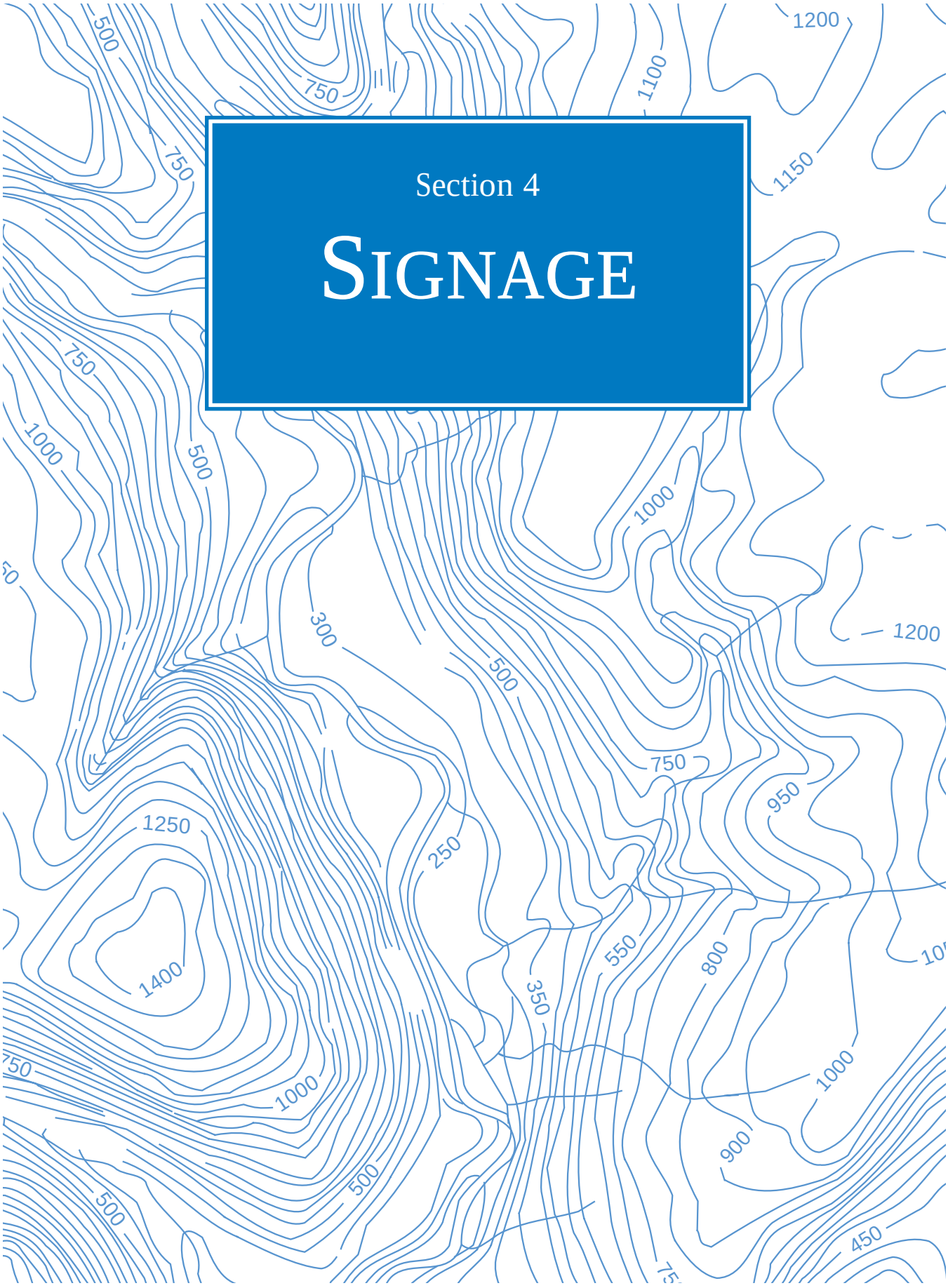


Section 4

# SIGNAGE

# Signage 4.1

The value of signage should not be underestimated, as it is vital to the users' safety and pleasure of a trail. Signage is not an accessory to a trail, rather, it is an integral part that completes it. Signs are essential to trails for relating information, direction, regulations, and interpretation to users. Although mainly for functional purposes, signs can add character to your trail and make it distinctive from other trails.

## 4.1.1 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

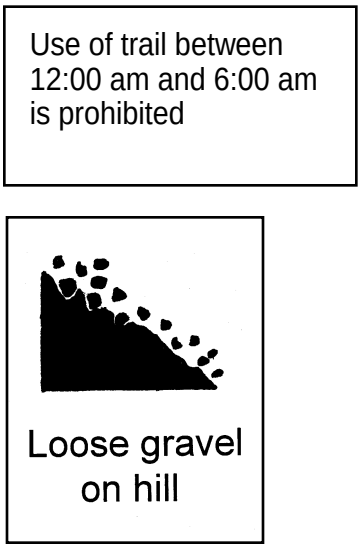
Directional signage orients users safely about the trail. It plays a key role in helping users avoid becoming lost, especially along parts of a trail that are not clearly recognizable by the right-of-way or tread.

| Purpose | Content |
|---|---|
| Indicates the direction of trail routes and where they return to the origin. | Names trail system and routes<br>Arrows for direction |
| Identifies specific destinations along the trail. | Names and/or symbols<br>Arrows for direction |
| Informs users of the total and remaining distance of a route and the proximity of a destination. | Measured in kilometres and metres for short distances<br>Shows map with “you are here” |

The trail operator's name or logo would ideally be included somewhere on the sign, however it should not dominate the other content. These signs are posted at trailheads, campsites, rest areas, destinations, and where routes branch off. Directional signage is also along roadsides; these direct the driver to the trailhead and indicate the distance. Transport Canada, Department of Transportation, and Municipal Engineering and Works have standards for roadside signs that must be followed and sometimes need a permit. Contact the appropriate government for more information.

## 4.1.2 REGULATORY SIGNAGE

Regulatory signs tell users about the rules and regulations to which they must adhere. Rules and regulations most often apply to traffic control. These signs indicate yielding, direction of travel, control of pets and speed limits, and stipulate authorized activities and prohibited entry. Also, regulatory signs can also be used as a management tactic for dealing with misuse of the trail facility. Signs tell users to respect the trail environment by leaving with everything they brought to the trail, by staying on tread and not taking "shortcuts," or respecting neighbouring property and residents. Secondly, regulatory signs give warnings about dangerous conditions, upcoming intersections, crossings and bridges, changing treads, sharp turns, steep slopes, undrinkable water, and so on.




*Regulatory signage*

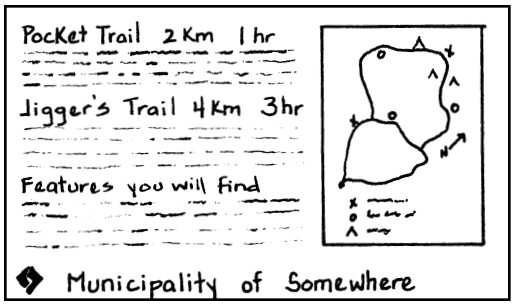
| Purpose | Content |
|---|---|
| Informs rules and regulations | Rules & operator's name (to show who enforces rules)<br>Symbol or drawing representations |
| Gives warnings | Symbol or drawing representations |

## 4.1.3 INFORMATION SIGNAGE

Information signs identify the trail and its features. These signs provide users with varied and quick information upon their arrival to the trail's entry points. The signs also list the names of the trail sponsors. The content is similar to regulatory and directional signage, however it is general to entire trail rather than specific to particular areas.

| Purpose | Content |
|---|---|
| Identifies trail operator and trail name | Full name (and logo if there is one) |
| Shows layout, permitted users & activities, features | Illustrated map shows routes<br>Symbols on map and a map |
| Distances | Expressed in kilometres or metres for shorter distances. Can be printed along lines (representing path) in between a begin and end point |
| General regulations and information | Symbols or simple and short text |
| Publicizes key supporters/sponsors | Logo and/or name (only if requested) |

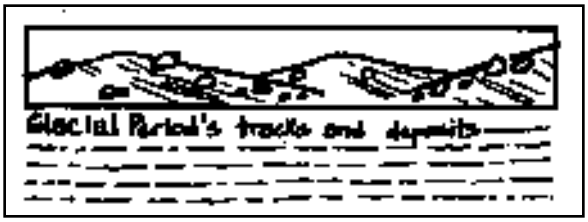
*Information signage*



# 4.1.4 INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE

Interpretative signage explains and illustrates historical, cultural, natural, or human-made features that trail participants find of particular interest. Unlike the directional, regulatory, and information signage and markers, interpretative signage is not a necessity for every trail. It is for the interest of the users who want to know more than they can learn from their personal observations. Tourists particularly appreciate interpretation.

Interpretative signage is unique to the trail, varying in style, content, and subject. A trail can simply have signs that give an interpretation of the subject. Or there can be a whole interpretative signage system with a theme and corresponding trail names, that is supported by leaflets and an interpretation centre. This type of signage allows you to be creative and not have to comply with common standards. It may range from a simple upright sign on posts to a oversized 'open book' to an interpretation kiosk. Because it takes time to read the detailed information, interpretative signs are positioned on the side of the trail, such as on an extended shoulder, a landing, or a viewpoint structure.



*Interpretative signage*

| Purpose | Content |
|---|---|
| Identifies features | Few words for description |
| Locates features | Map with symbol (dot for specific spot, circle for zone, arrow) or colours |
| Explains special features | Lengthier text: clear and concise<br>Careful wording is a must; know your audience |
| Represents features | Illustrations complement the text, showing current, future, and/or historical state |

# 4.1.5 MARKERS

Markers identify the orientation of the trail to safely guide its users and to prevent them from wandering off the tread (this is how they get lost and it deteriorates the trail site). A trail with a recognizable tread surface and borders or with a very worn path easily directs the user without the presence of markers. Generally markers are for trails with natural surfaces or those that host winter activities.

### Markers on Trees

Refrain from making markers by slashing a tree. Instead, use a glossy paint or use a metal sheet with a reflective film, approximately 15 cm x 15 cm. A reflective film is particularly crucial for trails that permit night-use. It is important that the colour of the markers is consistent with the setting but still noticeable. Take into account the colour of vegetation (and the snow) during different seasons and amount of natural light.

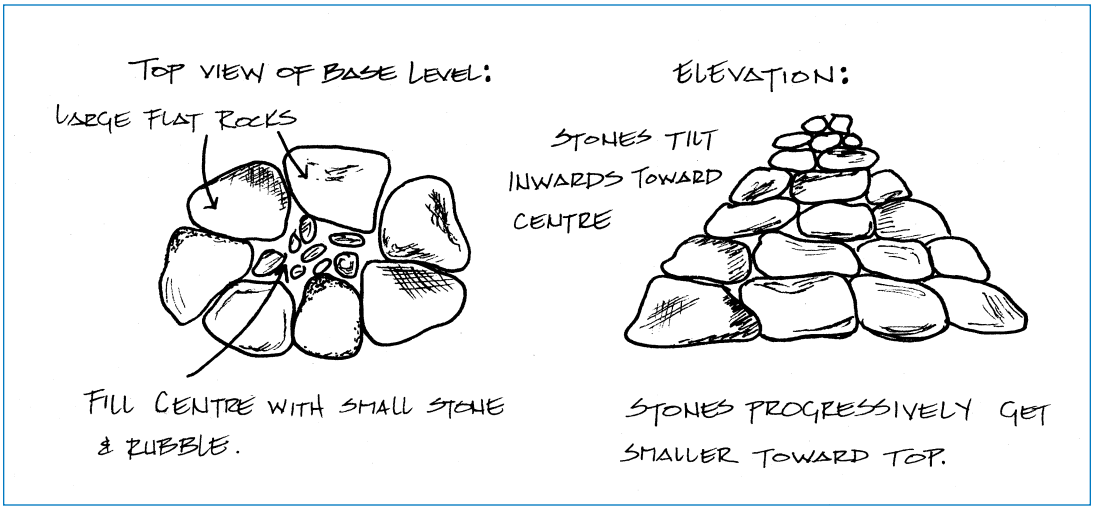
Markers are attached to large live trees at eye level. A double headed nail is ideal for attaching them, as they adjust to the growth of the tree. A marker at 2 metres above the horizontal plane of the trail tread is the general rule. However you must consider the conditions of a winter trail because as snow accumulates, the vertical placement will be shorter. Also, consider the activities that the trail hosts; for instance, an equestrian's view is at a higher level than a hiker's.

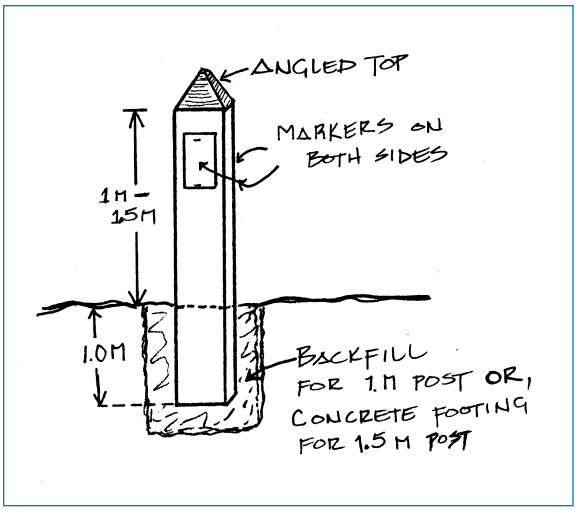
For a trail that is hard to follow, place markers frequently at regular intervals. Where there is two-way traffic, place markers in both directions on separate trees. At the same time, be sure not to overload the trail with too many markers as it can be unsightly and contradict the intended experience the trail is to offer. A trail system needs a different-coloured marker for each separate trail so that users can follow the correct one. Be sure to indicate each trail's marker colour at the trailhead information sign.

## Cairns and Posts

Where there are no trees along a trail, markers must be built. A cairn is built from stones piled in a 1- to 1.75-metre monument. Large flat stones lay a wide circular base and slope towards the centre in progressively smaller circles. A cairn will not topple if the rocks lean inwards and have three points of contact. Cairns are placed anywhere between 17.5 and 70 metres apart in the most evident spots, such as a mound of earth or rock. They need to be placed at frequent intervals in areas that are susceptible to poor visibility. One such example is on a glacial-formed rocky coast where it is easy to lose the trail.

*Cairns and posts*




Posts are the second option when there are no trees available for marking. Use either logs that are 15.24 cm in diameter or 10.16 cm x 10.16 cm timber for the post material. The posts are set in a hole two or more feet below the surface and anchored with gravel or a concrete fill. The top of the post needs to be angled to run off rain and snow. The same plastic or metal markers used for marking on trees can be used on posts. Attach markers to both sides of the post for two-way trails.

# From Design to Maintenance 4.2

## 4.2.1 SIGN SYSTEM

For both functional and aesthetic purposes, you will need to have a sign system. Begin by familiarizing yourself with the various types of signs that you may use, as described in *4.1 Signage Types,* then identify all the necessary signs, then do a specification plan for each.

List all the signs needed in your trail facility. It is best to "put yourself in the hiking shoes" of the first-time trail user, because it is easy to overlook areas of need. As an example, an animal path or abandoned farm road could be easily mistaken as being part of the trail. It is a good idea to bring someone who is unfamiliar with the facility. Be attentive at trailheads, junctions, side trails, campsites, washrooms, cabin shelters (do not forget the inside), viewpoints, attractions, dangerous areas, road or railway crossings, and so on. Indicate the location of the sign on a map and reference it in distance from the trailhead on the master list. Keep in mind that there is an important relationship between the number of signs and the trail type. Multiple signs on a primitive trail detract from the experience, while generous interpretive information is appreciated on family trails.

The next step is to develop a specifications plan that drafts each sign, including the exact wording and symbols, design, size, and materials. Give each sign a serial number so that the specifications for a missing or deteriorating sign can be found more easily. Make the signs, install them, and put them to the test. Have people who are new to the trail check for the appropriateness of location and whether additional signs are needed.

## 4.2.2 DESIGN AND FABRICATION

There are technical components to incorporate in sign design, still, there are many ways to design signs so that they are unique: your options are limited only by your creativity. A trail's signage could reflect its environment, a special feature, the area's history, the organization, or a theme. As an example, a trail's main feature may be a bird sanctuary or beaver dams — so go with that theme! You may choose to go with fabrication standards similar to those of road signs or design completely new ones using simple materials; the important thing is not to lose the effectiveness of the message being communicated.

Design each sign so that it is a part of a unified system. That is, coordinate all signs to contain common characteristics of scale, appearance, layout, symbol, letter shape, and colour. This applies to all types of signs as described in *4.1 Signage Types.* Visual consistency of signs assures the participants that they are on the same trail system.

*Example of a Signage Specification Plan*

## Signage Specifications

**Serial No.:** 023 **Location Distance:** 1.52 km **Sign Type:** Directional

**Panel:**
*Material:* 2cm board *Size:* 33cm X 40cm *Shape:* rectangle
*Colour No.:* B231 Mint

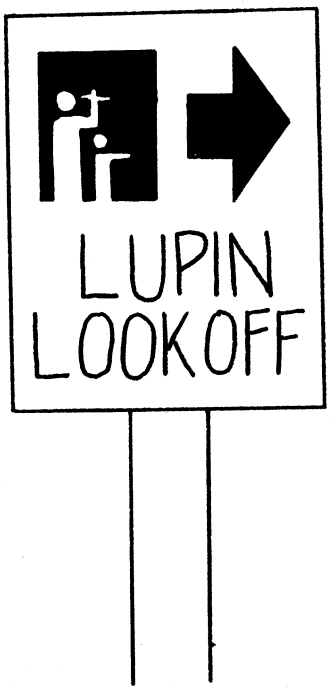
**Mounting:** singular 12.5cm x 12.5cm timber post

**Content:**

*Symbols ~* *List No.:* 16A arrow *Size:* 17.5cm X 17.5cm
*Colour:* W158 White

*List No.:* 4D view *Size:* 8.75cm X 12.5cm
*Colour:* W158 White for backdrop
B231 Mint for symbol

*Text ~* *Font:* Helvetica Size: 2.5cm x 5cm
*Colour:* W158 White
*Words:* Lupin Lookoff



## Getting the Message Across

There are three ways of conveying messages: with words, with symbols, or with both. The best choice depends on the situation. Some messages can be easily summed up with a symbol, others may need further explanation with words. Symbols are advantageous in that they

- are seen at a greater distance
- are easily recognizable for small children and people who can't read
- do not create a language barrier
- stimulate in the reader a faster response than words can.

On the other hand, symbols cannot relate complicated messages as words can. Interpretative signs rely on words but pictorial representations enhance comprehension of the subject, such as a cross-section of a mountain's geological history. A map at the trailhead will better orient the trail user than verbal directions, however, words and symbols direct users in the trail. See the Appendices for a list of symbols.

The messages need to be clear and concise, so choose an uncomplicated typeface for the words and keep symbols simple. Use different typefaces to distinguish between separate languages. The size of the font and symbols depends on key factors: distance of user from sign, travelling speed of user, and visual impairments you expect that users may have. Although it is a task to satisfy everyone's needs, do remember that not everyone has 20/20 vision and small print will cause difficulties.

An uncluttered layout will also help ensure that messages are transmitted effectively. Categorize the information and use it in a consistent sequence. For a direction sign, the information usually includes all or a combination of a symbol, direction, name, and distance. Keep these categories in sequence, reading from left to right.

Avoid lengthy and wordy messages. Allow sufficient space between text and symbols, and more space between separate messages.

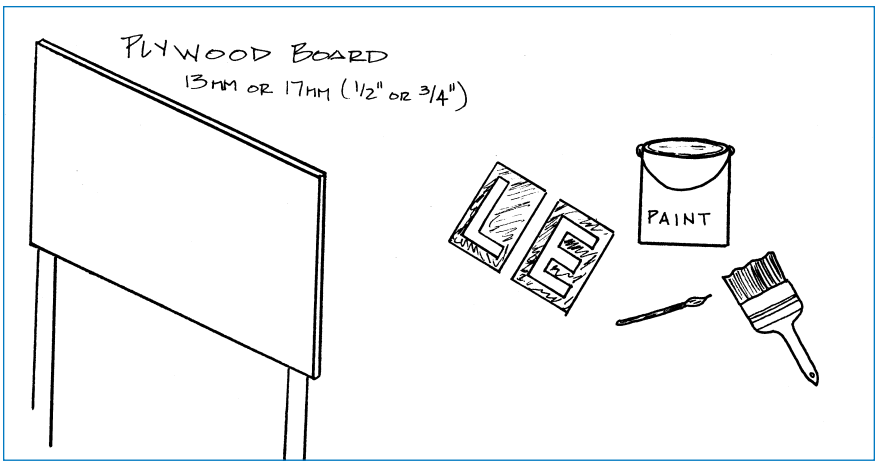
Know who the trail participants are. Age is important for interpretive signs; children and adolescents like to read as the adults are doing. Language is important: will the trail be attended by those speaking French, German, Japanese, or those speaking very little English? If a trail is encouraging tourists to visit or it is in a cultural area (Acadian, Mi'kmaq), language translation is important.

We are conditioned to respond to different colours on signs, so be wise about choosing colours. A red background connotes danger; white regulations, and yellow connotes a warning. Also be aware of shapes: an octagon means 'stop' to most people. Do not contradict a message by using mismatched sign characteristics (e.g., "Highway Intersection Ahead" on triangular board with white background).

## The Medium of the Message

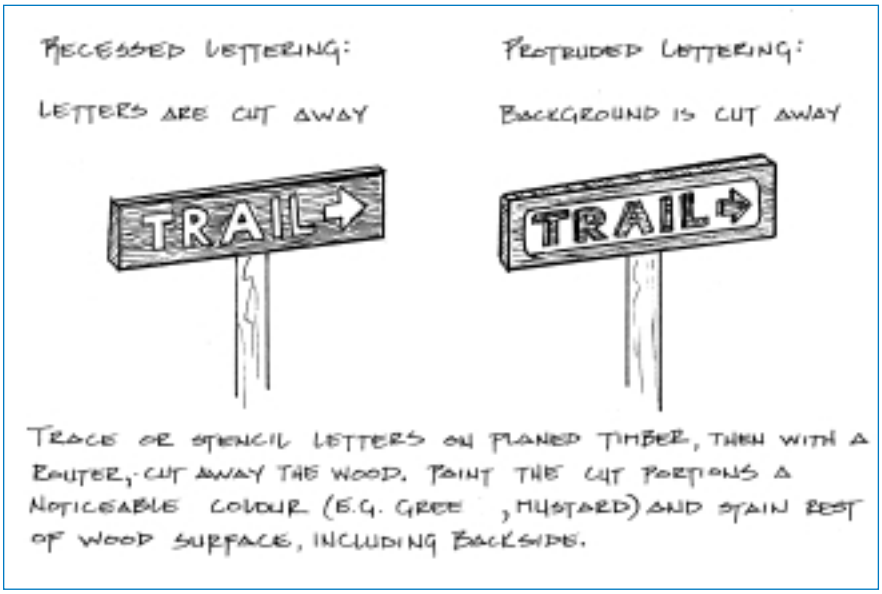
The medium you choose to make signs from is the main element that can make your signage unique. There are several options of material to choose from for the signboard (what the message is on) and mounting system (what holds the signboard upright or at an angle). Here are some options of materials for signboards.

*Plywood*




*Plywood*

High density plywood at 12 mm or 19 mm (1/2 in. or 3/4 in.) is a popular material. Its life span is not much longer than seven years because it is subject to weather damage. Large signs need heavy material to withstand wind; plywood is ideal for this. Paint both sides with weather-resistant paint in the base colour. Cover the final paint job with a protective urethane. It is the most inexpensive way of making signs and easy for volunteers to do the work. Its disadvantages are that it does not hold up well against water, insects, and vandals.




*Routed Wood*

*Routed Wood*

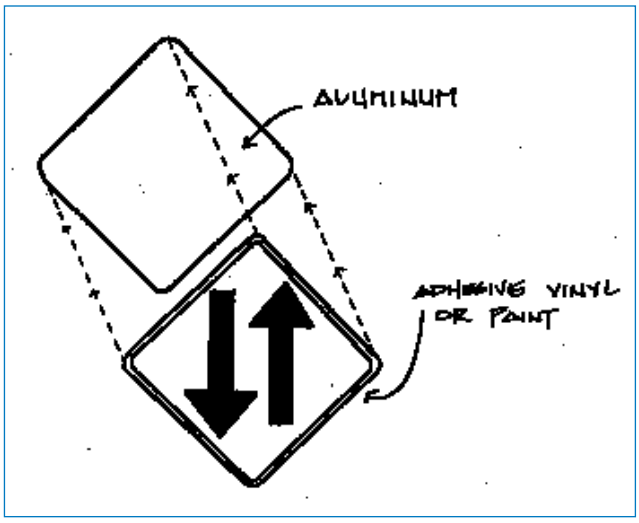
This type fits very nicely into a natural setting. It is suitable for information and direction signs but not so good for regulatory signs because it does not command attention. Use good-quality wood that is durable, strong, straight and without knots, generally between 25 mm and 50 mm thick. The background can either be stained or painted and the routed lettering and symbols are painted with enamel, and the entire sign is protected with polyurethane or varnish. Such signs are more time-consuming than others and require someone handy with a router to etch the information from stencils. These could prove to be a little costly if someone is being paid to construct them.

*Stencilling:*

*Plastic or metal stencils can be bought at art and drafting supply stores. Stencilling words with separate letters is time-consuming, so you may want to consider either paying for complete stencils made to your specifications or having volunteers make them. Another option is to stencil the information on drafting paper, lay this over carbon paper, and trace onto the material. Having the entire layout of each sign on either paper or stencils is ideal for making duplicate signs and makes the job of replacing missing or damaged signs all that much easier. Record the corresponding serial number on the stencil.*

*Aluminum*

The standard price for aluminum is quite reasonable. Its price and 20-year lifespan make it an efficient material. The information can be painted on or a sign company can put the information on adhesive vinyl according to the specifications of each aluminum signboard. Because trail signs tend to be small (smaller than road signs), aluminum is a good material. Aluminum with a reflective coating or vinyl is used on trails allowing night use. Markers and warning signs especially need to be reflective, particularly on snowmobile and motorized off-road vehicle trails.




*Aluminum*

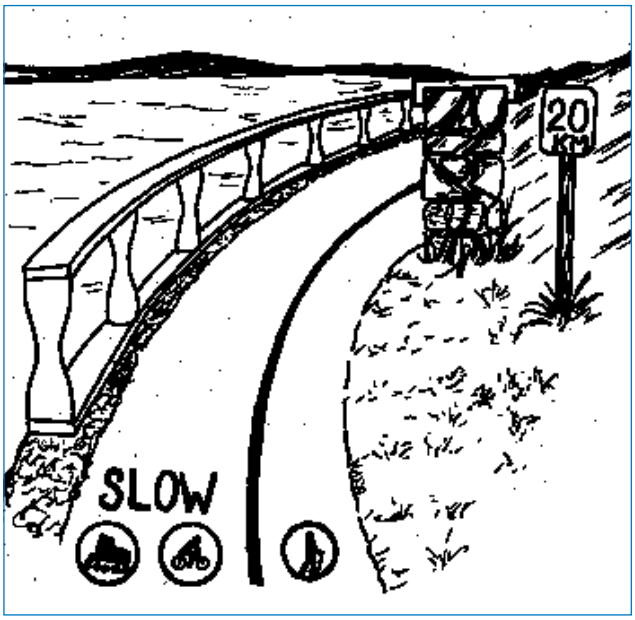
*Lexan*

Lexan is a type of clear durable plastic for custom-made signs. Typically it is available in 3 mm or 6 mm (1/8 in. or 1/4 in.). Lexan is an economical material. It is very effective because it does not separate, chip, nor shatter in cold temperatures, nor can it be marked on. Its lifespan is 7 to 15 years. Lexan is reasonably priced. It is produced in a range of stock colours so there is no need to paint it (stock colours are the cheapest). The image of the sign content is silk-screened onto the lexan.

*Pavement Markings*

Sometimes messages are painted directly on a hard tread surface (concrete, asphalt) of an urban trail. Pavement markings are to be used not to replace but to reinforce the regulatory messages on the upright signs. Pavement marking is not a suitable medium to properly relate many messages because it wears off with weather and use, detracts from the trail atmosphere, and is visually unattractive. Pavement markings are used where:

a. it is especially important to catch the users' attention (danger, upcoming intersections, prohibited activity, etc.)
b. area busy with people and crowds
c. the message could be lost in a clutter of other signage
d. the direction or placement of user traffic needs to be understood.




*Pavement Markings*

Keep the messages simple and use symbols as much as possible. Be sure not to use different symbols that relate the same message; keep them common throughout the trail, on all upright signage, and in pamphlets. The dimensions of the symbols, words, and lines should be large enough to be seen from a few metres away. Cut the symbols or words into stencils in order to keep the symbols consistent over time and to make painting more efficient. Use alkyd paint, the same kind used on roadways.

Urban multi-use trails separate the user traffic with a line (usually yellow or white), no less than 10 cm wide, at or near the centre of the trail. Symbols representing the permitted activities are placed within the appropriate side. Repeat the symbols every so often along the trail to remind those users who have strayed from their designated side. Where a line separates traffic directions, paint arrows within the appropriate sides.

*Temporary Signs*
When a situation calls for a replacement or new sign, a temporary one can be quickly posted until a permanent one is installed. Simply use a waterproof marker on posterboard or a computer-generated print on paper and protect from moisture with a plastic cover. Then staple or glue to a piece of plywood.

The question is, should the signs be made professionally or by the organization's volunteers? The organization may see signage as a trail component deserving a small portion of the budget. Well if this is this case, there are cost-efficient ways of making signs. Why not approach a local craftsperson or artisan to donate their talent to designing and constructing your signs? After all, there are many very talented craftspeople in Nova Scotia!

## 4.2.3 MOUNTING SYSTEMS

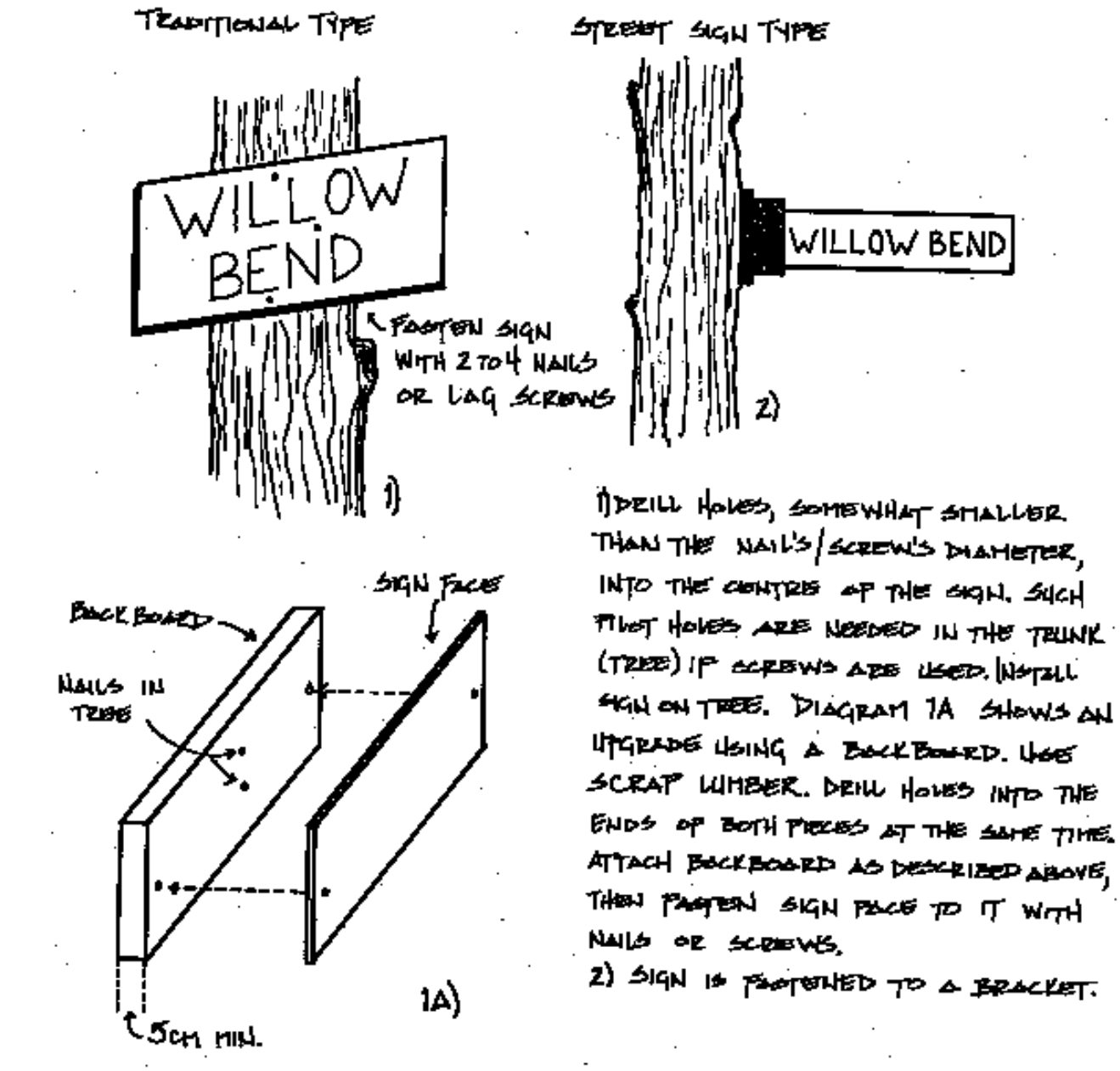
*Trees on Site*
A common method of displaying signs is to attach them to tree trunks; it is inexpensive, easy, and requires few materials. However, there are disadvantages: signs cannot always be positioned properly, trees may not be in the ideal spot, nails interfere with the tree's growth, and signs are susceptible to theft, as well as warping. Add strength to the sign by mounting it on a 5-cm thick backboard and this will help prevent distortion and theft. Drill as many holes as needed into the sign, slightly smaller than the diameter of the nails or screws. You may fasten the sign with galvanized nails or lag screws. Allow a 1-cm space between the tree and the sign for tree growth, otherwise the sign will become distorted or pop off the tree. Or you could use double-headed nails, which you can pull out as the tree grows.

*Posts*
Posts are the most common mounting system because they are simple to assemble, economical, position in the right direction and allow for a large signboard, and suitable for direction, information, regulatory, and interpretive signage. Signs on posts are less likely to get stolen and are more sturdy through changing weather conditions. Posts can be steel pipes, logs, or timber. Different-sized signs will require either one post or two. One post is suitable for a stop sign but not for an information sign with lengthy information. Machinery may be necessary to dig the 90-cm holes for timber or aluminum posts (15 to 25 cm in diameter) and to pour a concrete footing.

*Kiosks*
Kiosks are a great way to add character to your trail, especially if they are uniquely designed. Kiosks are mostly at trailheads and contain a lot of information such as a map, directions, history, logos, policies, pamphlets, user-message board, guest books, registration, and advertisement or announcement posters. Kiosks serve as a shelter for people as they examine the information.

*Fingerposts*
A fingerpost is a post and sign in one, made of timber, that points out directions and locations. The trail or feature name is etched or painted onto the “finger” of the post.

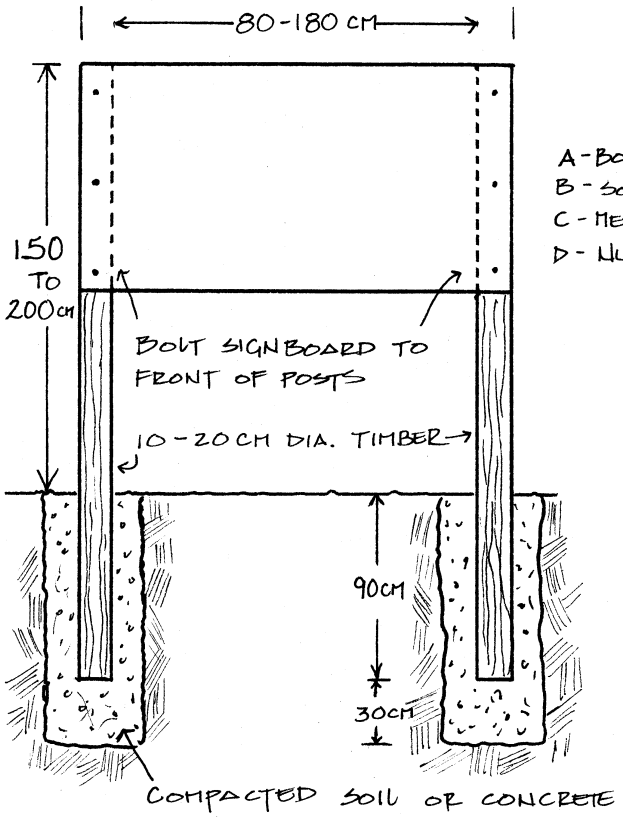
*Trees on site*




*Slanted Board*
Used for interpretative or information signage, these panels are placed on a slant (in relation to ground). The sign is attached at such an angle that trail users can look down to read the information. This way the information is visible to children and people in wheelchairs.

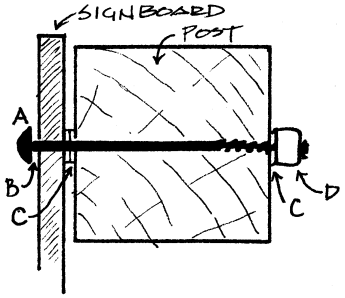
*Cairn Base*
A similar idea to the slanted board only sturdier. It is a structure of mortared stones, having a large base that narrows progressively to the top. The sign is the slanted top.

NASTY WEATHER CONDITIONS & EFFECTS MAY CALL FOR A THIRD POST (MIDDLE).

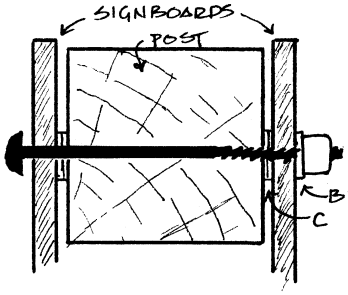



A - BOLT
B - SOFT WASHER
C - METAL WASHERS
D - NUT

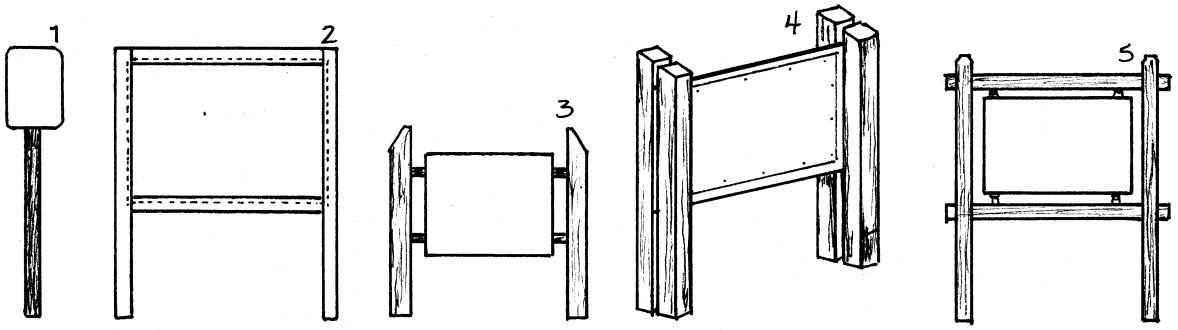
SINGLE SIDED



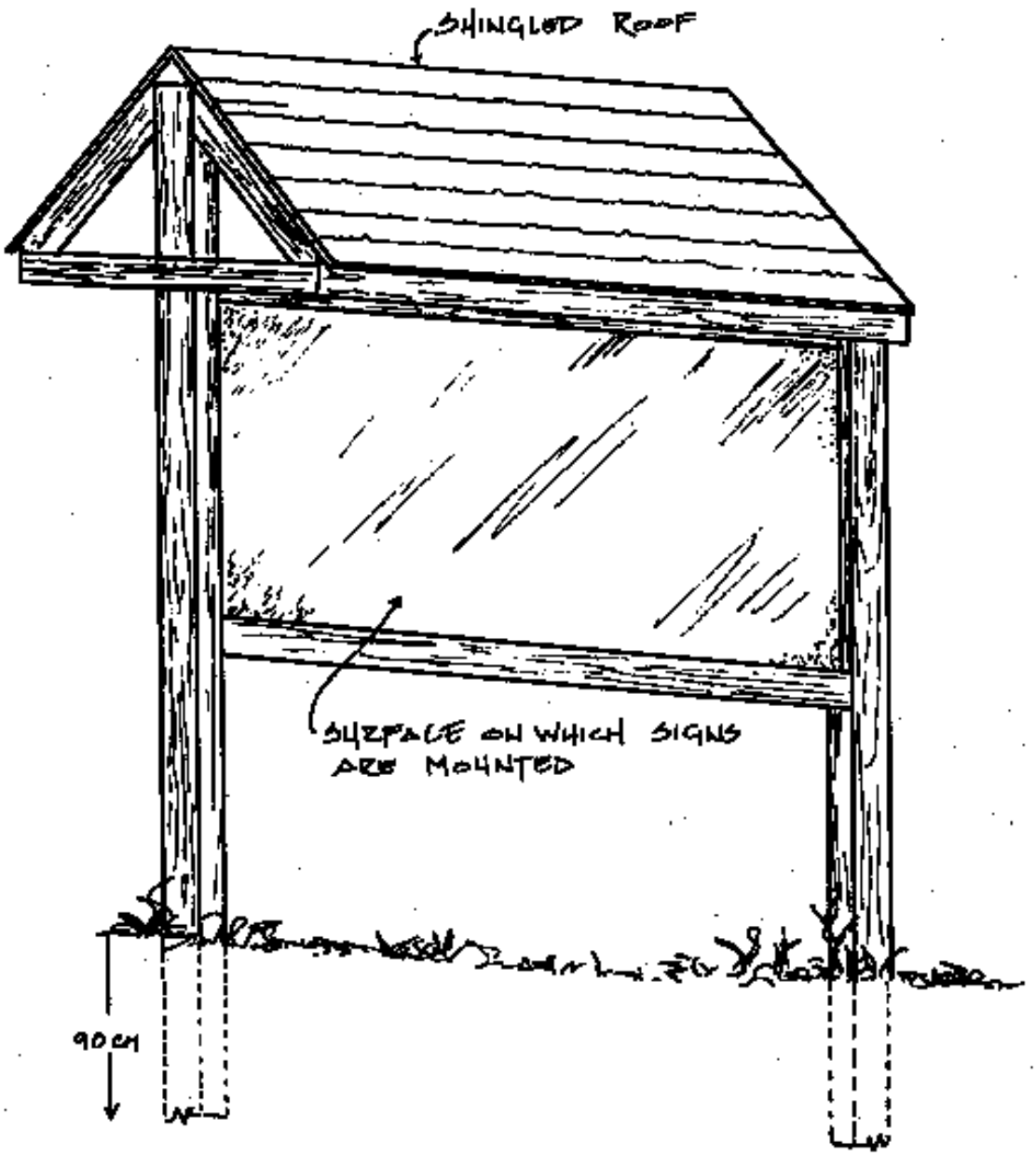

DOUBLE SIDED




POSTS ARE ALSO MADE OF LOGS, METAL, AND OTHER MANUFACTURED MATERIALS. POSTS CAN BE ARRANGED DIFFERENTLY OR HOLD THE SIGNBOARD DIFFERENTLY. HERE ARE A FEW VARIATIONS: 1) SINGLE POST FOR SMALL SIGNS (30CM x 30CM), 2) HORIZONTAL POSTS WITH INTERLOCKING JOINT & SLOTS TO HOLD SIGN, 3) SIGN ATTACHED TO HORIZONTALS, 4) PLANKS SANDWICHED BETWEEN TIMBER WITH SIGN POSTED TO IT, AND 5) TOP HOOKS HANG SIGN WHILE BOTTOM HOOKS HOLD SIGN FROM SWAYING.



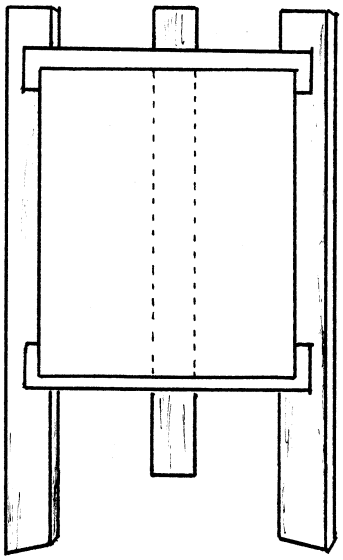
*Kiosks*

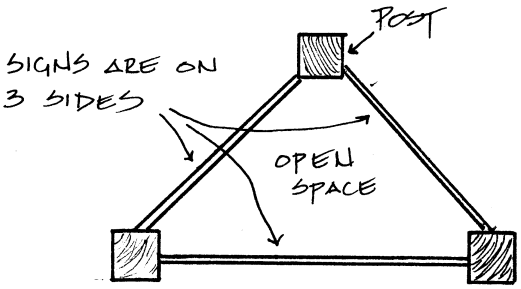



THIS IS ONE VERSION OF THE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES FOR A KIOSK. KIOSKS ARE USUALLY UNIQUE TO SEPARATE TRAILS. THERE IS NO STANDARD TYPE, HOWEVER THIS KIND IS COMMON. THE ROOF IS PRESENT FOR BOTH AESTHETICS AND TO PROTECT SIGNS FROM SUN, RAIN, AND SNOW. BOTH SIDES OF SURFACE AREA CAN BE USED FOR MOUNTING SIGNS. A PLEXIGLASS ENCASEMENT IS IDEAL IF TEMPORARY SIGNS AND NOTICES MADE OF PAPER ARE POSTED.

*Kiosks*

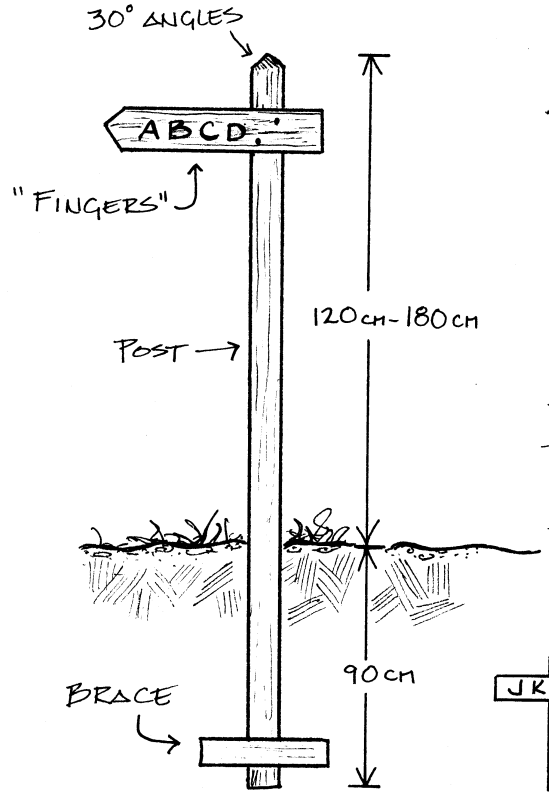
THIS IS ANOTHER VARIATION OF A KIOSK. THE POSTS ARE POSITIONED IN A TRIANGLE WHICH GIVES 3 SIDES. THIS KIOSK MAY ALSO FEATHRE A ROOF.

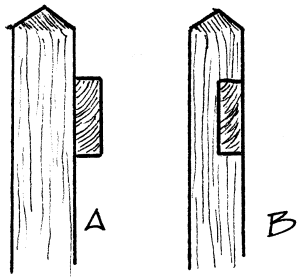




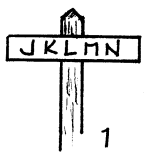

PLAN VIEW

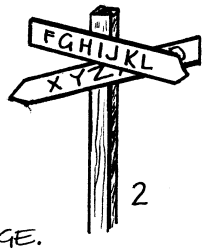
*Finger posts*




FINGER CAN BE ATTACHED TO SIDE OF POST (A) OR, AN INSET CAN BE CUT TO WIDTH OF THE FINGER (B).

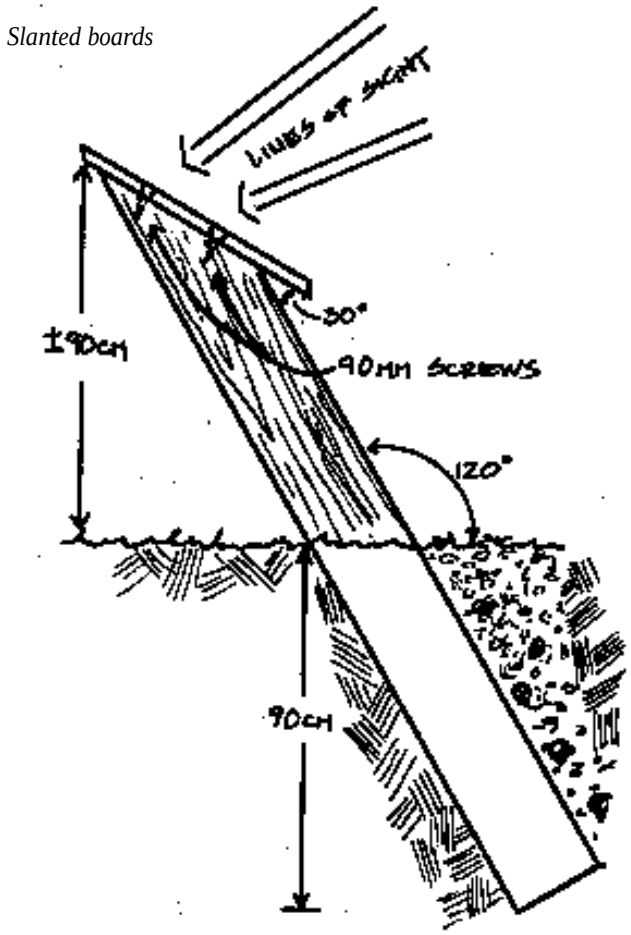


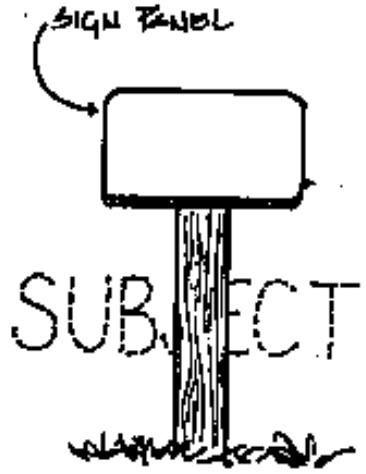




1: DOES NOT HAVE TO GIVE DIRECTION; CAN STATE A PLACE, FEATURE OR OTHER MESSAGE.

2: CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE FINGER.

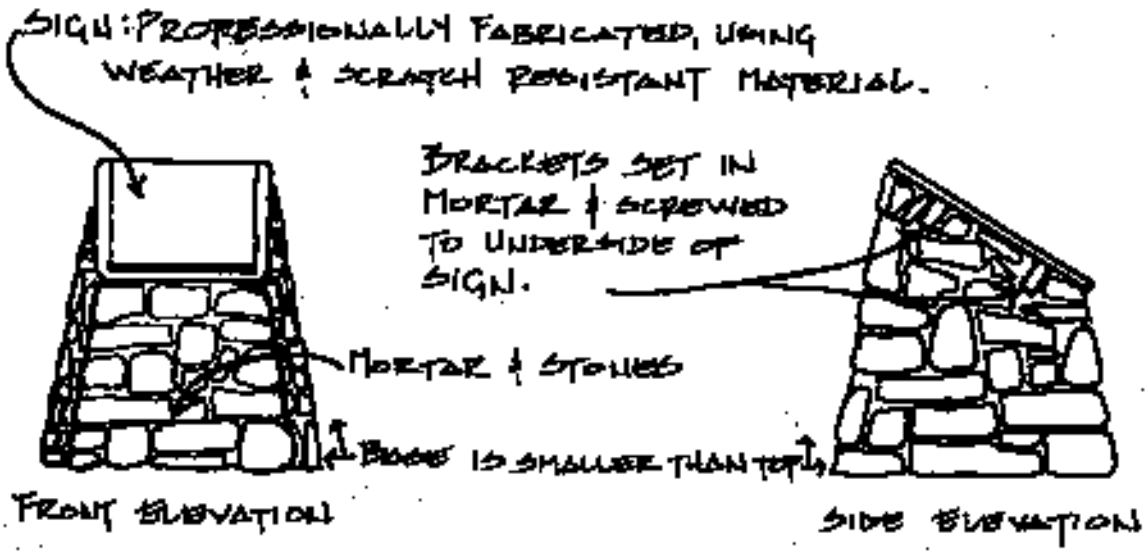
*Slanted boards*




- THIS IS IDEAL FOR INTERPRETATIVE SIGNS & SOMETIMES GOOD FOR INFORMATION SIGNS.
- THESE ARE PLACED OFF-SIDE OF THE TRAIL. IT IS BEST TO SITUATE THEM FACING THE SUBJECT SO THE READERS' EYES CAN SHIFT EASILY FROM SIGN TO THE SUBJECT.
- NOTE: AN ANGLED SIGN CAN ALSO BE ON AN UPRIGHT POST (90°)

*Cairn Base*



## 4.2.4 INSTALLATION

Select sites that avoid sign congestion and conflicts, such as trees or snow banks obstructing scenic views. At points where a trail meets a road, post signs on the trail out-of-sight from roadsides or crossings, as this entices vandals. Positioning is relative to the purpose of the sign. If it is to warn users, then signs must be placed far enough in advance of the subject being brought to attention. Certain distances are needed between the trail and the sign for safety and visibility at different speeds. Signs containing lengthy information (e.g., trail head sign) should be set off to the side where users can linger without interfering with others on the trail. Be aware of when a message needs to be visible from more than one direction.

Typically signs are installed at a 90° slope, except for some interpretation and information signs. Identifying the best height is a little tricky because it must take into account a variety of heights for snow depth, activity (riding a horse as opposed to walking), children, and persons in wheelchairs. The height is generally anywhere between 1.2 m and 2.0 m (from ground to top of sign). Remember to increase the height to allow for snowfall. The distance that signs are placed from the side of the trails is important as well. Signs are generally placed between 0.6 m and 3.0 m from the side of the trail. They will need to be placed closer to 3.0 m or 4.5 m for snowmobile trails for safety reasons (users travel at faster speeds).

## 4.2.5 MAINTENANCE

Typically a major inspection is done once a year in addition to a few casual checks throughout the year to identify destroyed or removed signs. For the yearly inspection, work from the Specifications Plan using the serial numbers to check that no signs are missing and that all information is intact. Keep a separate record to note the conditions and repairs. Inspect for the following:

- cracked, peeled, faded, or blistered surfaces, including lettering and symbols
- distorted panel material (e.g., twisted wood, rusted metal)
- damage to sign supports
- security of bolts, nuts, and washers
- dirt and graffiti
- growth that interferes with visibility

Make sure that all signs are in place and that they indentify where new signs are needed.

# Signage Needs for Individual Activities 4.3

The keys to good, functional signage are common sense and attention to the conditions of the trail, its activities, and participants. Different activities require a varied number of signs that specifically meet the needs of that activity. For a trail that hosts more than one activity, these separate needs have to be carefully integrated into one comprehensive signage system. The most common trail activities are listed below with some needs specific to each activity and signage type (these needs are not necessarily restricted to the one activity).

| | Hiking | Bicycle & Mountain Bike | Equestrian |
|---|---|---|---|
| Directional/ Markers | • Primitive: mark path often enough to safely guide users, yet not too frequently. | • Show direction one-way or two-way | |
| Regulatory | • Place sign where cross-cutting is expected (e.g., switchbacks)<br>• Warn users to keep from danger - not to climb/descend high points, slippery rocks, eroding cliffs, etc. | • Since cyclists may travel fast: speed, yields, stops, etc., must be indicated.<br>• Allow for enough sight distance.<br>• Use upright signs and/or pavement marking to separate bike traffic from foot traffic. | • Inform riders where they can ride if there is a special trail parallel to the primary trail. |
| Information | • Indicate distance to shelter, rest station, water source, etc. | | • At junctions, indicate the average terrain conditions of each route. |
| Interpretative | • Make sign height accessible to children and persons in wheelchairs | • Place well off to the side so bikes will not be an obstruction to those passing by.<br>• If it is situated parallel to the tread or placed significantly away from tread, then, on hard surfaces, paint a cue such as an arrow or other symbol. | • Riders should dismount horses to read signs: have a hitching area somewhat away from the sign |
| Comments | • Post signs so they are visible in both directions, especially directional and markers. | • Design and place so that it will catch the view of the fastest cyclists' speed. | • Top of signs should be no lower than 2.5 m above the grade. |

| | Cross-Country Ski | Snowmobile (& ATV/bike) |
|---|---|---|
| Directional/ Markers | • If the trail is used in other seasons, identify which routes are for skiing. Use a ski symbol and arrows at trailhead, junctions, wherever there may be confusion.<br>• Install markers in fields or indistinguishable spots caused by snow-cover and bare trees. | • Install reflective markers facing both directions.<br>• Clearly mark open fields, junctions; install for easy view in blowing snow and to compensate for those covered with snow. |
| Regulatory | • Indicate traffic direction for double track or single track moving in one direction. | • Place high priority on safety regulations: yields, speed reductions, stops, etc. Sign well and place at least 15 m, but ideally 30 m, from subject (e.g., place 'stop ahead' sign 30 m before road and 'stop' sign at road intersection).<br>• Use "No snowmobiling" or "No Trespassing, Private Land" to inform users to keep off land where they may not snowmobile. Indicate traffic direction at trailhead and junctions.<br>• "Please Stay On Trails" to prevent accidents, getting lost, trampling.<br>• "Reduce speed" - for surface protection |
| Information | • At junctions, post symbols representing difficulty rating. Explain these symbols on the trailhead sign and in pamphlet.<br>• If trail serves off-season activities the trailhead should sign should allow enough space for skiing info. To be placed for the winter. | • Trailhead information - brochures, maps, laws, regulations, directory of services, emergency services. Also display inside shelters/club cabins.<br>• Place symbols and signs to indicate distance and direction of services - gasoline, food, lodging, emergency.<br>• Because snowmobile trails often connect with others, install group logo to indicate trail operator and trail system. |
| Interpretative | • Place well off to the side so there are no obstructions to skiers passing along the tread.<br>• Add any information special to winter that users would find interesting. | • Not common on snowmobile trails. |
| Comments | • Post signs to allow for snowfall (i.e., 60 cm if not posted higher). A general minimum is 2.5 m.<br>• Have generous sight distances on steep downhill runs to indicate turn, crossing, bridge, other hazards. | • Snowmobiles are capable of travelling at very fast speeds so signs need to be read promptly and give enough safe response time. It must be easily visible - large and recognisable content, reflective for night.<br>• Post signs to allow for snowfall (i.e., 60 cm of snow will reduce the viewing height).<br>The Snowmobile Association of NS is currently preparing a manual that has a detailed section on signage. Contact SANS for more info. |