

Signage

Program:

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) owns and manages more than 800,000 acres of land, including 75 state parks, 24 state forests, 143 state nature preserves, and 150 wildlife areas. The department also has jurisdiction over more than 120,000 acres of inland waters; 7,000 miles of streams; 481 miles of Ohio River; and 2.25 million acres of Lake Erie. Signage is a critical component to the communication plan to provide visitors with information and direction, instilling a sense of comfort for those traveling within the parks. Standardization promotes familiarity across the portfolio of properties, increasing confidence and safety.

Location and Adjacencies: Signage starts from miles away as visitors approach a property. Directional signage shall be placed at each crossroad within each park. Directional signage, confidence markers or trail markers shall be placed at each cross-path within every park trail.

Sustainability: Refer to Sustainability for Capital Improvements Design Guidelines

Design Guidelines

The 2021 Division of Parks and Watercraft Sign Instruction Manual serves as a framework for cohesive signage across the state parks. Definitions, Specifications, and image examples for the various categories, uses, procurement, and maintenance of signs are detailed within the manual. Facilities supported by signage initiatives include resort and dining lodges, golf courses, campsites in campgrounds, cabins, visitor and nature centers, swimming beaches and swimming pools, boat ramps and boat docks, picnic areas, and land and water trails. Over 50 million overnight visitors are served each year. Ohio has more than 567,000 various types of registered watercraft.

All signs are to be compliant with all code requirements and industry standards. Consult industry standards for references and best practices to meet desired outcomes as outlined below.

Designs should consider staff and maintenance requirements for the intended useful life when determining cost effectiveness.

Reference Documents/Organizations:

The 2021 Division of Parks and Watercraft Sign Instruction Manual may be accessed at the following link:

[Signage Reference Manual](#)

All Authorities having Jurisdiction's rules and regulations shall be strictly adhered to for design by ODNR consultants. This may include Ohio EPA, Ohio Building Authorities, Ohio Department of Health, County Sewer Boards, County Health Departments and Local Authorities where appropriate. Should there be any conflicts or otherwise discrepancies, the ODNR design consultant shall bring it to the attention of ODNR immediately for discussion.

Sign Considerations:

- ADA Compliance
- Permitting
- USACE Property
- Archeological Requirements
- Flood Plain
- Wetlands
- Soil Conditions
- Existing Local Utilities Locations