

DEVELOP A UNIFIED WAYFINDING SYSTEM

Improved wayfinding can help accommodate a growing number of users and preserve delicate ecosystems by routing visitors to designated trails and away from unsanctioned routes.

A good wayfinding system not only guides people along sustainable routes to their destinations but can enhance a user's understanding and experience of the Foothills. Ultimately, wayfinding's contribution to more feet and wheels on sustainable trails and improved user appreciation for these public lands can make significant contributions to the preservation of the Salt Lake City Foothills ecosystem and trail network.

Unified Wayfinding System:

The cornerstone of a good wayfinding system is uniformity. All trail markers, signposts, maps, and trailhead kiosks should be developed with a uniform design. This extends to shapes, materials, fonts, colors, and layout of each. Creating a uniform approach will also support integration of future trail networks, reroutes, or closures into the official Foothills trails system. The design should be as unique as Salt Lake City and its foothills, communicating a sense of place that is instantly recognizable to any visitor.

Educational Signage:

Incorporating interpretive and educational signage along with wayfinding is important. Educational signs should be strategically located to identify sensitive species, unique habitat, historic and cultural landscape narratives and other elements. For the Foothills specifically, educational signage regarding the damage caused by social trails would be useful.

Promotion of Responsible Usage:

Trailhead and wayfinding signs should communicate in simple terms and encourage responsible trail use. The incorporation of Leave No Trace principles and local regulations is key, underscoring the importance of adhering to designated trails.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness:

Ensuring the safety of trail users is paramount. Signage should provide concise information about emergency contacts, park hours, and safety guidelines, particularly in remote or challenging terrain. Mile markers or other indicators of placement along a trail can further help emergency responders locate the site of an accident. This ensures user security and preparedness during outdoor activities.

Restoration Zones Identification:

Official signage should identify areas undergoing ecological restoration. Signage can both educate trail users about the value of these projects and restrict access. This initiative supports successful ecosystem rehabilitation and prevents further degradation.

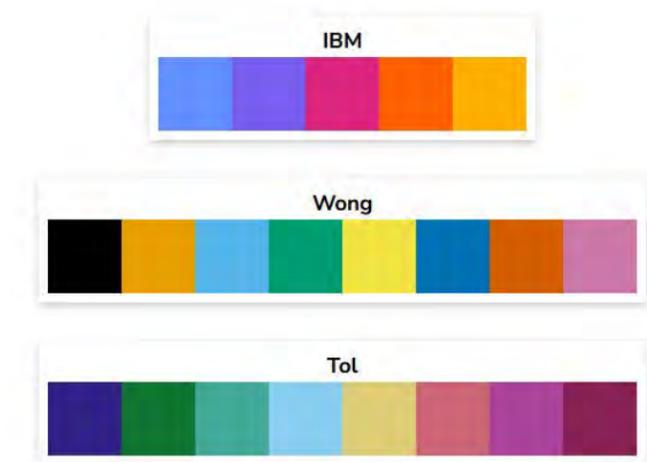
Community Engagement:

Installation of signage across the Foothills is a time-consuming task. Consider engaging volunteers to support staff efforts when installing wayfinding signage. Active involvement of the local community in the placement of signage fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility. Collaborative efforts bring community insights and ensure a stronger connection to the trail system.

Accessibility and Inclusivity:

Signage should highlight wheelchair-accessible routes and accessible facilities, promoting equal access to all users. These accessible routes are popular with many users, including the young and old, cyclists of all types, and those with mobility impairments. Inclusivity and universal access are paramount in ensuring a broad spectrum of users can enjoy the trail system.

Another key consideration for accessibility is ensuring that final colors are 'colorblind safe.' Many maps and signs utilize green red pairing, which are commonly lost when viewed by the 8% of men and .5% of women with limited color vision. Below are three common color blind safe color sets. Click on the image to review a comprehensive discussion (and digital color codes) of these palettes.



Color Blind Safe Color Palettes