



INKLINGS

Bulletin of Interpretive Ideas

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Looking at the Site

Determining sign location early in the process can prevent problems down the road.

Ideally, a sign project begins with a visit to the site. In addition to discussing the sign's theme and content, determine the specific location where the sign will be placed. Determining that spot is based upon several factors.



*CCC Recreation Hall
McCormick's Creek State Park*

Current Project List

- **Interpretive Sign Design, J.F. New and Associates.**

Current projects include:

1. *Saugatuck Center for the Arts Rain Garden, Saugatuck, MI*
2. *Deer Creek Estates Wetland, Winfield, IN*

- **Interpretive Sign Design, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.**

Current projects include:

- Mansfield Roller Mill*
- Prophetstown SP*
- Indiana Dunes SP*
- Lincoln SP*
- Harmonie SP*
- McCormick's Creek SP*
- Spring Mill SP*
- Brown County SP*
- Brookville Reservoir*
- Charlestown SP*
- Falls of the Ohio SP*
- Fort Harrison SP*
- Harmonie SP*
- Patoka Reservoir*
- Shakamak SP*
- Summit Lake SP*

- **Interpretive Sign Design, B-line Trail, Bloomington (IN) Parks and Recreation.**

- **Interpretive Sign Design, The Nature Conservancy, Blue River Project, Laconia, IN**

1. Best view. An interpretive sign interprets a specific object, view, feature, etc. that can be observed from the sign. Where should the sign be placed for the optimum visual effect? Look at the view from several angles.

2. Obstructions. Are there obstructions that block the view? Can they be removed? If not, is there a better sign location a few yards in either direction?

3. Other signs. If the feature has been there for awhile, there may be other signs. Can older signs be removed? The fewer signs, the less cluttered the appearance. In some cases (such as historical designation plaques), the sign will stay. Can signs be combined?

4. Safety. Reader safety must be considered. If the sign is near a road or bike path, there needs to be a pull-off to get the reader out of harm's way. Watch for stairwells, slopes, etc.



The location decision is marked and photographed.

Once the best location has been determined, take a photo or GPS reading of the exact location. This will ensure that when the sign is finally set in concrete, it is in the correct position and orientation.



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Interpretive Ideas

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A stairwell behind the reader could present a safety problem.

Mansfield Roller Mill



Sign placement takes into consideration road and bike path safety issues.

Pokagon State Park



Setting the sign back from a bike path creates a safe place for readers.

River Bluff Trail, Logansport, IN