

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES

Historic Character Preservation & Standards Guide

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Introduction

Our town has entered a crossroads in its history. The broader world beyond its natural and manmade border is drawing nearer by way of: new Portage marina, expansion of public rail, Portage Public Lakeshore, realization of Portage North masterplan, expansion and progress at Ameriplex and Marina Shores, and the potential development of Sports Resort to the South of our front gates. This time of change can be witnessed within our gates as well. Many structures and amenities original to our towns' founding are nearing the end of their lifespans, and new structures and implements are needed to keep pace with our thriving and active town. Will these elements be replaced, rebuilt or designed to preserve our unique character and identity? Will the new expansion at our borders effect positive or negative change regarding the historic character and identity of Ogden Dunes?

Mission of this guide

To create, implement and protect a cohesive visual backdrop for life in Ogden Dunes. One that honors and respects our original dunes aesthetic, allowing nature to take center stage. The driving principles, criteria, all future decisions can use as default and measure are: Nature is focal point, purpose driven/planned with a purpose, function over designed, natural materials over manmade, native is best, less is more, low profile, leaving natural landscape intact, and when in doubt blend with the natural surroundings. Purpose driven design means that all infrastructure is thoughtfully added and placed, based on proven need. Purpose driven design takes into account criteria such as; location, impact on surrounding structures or view, sustainability balanced with aesthetic, impact on the natural environment, future plans/needs, impact on other town entities/groups. The mission philosophy provides clear design cues for existing public areas as well as unforeseen, future plans that might arise.

The Ogden Dunes Aesthetic

This guide was created using the mid 1930's as a foundation for reference, being the era when Ogden Dunes was incorporated and many of the original houses, structures and town amenities were created. When defining a towns aesthetic, we look to "character defining elements" within the town, which in OD can be regarded as 1930's Rustic, cottage, with a few other influences thrown in. We also look to regional design movements, social and economic environment of the era, and local artistic endeavors, for guidance. It is also important to consider the founding people's attitudes, and what originally drew them to settle this area. Ogden Dunes was beloved for its natural beauty; the incredible diversity of flora and fauna, the windswept dunes, the shoreline. People saw Ogden Dunes as an escape to the "wilds", yet within reach of a world class city. Its rustic beauty was, and continues to be an inspiration to residents. Our town is unique, unlike most municipalities with gridded city streets and sidewalks. Our winding roads serve as natural rain runoffs and sidewalks, we are surrounded on 3 sides by protected natural areas.

This is why it is so important to keep the nature as the focal point, letting municipal infrastructure recede into the background. Inspiration for defining the aesthetic was also drawn from local architecture, WPA projects, State and National Parks, South Shore Line history, Architectural reference books, and local artwork from the era. Let us be noble stewards of the town on Ogden Dunes, protecting it's character, its natural beauty, so it can continue to inspire future generations with its natural beauty and rustic charm.

Supported by ODHCS

This Standards Guide was created, and is managed by the Ogden Dunes Historic Character Preservation and Standards Committee. The committee and guide was approved by town council in July of 2018. ODHCS acts on behalf of the TC to bridge the gap between committees/entities to ensure a cohesive aesthetic element is present throughout town. It also ensures all parties needs are addressed in planning multi-entity public areas maintenance, renovations, or additions. It's overall mission has been approved by the Town Council. Details of this mission can be found in the mission statement above, and at the beginning of each section within the guide. However, specific design specifications/ building plans for each physical improvement/holding will be entered into this guide once approved by the TC. Meaning; due to the vast scale of projects covered, and collaboration necessary with multiple town entities to successfully create these Standards, this Standards Guide will remain organic by nature, design specifications being added as projects are presented and approved. The blue highlighted sections throughout the document indicate areas that have yet to arise or are current works in progress, and therefore have not been presented to the TC for approval. The specification you may see in these highlighted areas are placeholders only. They are all conforming to the approved mission, and meant to guide ODHPS in collaboration with the committees/entities involved to prepare specifications for TC approval.

Due to the ongoing, long term building of this guide, all community entities have been asked to please stall plans for maintenance, replacement or new projects on public grounds until ODHPS can prioritize projects and get planning underway in collaboration with all committees/entities impacted by changes. If emergency situations arise while in this interim period the TC should be notified so that proposed changes might be expedited through process for approval.

1.Town Structures

Example of some of Ogden Dunes oldest homes provide ample inspiration for new additions, renovations, design elements, materials, color schemes, and architectural details for new projects.

1.1 Examples of existing historic, character defining architecture, in Ogden Dunes.





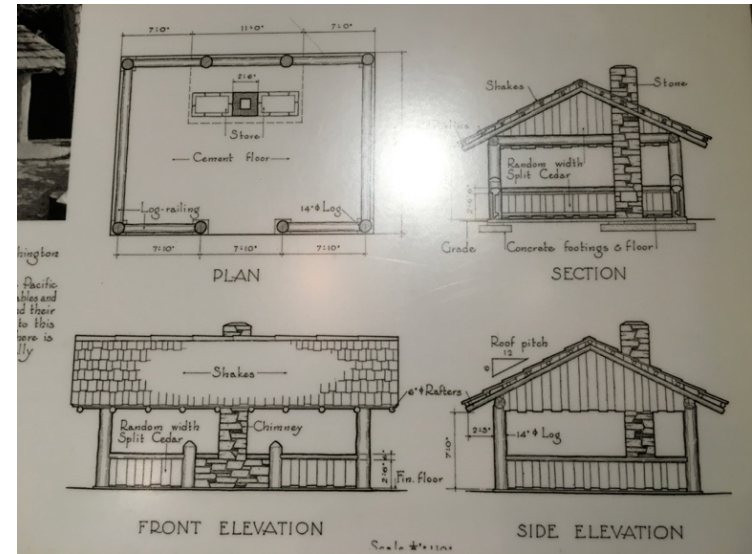


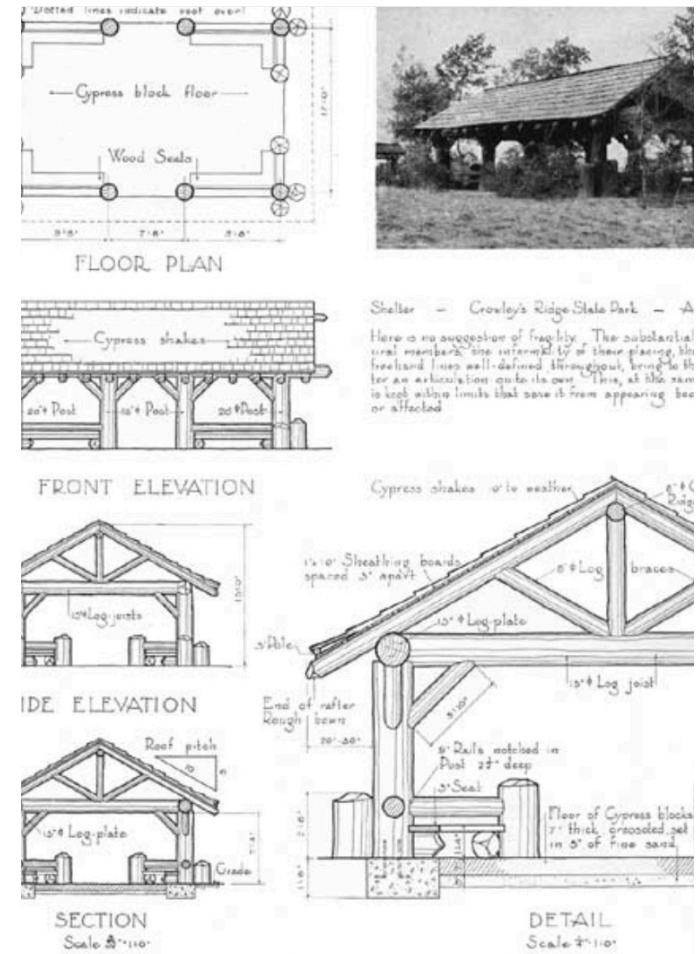
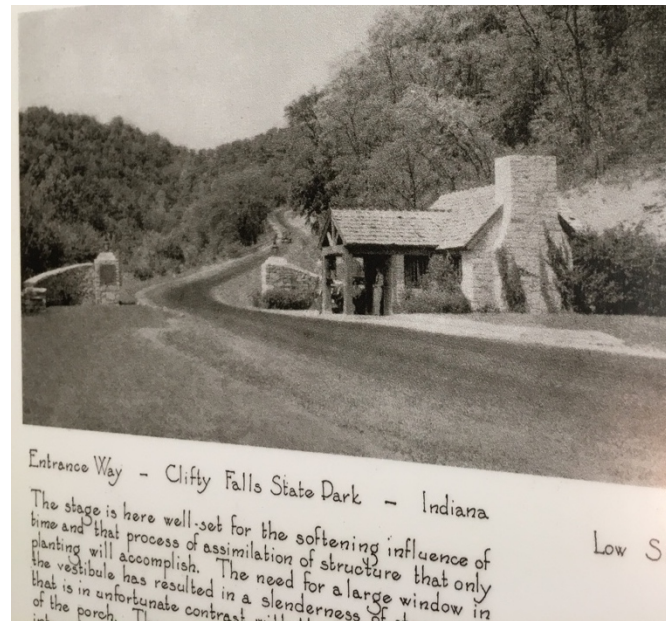


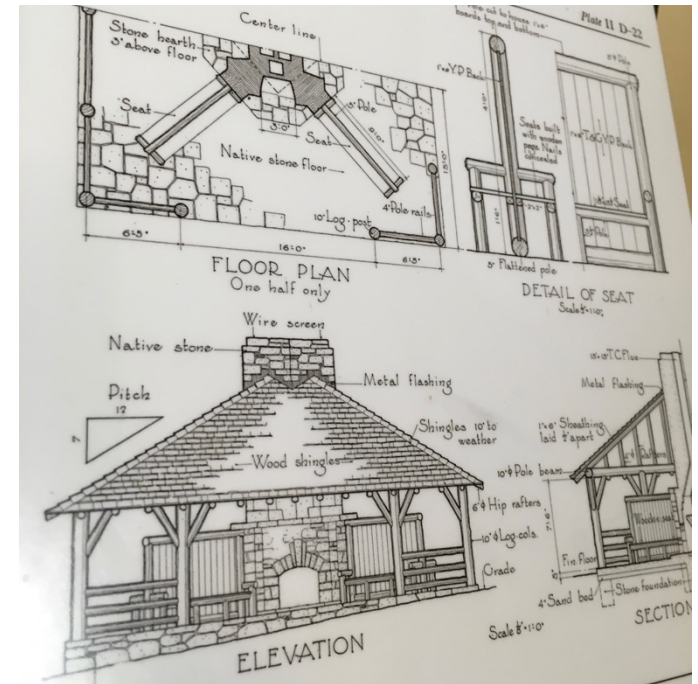
1.2 Examples of appropriate architecture and design elements to guide new construction decisions

1.2.1 Structures











- - Black Hawk State Park - - IIII

ative and robust structure with personality, these infrequent shelters that stand agreeably crowd in spite of some trace of the building is a faint recall of European farm buildings, incidental rather than deliberate, and has in result in an especially welcome departure from commonplace.

LOOKOUT TOWERS and OVERLOOKS • Plate M-9



Lookout Shelter, Mississippi Palisades State Park, Illinois

High in the merit list of lookout shelters, this jaunty little building of hand-hewn timbers as here illustrated basks in the full added benefit of dramatic photography. To those who must have something to cavil at, the excessive "beavering" of the rail members is suggested. But accelerated personality is more than compensatory for any minor sacrifice of structural maximum. Opposite are detail drawings of the building.



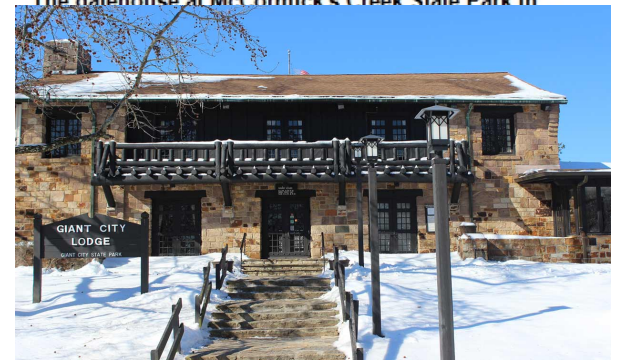
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Photo courtesy Indiana Landmarks

The gatehouse at McCormick's Creek State Park in



LOOKOUT TOWERS and OVERLOOKS • Plate M-6



Overlook Shelter, Devil's Den State Park, Arkansas

Nominated from the floor as a candidate for a Pulitzer Award for Park Structures, if and when created. This little structure will cause chagrin and consternation among experts in destructive criticism who will be hard put to ferret out its shortcomings. An inventory of all its points of high merit is impossible in a limited space, but would surely lead off with blending to site, character of rock work and vigorous scale of the log timbers. The picturesque tree is flattering to the structure, but, it must be admitted, with unquestionable justification.

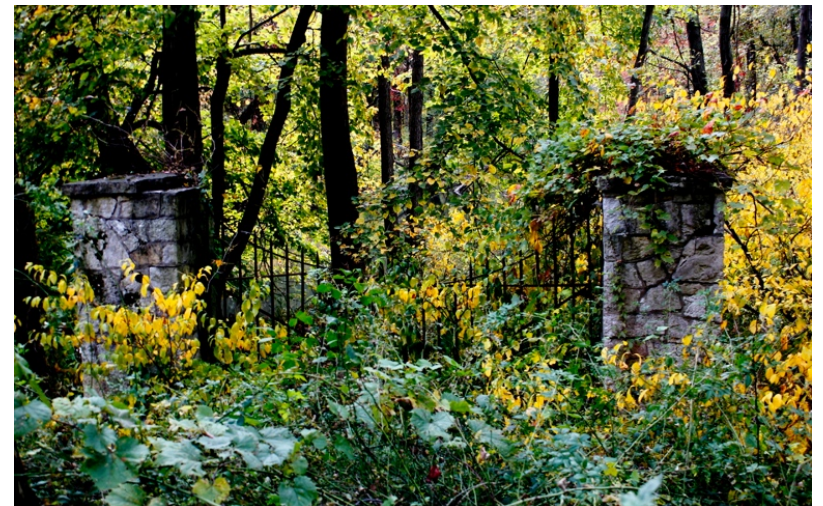
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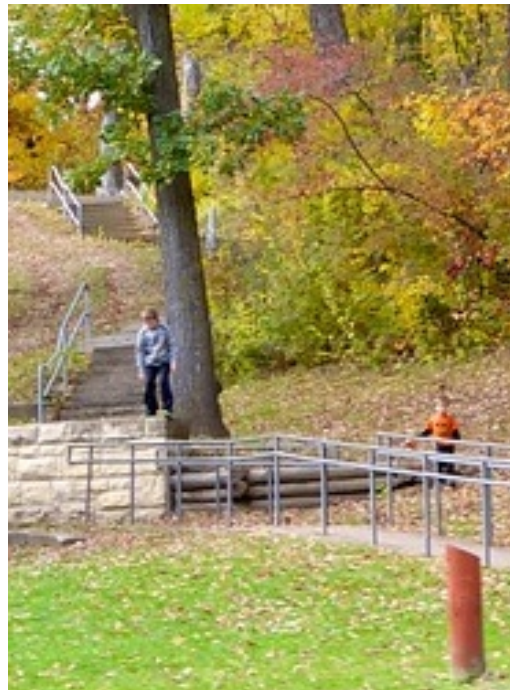
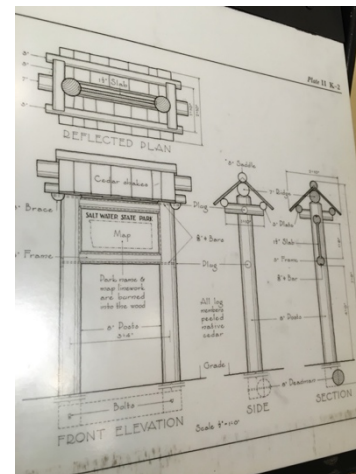


1.2.3 Supporting structures: rails, fences, surrounds, gates









1.2.4 Materials choice

Resources native to the region, and natural, would be first choice. Direction and guidance can be found by looking at the existing historic homes in town and their character defining features. Certainly, in an effort towards sustainability, suitable manmade/recycled materials resembling natural materials can be used if appropriate to the project. An example of this would be recycled materials that resemble slate roofing tiles, wood.

Indiana limestone, hand hewn beams, wood left to weather to a natural patina, shake roof.



1.2.5 Exterior color palettes

Ogden Dunes Neutral 1-5 were chosen for exterior municipal infrastructure based on the desire to blend with the landscape and virtually disappear. These were chosen by studying our native tree bark in various lighting. Example: full sun, shaded woodland, lightly shaded woodland etc. Applications include mailboxes, signposts, railing hardware, bench hardware, back of street signs, anything that should be camouflaged to recede into the background.



Fig.1 Ogden Dunes Neutral 1,2,3 and similar Pantone matches.



Fig. 2 Ogden Dunes Neutral 4 with Pantone match. Ogden Dunes Neutral 5, OD Accent colors 1,2,3,4.

1.2.6 Interior/signage color palettes

Interior palettes inspirations based on local artwork from era. These are merely suggestions and examples of drawing an appropriate color palette from local art from the era.

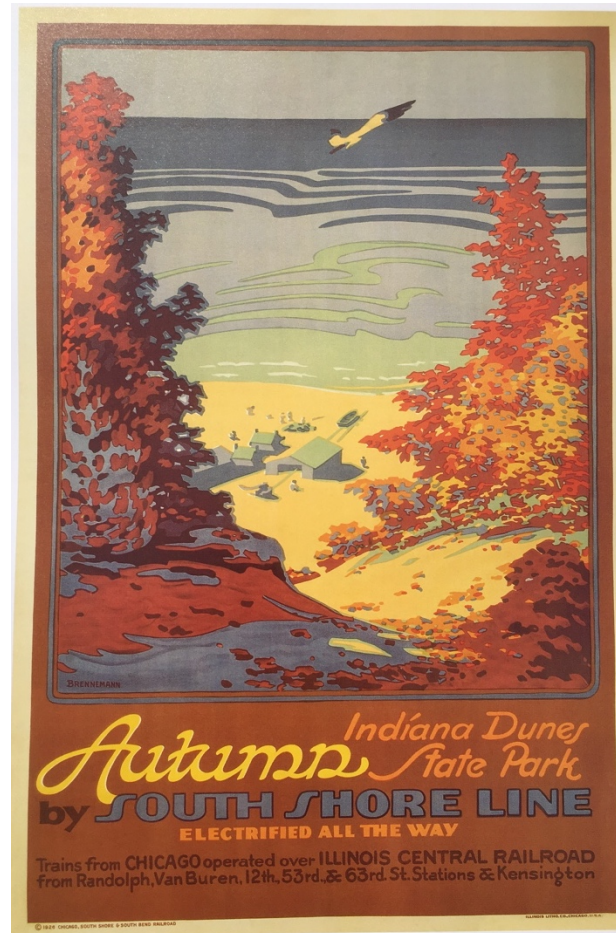


Fig.1&2 “Autumn in the Dunes” color palette



Fig.3&4 "Playground of the Dunes" color pallette



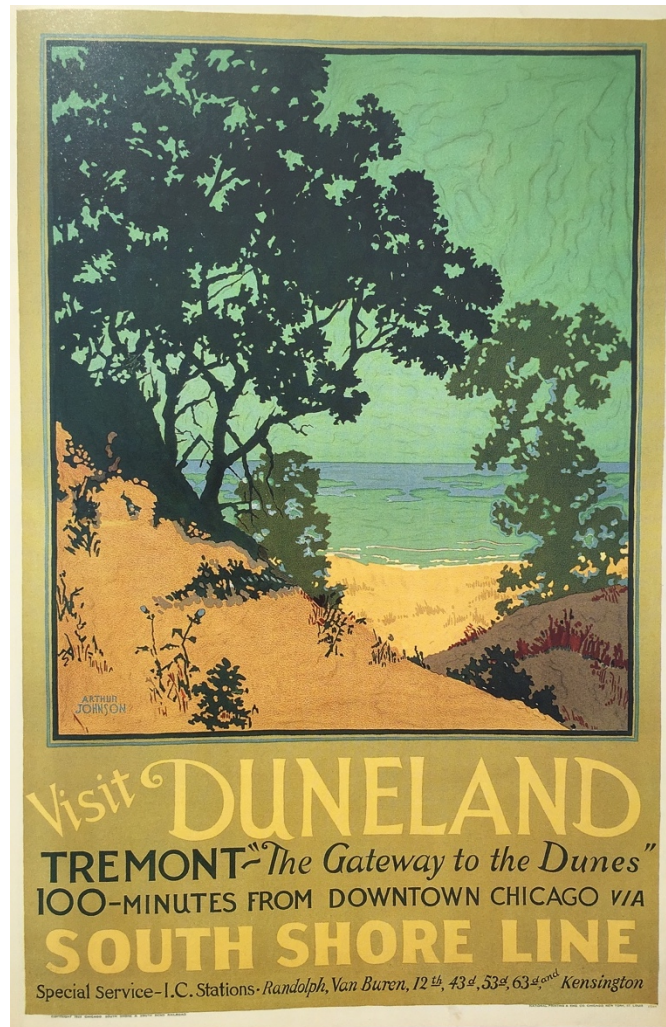


Fig.5&6 "Visit Duneland" color pallette

1.3 Suggested changes to existing town structures to be more aligned with Historic Character Preservation Standards Guide mission.

1.3.1 ODPD/Town Hall

Removal of yellow concrete/plastic sheathed pylons in favor of wooden barrier and/or installing a perimeter greenspace, planted with native grasses, and a curb. Minor reconfiguring of Hillcrest Road from tracks to Town Hall would greatly improve the visual environment entering and leaving Ogden Dunes. A slight curve in road, with additional greenscape, is needed. The property just South of Rt.12 will see increased development (Portage North Masterplan, NICTD). If more native trees/bushes, and curved path were added now, we would be spared not only the unsightly development, but increased noise and light pollution. The same would act as a natural buffer from motorists, train passengers, and pedestrians, in essence keeping us hidden from direct view. Burying of powerlines if opportunity presents would dramatically improve appearance. Relocation of committee mailboxes, brigade items (glasses, batteries) to area near ODSD. Improvement to existing structure in terms of appropriate color palette, addition of architectural design elements aligned with Historic Preservation Standards Guide (ex: shutters, light fixtures, hardware...)

1.3.2 Street Department

Native trees and shrubs could be planted in the berms at entrance to ODSD opposite mailboxes, and along the East side of Hillcrest North of the ODFD, These native trees would create a green screen, blocking the Street Department compound from view.



1.3.3 Fire Department

An effort could be made to enhance the pedestrian entrance, leading to a public meeting room. A wooden fence with vehicle gate, placed East of side door would hide the gravel path to Street Department, and hide utilities such as landfill/ recycling bins. A wood shake awning at side door would appear welcoming and provide shelter from weather. Replacing the straight sidewalk flush with building with building with a slightly curving sidewalk away from the building, to create a small planting area of native, low maintenance plants would soften the appearance.



1.3.4 Kratz Fieldhouse

Doors trimmed with wood (painted or sealed) and a more subdued, neutral color scheme would soften the lines of the structure and allow it to recede into the treeline. When roof needs to be replaced, consider an overhanging eave, cedar shingle, and rustic wooden supports to visually anchor eave to ground (functional or not) for overhang.



2. Graphic Identity

2.1 Logo

Suggested fonts appropriate to era, that capture the character of the Town, and are aligned with the aesthetic. They are close to the original signage for Ogden Dunes.

2.1.1 *Fonts, sizing, color and purpose*

The following are suggestions for print on town letterhead, signage, vehicles, business cards and the like. Can include an outline.

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES (Lionel TTF 24)

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES (shown with outline)

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES (Biko 24)

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES (Avenir Next bold 24)

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES (Lionel Steam 24)

2.2 Graphic logo

Suggest creating a simple black and white graphic inspired by one of the designs used early on in town history, or a new design aligned with Standards mission.

2.2.1 *black and white, color and applications*



3. Wayfinding and Signage

Special care should be taken when deciding upon the addition/replacement of signs in general, including street/traffic signs. One must assess if there is real need and purpose for the addition of a permanent sign. Is the signage speaking to full time residents, for year-round purpose? Is the threat to safety real, consistent and proven? Do other signs already relay the message? Can it be conveyed by other means: Visual color cue, image/pictogram, natural barrier? Does the consequence of not adding the sign outweigh the prominent, persistent visual clutter?

New signage should be as inconspicuous as possible in terms of size, color, location, repetition and display height, balancing the need for public safety with improved aesthetics. Restraint should especially be taken in areas of natural beauty, view of the lake, around parks and trailheads. These areas (in particular) should receive sign height placement under the average person's sightline (61") as to not interrupt the view, or compete with the natural beauty offered.

Our town has lost its visual appeal in part due to an overabundance of street signs. Its charm has been replaced with a generic municipality, gridded city feel. Based on initial counts and research, it is possible to remove over half of the street signs in Ogden Dunes (2015), and/or reduce the size, and/or height, and/or post design of many others. This will have an immediate and immensely positive impact.

3.1 Street Wayfinding (name of street)

Every effort should be made to source replicas of the older street, wayfinding signs. Metal, embossed plate. Cottage green background with raised off white letters.

Wooden posts can be used to accommodate multiple signs, rather than multiple posts with single signs.



3.2 Traffic & Directional/Information Signs

Addition of traffic signs should be well thought and purposeful. Example: if there is suspected moped or golf cart traffic on a pedestrian path, and it is believed to be only a few times over the course of a year, it may not justify the negative impact of a sign being installed reading “no motor traffic” that effects all residents with its visual clutter, in perpetuity. Another choice would be to simply put a removable wooden post in the way of ingress if necessary. Similarly, the Town must be careful in installing signs meant for a seasonal audience. Example: There are many full size, 36” YEILD signs installed in soccer areas along Hillcrest triangle for an audience present only 20% of the year. Better options may include: To eliminate the multitude of NO signs (yield, no parking, no parking between posts, resident parking ONLY) and fortify the ‘yes” messaging in a larger but singular sign (Soccer Parking in designated areas – designated areas will not have a yellow line along curb). Temporary signage could be used, in the form of yield or parking signs on sawhorses so they can be removed after a busy soccer weekend. As the last option, if permanent signage was deemed necessary, pictograms and/or smaller signs, installed lower, and on wooden posts, should be considered. Signs have been added to our roads over time, all with good intentions towards safety. But at some point, the redundant messaging not only becomes a visual nuisance, it also weakens the intended message. We are a small town, with a small population hovering around 1,000. We have choices and options rather than assuming standard highway regulations. Most traffic signs are produced in several sizes, styles, colors and fabrication.

3.2.1 Specifications-Traffic signs: state guideline minimums on all traffic signage, in accordance with IMUTCD if deemed necessary for specific site location and demographics of town.

Size: 30” STOP signs, 18x24” speed limit signs, 30x30 yield signs. No parking, handicap parking, informational signage to be at minimum size and height as to balance visibility with detracting from natural beauty of town. Back of all signs along roadways to be painted “OD Natural 2” paint color.

Mounting: Signs to be bolted to a treated wood post, 4x4 or 6x6, left unpainted to weather to a natural patina. Or weathered (artificially or naturally) then sealed, or painted in OD Natural 3.

Height: bottom of sign should be 5’ from grade for traffic signs. Set in concrete at a depth of 1/3 total height.



3.3 No Parking

The majority of signs in town are dedicated to the message of No Parking for visitors. Visitor parking is problematic primarily during summer for beach access, and during soccer games. Rather than have full time residents being subject to the negative impact of multiple signs, placed throughout town year round, a simpler approach might be taken to post warning at entrance and rely on street lines for the majority of messaging. The town employs a summer helper to greet visitors and notify of parking regulations. With this plan, all no parking signs could be eliminated along shore drive and within the “sticker access only” areas. The signs that read “no parking without sticker beyond this point” would be left, but attached to wooden posts and height lowered and consistent. Most No Parking signs at soccer field could be eliminated as well. Our ODPD could be diligent regarding ticketing if people choose to park in restricted areas, raising additional revenue for the department via fines. Temporary seasonal signage could also be employed.

3.3.1 Specifications

Size: minimum size possible, rectangular signs when wording required. Options include: smaller pictogram signs, wooden posted with message routed/painted in appropriate font and color, street lines painted.

Mounting: Signs to be bolted to a treated wood post, 4x4 or 6x6, left unpainted to weather to a natural patina OR allowed to weather and then clear sealed. Top of post to be angle cut for water shed.

Height: various. Minimum height possible while still being effective.

Color: Natural scheme allowable if governance exists. Back of sign to be painted “OD Natural 2” paint color.



4. Public Seating



FIGURE 1



4.1.1 *Specifications for Multipurpose/Short term use benches*

Version1: Bases constructed of 2" or 3" square tube steel. Steel frames may be powder coated, or painted in OD Natural 2 or OD Natural 1. Pretreated wood used for top, allowed to weather to a natural patina. The design of the base allows for variations of pattern created by using different board widths as seat. Care should be taken to assure all seat patterns match within a location. Example: if using 2 @ 2x8s for soccer seating at Kratz Field, then ALL benches in and around soccer pitch should follow suit. Can be installed in varying lengths depending on appropriate size and scale for use. 6' would be standard. Benches to be anchored in place by concrete pier or pad.

4.2 **Beach Access Benches**

All beach access paths and boardwalks are to use this design where benches are needed. The design was chosen for its ability to blend with the dune grass, allowing one's eye to travel to the horizon line at the end of the path. Steel tubing, painted in OD Neutral 2 and weathered pine boards give this functional bench a beachy look that will withstand the harsh weather near the shore. Edges can be camphored to soften for comfort.



4.2.1 *Specifications for Beach Access Benches*

Bases constructed of 2' square tube steel. Steel frames may be powder coated, or painted in OD Natural 2 to blend with the landscape. Pretreated pine, left unsealed to weather to a natural patina is used for backrest and seat. Recycled plastic, composite boards may also be used, in same color of naturally weathered wood once standards improve. Steel tube bases are anchored to boardwalk, or set in concrete piers.

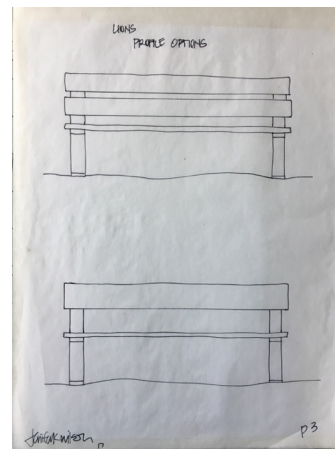
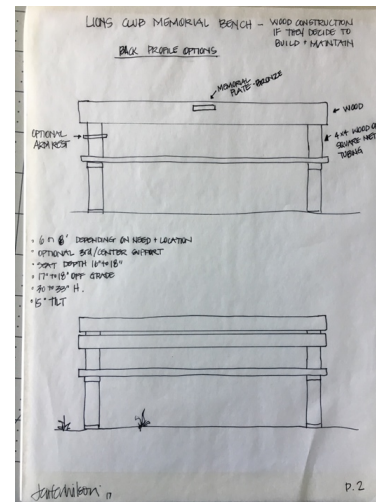
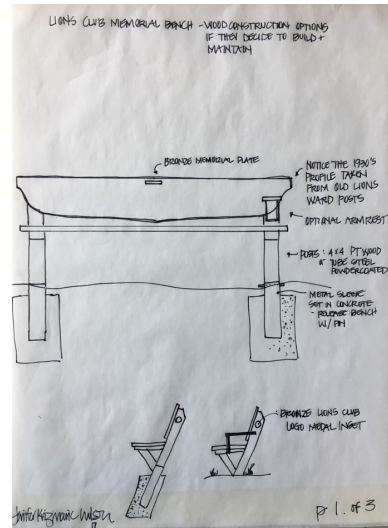
4.3 Special Bench (bench slated for Lions Club Memorial Bench program)

These are set apart by both form and function. The function is not utilitarian like the others; rather it is designed for relaxation and reflection. In form, this is the most ornamental of the 3 bench classifications, it is not designed to blend with the landscape. These benches should have backs for comfort, allowing the user to stay seated for some while in comfort. Careful, thoughtful placement makes these benches special, and worthy of memorializing someone. Distinguished placement might include: a beautiful spot under a tree where one can watch nature unfold, a spot nestled next to the marsh or Long Lake, on a dune top with the sole purpose of facing West to watch sunset, a grouping at a park where one could watch the kids play or leaves turn color. The bench itself is only half the equation; it needs to be rooted in a special place to have real purpose. There should be a set number of these benches, there are only so many specific places in town appropriate, and adding too many diminishes the intrinsic value. As the town changes, there certainly might be other opportunities for sites that are befitting a Special/Memorial bench. To be purpose driven, a map should first be created to assess ideal sites for Special/Memorial Benches in town, as described above. This will determine the total number of benches to offer. To maintain the uniqueness, these should not be used in any utilitarian areas: roadside, outside a building, entrance to field house, near post boxes, in parking lots. They should also not be placed in the same, immediate area as other types of town benches (both privately owned and public) There will be a small brass or bronze placard affixed to the backrest, with Memorial details. Benches will be permanently installed on: stone platform, concrete pad, or concrete piers anchored in the earth.

Suggestions for purchased, metal benches to be powder-coated :



Suggested design if Lions intend to build and maintain wooden benches as before. Note the 1930's profile taken from the original Lions message board design:

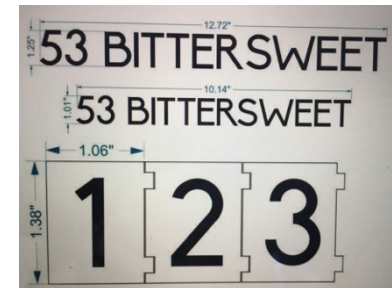


4.3.1 Specifications

Purchased end frames can be powder-coated OD Neutral 5 or Accent 3. Pretreated wooden planks can be left to weather, then sealed clear or they may be artificially weathered and sealed matte, clear. Benches to be anchored in place by concrete pier or pad.

5. Mailbox Shelters

To be constructed as seen below: pretreated wood, with shake roof (or composite with look of). All materials left to weather to a natural patina. Mailboxes to be painted in a uniform, natural color from the OD Natural palette, and have street addresses stenciled in a complimentary color.



5.1 Specifications

Structure: Constructed as seen above in figure 1. Treated wood or painted tubular steel 4x4 post supports, boards and planks left unpainted to weather to a natural patina. Or, allowed to weather and then sealed with clear finish. Roof to be cedar shingles, or material that mimics the natural look of cedar shingles in a

convincing manner (ie: composite). Roof ends to receive same cedar shingle treatment. If gutters, drip edge, steel tube, or downspouts are used they should be painted in OD Natural 3.

Post Boxes: USPS metal boxes to all be painted an OD Neutral using Sherwin Williams 2 part epoxy paint. Street name and numbers to be stenciled on, using TTF BIKO stencils, 1", with paint color OD Accent 1 using SW 2 part epoxy paint.

6. Community Message Boards

6.1 Public Message Kiosks

There are currently 4 covered, public message kiosks in Ogden Dunes. Town Hall, Kratz Field, New Courts, and Nelson Reck. This is the only place a non-resident may post news or advertisement. These have consistently been designed in a rustic manner, with cedar shingle roof and split log framework. They are a needed amenity, as they keep public posting to small, specific areas. The current style is fitting, and similar should be maintained. Roofs should be consistent, and sheathed in shake shingles to maintain the OD rustic aesthetic and match mailbox kiosks.



6.2 Lions Club Ward Posts

There are 5 of this type post in Ogden Dunes, one placed in each ward. They were the precursor to the Message Kiosks, but being unprotected from the elements, are seldom used today. It's a shame to remove them, as they have a unique profile, and character typical of the mid 1930's. They have fallen into disrepair and need to be replaced or removed. **Suggestions: Removal. Save specs of profile to use other areas if needed.**

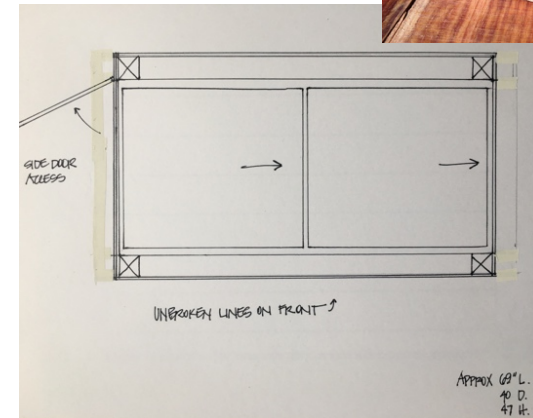


7. Landfill & Recycling Enclosures

Waste receptacles are a necessity to curtail litter. It is important however, to weigh the desire for a receptacle with the ability to maintain it, and purpose. These structures are designed to blend in, allow easy access for removal, and sometimes serve dual purpose of storage or signage placement. Things to consider before creating additional Landfill & Recycling bin sites: proximity to other bins, ease of removal by collector, will it draw attention to itself, does it stand out, will it impede view of nature, is this the ideal location to best serve the most people, proximity to public benches/tables (close enough to use, far enough to control odor). The “owner” ie: committee responsible, should periodically readdress use of each receptacle site to confirm its presence is still warranted. The population has declined since its peak in the mid 1980's, yet we have more receptacles today. Is it better to continue adding waste bins, or to continue reminding residents to take waste with them as they leave? The town creates the culture.

7.1 Design Specifications

Bin should be high enough to fully hide plastic bins. Covered lids should be considered. To be constructed of a material that does not allow sight of any part of the plastic bins. Due to different terrain and site at various locations, it should cover all 4 sides. Not an ornamental structure by any means, this should intentionally recede into the background. A design needs to be consistent for all locations. The design should be consistent throughout town regardless of location. A design with long, unbroken, horizontal lines will help to visually elongate and lower the visual profile. Typically, the first part to fail (of a structure such as this) are the large doors needed to access the bins. By moving the access door to the side, it eliminates 2 large doors in favor of 1 smaller door. Hidden hinges and release for a clean unbroken horizontal line. Bins are parked inside sideways, for easier access by residents. Shiplap siding is beautiful, economical, appropriate to the cottage aesthetic, simple, and will recede into to background, it's long horizontal lines making it appear shorter, and drawing the eye ahead towards the shore.



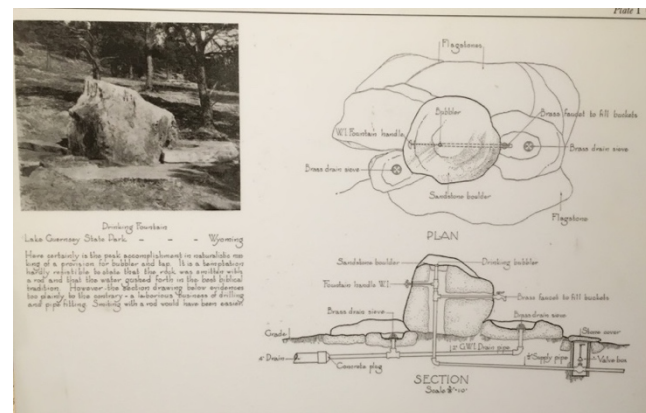
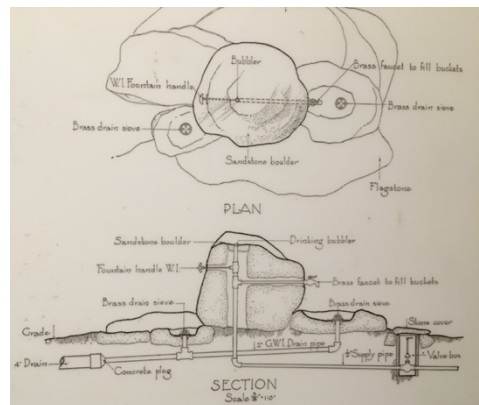
8. Water Fountains

There are 3 water fountains in town.

Nelson Reck Park has one that is accessible near basketball court. It could be improved by: applying a masonry stain to mute the current color, enlarging the concrete pad foundation, adding a stone border detail, and creating a utility box to hide the exposed plumbing nearby.

There are 2 bubblers at Kratz Field. One concrete, one is a simple stone fountain. Not ideal, but easy to improve upon with the addition of: a stone or concrete foundation, and a stacked stone step on one side for children. Ideally, each drinking fountain would have regular height drinking, accessibility access, and a spigot 2 foot off grade for dogs/multipurpose need for water. Below are design specs for rustic, natural looking fountains. This look could also be achieved with stacked Indiana limestone, poured concrete in a tube form and finished in beach stones.

8.1 Design Specifications



9. Paths, Walkways, Access Roads & Boardwalks

Paths, walkways, and access roads, in general, should be installed with a curving, organic nature following the natural topography of the land. A non-direct (not a straight line) siting works best in Ogden Dunes for a few reasons: it shields Town structures from street view if trees present, protects the natural topography of the site, and can even be used to highlight areas of interest or special beauty.

Most all **town paths** (footpaths consisting of sand, soil, vegetation/grass, mulch, crushed stone) follow this guideline with the exception of The Planetary Trail which follows the path of the defunct, straight, rail line (in this case the direct path is appropriate).

Walkways are paths with improvements such as concrete or asphalt. Future walkways should be constructed in such a manner as to incorporate green buffers adjacent to buildings/structures. Town walkways include: sidewalks around tennis courts, sidewalk access to Fire Station and Police Department/Town Hall. These existing walkways could be improved to enhance the overall appearance and use of these areas. Adding a small planting space between structure and winding walkway, planted with low maintenance, native plants would soften the approach and enhance the appearance of the structure.

Access roads include: paved drives to Street Department, Fire Station, Studio, and Utility buildings. Most existing access roads are winding in nature and successful in providing a limited view from the street. However, some areas along these access roads need trees/vegetation reintroduced to recreate a green screen. It works well to underplant these areas periodically when existing trees are nearing their lifespan, rather than let a large void be created, and recovery lasting many years. The areas that require additional green screen planting near access roads: approach to Street Department from Hillcrest Road, the conifer grove along Hillcrest Road shielding maintenance buildings and tower from view, South side of approach to ODFD, the entire area around ODPD/Town Hall, Kratz Field along Hillcrest Road, the corner at Nelson Reck Park, area along American Water Company property, corner at New Courts, bush hedge at new courts/playground, area near emergency access/tracks where a juniper bush was removed that once shielded town view from utility building, train structures.



Beach Access paths and boardwalks: Beach access paths that have been modified to accommodate a raised, wooden walkway are boardwalks. There are 19 public access paths to the lake along Shore Drive. They range in

scope from a simple, naturally meandering footpath to developed boardwalks with railings, seating areas, viewing areas, lighting, and landfill/recycling bins. Using “purpose driven design” it is essential to study the frequency of use at each access, and distribute public amenities based on frequency of use, needs of residents, ability to maintain, additional requirements such as ADA access and police/emergency access, and balance all this with the desire for the natural beauty of dunes and shore to remain intact as the focal point. After studying these considerations, and the ODHA’s desire to develop their own set of standards to simplify the process of addressing need, choosing designs, maintenance, and allocation of amenities; an ODHA Beach Access Standards Guide was created that meshed with the overall vision of this document. The guide does this by first studying usage, location, and proximity to other access paths. It was a natural conclusion to classify the access paths based on the findings, into 3 categories: Main Paths, Intermediate Paths, and Lesser Path. This enables ODHA to more easily plan for maintenance, budget of existing physical improvements and property, and to act as standard for consideration of new improvements or additions to property.

The standard of **Main Paths** would be: boardwalk installation, a widened path for emergency vehicle access (necessitating the change of the natural topography to accommodate within reason), ADA parking and access, a small bench and/or viewing area, Landfill/Recycling bins, dog waste bag dispensers, and one 6x6” wooden post with access number.

The **Intermediate Paths** will not be widened or natural topography compromised any further. 6 of the 19 access paths currently have this designation. These paths have been widened, some have boardwalks, rails, benches, and such. As the lifespan of these amenities ends, it is not necessary to replace the boardwalks, opting instead for a natural footpath following natural topography with the possible addition of mulch if needed. Moving forward, these paths could become more naturalized in regard to width, with the reintroduction of native grasses to the sides of path. Landfill/Recycling stations, dog waste bag dispensers, path markers, and benches should remain but the needs of such be revisited time to time.

Lesser Paths have been allowed to remain relatively natural. 10 of the 19 paths have Lesser designation. A beautiful, simple footpath that follows the natural terrain. In order for Lesser Paths to maintain their natural appeal, they should be protected as such and not allow manipulation of the terrain, structures, amenities or change of use. These should be made from natural, native sand/soil, vegetation and provide an unobstructed path to the beach. The only amenity at these paths will be the 6x6 post with number.

These standards help the ODHA by simplifying the choice of amenities provided per access path, maintenance, simplifies budgeting process in regard to foreseeable replacement costs and maintenance, lessens wasteful spending on amenities not needed, and provides a simple blueprint to hand over to the incoming committee members that will ensure consistency and a cohesive aesthetic for residents of Ogden Dunes.



10. Public Art

Selection, installation, location and maintenance of public art in Ogden Dunes to be decided by ODHPS committee with input from community, and presented to the Town Council for approval. This ensures the art selected is appropriate to the aesthetic of Ogden Dunes, that it enhances the natural beauty of the space, is sited properly, and that the area will be maintained once installed. No public art warrants the use of electric light to enhance/illuminate during dark hours.

11. Green Areas

Plant Selection: Due to proximity, and shared borders to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, care should be taken regarding plant/tree selection. No invasive species should be planted purposely on public property. As a general rule, all decorative town planting areas should use a 1:1 ratio, native to nonnative selections, with a future goal of 85% native species, leaving nonnative selections to seasonal containers and ornamental trees/bushes for variety.

Invasive Maintenance: Eradication of invasive vines such as Oriental Bittersweet and Kudzu, and plants such as Garlic Mustard and Dames Rocket should be maintained regularly, according to the owning committees' internal "Physical holdings & property maintenance plan" documents to protect our trees, landscape and health of our neighboring protected parks on a regularly scheduled basis.

Green buffers, trees, bushes in public areas: to be maintained regularly by the committee/entity that holds title to the land according to their own internal “Physical holdings & property maintenance plan” documents. These documents which outline a regularly scheduled maintenance plan (ex: monthly, yearly, 5 year, 10 year), taking into account life span of trees/plantings, underplanting to maintain live green areas perpetually, restorative work needed, so that green buffers which also act as privacy screens, wind barriers, sound barriers, green screens to hide infrastructure, natural safety barriers are properly maintained for public enjoyment.

12. Lighting

The natural beauty of the night landscape is as important as enjoying sunlit days on our shores. In an effort to protect the wonder of the night skies for future generations and us all, Town lighting should follow local (State, National Parks and shoreline communities) norms for lighting that supports this “nature focused” way of life. The use of down-lit, hooded fixtures; lighting timers and motion sensors will greatly improve the residents’ ability to enjoy the natural beauty of the Dunes at night. In an effort to maintain our towns character, electronic message boards, or other brightly lit modern displays should be avoided. Other than street lamps and safety lights, there is no need for overnight illumination. Natural light spectrum bulbs are preferred. These standards are especially important for Ogden Dunes due to proximity to Indiana Dunes State Park, National Lakeshore, and the negative effect of light pollution on the nocturnal natural environment. Continued effort should be made to educate residents, especially new residents, on the effects of light pollution on the environment and our desire as a community to enjoy our outdoor places at night, and suggestions for their own properties to enhance and better enjoy the night skies. Not using flood lights full time overnight, would greatly enhance the joy of skygazing with the family.

13. Utilities

Overhead utility lines are an eyesore and distraction from the natural beauty of the Dunes. Since it would be a tremendous and costly undertaking to bury all lines, the Town could focus on the areas most used or lines most obvious. Namely, the area along Hillcrest from Town gate to Kratz field, and Shore Drive. Perhaps it can be done in sections, when there is other scheduled street or water line, repair or maintenance. A feasibility study should be done at the time other large improvements are being made to road/water, to also incorporate a plan to bury the power/cable lines.

