
- Rebecca Young – Outdoor Recreation Management Section Chief
- Logan Nuernberger – Trail Coordinator

- Zane Price – Real Estate Manager

APPENDIX

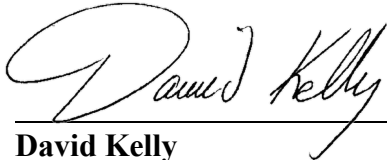
- CDP Map
- Public Survey #1 Results
- Public Survey #2 Results

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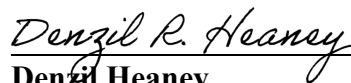
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Denzil Heaney
Superintendent

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Date



USE AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

- ① Designate Visitor Center Area
- ② Improve the Visitor Center
- ③ Improve Parking
 - a. ADA parking
 - b. Overflow parking & bus turnaround
 - c. Mill & overlay
- ④ Construct a new maintenance shop with attached ADA public restroom.
- ⑤ Designate Special Event Area
- ⑥ Improve Walking Paths and Building Access
 - a. Gravel paths
 - b. Prairie Street sidewalk
 - c. Building access
- ⑦ Restore the Prairie Mound School House
- ⑧ Demolish Structures
 - a. Old maintenance shop & surrounding structures
 - b. Hall House & garage
- ⑨ Rehabilitate the Pershing Boyhood Home
- ⑩ Develop a Themed Activity Area
- ⑪ Install EV Charging Station



GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

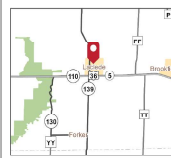
Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15N
Absolute Scale: 1:450



0 0.01 0.02 0.03 Miles

Legend

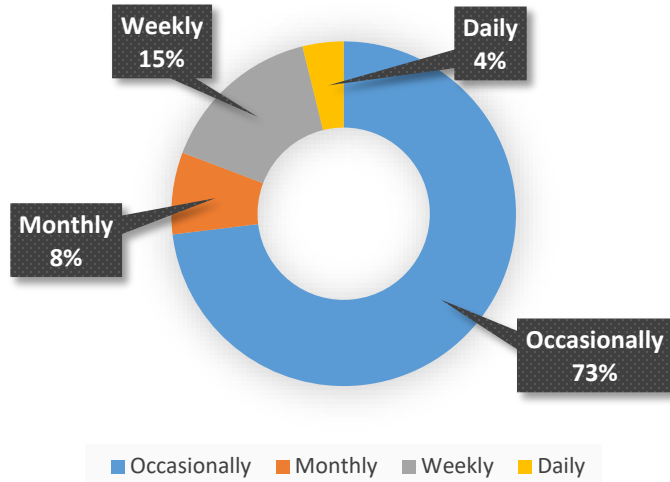
- Structure
- Special Event Area
- Interpretive Area
- Service Area
- Visitor Center Area



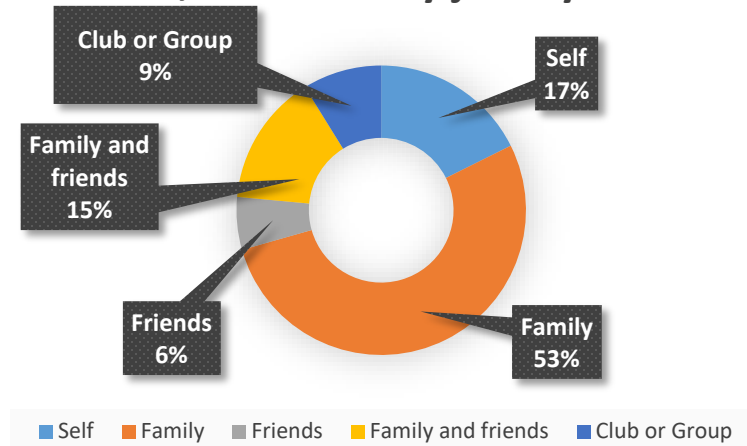
Conceptual Development Plan Date: March 2024

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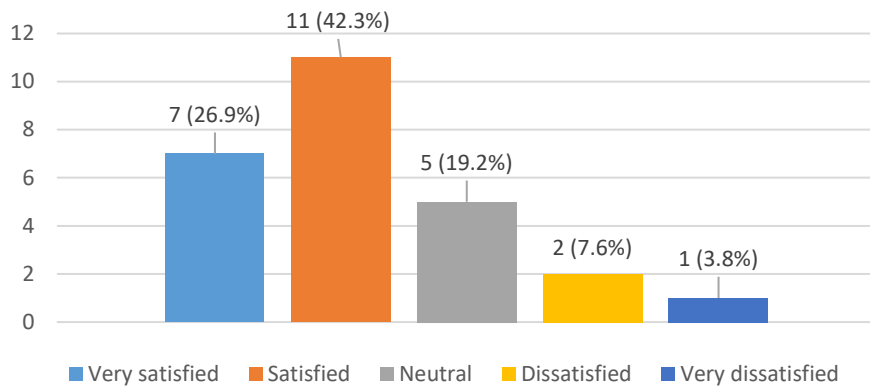
How Often Do You Visit This Site?



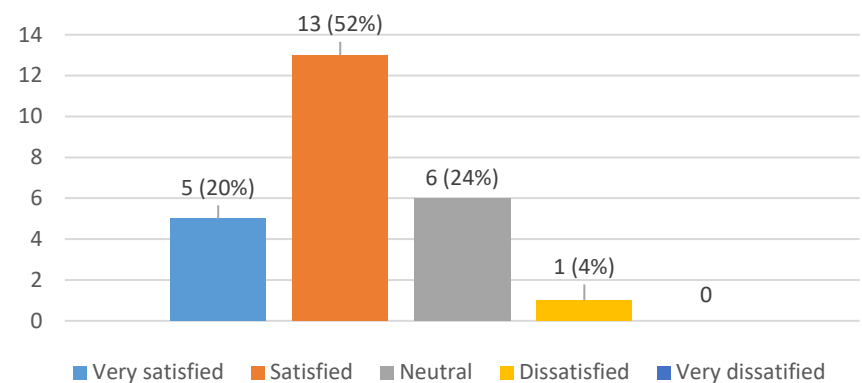
When you visit this park or historic site, who usually joins you?



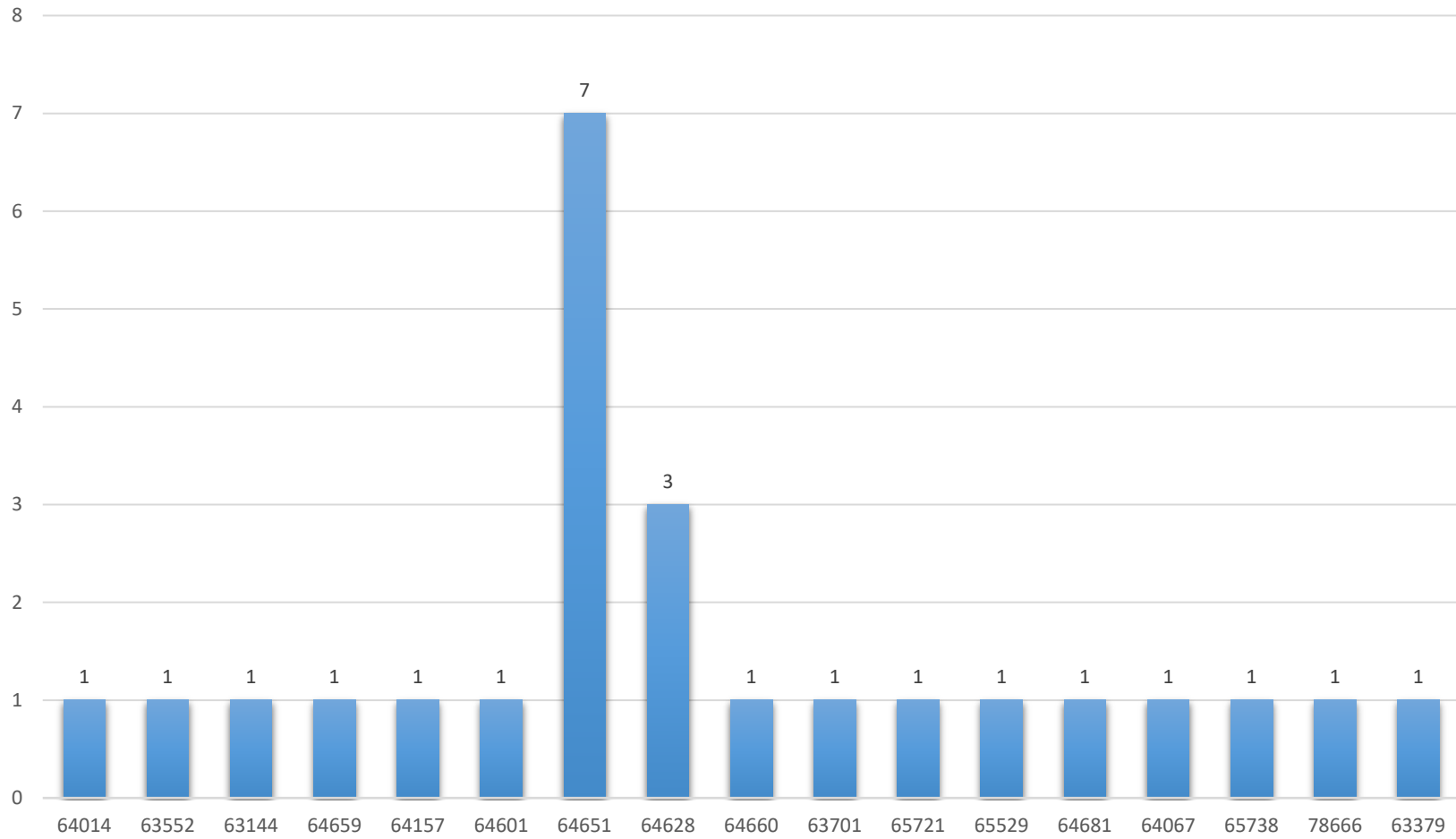
How satisfied are you with the recreational activities this park or historic site offers?



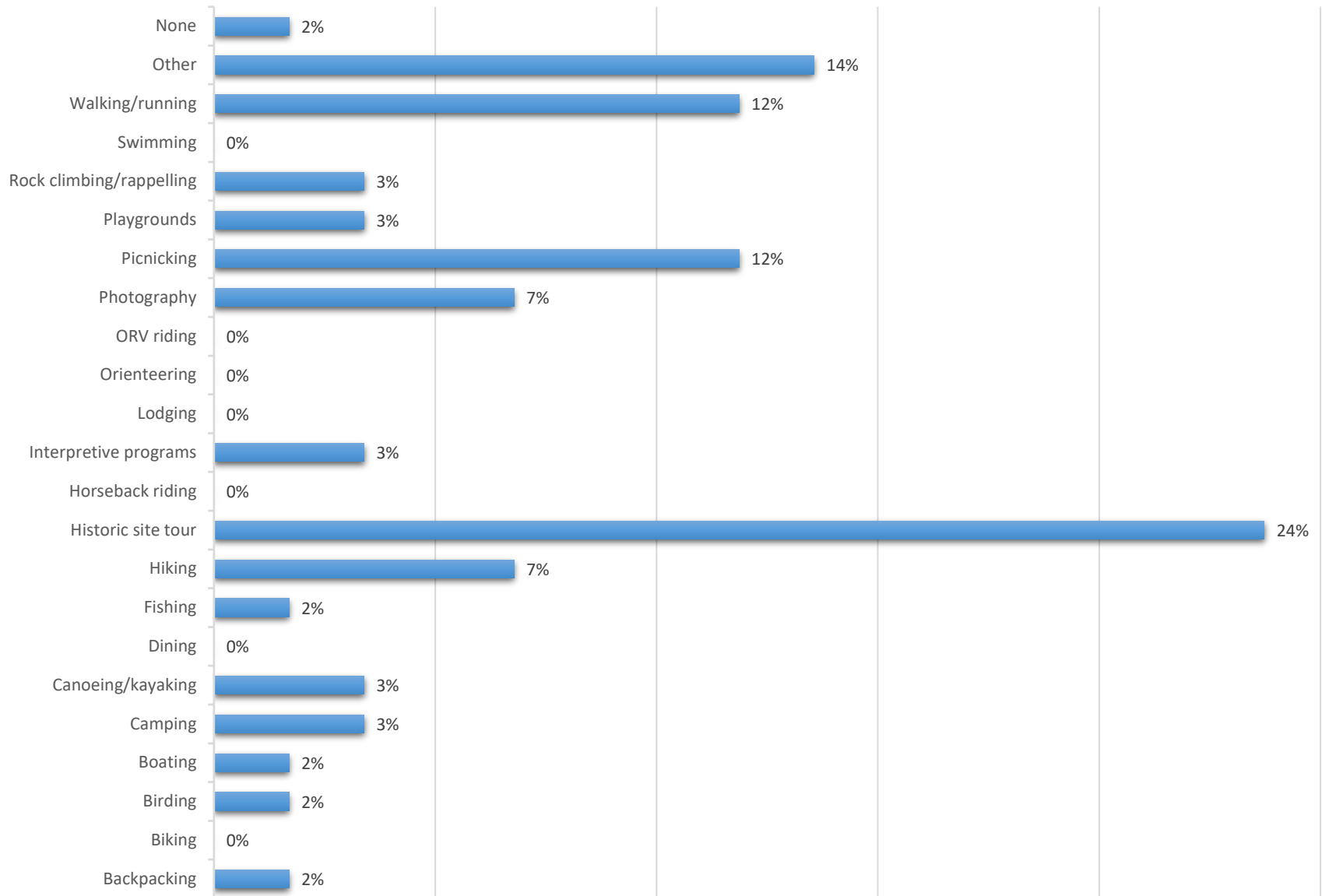
How satisfied are you with the infrastructure and amenities this park or historic site offers?



Respondant Zipcodes



Which recreational activities are you engaging in during your visit?



What recreational activity, if any, do you feel is missing and should be added to this park or historic site to enhance the visitor experience?

1. I feel like there could be more. More play grounds, more historical exhibits throughout the grounds. It's all very fun and neat to see but I personally feel like with everything General has accomplished and being from Missouri there could be more exhibitions along the ground to dedicate to him. It would allow people to walk around more and be able to not be clumped together but still get to experience everything g
2. Bike rentals or other big lawn games you could "check out" to play while in the park like connect four or lawn checkers
3. More interactive ness especially for kids
4. Larger fishing spots now that the creek no longer flows thru the park and expanded play areas for the children.
5. Children's outdoor play space
6. Lake with swimming area
7. playground
8. N/a
9. None. This is a great state park that is very underrated.
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. Walking for fitness
13. People need a place to swim at Pershing Park

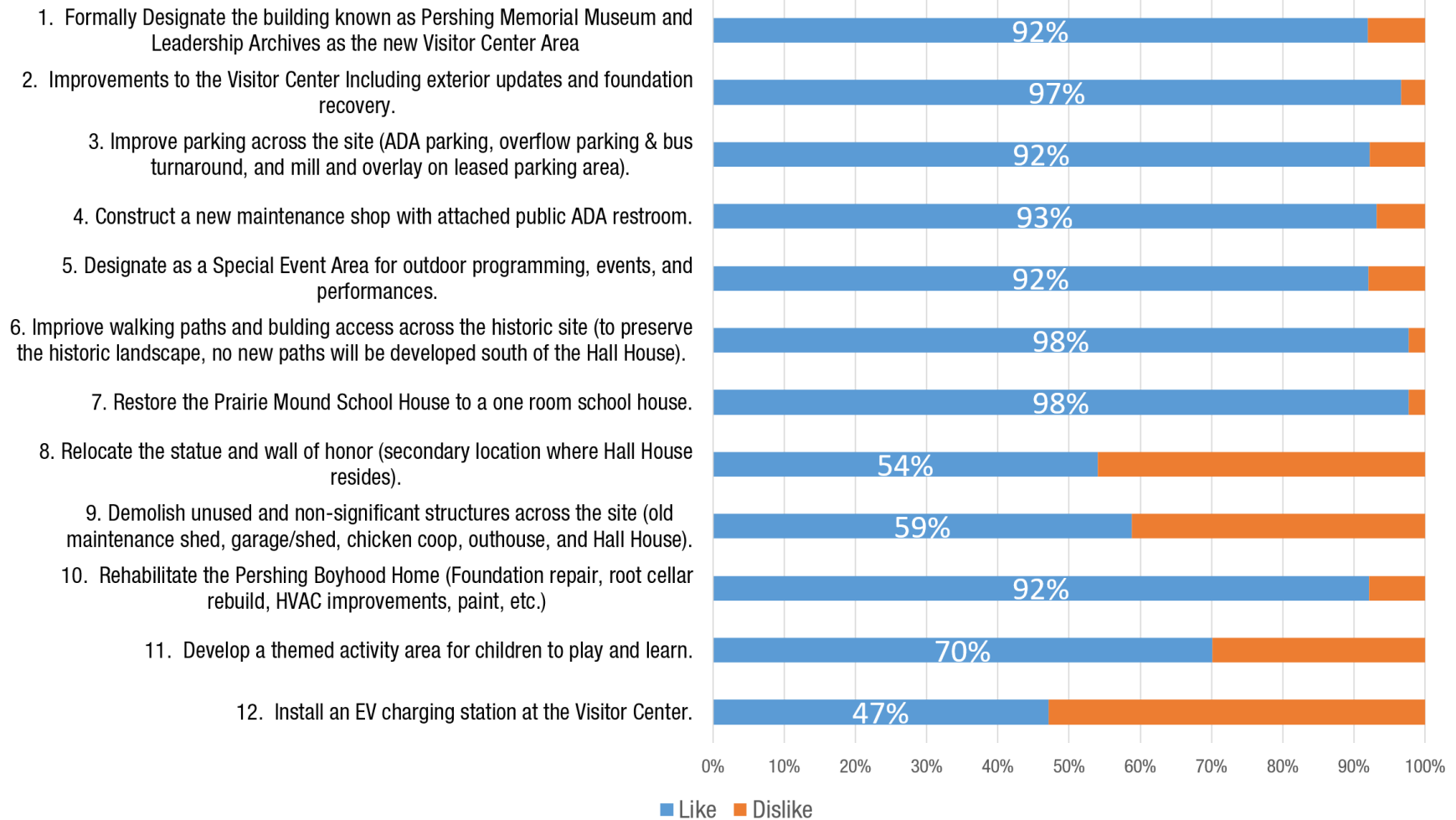
What infrastructure, if any, do you feel is missing and should be added to this park or historic site to enhance the visitor experience?

1. 50 amp service and full hookups would be nice at the campsites
2. I know there is a movie that is played that you watch at the beginning of the tour in the gift shop. I think it would be nice if the gift shop could be expanded by another room so you have one room dedicated to the movie and one room dedicated to the gift shop

3. Needs a lot of update dates, rehab and painting
4. Already spoke about this. But could use more picnic tables at boyhood home site.
5. Bathrooms
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. Electric vehicle recharging station
9. Pershing school house should look more like a school inside
10. The Pershing Memorial Association has a collection and a building. The state needs to work more closely with that group to make the collection more publicly accessible and add to the interpretation of the Pershing story.
11. A small library area with a good collection of books about Pershing to examine and peruse. Perhaps some audiovisual displays, maybe linked to the WWI Museum in KC that feature Pershing and his career.



Proposed Development Survey Results:



Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site?

1. Very well maintained and people are very knowledgeable about Pershing.
2. We love this site!
3. Hire more help. War mothers.
4. Should be open 7 days a week.
5. #9: Restore NOT demolish. #10: Leave historically accurate. #11: No playgrounds - kids have enough.
6. Improve parking lots. Better display for cannon. More staffing so site can be open 7 days per week. Water fountains.
7. The [statue's] current location is appropriate. The outhouse and coop were how people lived in the 1870's. [EV Station] Could tie up parking space for other vehicles. It takes 40 minutes to charge an EV.
8. Don't remove or relocate Pershing statue.
9. Better signs on 29 35 HWY and 36. Inclusion with MO military sites program as a stamp in passport. Find Pershing/Military naval items.
10. Need more employees to stay open on Sunday-Monday. Would like to see the poppy garden better maintained. Would like to see the war mother monument moved from Pershing Park to Laclede.
11. Evaluate moving the war mother statue in Pershing Park to the visitor center.
12. Don't move the statue.
13. Well done!
14. Keep statue. Move war mothers memorial.
15. Great that this is being proposed for additional development!
16. Leave the statue and wall of honor alone! Never let the exterior first impression get as run down as it was before painting in 2023. It was an embarrassment to the community.
17. Thanks for all you are doing!
18. I think you already have an exceptional plan.
19. Seems like a giant waste of money.
20. The exhibits I've seen are excellent. I think we have enough one room school house exhibits and restorations--that space would be better served as unique exhibit space. I can't remember where the exhibits were that weren't in the house--but more of the ww1 museum style exhibits would be great.
21. Keep it as original as possible, connect with local or regional military units to suggest potential uses for ceremonies, etc.
22. Never really hear that much about the site
23. Do not clutter any Historic Site with EV charging.
24. Instead of demolishing the Hall House, offer it for free to someone who will relocate and restore it.
25. Preserve chicken coop and out house if these were part of Gen Pershing's childhood experience. Adding live animals, if true to the narrative, would be awesome. Also need a public restroom with water fountain closer to the house.
26. Preservation not modification.
27. Paint the home
28. If the neighbor's house was there when he was young please keep it.
29. I don't have enough information about the "Hall house" to know if it warrants being tore down.
30. Just do a great job on the remodel! Something similar to Mount Vernon in Virginia, sure at a smaller scale
31. Please preserve it for future generations to learn about Missouri's connection to WWI.
32. Fix the house first! Make it more accurate to the Pershing family. There is potential there.
33. Have information regarding additional local soldiers who served with John J. Pershing. JD Molley is an example.
34. Incorporate more living history events and camps in conjunction with the annual festival. This would encourage

attendees to visit that site, learn more history, and enjoy the other activities (car show, music, etc) too.

35. Try to keep the house and grounds to appear as original as possible, and fill with period correct antiques
36. Take the best possible care of this historic site as possible! He is, in my opinion, the greatest general in the history of the United States, and we must preserve his boyhood home.
37. Love the idea of the school being changed back into a school. My great grandmother attended school there
38. Purchase additional land buffer zones around park and structures

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding Missouri state parks and historic sites?

1. Needs Handrails at steps.
2. Hope to see them continue to be open for future generations.
3. Always enjoy visiting.
4. Move Locus Creek covered bridge to Pershing Boyhood Home campus.
5. Move the War Mothers statue to site.
6. Good job! Bring the covered bridge. More interpretive personnel. Pay attention to the war mothers monument in P.S.P.
7. Move war mothers statue. Add site to military halls program. Move covered bridge.
8. I don't live here. I don't feel I can comment.
9. Funding for 7-day staffing. Relocate War Mothers memorial to Laclede.
10. Open Pershing home 7 days a week
11. Need to open 7 days a week. Move war mothers statue to Pershing park
12. This is a special place.
13. Denzil Heaney is a wonderful asset to the Pershing Site!
14. Move covered bridge to Laclede Pershing Campus.
15. Move war mothers statue to Pershing site. Move Bridge to Boyhood home.
16. More employees - 7 days. Help with gardens - poppy field.
17. Need more personnel to man 7 day a week.
18. Keep them in good condition.
19. Expand camping facilities in State Parks.
20. War Mothers memorial needs to be done soon!
21. Move the War Mothers statue at the Park campgrounds to the boyhood home campus where it would enhance the visitor usage experience.
22. Keep promoting these valuable historic sites.
23. I have moved to Kansas but still enjoy the State Parks in Missouri. I appreciate the State making sure that the State Parks continue to be taken care of.
24. Great job being done
25. Bathroom updates
26. My wife and I love visiting Missouri state parks and historic sites. We're grateful to have free access to them through the dedicated taxes.
27. Add more full hookups at camp grounds throughout the system.
28. No electric chargers
29. I truly enjoy everything you all do.
30. Keep doing good work
31. Keep them going.
32. Improvements should also include the Pershing birthplace home located in Sumner.
33. Missouri has a lot of great parks and historic sites - keep up the good work!
34. Have the covered bridge and Pershing Park information featured.

- 35.** Having events that encourage people to set up displays and wear period clothing to enhance public learning and participation (at notable sites) is encouraged.
- 36.** The more artifacts and displays the better