

**THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)**

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**General Meeting Information**

College Township offers both in-person and virtual meeting attendance for all public meetings. To attend in-person, this meeting will be held at **1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA, 16801, 1st Floor Conference Room**. To attend virtually, please see the information below.

**To Attend the LIVE Meeting Via Zoom on Computer or Smart Phone:**

- [Click HERE to REGISTER for the meeting via Zoom.](#) Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

\* [Click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to participate via zoom.

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Please use the raised hand feature to participate. The moderator will recognize those with their hands raised (either by name or phone number).

**WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:** For specific agenda items and for items not on the agenda, written public comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon the day of the meeting by emailing [mbloom@collegetownship.org](mailto:mbloom@collegetownship.org).

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**THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**REORGANIZATION:**      **Interim Chair will call for nominations for the following officer positions:**

- **Chair** – Bill Keough served as Chair in 2025
- **Vice Chair** –Earl Moore served as Vice Chair in 2025

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**      - For any item not on this agenda, please:  
   - Limit comments to five minutes  
   - Ask to add your topic to this or a future agenda, if needed

**MINUTES:**                      **December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**OLD BUSINESS:**              **OB-1 Forest Restoration Plan Update**

**OB-2 Signage - Next Steps**

**NEW BUSINESS:**              **NB-1 Committee Structure discussion**

**NB-2 First Energy Community Tree Program**

**NEXT MEETING:**              **Wednesday, January 14th at 2:00 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
2:00 PM  
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801  
1st Floor Meeting Room**

**ATTENDED BY:**

Bill Keough, Chair  
Earl Moore, Vice Chair  
Mark Bergstrom  
Deb Hilands  
William Ray

**STAFF/OTHERS:**

Leana Topper, Penn State University  
Lance King, State College Borough  
Mike Bloom, College Township

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Keough called to order the December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 2:01 PM.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Moore noted that the new bike ramp has been installed on the bridge at the Preserve entrance.

Ms. Hilands noted that there had been two chairs at the trash bin near the bridge/auto dealership. Mr. Ray noted that they have been moved, he also acknowledged that he's seen bikes dumped there in the past.

Mr. Ray noted that at some point in the future, he'd like to have an informal discussion around what members would like to see in the sections of the Preserve. Previous members discussed a pollinator garden.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Bergstrom made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the October 8, 2025 meeting, Ms. Hiland seconded. Approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS: PSU Project Update**

Ms. Topper noted that she had 24 students that broke into 7 groups to work on projects. The results will be shared at the Expo at the Borough Building. She will also share with Mr. Bloom. Projects included a list/description of invasive plants, a comparison of mobile apps, a virtual field trip to the Preserve, a "Wellness in the Woods" program, a "spot the birds" list, a evaluation of the ecosystem within an ecosystem, and development of a Preserve logo.

Ms. Topper would like to pair her upcoming senior class of developmental biology students with the Preserve in the coming semester. The class could be interested in a possible planting in the Preserve or Walnut Springs.

December 10, 2025

Page 2 of 2

There was also a discussion around what restrictions exist around the sharing of student work on the Preserve website. More work will need to be done to ensure sharing the work doesn't violate any intellectual property and to ensure the site properly sources materials.

**OLD BUSINESS: Forest Management Plan**

Mr. Bloom provided an overview of the staff recommendation memo that suggested retaining the existing goals and asking the consultant to provide options in a continuum of treatments to achieve goals.

Mr. Moore asked if the plan set the property up for master planning. Mr. King said it was possible, but noted that a traditional master plan doesn't really fit this model. He further noted that grants are getting harder to come by.

Members noted that the sequencing and timing is important to ensure that the property is set up for sustainable maintenance. The plan may also set the stage for volunteerism and possible sponsorship to maintain any demonstration projects.

There were questions around why the consultant was looking at the large demonstration projects, to which Mr. Bloom acknowledged the options may be moot, as the recommendation is to look at the whole Preserve as opposed to smaller projects.

Mr. Ray made a motion to support the staff recommendations. Mr. Bergstrom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS: 2026 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Bloom shared the proposed 2026 meeting schedule, which keeps the meeting dates as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. Mr. Moore made a motion to approved the meetings schedule. Mr. Bergstrom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS: Updates to Councils and CRPRA**

Mr. Bloom noted that the updates to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority and College Township Council are set for January 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM respectively. The update to State College Borough Council will be on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Bloom noted that the reorganizational meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Moore to adjourn the December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Bergstrom. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,  
Mike Bloom  
College Township Assistant Manager



# COLLEGE TOWNSHIP

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Committee

**From:** Mike Bloom, Assistant Township Manager

**Re:** OB-2 Signage – Next Steps

**Date:** January 7, 2026

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**Background:**

In late 2023, Penn State students in the Art 570 Graduate Studio completed conceptual designs of signage for the Thompson Woods Preserve. While these concepts were last discussed by the Committee in late 2024, there has been no advancement on a project, as other items took priority.

Included for the Committee's review is the student presentation of the signage concepts.

**Next Steps:**

To advance a signage project for the Preserve, the Committee should consider the following steps:

- 1) Revisit signage plan elements such as:
  - Intent and messaging of the signage
  - Signage types
  - Locations
- 2) Discuss the signage plan and potential Request for Proposals (RFP) with the State College Borough & College Township Councils and key partners, DCNR and Clearwater Conservancy.
- 3) Seek authorization to pursue grant funding opportunities and to draft an RFP for signage design & construction.

**Action Requested on January 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Begin to revisit signage plan elements including intent and messaging of the signage, signage types and locations.

OB-2

# **SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM DESIGN**

**Thompson Woods Preserve**

TWP Governance Work Session  
Penn State Presentation  
ART 570 - Graduate Studio  
Fall 2023

# Introduction

## Thompson Woods Preserve:

- Location: State College, PA
- Size: 43.36
- Terrain: Mixed steep hills and sloping paths
- Accessibility and Usage: Near urban areas, suited for hiking, walking, and nature study



## Problem Statement

The Thompson Woods Preserve currently suffers from a lack of signage, which poses two problem for the visitors:

1. Difficulty in navigating the extensive trail system
2. Missed opportunity for environmental education

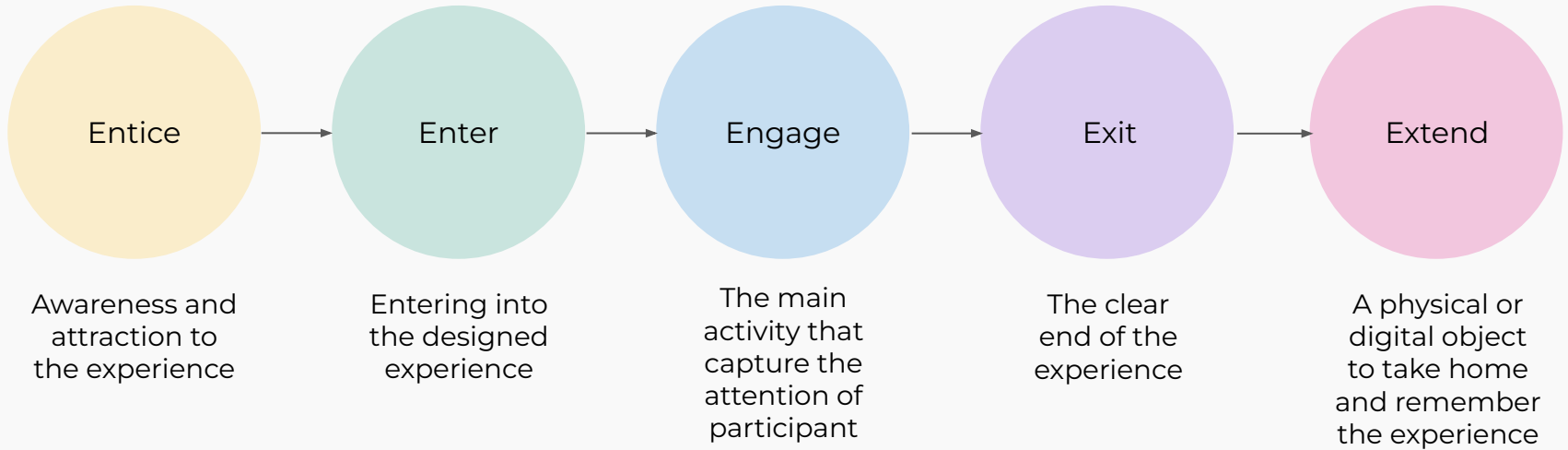


## Design Goals

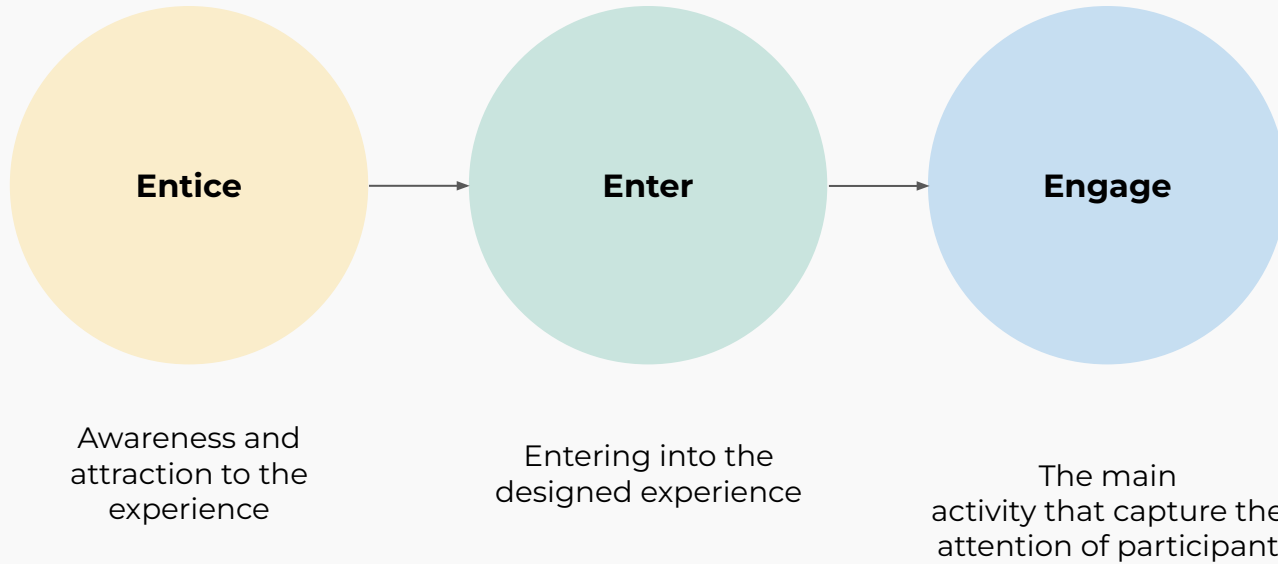
1. Enhancing Navigation with Clear Wayfinding in TWP
2. Informative Signage for Education and Awareness
3. Cohesive Signage Design
4. Accessible and Inclusive Signage for All Visitors
5. Sustainable Signage Design
6. Durable and Low-Maintenance Signage
7. Elevating Visitor Experience with Engaging Signage



# Research



# Research



# Site Analysis

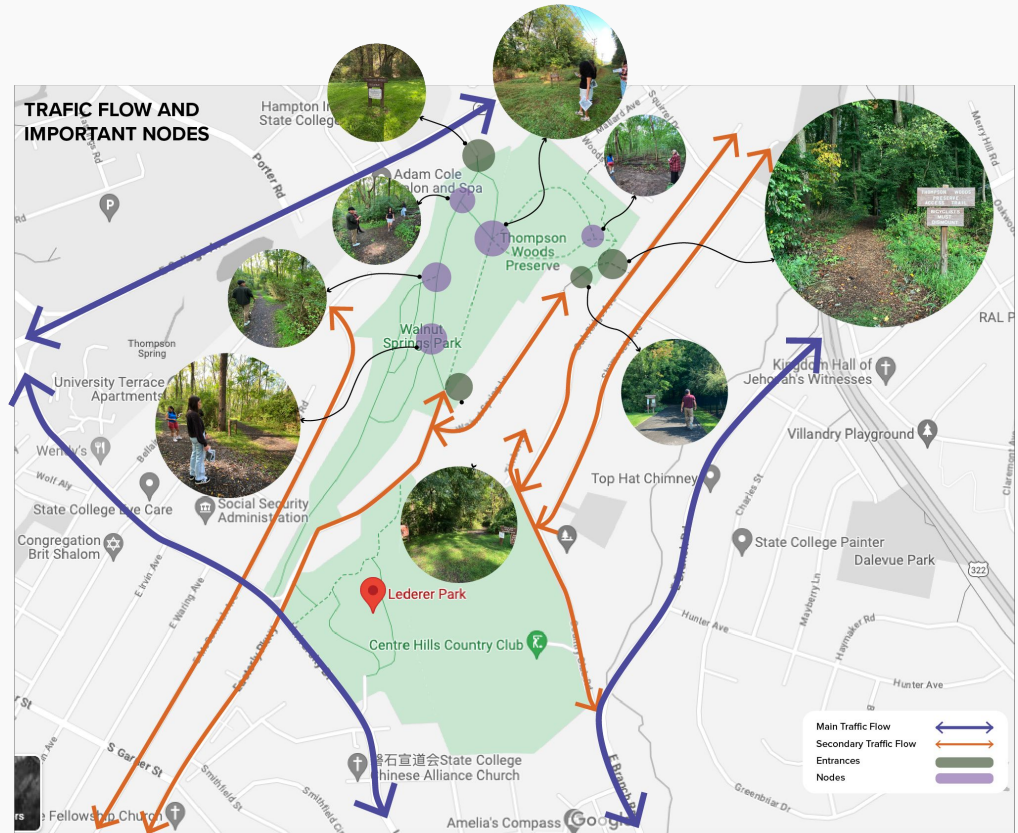
## Current Signage System Issues:

- Aging Signs
- Lack of Uniformity
- Missing Signs
- Confusing Signs

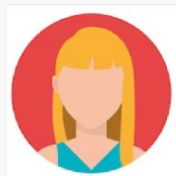


# Traffic Flow and Important Nodes

Thompson Woods Preserve features four entrances, including one main entry point equipped with a parking area. However, navigating the preserve can be quite challenging due to the presence of numerous nodes and pathways that lack clear signage.



# User Persona



**Ella - The First-Time Visitor**

**Age:** 28

**Occupation:** Graduate Student

**Motivation:** Wanted a weekend escape to nature, saw Thompson Woods Preserve online.

**Needs:** Clear trail maps, informational signage about the preserve's ecosystem, signposts pointing to points of interest.

**Challenges:** Unfamiliar with the area, might get lost easily, relies heavily on clear signage.



**Martin - The Regular Hiker**

**Age:** 42

**Occupation:** Schoolteacher

**Motivation:** Loves the serenity of Thompson Woods, hikes here twice a month.

**Needs:** Up-to-date information on trail conditions, signs indicating new points of interest or changes, benches or rest areas.

**Challenges:** Interested in less frequented paths.



**Sophia - The Visitor with Physical Disabilities**

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Freelance Writer

**Motivation:** Enjoys nature's ambiance, looking for accessible trails to enjoy the preserve.

**Needs:** Signage indicating wheelchair-accessible paths, clear markers for steep terrains or obstacles, benches at regular intervals for breaks.

**Challenges:** Limited by non-accessible trails, relies on clear and accurate signs to navigate the preserve safely.



**Lucas - The Neighborhood Resident**

**Age:** 52

**Occupation:** Financial Advisor

**Motivation:** Resides nearby and uses the preserve for daily walks, relaxation, and occasional community meet-ups.

**Needs:** Updated notices about any preserve maintenance or events, signs indicating quieter zones for relaxation, and trail shortcuts leading to the neighborhood.

**Challenges:** Prefers less crowded areas, especially during peak times; needs easy access routes to and from the neighborhood; values safety and cleanliness in the preserve since it's an extension of his living environment.

# User Journey Map

Creating a user journey map, allowed us to visualize the entire experience of visitors in TWP and guided us to design solutions that were not only intuitive but also deeply resonant with our users' expectations and experiences.



# Design Proposal 1

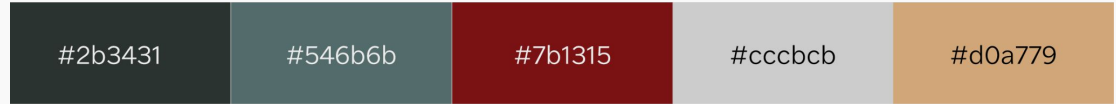
Negar Dehghan



# Brand System

The branding design for the project emphasizes its connection to nature through a color palette of greens and browns, mirroring the natural scenery of the preserve.

## Color



## Typography

### Franklin Gothic Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN**OP**QRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqr**stuv**wxyz  
1234567890

### Franklin Gothic Medium

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN**OP**QRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqr**stuv**wxyz  
1234567890



The logo showcases a stylized oak leaf, a nod to the dominant oak trees that are a defining feature of TWP.

## Iconography



Stay on Trails



Respect Wildlife



Keep nature clean



Bring essentials for  
a safe trip



Protect habitats



Leave nature intact



Keep peace in nature



Respect the environment



Prevent wildfires



Keep nature pristine

## Logo Design

The logo showcases a stylized oak leaf, a nod to the dominant oak trees that are a defining feature of TWP.



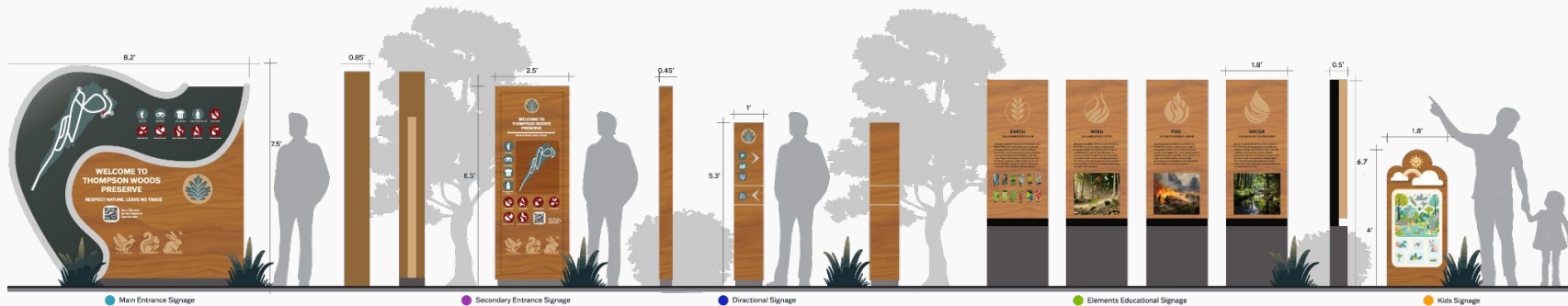
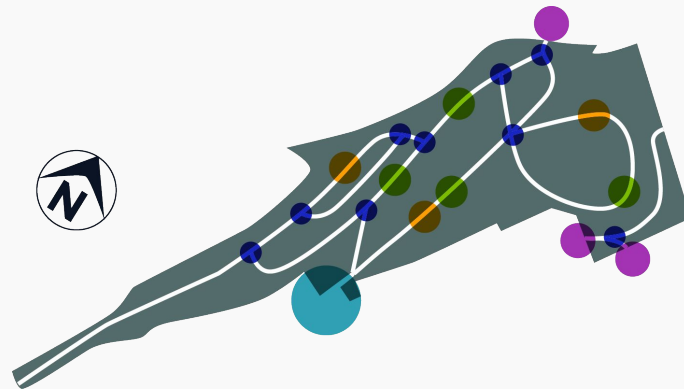
Process



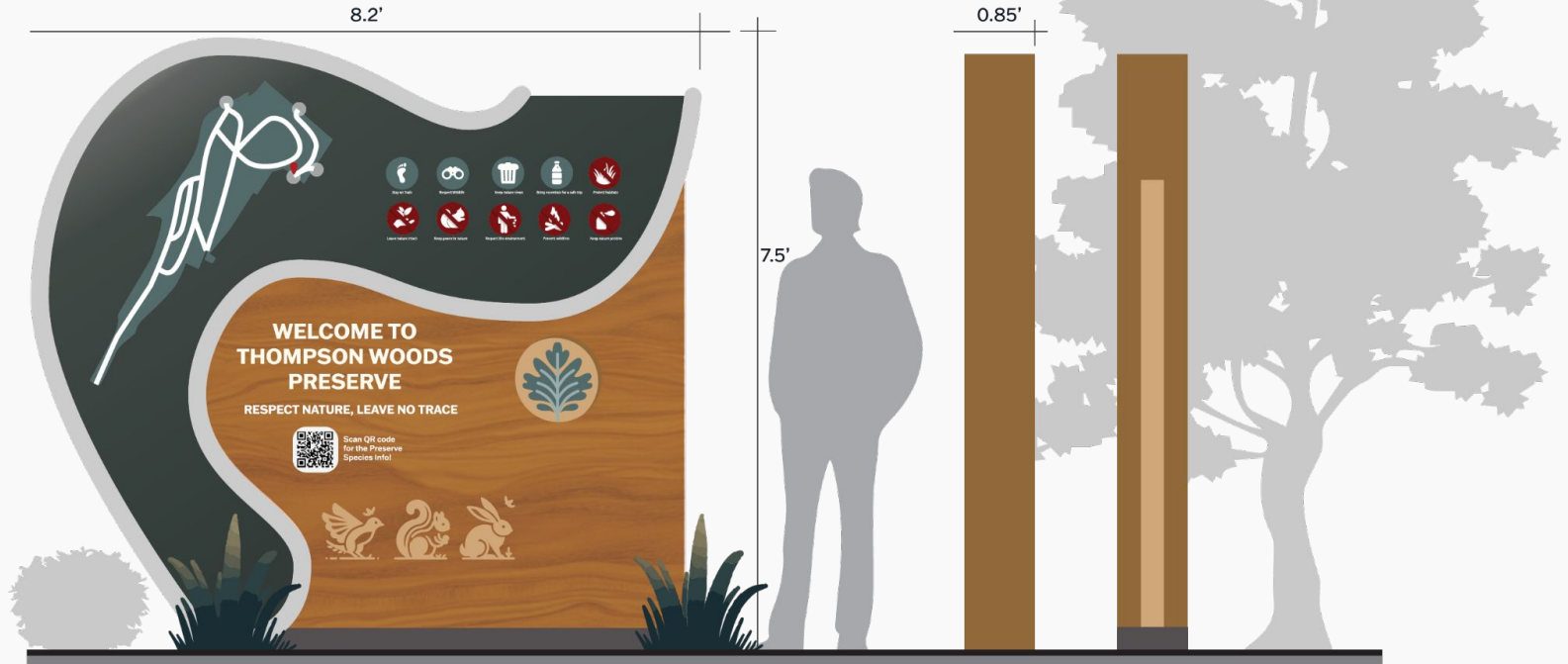
Final Design

# Final Signage Design

The signage system for Thompson Woods Preserve combines functionality with natural aesthetics.

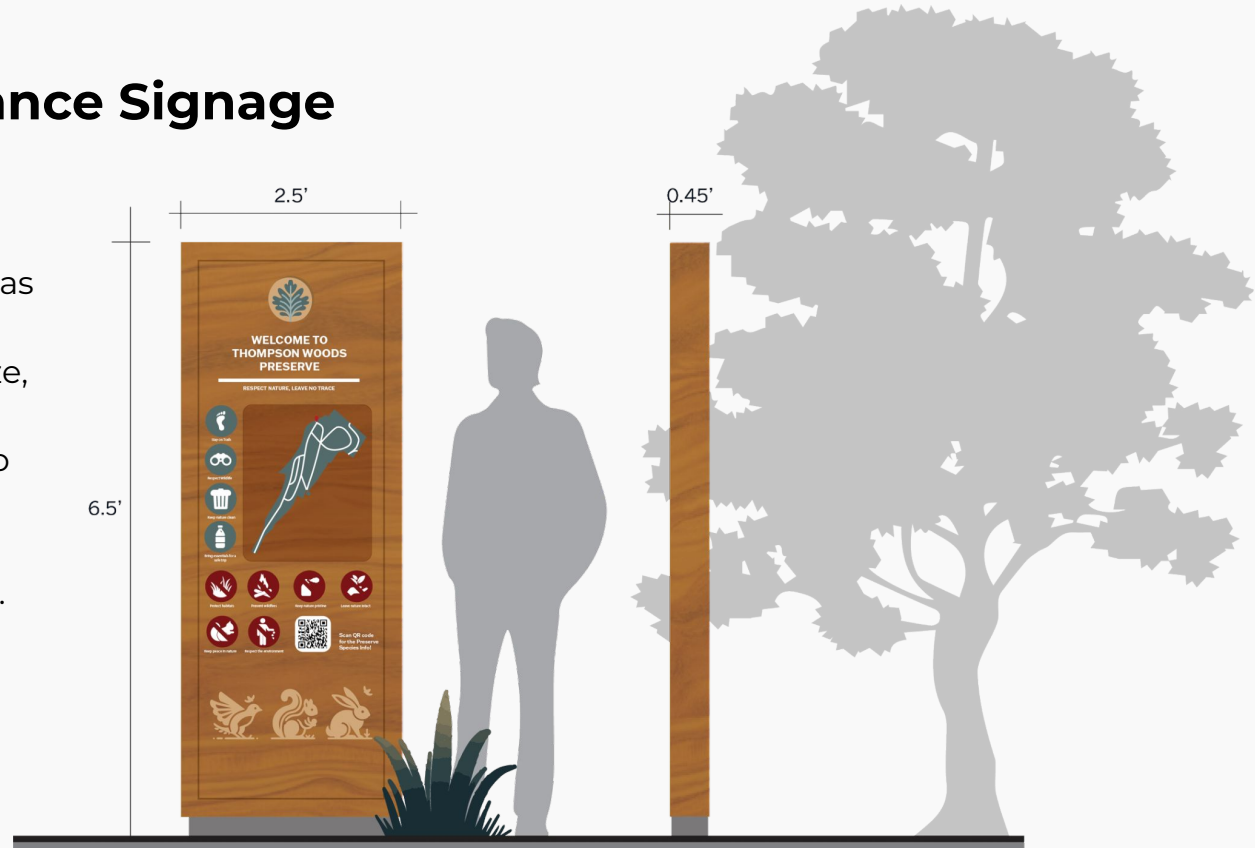


# Main Entrance Signage



## Secondary Entrance Signage

For other 3 entrances, a more compact sign serves as a quick reference point for visitors. While smaller in size, it effectively provides an overview of the preserve, so that guests are promptly acquainted with the landscape and its offerings.

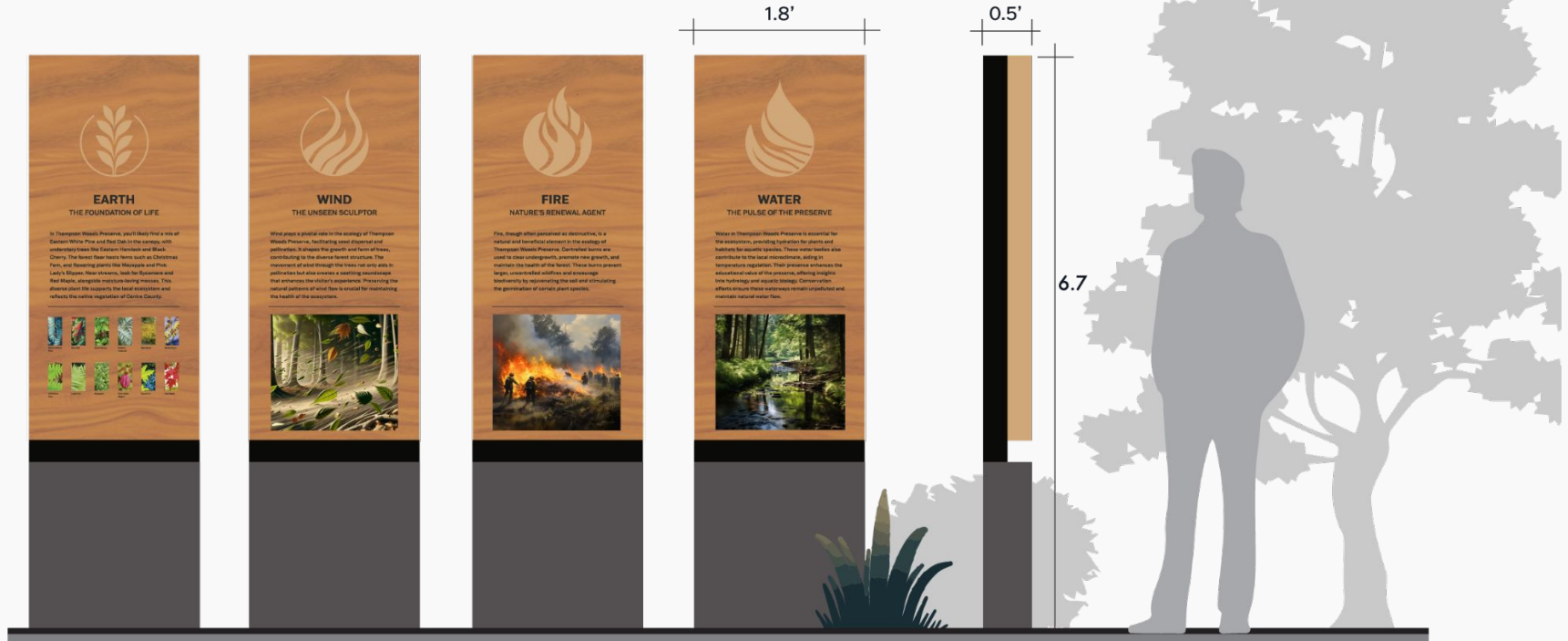


## Directional Signage

The directional signage is designed for clarity and ease of navigation. These signs are strategically placed along the trails, providing straightforward guidance through the use of clear arrows and universally recognizable symbols.



# Educational Signage



## Kids' Signage (Animal Puzzles)

The Kids' Signage adds an element of fun and learning to the young explorer's journey. These signs feature interactive puzzles that showcase the various animals inhabiting the woods.

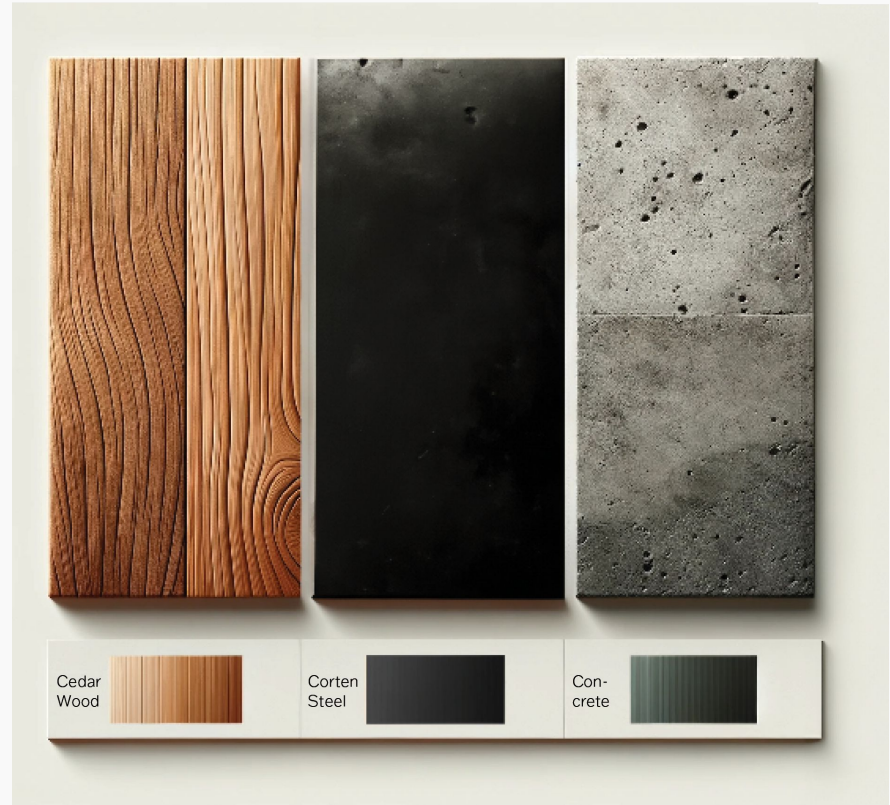


## Material (Wood + Metal)

**Cedar Wood:** Selected for its natural durability and weather resistance, ideal for the East Coast's climate.

**Corten Steel:** Used for its environmentally conscious but economically strategic in its inherent longevity and durability.

**Concrete:** Incorporated for its robustness and longevity, complementing the other materials in strength and stability.



# Design Proposal 2

Forough Yazdanpanah

## CORE VALUES

### Flexibility and Adaptability:

The system adapts to the changing nature of TWP and WSP, offering a flexible exploration experience.

### Bold Distinctiveness:

Vibrant markers stand out in the wilderness, guiding visitors with memorable and sharp colors through the parks.

### Navigational Philosophy:

Balancing simplicity with respect for the parks' essence, the system provides clear structure for seamless exploration.

### Consistency in Exploration:

A reliable experience is ensured through consistent features like color-coded markers, enhancing visitors' connection with the parks.



THOMPSON  
WOODS  
PRESERVE

The logo for Thompson Woods Preserve features the name in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'THOMPSON' on the top line, 'WOODS' on the middle line, and 'PRESERVE' on the bottom line. Several colored dots are scattered around the text: a blue dot above the 'O' in 'THOMPSON', a red dot to the left of the 'O' in 'WOODS', a yellow dot to the right of the 'S' in 'WOODS', a white dot below the 'P' in 'PRESERVE', a yellow dot to the left of the 'P' in 'PRESERVE', and a blue dot below the 'S' in 'PRESERVE'.

## FONTS

Provides a set of font styles for copy throughout the platform. Each style serves a certain purpose and should be used accordingly, to bring hierarchy and help understanding.

### Primary Type Face

We use "Bai Jamjuree" as our first suggestion.

---

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
VWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789.

---

Bai Jamjuree Light  
Bai Jamjuree Regular  
Bai Jamjuree Medium  
**Bai Jamjuree SemiBold**

### Secondary Type Face

We use "Barlow" as our second suggestion.

---

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
WXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789.

---

Barlow Light  
Barlow Regular  
**Barlow Medium**  
**Barlow SemiBold**

## COLORS

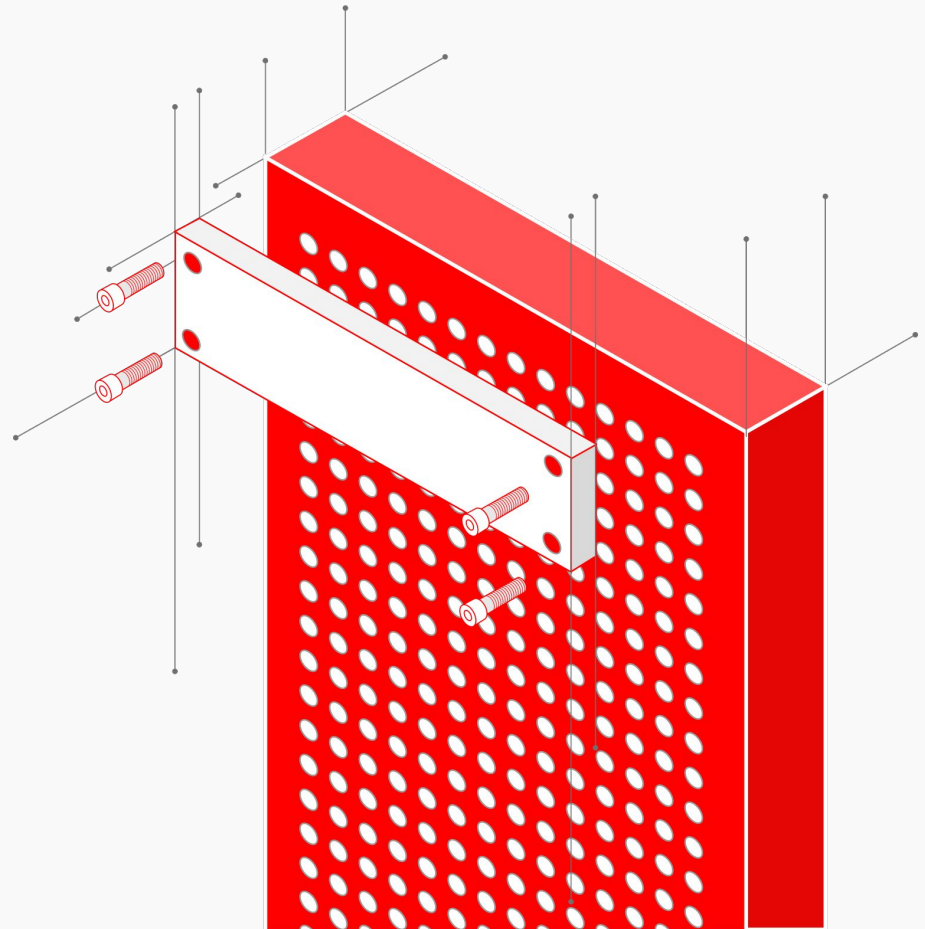
The primary and bold colors stands out in the wilderness with sharp, distinctive and modern essence of them.



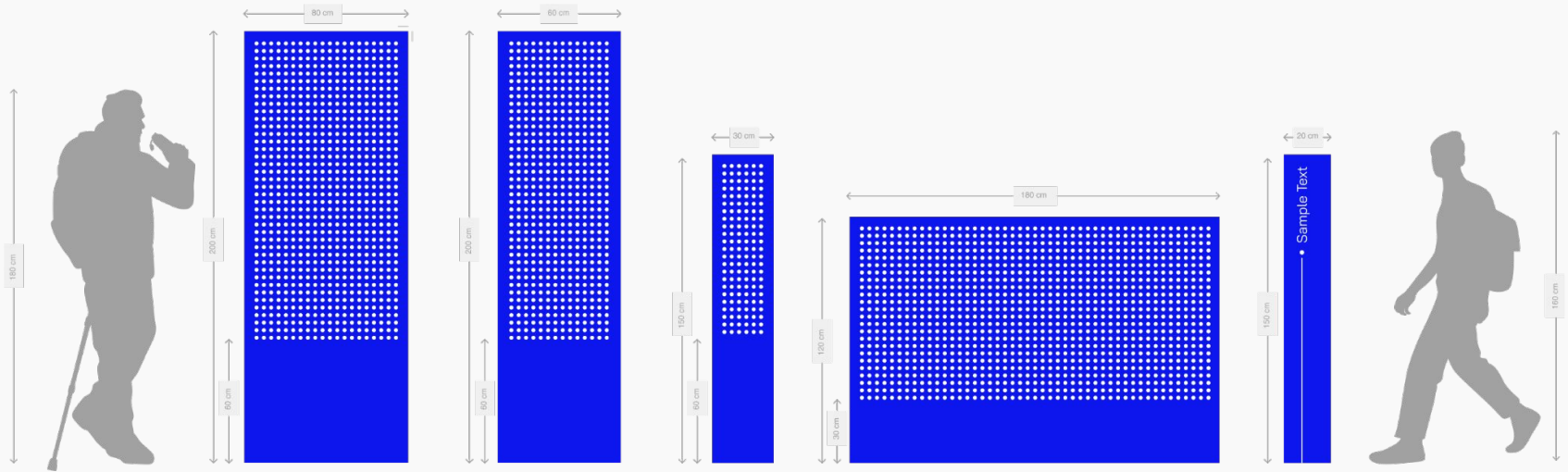
## MAIN CONCEPT

The main concept involves the use of mesh boards that stand as adaptable structures. They are designed to accommodate different informational boards, which can be easily installed using screws. The adaptability of the system allows for the convenient updating and customization of information, making it a versatile solution for various park-related needs.

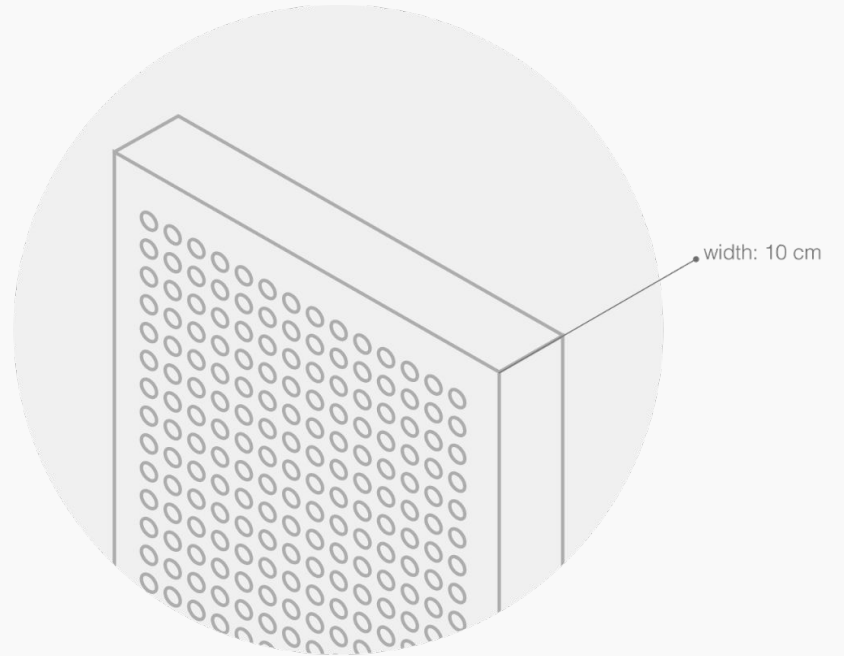
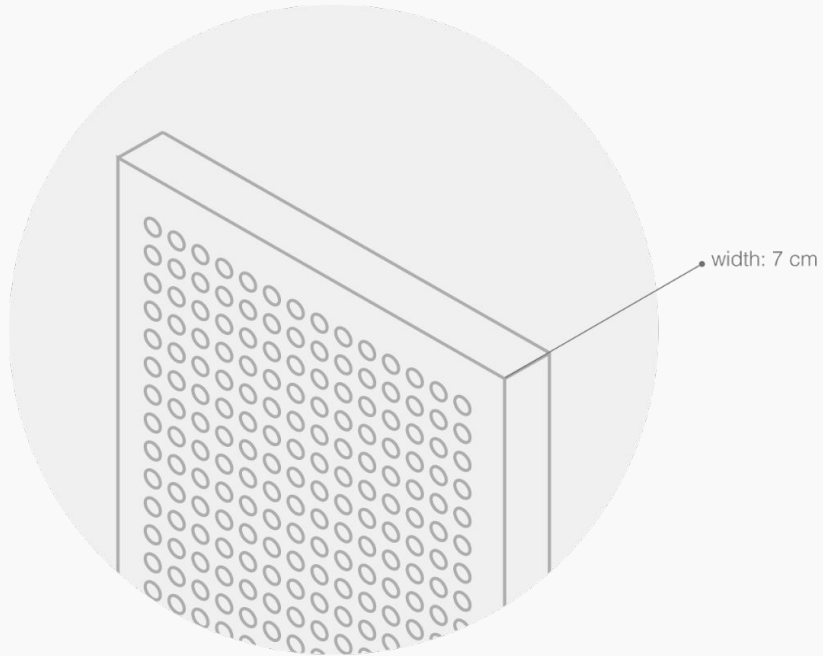
The mesh boards provide a modern and sleek appearance. This dynamic approach not only ensures that the wayfinding system remains current and relevant but also contributes to the overall aesthetic of the park.



## ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



## BOARDS WIDTH



## ICONS

A set of thoughtfully crafted icons are designed that serve as visual cues for visitors. Each icon is carefully designed to convey information intuitively, enhancing the overall user experience.



## COMBINATIONS

Icon, Title



Preserved  
Parking

Icon, Title, Subtitle



PREVENT  
TICK BITES

Use repellent on skin  
Examine gear and pets  
Avoid Contact with Ticks  
Use repellent on skin

Just Icon



Just Icon



## COMBINATIONS

Park Closes  
at Sunset

13 Miles  
until Entrance

Bicycles Must Dismount



Walnut Spring Lane



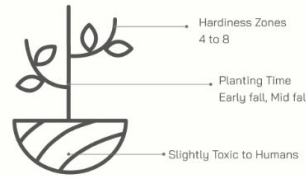
Walnut Spring Lane



Old Farm Lane Trail

Protected by a conservation  
easement with clearwater  
conservancy of central PA

Garlic mustard  
*Alliaria petiolata*



*Alliaria petiolata*, colloquially known as garlic mustard is a herbaceous biennial plant known for the garlic aroma and smell of its crushed leaves. It can be found in partially shaded and moist places like woodland edges, trails, hedges, and roadsides. Leaves of garlic mustard are used in European cuisine as a spice herb for salads and sauces.

Park Rules and Regulations  
townships of college harris  
Ferguson and Patton

The use of park facilities by any organized, non-family group without obtaining a permit in advance from Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

Posting of signs, distributing, selling, servicing or renting of any supplies, equipment, material or commodity whatsoever or soliciting for any purpose, except by permit.

Any use of a park between sunset and sunrise, except by permit.

Possession or use of any alcoholic beverage.

Boisterous, immoral, or indecent conduct.

Discarding of trash, garbage, or other litter, except into containers provided for that purpose.


The discharge of any firearms, bows, air guns, rockets, slingshots, or fireworks (except by permit in a designated & posted area).

Operation of any radio-controlled or tethered aircraft except by permit.

Operating, stopping or parking of any vehicle or horseback riding, except on designated roads/areas.

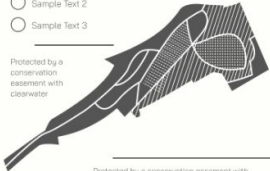
In all parks, pet owners are required to immediately clean up after their pet.

Damaging, defacing, or removing municipal property, signs



Bicycles Must Dismount 

Sample Text 1  
 Sample Text 2  
 Sample Text 3

Protected by a conservation easement with clearwater



Protected by a conservation easement with clearwater conservancy of central PA

Protected by a conservation easement with clearwater conservancy of central PA

# Thompson Woods Preserve

# 1

University Drive 

Walnut Spring Lane 

Walnut Spring Lane 


Walnut Spring Lane 

**Garlic mustard**  
*Alliaria petiolata*



Herbaceous Stem  
Root  
Flowering Time  
Brightly Pink to Reddish

Herbaceous perennial, occasionally biennial. Garlic mustard is a herbaceous perennial plant known for the garlic aroma and smell of its crushed leaves. It can be found in partially shaded and moist places like woodlands, edges, trails, hedgerows, and roadsides. Leaves of garlic mustard are used in European cuisine as a spice herb for soups and sauces.



**PREVENT TICK BITES**

Use repellent on skin  
Cover exposed areas and joints  
Avoid Contact with Ticks  
Use repellent on gear

**13 Miles until Entrance**

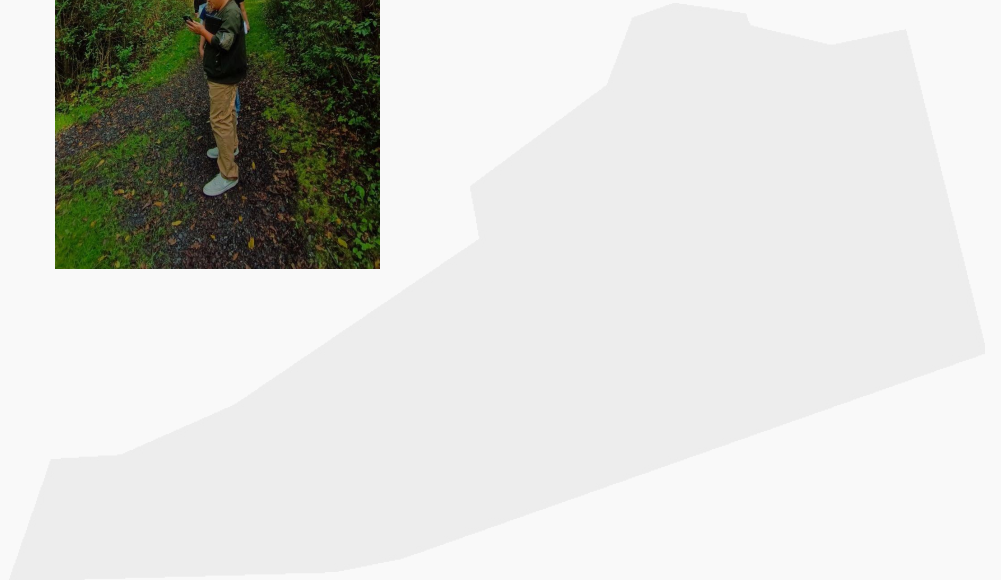
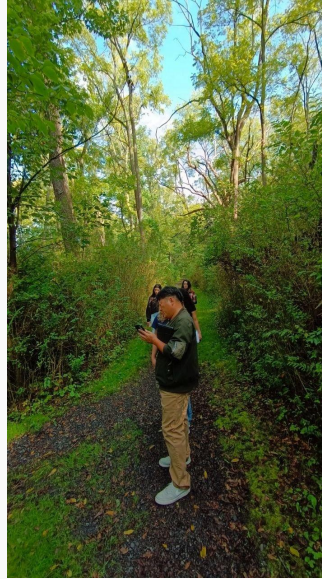


# **Design Proposal 3**

Elahe Babaei

## OVERVIEW

Starting the process of designing signs for Thompson Woods Preserve was an exhilarating adventure. We began by researching nature signs and conservation design. Next, we visited the preserve to observe the current signage and how visitors navigate the area. We also spoke with those involved in preserving the area, such as committee members, to understand its unique qualities and conservation objectives. Finally, we presented our designs, gathered feedback, and received expert perspectives.



## DESIGN ELEMENTS

Key design elements, such as the color palette, typography, icons, and layout, echo a sense of natural harmony. The choices made are explored, showcasing how these elements contribute to both user experience and conservation messaging.



## COLORS

Key design elements, such as the color palette, typography, icons, and layout, echo a sense of natural harmony. The choices made are explored, showcasing how these elements contribute to both user experience and conservation messaging.



### Soft Gray: #D3D3D3

Soft gray complements the neutral tan moss green while providing a clean and modern touch. It helps balance the overall palette and ensures readability of text information on the signage. The soft gray also conveys a sense of tranquility.



### Neutral Tan or Beige: #D2B48C

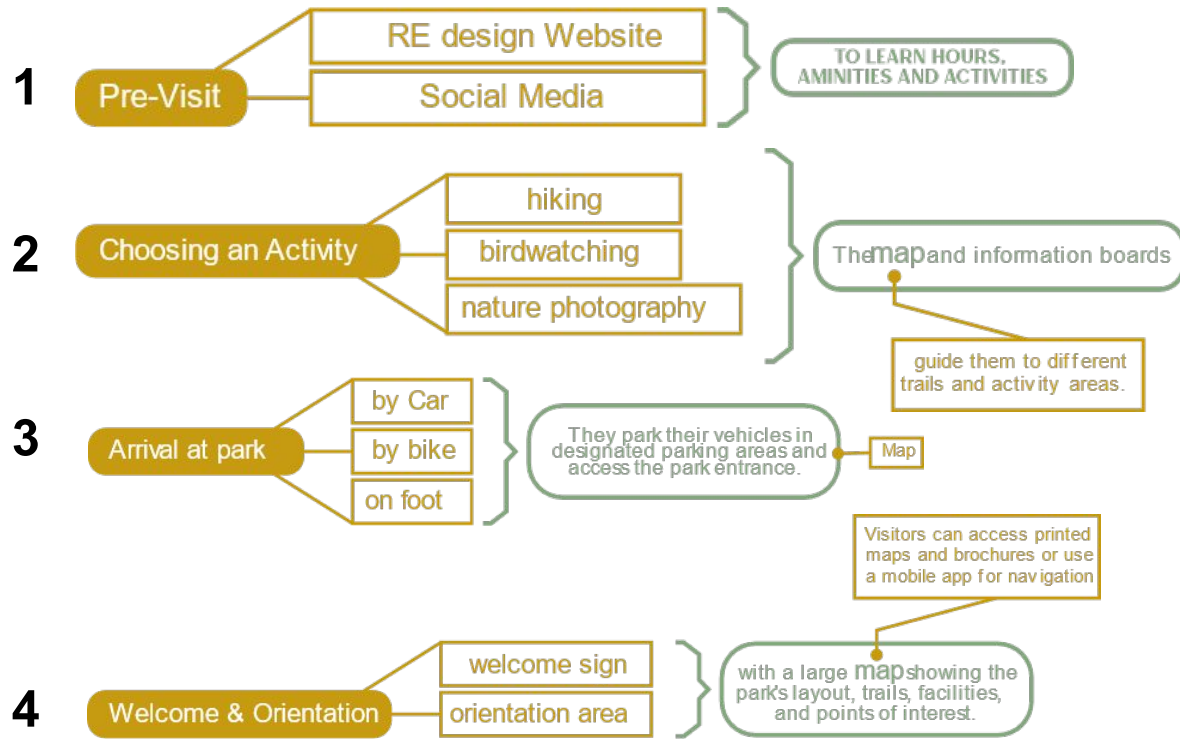
Neutral tones like tan or beige create a warm and inviting base for the color palette. This versatile color that evokes a sense of earthiness and natural warmth, making it a suitable background for the signage.



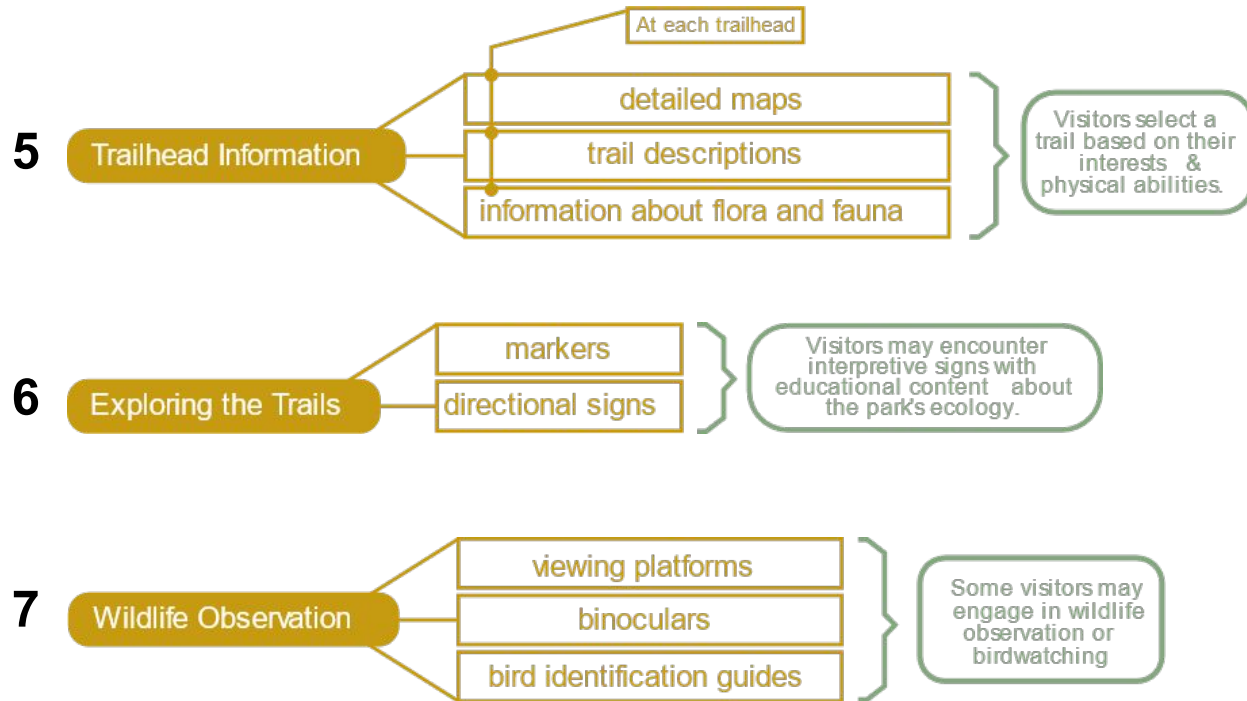
### Moss Green: #7C5840

Moss green adds a subtle pop of nature to the palette. This shade of green is muted and earthy, symbolizing the foliage and plants within the preserve. It connects the signage to the natural environment without being overly vibrant.

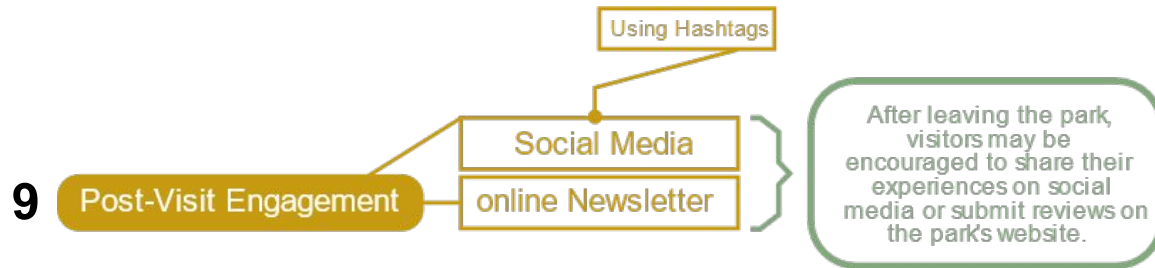
# USER JOURNEY



# USER JOURNEY



# USER JOURNEY



## ICONES

Key design elements, such as the color palette, typography, icons, and layout, echo a sense of natural harmony. The choices made are explored, showcasing how these elements contribute to both user experience and conservation messaging.



## FONTS

Key design elements, such as the color palette, typography, icons, and layout, echo a sense of natural harmony. The choices made are explored, showcasing how these elements contribute to both user experience and conservation messaging.

**Titles: HyperSuper**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1234567890 =+\_)(%&\*\$#@!»:»

**Body: Noto Serif/Condensed**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

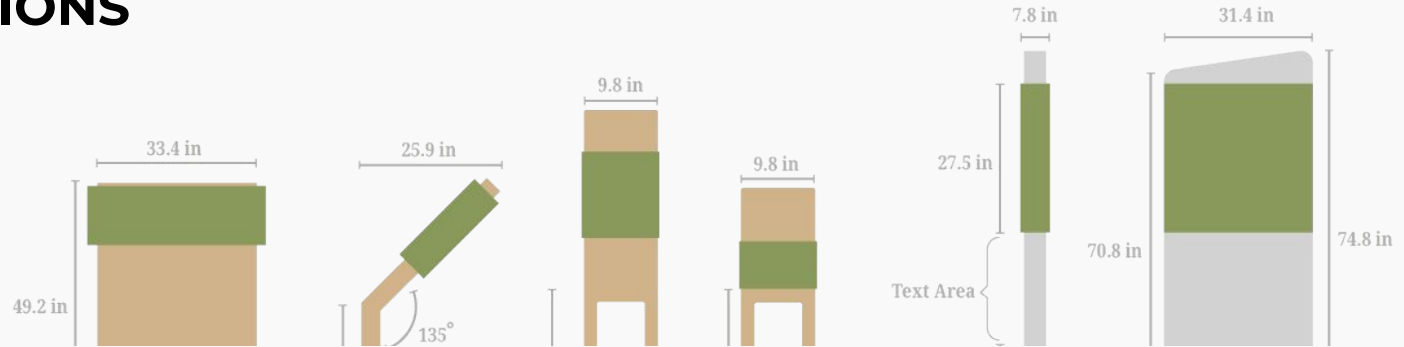
1234567890-=+\_)(%&\*\$#@!»:»

## RESEARCH METHOD

In crafting a special and meaningful sign design for Thompson Woods Preserve, our design journey was a thrilling adventure. We began by diving into current research, learning about the details of conservation-focused design and wayfinding. By closely experiencing the surroundings, we grasped how visitors move through the area. Conversations with key people, like committee members, gave us deep insights into the preserve's nature and conservation objectives. Designing became a collaborative art project, like gathering around a campfire of ideas. A lively community event allowed for feedback, ensuring the final design not only looks great but also reflects the essence of Thompson Woods Preserve, its conservation aims, and the vibrant community it serves.



## DIMENSIONS



In specifying the dimensions for the signage in this project, careful consideration was given to ensure their effectiveness in conveying information while harmonizing with the natural surroundings of Thompson Woods Preserve. Each sign's size was determined to maximize visibility without overwhelming the landscape, striking a balance between prominence and integration. By selecting dimensions that complement the scale of the environment, the signage enhances the visitor experience without detracting from the preserve's serene atmosphere. Additionally, the materials chosen for the signs were selected to withstand outdoor conditions while maintaining visual appeal, ensuring their longevity and sustainability within the preserve.

# Materials

Aluminum

Pros: Durable, resistant to rust and corrosion, suitable for outdoor use, lightweight, and can be coated for added protection.  
 Cons: Can be more expensive than other alternatives.

Composites

(Dibond, Alumalite)  
 Pros: Lightweight, durable, and resistant to harsh conditions. Consists of a metal surface bonded to a plastic core.  
 Cons: More expensive other alternatives



## KEY FACTORS

- Community Involvement
- Environmental Considerations
- Community Engagement



# SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Highlighting the commitment to sustainability, eco-friendly materials, and practices were incorporated into the signage and wayfinding system, aligning the project with broader environmental conservation principles.

<b>Avoid Littering</b>	Dispose trash in the designated bins.
<b>Avoid disturbing wildlife</b>	Observe them from a safe & respectful distance.
<b>Avoid damaging Vegetation</b>	Preserve the natural beauty of the park.
<b>Avoid blocking Pathways</b>	Keep pathways clear for everyone.
<b>Avoid defacing property</b>	Respect the park's infrastructure and natural resources.
<b>Respect wildlife</b>	Keep a safe distance & avoid feeding them.
<b>Stay on designated Trails</b>	Follow trail markers for your safety & to protect the environment.
<b>Dispose of trash Properly</b>	Help keep the park clean for everyone to enjoy.
<b>Use recreational areas Responsibly</b>	Be mindful of others using the facilities.
<b>Observe quiet hours</b>	Use headphones when listening to music or making phone calls.

**THOMPSON**  
WOOD PRESERVE

# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the challenges encountered in the process of designing a wayfinding system for Thompson Woods Preserve have provided invaluable lessons in balancing aesthetics, fostering community engagement, prioritizing accessibility, selecting sustainable materials, embracing iterative design, and thoughtfully integrating technology. These lessons will undoubtedly contribute to the refinement and success of future projects in conservation-focused design.

## WAYFINDING SYSTEM & SIGNAGE DESIGN FOR THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE

Elaheh Babaei  
AKTS'20 / Habitat Lim  
With State College Borough / SDG 11, 12, 13, 14

**Overview:**  
Embarking on the journey to create signs for Thompson Woods Preserve felt like an exciting adventure. We started by diving into a sea of info about nature signs and conservation design. Then, we visited the preserve to understand the area, check out the current signs, and see how visitors move around. We talked with the people who take care of the preserve, like committee members, to learn more about what makes it special and its conservation goals. Finally, we presented our designs, got feedback, and had experts view points.

**Materials:**  
**Aluminum:**  
**Pros:** Durable, resistant to rust and corrosion. Suitable for outdoor use. Lightweight and easy to install and maintain.  
**Cons:** Can be more expensive than other materials.  
**Composite Materials (Fiberglass, Aluminum):**  
**Pros:** Lightweight, durable, and resistant to environmental damage. A variety of colors and finishes to choose from.  
**Cons:** More expensive other alternatives.

**Research Method:**  
In the process of creating a unique and significant signage design for Thompson Woods Preserve, our design journey became an exciting adventure. We started by diving deeply into the body of current research, learning about the subtleties of conservation-focused design and navigation. Intimately interacting with the surroundings, we understood the organic flow of visitors while on the grounds. Interviews with important participants, such as committee members, yielded deep understandings of the preserve's vision and goals for conservation. The process of designing turned into a group art activity, similar to getting together around an idea board. A vibrant community showcase allowed for feedback, ensuring the final design not only visually captivates but warmly embraces Thompson Woods Preserve's essence, its conservation goals, and the vibrant community it calls home.

Logo	Colors	Icons	Typeface
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft Gray: #D3D3D3 Soft gray complements the natural tan and moss green, adding a clean and modern touch. It helps balance the overall palette and ensure readability of text and information on the signs. The soft gray also serves as a neutral background.</li> <li>Neutral Tan or Beige: #D2B48C Neutral tone that acts as a bridge between a warm and inviting base for the color palette. It is a versatile color that works in a variety of contexts and natural settings, making it a suitable background for the signage.</li> <li>Moss Green: #7C8B40 Moss green adds a subtle pop of nature to the palette. This shade of green is fresh and earthy, reinforcing the foliage and plant life within the preserve. It connects the signage to the natural environment without being overly vibrant.</li> </ul>		<b>Body: MyTypeperp</b> <b>ACCDEFGLHJIKMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ</b> <b>1234567890-.,!/:;'"*%&amp;@#</b>  <b>Body: Noto Serif Condensed</b> <b>AKCDEFGLHJIKMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ</b> <b>abc4567890-.,!/:;'"*%&amp;@#</b>

# Design Proposal 4

Jordan Wolf

# Typography

## FONTs

These sans serif fonts were chosen to help foster a welcoming environment as well as increase readability for visitors. These fonts can be clearly seen from far and short distances.

### Title

Filson Soft

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

### Subheader

Brooklyn Bold

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

### Numbers

Bozon Black

**Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg**

**Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn**

**Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu**

**Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz**

### Body Copy

Brooklyn Normal

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

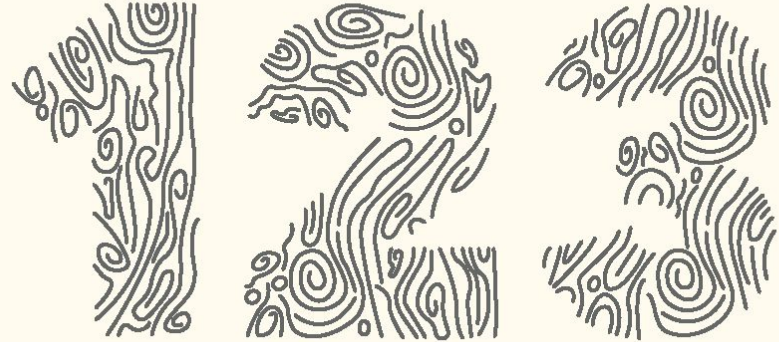
# Branding Elements

## PATTERN

A pattern was created to help the numerical system stand out. This unique pattern was inspired by the grain of wood.

## NUMERICAL SYSTEM

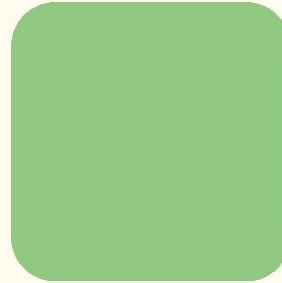
Sequential numbering of trails and key points provides a logical and straightforward system, reducing ambiguity and making it more user-friendly. This approach simplifies the communication of trail routes, ensures a systematic organization, and facilitates efficient emergency response by providing a standardized reference.



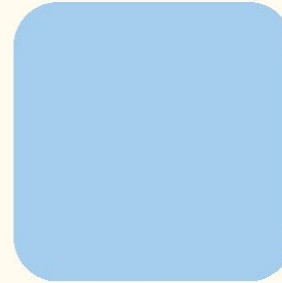
# Aesthetics

## COLORS

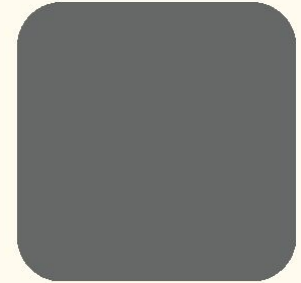
Bright colors are used to create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors. These colors help to elevate the signage with visibility, navigation, and they emphasize important information.



#91c783



#a5cded



#666766



#e76f51



#f3a262



#fce780

# Results

## Preserve Hours

The Thompson Preserve is open from dawn until dusk, closing as the sun sets.

## Rules & Regulations

- 1. STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS**  
Stick to established paths to minimize impact on the natural habitat.
- 2. NO LITTERING**  
Carry out all trash and dispose of it properly.
- 3. LEASH PETS**  
If pets are allowed, they may need to be kept on a leash to prevent disturbances to wildlife and other visitors.
- 4. NO CAMPING OR FIRES**  
Preserve areas may prohibit camping and fires to protect the environment.
- 5. RESPECT WILDLIFE**  
Avoid disturbing or feeding wildlife, and observe them from a safe distance.
- 6. NO HUNTING OR FISHING**  
Hunting and fishing may be restricted in certain preserves.
- 7. OPERATING HOURS**  
Be aware of the preserve's opening and closing times.
- 8. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES**  
Bicycles, ATVs, and other motorized vehicles may be prohibited on trails.
- 9. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**  
Follow any guidelines related to educational programs or guided tours.
- 10. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**  
Some preserves may require permits for specific activities, such as photography or organized events.

## White Oak Trail

0.5 MILES  
DIFFICULTY = EASY

*Respect wildlife.  
Keep noise levels low.*

## White Oak Tree

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Leaves:** Recognize the White Oak by its distinctive lobed leaves, which are seven-lobed with rounded tips.

**Bark:** The bark is light gray and develops deep furrows as the tree matures.

**Acorns:** Produces acorns with a shallow, saucer-like cap, a valuable food source for wildlife.

**HABITAT**

White Oaks thrive in a variety of environments, from upland forests to well-drained slopes. They play a crucial role in supporting diverse ecosystems.

**Fun Fact:** Did you know? White Oaks can live for several hundred years, with some specimens reaching over 400 years old!

**ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**Wildlife Support:** Acorns provide essential food for squirrels, deer, and numerous bird species.

**Biodiversity:** White Oaks contribute to the overall biodiversity of the forest, supporting a range of insects and fungi.

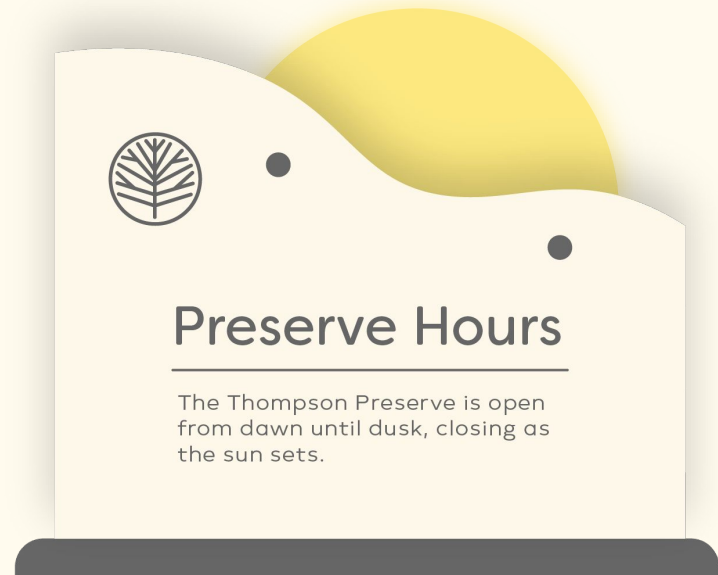
**CONSERVATION**

**Preserving the Legacy:** Help protect White Oaks and their habitat by staying on designated trails and respecting their natural environment.

# Entrance Signage

## WHY YELLOW?

- Yellow is often associated with sunlight and warmth. Using this color can evoke positive feelings, reinforcing the idea that the preserve is welcoming and accessible during daylight hours.
- Yellow is a color often associated with caution and attention. Applying yellow to park hours signage signals to visitors that this information is important and requires their attention.
- Yellow is a highly visible color, especially in low-light conditions. Using yellow for park hours signage ensures that the information remains readable, even as natural light diminishes towards sunset.
- Yellow stands out against the natural green and brown tones of wooded environments. This contrast enhances visibility, making it easier for visitors to spot and understand the information about park hours.



# Informational Signage

## WHY RED?

- Red is a highly visible color that can easily capture attention. In a natural environment like the woods, where green and brown are predominant, red stands out and can quickly draw the eye.
- Red is universally recognized as a color that signifies caution, danger, or important information. This makes it a practical choice for conveying messages that require immediate attention and adherence.
- Red creates a strong contrast with the natural colors of the woods, making it easier to read and understand. This is particularly important for signage that imparts critical information about safety and rules.
- The use of red can convey a sense of urgency, emphasizing the critical nature of the information presented on the signage. This is particularly important for safety guidelines and rules that are essential for the well-being of visitors.



# Navigational Signage

## WHY BLUE?

- Blue tends to stand out against natural backgrounds, such as green foliage. This high visibility is crucial for wayfinding signage in outdoor environments, making it easier for visitors to spot and follow.
- In wooded areas, the dominant colors are often green and brown. Blue provides a strong contrast to these natural colors, making it more noticeable and helping the signage to pop.
- Blue is universally associated with water. Incorporating this color can subtly convey to visitors that they are on the right path. The concept of a river or stream flowing in a particular direction can serve as a metaphor for the desired path. Just as a river naturally follows its course, the use of blue in signage can guide visitors along a designated trail or pathway.
- Blue is often associated with stability, trust, and calmness. In a natural setting, these psychological associations can contribute to a sense of security and ease, making visitors more comfortable as they explore the wooded area.



# Educational Signage

## WHY GREEN?

- Green is the color most commonly associated with nature and plant life. Using green for educational signage complements the natural environment of the woods, creating a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing integration.
- Green is closely associated with botanical elements. Using this color for educational signage about plants and trees reinforces the botanical theme and assists in establishing clear connections in visitors' minds.
- Green is often linked to feelings of tranquility, growth, and well-being. Using green for educational signage can create a positive and calming experience for visitors as they learn about the flora in the preserve.
- Green is often a symbol of life, renewal, and growth. Educational signage in this color can convey a positive message about the vitality and importance of the plant life within the preserve.



# Educational Signage

## WHY ORANGE

- Orange is a color that is often associated with calls to action. Applying this color to animal identification signage can subtly encourage visitors to take an active interest in observing and learning about the wildlife in the preserve.
- Orange is a high-visibility color, especially in natural settings with greenery. This can make the animal identification signage stand out, ensuring that visitors notice and engage with the information.
- Orange is often associated with warning and caution. While this may be more relevant for safety signage, it can subtly convey the idea that the animal information is important and requires attention.
- Orange can complement earthy tones commonly found in wooded areas. This color harmony contributes to the overall aesthetic appeal



# Materials

## COLOR SUGGESTIONS

### ACRYLIC OR PLEXIGLAS

Lightweight and durable. Comes in a variety of colors and can be transparent, translucent, or opaque. Resistant to weathering and fading.

### CONCRETE WITH PIGMENTS

Integrating color pigments into concrete can provide a solid and lasting solution. Allows for a more rustic or industrial appearance.

### RECYCLED PLASTIC PANELS

Environmentally friendly and weather-resistant. Can be manufactured in various colors and textures. Low maintenance and suitable for outdoor use.



## NUMBER SUGGESTIONS

### METAL ACCENTS

Integrate metal accents, such as stainless steel, for a modern touch. Use metal for framing, borders, or as part of the design to enhance durability.

## STONE SUGGESTIONS

### LOCAL STONE

Use locally sourced stone to connect the signage with the natural geology of the State College area. Highlight unique characteristics of the local stone to create a sense of place.

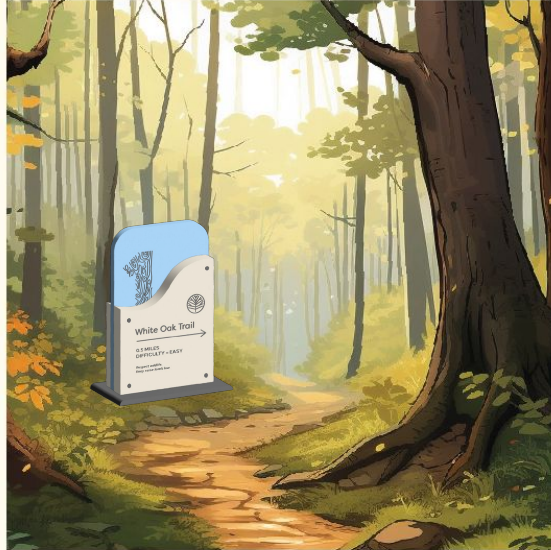
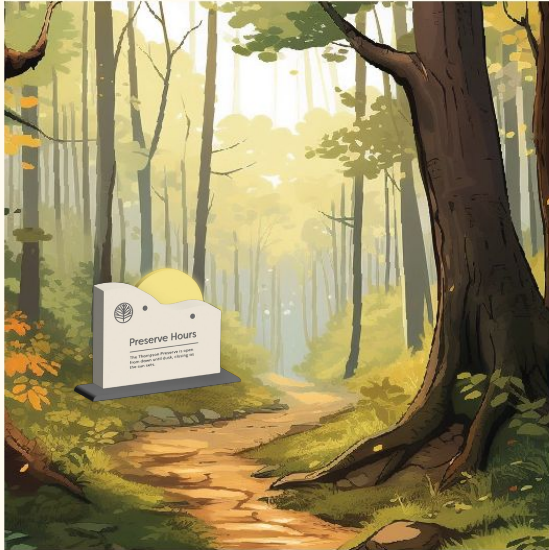
### SANDBLASTING

Employ sandblasting techniques to etch text and graphics onto the stone surface. This method allows for intricate details and a natural, textured finish.

### INLAY OR ENAMEL LETTERING

Consider inlaying contrasting stones or using enamel in vibrant colors for lettering. This enhances readability and adds visual interest.

# Signage In Use



**Thank you**



# COLLEGE TOWNSHIP

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Committee

**From:** Mike Bloom, Assistant Township Manager

**Re:** NB-1 Committee Structure

**Date:** January 8, 2026

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### **Background:**

The Governance Structure for Thompson Woods Preserve has been in place for more than 2.5 years and as with any such organization, there is value in evaluating its operational efficiency and effectiveness.

At its onset, the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement between State College Borough and College Township established a two-committee structure consisting of the following:

- A separate, jointly appointed **Governance Committee** with the purpose of:
  - Providing purpose-focused oversight of all Preserve matters;
  - Making requests for maintenance and repairs to the appropriate party(s);
  - Coordinating the work and initiatives recommended by the Advisory Committee;
  - Providing a forum for the public on matters related to the Preserve.
  
- An **Advisory Committee**, which is a strictly advisory body with the purpose of:
  - Identifying issues or potential projects within the Preserve for consideration by the Governance Committee;
  - Providing insight and/or technical recommendations to the Governance Committee on matters related to the stewardship of the Preserve consistent with the prevailing management plan and property covenants;
  - Responding to requests made by the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee organized in a formal manner like other municipal Authorities, Boards and Commissions, with a publicly advertised regular meeting schedule and officers (Chair/Vice Chair). While the Advisory Committee opted to remain an informally organized, ad-hoc committee that would meet on an as needed basis for more project specific purposes.

### **Evaluation:**

For a variety of reasons, the two-committee structure has not worked entirely as envisioned.

The Governance Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis, aided in organizing communications and workflows, fostered relationships with partners and outside agencies (Clearwater Conservancy, Penn State) and has produced a modest number of smaller maintenance-type projects.

The Advisory Committee has not met regularly and has not been engaged in any project development since early 2024. While well intended, the committee's informal, ad-hoc structure has not been a benefit. Staff capacity limitations have also compounded the limited engagement of the Advisory Committee.

As such, the Governance Committee has to an extent assumed the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee.

**Next Steps:**

The Governance Committee and staff have informally discussed the prospect of reorganizing the committee structure occasionally throughout 2025. The realities noted in the Evaluation section of this memo will also be shared with the Managers and Councils of State College Borough and College Township during their respective updates in early 2026.

With that in mind, the Governance Committee should discuss and prepare recommendations on what could promote improved operational efficiency and effectiveness within the Committee Structure.

# FirstEnergy Community Tree Program

**FirstEnergy**<sup>®</sup>

**Green Team**

As part of FirstEnergy's commitment to building a more sustainable future, we are offering **FREE** tree-planting opportunities for communities and non-profit organizations throughout our service territory. From tree selection to planting and clean-up, our Green Team employee volunteers will help promote responsible use of natural resources and advance sustainable practices in your community.

## Program Highlights

- Materials for plantings, including tree saplings, are provided at no cost from FirstEnergy.
- Our Green Team volunteers will plant trees in public areas, such as state and local parks.
- Additional complementary volunteer services, such as trail maintenance and park cleanup, are available.

## Program Logistics

- Trees supplied are normally of bareroot variety or small pots. Our tree specialists can assist with tree selection and planting recommendations.
- Participating organizations agree that trees will not be planted in an area that could conflict with overhead utility lines.
- Prior to the planting event, organizations should mark where individual trees are to be planted using flags, spray paint or other means. Please call your local One Call organization at 8-1-1 at least three days in advance to have underground utility lines marked.
- Participating organizations are expected to direct and supervise volunteers.
- Participating organizations are expected to water and care for the saplings for the first 3 years after a planting. The first 3 years is vital to the success of young trees.

To be considered for participation in the tree planting program, complete the attached questionnaire and submit it to your local FirstEnergy External Affairs consultant. Completed documents can also be emailed to [GreenTeam@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:GreenTeam@firstenergycorp.com).

**Together, we can make a difference in our communities.**



# FirstEnergy Community Tree Program Questionnaire

Organization Name

501c(3) tax ID (If applicable)

Address of Organization

Contact name

Email

Phone number

Requested Date of Event

Location of volunteer event

Shipping address for supplies

Number of saplings requested

Requested tree species

Is the site accessible by vehicle?

Required mark outs will be completed by

Are trees for planting, giveaway or both?

Are protective sleeves and stakes needed? No Yes

Number of FirstEnergy volunteers requested

Will the organization also have volunteers? No Yes If so, how many?

Will equipment be supplied (shovels, etc.) for FirstEnergy volunteers? No Yes