

BOULDER CIVIC PARK
BOULDER, CO · BLACK LOCUST PALISADES

— THE NEXT GENERATION OF OUTDOOR SPACES

Black Locust for zoos & natural playgrounds

One of North America's most durable native hardwoods. **Rot resistant, non-toxic, and built to withstand constant contact** from animals, children, and the elements alike.

*Built to be touched, climbed,
and experienced, naturally.*

— SECTION 01

Material properties

GROUND CONTACT DURABILITY 50+ yrs Inherent rot resistance, no preservative required.	CHEMICAL TREATMENT None Naturally non-toxic. Safe for prolonged contact by animals and children.	JANKA HARDNESS 1,700 lbf Exceeds white oak. Resists impact and wear.	DECAY RESISTANCE Class 1 AWPA's highest natural durability rating.
FIRE RATING Class A Flame spread index, naturally compliant.	SURFACE CHARACTER Patina Weathers to a silver-gray tone. No finish required.	SOURCE Domestic Eastern U.S. hardwood, responsibly harvested.	TREATMENT ADDITIVES Zero No CCA, no ACQ, no sealant. Just wood.

IDEAL APPLICATIONS

✓ Animal enclosures & barriers

✓ Zoo structures & habitats

✓ Nature-based playgrounds

✓ Climbing & balance elements

✓ Palisades & ground-contact posts





— SECTION 02

Why Black Locust

THE RIGHT WOOD FOR ANIMAL ENCLOSURES

Zoo environments demand materials that withstand constant gnawing, clawing, and moisture exposure without leaching chemicals that harm animals. Black Locust contains no preservatives, no CCA, no ACQ. Its natural oils make it inherently hostile to rot and insects. What animals touch, chew, or rest against is exactly what it appears to be: wood, and nothing else.

PALISADES & NATURAL FORM

Solid locust rounds, sanded and peeled for a smooth tactile surface. Available with retained branch features for organic design character, configurable as enclosure walls, climbing elements, balance features, or perimeter barriers without supplemental treatment.

BUILT FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

Children interact with playground materials through direct skin contact, climbing, and mouthing. Pressure-treated lumber carries chemical risk; composites lack the warmth of natural wood. Black Locust offers a third path: durable enough for heavy play use, splinter-resistant when sanded and peeled, and free of any chemical treatment.

SPECIFICATION ADVANTAGE

For architects moving away from ACQ-treated lumber or FSC-imported tropical hardwoods, Black Locust delivers equivalent longevity with a verifiably domestic supply chain. Its material profile aligns with LEED, WELL, and biophilic design frameworks.

— SECTION 03

Proven in the field



Boulder Civic Park

BOULDER, CO · NATURE PLAYGROUND

Climbing towers and perimeter palisades in sanded locust rounds.



Harvard Childcare Center

CAMBRIDGE, MA · EARLY CHILDHOOD

Branch-based play elements chosen for tactile, exploratory play.



Westpark Playground

INDIANA · MUNICIPAL

Painted palisades pairing durability with bright, child-scaled design.



Camel Park

INDIANA · NATURE PLAYGROUND

Ground-contact palisades defining the play landscape.



Washington Park

DENVER, CO · URBAN PARK

Peeled log structures built for a high-use urban setting.



Smithsonian National Zoo

WASHINGTON, D.C. · ZOO HABITAT

Verified non-toxic hardwood for sensitive-species habitats.



Otter Enclosure

ORLANDO, FL · AQUATIC HABITAT

A palisade system engineered for constant moisture and play.

