



# StoryWalk FAQ

Deerfield Parks and Recreation

Updated November 21, 2018

We're excited that you are interested in creating a StoryWalk!

We receive inquiries regularly about our StoryWalk, so we thought it might be helpful to create a brief fact sheet on the most frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie at [sgebe@deerfieldtwp.com](mailto:sgebe@deerfieldtwp.com) or 513.701.6977.

You've probably seen the incredible creativity that other organizations have used to create their StoryWalks. Researching how others have done their StoryWalks and talking with your local sign company regarding types of materials, durability, and cost, are important. You'll most likely take ideas from multiple organizations' processes and mold them into a realistic plan that best fits your specific project needs and constraints.

Please note that StoryWalk is a registered trademark of Anne Ferguson, who helped develop the first StoryWalk. If you use the term StoryWalk for your project, please provide recognition and include a specific statement on your signage, media, etc.

- *The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.*

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### Permission from Publisher

- We recommend consulting your legal representative regarding requesting permission from the publisher. (We requested permission from the publisher since we were looking to reproduce images of the book pages on the signage.)
- If a publisher does grant permission, it is important to follow through with recognizing and supporting their contribution. (i.e. purchase brand new books, recognize the publishing company on signage/website/media, author visits are also great if financially feasible, etc.)
- Contacting publishers can sound intimidating, but most are very open to the idea of a StoryWalk. Please note that approval processes can vary greatly between publishers. Some require long periods of time for approval (3-6 months) or even an annual request for each display.

### Frequency of Rotating Books

- Our long-term goal is to have a "library" of books that are rotated monthly throughout the year and enough variety to maintain interest long term. Ultimately, we would like to have books displayed year round at multiple park locations.
- Due to the cost of creating the signs for the book pages, we are slowly building up our library by adding new books and replacing signs as needed pending available funding. (i.e. grants, sponsors, etc.)
- Books displayed for a longer period of time have increased exposure to the elements (UV rays, weather, etc.), so this can be a factor in your display schedule. Our signs are coated for longevity and so far haven't had to replace any due to wear from the elements. (As of 2018, we have signs that are 2-3 years old and still lasting well. They were typically displayed one month per year between March - October.)

### How to Change out Books

- The sign frames are screwed on over the book page signs.
- To change out books, we unscrew the black frame.
- The sign can then be changed out and the frame screwed back on.



## STRUCTURAL DESIGN

Some things to note:

- Our Parks staff welded the frame and sleeve to go over the post themselves. If you do not have a resource that can weld, you may decide to use alternative methods/materials.
- We also designed ours so that the books could be changed and rotated in/out. If you are doing a single book that will always be the same, you might find some of what we did unnecessary for your project.

### Sign Posts

- 4x4 posts (5 ft. long)
- 2 ft. in ground and 3 ft. above ground
- Added cement to holes for stabilizing/securing.
- Top of the post was cut at a 45 degree angle

### Book Pages

- 24 x 20
- We received written permission from the book publisher to use photographs of their book in our StoryWalk.
- We used PhotoShop to create the actual image to be printed on the sign (book page, our logo, additional text, etc.).
  - When we were initially doing research, we did find companies that sold ready-made signs for books. We don't know a lot about them, but here is one example: <http://www.curiouscitydpw.com/2012/05/22/storywalk-from-curious-city/>
- We worked with a local sign company to make a 24x20 "Max Metal" sign with UV coating for each "page". This was an expensive part of the project (around \$1,500 for a single book with 18 signs), but you may be able to work with a library to apply for a grant to cover the cost or talk to your local sign company about lower cost options.

### Frame

- Our Parks staff welded the black frames that lay on top of the book page signs.
- They help hold the book page sign to the plywood and metal support backing.
- They used 1x1 angle metal that was cut at 45 degree angles on the ends. After it was welded together, they painted it black.
- If you are going to weld the frame, our Parks staff said that I should mention being careful about your measurements. The frame needs to be 24x20 on the inside measurement – not the outside. It will not fit over the sign if the frame itself is exactly 24x20 like the sign.

### Sign Backing

- The sign itself is actually made up of 4 parts that are screwed together – metal back, three quarter inch plywood, metal sign/book page, and a metal frame.
- The plywood and metal back are underneath the book page signs to add support and stability. We wanted to make sure that if any children hung on the sign that it was stable and didn't knock over the sign.
- There are pictures below of the metal back, along with the post sleeve that is welded to it.
- The metal back has holes in it for screwing all 4 pieces together. One thing we had to watch is the screw that will be exposed underneath the sign; you want to make sure it isn't a hazard for someone brushing against it and getting a cut/scrape.
- If you decide to build the metal back, our Parks staff stated that a metal stock yard will be less expensive than a local hardware/home improvement store.

### Post Sleeve/Bracket

- Our Parks staff created a metal sleeve to go over the post and hold the sign to the post. This sleeve was also welded to the metal backing for the signs.
- The sleeve has a hole in each side for screwing onto the post.
- There are pictures below of the measurements.

Metal Back Dimensions



Post Sleeve Dimension #1



Post Sleeve Dimension #2



Post Sleeve Dimension #3

