



# INKLINGS

Bulletin of Interpretive Ideas

Spring 2011, Volume 11, Issue 1

## Current Project List

- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources**  
*Interpretive Exhibit Mgmt.*  
*Turkey Run SP*  
*Ft. Harrison SP*  
*Indiana Dunes SP*  
  
*Interpretive Planning*  
*Mounds SP*  
*Monroe Reservoir*
- **Bloomington Parks and Recreation (IN)**  
*B-Line Trail signs, Phase II*
- **NICHES Land Trust (IN)**  
*Interpretive Sign Design*

## Spot Check on Exhibits

### *Evaluating your exhibits should be ongoing*

It is important to periodically evaluate your exhibit gallery, even if exhibits are only a few years old. This evaluation should be done by you and by someone unfamiliar with the exhibits and their subject matter.

#### *Things to look for:*

##### **1. Damage**

Even the best constructed exhibits will show wear after a few years of heavy use. Examine each exhibit for . . .

- a. Labels. Check for peeling or delaminating labels.
- b. Taxidermy mounts. If mounts are within reach of the public, they will develop bald spots.
- c. Interactive and movable parts. Do lights and buttons work? Do moveable parts work?



*These taxidermy mounts are out of reach.*

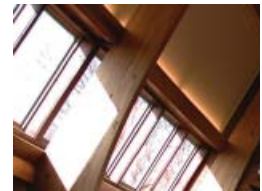
##### **2. Hazards**

Hazards unnoticed by designers may be discovered by children or those with special needs.

- a. Climbing. Are children using ledges or other surfaces to climb onto exhibits?
- b. Head injuries. Could a person in a wheelchair or visually impaired hit their head on a corner, ledge or overhang?

##### **3. Lighting**

- a. Is there enough light? Does the viewer create a shadow on the exhibit, making it more difficult to read?
- b. Is there too much light, causing faded graphics or damaged artifacts?



##### **4. Text**

- a. Are the interactive instructions clear?
- b. Is there too much text? Watch people as they use the exhibit. Are they stopping and reading? If not, there may be too much text.
- c. Accuracy. Is the text still current? New research and information may necessitate an update.

##### **5. Interpretation**

- a. Topics. Is the exhibit topic specific to your site or is the exhibit generic?
- b. Theme. Is the theme clear? Are people walking away with the message you had intended?

INKLINGS is available in pdf format. To get on the pdf list, contact [lise@interpretiveideas.com](mailto:lise@interpretiveideas.com)

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c. Graphics. Are photos and images representative of the site?

## 6. Interest

- a. Variety. Is there a variety of interactive levels and styles. An exhibit gallery with only touch button interactives becomes boring.
- b. Changeable exhibits. Are some exhibits designed to be changed or rotated? Changeable exhibits maintain interest for repeat visitors. Management issues and artifact displays are examples of exhibit topics that can be regularly changed.

As a result of your evaluation, you might decide to replace one exhibit, or do minor changes to several exhibits. Doing so will keep your exhibit gallery interesting and engaging to all your visitors.

## Interpretive Plans On-line

Interpretive Ideas is developing interpretive master plans for the Indiana DNR. Completed plans are now posted on the IDNR web site.

Go to:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake.2392.htm>.

Click on any of the following properties to see their plan: Chain O' Lakes, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, McCormick's Creek, Pokagon, Prophetstown, Turkey Run or Patoka Lake.

More plans will be posted as they are completed.