



# INKKLINGS

Bulletin of Interpretive Ideas

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## Killer Locations

### *Adverse conditions can shorten the lifespan of your sign*

There are certain conditions that will shorten a sign's life expectancy. Here are the conditions and some remedies.

#### Current Project List

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

Current projects include:

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

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

Current projects include:

- Mansfield Roller Mill
- Prophetstown SP
- Indiana Dunes SP
- Lincoln SP
- Harmonie SP
- McCormick's Creek SP
- Spring Mill SP
- Brown County SP
- Brookville Reservoir
- Charlestown SP
- Falls of the Ohio SP
- Fort Harrison SP
- Harmonie SP
- Patoka Reservoir
- Shakamak SP
- Summit Lake SP
- Ouabache SP
- Potato Creek SP
- Pokagon SP
- Tippicanoe River SP
- Lieber SRA
- Shades SP
- Turkey Run SP
- Hardy Lake Reservoir

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

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

#### Condition: Sun

Although the inks used on signs can be UV resistant, the more direct sunlight a sign receives the sooner the inks will begin to fade.

#### Solution

1. Face the sign away from the sun. A south-facing sign will fade faster than a north-facing sign. If possible, turn the sign away from direct sunlight.
2. Shade. Reduce the amount of direct sunlight by placing the sign in a shaded location.
3. Shelter. A roofed kiosk will prevent the sun from reaching the sign. (NOTE: It is important to remember that interpretive panels should allow the reader to face the sign *and* the object being interpreted. Blocking the view with a kiosk may not be an option.)



Direct sunlight will fade a sign over time.

#### Condition: Sand

Sand can be a problem in more than one way. Blowing sand is abrasive, damaging the surface of the sign. In a coastal area, sand dunes can bury a sign. Conversely, sand can quickly erode away and expose the base of a sign.

#### Solution

Some properties in dune locations have switched to base plate mounts for their signs. In the winter, storms cause the most abrasion and occur when the fewest people are visiting the park. The signs are detached from the base plates in the winter. In the spring, the signs are reattached to their pads. It is important to mark the pad locations with a GPS unit so that they can be more easily found.



Blowing sand is will damage a sign's surface.



Base plates allow a sign to be more easily removed if necessary.



Sand moves burying or conversely exposing the base of a sign.



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**Condition: Water**

Water is insidious and will eventually find a way through sealants or lamination.

**Solution**

Sign materials exist that are impervious to water. High-pressure laminates, for example, have their images printed directly on the surface. The sign is submersible.

By avoiding some of these harsh conditions, you can add years to your signs.



*This fiberglass embedded sign was submerged in a flood. After being cleaned, it was as good as new.*