

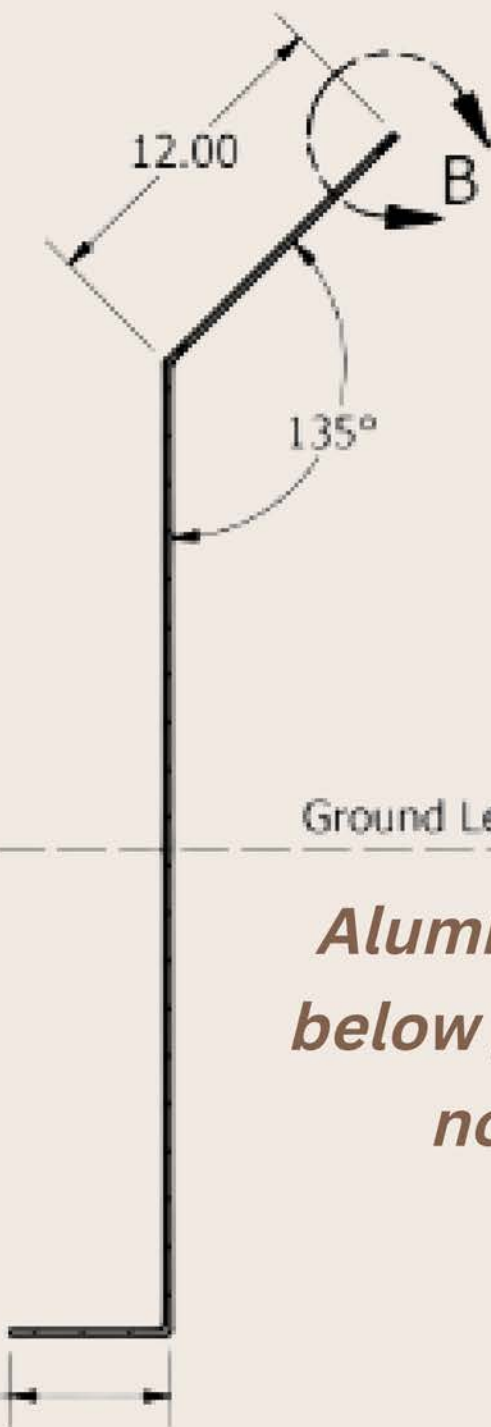
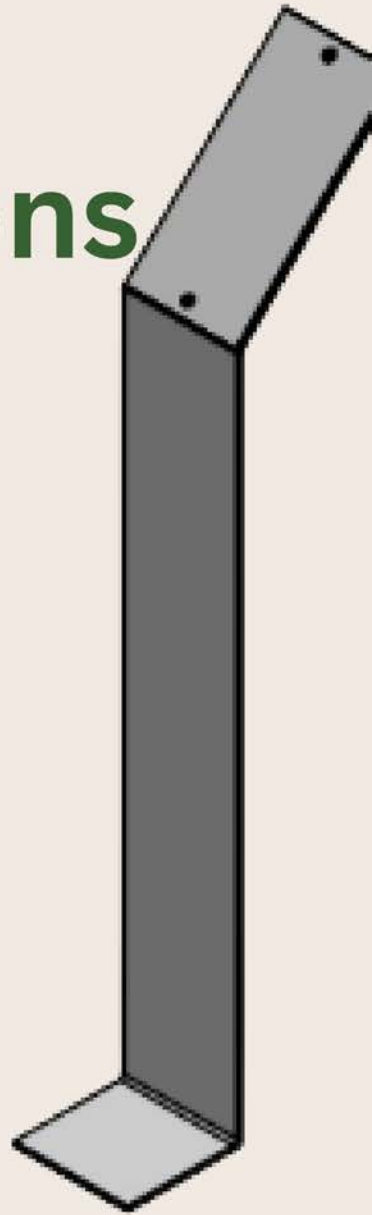
Trailside ID Signs

Simple, Scalable Interpretation



Trailside ID signs answer visitor questions when you're not there. Don't reinvent the wheel - each sign can work for 1 or 100 parks. Our durable metal bases don't require concrete, so expect quick installs and relocations. Choose from our signage library or we'll write for your needs.

Base Dimensions



Ground Level

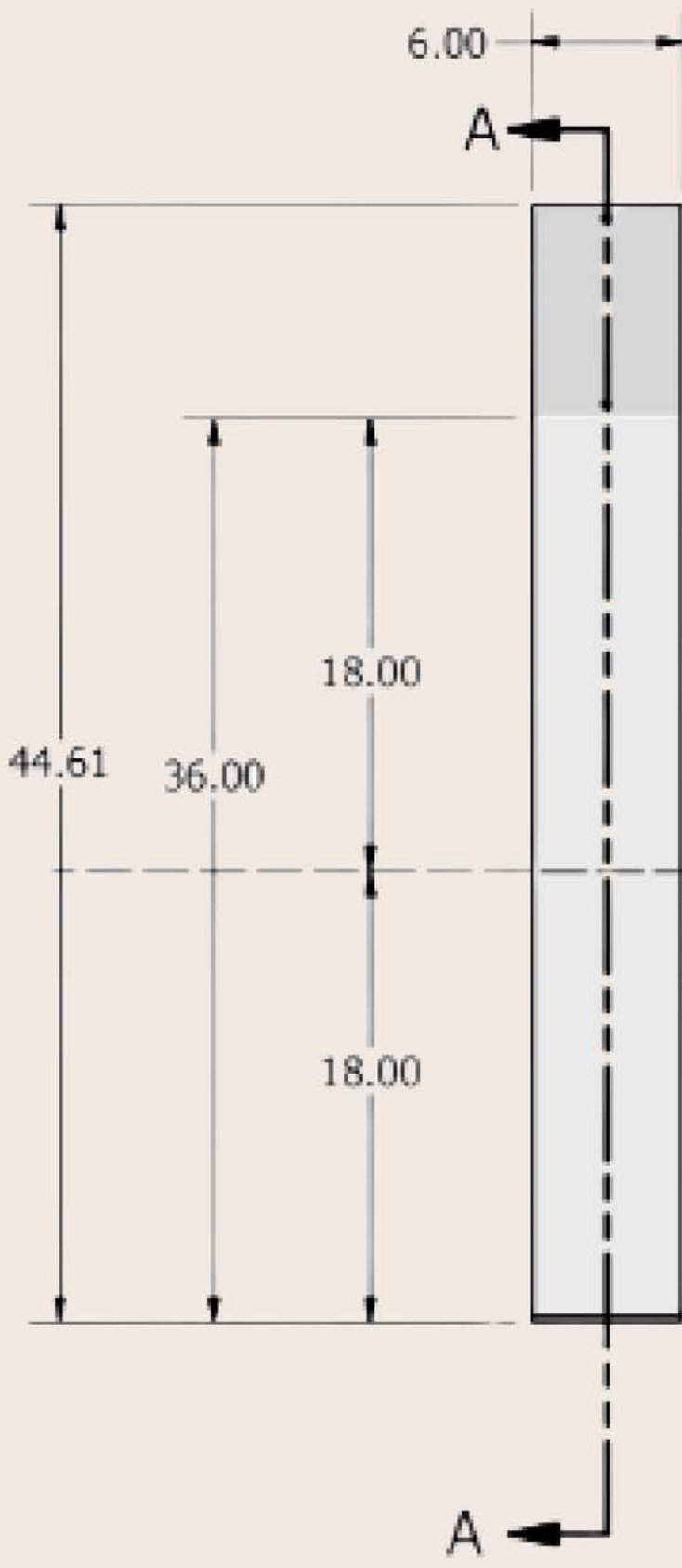
*Aluminum base 18"
below grade requires
no concrete*

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SECTION A-A



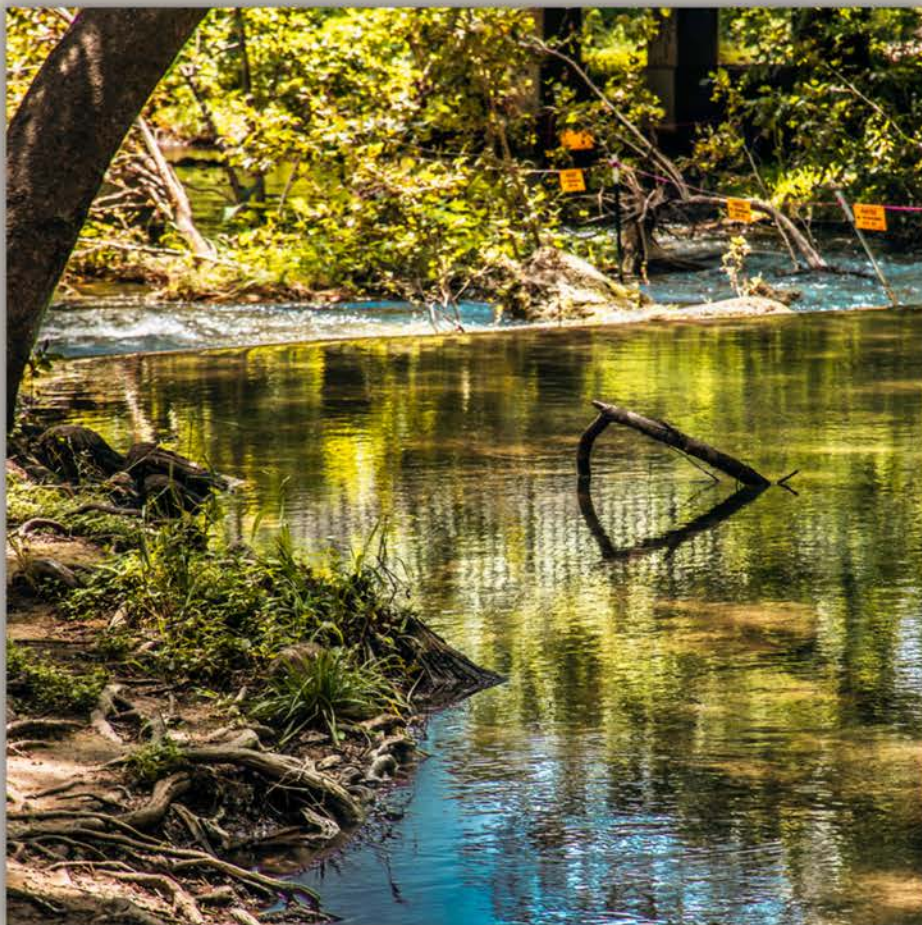
Base Dimensions



Engaging With Nature

Signage Series

Before it Was a Park



Imagine a Native American your age standing in this exact spot hundreds or thousands of years ago. Look around. A lot has changed since then, but much stays the same.

**What would look the same?
What looks different?**

Cloud Gazing



All clouds are made of water vapor, but just like people, no two clouds are the same.

Lay back and watch the clouds. Do any of them look like something else?

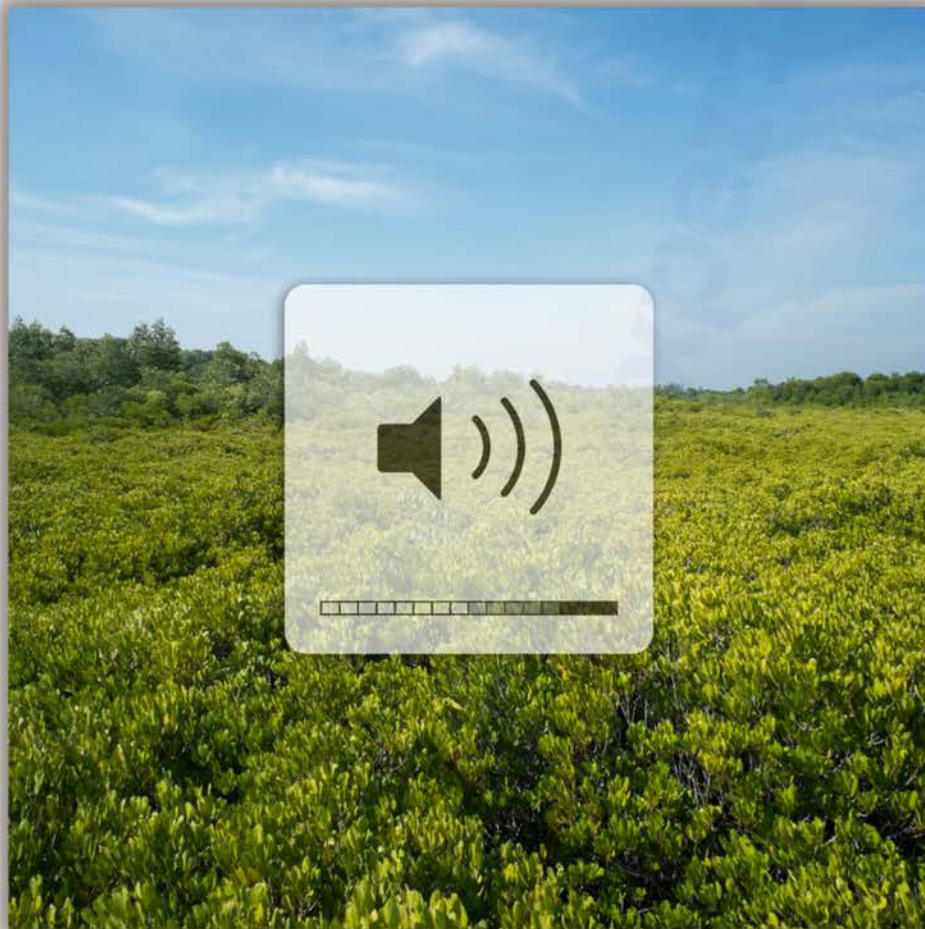
Nature Interview



Nature has many secrets to share when we're curious and pay attention. Find any natural object (tree, plant, rock, or similar) and answer these questions.

- What are things you **notice**?
- What do you **wonder** about your item?
- What are things it **reminds** you of and why?

Sound Mapping



Shh... listen. What's that noise?
We can discover things around us with sound.

- What is the **loudest** sound you hear? The **quietest**?
- Hear anything **new**?
- Can you **make a sound** you heard?

Know Your North



The Earth rotates like a spinning top with the North and South poles always on top and bottom. When you're facing the morning Sun, North is on your left. When you watch a Sunset, North is on your right.

**With this in mind,
can you point to the North?**

Just One Minute



Put away your phone.
Don't talk.
Be still.

Just enjoy this view.

A picture is worth 1,000 words



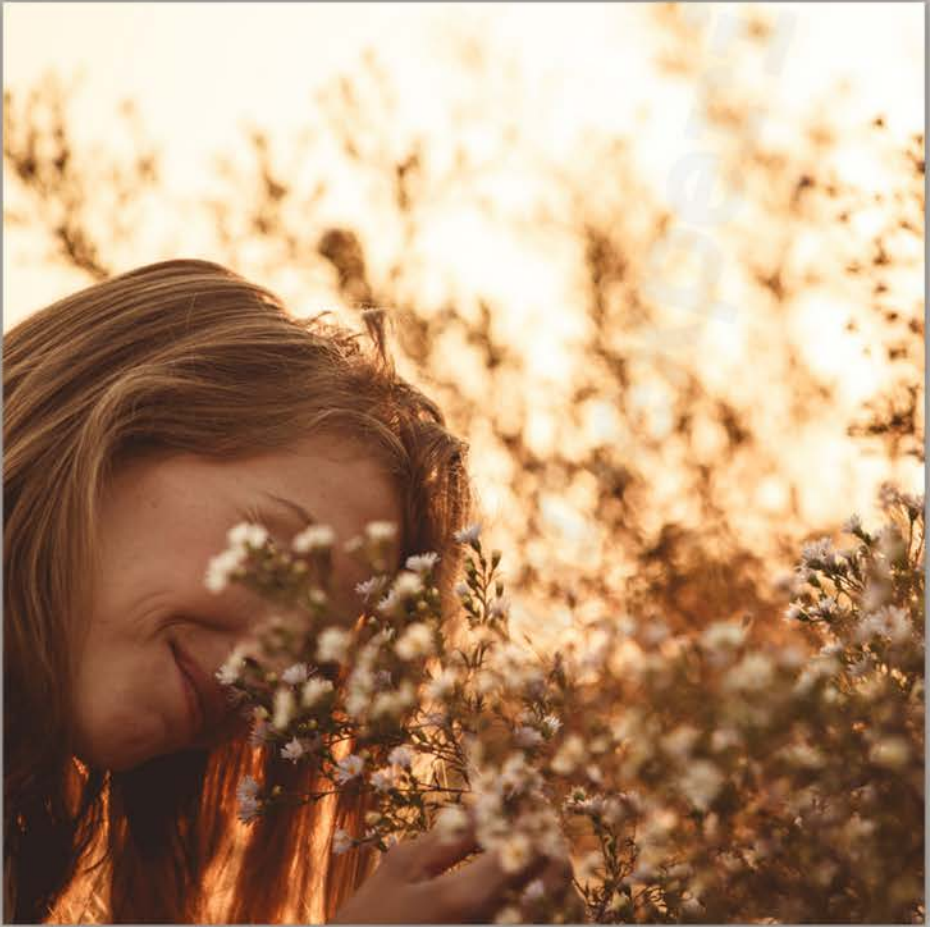
Beautiful pictures of nature have always helped people understand why nature is worth protecting. Stand still for 20 seconds and take pictures from new perspectives. You'll discover many photo opportunities in just one place.

What's in a Name?



Native Americans have had names for the birds, flowers, and trees around you for a very long time. Look around you and pick your favorite nature item. If you were the first person to spot it through a telescope, what would you name it?

Scent-sational Nature



Take a moment to pause and breathe in the smells around you. What does nature smell the way it smells? Describe the scents you encounter and think about the emotions or memories they evoke. What new scents will you add to your olfactory memory today?"

Invisible Trails



Look for tracks in the dirt, nibbled edges on leaves, nests hidden in trees, or even the gentle rustle of bushes. Each sign is a clue to the wild lives of willife around you. Can you guess what animal left it behind? How recent do you think it is?

The Texture of Nature



Gently touch the leaves, bark, and soil around you. How do the textures vary? Can you find the softest leaf, the roughest bark, or the smoothest stone?

What's the purpose or cause of each texture?

The Journey of Water



Consider the journey of water molecules. These tiny travelers have existed for billions of years, cycling from the veins of ancient glaciers to the vapors rising from primeval seas. Each molecule has been a droplet in the clouds, a flake of snow, a bead of dew on the first flowers to ever bloom. **Where will they go next?**

Wise Old Trees



Find a tree with the thickest trunk. This might be the oldest living thing near you. Imagine the history it has witnessed: the storms it has weathered, the changing landscape, the creatures it has sheltered.

**If it could share one story,
what would you want to know?**

The Wind - Gardner and Artist



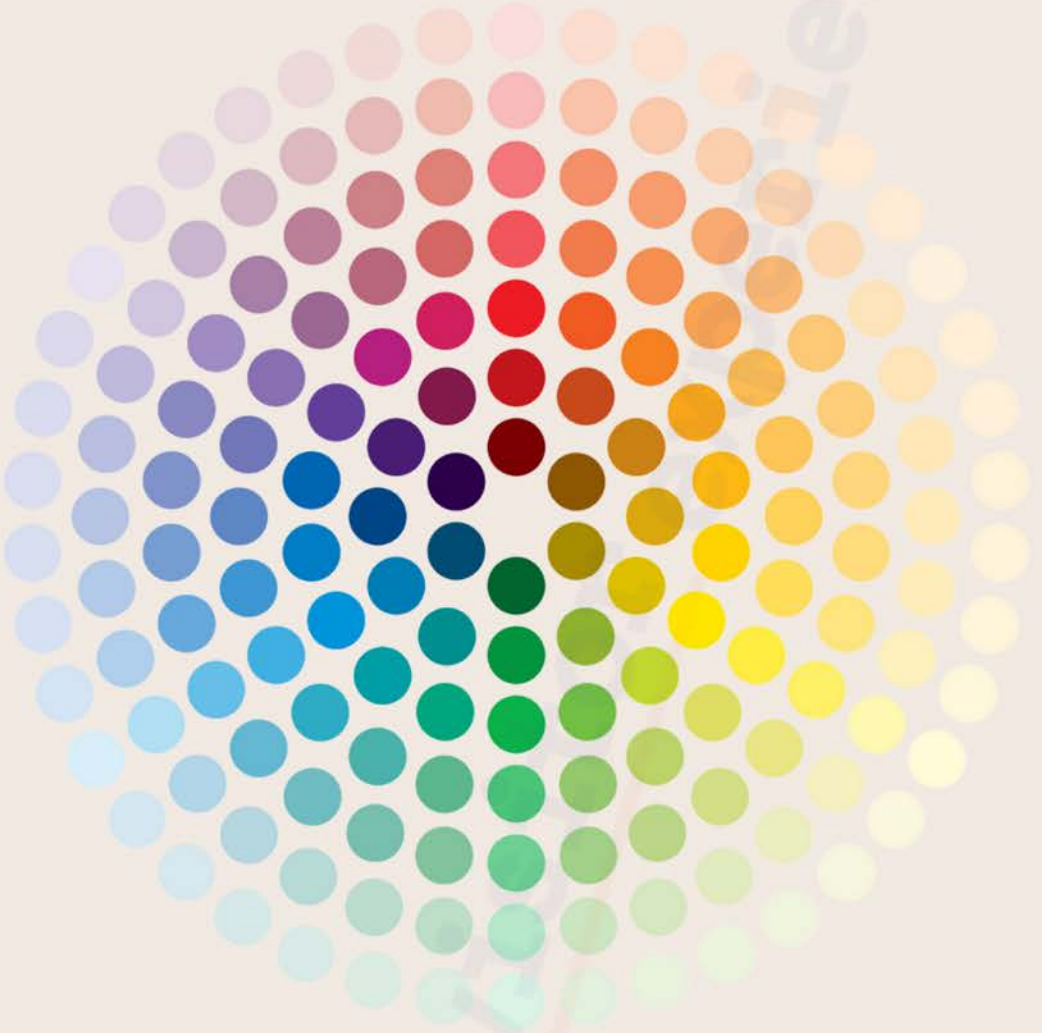
Stand still, can you feel a breeze on your face? It carries seeds to distant soils where they wait for their moment to take root and expand forests. As it moves, the wind also shapes the landscape — eroding rocks, sculpting dunes, and blowing down the trees it once planted. **How has the wind shaped you?**

Change is the Only Constant



This view has never, and will never, look exactly as it does to you right now. Each day, it is being subtly transformed by weather, erosion, and the forces of humans. Gently rest your phone on the top of this sign and take a photo. Look up #Example to see how this view looked to other people before you and post your own.

Color Matching



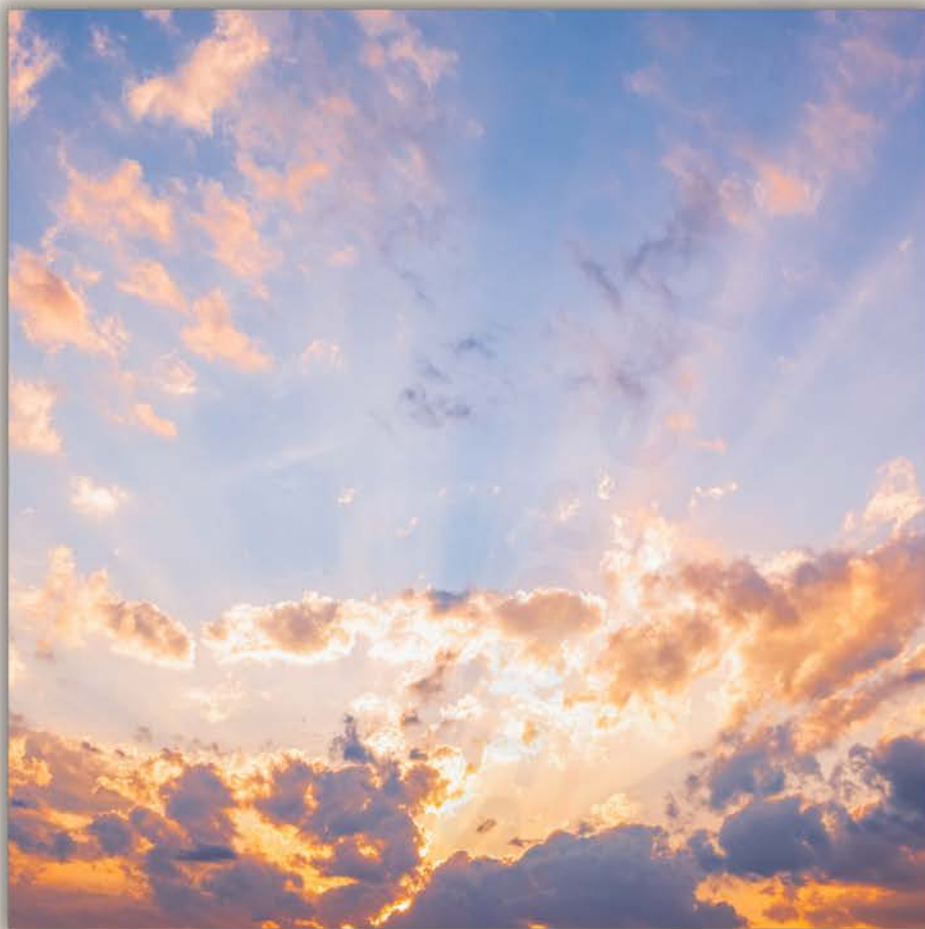
Nature is full of colors. Birds, flowers, rocks, and animals are all colors of the rainbow for all kinds of reasons. Look around you with fresh eyes.

Which colors can you spot?

Inspiring Awe

Signage Series

This Grand Show Is Eternal



“This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.”

-John Muir

Nature is Imagination Itself



"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity, and by these I shall not regulate my propositions. And some see no nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself."

-William Blake

You Are a Child of the Universe



“You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.”

-Max Ehrmann

Trust Your Wings



Birds sit on tree branches not because they trust the branch, but because they can fly.

Which of your skills do you most trust?

Heaven in a Wild Flower



Excerpt from “Auguries of
Innocence” by William Blake

“To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour

**“What minor miracles exist in
the smallest details around you?”**

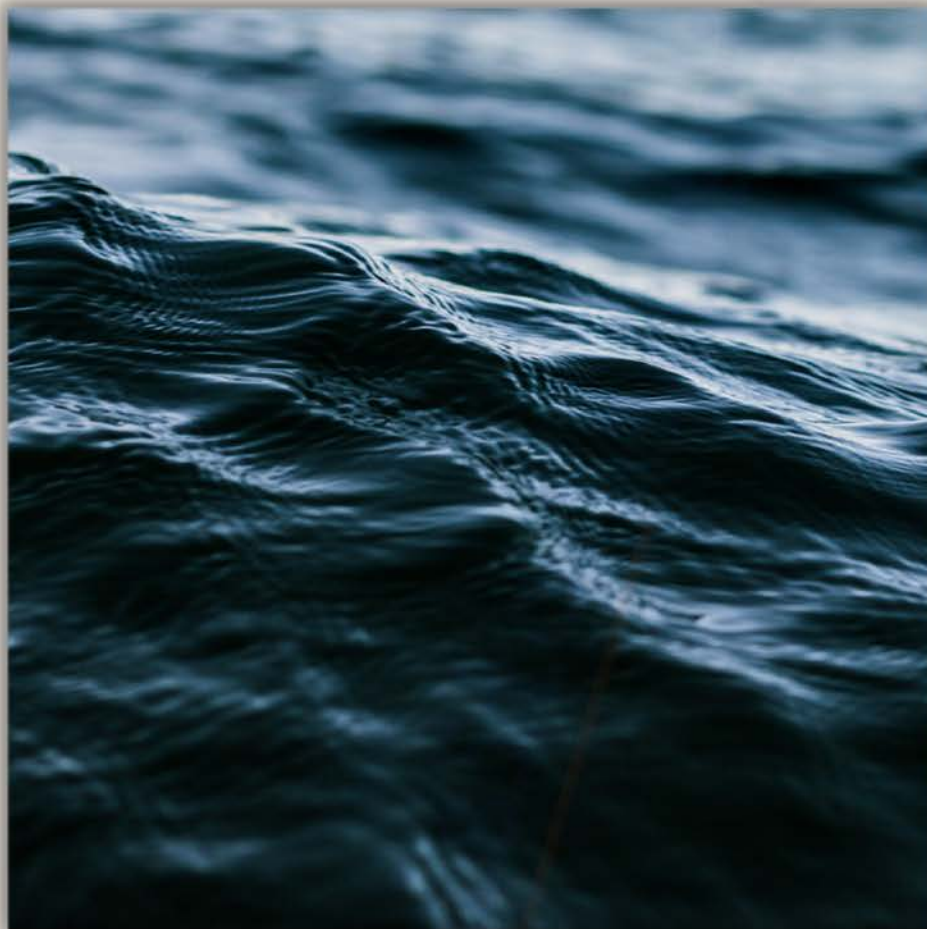
Life Without Fear



“Have wings that feared
ever touched the Sun?
I was born when all I once
feared – I could love.”

-Rabia al Basri

I Go Down to the Shore



“I go down to the shore in the morning and depending on the hour the waves are rolling in or moving out, and I say, oh, I am miserable, what shall— what should I do? And the sea says in its lovely voice: Excuse me, I have work to do.”

-Mary Oliver

The beautiful words of Mary Oliver can be available for additional licensing costs.

Your Place in the Family of Things



"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting – over and over announcing your place in the family of things."

–Mary Oliver

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The Power of One



**“The creation of a
thousand forests is
in one acorn.”**

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

More than Meets the Eye



“I believe a leaf of
grass is no less than
the journey-work of
the stars.”

— Walt Whitman

Nature At Work

Erosion is Still Shaping this Park



Look at wild landscape around you. Can you see the forces of erosion at work? Wind and water are slowly sculpting the rocks here one grain of sand at a time. You might not see the changing landscape during your visits here, but, slowly, surely, the geology is changing. This park might not be recognizable in 1,000 years!

**Interpretive
Birding Trails**
Signage Series

Size and Shape

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Great Blue Heron



Barn Swallow



Blue Jay



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Size and shape are helpful clues when IDing birds. Birds are designed for their daily deeds and each casts a unique silhouette. Is it tiny like a hummingbird, sleek like a heron, or stout like a Blue Jay? Spotting their unique outlines is your first clue to uncovering their identities.

Color Pattern

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Northern Cardinal



Red-winged Blackbird



Grackle



Barred Owl

Colors are clues. Pay attention to where the color is and how it's patterned. Is it bright red like a cardinal, or just a hint, like on the red-winged blackbird? Is it striped like the barred owl or solid like a grackle? Colors attract mates and help birds hide from predators.

Bird Behaviors

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Carolina Chickadee



Red-tailed Hawk



American Robin



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Be a detective – watch how birds behave. Do they dart quickly from branch to branch like chickadees, or soar high above like hawks? Perhaps they're hunting for food on the ground, like robins, or pecking at a tree trunk, like woodpeckers. Each behavior offers a hint about who they are and what they want.

Habitat

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Mallard Duck



Canyon Wren



Field Sparrow



Pileated Woodpecker

Notice where you are – each habitat is home to various feathered friends. Ducks love water, canyon wrens favor cliffs, and woodpeckers (you guessed it) prefer the woods. Observing the habitat and considering a bird's range help you guess who might appear, transforming the scenery into a living puzzle of bird life.

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias



How still could you be if your life depended on it? Great Blue Herons motionlessly watch and wait for a fish to get too close. Quick reflexes, long necks, and sharp beaks are their fishing tools. Can you spot these majestic anglers waiting for their next meal?

Who are you rooting for?

Vultures

Nature's Recyclers



Vultures in this park are hard at work. When an animal dies, these feathered cleaners swoop in to feast on the remains, leaving hardly a trace. This is yucky work, but by eating what's left, vultures keep our parks healthy. When they're flying above, a turkey vulture's wings are half black, half white, while the wings of black vultures are mostly black.

Wild Turkeys

Meleagris gallopavo



"The turkey is a bird of dignity and heft, a symbol of the wild that challenges the observer to appreciate the complexity and beauty of the natural world. Its presence in the landscape is a reminder of the wilderness that once covered these lands, a call to wonder and reflection."

-Henry David Thoreau

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis



In an ecosystem painted with earthy greens and browns, why would the male cardinal want to stand out? Its vibrant red feathers and mohawk are bold badges of health. This fashionable flare signals strength, helping to defend territory and attract mates. The cardinal reminds us it's cool to wear your colors boldly.

Interpreting Trees

Signage Series

Live Oak

Quercus virginiana



Twisting, sprawling, and gnarly—the limbs of a Texas live oak tree make this native giant easy to recognize. The oldest and largest are well over 1,000 years old! Unlike other oak species, which may appear “dead” in the winter, the live oak stays green year-round as it continuously drops and replaces its leaves.

Acorns

Quercus virginiana



This massive Live Oak began as a tiny acorn. Look around you - every acorn has a towering tree waiting inside. With the magic of soil, water, sunlight and air, they could one day be a home to local wildlife and give shade to park visitors just like you. What will you one day become?

Pecan Tree

Carya illinoensis



You may recognize the nuts of the pecan tree, which begin growing in summer and ripen in fall. Even a single tree can provide a bounty of nuts—around fifty pounds per year! Whatever doesn't end up in your pecan pie may provide food for wildlife like white-tailed deer, squirrels, and raccoons.

Cottonwood

Populus deltoides



Towering to a height of 80 feet, the Cottonwood tree provides a shady refuge along streams of the Southwest. Its roots dig deep to find water, which it needs in abundance. In the desert, the cottonwood is a signpost telling anyone around that water is near. It also signals survival to wildlife who rely on it for food and shelter.

Dead Trees

New Life



Dead trees brings new life. Woodpeckers search a dead tree for hidden insects. Hollowed trunks become cozy nests. Slowly, the tree decomposes, enriching the soil with precious nutrients for new plants to flourish. As you wander through this area, open your eyes to the vibrant life on and within these fallen trees.

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



These towering trees stand out with their white, flaky, bark, and massive, maple-shaped leaves dancing in the breeze. In the fall, the fuzzy seed balls of the sycamore burst and release seeds to wander on the wind. Can you believe such a giant tree begins its journey from a small, soaring seed?

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



"The sycamore, the sycamore
in the slight hollow, huge
as a house in its leafy season,
has gathered out of the air
a radiance which it now
sheds down in stillness."

-Wendell Berry

Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa



This tree gets its name from the bur-like caps on its acorns, which Native Americans made into pancakes. Bur Oaks are the largest native oaks in North America. A tree only gets this big when people protect it. Run your fingers along the rugged, grooved bark - how many more generations will touch this tree before it's gone?

American Basswood

Tilia americana



See the heart-shaped leaves? That's a good sign of the American basswood. You could use fiber from the inner bark to make rope, that's what Native Americans and early European settlers did. If you visit again next year, watch how the tree changes - it's one of the fastest growing North American hardwoods.

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis



"The Eastern Redbud's heart-shaped leaves and rosy-pink springtime blossoms are a love-story from nature. Can you spot birds gathering seeds to feed their babies? Or buzzing bees buzzing collecting pollen for their beloved queen. Ask yourself - who loves this tree the most, the birds, the bees, or you and me?"

Texas Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. texensis



The Texas Redbud is a Lone Star survivor. In the winter without their leaves, you can see their smaller frames which need less water than their eastern cousins. Vibrant pink blossoms celebrate the arrival of Spring. Feel the leathery leaves - their waxy surface is a secret weapon against water loss in hot Summers.

Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia



The Cedar Elm, distinct among elms, flourishes in a variety of environments, from riverbanks to dry terrains. Its bark, deeply furrowed, provides a unique texture, while small, serrated leaves create a dense canopy, offering cool shade. Watch for them in fall, when Cedar Elms display a rare spectacle of golden-yellow leaves.

Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis



Hackberry trees and birds depend on each other. Dark-red berries attract birds like the Northern Mockingbird and Cedar Waxwing. Like you, after a big meal, these birds might take a rest. Look for hackberry trees beneath telephone lines and fences, where birds have perched, pooped, and propagated the next generation of hackberry trees.

Ashe Juniper

Juniperus ashei



Ashe junipers, often called 'cedars,' are beloved by some birds, but they pester many people (at least seasonally.) The Endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler uses the bark from mature junipers to build their nests - that's great for them, but if you get allergies each winter in Texas, it could be the pollen from this tree you're reacting to. 🤧

Ashe Juniper

Trials by Fire



Fire is a scary, but normal part of ecosystems. Normal wildfire cycles once kept the spread of the Ashe Juniper in check, preserving Texas' diverse grasslands. Without regular fires, these trees overtake other species. When wildfires do ignite, they're fiercer, fueled by dense juniper growth.

Trailside Plant Interpretation

Signage Series

Texas Lantana

Lantana urticoides



While many plants struggle in drought and heat, the Texas Lantana thrives. This hardy shrub laughs at tough conditions, revealing a vivid tapestry of red, orange, and yellow blooms in the peak of summer. Its impressive drought resistance makes it a superb native addition to your garden, and pollinators will buzz with appreciation as well.

Inland Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium



Inland sea oats, with their bamboo-like leaves, sway gracefully in the slightest breeze. These native grasses stabilize the soil and prevent erosion - beautifying landscapes but also protecting them. Look for the unique, fishbone-patterned seed heads in the fall. These seeds mark the beginning of nurturing the next generation of grasses.

Ocotillo

Fouquieria splendens



The Ocotillo is a master of desert adaptation. In drought, you might mistake it for a bundle of barren branches. After rain, it quickly transforms, leafing out with rejoice. This stark contrast reflects a unique survival strategy. Why do you think such rapid change is essential for its survival in this extreme environment?

Invader

Bastard Cabbage



Bastard Cabbage is an exotic plant that outcompetes native species like Texas Bluebonnets. It reduces biodiversity which hurts this ecosystem and wildlife that depend on it. So, don't hesitate: carefully pull up these invasive plants you're looking at - every little bit helps.