



INKLINGS

Bulletin of Interpretive Ideas

Winter 2010, Volume 10, Issue 4

The Rules Smorgasbord

Current Project List

- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources**
Interpretive Exhibit Mgmt.
Turkey Run SP
- Interpretive Planning*
Chain O' Lakes SP
- Interpretive Sign*
Pokagon SP
- **Bloomington Parks and Recreation (IN)**
B-Line Trail signs, Phase II
- **NICHES Land Trust (IN)**
Interpretive Sign Design
- **Chikaming Open Lands (MI)**
Interpretive Sign and Brochure Design
- **City of Grand Ledge (MI)**
Interpretive Sign Design



When designing a trailhead sign, I ask the client, "What rules do you want on the sign?" There is generally a long pause followed by "I'll get back to you."

Developing rules that address your agency and user needs takes some thought. How do you want to come across? What are the specific issues presented by the property?

A few years ago, I began sending out my Rules Smorgasbord to clients wanting trailhead/orientation signs. It's a compilation of rules from previous projects. It helps to trigger

dialogue and direction for the client.

Many of the following rules are similar, but with different wording depending on the site and situation. So, take a look and think through which rules apply to your site, agency and audience!

Rules Smorgasbord



Alcohol/Weapons

Alcoholic beverages and weapons are prohibited.

Possession of firearms or alcohol is prohibited.



Fire

Burn fires in campground fire rings only.

Camping and ground fires are prohibited.



Aquatic Trails

Keep your eyes open for motor boat traffic.

Please wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device.



Hiking Trails

Stay on the trails.

Stay on the trail. The park contains sensitive habitats that are easily damaged by foot traffic.

Bike Trails

Wear proper safety attire.



Use of helmets by bicycle riders and skaters is strongly recommended.

Stop for vehicular traffic at all intersections.

When stopping, move off the pavement so that other trail users may pass safely.

Keep right except to pass.

Announce passing to other trail users.

Pass with caution.

Keep to your right.

The trail has multiple uses, so be considerate of one another.

Minimize impact, travel on durable surface.

Trails are for non-motorized use only.

Respect other visitors. Share our trails.



Hours

7:00 a.m. to posted closing times* (*5:00 - 9:00 p.m. varying seasonally)

Gate closes promptly at the posted times.

Trail closed from dusk to dawn.

INKLINGS is available in pdf format. To get on the pdf list, contact lise@interpretiveideas.com



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Interpretive Ideas

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Litter

Please do not litter.

Keep the park beautiful and prevent harm to wildlife by discarding trash in proper receptacles.

Carry out what you carry in.

Recycle your fishing line.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints.



Parking/Vehicles

Park only in designated areas.

Motorized vehicles are not permitted.

Only non-motorized forms of transportation are permitted.

Individuals requiring motorized wheelchairs are permitted to use the trail.



Personal Safety-

Bring insect repellent and sunscreen.

Travel with a companion or group.

No swimming.



Pets

Please be a courteous and responsible pet owner.

All dogs must be on a leash no longer than 8 feet.

Remember to clean up after your pet.

Pets must be on a leash and under direct control of owner.

Dispose of pet waste properly.

Please leave pets at home.

Keep pets on leash.



Private Property-

Please respect private property.

Respect the rights of the trail's neighbors.



Wildlife/Plants

All plants and wildlife are protected.

Keep wildlife wild – do not feed, approach or catch.

Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

Please don't trample, pick, or disturb native plants and wildflowers along the trail.

Plant removal is prohibited.

Animal collecting is prohibited.

Tree cutting is prohibited.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Be quiet. Loud noises disturb wildlife and diminish your ability to observe.

No hunting or trapping.