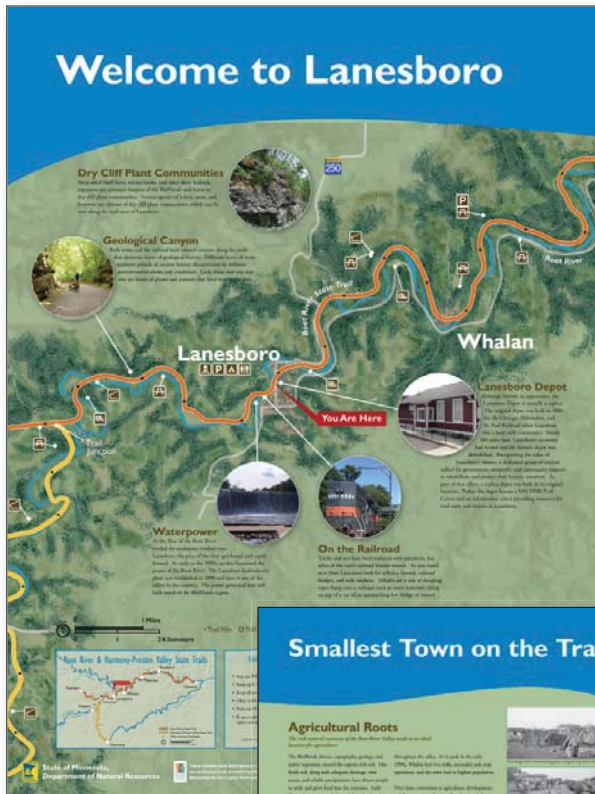


Root River & Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail Wayside Exhibit Planning, Design, and Fabrication

Southwestern Minnesota



The Blufflands Trail System includes the Root River and Harmony-Preston State Trails and follows the Root River Water Trail. The 42-mile long Root River State Trail meanders through eight southeastern Minnesota towns and links to the 18-mile long Harmony-Preston State Trail, which connects the towns of Harmony and Preston. The previous trail interpretation and orientation was designed and installed decades ago and needed to be refreshed and upgraded with new messages and interpretive elements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) prepared draft interpretive themes and consulted with local communities about the design and location for the new signs. The MnDNR then hired the 106 Group to finalize these plans, uncover stories, write text, and select images for the new interpretive elements—graphic panels and an updated trail guide. The panels and trail guide were re-designed with engaging and dynamic messages and a new layout. Sustainability is a key component of this project. Signs are durable, low maintenance, and vandal proof while using materials that are recycled, locally sourced, and efficiently produced whenever possible. Messages and stories are timeless and linked to sustaining Minnesota's unique natural and cultural resources for future generations to enjoy.

