

City of Colorado Springs

TOPS Open Space

Sign Guidelines

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FINAL DRAFT
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It is the effort of these organizations and individuals that made it possible.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Advisory Board:

- Ron Ilgen, Chair
- David Siegel, Vice Chair
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- Gregory J. Thornton
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- Nate Hook – Park Ranger
- Amy Rodriguez – Skill Maintenance Technician
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- Maddie Peddy – Park Ranger
- Stephanie Fields – Park Ranger
- Mike Bowman – Park Ranger
- Haley Noneman – Park Ranger

Various community members that made up the Stakeholder Group.

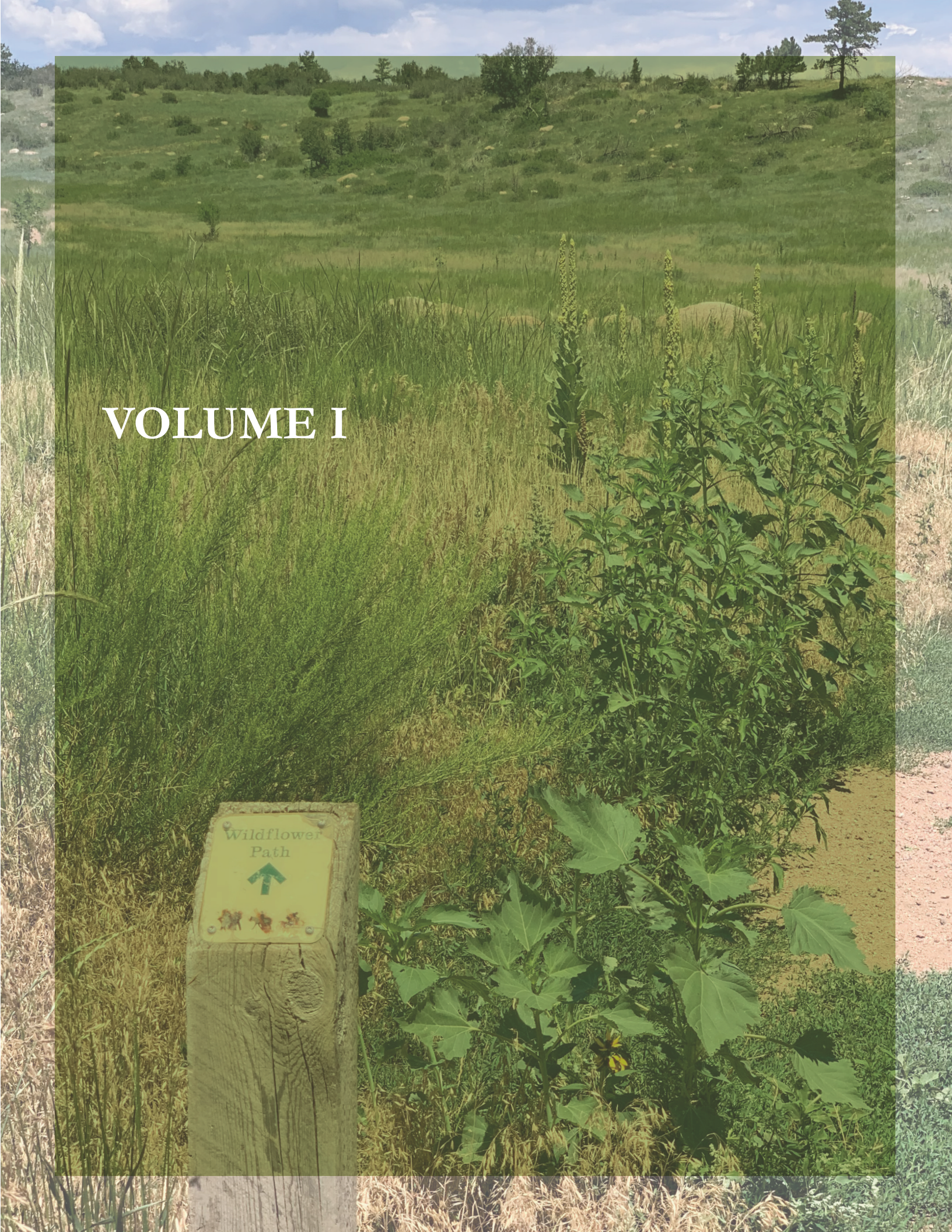
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VOLUME I



SECTION I: BACKGROUND

City of Colorado Springs

The City of Colorado Springs is home to a diverse array of natural areas, including forested foothills, sheer-walled canyons, mountain streams, unique rock formations, expansive grasslands and scenic mesas. In addition to the numerous community and neighborhood parks, the City boasts thousands of acres of open space lands. These lands allow users to access and enjoy the varied ecosystems that exist throughout the City.

Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS)

The TOPS tax of one tenth of one percent (0.10%) was established by a vote of the people in 1997 in order to encourage, foster and promote public-private partnerships in the preservation of open space lands, trails and parks. In 2003, voters renewed TOPS until 2025.

The TOPS Working Committee was formed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to manage the revenue and expenditures for the TOPS fund. The Committee has nine members appointed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Three members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are selected by City Council to serve as advisors to the Committee. The three-year Committee terms are staggered for continuity; members may serve two consecutive terms.

The TOPS program has preserved over 6,200 acres of open space in the Pikes Peak region over the past 17 years. It has built more than 32 parks and constructed close to 50 miles of urban trails. The TOPS sales tax generates approximately \$9 million annually and is leveraged through grants and private funds.

Purpose of the Project

This project was borne out of the need for comprehensive and effective wayfinding signage at TOPS Colorado Springs Open Space properties. It has been noted by staff, stakeholders, and users alike that the existing signage no longer meets the needs of visitors and residents who enjoy the parks daily. As a premiere destination for outdoor recreation, the City sought to develop a wayfinding solution that would increase the enjoyment and aid the management of these beautiful parks.

Open Space Properties

The City of Colorado Springs is comprised of both TOPS funded and non-TOPS funded open space properties.

TOPS Properties

Bluestem Prairie Open Space
 Corral Bluffs Open Space
 High Chaparral Open Space
 Red Rock Canyon Open Space
 Stratton Open Space
 Ute Valley Park
 Blodgett Open Space

While this project was initiated by TOPS Working Committee, the design solutions presented here can be implemented in both TOPS and non-TOPS open space properties to create a unified strategy throughout the City. It should be noted, however, that these design recommendations include TOPS specific branding that should be included at all TOPS properties to acknowledge how the ordinance (passed in 1997) continues to fund and preserve vital open space.

Non-TOPS Open Space Properties

North Cheyenne Canon Park
 Palmer Park
 Garden of the Gods
 West portion of Ute Valley Park
 Jimmy Camp Park



As the popularity of the open spaces within the City grows, so does the need to ensure visitors and residents have information needed for a safe and enjoyable experience from the moment they arrive at a property. Wayfinding and signage design play a critical role in that experience. Additionally, with comprehensive signage and wayfinding design comes a need for definitive design guidelines and a way to organize and manage the signage across the City. This document will provide those guidelines and organizational structure.

What is Wayfinding?

Wayfinding is a strategy that is set in place to connect people to places of interest by guiding them through their physical environment. Wayfinding can enhance the overall experience of a place and provide a sense of inclusion.

Wayfinding typically includes a well-designed sign family but can also include other design cues such as landmarks, pavement markings, and landscaping. The goal of wayfinding is to make information easy to spot and understand so the messages can be understood quickly and followed wholly. Superior wayfinding allows users to navigate new environments safely and comfortably. It should be visible enough to be noticed by new users but maintain the ability to be discrete as repeat visitors develop their mental map of the space.

What is a Mental Map?

A mental map is a summary of spatial knowledge people form about a place. These maps contain information about urban and natural landmarks and geographical features. This includes a general sense of the distance between features and places, estimates of sizes and locations, and impressions of characteristics. People form these maps for highly familiar places such as their hometown. They also form when one visits a new location. As more information is learned about a new place, the map grows more detailed.

What other uses do signs have?

Signs can also give critical information to users including: open space park rules and regulations, warnings and notifications, awareness of property boundaries, distance traveled, etc. Collectively, signs will give park users all the information they need to use and experience the park.

Why is this important?

Providing residents and visitors with comprehensive wayfinding system allows them to experience an environment with knowledge of their location, awareness of acceptable behavior and uses, and the ability to form a detailed mental map about an open space.



Manage and Update

For the management of this document, we recommend that the City determine a single point of contact whether that be a single staff member or a single committee made up of 2-4 staff members. This will ensure there is someone who can be consulted for questions about how to implement the recommendations in this document appropriately. This document is a working file that should be managed, referenced, and updated regularly. This is more effectively done by one or two staff members to ensure that changes are made in a consistent manner.



Information within

This document gives the reader an organizational structure for sign types, called typologies. Organizing signs by typology allows the City to determine what signs to install and where to install them. This also helps discussions and design modifications because the following typology discussions include information about use and function.



This document provides design standards for signs including size/dimensions of structures and sign plaques, materials, construction detailing, and graphic standards. This reduces the need for design decisions to be made every time a new sign is needed and helps to ensure a consistent look throughout the City.



The manager of the document should update it regularly, with any changes that are implemented as a matter of course. As signs are installed, used, maintained, and subject to users and the outdoor elements, modifications may be necessary. Additionally, there may be a need to modify material recommendations based on availability or graphic updates as the City logos and other graphics are updated. Any change that is necessary to make to a sign should be updated in this document - the text, graphics, and details. That will ensure the document is always up to date and the next project can benefit from the previous project's lessons learned.

Who will use this document

This document should be used by anyone who is involved or responsible for the design, implementation, or management of signs in the City's open spaces. This may include but is not limited to:

- City staff including open space designers, trail designers, ranger staff, parks and recreation staff, project managers, sign designers, and sign fabricators.
- Consultants hired by the City including graphic designers, environmental graphic designers, and landscape architects.
- Contractors, fabricators, and installers.
- Anyone else responsible for the design, fabrication, installation, or management of signs within City open spaces.

A successful sign strategy for the TOPS Open Spaces will respond to all the things that make Colorado Springs open spaces unique. It will allow visitors and residents alike to access the same information and understand the spaces in a way that enhances their reason for being there. A successful sign strategy will aid people in finding the places and information they need. It may even introduce them to something they didn't know was there.



**SECTION II:
WAYFINDING PRINCIPLES
AND TYPOLOGIES**



Wayfinding Principles

The following are guiding principles in wayfinding that should be considered to ensure that signs support the overall wayfinding strategy and aid the development of a mental map for residents and visitors alike.

Simple messages

All information on wayfinding signs should be clear and concise. The message should be conveyed in as few words and graphics as possible while still maintaining legibility and ease of understanding. Since these signs are typically viewed as users are moving along a street, sidewalk, or trail, people need to grasp the information quickly and effectively.

Predictability

Predictable information allows users to absorb it at a quicker rate. Wayfinding signs that are the same in design and message, only varying by content allow users to focus only on the important part of each sign - the content. Predictability increases the sense of comfort one has in a new or unfamiliar space. Predictable signs also create an overall brand for the City by enhancing open space specific identity.

Provide connections

The ultimate goal of all wayfinding sign efforts is to provide connections for users. Understanding the direction and distance of trails, trailheads, points of interest, comfort facilities, or other open space features allows for a more beneficial and well-rounded experience. Superior wayfinding signage allows people to find new destinations or experiences safely and comfortably.

Sign Typologies

Organizing signs into categories, or typologies, allows for a greater understanding of how a sign family functions as a whole unit and how each typology contributes to the overall unit.

Welcome Signs

Welcome signs indicate to users when they have reached their destination. These sign structures are typically installed at the entrance of the park or parking lot in a location visible to drivers on adjacent roadways. These signs should be large enough so that drivers have sufficient time to indicate a turn and slow at an appropriate pace in order to turn into the property.

These signs are the first impression one has of an open space property and should provide a visually welcoming experience.

At a minimum, the name of the property should be included on this sign. Agency/department names or logos may also be included to indicate ownership/management/funding responsibilities.

Kiosk Structures/Signs

Kiosk structures are typically found at the trailhead or main entry point of a property usually adjacent to a trail heading into the property. They should be placed at a location that is visible from the parking lot so that users have a focal point to address as their first stop. These structures are typically designed to house multiple signs including: map signs, rules and regulations signs, acknowledgment signs, and temporary signs.

Map signs

Map signs show users their location in the greater context of the trail alignments, property boundaries, and/or surrounding context and features.

Map signs should also include distance and elevation information. In areas with varied terrain, such as Colorado Springs, both

distance and elevation gain/loss can help users determine the difficulty level of a trail based on their own abilities.

Rules and Regulation signs

This sign serves to educate users about their expected behavior in the form of rules and regulations. Oftentimes, jurisdictions require a reference to local regulations in order to enforce the expectations through the issuance of tickets. This sign can also provide users with typical information to be used throughout their visit such as park hours or acceptable and non-acceptable uses of the property.

Acknowledgment signs

These signs may acknowledge project partners, funding partners, volunteers, donors, etc. These signs should be similar in size and design so as not to compete with adjacent signs. It is also best to keep these signs in the same location, the kiosk structure is ideal, so that all acknowledgments can be viewed at the same time.

When new acknowledgments must be added, the entire sign panel should be revised and replaced rather than adding a separate sign panel or structure. While there is a desire to acknowledge all efforts to support the open space, care should be given to ensure all acknowledgments occur on this pane. If there is a need to indicate importance or hierarchy, that can be shown in the size and type of font and logos.

Temporary signs

These signs might include community specific notices, park-specific warnings, park-specific volunteer opportunities, friend's group notices, or public notices. Providing a space for these temporary, or rotating, signs ensures that users will look at the same place on the kiosk sign to find the most recent and frequently updated information.



Directional Signs

Directional signs provide critical information to park users about the direction they intend to travel.

Turn/connection signs

These signs should be installed in any location where a user may question the appropriate direction to take. Examples of this include trail intersections, places where on-street routes connect to off-street routes, trails that travel through public parks, etc.

Where possible, these signs should include the trail/route and an arrow indicating the direction. To support comprehension, the trail/route nomenclature should match all other signs on the property, most importantly, the map sign.

Additionally, the arrow indicating the direction of the trail/route should very clearly match the direction of the referenced trail/route. It should not be assumed that users will inherently understand a questionable directive.



Confirmation Signs

Confirmation signs reassure users that they are where they intended to be. Confirmation signs are particularly important in areas where it may be difficult for users to assess if they are still in the same open space property or on the same trail as when they started..

Trail ID signs

These are signs that provide confirmation that users are on their intended route. These can be simple in design and aesthetic as long as continuity between signs is observed. The information portrayed should indicate the name of the trail/route.

These are different from directional signs (see previous page) in that options are not given. The sole purpose of a trail ID sign is to indicate a single trail/route. If there is a need to indicate more than one, a directional sign should be considered.

Grade separated crossing signs

Trails that forego at-grade crossings of major roads and opt to provide a grade separated crossing for trail users can benefit from a sign on the bridge that indicates the name of the road. Trail users may become disoriented if a trail system travels frequently below roads. Providing street names helps users establish their location within the city network of roadways. Local public works departments or state departments of transportation may need to be consulted during the planning stages to approve the installation of a sign on their road bridge.





Location/boundary signs

These signs indicate to trail users when they've crossed a jurisdictional boundary. This is important for wayfinding as well as regulation of trail rules. Since rules and regulations may vary by jurisdiction, users must understand when they are held to different expectations.

Additionally, they may indicate a private property boundary so users can respect property and stay on public lands.

Interpretive Signs

Interpretive signs round out a comprehensive sign family package. They provide educational information for trail or park users that is based on the actual property they are experiencing. These signs can highlight history, landmarks, ecology, or other culturally significant information.

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SECTION III: INVENTORY

To understand what signs are currently installed and how they are being used, the design team visited multiple TOPS open spaces throughout the Colorado Springs system:

- High Chapparal Open Space*
- Blue Stem Prairie Open Space*
- Stratton Open Space*
- Ute Valley Open Space*
- Blodgett Open Space*



Existing Sign Typologies

Welcome Signs

These signs appear to be found at open space entrances near right-of-way access. Some of these signs are the same design as City Parks entry signs - a painted post structure with a peak and a brown sign plaque that contains the park name, address, and appropriate City logos. While these have a distinctive look, there is an opportunity to update the design and function of these signs. Creating a sign design separate from that used in City Parks will allow the open spaces to be celebrated for their differences and their unique identity.

Map signs

The map signs we saw did not have a consistent graphic look, it appeared they had been designed and fabricated at different times. They also appeared to be lacking necessary information such as visible landmarks, road names, and property information. This made it difficult to orient oneself when visiting a park for the first time. It also appeared these signs were not updated regularly. Through our stakeholder meetings we were made aware that the map orientation varies throughout the parks, with north facing up in some parks and other directions in other parks.

Some of these map signs were installed on structures that mirrored the aesthetic of the entry signs - a painted post structure with a peak. In these instances, the sign plaque contained a map sign, the park name, and a short list of rules and regulations. In some areas, the map was installed on basic posts and contained nothing else.





Directional signs

The parks we visited contained a substantial number of directional signs on the trails. They appeared to be installed in most areas where there were trail intersections or decision points. However, there did appear to be missing signs in some areas.

Additionally, the directional arrows mostly appear to be accurate. However, there were some that did not match the direction of available trails.

Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs appeared to be the most frequently posted, even resulting in duplicates of the same sign posted in the same location. They are installed on posts, on fencing, and on other sign structures. There isn't a consistent graphic look for regulatory signs nor is there consistent message/wording. The duplicate posting of some signs indicates that parks may experience a higher rate of users not observing that specific regulation. For instance, Ute Valley had several signs at the trailhead asking people to pick up dog waste, which indicates that is particularly problematic at that park.

There did not appear to be mile markers or confirmation signs at any of the parks the design team visited.

Interpretive Signs

There were interpretive signs installed in a few places that the visited parks. They included historical and ecological information. There did not appear to be a consistent appearance or language between the signs.

Summary

Overall, there was a general inconsistency between all signs throughout all parks visited. The aesthetic was dated and there appeared to be a general lack of information. Finally, in some areas, sign clutter added to the confusion.

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**SECTION IV:
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

This carefully crafted design process allowed the City to seek extensive outside participation from stakeholders and maximize the institutional knowledge and experience of their existing staff. The design team provided insight and expertise in the field of environmental graphic design and assisted the City with extensive project meetings. Full meeting notes can be found in the Appendix. Following is a summary of the meetings held throughout the design process.

Kick-off Meeting

May 16, 2019

This project began with a kick-off meeting that introduced the project to key City of Colorado Springs staff members in the Parks and Recreation Department. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, led a discussion with staff that focused on providing key information to the Architerra consultant team: Mark Taylor, Principal; Lesanne Dominguez, Project Manager; and Kara Scheetz, Project Designer. The City team contributed to a discussion that helped frame the project vision and goals. They also provided extensive and critical information regarding the construction, lifecycle, and maintenance needs of the existing signs. Finally, a discussion focused on the available opportunities for improving signs through this project and how the design team can help support that endeavor.

Stakeholder Meeting

July 8, 2019

After the initial meeting with City staff, the design team met with a larger group of stakeholders. This meeting provided key stakeholder groups and individuals the opportunity to learn about the project and weigh in on the priorities of their respective groups and identify ways this project could support them.

While the interests of the stakeholders were vast and varied, the group has an effective dialogue about signage focused topics and provided invaluable feedback.

After the two initial meetings in which the design team was provided with extensive information about the existing signs and needs and desires for future signs for Colorado Springs Open Space properties, the design team went to work.

Key Ideas

Through the design charette process, these key ideas floated to the top as potential design inspiration:

(1) There is a patriotic overtone in Colorado Springs as the song America the Beautiful was written at the top of Pikes Peak. The City is the home of the Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy. Patriotism can take many forms, but in Colorado Springs it is driven by the natural beauty and both the literal and figurative strength of our country.

(2) Colorado Springs has roots as resort town used for vacationing families during the mid-century road trip era. The idea of getting out of the city to enjoy nature is one that families all over Colorado still enjoy in the present day and can be celebrated.

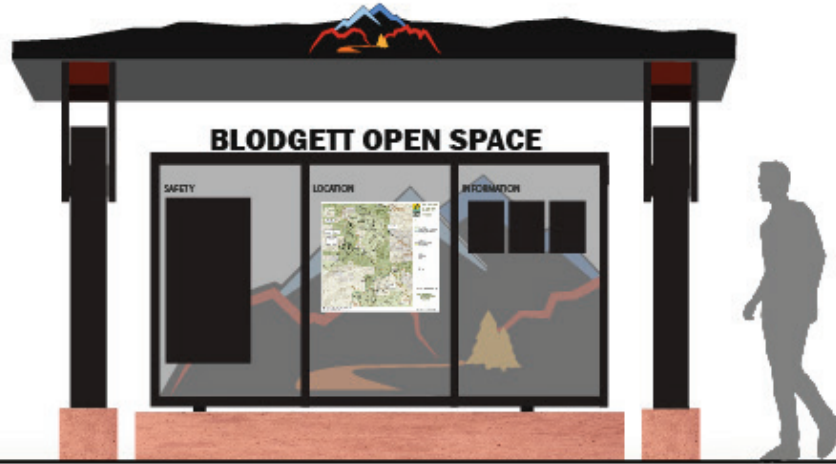
(3) Colorado Springs is home to incredible unique and beautiful natural features and areas. This includes, of course, Pikes Peak and the Garden of the Gods, but it also includes less well-known but still spectacular landscape elements including the red rocks, the close access to the mountains from the City, the incredible views of the mountains from the City, and the wide range of ecosystems present within the City. There is an opportunity to celebrate both the grand and intimate natural features that make Colorado Springs unique.

Design Charette

To help guide the design team with inspiration, they conducted research about Colorado Springs, the open spaces, the natural areas, the population, and other key factors and qualities. This information provided them with a wide range of inspiration. They conducted an internal design charette (a design process in which all designers provide design ideas, sketches, graphics, and participate in a collective design exercise) to narrow down the information to key ideas that relate to the Colorado Springs TOPS properties.

Alternative Concepts

Using the key ideas listed, the design team developed three alternative sign family concepts. Alternative design concepts are used to explore ways to meet the project goals through different expressions. It also gives the project stakeholders a way to compare and contrast design solutions.



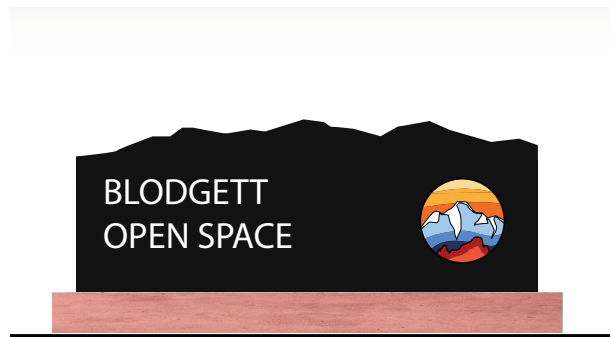
Kiosk Sign/Structure

Concept One: America the Beautiful

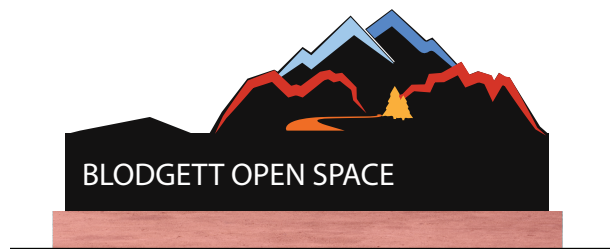
This concept is rooted in the idea patriotism that is prevalent throughout the City through the Air Force Academy, the Olympic Training Center, and even through the song America the Beautiful (said to have been written at the top of Pikes Peak).

These signs are designed to be large and iconic in form and color. Their size and appearance lend a feeling of permanence that can be associated with the signage, the open space properties, and the City as a whole. This concept also included the design of a logo that could be used for open space properties to differentiate them from other City properties or open space properties owned and managed by other agencies.

These structures are meant to stand out in the landscape and provide an iconic landmark that can be referenced both near and far.



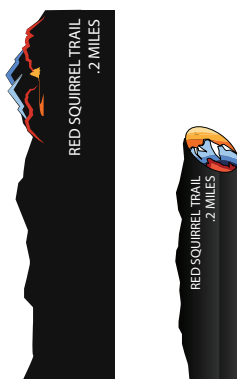
Welcome Sign - Option A



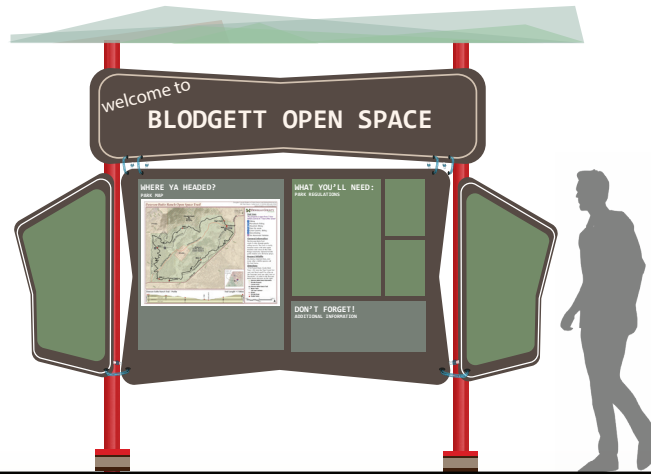
Welcome Sign - Option B



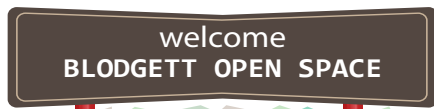
Welcome Sign - Option C



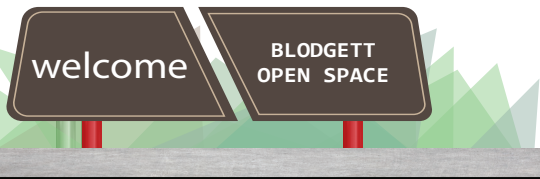
Wayfinding Signs



Kiosk Sign/Structure



Welcome Sign - Option A



Welcome Sign - Option B



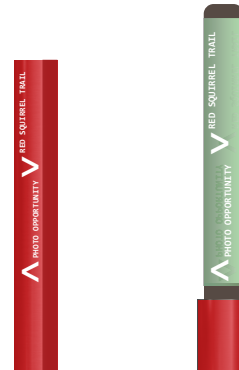
Welcome Sign - Option C



Welcome Sign - Option D

Concept Two: Come Play Here

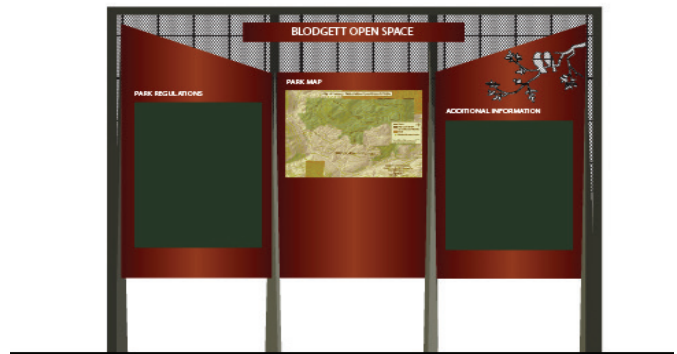
This concept is inspired by the history of the City as a resort and vacation town. It represents the mid-century road trip and brings it into the present day through materials and color. Mid-century signs provided ample design inspiration and contemporary outdoor equipment inspired the unique sign design and materials that include carabiners, carbon fiber, and translucent polycarbonate. This concept uses whimsy and color to create a unique identity and to celebrate the City's open spaces with a nod to the past and a look toward the future.



Wayfinding Signs



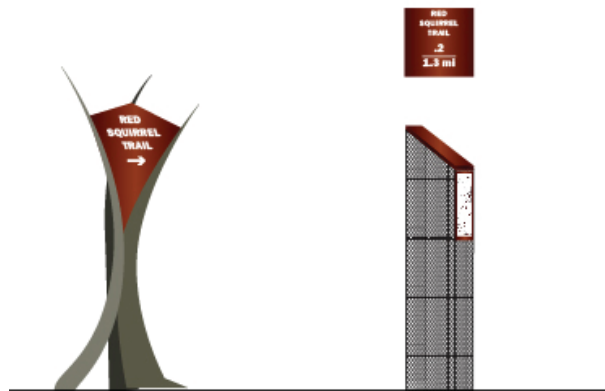
Kiosk Sign/Structure - Option A



Kiosk Sign/Structure - Option B

Concept Three: The Scenic Route

This concept was driven by the idea that while there is a lot capture the imagination in Colorado Springs, one way to experience the open space parks is by focusing on the environment right in front of you. Modern materials with natural hues such as cor-ten steel, stainless steel, and wire mesh celebrate the native environments by enhancing and complementing them instead of sharply contrasting with them.



Wayfinding Signs



Welcome Sign - Option A



Welcome Sign - Option B

These three concepts were presented to a group that consisted of stakeholders and City staff. A roundtable discussion was had about all three concepts and what people liked and disliked about them. A summary of the feedback is below and full meetings notes can be found in the Appendix.

Staff and Stakeholder Meeting

September 12, 2019

Feedback for the concepts was mostly consistent among all meeting attendees. There was very little support for Concept Two. While attendees appreciated the thoughtful and unique design, they did not think it would be appropriate for the open spaces with the City. The positive discussion about the concepts centered around some elements of Concept One and some elements of Concept Three.

Ultimately, the feedback indicated that a fourth concept would be created by combining the desired traits of concept one: the welcome sign and the logo with the desired traits of concept two: natural colors, materials, and forms.

Public Open House

November 5, 2019

A public open house was planned to provide the general public with information about the project and obtain additional feedback about the proposed concepts.

The design team presented alternative concepts that had been revised based on the previous staff and stakeholder meeting feedback.

Separate stations were set up to engage open house attendees on focused signs in the family. The first station introduced the project, the second station highlighted the welcome signs, the trailhead kiosk and wayfinding signs, and the third station focused on the type of graphics that would be used for the park map.

This meeting was well attended and valuable feedback was obtained. Please see a summary of feedback in the Appendix.

Design Review Meeting

February 28, 2020

The design team presented the updated design concept at a meeting that was attended by TOPS Rangers and Regional Parks, Trails, and Open Space maintenance staff. The group reviewed the constructibility, maintainability, materials review, and discussed concerns about vandalism.

Presentations to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and TOPS Working Committee

After the multiple staff and stakeholder meetings and the public open house a final sign family design was developed based on the feedback. This sign family was presented to both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the TOPS Working Committee to inform them of the project, the process and to obtain final comments.

Both boards provided valuable insight and feedback. Overall the feedback was positive and the final design concept was well-received.

VOLUME TWO



**SECTION V:
FINAL SIGN
RECOMMENDATIONS**



Welcome Sign

The welcome sign will be installed at the entry of all TOPS and City Open Spaces. Where space does not allow, a secondary welcome sign may be considered or the dimensions of this sign may be altered with care taken to retain appropriate proportions and artistic elements.

This sign is double-sided and can be read from either direction. The silhouette design on the top of the sign is reminiscent of the angular mountains seen from the City.

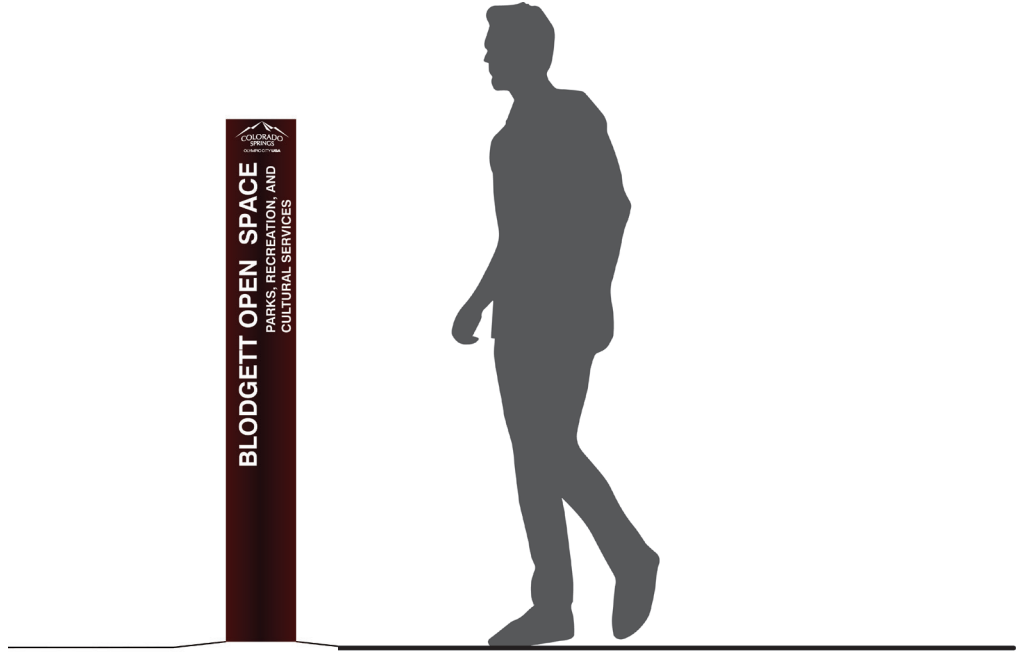
It is constructed of plate steel atop a colored concrete base. The base is angled to prevent the ledge from being used as seat or surface to place items/trash.

All properties will be recognized with the statement "Department of Parks, Recreation, and

Cultural Services" below the name of the open space.

In the event that a street address will need to be posted on the welcome sign, a metal plaque with the address will be fabricated and installed on the colored concrete base. It is recommended that the plaque be installed on the left side of the base so that the numbers align with the left justification of the text on the sign. The numbers should be a minimum of 3". Those recommendations may be changed based on the installation location.

The City logo will be used in an all-white version to keep from visually competing with the other information on the sign.



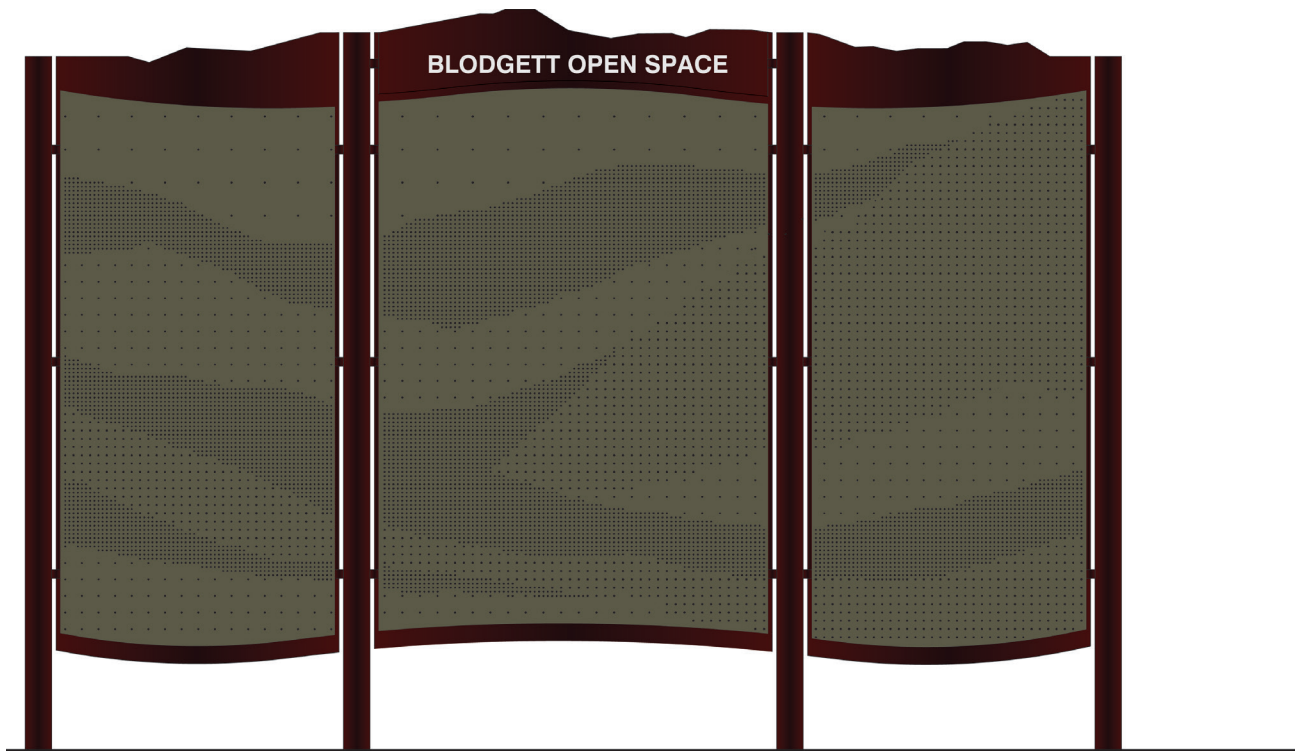
Secondary Welcome Sign

The secondary welcome sign will be installed at open space entries that are limited in space and cannot support the large welcome sign. They may also be installed at secondary or neighborhood entries of all TOPS and City Open Spaces.

This sign is four-sided and can be read from any direction.

It is constructed of tube steel sleeve with outdoor rated adhesive decals used for the lettering. The Colorado Springs logo will be placed at the top of the sleeve. This logo will be displayed in all white.

The name of the open space property will be displayed vertically.



Kiosk Sign

The kiosk sign will be installed at trailheads of all TOPS and City Open Spaces.

This sign is designed to be read from the front only. The brown steel frame structure consists of the posts, the plate steel as a background, and the tabs that are welded to connect the posts and the plate steel.

The green steel panels are installed in front of the brown steel structure. These panels have a perforated pattern that is designed on a four-inch grid. These perforations create a designed pattern. They also create a grid that aligns with the installation location of all panels.

The brown steel structure has a hinged access door on the back to allow for installation of sign panels with a bolt, washer, and nut. When the door is closed, the view of the hardware from the back is obscured.

Finally, in areas where space is constrained, the side panels may be angled to fit in smaller spaces. The graphic above shows the side panels in line with the center panel, not angled.

Wayfinding Signs

Wayfinding signs in this family have a hierarchy. This is to keep the larger (more expensive and heavier) posts in the most heavily used (primary) locations and use the smaller (less expensive and lighter) in the harder to reach locations (secondary). Determination of the primary and secondary locations may be based on multiple factors.

The primary locations may:

- be within a specified mile radius (to be determined by Parks staff) from the trailhead therefore reaching a bulk of the casual or "front-country" users; or
- intersections along heavily used trails or loops.

The secondary locations may:

- be outside a specified mile radius (to be determined by Parks staff) from the trailhead therefore only seen by the long-distance/"back-country" users; or
- intersections along less traveled trails, connections, and loops.

Additionally, wayfinding signs should be installed at strategic decision points and direct users to the route that provides the shortest and most efficient way to their destination.

Wayfinding Information

Information on the wayfinding decals should include anything that aids users in determining their current location and/or determining which direction they will travel. That includes the name of their current trail, names of trails that they have access to, points of interest such as an overlook, locations of park amenities such as trailheads, provide boundary information, and support appropriate use of trails by directing users to stay on specific trails.

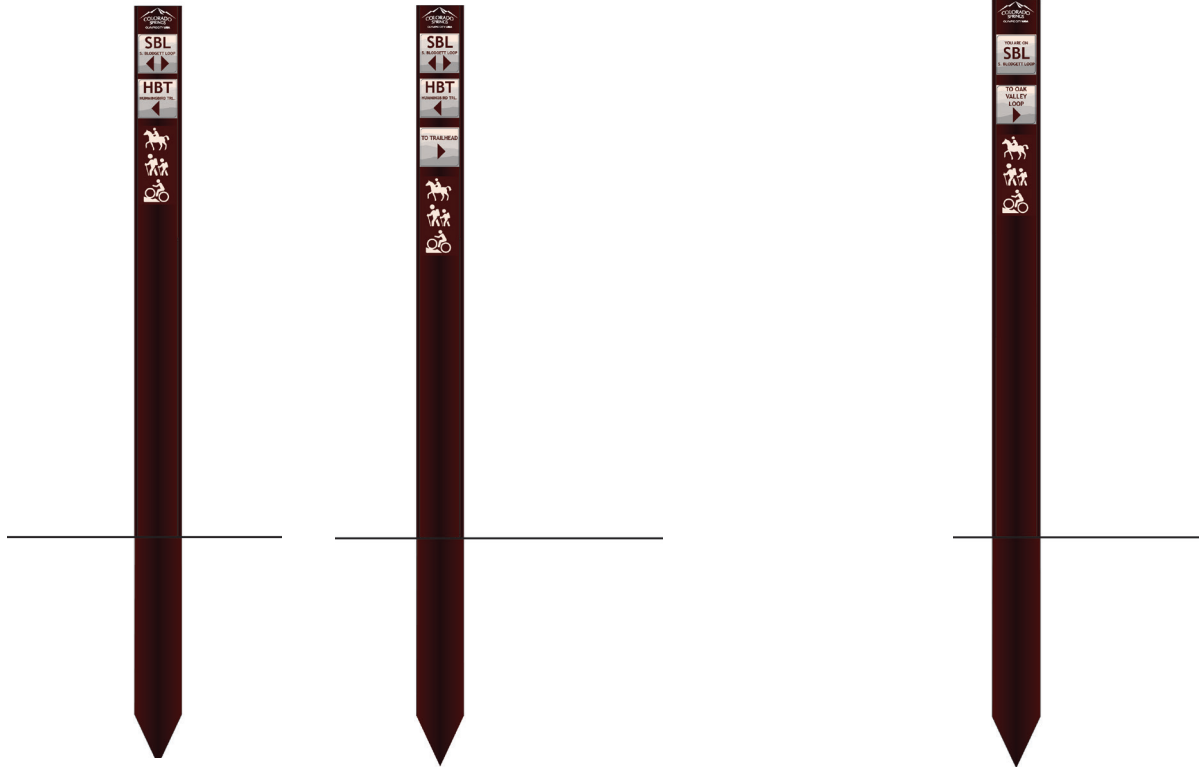


Wayfinding Post Sign

The wayfinding post sign will be installed at primary locations. Those intersections can be determined using 'front-country' and 'back-country' delineations. Or they may be determined based upon hierarchy of trails. This determination may be park specific.

This sign is four-sided and can be read from any direction.

It is constructed of a tube steel sleeve atop a composite wood post. The sleeve is bolted to the post to prevent movement. Outdoor rated adhesive decals are applied to the steel sleeve to provide wayfinding information and show allowed uses.



Wayfinding Carsonite Sign and Confirmation Carsonite Sign

The wayfinding signs will be installed at intersections or decision points along trails.

The confirmation signs will be installed approximately 25'-50' beyond a trail intersection. They may also be installed every 1/4 to 1/2 mile on long stretches of trail that have no other wayfinding opportunities. The intent is to confirm to trail users that they are on the trail they intended to travel.

These signs may also be used to indicate when trail users are leaving open space property, or to discourage the use of social trails.

This sign is two-sided and can be read from the front or back direction.

These signs are constructed of Carsonite markers with outdoor rated adhesive decals applied to them.



Trail Naming

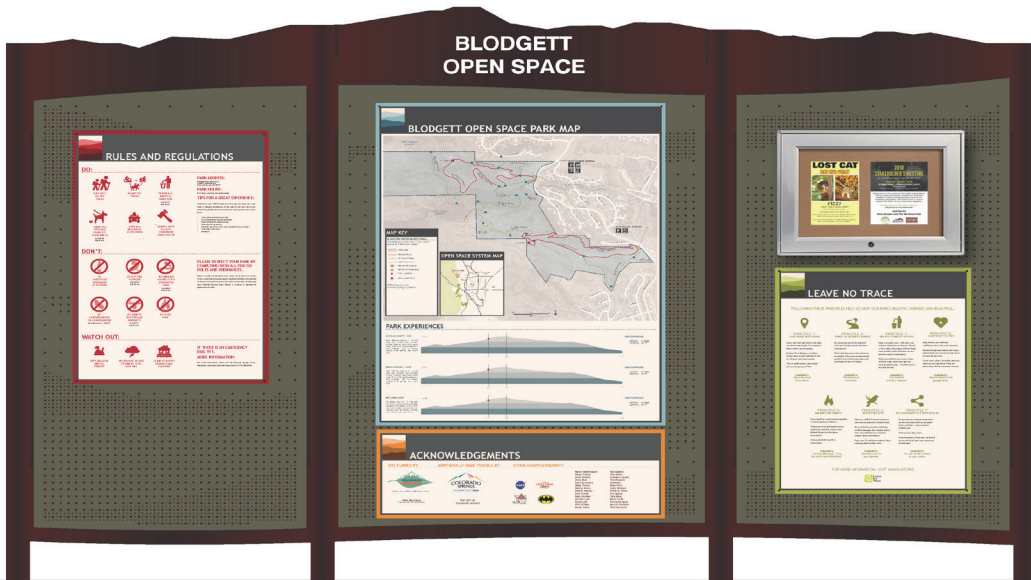
This document recommends that each park be evaluated in terms of the number of trail names. It is recommended to create systems of loops and connecting trails as a way of reducing trail names. Fewer trail names allows for better wayfinding. When final trail names are developed, abbreviations should be determined for use on wayfinding signs as seen on these pages.

Wayfinding Decals

The wayfinding decals will be designed based on the trail name/abbreviation convention. The size of the decal is based on the size of the marker where it will be placed. The Carsonite markers are a narrower width than the wayfinding posts.

It is made of an outdoor rated adhesive material. The arrow is a simple triangle with the point indicating the direction of travel.

The decal has both the trail abbreviation and the full trail name below it. The abbreviation will aid users traveling quickly. Should a user be unsure of their location or the direction they should turn, they can stop and read the full name.



Kiosk Sign Panels

The sign panels that will be installed on the trailhead kiosk are designed to relate to one another. They all contain similar graphics, a logo, format and vary based on color

and content. The intent is to use a different color per panel type. The kiosk sign panels should be configured the same at each property.



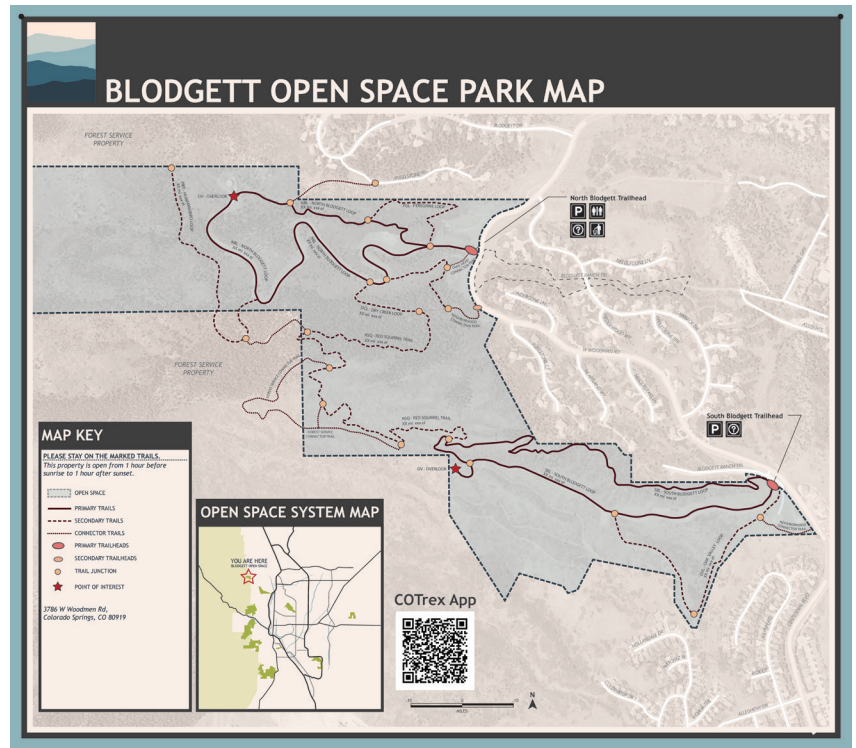
Acknowledgments Sign Panel

The acknowledgments sign panel will be similar to the park map in design, graphics, and fonts. The logo in the top corner and the highlight color will be orange.

City department logos and TOPS logos should be placed on this panel. Additionally, there is room

on this panel to include information about park supporters including friends groups, logos and/or lists of names.

All acknowledgments should be shown on this single panel and the panel replaced when edits are necessary.



Park Map Sign Panel

The park map panel (facing page) should have a map graphic that contains the entire park. Context can be shown through a black and white aerial background. Screened contours should also be added to the map for topographic understanding.

The trails shown on this map should have been determined through the previously mentioned exercise of reducing the number of trail names. They should be listed on this map with the full name and corresponding abbreviation (used on wayfinding signs). Additionally, each trail segment should include distance and elevation information to give trail users information they can use to determine difficulty level for themselves.

In addition to trails, park amenities should be shown using typical map iconography. Common icons can be found in the Appendix.

This map should contain a corresponding map key that lists all icons, line types, and graphics. Space is given at the bottom of the map key for QR codes or additional trail or park information.

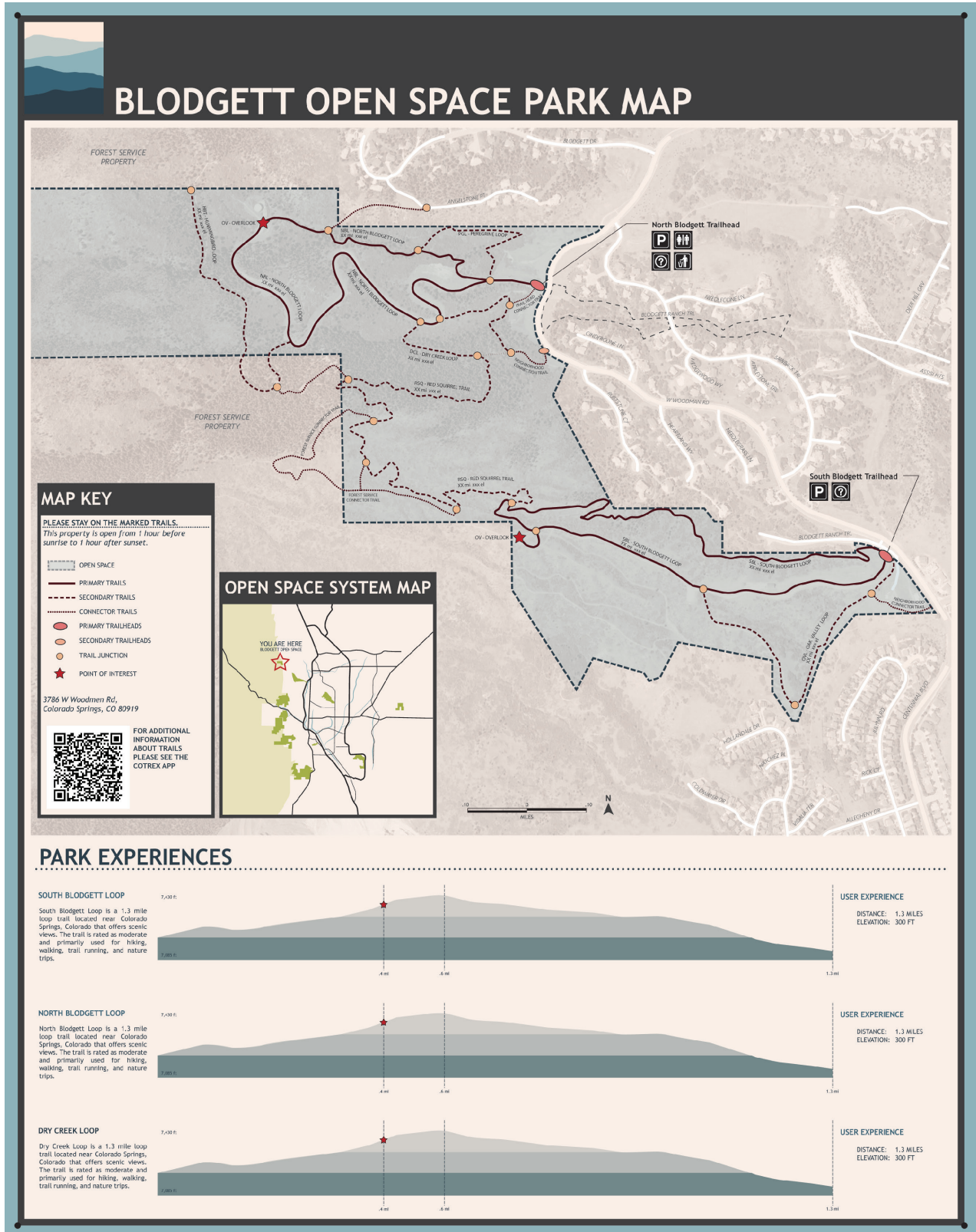
A citywide Open Space System Map is included to give users information about other nearby open spaces to visit and their location within the City at large.

Additionally, providing suggested park experiences allows the City to highlight particularly special park trails or views and allows new users the opportunity to take a curated route. The park experience information shall include a section showing elevation gain/loss, distance, and a brief description of the experience. This information may be provided on the map panel or on a separate panel using the same color and graphic as the map panel and installed directly below the map panel for easy reference.

The logo in the top corner of this sign panel and highlight color will be blue.

Smaller Park Map Sign Panels (above) may also be installed throughout the property at strategic locations where users may benefit from a park overview. This may be at large intersections where multiple trails intersect or where trails from other agencies/properties connect to the trails in the City's open space property.

In these instances, a smaller Park Map panel will provide the necessary information. These map panels will contain only the map of the open space park. The design of the Small Park Map Sign Panel and the map shown should both be identical to the Park Map Sign Panel at the Kiosk to eliminate confusion.





Leave No Trace Sign Panel

The Leave No Trace sign panel is similar to the park map in design, graphics, and fonts. The logo in the top corner and highlight color will be green.

Even though the content may vary, the overall design should remain as shown with the same graphics and overall terminology.

The content on this sign is based on the typical Leave No Trace content. The sign content may vary based on open space property specific needs or requirements. Parks staff will be responsible for the final content of any Leave No Trace sign.



Rules and Regulations Sign Panel

The rules and regulations sign panel will be similar to the park map in design, graphics, and fonts. The logo in the top corner and the highlight color will be red.

This panel is designed with both text and icons to aid in understanding. Additionally, there is room for supporting text/information adjacent to the icons.

Wherever possible, this information should be the same at each open space. However, property specific rules may be added where necessary.

A park address should be listed on this sign panel for use when emergency services are needed.

Providing 'Tips for a Great Experience' is a friendly way of encouraging users to be prepared and travel safely.



Interpretive Sign Panel

While the scope of this project did not include interpretive sign panel design, the intention is that these panels will match the kiosk sign panels in design. A color scheme for interpretive panels is provided in this document. The graphic and sign title should match the other panels. The interpretive information provided on this panel will be designed as needed.



Temporary Sign Panel Board

A lockable bulletin board case is recommended for each kiosk. This case can be used to post temporary signs by rangers or friends groups, who will maintain a set of keys.

Sign Panel Text Standards

A

TREBUCHET MS (SIZE 100 pt) Title

A

TREBUCHET MS (SIZE 60 pt) Heading

A

TREBUCHET MS (SIZE 36 pt) Subheading

A

TREBUCHET MS (SIZE 24 pt) Labels

Abc

Cambria Math (Size 18 pt) Body

Sign Structure Text Standards

SWISS721 BLK BT

Size is as shown on construction documents.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

DO:

- STAY ON THE DESIGNATED TRAILS**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- SHARE THE TRAILS**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- THROW ALL WASTE IN TRASH BINS**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- LEASH ALL PETS AND CLEAN UP THEIR WASTE**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- LOCK ALL VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- COMPLY WITH ALL CITY ORDINANCE SIGNS POSTED**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42

PARK ADDRESS:
Blodgett Open Space Park
2780 W Woodman Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

PARK HOURS:
Park hours are from sunrise to sunset.

TIPS FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE:
Welcome to your TOPS funded park! We hope you enjoy your time here. In addition to following all the rules on this sign and all city ordinances posted, here are some tips for enjoying your time at your Park!

- Take a picture of the map so you can navigate the trails you encounter.
- Check the weather before you go.
- Hike only during the day.
- Read the "Leave No Trace" sign and observe its principles.
- Take water and snacks.

DON'T:

- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE PARK**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- DO NOT PICK FLOWERS**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- NO SMOKING UNLESS IT IS A DESIGNATED AREA**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- NO SKATEBOARDING OR LONGBOARDING**
State Statute 42-4-109(9)
- NO REMOTE CONTROLLED AIRCRAFTS**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42
- NO OPEN FIRES**
Ord. 89-97
Ord. 01-42

PLEASE RESPECT YOUR PARK BY COMPLYING WITH ALL POSTED RULES AND ORDINANCES.
Rules are listed and posted for your safety and to ensure all visitors have an enjoyable experience. Being respectful of others and sensitive to the environment by using common sense and courtesy will help keep your Colorado Springs Open Spaces as pristine as they are for future generations to come.

CoCOS App:

WATCH OUT:

- RATTLESNAKES MAY BE PRESENT**
- ENTER PARK DURING STORMS AT YOUR OWN RISK**
- CLIMB TO SAFETY DURING FLASH FLOODING**

IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911.

MORE INFORMATION:
For more information, please call the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department at (719) 385-9940. For non-emergencies, please call (719) 444-7000.

Title

Heading

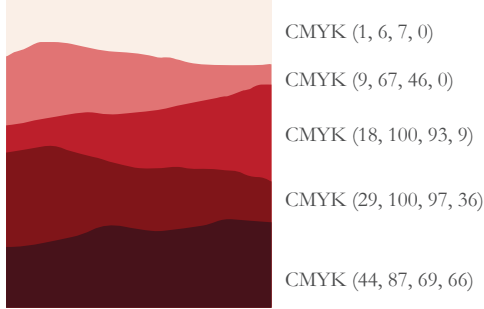
Sub-Heading

Labels

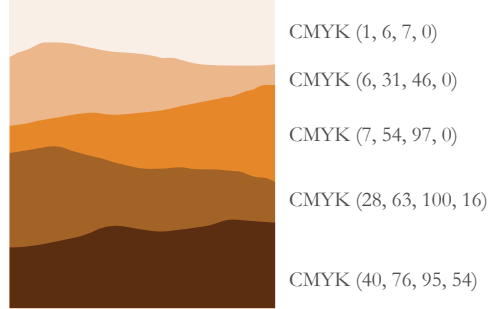
Body

Sign Panel Color Standards

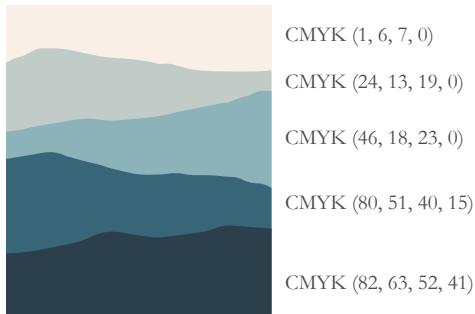
Rules and Regulations



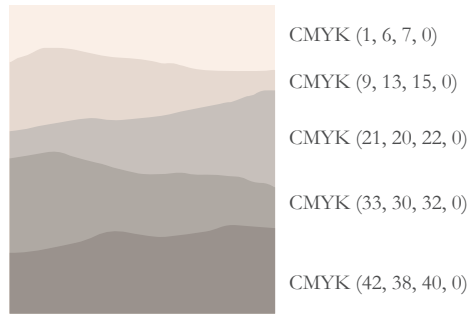
Acknowledgments



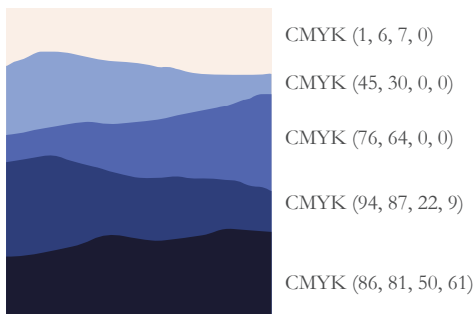
Map



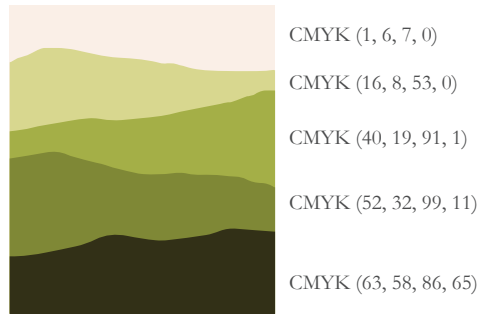
Directional Decals



Interpretive



Leave No Trace



Charcoal Background



CMYK (68, 61, 59, 46)

**Please see Appendix for Pantone color options. The recommendation is to use the CMYK presented here. If Pantone color options are desired, please refer to the options in the Appendix.

Wayfinding Decal Standards - Composite Post

Sticker size: 5" x 5"

Color Standards



CMYK (0, 0, 0, 90)

CMYK (44, 85, 77, 69)

Text and Arrow Standards - Composite Post



Size 5 pt line, .45 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 160 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 40 pt)

Arrow size: 2"

Text and Arrow Standards - Composite Post



Size 5 pt line, .45 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 40 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 160 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 40 pt)

Text and Arrow Standards - Composite Post



Size 5 pt line, .45 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 60 pt)

Arrow size: 2"

Wayfinding Decal Standards - Carsonite Marker

Sticker size: 3" x 3"

Color Standards



CMYK (0, 0, 0, 90)

CMYK (44, 85, 77, 69)

Text and Arrow Standards - Carsonite Marker



Size 3 pt line, .45 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 85 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 20 pt)

Arrow size: 1"

Text and Arrow Standards - Carsonite Marker



Size 3 pt line, .35 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 20 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 85 pt)

Trebuchet MS (size 20 pt)

Text and Arrow Standards - Carsonite Marker



Size 5 pt line, .45 pt rounded top left and bottom right corners

Trebuchet MS (size 35 pt)

Arrow size: 2"

Icon Decals - Composite Post



Icon Decals - Carsonite Marker



Decal Variations - Composite Post and Carsonite Marker



Provides confirmation of the trail users are currently using.



Directs users to a trail they are facing.



Provides additional information to ensure park users are aware of expected behavior.

Provides direction of trail, feature, or amenity not immediately adjacent to the sign's location.

Directs users to a trail they are facing that has a feature or amenity further along the trail.

Regulatory and Warning Signage



While not specifically a wayfinding sign, regulatory signs are critical in providing a safe and enjoyable experience for open space users.

Regulatory Signage

Regulatory signs that direct the expected behavior of trail users should follow MUTCD standards for trail signage (current edition 2009 chapter 9b Signs). These signs may include stop, yield, and speed limit signs. These signs should be aluminum signs and installed on a steel or aluminum posts. If the opportunity exists, it is recommended to combine a wayfinding post sign with the steel or aluminum post by bolting a steel plate to the top of the post. This will reduce the sign clutter along the trail.



Warning Signage

Warning signs give site specific warning or requirements. In order to set these signs apart from the wayfinding signs, these signs may have a more official look such as the red and white signs created by the City for the Garden of the Gods park. These types of signs should be aluminum signs and installed on steel or aluminum posts. If the opportunity exists, it is recommended to combine a wayfinding post sign with the steel or aluminum post by bolting a steel plate to the top of the post. This will reduce the sign clutter along the trail.

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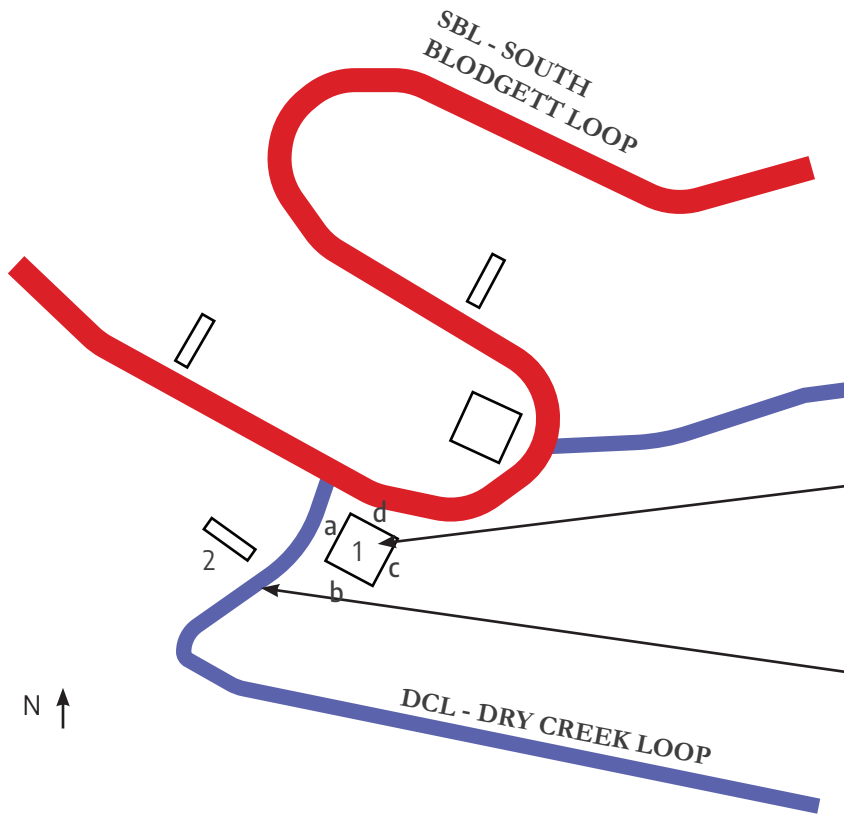
VOLUME THREE

**SECTION VI:
BLODGETT OPEN SPACE**

This document includes a case study of Blodgett Open Space to illustrate how these design guidelines may be implemented.

Trail naming

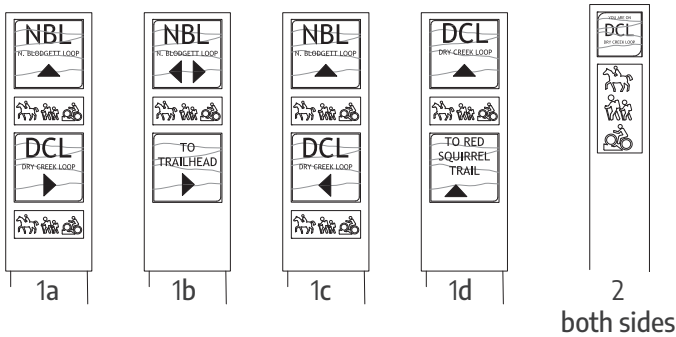
Blodgett Open Space currently consists of 13 separate trails, each with unique names. The design team recommended creating a simpler trail organization structure that includes two large loops - the North Blodgett Loop and the South Blodgett Loop - that are connected by a single trail - the Red Squirrel Trail. Smaller loops may extend off of the larger loops. These can be seen as the Oak Valley Loop, the Dry Creek Loop, or the Wagon Wheel Loop. Additionally there are trails that do not create loops but still provide a connection - including the Hummingbird Trail and the Peregrine Trail. This simplified naming structure allows users to mentally understand the park layout better. It also creates a simpler wayfinding strategy as there are fewer abbreviations.



□ Wayfinding Post Sign
 ▭ Confirmation Carsonite Sign

Install wayfinding post signs on the inside of the intersection to take advantage of all lines of sight.

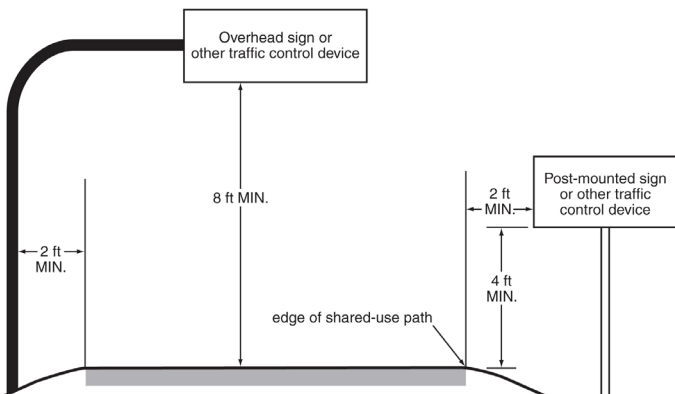
Install confirmation sign perpendicular to trail approximately 25' - 50' beyond intersection. Install on right side of trail to match the direction of travel for the user coming from previous intersection.



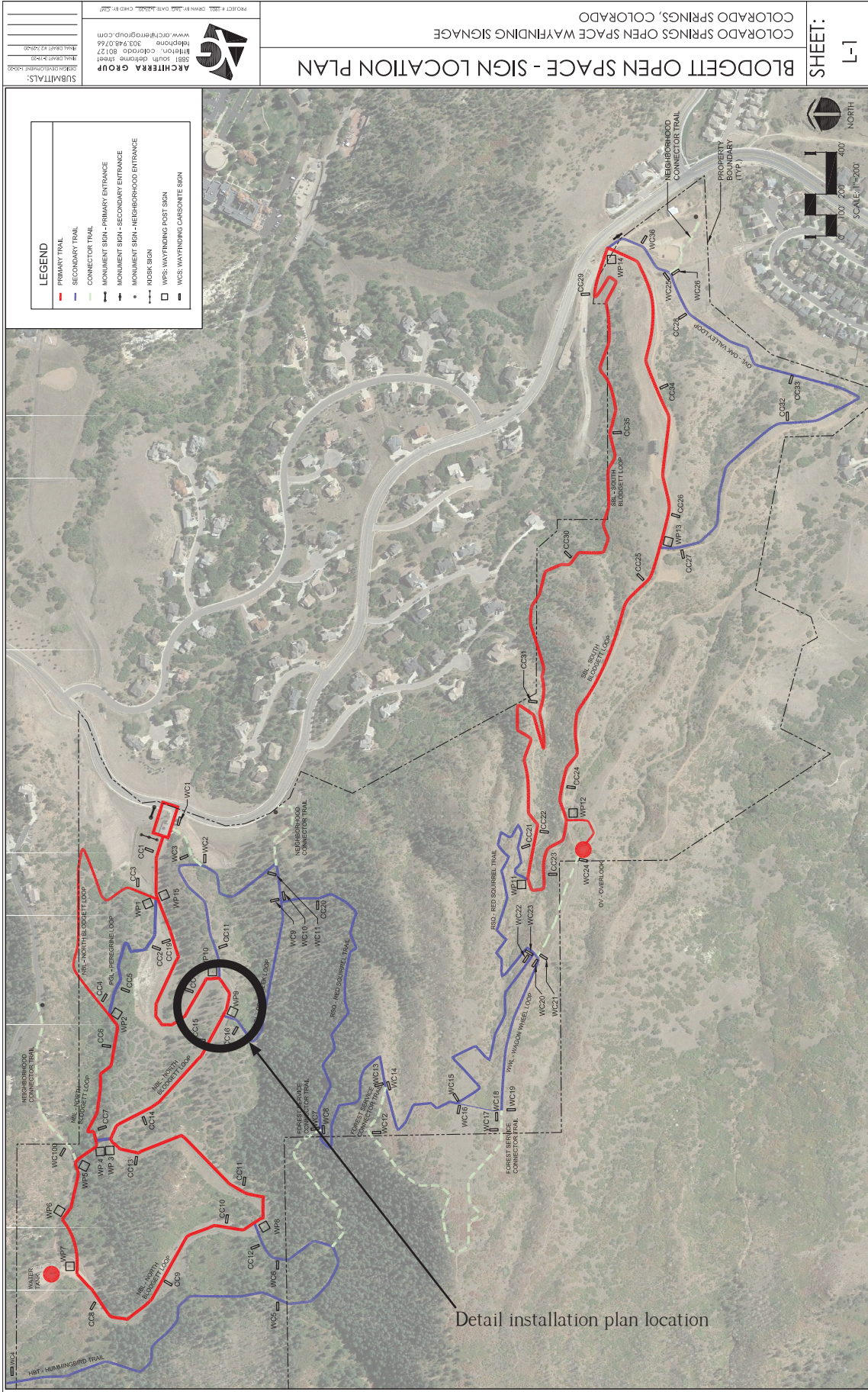
Installing wayfinding signs

The wayfinding post signs and wayfinding Carsonite signs are intended to be installed per the accompanying sign location plan. A small detail installation plan is included above for greater understanding of the most effective installation locations.

Additionally, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices includes recommendations for sign installation that should be observed for the safety of trail users.

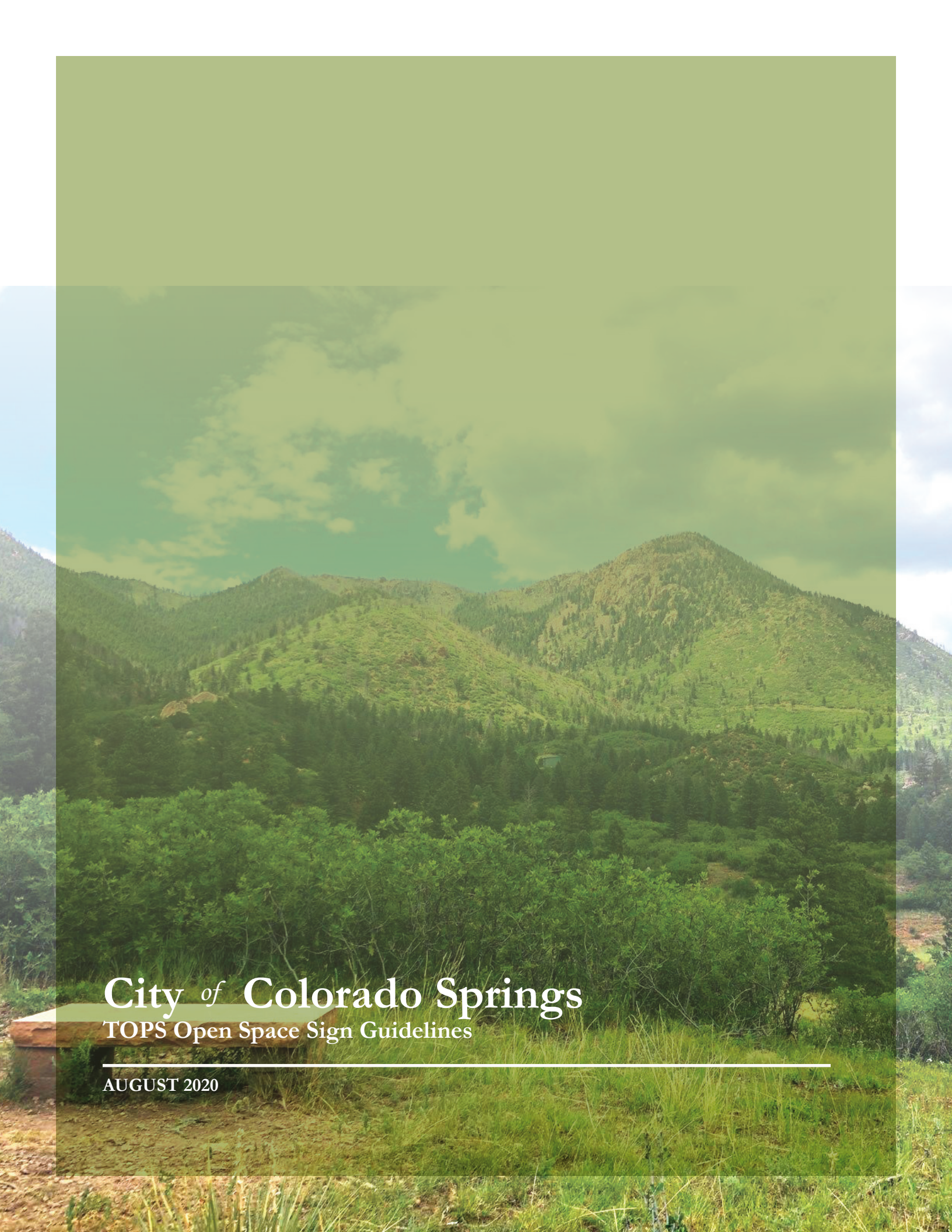


Detail: Figure 9B-1 from MUTCD 2009 edition (latest edition)



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SECTION VII:
APPENDIX



City of Colorado Springs

TOPS Open Space Sign Guidelines

AUGUST 2020