

OSRC Trailhead Signage Initiative

10/21/24

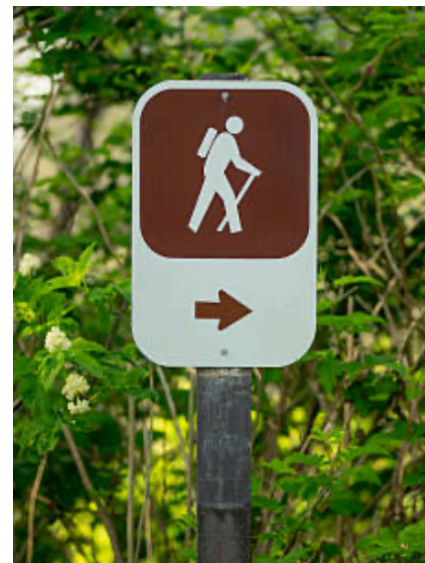


Objective: Draw attention to the many woodland trails throughout Manchester; simplify access and increase usage for recreation and fitness

Solution: Design and install signs at trailhead locations throughout town

TBD: Locations, integration with existing signage, sign form and content, budgeting, design, permitting, production, installation

Examples



Content options: Iconography; iconography with text; trail usage; trail map (QR); trail or wilderness area name.

ENTRY POINTS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS FOOT TRAILS



Open Space Trailhead Locations:

1. Clara Winthrop Nature Preserve
2. Coolidge Reservation
3. Cranberry Pond Reservation
4. Dexter Pond Conservation Area
5. Eaglehead Wildlife Study Area
6. Gordon College Woods
7. Hooper Trask Pasture
8. Long Hill Conservation Restriction
9. Manchester Essex Woods
Wilderness Conservation Area
10. Powder House Hill Reservation
11. The Monoliths
12. Western Woods

Clara Winthrop Nature Preserve (1)

Trailhead: Jersey Lane

Parking: No

Traffic visibility: Low

Current signage: Yes

Comments: Jersey Lane is marked private lane



Coolidge Reservation (2)

Trailhead: Summer Street

Parking: Yes

Visibility: High

Current signage: Yes

Comments: Trustees property



Cranberry Pond Reservation (3)

Trailhead: End of Forest Lane

Parking: In circle

Visibility: Low

Current signage: No

Comments: Parking is not marked; trailhead is off what can look like a private drive



Dexter Pond Conservation Area (4)

Trailheads: (3 or 4) on Colburn Road

Parking: Yes

Visibility: Low

Current signage: No

Comments: Not a lot of trail markings; some trail maintenance issues



Eaglehead Wildlife Study Area (5)

Trailheads: Eaglehead Road; Sweeney Park

Parking: At Sweeney Park only

Visibility: High

Current signage: No



Gordon College Woods (6)

Trailhead: Upper Pine Street

Parking: Roadside

Visibility: High

Current signage: Yes

Comments: Gordon College property sign at entrance; minimal trail markings



Long Hill Conservation Restriction (8)

Trailhead: Loading Place Road;; other access points on Colburn Road

Parking: Roadside

Visibility: Low

Current Signage: No

Comments: Plans underway for land acquisition and subsequent trail system signage by Essex County Greenbelt



Manchester Essex Woods Wilderness Conservation Area (9)

Trailheads: Upper School Street, Upper Pine Street

Parking: Lot/Roadside

Visibility: High

Current Signage: Yes



Powder House Hill Reservation (10)

Trailheads: School Street (2); Pleasant Street (1); Pine Street (3); Elm Street (1)

Parking: Lot/roadside

Visibility: High

Current Signage: Yes



The Monoliths (11)

Trailhead: Upper School Street

Parking: Lot

Visibility: High

Current Signage: Yes

Comments: Trustees property



Western Woods (12)

Trailhead: Crooked Lane

Parking: Roadside

Visibility: Low

Current Signage: No

Comments: Some current discussion about developing a designated parking area



Design ideas

- Signpost material
 - Text
 - Arrow
 - Icon(s)
- Color, design
- Cost

SIGNPOSTS



Fiberglass/composite



Wood/composite post



Metal stake

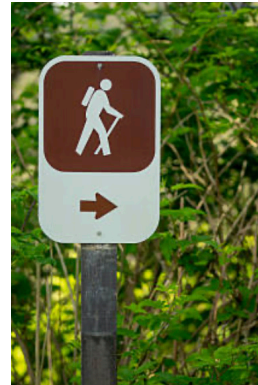


Metal post

CONTENT



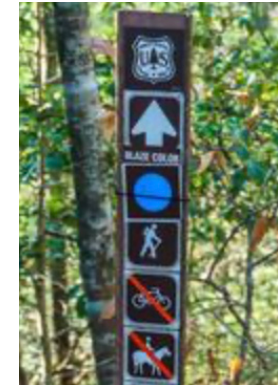
Simple



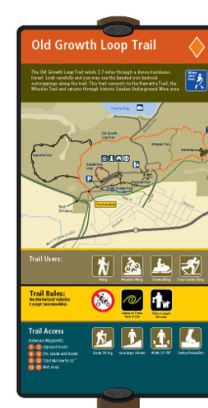
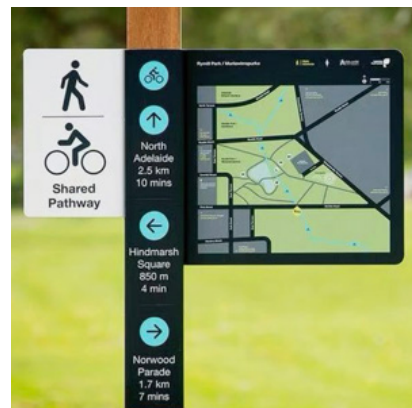
Simple



More info



More info



Trail info (similar to Powder House Reservation entrance signage)

Next steps

- Discuss
- Identify locations
- Reach consensus on sign form and content
- Work with land custodians and DPW to identify any issues or concerns
- Budget; design; permit; produce; install

Resources

https://www.pinterest.com/american_trails/wayfinding-signs-for-trails/

<https://terrabilt.com/wayfinding-orientation-interpretation-instruction-information-etc/#!/#trail>

<https://www.avidtrails.com/portfolio/signage/>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/masstrails-bike-wayfinding-design-guide/download>