



Harper Park Interpretive Sign and Display Survey – Results

Summary: On March 16, the Department of Community Development launched a survey aimed to inform the development of interpretive signs and displays at Harper Park. The survey presented three broad themes for interpretive signs (Natural history/ecology, Human history/ethnography, and Recreation) and asked participants what specific topics for each theme that they would like to see represented in Harper Park. The survey also gave participants an opportunity to identify other possible themes, provide any materials they may have that could be used in the development of signs, and to express if they had interest in participating in the development and/or review of signs. The survey was available for two weeks and received 13 responses – with four participants indicating they would like to be involved in the process. A summary for each major theme can be found below:



Natural history/ecology: The top topics are as follows:

- **Plants and animals** (7 out of 13 participants) Ideas include identification for commonly found wildlife, migratory patterns (time of year when you can expect to see certain animals), and Tribal uses of plants and salmon.
- **Estuary** (6 out of 13 participants) Ideas include the importance of low-energy, sheltered, shallow estuaries and well vegetated shorelines and what visitors can do to protect the estuary.

Other topic suggestions for this theme include bird watching, trail marking, brick and mosquito fleet history, how the land was formed, as well as how visitors can help maintain the park.

Human history/ethnography: The top topics are as follows:

- **Harper Brick & Tile Company** (6 out of 13 participants) Ideas include family stories about workers at the Company as well as using brick remnants and clay as much as possible in the construction of the signs.
- **Tribal camps and villages** (5 out of 13 participants) Ideas include information on how tribes used the land as well as maintained the estuary and park areas.

Other topic suggestions for this theme include information on hiking and water trails.

Recreation: The top topics are as follows:

- **Water Trails** (5 out of 13 participants)
- **Hiking trails** (4 out of 13 participants)

Other topic suggestions for this theme include plant identification along hiking trails, information on currents for boaters, and areas for sports, climbing, and views.

Other Themes/Artwork: Additional themes for interpretive signs and displays and artwork suggested by participants are as follows:

- Pottery
- Native artwork
- Art connected to the history of the park
- Oddities found on the beach
- Volunteer opportunities/ways visitors can help maintain the park
- Sundial to show distance to other cities and towns
- Large compass rose