



Rouge  
National Urban Park

# Common Look and Feel

## Final Report

BrookMcIlroy/ | **entro**

June 03, 2020

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# 1 Introduction



The Common Look and Feel (CLF) report for Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) provides design direction to a series of elements that will, over time, create a consistent and cohesive look and feel for built elements within the park. The objective of this report is to create a Common Look and Feel for RNUP that adheres to the Parks Canada brand so that park elements are both recognizable as Parks Canada assets as well as RNUP elements. The CLF design catalogue also aims to respectfully indigenize designed elements within the park to celebrate Indigenous culture and recognize a long history of Indigenous presence on this land.

The report was developed with Parks Canada Staff and key external stakeholders through a cooperative and iterative process. Additionally, RNUP's First Nations Advisory Council was extensively consulted with to develop a series of unique Indigenous motifs for use in the CLF design catalogue.

All design elements included within this catalogue have been designed with universal accessibility standards in mind.

# 2 Design Catalogue



# 2.1 Design Themes

There are two primary design themes in the CLF design catalogue.

First, a series of Indigenous motifs celebrate and recognize Indigenous culture and presence on this land. The motifs are incorporated throughout elements in the design catalogue and are intended to ignite visitor interest in an Indigenous world view. Section 2.3.2 provides a detailed explanation of the motifs and design process.

The second design theme for CLF elements is the use of materials that convey the raw, untamed, natural essence of the Park – Corten steel, rammed earth and reclaimed wood.

# 2.2 Materials and Colour Palette

## Materials

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**Corten steel**



**Reclaimed wood**



**Rammed earth**

A simple palette of three primary materials has been used throughout the CLF report: Corten steel, reclaimed wood and rammed earth. These three materials should be used as presented in the designed elements of this report and should also be used as much as possible, where appropriate, for other elements within the Park to ensure consistency from place to place.

### Corten Steel

Corten Steel (also known as weathering steel) is high strength, low alloy weldable structural steel with exceptional resistance to weathering. The chemical composition of the steel allows for the creation of a layer of protective rust that does not alter the mechanical characteristics of the steel. Once developed, this layer of rust not only protects the steel from long-term weathering, but also has a texture and colour which better relate to the natural setting within RNUP. Additionally, Corten steel has a lower carbon footprint than traditional steel and requires less ongoing maintenance.

### Reclaimed Wood

The use of reclaimed wood as one of the primary materials for CLF elements expresses the park's significant natural character as well as its long history of agriculture. Historic barns and agricultural structures throughout the park, now owned by Parks Canada, create an abundant source of reclaimed wood and aged barn board that can be adaptively reused on new CLF elements within the park. It will further celebrate RNUP's natural heritage – including its significant stands of mature Carolinian forest.

## Rammed Earth

Rammed earth is a building system which uses compacted subsoil to create walls. As it uses local subsoil, the colour and striation patterns for each wall are unique to the specific location in which they are created. The diversity of lands, soils and subsoils within RNUP will be reflected in an equally diverse range of wall colours and patterns. This metaphorically reflects the variety of people, cultures, and natural features that are connected to park lands.

The construction process for rammed earth starts with sourcing subsoil locally. Source soil should be similar to soil found within the park. The subsoil is then brought and mixed on the building site with a small amount of binding agent and a waterproofing agent. These two agents contribute to the already existing longevity and durability of the rammed earth. Test cylinders of each rammed earth mix are created and run through various strength tests to further ensure each wall's structural integrity. Next, the subsoil mix is shoveled into the forms and then compacted ('rammed') in sections, or 'lifts'. These lifts are what create the striated, asymmetrical wave patterns that make rammed earth walls so aesthetically unique. The forms are removed the next day, revealing a completed rammed earth wall.

Additional considerations for rammed earth:

- A series of mock-up walls should be commissioned to test various subsoils from the park. Mock-ups should be evaluated and an ideal mock-up selected, which will be the template for all future rammed earth walls. The template mock-up will define the colours, tinting, and striation for the RNUP rammed earth walls. There should be a variety of colours/tinting across the park, reflective of the variety of subsoils throughout the park boundaries.
- An anti-graffiti coating should be applied on all rammed earth walls and reapplied as per the manufacturers specifications. There are several supplier/installers of anti-graffiti coatings in the GTA.
- Rammed earth walls should be inspected regularly for graffiti. Graffiti should be removed promptly following the anti-graffiti coating manufacturer's specifications.
- Rammed earth walls should be inspected annually to ensure they remain defect-free. Repairs can be conducted as required for major issues that affect the overall aesthetic of the wall, or on an annual basis for minor repairs.



Examples of rammed earth

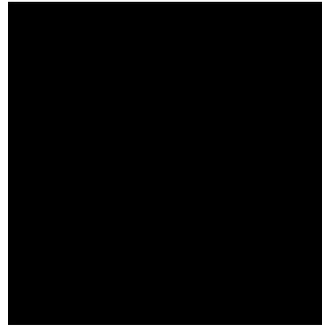
## Primary Colours



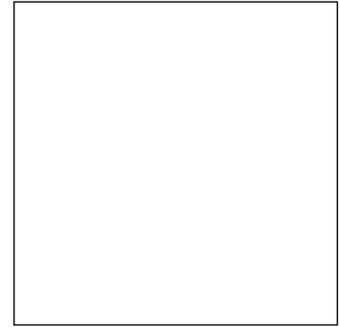
RNUP Plum  
PMS 266



Heritage Green  
PMS 553



Black



White

The two primary colours, Heritage Green and Urban Park Plum, support the unique Federal Identity of Rouge National Urban Park as a park within the Parks Canada system. Therefore, the familiar dark green for all Sign panels has to be maintained. All vehicular and pedestrian sign panels that use the green colour have to be retroreflective and include a white border.

The RNUP plum colour is the selected colour to identify the Rouge National Urban Park within the parks system and will be selectively used on interpretive and information panels, as well as an accent on Leading Markers. Black and White are mostly used for text information to provide clear contrast.

## Secondary Colours



Warm Gray 2C



PMS 7527



PMS 7504



PMS 134



PMS 718



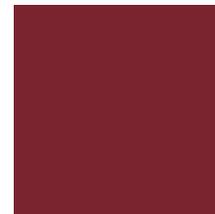
PMS 7771



PMS 376



PMS 534



PMS 188

A colour palette of warm light hues is chosen in contrast to a muted range of darker tones. Inspiration for these warm light hues comes from the rich heritage of RNUP, including soils, the tones of the 'Three Sisters' (such as corn), and the colours of wampum beads and turtle shells.

These colours provide a wide range from accents to background colours for all forms of applications within the park like exhibits, printed material that is exclusive to the park, and interpretative information. Over time these colours will help to create a distinct look for RNUP.

## 2.3 Indigenous Design Elements



## 2.3.1 Indigenous Placemaking

The Indigenous Design Studio of Brook McIlroy has worked closely with the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) to develop a Common Look and Feel (CLF) that would represent the Indigenous Peoples and history of the land. The goal was to create a design that reflected all the nations as well as Rouge National Urban Park.

The Indigenous Design Studio (IDS) is a critical practice area drawing together teams of Indigenous architects, designers and student interns. Team members come from diverse Indigenous backgrounds and traditions. The Indigenous designers are deeply interested in cultural research and exploration of how Indigenous cultures and innovative sustainable design practices find expression in contemporary place-making.

The overall design concept for the RNUP CLF was developed through research, community surveys, meetings with RNUP's First Nations Advisory Circle and through park visits and experiences. Past engagement indicated that the Rouge River was very important to the area. The River flowing through the park creates natural, cultural and agricultural landscapes, and is home to amazing biodiversity; contains some of the last remaining working farms in Greater Toronto Area; Carolinian ecosystems, marshes, and beaches; and supports over 1,700 different species of animals and plants.

Brook McIlroy designers explored wampum beads as an Indigenous way to record stories of the land, animals and water. The tubular beads were manufactured from Atlantic coast seashells and traded inland for items such as furs, corn, beans, and squash. The beads held considerable value in eastern and maritime Canada for ornament, ceremony, and diplomacy. Wampum beads were used as currency and threaded on string or woven into bracelets, necklaces, and sashes, and later into belts that served as physical representation of political agreements.

The IDS at Brook McIlroy explored how the Rouge River could be incorporated into the wampum beads to reflect the sinew or string used to bring the beads together and tell a story.

The wampum motif for RNUP is an exploration of the creative process of wampum beading. The idea is not to create a wampum belt, but to celebrate the skilled

artisanal act of turning shells and sinew into beautiful records and stories. The wampum design is not specific to a particular nation; however, it is used to represent aspects of the park in a way that reflects Indigenous art and storytelling. The primary design motif has a loose sketch of the Rouge River flowing into eleven wampum beads that represent each of the ten communities and Rouge National Urban Park, united as one through the river. Wampum-based patterns are also used to represent animals, water, and vegetation that are important to Indigenous groups in the ten nations group. The motifs can be used as a teaching point to talk about Indigenous culture, cultural collaboration, and how together all communities are walking side-by-side and nation-to-nation.

The design is also intended to be playful so that children of all ages can be engaged and have a deeper understanding of the land, vegetation and animals that were and are important to Indigenous Peoples. The patterns developed are a record and tell stories of place and relationships.

The patterns may be used throughout the park, as depicted in this report, on benches, signs, paving and integrated into architecture. The patterns may be also integrated into additional elements in the park if the proposed use is - using a designers good sense of judgment - respectful to Indigenous people and culture.

***“The River were our roads, a way to connect people and land.”***

– Louis Lesage, Representative from Huron-Wendat Nation

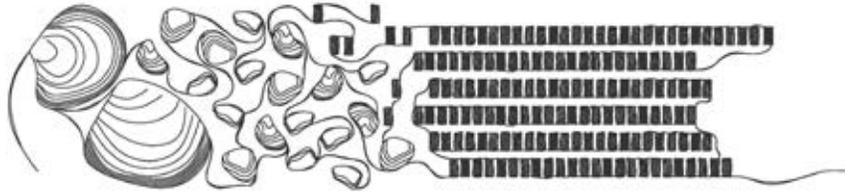
***“The Two Row Wampum is one of the oldest treaty relationships between the original people of Turtle Island and European immigrants.”***

– Tom Cowie - Representative from Hiawatha First Nation

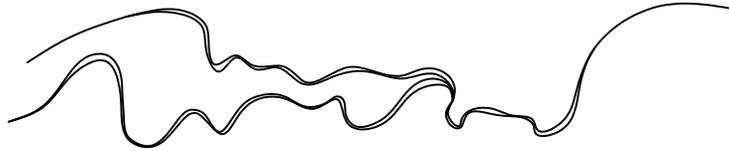
***“Wampum is a reminder that we are all Treaty People – a chance to educate people of the significance of the Wampum.”***

– Louis Lesage - Representative from Huron-Wendat Nation

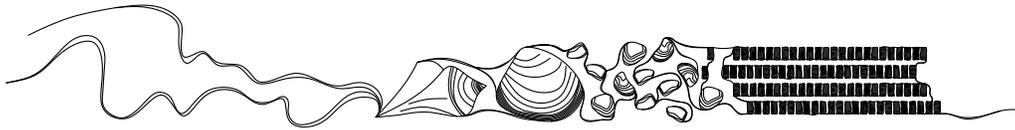
Concept Drawings



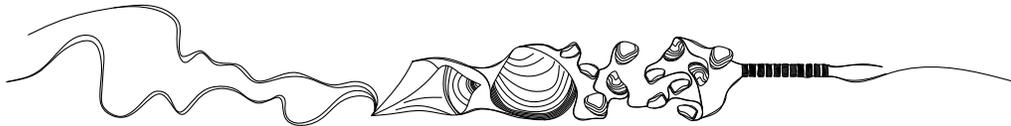
BASE DRAWINGS ILLUSTRATING PROCESS OF SHELL TO WAMPUM BEADS



ABSTRACT DRAWING OF ROUGE RIVER AND LITTLE ROUGE CREEK MEETING TO FORM LARGER ROUGE RIVER



ABSTRACT DRAWING OF LARGER ROUGE RIVER AND SHELLS INTO WAMPUM BEADS



ABSTRACT DRAWING OF LARGER ROUGE RIVER AND SHELLS INTO 11 WAMPUM BEADS WHICH REPRESENT THE TEN NATIONS AND ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK



STRING OF WAMPUM BEADS

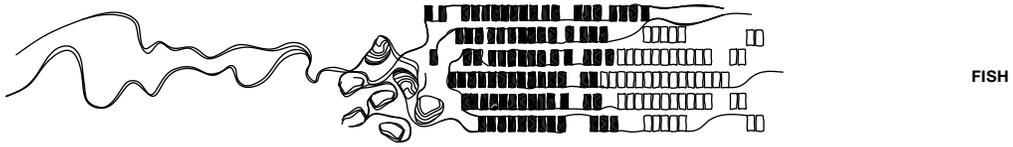


ROUGE RIVER FLOWING TO FORM STRING OF 10 WAMPUM BEADS SIGNIFYING THE TEN NATIONS

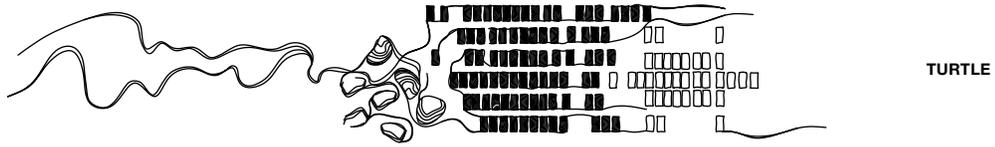


ROUGE RIVER FLOWING TO FORM STRING OF 11 WAMPUM BEADS SIGNIFYING THE TEN NATIONS & ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

Concept Drawings



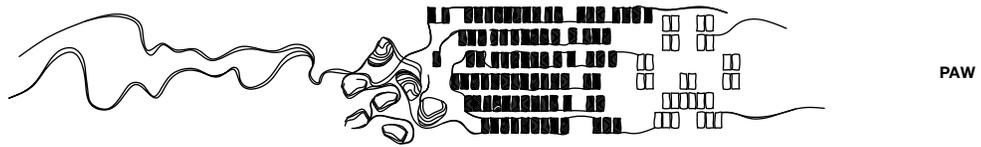
FISH



TURTLE



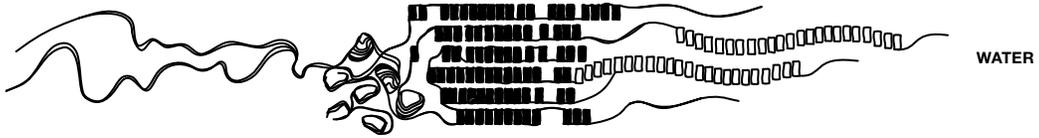
HOOF



PAW



TALON



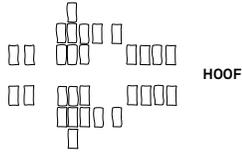
WATER



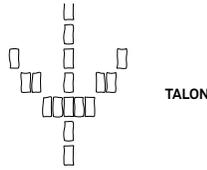
CIRCLE

ABSTRACT DRAWING SHOWING ROUGE RIVER FLOWING TO FORM SHELLS THEN TO WAMPUM BEADS AND ULTIMATELY DEPICTING ELEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE

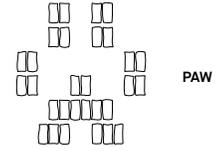
Concept Drawings



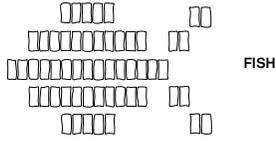
HOOF



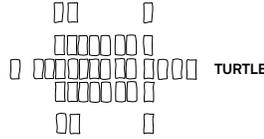
TALON



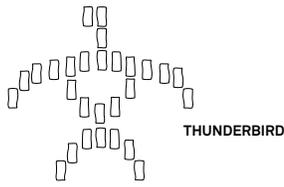
PAW



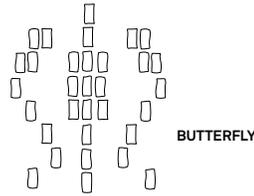
FISH



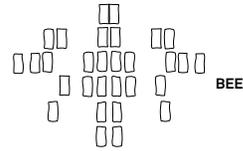
TURTLE



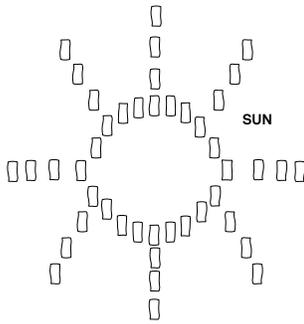
THUNDERBIRD



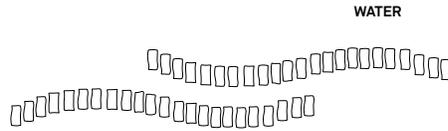
BUTTERFLY



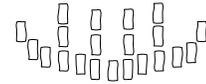
BEE



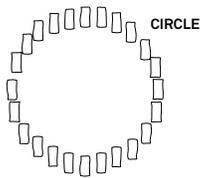
SUN



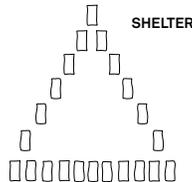
WATER



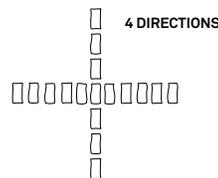
CANOE



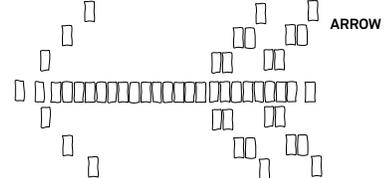
CIRCLE



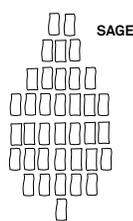
SHELTER



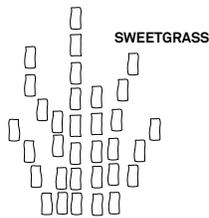
4 DIRECTIONS



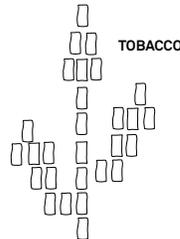
ARROW



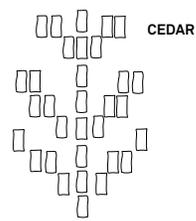
SAGE



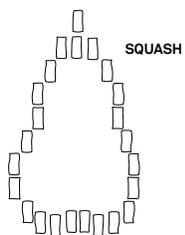
SWEETGRASS



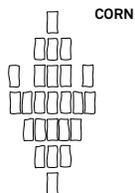
TOBACCO



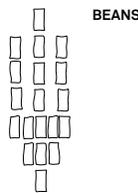
CEDAR



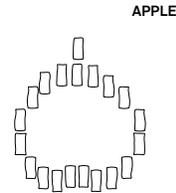
SQUASH



CORN



BEANS



APPLE

# 2.4 Architectural Elements



The following guidelines are provided as a reference resource as buildings and structures are designed for the park. Each building and site has its own particular context in RNUP cultural landscapes and set of design and programming opportunities based on its location, history and the evolving role of the park. The design process will therefore require a process of consultation with stakeholders to determine the appropriate objectives and influences that inform the design direction for each location.

The Rouge National Urban Park spans a vast area that has a multitude of historical, natural and cultural landscapes with narratives and stories that span millennia. In this respect the inventory of seven cultural landscapes identified within the park contained in the Parks Canada document: *Preliminary Inventory of Cultural Landscapes Rouge National Urban Park - Draft, May 9, 2018* provides an important resource for the design process. The preliminary cultural landscapes are based on seven Historic Themes and include:

- First Nations Presence
- Euro-Canadian Settlement
- Transportation Corridor and Infrastructures
- Winds of change: Hazel and the Emergence of Conservation
- Recreation
- Food Movements
- Urbanization/Suburbanization

While these historic themes reference what has come before and what exists today, they do not restrict designers from considering a contemporary direction in built form inspired by the opportunity RNUP presents to address imperatives including a sustainable future.

The intent of these guidelines is to inform – not restrict – the creative design process. These guidelines should therefore be considered throughout the design process, while acknowledging that alternative solutions may be appropriate in instances not specifically identified within the following document.

Finally, these guidelines are intended to be applied only to visitor facing buildings, not tenant properties.

### 2.4.1.1 Guiding Principles

- Buildings, structures and site development in RNUP should create an immersive experience in nature for visitors with a strong sense of place in harmony with the natural environment of the park.
- Buildings, structures and site development should support the ecological function of the park and contribute positively to its sustainability.
- Sense of place may be derived from heritage with reference to both natural and cultural heritage and Indigenous and settler heritage – but may also reflect contemporary expression as a demonstration of the evolving role and identity of RNUP as a national park within an urban region and a unique opportunity for innovation demonstrating sustainable design practices.

### 2.4.1.2 Sustainable Design

- Buildings should, where feasible, reflect sustainable systems of construction and operations including energy strategies.
- Where existing buildings within RNUP and region are surplus, consideration should be given to their repurpose.
- Where older structures within RNUP require decommissioning, explore opportunities to reuse old building materials and architectural elements when possible and incorporate into new buildings.
- The use of wood as a primary construction material is encouraged, reflecting its performance as a carbon sink.
- Other construction systems and materials that support the demonstration of sustainability may be appropriate including rammed earth, weathering steel, masonry, stone, and straw bale.
- Renewable energy should be prioritized.

### 2.4.1.3 Natural Heritage

- New buildings and structures should have a symbiotic, complementary relationship with natural elements including trees and planting.
- Site development adjacent to buildings that reference a particular historical theme within a cultural landscape should consider plant selections that coincide with that historical theme.
- Where possible, buildings and structures should be integrated in proximity to existing trees and tree canopies with minimal clearing of sites.
- Consideration should be given for how buildings and structures can support non-human habitats.
- Parking areas should be designed in accordance with LID (Low-Impact Development) practices and should be integrated into the landscape using extensive naturalized planting.

### 2.4.1.4 Cultural Heritage

- The use of a contemporary architectural expression should be considered for certain building uses and types, including major visitor centres that serve as sustainable building demonstration projects incorporating net positive energy, green roofs, solar orientation, integrated photo-voltaic arrays, and innovative materials.
- Buildings that have a high public profile and role, such as a cultural or visitor centre, may consider traditional Indigenous building forms as a potential reference (Longhouses, Wigwams etc.) – without creating a literal replica.
- The design of buildings that reference or replicate Indigenous architectural forms should be designed in consultation with members of the First Nations Advisory Circle.



Interpreted longhouse structure - Exterior

- With the exception of Indigenous archaeological sites, design reference to heritage influences should avoid literal replication in favour of elemental, simplified references to heritage forms including massing, roof profiles and use of materials.
- Consideration should be given to the re-utilization of materials from decommissioning historic structures in RNUP such as large hand-hewn wood timber to enrich the interpretative experience and enhance the historical association between new and old. Re-use and re-purposing of historic materials enhances the compatibility with the heritage and cultural character of RNUP’s landscape and contributes towards environmentally conscious design.
- The character of small, support buildings within RNUP should consider both contemporary ‘green building’ concepts or the tradition of settler farmstead buildings as appropriate to the cultural landscape in which it is located.
- Principles for new buildings and structures in RNUP should extend to incorporate the general qualities

of the relationship of built heritage to the sites and landscape of early farmsteads such as:

- their orientation on the site;
- their relationship and interconnection to other adjacent structures;
- the interpretation of farmstead patterns in clusters;
- their discernible features and viewscapes upon approach, and compatibility with the rural and prevalent township grid layout of concession roads.



Christian Reesor homestead



Interpreted longhouse structures – Interior

### 2.4.1.5 Support Buildings and Structures

- Support buildings and structures including public washrooms, storage and utility buildings, picnic shelters, and shade structures should consider referencing the heritage forms of simple agricultural buildings from the settler periods.
- Sloping roofs, wrap-around or front porches, wood cladding and wood or metal roofing should be considered as common elements for support buildings and structures.



Traditional settler rural & agricultural structure



Porches with deep overhang for weather protection

- Where two or more uses are considered for a site (for instance, a public washroom and a utility or storage building), the settler farmstead tradition of multiple clustered buildings should be considered as a source of inspiration.
- Weather-protected porches and deep overhangs should be integrated into buildings where possible.

**Roofs:**

- For buildings referencing settler vernacular architecture, standing seam metal roofs, could be considered using a natural metal colour similar to local agricultural buildings. Cedar shake roofs may be considered as an alternate roofing material for smaller structures. For buildings using contemporary expression as a sustainable demonstration, green roofs should be considered.



**Standing seam metal roof**



**Cedar shake**



**Green roof**



**Board and batten cladding**

**Cladding:**

- For buildings referencing settler heritage architecture vertical board and batten wood cladding or stone is recommended for exterior walls.



**Stone cladding**

**Security screens:**

- Where windows or doors require security enclosure when not in use, sliding barn doors and shutters should be considered as a securing device.

- The design for support buildings and structures may alternatively consider a contemporary expression as a demonstration of sustainable practices.
- For buildings based on a contemporary expression of sustainable design, green roofs, roof mounted solar/ photo-voltaic panels, and cladding materials including rammed earth, weathering steel, stone masonry, and straw bale should be considered.
- Consider the use of features compatible with and characteristic of early agriculture architectural vernacular in RNUP to maintain principles of hierarchy and subordination of secondary and principal buildings.



Examples of rammed earth



Weathering steel



Traditional stone construction in a contemporary form

### 2.4.1.6 Additions to Existing Buildings

- Additions of new, visitor facing buildings and structures are an intrinsic response to the adaptation of the progression and evolution of land use through the years. The following extracts from *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, 2nd Edition, (Section 4.1 – Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes, including Heritage Districts and Section 4.5 – Materials)* can be used as a valuable tool for the incorporation of principles which are pertinent to the integration of new buildings and structures in the RNUP landscape.

<b>4.1.1</b>	<b>EVIDENCE OF LAND USE</b>	
.12	Restrain from adding a new feature that alters or obscures a continued land use or introducing a new feature that is incompatible in function with the past or continuing land use.	Land use (human use of the natural environment) evolves over time.
<b>4.1.2</b>	<b>EVIDENCE OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICE</b>	
.11	New interventions should not obscure, damage or destroy or be incompatible with the conservation of features of a cultural landscape that express or support past or continuing traditional practices	Understanding of a local landscape by a cultural community who has a long association with that place.
<b>4.1.3</b>	<b>LAND PATTERNS</b>	
.13	Conserving the interrelationship of natural (such as forests, valleys, rivers, meadows) and human-made elements of a landscape (such as features, circulation arteries, roads and railway tracks, trails, agriculture acreages).	Compatibility of size, scale and form.
<b>4.1.4</b>	<b>SPATIAL ORGANIZATION</b>	
.13	New interventions should not obscure or damage spatial organization of a landscape, circulation corridors, relationship between built features. New built features should be compatible in size, scale and form.	Positioning of natural and built elements and how they are visually or physically connected.
<b>4.1.5</b>	<b>VISUAL RELATIONSHIPS</b>	
.15	Respect the historic visual relationship and pictorial composition in a cultured landscape. New built features should not obscure or eliminate historic viewscales. Consider the visual impact new technologies may have on a cultural landscape.	Viewscape and pictorial composition of a landscape can evoke an emotional response.
<b>4.1.6</b>	<b>CIRCULATION</b>	
.14	Consideration shall be given to positioning of new buildings and structures to be compatible with circulation, paths and access points which contribute to the character of the place.	
<b>4.1.7</b>	<b>ECOLOGICAL FEATURES</b>	
.12	Introduce new built elements that do not have a negative impact on the condition of ecological features of the site which have defined heritage attributes. Conserve the natural structure, function and dynamics of ecosystems.	
<b>4.5</b>	<b>MATERIALS</b>	
	Materials often contribute to the heritage character of a place. character defining elements of a historic place. Consider sourcing and integrating materials from historic constructions which no longer exist into new buildings and structures.	Authentic hardware, hand-hewn timber, stone, bricks, heritage windows, untreated wood siding, cast iron features etc.
	When compatible, consider preserving the patina resulting from the natural aging of re-utilized materials to enhance and enrich the heritage character of place and interpretive experience.	

Frit patterns for interior and exterior glass may incorporate Indigenous design motifs, as illustrated here. Wherever possible, prominent areas of buildings should utilize these motifs to Indiginize interior places in the park.



Exterior frit pattern



Interior frit pattern

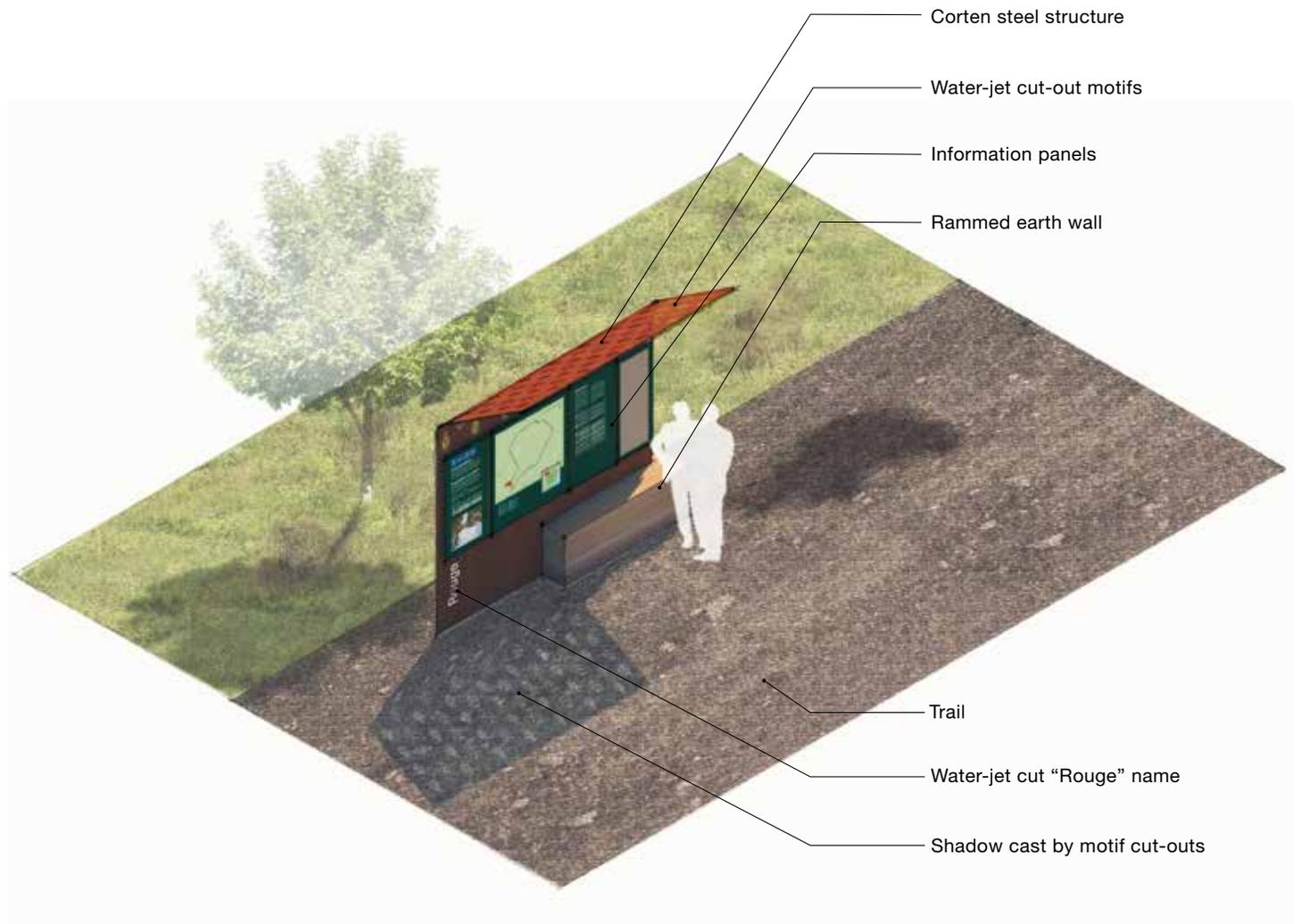
# 2.5 Trail Structures and Furnishings



The Trailhead Shade Structure combines several Common Look and Feel elements into one trailhead feature. The standard Parks Canada trailhead information boards are set on a weathering steel structure, with a rammed earth base. Water-jet cut through the weathering steel overhang – which also provides shade – are Indigenous motifs which draw the eye and will cast shadows on the ground in front of the structure. The motifs used for each trailhead shade structure should be selected based on the interpretive themes at each site.

The Trailhead Shade Structure is designed to be next to the Trailhead Sign, with the height of the sign and shade structure aligning perfectly, so as to look like one composition. The Trailhead Shade Structure can, however, be decoupled from the Sign on secondary trail entry sites or where a structure and sign are not necessary.

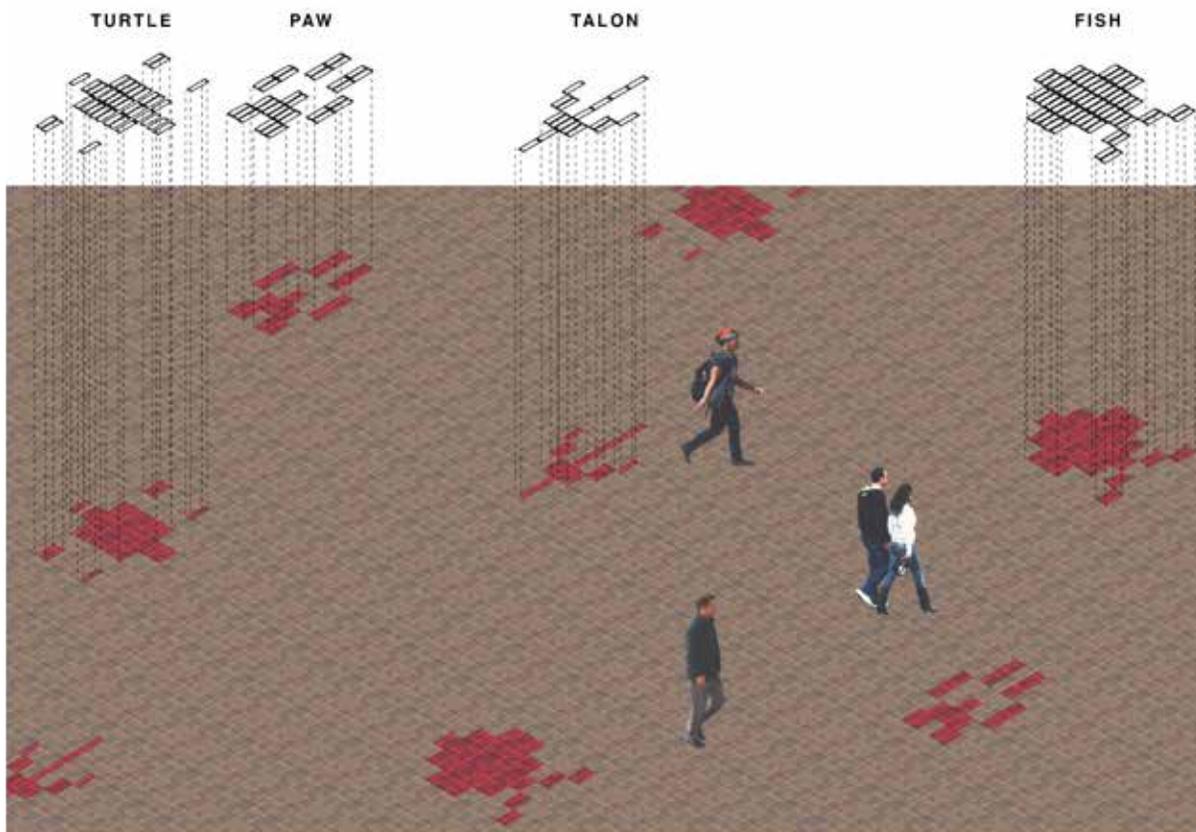
The Trailhead Shade Structure is not intended to provide rain protection. It will provide some shade, a stoop to rest upon briefly, and protection for signage elements.



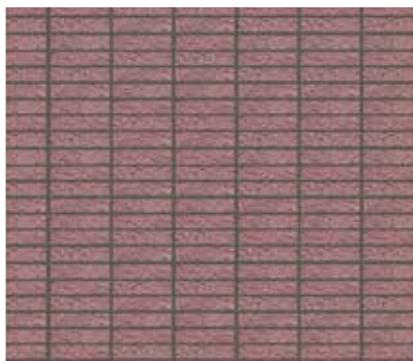
Two unit paving patterns for RNUP have been designed to be considered for varying applications.

The second unit paving pattern is a simple field of reddish-tinted units only, set in a stacked bond pattern.

The first unit paving pattern uses the Indigenous design motifs to celebrate Indigenous cultures in the park. This paving pattern is a two-colour mix: a reddish-tinted paver for the motif elements set on a grey background. The pattern is a stacked bond, reminiscent of the wampum beading pattern.



Unit Paving Pattern 1



Unit Paving Pattern 2

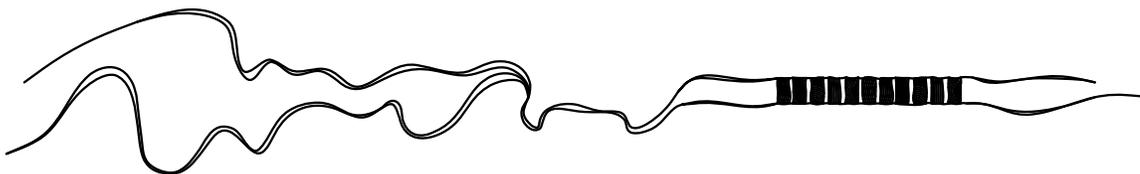
RNUP Indigenous motifs can be applied to park benches using pyrography or laser etching.



RNUP motifs could be applied to wood site furnishings using pyrography or laser etching



Pyrography or laser etching on wood



RNUP motif

The Parks Canada-branded fire ring with the beaver logo cutout may be utilized. The fire ring should be made out of Corten steel to align with the RNUP material palette. Red-brick unit paving stones may also be incorporated around the fire pit.



**Parks Canada standard fire ring**

Environmental Graphics are supersized graphics that are a whimsical iteration of either the “Rouge” name or an Indigenous design motif, both in the RNUP plum colour (that denotes an urban park).

Many trails in the park cross Municipal or Regional roads. Currently, these road crossings are poorly marked. Environmental Graphics could be used to better demarcate these crossings, which will increase safety and better highlight trails within the park.

These graphics should be applied to road asphalt using a custom thermoplastic application.

Environmental Graphics can also be applied to existing and proposed park infrastructure such as bridge surfaces, bridge bents, retaining walls, etc. When applied to existing infrastructure, thermoplastic or acrylic coatings may be used as they are very durable, especially on vertical surfaces or when no vehicles are driving on them.

Poetry fragments from local writers can be integrated into boardwalks and walkways throughout the park. These interventions are meant to be discovered while hiking and will spark moments of joy. Poetry fragments should be cut through a weathering steel strip and may be left open to air or include a purple backing.



Indigenous design motif applied to existing infrastructure in the park can enrich one’s experience and reinforce the RNUP identity

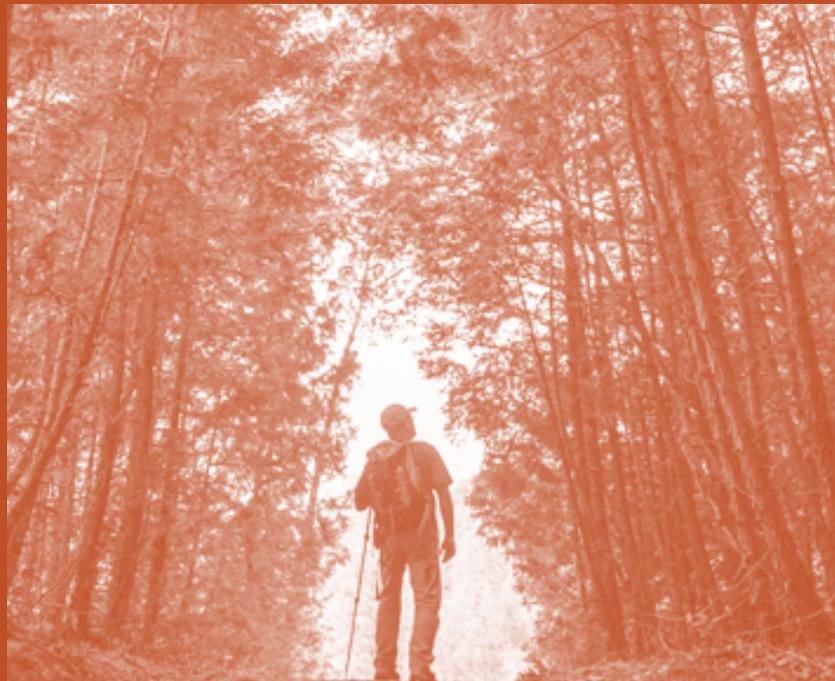


Thermoplastic asphalt markings at trail road crossings



Poetry integrated into wood boardwalks using water-jet cut Corten steel strips with an optional purple backing

# 2.6 Park Signage and Markers



Rouge National Urban Park is the first National park in Canada directly connected to a large urban centre. It will set a precedent for future developments and for new and innovative visitor and outreach programs and activities. Visitors of all ages and abilities will be guided on their visit through a system of unique and inspiring signage programs that start with a powerful gateway at welcome areas. On the following pages, the main elements of the signage and wayfinding program are documented and explained. This signage program will support the vision for the park, the Indigenous and cultural heritage, and is reflective of the park's ecological integrity.

The signage program will provide visitors with clear information and will contribute elements for curiosity and exploration.

The main categories of the signage program are: Entrance Identifier, Trailhead Signs and Shade Structure, Fingerboard Signs, Interpretive Panels and Leading Markers. However, this system can be expanded if required.

We have chosen rammed earth as a structural material. Rammed earth is combined with Corten steel, a material that weathers – rusts – to a certain degree and then stabilizes and even protects the steel. Both materials need none or very little maintenance and are hard to vandalize. The natural warm brown tone of Corten is the perfect background for the green sign panels. To create additional interest and to provide a hint of the environment that the park or trail is set in, the steel panel includes cut-outs of forms and shapes that either grow out of the panel, like in the Entrance Identifier, or are cut-out from the panel itself like in the Trailhead Sign. The cut-outs in the panel are rendered in a grid pattern that is associated with the wampum beads, a theme throughout the park.

Fingerboard Signs will guide visitors on the trails. The fingerboards that are typical for Parks Canada are marked with a burnished Rouge name on the post and are cut with the shapes of birds or other animals in Corten as a cap on top of the post.

Interpretive Panels are simply bent Corten panels. The information panel itself is digitally printed in a way that does not fade or is easily vandalized. The width of these panels depends on the information that needs to be displayed.

As entrances to a trail are sometimes hidden or not easily recognizable from a passing car, Leading Road Markers are positioned leading up to an entrance and therefore prepare the driver to slow down. These wooden posts carry stylized patterns and a band in the plum colour, the signature colour for National Urban Parks.

Having arrived at the site, Leading Markers fabricated in Corten in two sizes introduce the Indigenous drawing of the Rouge Rivers with eleven wampum beads, a reoccurring theme in the park, as well as the Rouge name stenciled out on the top of the panel. The larger one is positioned within the entrance of the park, the smaller size marks the entrances to a trail.

The signage program is designed to inform and enhance the experience of the park and will establish RNUP as Canada's foremost "learn-to" park – an urban gateway for enduring and inspired discovery of the outdoors and the cultural heritage.

The Entrance Identifier signifies the RNUP site entrance to vehicular users. A simple cut-out at the top provides immediate recognition for drivers arriving from a distance at a higher speed.



This alternative Entrance Identifier shows a corn plant cut-out. The wampum bead pattern is incorporated as corn kernels. This example depicts the diversity of icons that can be chosen for the cut-out, customized for each of RNUP's site entrances.



ENTRANCE ID SIGN – ALTERNATIVE CUT-OUT

The Trailhead Sign identifies the entrance of a trail to visitors on foot. It can stand alone when the full Trailhead Sign and Shade Structure is not required. As it is designed for pedestrians, cut-outs are incorporated within the Corten panel instead of sticking out, to avoid vandalism.

A site-specific wampum bead pattern is used for the cut-out. The repetition of wampum patterns reminds visitors of the heritage and the connection First Nations share with RNUP sites.



The Trailhead Sign and Trailhead Shade Structure can be positioned together, allowing the two elements to work in tandem. The sign panel and information panels line up when the two structures are placed together.

Additional trail information will be mounted to the Trail Shade Structure at Parks Canada standard height for

accessibility. Site specific wampum bead patterns and the Rouge name visually connect the two structures.

The Trailhead Shade Structure can be decoupled from the Sign on secondary trail entry sites or where a structure and sign are not necessary.



LEFT SIDE VIEW

TRAILHEAD SIGN & SHADE STRUCTURE

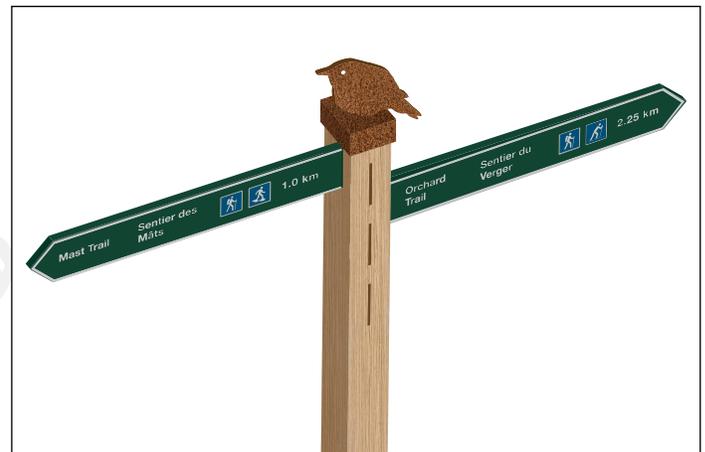
## 2.6.3 Fingerboard Sign

The Fingerboard Sign follows the Parks Canada signage standards. To make it distinctly Rouge, a site specific cut-out is added to the sign post as a topper to highlight the abundance of wildlife in the park. The topper cut-out

will be a representation of a specific breed of bird or animal in the park and will be scaled according to its “life-size”. The Rouge name is also laser-etched to the sign post identifying it as being a part of RNUP.



FINGERBOARD SIGN



ISOMETRIC DETAIL

These alternative examples of the Fingerboard Sign topper capture birds that inhabit the park. Additional toppers may include other park wildlife such as the Blanding Turtle, the Grey Tree Frog or wild Salmon.



ALTERNATIVE CUT-OUTS

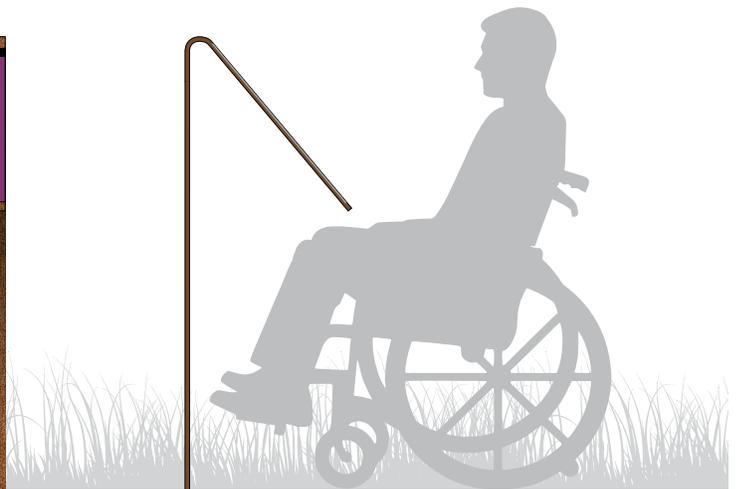
Site specific wampum patterns are cut into the Corten steel structure of the Interpretive Panel, providing a consistent look-and-feel. The Rouge name is applied to the surface of the Corten, also enforcing a sense of place.

These alternative examples of the Interpretive Panel Structure show the flexibility of width sizes depending on the amount of content. Additionally, these examples show several other applications of the wampum bead pattern.

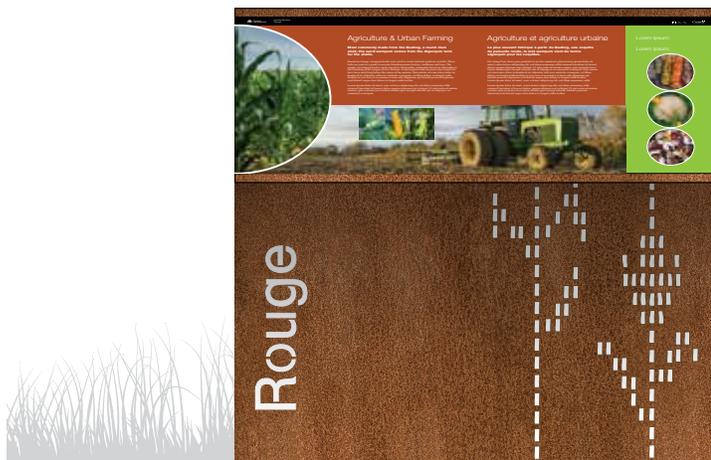
Interpretive faces are digitally printed and inset to the Corten structure, allowing for future updates. Knee and toe space are provided to ensure wheelchair users can access the Interpretive Panel Structure.



INTERPRETIVE PANEL



SIDE VIEW



INTERPRETIVE PANEL – ALTERNATIVE SIZES & CUTOUTS



The Type A Leading Marker is located prominently near the vehicular entrance, while the smaller-scale Type B Leading Marker is located at the trail entrance of RNUP sites. The Rouge name is paired with the eleven wampum bead pattern emphasizing RNUP’s connection to the two Rouge rivers.



Type A



Type B

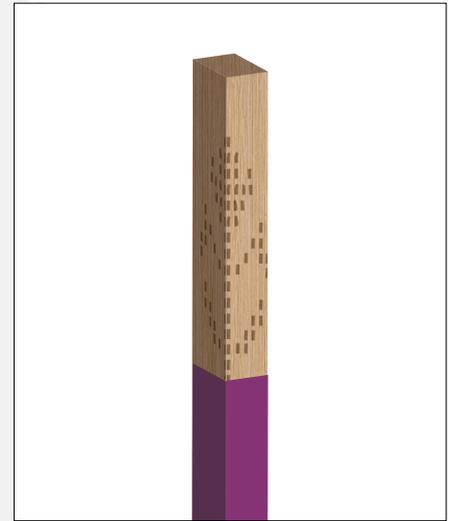
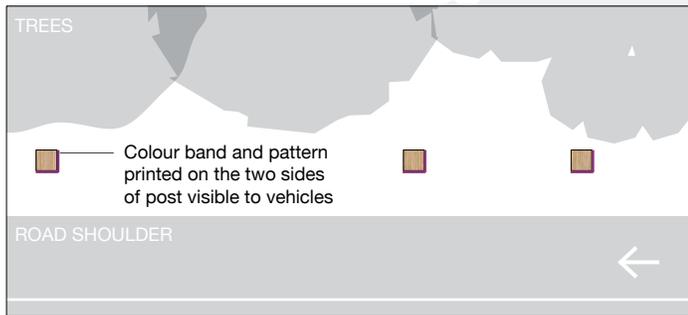
# 2.7 Arrival and Placemaking Elements



The Leading Road Marker allows for additional vehicular support upon RNUP site entry approach. The markers act as breadcrumbs clearly leading visitors to site entry points that might not be easily spotted from a distance, or located along a winding road.

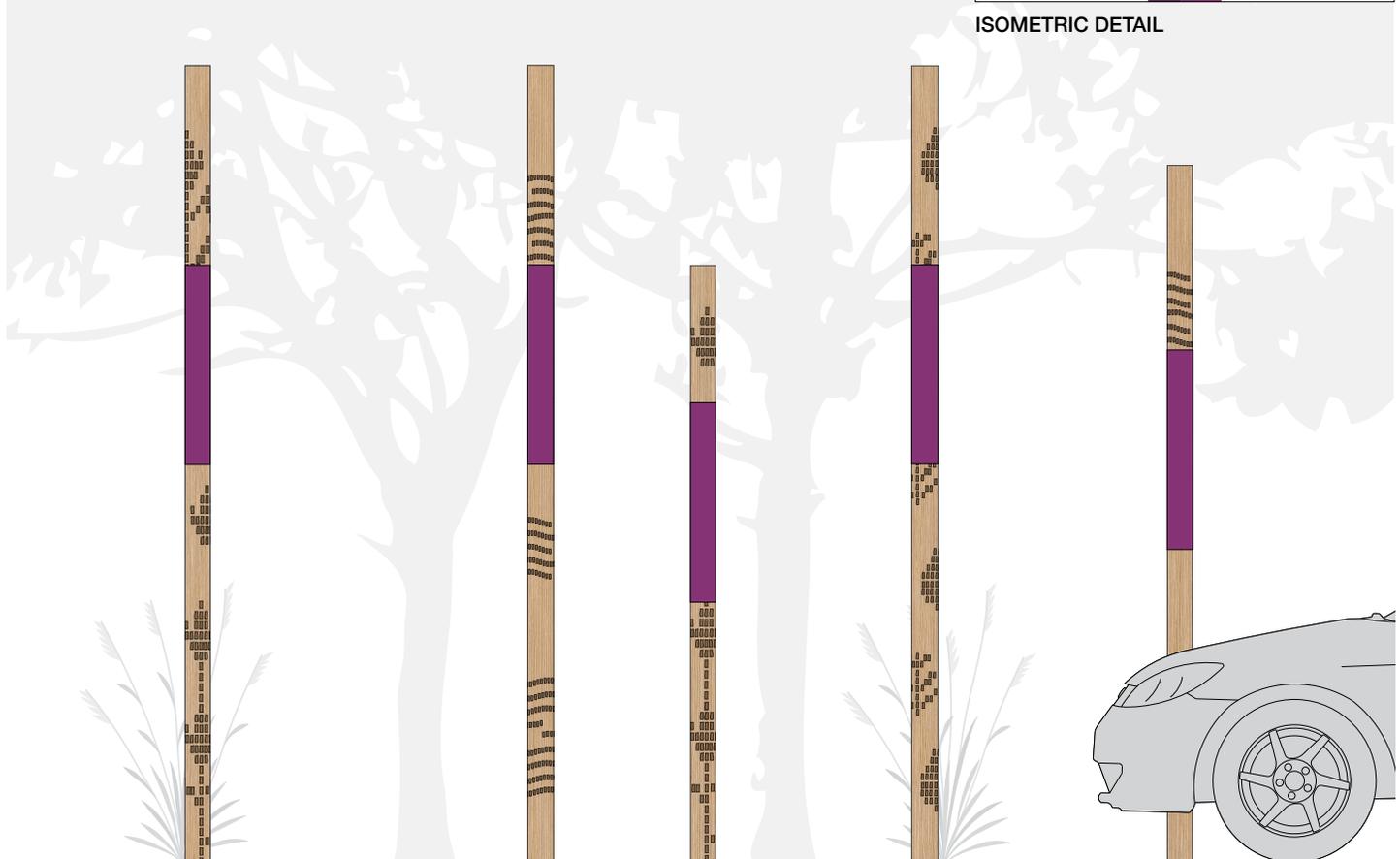
Leading Road Markers may also be on Regional or Municipal roads when they cross a park boundary as

a means to denote an entry into the park that is not necessarily a trailhead area. Due to the urban setting of RNUP, this condition is a common occurrence in the park. The demarcation of the park boundary will build awareness of RNUP within the local community. Each instance of Leading Road Markers on roads could be a single marker or a grouping of markers, depending on the context.



PLAN VIEW  
NTS

ISOMETRIC DETAIL



LEADING ROAD MARKERS



Leading Road Markers flank the road on approach to the RNUP site entrance

# 2.8 Twyn Rivers Prototype Site



Site Plan Drawing #1 illustrates the placement of signage elements at the Twyn Rivers site, as it exists in early 2020. Other elements may be placed at this site including benches and litter receptacles. These elements have not been placed on this plan as their locations should be studied in detail prior to placing as there are significant drainage and ponding issues on site, which would limit the options for placement in the current condition.



Site Plan Drawing #2 depicts how a visitor would move through the site and how the proposed signage elements contribute to the experience.

#### Driving:

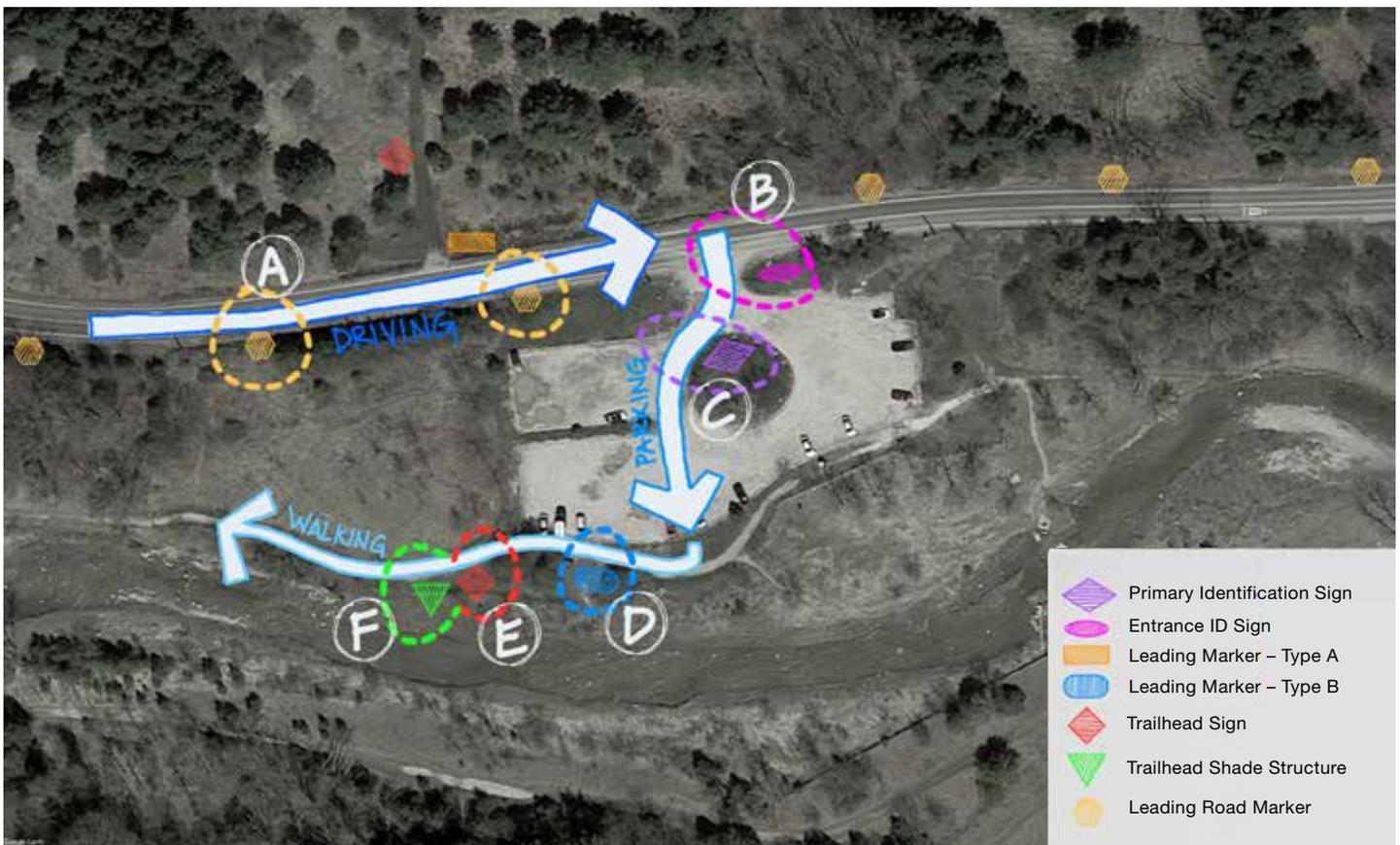
- A. Arriving on Twyn Rivers Drive from either direction, visitors would first notice a series of Leading Road Markers (pg. 41) on the side of the road, indicating that they are approaching a trailhead area.
- B. At the vehicular entrance to the parking area, the large Entrance Identifier Sign (pg. 32) indicates arrival at the trailhead. It indicates the trailhead name and signifies that it is a Parks Canada site.

#### Parking:

- C. Upon entering the parking lot, the visitor's eye is drawn to the Primary Identification Sign to confirm that they have arrived at a Parks Canada site.

#### Walking:

- D. The Leading Marker – Type B (pg. 39) is the same design as Type A, but smaller and scaled to the pedestrian. This sign indicates the direction of the trail and confirms for the visitor the direction they should be heading once they leave their vehicle.
- E. The Trailhead Sign (pg. 34) provides the visitor with the name of the trail on the standard Parks Canada green sign.
- F. Placed beside the Trailhead Sign, the Trailhead Shade Structure (pg. 35) provides the user with detailed trail information and current park events or bulletins. The small roof of the structure is oriented to provide some shade, and the low rammed earth wall is a place to rest a backpack while applying sunscreen or having a drink before a hike.

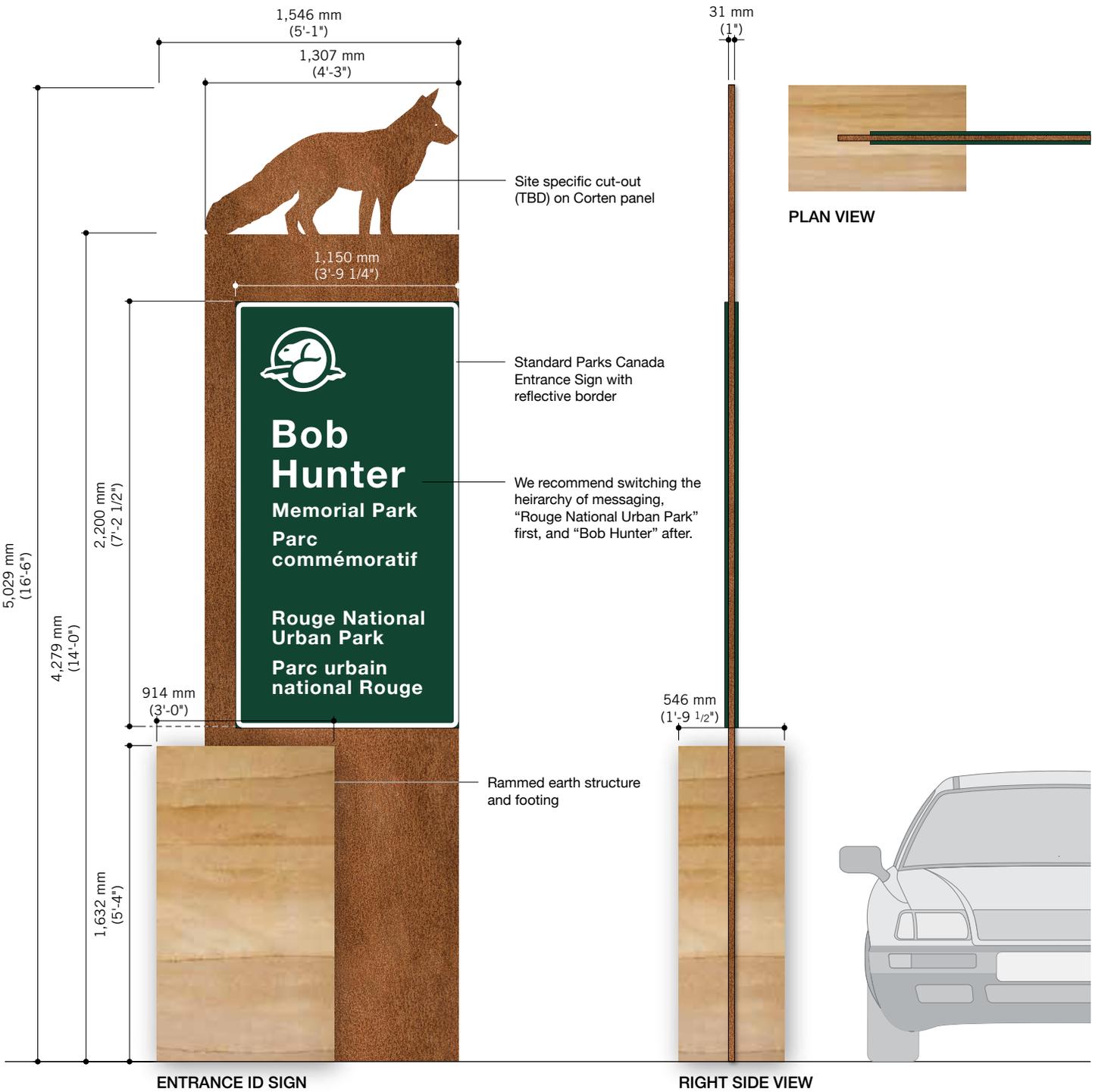


As key signage elements are to follow Parks Canada's Sign Standards, fabrication specifications for RNUP's signage program provide additional specification for elements not governed by Parks Canada's Sign Standards. Elements in the RNUP signage program which require compliance to Parks Canada's Standards will be developed by the Parks Canada team and are identified herein for clarity.

All components presented in this document are for design intent purposes only. Shop drawings shall be provided by the sign fabricator to be used as the final construction documents, and shall include complete construction, engineering and installation details required for implementing the designs described herein.

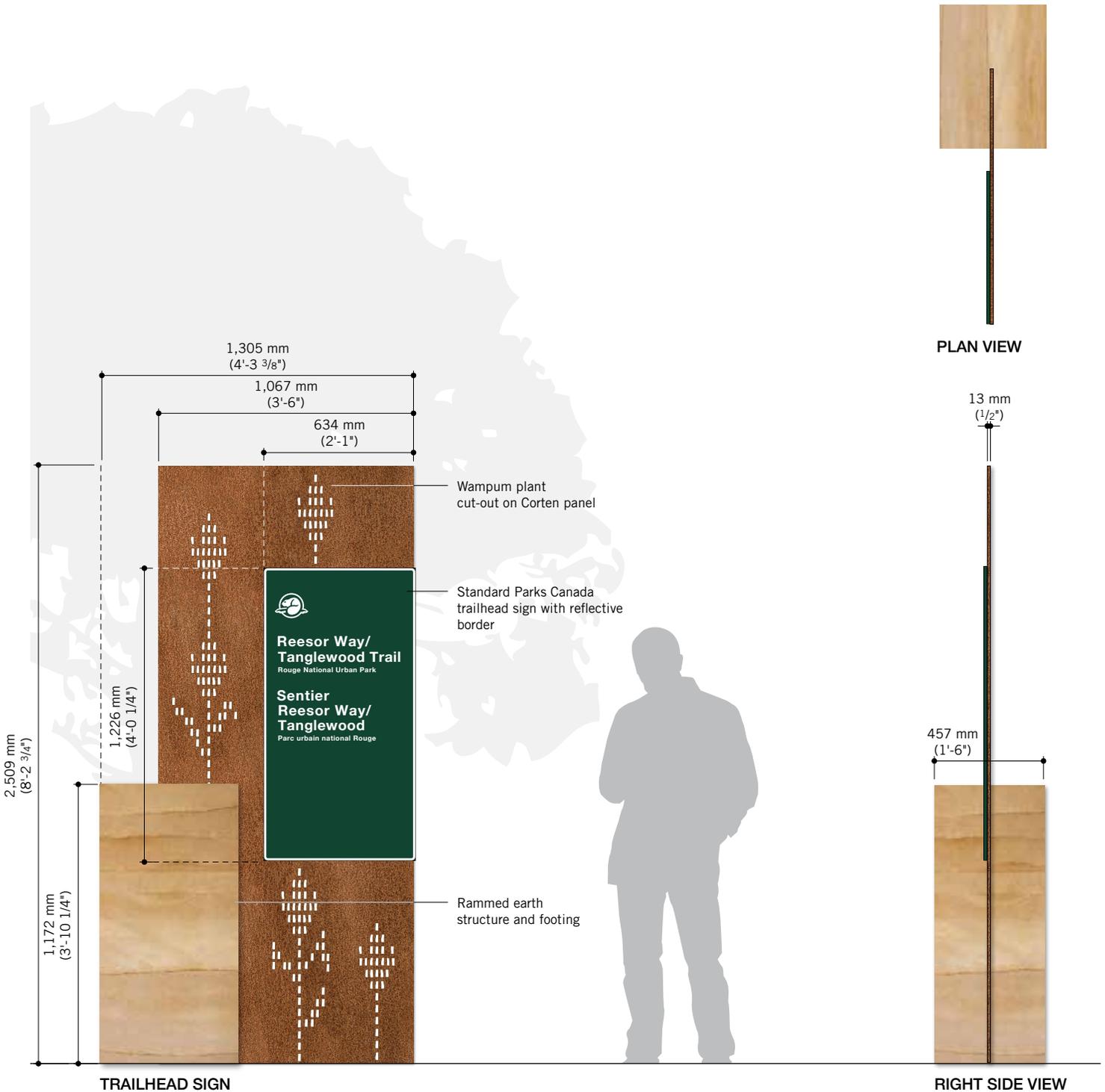
## 2.8.3.1 Entrance Identifier Sign

Corten steel panel with site specific animal or plant silhouette water-jet cut-out (to be determined by Parks Canada) to be mounted to rammed earth structure and footing for structural support. Standard Parks Canada Entrance Sign panel to be secured to Corten panel with removable, concealed fasteners to allow for future updates as needed.



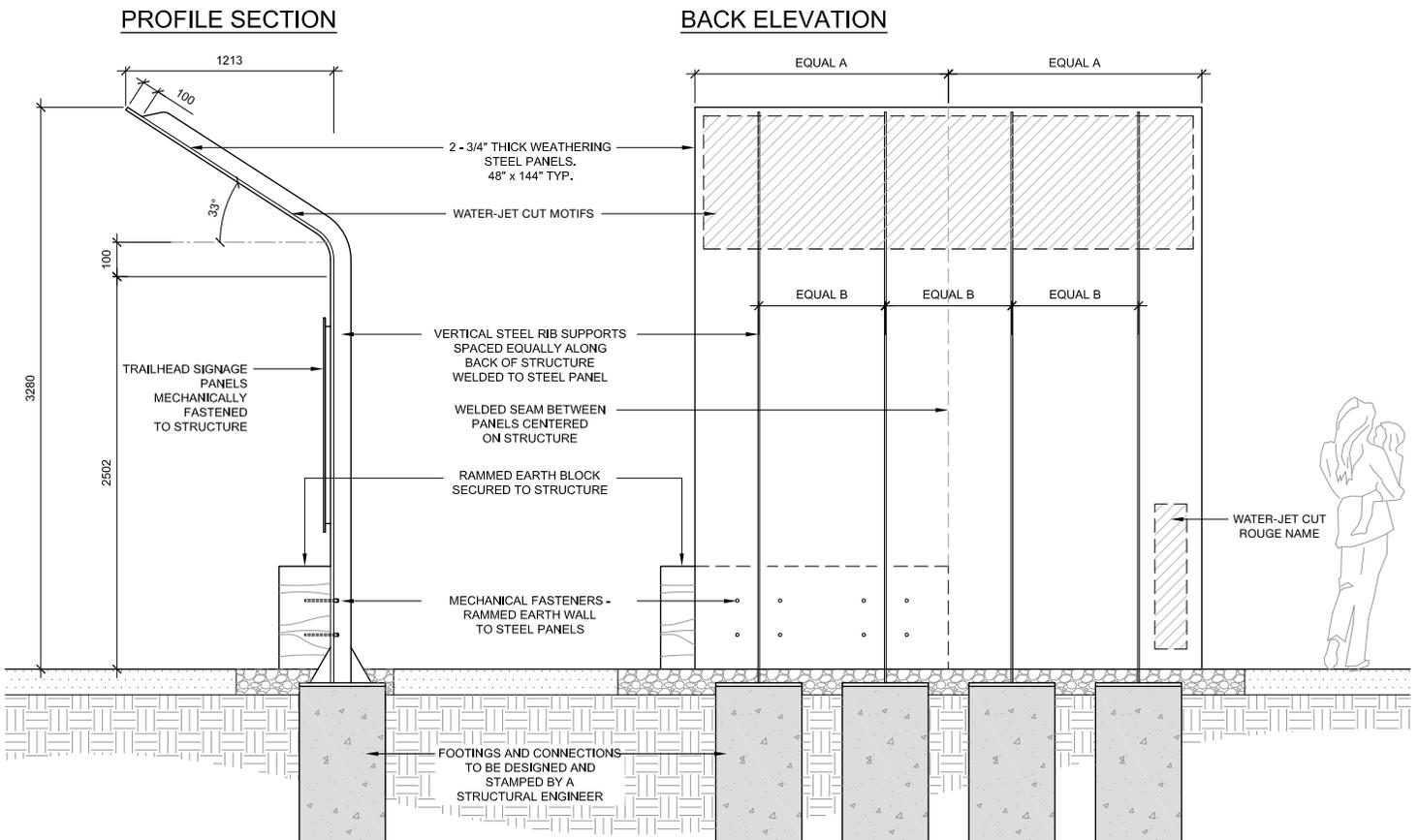
## 2.8.3.2 Trailhead Sign

Corten steel panel with site specific wampum water-jet cutout (to be determined by Parks Canada) is mounted to rammed earth structure and footing for structural support. Standard Parks Canada Trailhead Sign panel is secured to Corten panel with removable, concealed fasteners to allow for future updates as needed. Top edge of sign panel must be aligned with top edge of other information signage on adjacent Trailhead Shade Structure.



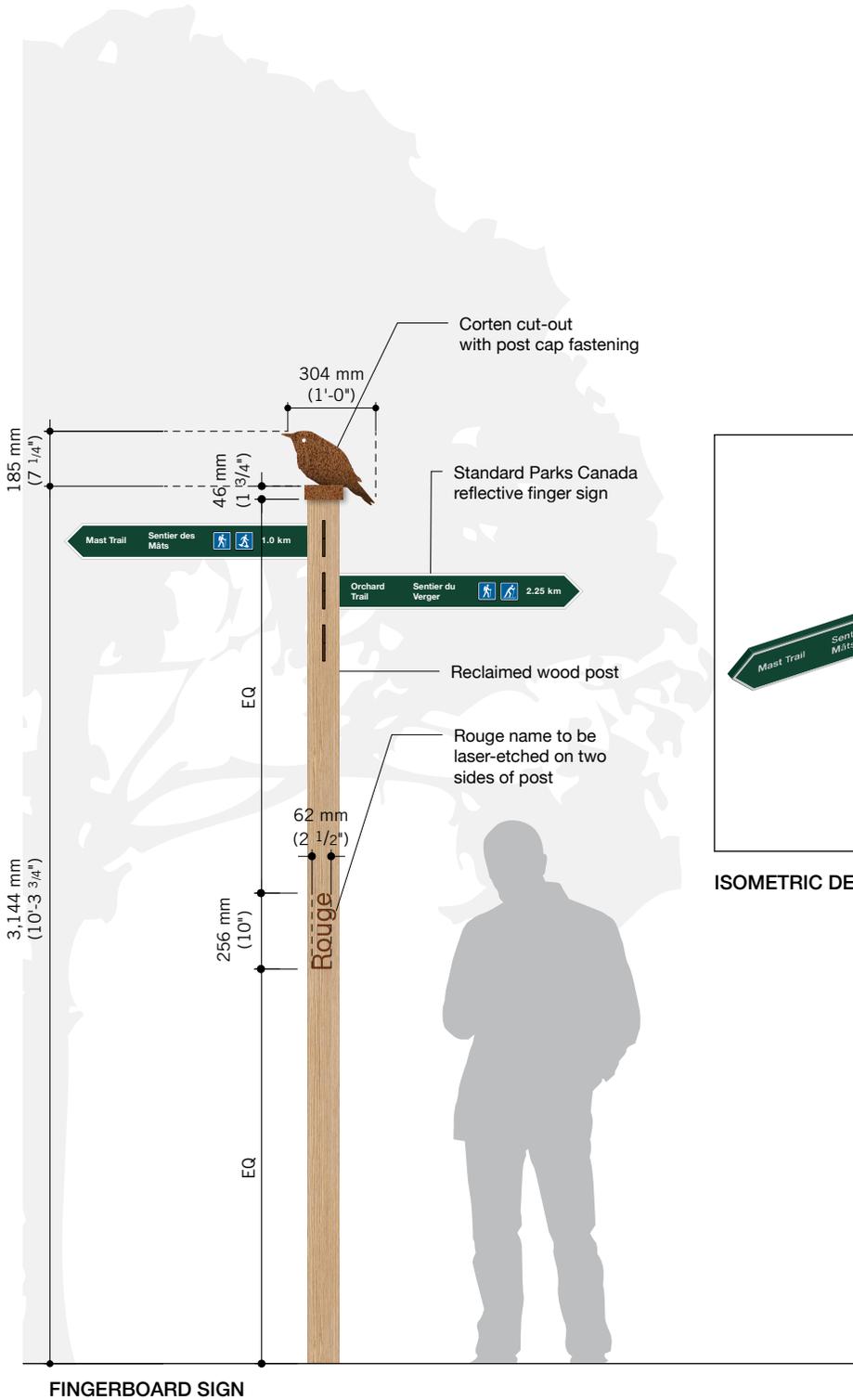
### 2.8.3.3 Trailhead Shade Structure

The Trailhead Shade Structure is fabricated out of Corten steel with an accenting rammed earth wall. The steel plates are water-jet cut with Indigenous design motifs and the Rouge wordmark. Signage panels are mounted to the steel superstructure at optimal viewing height. Footings and footing connections are to be designed by a Structural Engineer for each installation, based on the soil conditions of each site.



## 2.8.3.4 Fingerboard Sign

RNUP Fingerboard Sign to follow Parks Canada sign standards for general fabrication of all signage elements. Additional site specific, animal silhouette Corten steel topper to be water-jet cut and securely fastened to wooden post with concealed fasteners. Rouge name to be laser-etched to two sides of wooden post.

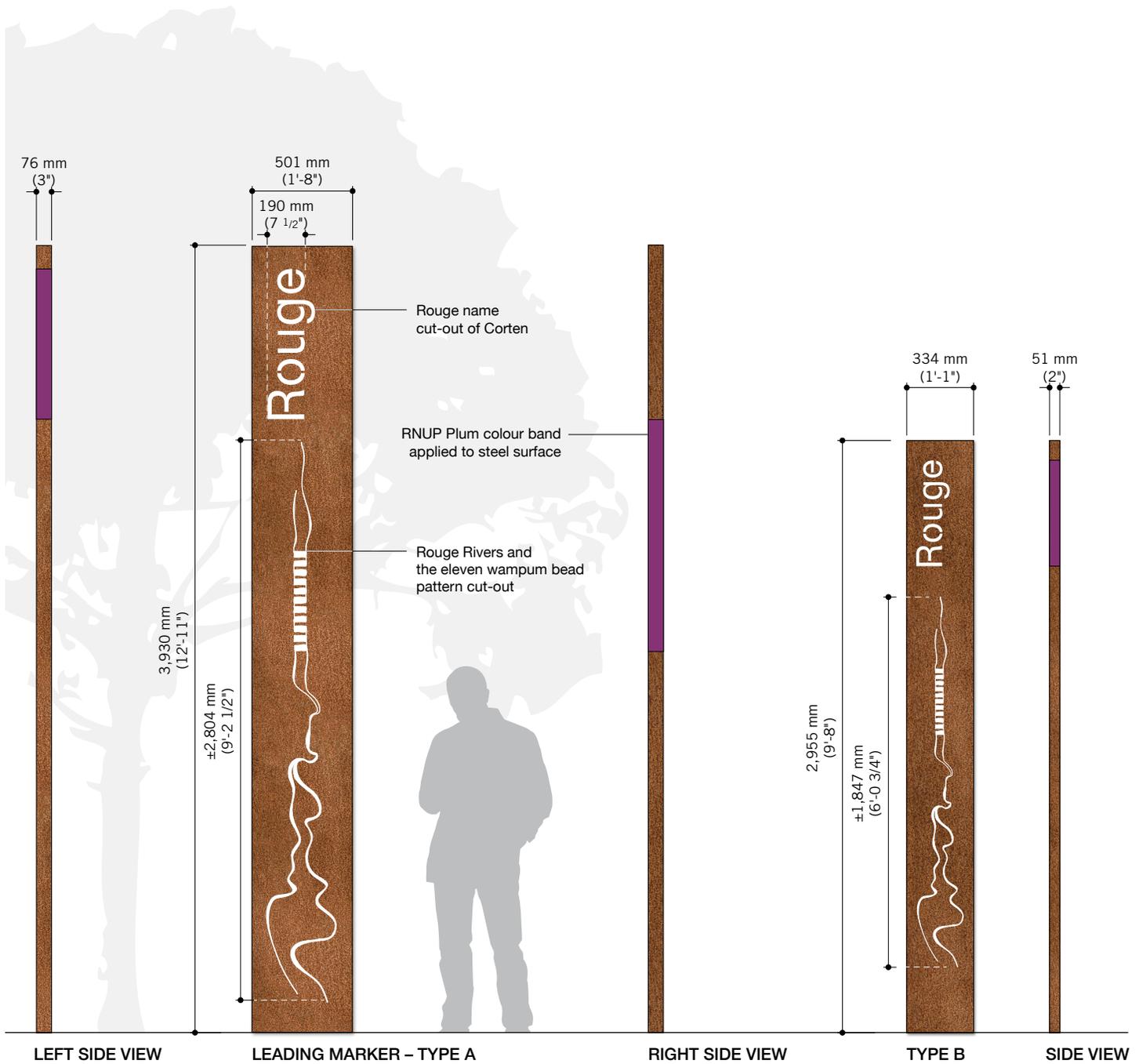


ISOMETRIC DETAIL

2.8.3.5

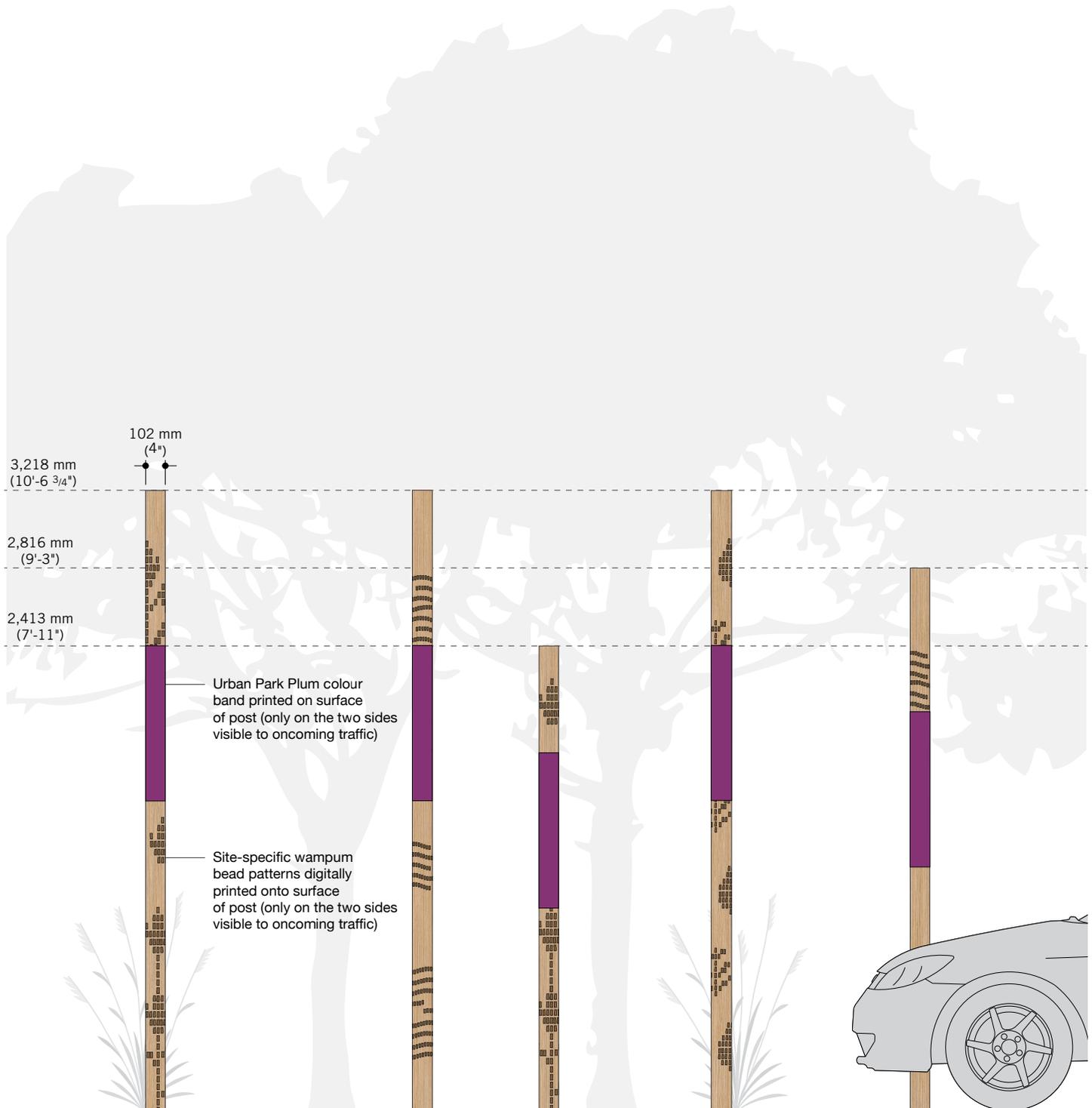
Leading Markers – Type A and B

Corten steel panel with custom, water-jet cutout pattern to be mounted to concrete footings. All exposed edges must be eased to ensure safety. Plum colour side panels to be fabricated with rust proof materials, and secured to Corten steel panel with concealed fasteners.



## 2.8.3.6 Leading Road Markers

Leading Road Markers are 4x4 wooden posts with patterns and colour directly printed on wood surfaces. All markers to be mounted to concrete footings.

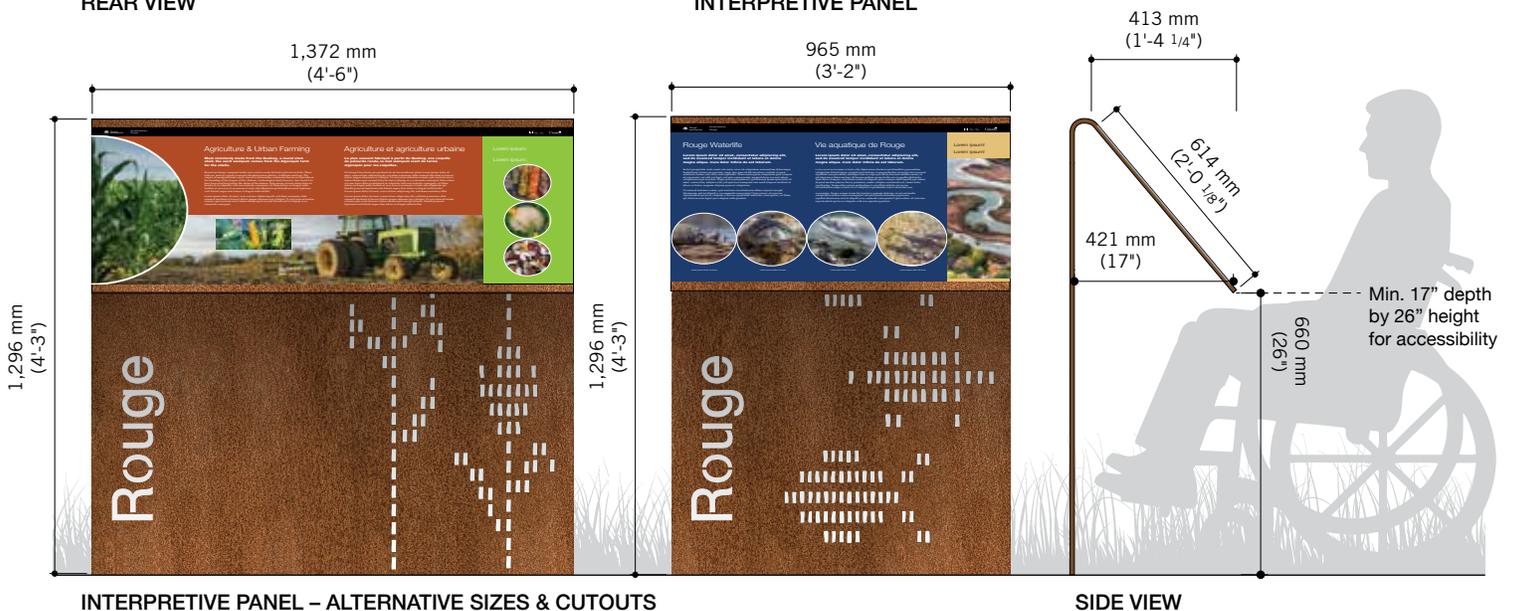
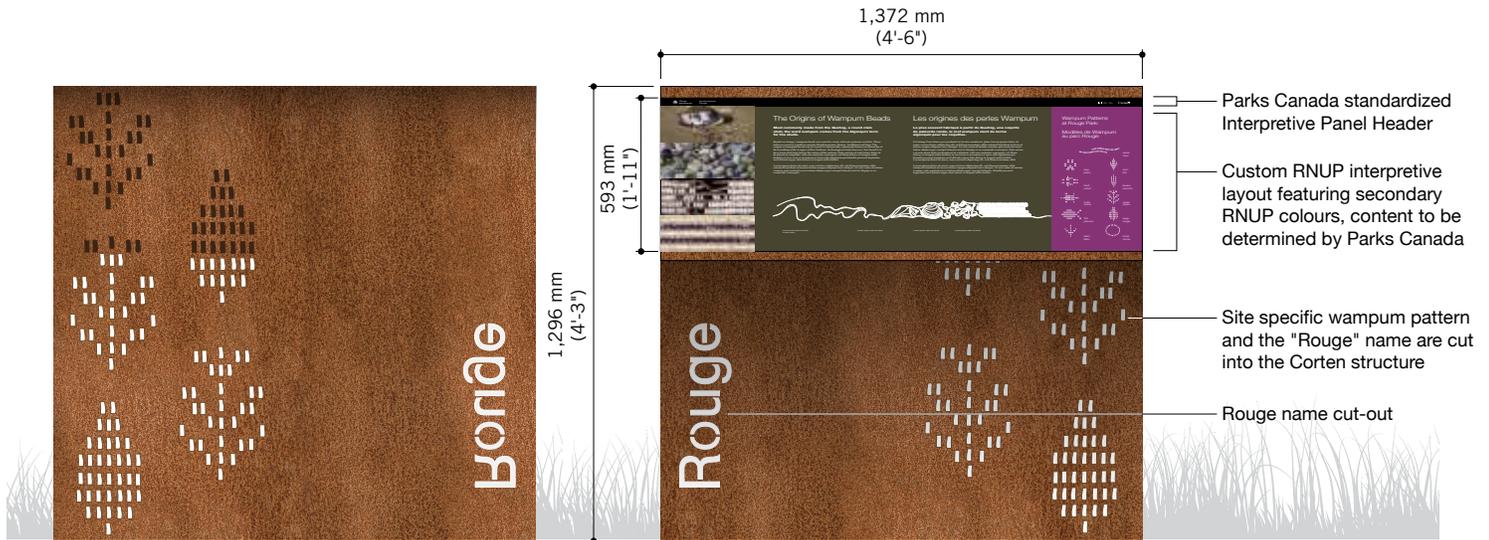
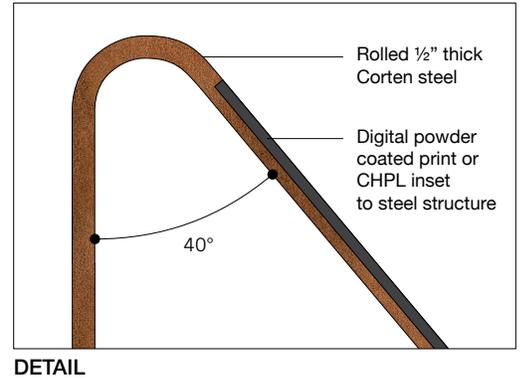


LEADING ROAD MARKERS

## 2.8.3.7 Interpretive Panel

Inforail structure is Corten steel panel rolled to a 40° angle for readability. A minimum of 26" (H) x 17" (D) knee and toe space is to be provided for wheelchair access. "Rouge" and wampum beads cut-out to be water-jet cut into Corten steel panel and mounted to concrete footings. All exposed edges must be eased to ensure safety.

Custom graphic panel to be designed by Parks Canada to be exterior grade digital powder coated print or digital Custom High-Pressure Laminate (CHPL) for durability. Removable graphic panel to be mounted to Corten inforail surface as inlay with concealed fasteners.





# Rouge

## National Urban Park

## BrookMcIlroy/

TORONTO THUNDER BAY WINNIPEG

Toronto  
161 Spadina Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2L6  
(416) 504-5997  
brookmcilroy.com

## entro

TORONTO CALGARY NEW YORK  
SYDNEY ZÜRICH

Toronto  
33 Harbour Square, Suite 202  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2G2  
(416) 368-6988  
entro.com