

SHAKOPEE RIVERFRONT CULTURAL TRAIL

Design Development 2

January 5, 2024



106GROUP

Connecting People + Place + Time

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Prepared for:
Scott County Historical Society and the Scott County
Cultural Consortium

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All photos by 106 Group, unless otherwise noted. Cover images by City of Shakopee (middle) and Hockokata TI (bottom).

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The partner organizations of the Scott County Cultural Consortium (SCCC) are collaborating to develop the Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail (SRCT or Trail), a recreational and interpretive trail along the Minnesota River in downtown Shakopee. The SRCT will comprise a 2.5-mile section of the existing multi-use Minnesota Valley State Trail, from the Holmes Street Bridge through The Landing: Minnesota River Heritage Park. It will provide an amenity for local residents as well as an attraction to bring tourists to Shakopee and encourage them to extend their stay. Interpretation along the Trail will reveal the area's rich cultural and natural history.

The Shakopee riverfront has particular significance for Dakota people. For thousands of years before European settlement, their ancestors lived and traveled along the Minnesota River. Where the city of Shakopee now sits, Mdewakȩŋwaj Dakota people lived on both sides of the river in the summer village of Tȩŋta Otȩŋwe. The land along the Trail includes sacred Dakota burial mounds. The city takes its name from Sakpe (Shakopee II), a Dakota leader who led the people of Tȩŋta Otȩŋwe.

The SCCC partners want Dakota voices to speak clearly along the riverfront about their history, their living culture, and their ongoing relationship to this place. They also want people from all backgrounds to feel welcome here. As they experience the Trail, visitors will encounter stories that connect them to the people of the past, while building connections with each other.

Members of the SCCC include the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), the City of Shakopee (the City), Scott County, and the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) also is a key partner in development of the SRCT.



Permanent Residence, Sioux by Seth Eastman, 1846-1848



PLANNING PROCESS

To realize their vision for the riverfront, the SCCC partners collaborated with 106 Group to develop a Visitor Experience Plan (VEP) for the SRCT. The VEP (11/19/2021) built project foundations and provided a road map to guide development and implementation of visitor-centered interpretation.

Now the SCCC partners have contracted 106 Group to design interpretive exhibits for the Trail. This document, Design Development 2 (DD2), provides refined exhibit locations, forms, and materials as well as revised graphic layouts and text. DD2 incorporates feedback from the client team on Schematic Design 1 and 2 and responds to comments on Design Development 1.

DD2 continues to build on the foundations and follow the road map provided by the VEP. It also incorporates ideas proposed in the 2019 City of Shakopee Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan produced by Confluence.



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REVIEW NOTES

Please provide consolidated, written review comments from all SCCC partners by **January 19, 2024**.

In addition to the notes below, see the "Notes & Questions" section on each exhibit page.

General Notes

- Appendix A: Exhibit Text compiles the updated text from all exhibits into a single document for ease of review. The text in Appendix A is identical to the text you see in the draft graphic layouts. We've simply provided another way to review the text.
- Appendix B: Cost Estimate is new information in the Design Development 2 deliverable. It offers a summary of probable costs for fabrication and installation. Full details were provided in a separate document to the project lead.

Review Questions

- SMSC: Please provide Dakota language translations for the creatures featured on new exhibit 1A-01-a:
Channel Catfish
Mallard Duck
Common Garter Snake
Swift River Cruiser Dragonfly
General translations are fine rather than specific species, e.g., fish, duck, snake, dragonfly.
- SMSC: Please also provide Dakota language translations for the following:
Lacrosse (for 5A-01)
The good life (or an alternative phrase to use for the title on 5A-01)
Red Cedar (for 9A-03)
- We've simplified the inset map of the regional trail network that appears on the front panel of the orientation signs. Please review for accuracy and level of detail.
- Exhibits at Nodes 3A and 3B will be installed along sidewalks within Huber Park, rather than along the Minnesota Valley State Trail. Please advise regarding the location and access requirements for installation of these exhibits. Is there a minimum setback distance required from the sidewalk? Are there any other requirements or guidelines to follow?

Installation Requirements

- To ensure stability, protect visitor safety, and withstand flooding and freezing, all exhibit forms will require underground reinforcement.
- To minimize soil disturbance in culturally sensitive areas (Zones 5-9), only the orientation signs will require soil to be lifted out of the ground and removed for installation. Only one orientation sign is located outside of Zones 1-4. It's in Zone 9, in the Landing's west parking lot, a less sensitive area. We recommend archaeological monitoring during installation of that sign, which has been factored into the estimate of probable costs.
- The other proposed exhibit forms will not require soil to be lifted and removed for installation. They will require either rebar posts or foundation screws embedded into the ground.
- See the Design Style: Forms & Materials section for preliminary installation specifications for each exhibit type.

NEXT STEPS

Kickoff Call	February 21, 2023
Kickoff Workshop	March 1, 2023
SD Design Workshop	March 27, 2023
Schematic Design 1	May 19, 2023
Feedback	May 26, 2023
Schematic Design 2	July 14, 2023
Presentation & Feedback	July 28, 2023
Design Development 1	October 13, 2023
Feedback	October 27, 2023
Design Development 2	January 5, 2024
Feedback	January 19, 2024
Pre-Production	March 1, 2024
Review	March 8, 2024
Closeout	March 15, 2024
Contract End Date	March 15, 2024

FOUNDATIONS

PRINCIPLES

- These foundational principles will guide development of the interpretive experience, including exhibits.
- The entire SRCT experience should feel **inviting, welcoming, and safe** for all visitors.
 - The experience will be as **accessible** as possible for all visitors. The Trail and interpretive components will be physically accessible and will make content available for people with low or no vision. Text will be readable at an eighth-grade reading level.
 - **Dakota voices and values** should resonate through the experience, in both content and design. Interpretation should incorporate Dakota language and represent the resilience of Dakota people today.
 - Much of the land along the SRCT is **sacred ground** for today's Mdewakanton Dakota people, whose ancestors lived along the river in Tintja Oturjwe. The Trail's route passes through or near several cemeteries, sacred springs, and areas of archaeological, cultural, and spiritual significance.
 - The experience should foster **respect**: certainly, respect for Dakota burial mounds and the ancestors who are honored there; also respect for all those whose history is tied to the riverfront. The SRCT experience also will foster respect for one another and respect for the river, trees, plants, birds, and animals.
 - Fostering respect and a sense of connection will encourage **stewardship** of the natural environment. Visitors will appreciate and perhaps participate in **restoration** of the river, the land, and the habitats they support.
 - Since most visitors could come back over and over again, we want to provide things to **discover over time**.
 - The SRCT is a destination for **movement**. Most visitors won't want to stop too often. Instead of a proliferation of signs, we need fewer interpretive constructions, located where those on the move are most likely to want to stop and where it is appropriate for them to linger.
 - The Trail experience will engage visitors' **emotions** and all of their **senses**.
 - The SRCT should offer meaningful experiences for visitors in **all seasons**.
 - The Trail experience should offer something for people of **all ages**, including youth and young adults. While very young children are a part of the family audience and should find things that will engage them, the design style should not be childish.

GOALS

Why are we creating this experience?
During the interpretive planning process, the project team articulated two types of goals.
The **operational goal** articulates what the SCCC wants to accomplish through development of the SRCT.

SRCT OPERATIONAL GOAL

The SRCT will bring people together to (re)discover the Minnesota River's historical, cultural, and ecological significance, in order to build cross-cultural understanding among those who live in and visit the Shakopee area. The SRCT will become an iconic regional destination that demonstrates the value of incorporating place-based history and cultural heritage into local planning and development.

The **visitor experience goal** summarizes what the SCCC wants visitors to experience and what they should take away from their time on the Trail.

SRCT VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOAL

As they connect with the river along the SRCT, visitors also will feel connected to the people who have made the river corridor home for thousands of years. Their experience of the riverfront's natural beauty and understanding of its rich cultural heritage will foster respect and reverence. It will inspire them to care for this place, as well as other meaningful places in their own communities.



Rendering of redesigned Huber Park from the 2019 Master Plan

AUDIENCES & COMMUNITY

WHO IS THIS EXPERIENCE FOR?

During the interpretive planning phase, the project team identified who the Trail experience seeks to engage (audiences), as well as who is affected by the project and invested in its success (stakeholders and communities).

STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES

The SCCC brings together five partners, representing city, county, and tribal governments as well as a regional park district and a nonprofit cultural heritage organization. Each of these organizations has its own set of internal stakeholders invested in the SRCT project, including government departments, governing and advisory boards, and other decision makers.

A range of external stakeholders and community groups are invested in development of the Trail. They include Minnesota state agencies, area businesses, and local heritage organizations and interest groups.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- Shakopee Chamber and Visitors Bureau
- Shakopee Heritage Society
- Shakopee Diversity Alliance
- Area veterans groups

Beyond these organized groups, all Shakopee and Scott County residents and members of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, as well as Mdewakanton Dakota people living elsewhere, are affected by and have a vested interest in the SRCT. This Plan also acknowledges other communities to consider while laying plans and making decisions: the Minnesota River, the land, the plants and animals, the ancestors, and the future generations who are connected to this place.

AUDIENCES

Given its length and variety of environments, the SRCT will engage many different audiences. The Trail experience should accommodate and welcome them all.

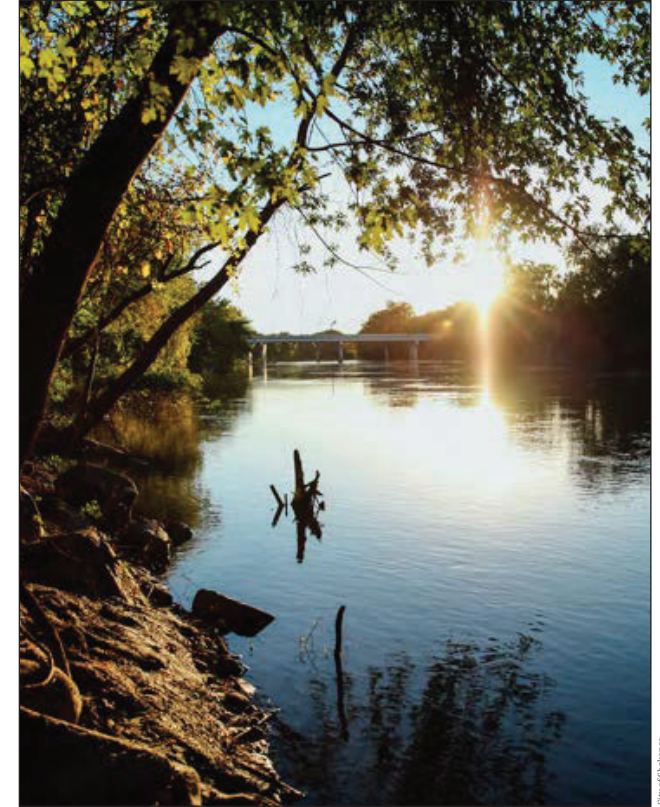
Audiences will represent diverse **demographics**, varying by age, cultural background, socioeconomic status, and family situation.

Audiences also will vary by their **relationship to this place**, such as Dakota people within and outside of Minnesota, long-time Shakopee or Scott County residents, and newcomers, including recent immigrants. They might come from elsewhere in Minnesota or outside the state.

Audiences also will differ by **frequency of Trail use**, from one-time visitors to repeat visitors. People might visit one location, the entire Trail, or multiple, interconnected regional trails.

The Trail must accommodate many different **types of use**, including people walking, running, in wheelchairs, pushing strollers, and on bicycles. There also will be canoeists, kayakers, picnickers, playground visitors, and event attendees.

People also might visit the Trail as part of **organized groups**, such as youth groups or school field trips. Group visits might also be organized by cultural, civic, or business organizations like Hočokata Ti, the Shakopee Heritage Society, the Shakopee Diversity Alliance, or the Shakopee Chamber and Visitors Bureau.





VISITOR PROFILES

Considering the needs of particular target audiences helps to focus content and design decisions. While these profiles don't encompass all potential visitors, they incorporate the types of audiences that SCCC partners most hope to engage and serve.



Local Nature Lovers

Adults on an evening walk alone or with friends. Frequent repeat visitors.

Drawn to: Quiet, contemplative spaces. Sense of connection to nature. Multiple environments to explore and new things to discover on return visits. Well-lit trail as the shadows lengthen.



Metro-Area Cyclists

Group of active adults from the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area, biking across a network of interconnected regional trails. First-time visitors who might be convinced to return.

Drawn to: Substantive interpretive nodes at trailheads, accompanied by water fountains and bike racks, and close to public restrooms. Access to food and drink to purchase.



Multi-Generational Families

Multi-generational families living within a day's drive. Seeking a half-day outing with space and interest for the whole family and activities that allow the kids to be independent. Elders may have limited mobility. Occasional repeat visitors.

Drawn to: Content and design that engage visitors of all ages. Interpretive experiences that interest and captivate children. Places to stop, rest, and interact with each other. Opportunities to experience special events and family-oriented programs.



Heritage Tourists

Couples or friends visiting the area for a long weekend. Seeking to connect with their own heritage and curious about other histories. First-time visitors who might convince others to visit via word of mouth.

Drawn to: Ability to dig deep into stories, make connections, and experience the place unmediated. Access to unique local eating and drinking establishments.



School Groups

Diverse groups of students and educators from the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area. First-time visitors who might forge connections that bring them back with their families or later in life.

Drawn to: Content that meets curriculum standards. Spaces to learn, think, interact, and play.



Dakota People

Group of Dakota youth or adults from a Dakota community in or outside of Minnesota. Also visiting Hočokata Ti and/or Wakan Tipi Center. First-time visitors who might forge connections that bring them back.

Drawn to: Connection to ancestral homeland and history. Reconnection to language and to culturally significant and sacred places.

INTERPRETIVE MESSAGING

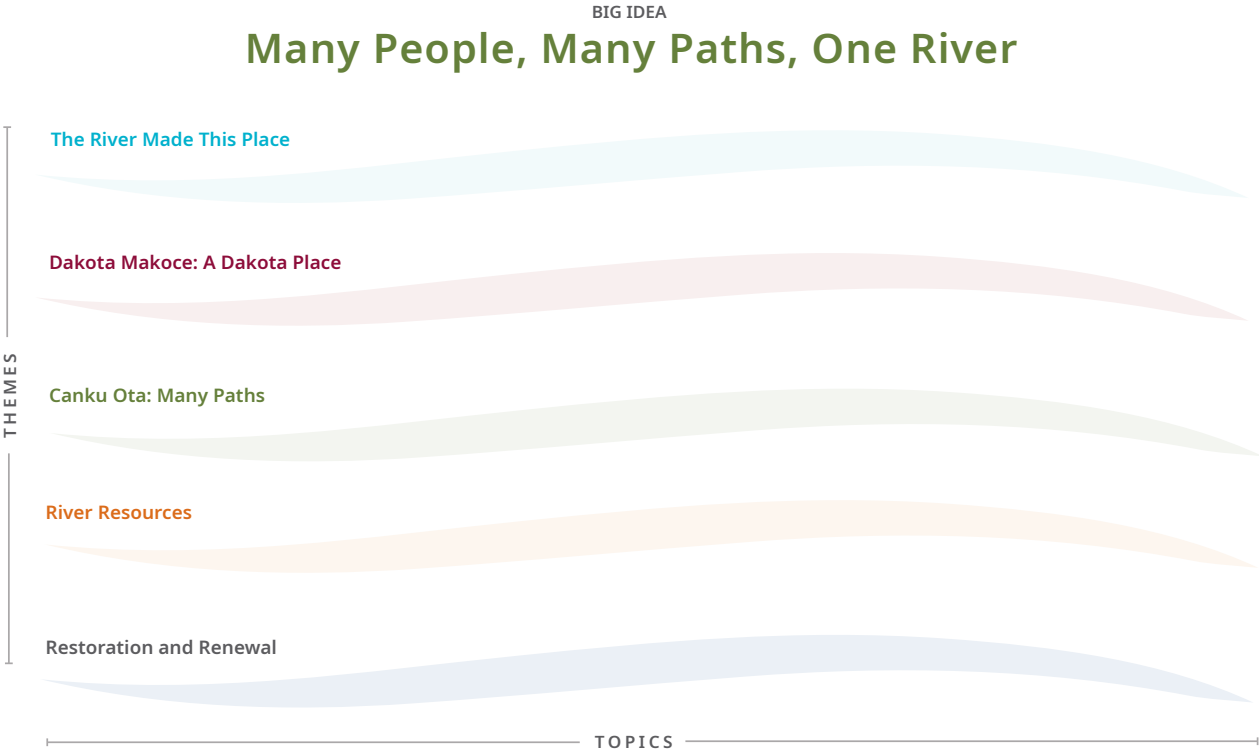
WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE ABOUT?

During the interpretive planning phase, SCCC partners collaborated to develop the conceptual framework for interpretive messaging on the SRCT. This interpretive framework is structured as a "big idea," a set of themes, and a list of topics.

In Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach, Beverly Serrell writes that "A big idea is a sentence—a statement—of what the exhibition is about.... It also implies what the exhibit is not about. A big idea is big because it has fundamental meaningfulness that is important to human nature."

Some planners use the language of a main theme or a main message rather than a big idea. All of these are intended to provide one overarching, central, interpretive concept.

The themes are interpretive threads, spun from the big idea, that weave throughout the visitor experience. Each theme will be expressed in multiple places, and any place might communicate multiple themes.



THEMES

The River Made This Place

- For thousands of years, people have made this place home because the river is here.
- People and nature are interdependent.
- The river is a natural force and a cultural anchor; it has been a transportation corridor and a place of crossing, landing, and settlement.

Dakota Makoce (A Dakota Place)

- This place has tremendous historical and cultural significance for Dakota people.
- This place is interconnected with other places along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.
- The history of this place includes land loss and removal as well as Dakota communities' resilience and continuing presence.

Canku Ota (Many Paths)

- Many paths cross here. Many peoples have passed here, visited here, and made this place home.
- Many cultures intersect here: past, present, and future.
- The history of this place includes cooperation and exchange as well as conflict and loss.

River Resources

- People have used the river and its resources to build thriving communities here.
- The river, plants, and animals have provided water, food, medicine, clothing, shelter, and tools.
- The river sustains animal, bird, and plant relatives as well as people.
- River resources have been used for trade, commerce, and industry.

Restoration and Renewal

- Human activity affects the river environment.
- We are restoring this river environment and human connections to it.
- We need to be good stewards of this place and other places we care about.

TOPICS

- Dakota Homelands
- Dakota life in Tiyta Otunwe
- Dakota-settler interactions and relationships
- Immigration/migration of people and animals (historical and recent)
- Diverse people living/working along the river
- River transportation
- River industries
- Recreation on/near the river over time
- River environment: water, plants, and animals
- Cultural foods and food knowledge



Dacotah Village by Seth Eastman, 1849-1855



DESIGN STYLE

DESIGN INSPIRATION

NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

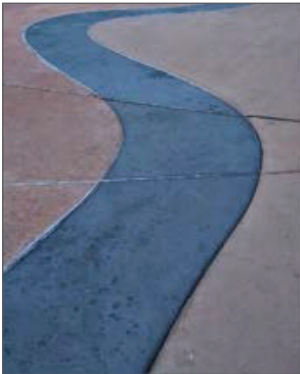
The exhibit design takes inspiration from the natural resources and historic structures that make the Shakopee riverfront such a special place.

Recurring design elements inspired by the natural environment include:

- The flowing shape of the river
- Minnesota river rock
- Riverfront plants, birds, insects, and other animals

In some locations, distinct features of the historic built environment also will be incorporated into the exhibit design. These include:

- The repeating shape of the trusses under the Holmes Street Bridge
- The bricks made at the Schroeder Brickyard



DAKOTA CULTURAL DESIGN

Elements of Dakota cultural design also will be incorporated into the design style for the SRCT exhibits. These elements will include:

- Use of Dakota language
- Colors that are frequently used in Dakota art
- Dakota floral designs in both Woodland and geometric styles
- Representations of culturally significant plants and animals

Dakota design elements will recur all along the Trail, communicating that this stretch of riverfront is part of the Dakota Homelands.

These cultural elements have been selected in consultation with SMSC advisors, including Hocokata Ti staff and the Culture and History Preservation Work Group. The exhibit team will collaborate with Dakota artists to create design motifs and produce art for the SRCT exhibits.



Dakota floral designs by Marlana Myles

Examples of Dakota beadwork from the Hocokata Ti collections

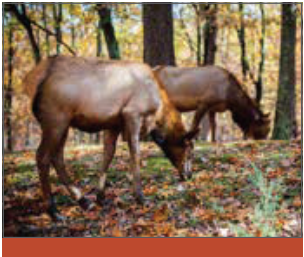
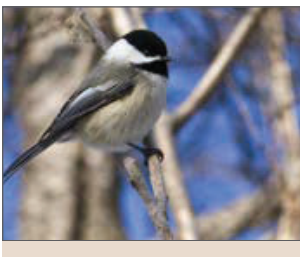
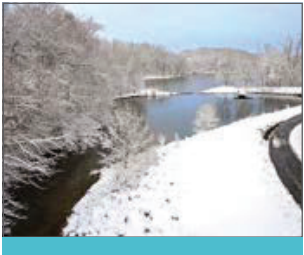
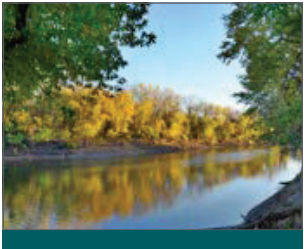
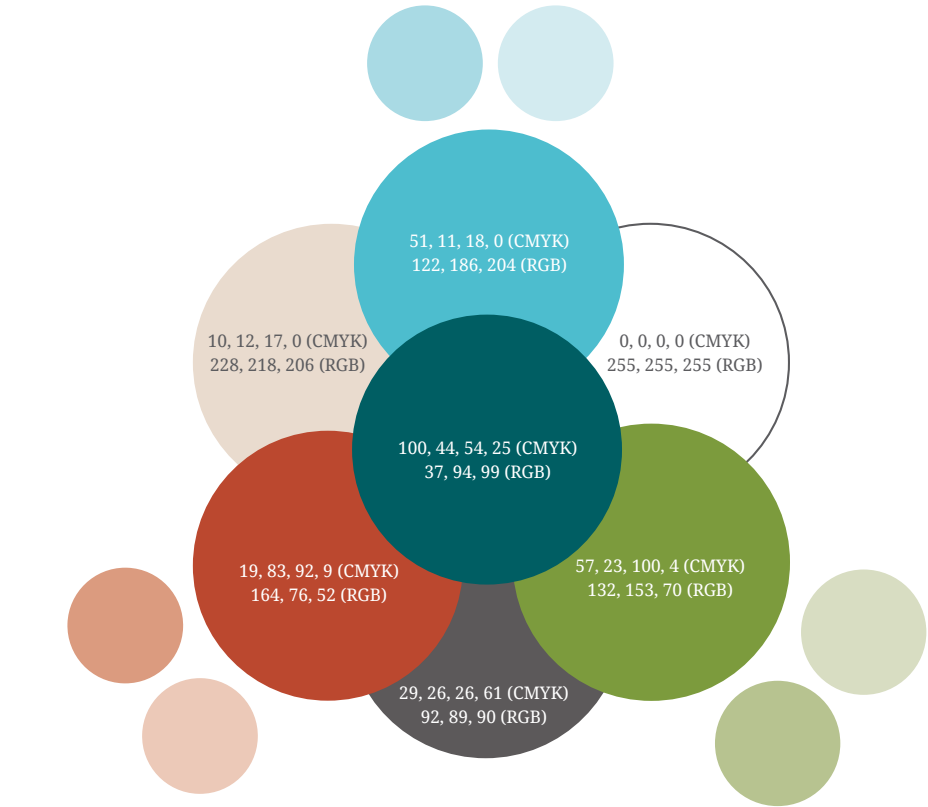
DESIGN LANGUAGE

COLOR

The primary color palette for these exhibits highlights the natural, rich tones of the Shakopee riverfront landscape: the river cutting through the banks, the plants swaying in the breeze, and the animals that call the river home. The palette also reflects the vibrancy of traditional Dakota design as expressed in both historical and contemporary art.

A secondary trio of gray, beige, and white will complement the primary colors as needed and will be used for larger amounts of text. These options will provide a neutral, softer alternative to the harsh contrast of pure black while still providing legibility. Strategic hints of white could provide visual interest and contrast to the primary colors as well as the surrounding environment.

Tints of all the colors will be used to provide variety and suggest different tones and moods across different zone experiences.



TYPOGRAPHY

Type characteristics as well as their implementation help to effectively convey exhibit content. Typefaces are chosen and paired based on their legibility, letterforms, and overall ability to convey messaging.

Noto Sans and Noto Serif are the geometric, legible, and approachable typeface pairing used in these exhibits. More importantly, they were chosen because of their support of the Dakota language. Created by Google, these typefaces are the most universally compatible with the largest glyph and special character set available. They currently support over 1,000 languages.

Noto Sans will be used for headers, subheads, and short pieces of text, leaning more on the heavier weights. Noto Serif will primarily be used for body copy or larger pieces of text.

VOICE

The SRCT interpretive experience will cover a wide range of topics, dispersed along a 2.5-mile trail, plus the length of the Holmes Street Bridge. It will tell the stories of diverse groups of people as well as the changing natural environment, across centuries of riverfront history. Visitors will enter and exit the Trail at different points and will not encounter the exhibits in any predictable order. They might engage with all the interpretive content, or some of it, or just one exhibit.

To provide clarity and consistency across these divergent and unpredictable circumstances, the narrative voice used across the exhibits will be balanced and neutral. It will convey the patient perspective of a narrator who has witnessed many changes over a long period of time, one who can consider things from multiple points of view—including the plants, animals, and the river itself.

The text will be active, engaging, and rich in sensory imagery. It will be accessible to visitors from diverse cultural backgrounds and written at or below an 8th grade reading level. We assess text for readability using Hemingway Editor (<https://hemingwayapp.com/>).

Some exhibits will feature Dakota language, particularly those focusing on these topics:

- Dakota Homeland
- Dakota life in Tȩŋta Oŋuŋwe
- Riverfront environment: water, trees, plants, and animals

Dakota text will be written using the Eastern Mdewakanŋunwan dialect and the SMSC orthography.

Noto Sans

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
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0123456789!@#\$\$%^&*()

Noto Sans Serif Thin
Noto Sans Serif Regular
Noto Sans Serif Medium
Noto Sans Serif Semibold
Noto Sans Serif Bold
Noto Sans Serif Extra Bold

Noto Serif

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
Š Ț Ń Ó ȣ ŋ í ž
0123456789!@#\$\$%^&*()

Noto Serif Regular
Noto Serif Bold



FORMS & MATERIALS

The following pages provide sketches for a range of proposed exhibit forms, annotated with notes on materials. Forms and materials have been selected for durability within the riverfront environment, which is subject to seasonal weather extremes and prone to periodic flooding.

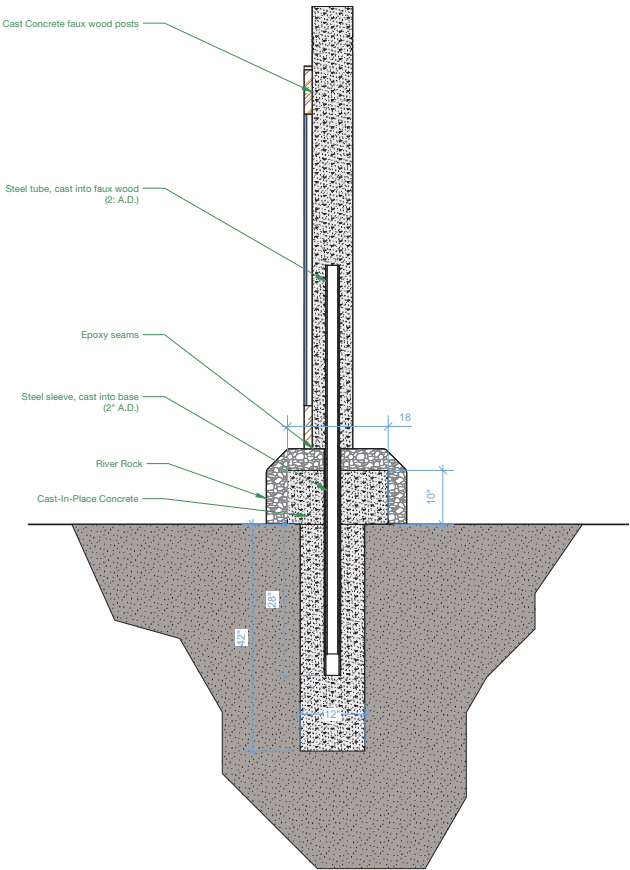
Together, the structures compose a flexible yet cohesive family of forms that communicate through a common design language. For some forms, there are multiple options to choose from. Elements from various options also could be combined in different ways.

The proposed forms are categorized according to the type of interpretive experience they are designed to provide:

- Orientation Sign
- Augmented Reality Sign
- Plant & Animal Sign
- Etiquette Marker
- Tactile Map
- Wayside Sign
- Sculpture

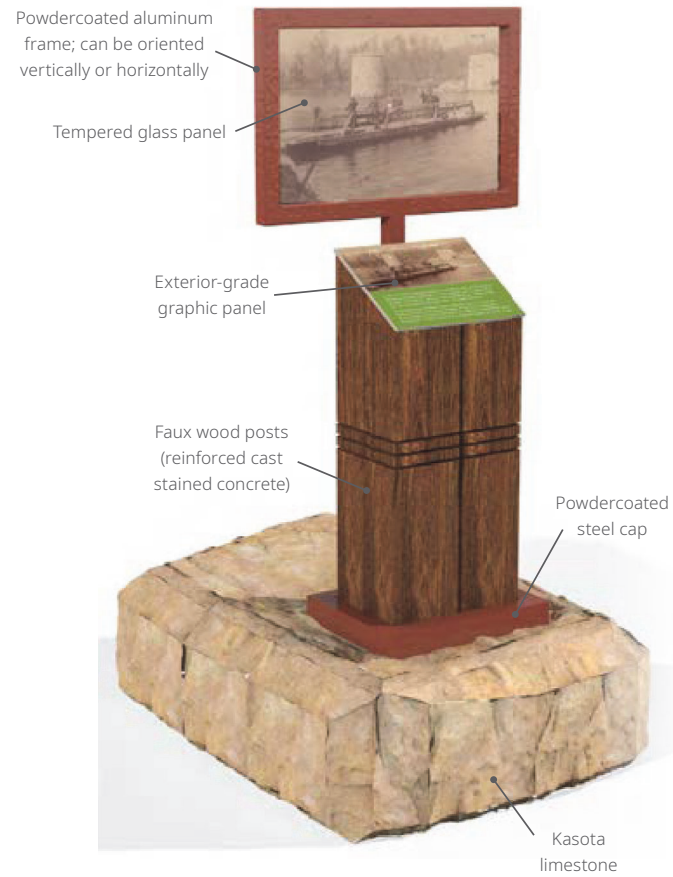


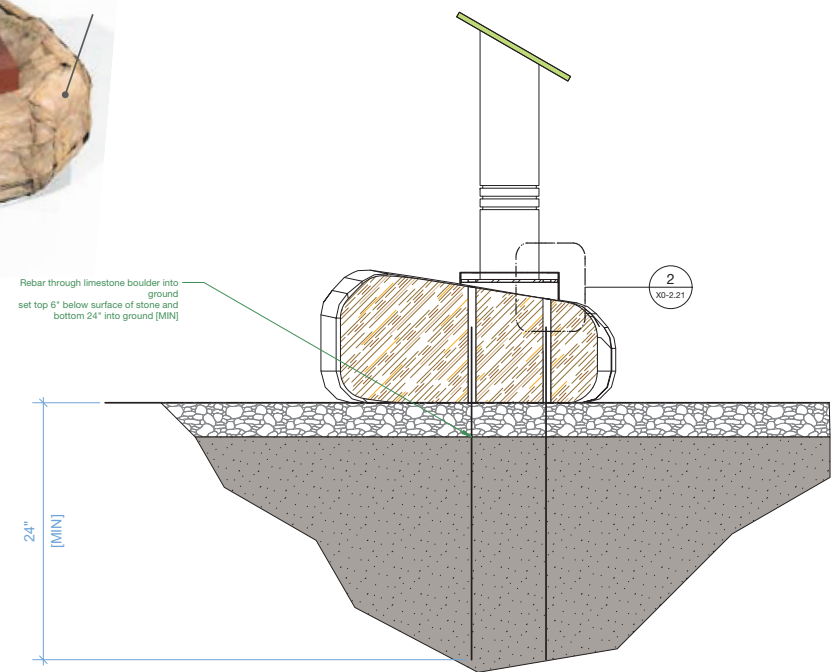
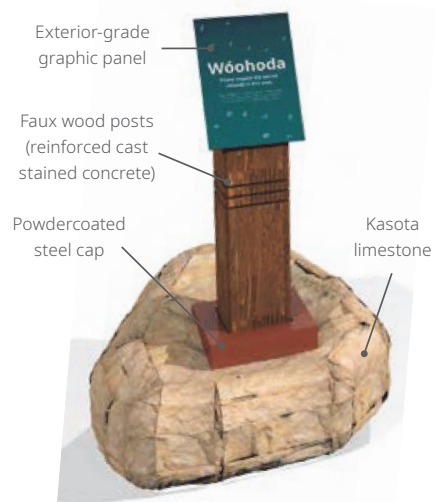
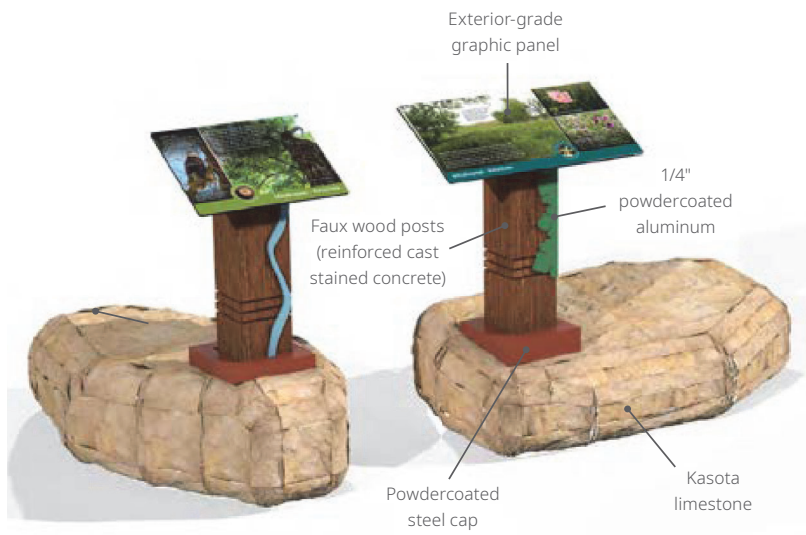
Original artwork by SMSC community member David Pickit is featured on some exhibit panels. A Dakota floral illustration (top image above) is included on the side panels of the orientation signs, wayside signs, and tactile maps. An illustration of riverfront plants and insects and the historic lime kiln (bottom image) is incorporated into the wayside graphic panels.

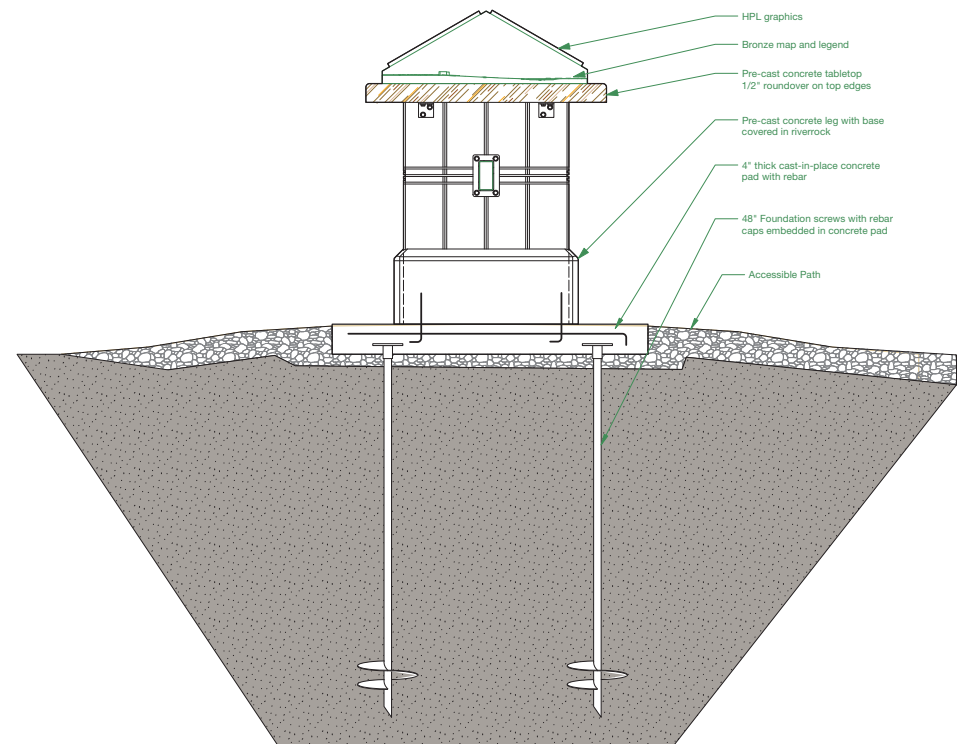


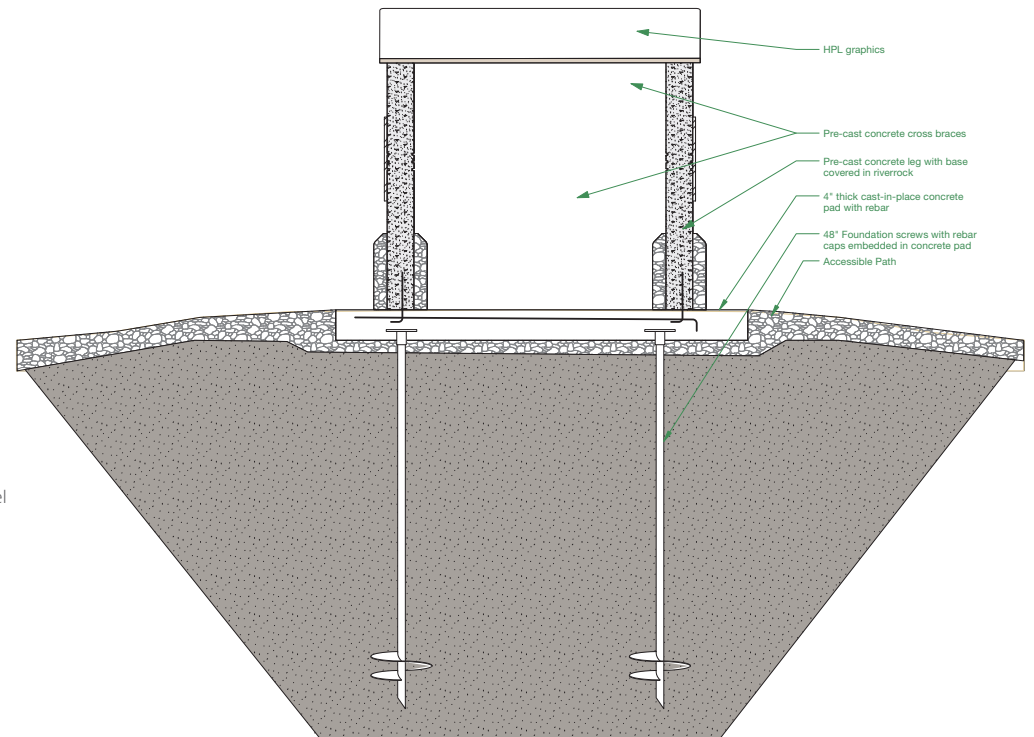
Orientation Sign











Sculpture



Bench provided by owner; recommend style A (Ari "Stix") from the City of Shakopee Parks Furnishing Matrix as shown here

