

THOMPSON FALLS

MONTANA

GENUINE IN NATURE

WAYFINDING MASTER PLAN

JANUARY 2024



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CRITICAL PARTNERS & CONTRIBUTORS

City of Thompson Falls
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Limberlost Brewing Company
Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce
Thompson Falls Community Trails
Thompson Falls Main Street Association
Thompson Falls Public Library
Sanders County
Sanders County Community Development
Sanders County MSU Extension



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BACKGROUND



WHAT IS WAYFINDING?

INTRODUCTION

Wayfinding signs are designed to provide clear guidance on directions, important landmarks, and points of interest, making it easier for residents and visitors to navigate to their intended destinations. This not only reduces confusion, errors, and accidents but also improves the overall user experience and ensures a safer environment for everyone. Implementing a community wayfinding plan has multiple benefits including promoting local businesses and recreational assets while fostering a sense of community and pride by showcasing distinctive landmarks and attractions.

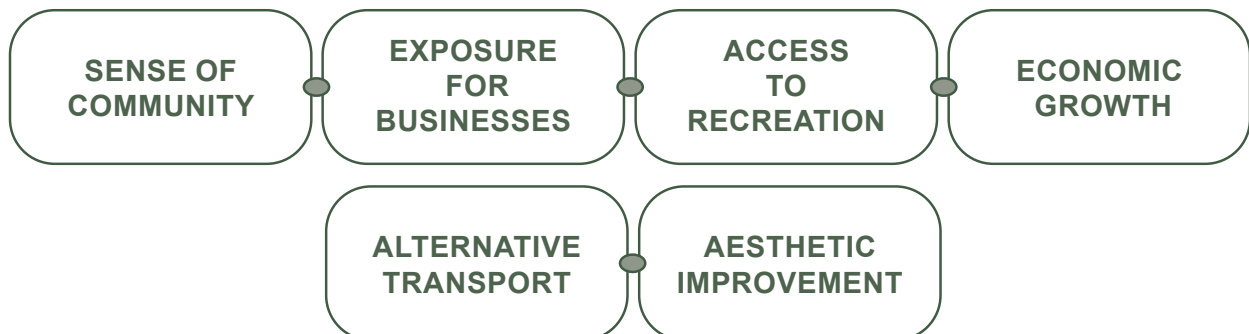


WAYFINDING PROCESS

The Wayfinding Plan summarizes the feedback received from the public and partners, which influenced the suggestions for sign design and placement. It includes specifications for developing and constructing new signs, prioritized locations for their installation, and estimated costs associated with sign projects and their construction. This effort utilized map data, community-generated points of interest, and the priorities highlighted by various past public-engagement efforts.



Above: Examples of Wayfinding Signage. (Source: www.pinterest.com)



WAYFINDING GOALS

To develop effective, implementable wayfinding and signage plan to direct the enthusiasm of both locals and visitors, fostering a sense of community that brings advantages through increased exposure to businesses, recreation areas, economic growth opportunities, opportunities for alternative modes of transportation, and aesthetic benefits. Based on feedback from the community survey and public open house, the goals of the wayfinding and signage plan include:

SAFETY

Promote safety by reducing confusion and the potential for accidents. Improve pedestrian and bike safety along the downtown corridor.



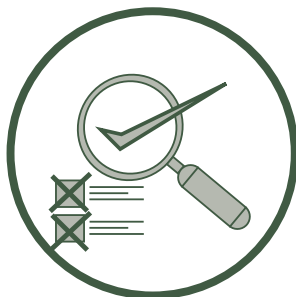
IDENTITY

Utilize the existing Branding standards to create visual identity for the community, reinforcing its unique character and personality.



ACCESSIBILITY

Enhance the accessibility of the community for residents, visitors, and seasonal tourists by providing clear and intuitive navigation.



COMPLIANCE

Ensure that the wayfinding plan complies with Montana Department of Transportation regulations, including sign codes and accessibility standards



ECONOMY

Support local businesses and boost economic development by directing people to commercial areas, cultural attractions, and other points of interest. Attract tourists and highlight key attractions, landmarks, and historic sites to boost tourism revenue.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This Plan will serve as the basis for further signage implementation in Thompson Falls. Designs and information outlined in this document provide guidelines for implementation and will facilitate coordination with transportation officials. The findings from the community engagement framework established in previous planning efforts and further completed in this Plan should guide any future efforts in wayfinding. This document is intended to be an evolving resource with updates as necessary to suit current and future community goals. Community stakeholders will need to revisit the list of destinations and prioritize needed signs for proper navigation of residents and visitors.



THOMPSON FALLS BACKGROUND

Thompson Falls, Montana, is situated in a scenic valley along the banks of the Clark Fork River. Situated midway between Missoula, Montana, and Sandpoint, Idaho, along Montana Highway 200, Thomson Falls serves as the seat of Sanders County.

Thompson Falls' vibrant downtown area, which extends along Main Street and Montana Highway 200, is home to a multitude of local businesses that play a pivotal role in shaping the unique character of the community. Beyond the downtown core, both Thompson Falls' residents and visitors enjoy access to extensive tracts of public land that span across millions of acres. These natural areas offer diverse recreational opportunities year-round and Highway 200 serves as a popular route for seasonal visitors.



PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The following plan is a component of the Thompson Falls Recreation Economy Infrastructure Plan, which received funding through a 2021 USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) awarded to Sanders County. The Kaniksu Land Trust oversaw the grant administration and project management, including the development of this Wayfinding Plan. The USDA RBDG grant application and approval took place following the conclusion of the 2020 Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) workshop in Thompson Falls. The RERC workshop led to the creation of a Community Action Plan for Thompson Falls, and emphasized initiatives aimed at expanding the local recreation

economy, such as the implementation of wayfinding signs. The importance of wayfinding information was also highlighted within the Downtown Master Plan, a document crafted by the Downtown Committee, which later evolved into the Thompson Falls Main Street Association. This association is affiliated with the Montana Main Street Program and is dedicated to rejuvenating Main Street and the community as a whole.

This plan also seeks to improve adoption and application of the city's branding strategy. This branding strategy dictates the aesthetics, material, and design standards with which future signage should comply to further promote Thompson Falls and its amenities.

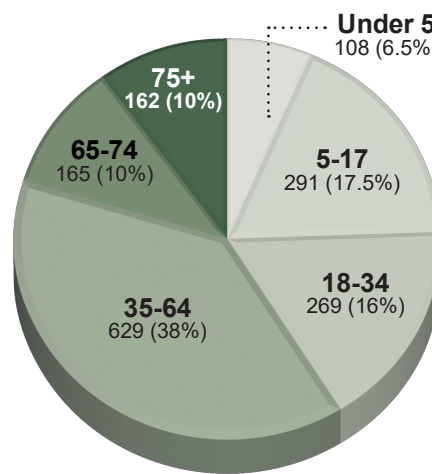


This project was funded by a Montana Main Street (MMS) Grant, administered through the Montana Department of Commerce. The MMS Program, operating as a state coordinating initiative within the Main Street America network, allocates competitive grant funds to communities emphasizing planning and/or implementation projects directly tied to downtown revitalization, development, and historic preservation. The goal of this program is to better the economic, historic, and cultural vitality of Montana downtowns through community development, revitalization, and historic preservation.

THOMPSON FALLS DEMOGRAPHICS

The total population of Thompson Falls in 2022 was 1,624 in 711 total households. With 48.7% of total households having one or more people over the age of 60. The data provided from the 2022 American Community Survey of the US Census suggests that a significant proportion of Thompson Falls' population is elderly. **17.8% of all Thompson Falls residents had a disability.** The US Council on Environmental quality identifies **Sanders County as a disadvantaged community.**

AGE GROUPS



- 7.6%**
Age 5-17 with a Disability
- 7.4%**
Age 18-34 with a Disability
- 22.4%**
Age 35-64 with a Disability
- 32.7%**
Age 65-74 with a Disability
- 32.1%**
Age 75+ with a Disability

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU. "DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS." AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES SUBJECT TABLES, TABLE S1810, 2022. [HTTPS://DATA.CENSUS.GOV/TABLE/ACSS1810?Q=-DISABILITY&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825](https://data.census.gov/tables//data.acs/2022/s1810?Q=-DISABILITY&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825).

12.8% of Thompson Falls residents that are 65 years or older have vision difficulty. This further highlights the need for clear and effective wayfinding elements to reduce potential vehicle/pedestrian conflict.

Workforce and commuting statistics show 85.4% of all workers in Thompson Falls work within Sanders County. 71.6% of all workers in Thompson Falls have a work commute time of less than 10 minutes, suggesting that the majority of Thompson Falls' workforce lives and works within the community. Reports show that 98.3% of households have a car available, with 47.2% of households having 3 or more vehicles available suggesting that driving is a large factor for households and their livelihoods.

Thompson Falls community members over 65 also report hearing, cognitive, and ambulatory difficulties at higher rates and would benefit from clear and consistent markers for vehicles and pedestrians along roadways and trails.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

55.8%
Persons over 16 in Labor Force

7.1%
Residents below the poverty level

57.5%
Persons have public health insurance

\$43,125
Median Income Level

10.8%
Persons 25 and over with less than high school education

15.1%
Persons 25 and over with a Bachelors degree or greater

Thompson Falls is in the 92nd percentile of persons over 18 with heart disease. Wayfinding elements that further enable new and longtime residents to access nearby recreational amenities can be a tool for improving public health.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU. "SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS." AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES DATA PROFILES, TABLE DP03, 2022. [HTTPS://DATA.CENSUS.GOV/TABLE/ACSDP5Y2022.DP03?Q=ECON-P.OCC&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825](https://data.census.gov/tables//data.acs/2022/dp03?Q=ECON-P.OCC&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825).

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU. "SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES." AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES DATA PROFILES, TABLE DP02, 2022. [HTTPS://DATA.CENSUS.GOV/TABLE/ACSDP5Y2022.DP02?Q=DISABILITY&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825](https://data.census.gov/tables//data.acs/2022/dp02?Q=DISABILITY&G=050XX00US30089_160XX00US3073825).

ANALYSIS

FORT THOMPSON PLAYGROUND

Named in honor of navigator and fur trader David Thompson (1770-1837), the first known explorer to reach Sanders County. Born in England, young David enrolled in a London charity school for orphan boys at age 7. Upon his 14th birthday he was sent across the Atlantic Ocean to the bay shores of Montreal, Canada to begin 7 years industrial servitude as clerk for the Hudson's Bay Company. His soon turned to apprenticeship in French & Spanish languages, engraving, cartography, map making, build trading posts, and survive in the wilds of the New World. On many occasions he received critical assistance & cooperation from North American natives.

Between 1807-1812, Thompson successfully established trails among the tribes west of the Rocky Mountains. He and his men built the region's first trading posts, including one near Thompson Falls he called "North House". In 1811 he located and mapped the western source of the Columbia River. By linking the rivers of this legendary flow of the West and following it to the Pacific Ocean, Thompson solved the mystery of the Northwest Passage - an elusive quest to reach more explorers had sought for centuries. He & his group were made this historic voyage of discovery in a large red glass canoe of his own invention.

By the time his career was over, the ambitious Thompson had surveyed nearly 1.5 million square miles of uncharted territory - approximately 17% of North America. He was instrumental in establishing the first coast-to-coast network of remote wilderness forts & trading posts and is credited with traveling over 65,000 miles by both horse & canoe. To this day, David Thompson is regarded as the greatest land geographer of all time.

Playground funded by the voluntary charity of many giving individuals including their major donors.

The City of Thompson Falls is proud to have this playground dedicated to the memory of David Thompson. The playground is a gift from the community and is a testament to the spirit of giving and the importance of outdoor play for children. The playground is a place where children can learn about the history of the area and the importance of the outdoors. The playground is a place where children can play and have fun. The playground is a place where children can learn and grow.

OWNED & OPERATED BY THE CITY OF THOMPSON FALLS

- PARK OPEN DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY -

Parental supervision advised. Clean up after pets. Please litter in trash bins. Be courteous!

Play safe, keep off railroad tracks & always look twice before crossing the street!

CALL 911 TO REPORT CRIME, VANDALISM, OR SERIOUS INJURY



EXISTING SIGNAGE

VEHICULAR SIGNAGE



Over the past several years, there have been numerous signs replaced around town. Particularly in parks and town entries, these signs have incorporated the new branding style. These signs are given a low priority for replacement as they are currently utilizing the branding. For consistency, signs installed in the future should follow the signage standards outlined in this plan.

There are also several instances of other styles of signage throughout the community that have not been updated to date. These signs should be given a higher priority for replacement so there is consistency with City of Thompson Falls amenities and facilities.



PEDESTRIAN SIGNAGE

There are several instances of pedestrian signs around Thompson Falls. The majority of the pedestrian signs direct users to trails. The pedestrian signs were observed to be the least consistent signage existing in the city at the current time with very few having updated branding.



COMMUNITY ASSET/KIOSK SIGNAGE

Kiosks around the community, especially near parks, were largely updated within the past few years. Several of these have updated maps and visitor attractions. Because these are in good condition, these will fall to a lower priority for replacement or updates with funding being directed towards replacing older signage/facilities first. As upgrades take place, these kiosks should be updated for consistency and standardization.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Thompson Falls has been in the process of replacing existing signs and improving wayfinding. Below, there are some of the opportunities and challenges that are identified. These have been taken into consideration throughout the plan to prioritize and identify next steps.

OPPORTUNITIES

•Exceptional access to nature: unique assets including Island Park, the Clark Fork River, abundant wildlife, magnificent mountain ranges, parks, wilderness areas, national and state forests and state parks in the area.

Charming small-town community: that serves as a Clark Fork River corridor to natural resources, cultural, and historical hot spots.

Diverse recreation: including a full range of outdoor activities including boating, camping, cycling, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, golfing, motocross, mountain biking, water sports, rafting, skiing, and snowmobiling.

Partnerships: a culture of collaboration among Thompson Falls' many partners, including the Downtown Association, the Chamber of Commerce and other economic or social resources and clubs.

Desire: for business leaders to promote outdoor-recreation-friendly communities and for tourists to seek out authentic travel experiences.

Unique: hyper-local flavor that can be scaled and harnessed for more authentic promotion.

CHALLENGES

Driving Focused: driving distances are longer for some residents and the accessibility of basic services (such as medical, emergency and technology) is restricted for residents and visitors with limited motor vehicle access.

Wayfinding: lack of consistent current directional sign to guide movement of visitors through primary entry points and around the community to maximize potential investment and engagement.

Encroachment: Railroad and MDT rights-of-way overlap on the primary travel corridor.

Public transportation: is limited between Montana cities and to area attractions.

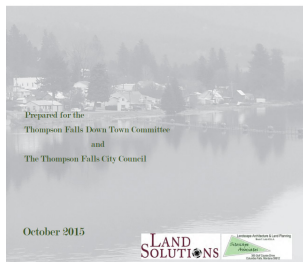


EXISTING PLANS

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN - OCTOBER 2015



City of Thompson Falls
Downtown Thompson Falls Master Plan



Thompson Fall's 2015 Downtown Master Plan serves as a guide for improving the economic conditions and highlighting opportunities for improvements to the Thompson Falls Main Street. This Plan focused on both physical and cultural amenities to promote community assets and provide a vision for the future of downtown. The plan lays out specific short, medium and long-term actions, and includes a vision for improved community gateways and amenities to improve the arrival experience, encourage patronage at local businesses, and increase awareness of and access to local recreational resources.

www.cityofthompsonfalls.com/downtown-master-plan

THOMPSON FALLS BRANDING STRATEGY AND MARKETING PLAN - 2018



These documents establish standards for community-branding and strategies for leveraging the branding to further promote Thompson Falls. In order to generate implementable signage designs, recommendations from these branding efforts will be evaluated using the recommendations and requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to determine compliance with mandatory visibility, glance recognition, material, reflectivity, font, contrast, and legibility standards.

RECREATION ECONOMY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN - OCTOBER 2020



This Community Action Plan was developed following a series of workshops in which participants shared their vision for a growing local economy and hopes for revitalization of Main Street. This plan has a major influence on the Wayfinding Plan and produced a community-generated inventory of recreational, historical, and cultural assets in Thompson Falls. Creation of the Wayfinding Plan is in line with several action items developed in these workshops.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The public meeting was held on August 12th from 5-7 PM. This event piggybacked on an existing event to help increase participation and was held at the Limberlost Brewery during a live music event. Promotional materials were hung around town at various businesses to increase awareness. During this weekend, the project team also walked into several businesses that were open to talk to citizens about their feelings on wayfinding.

Overwhelmingly, people felt it was confusing and there was an overlap of signage with existing Montana Department of Transportation signage. They felt their downtown businesses could benefit from clearer signage, ease of parking, and slower traffic speeds.

Examples of materials utilized to collect responses in this engagement event can be seen below:



Coming Up...

Thompson Falls Wayfinding Plan

In 2015, Thompson Falls Downtown Committee and City Council completed a Downtown Master Plan. From that plan, it was evident that Thompson Falls needed a way for folks to easily obtain information and directions. With the help of Kaniksu Land Trust, Thompson Falls has been awarded a grant from Montana Main Street Program to do just that - complete a wayfinding signage plan! Come chat with us - we want to hear your thoughts on best locations for signs, what destinations need improved signage, and more!

Visit us at Limberlost Brewing Co. at 1017 W Main Street!

August 12th
5 pm - 7 pm

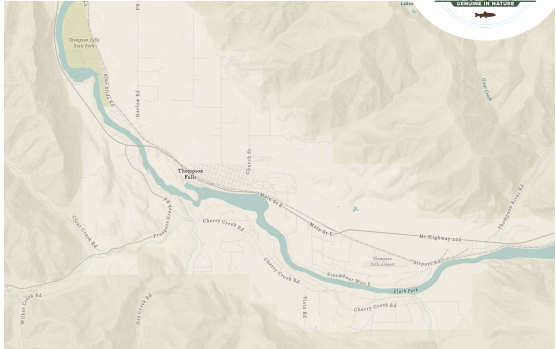
Questions? Email: Projects@waterenvtech.com

Can't make it? Take the survey here: 

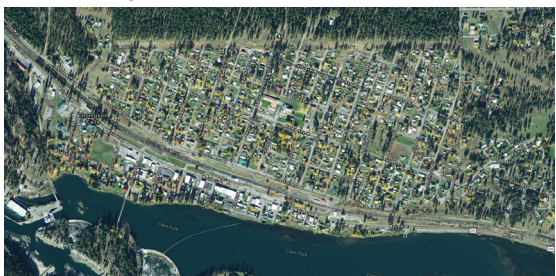
WET
Water & Environmental Technology

Thompson Falls Wayfinding Plan

Please place stickers below on areas of town that you believe give visitors the first impression of Thompson Falls:




Please place stickers below on areas of town that you believe people from out of town would be interested in visiting:



Using a sticky note, add any other places here:

Thompson Falls Wayfinding Plan

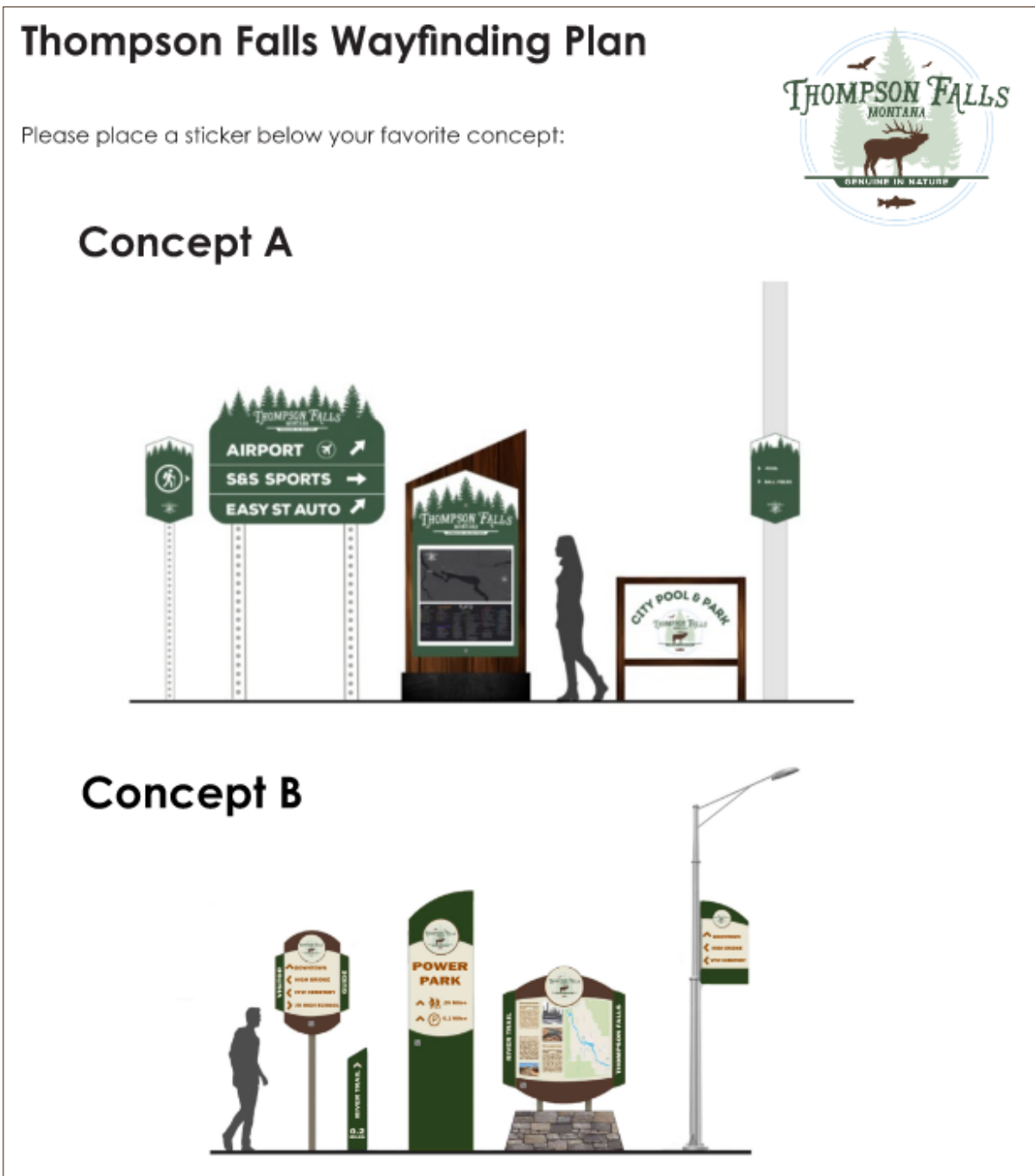
Please place a sticker on your top 3 priorities



- Connect Places**
- Provide Clear Information**
- Ensure Visibility of Signs**
- Enhance Safety**
- Enhance Non-Motorized Travel**
- Economic Growth**
- Other:**

In the Summer and Fall of 2023, a survey was released and distributed through various locations in the community. The survey was also presented at an August City Council meeting with paper copies of the survey available as well as QR scan codes.

The survey results indicate various aspects of the community of Thompson Falls, including residency distribution, preferences for improved wayfinding signage among different user groups, and ratings for ease of finding parks, businesses, and public buildings. An extensive list of survey questions is available in the Appendix of this report. Respondents expressed opinions on existing signs, with the majority of respondents finding them lacking. Preferences for signage showed Option A being the most favored. Overall, the data provides insights for potential enhancements in signage and navigation strategies to improve the community's accessibility and overall appeal.

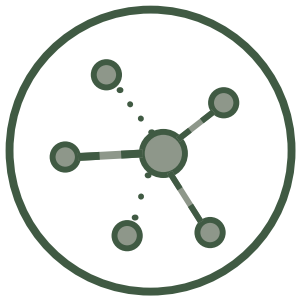


WAYFINDING PRIORITIES



ASSET INVENTORY

Identify High-Priority Assets For Promotion, Connection, and Wayfinding Signage



PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS

Identify Needs for Connection Infrastructure Among Recreation Assets and Downtown



REGIONAL PROMOTION

Identify Partners, Resources, And Opportunities to Promote Regional Assets



These priorities were driven by reviewing past planning efforts, stakeholder feedback, public comment, and survey results. These goals should be revisited periodically to ensure they align with the future needs and wants of the City of Thompson Falls and its residents.

WAYFINDING STANDARDS



SIGNAGE STANDARDS

Sign family concept alternatives were presented to the public at the public meeting as well as through the online survey. Concepts utilized easily sourced materials, and reviewed costs for installation and labor. As several signs have already been installed in the City, the following standards have been developed to integrate these new signs, the new branding, and provide consistency throughout the community.

VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL

These signs will be large and used sparingly to direct users to key locations. These are designed to Montana Department of Transportation standards to allow for ease of permitting and installation. (See page 34 for sign requirements).

KIOSKS

Kiosks are placed at high traffic locations with a map on one side and additional information on the other. These can be updated frequently for community events and updates and serve as an informative location for residents as well as visitors.

COMMUNITY GATEWAY

These signs are the first impression of the City of Thompson Falls. They announce and introduce the city. These signs will feature the city name and have substantial size to be seen clearly. These have already begun installation and consistency should be insured in future signage.



COMMUNITY ASSET SIGNAGE

These signs will be used for Parks, Buildings, and other Community Amenities that require Vehicular Visibility and a sense of arrival.





PEDESTRIAN AND TRAIL IDENTIFICATION

These signs smaller in size and direct users to trail locations and other recreational opportunities in the community. These can be mounted on existing light poles or independently near parks and trails.

BANNERS

There are several existing banners on poles throughout downtown that are due for replacement. It is recommended to replace these banners with the designs outlined on Page 33 as well as having 2 other banners for special events/holidays for year round interest.

TRAIL MARKERS

With so many recreation opportunities weaving in and out of the community, it was identified that trail markers are needed to help guide users between Trail Identification signage. These help span between the larger signage and clearly mark distances.

OTHER

Because the downtown area lies within several right-of-ways and signage is already congested, it is recommended to utilize other methods for wayfinding and cohesion in downtown such as benches, trashcans, and bike racks. These will make downtown identifiable and reduce visual clutter.

SIGN MATERIALS

The materials recommended in this plan are based on local availability, cost of materials and labor, and longevity of material life-span.

WOOD

Signage posts should utilize locally sourced timbers when possible. These timbers should be pressure treated for longevity.

SIGN PANELS

Vehicular signs should comply to MDT standards for panel material. All other panels are recommended to be Aluminum with vandalism resistant surfacing.

SIGN STANDARD GUIDELINES

Established community **branding efforts will need to be adapted** to meet the requirements of MDT and the FHWA in cases where mandatory design standards are not compatible with community branding for **vehicular signage**.

Community design preferences from the 2018 Branding Strategy and Marketing plans have **3 potential areas of conflict** with Community Wayfinding Signage Standards from the MUTCD:

1. **Color luminance ratio for legends and backgrounds**
2. **Legend typeface (font)**
3. **Sign composition and enhancement markers**

MUTCD : SECT 2D.05.01-04 Lettering

MUTCD : SECT 2D.50.19 Luminance

MUTCD : SECT 2D.50.38-42 Enhancements

SHS : 8-1,2,3 Guidelines

LETTER SIZING

- Gateway Signage: Min. 18" Tall Lettering
- Vehicular Signage: See "Example MDT Compliant Sign" for recommendations
- Pedestrian Signs: Min. 4" Tall Lettering
- General Standards: 1" Lettering is able to be seen approximately 25 feet away with high contrast colors.

TYPEFACE

The fonts in the existing branding booklet do not meet the spacing, readability, and legibility standards established by the FHWA for use in signage for motor vehicles. **Their use should be limited to Wayfinding Enhancement Markers or pedestrian-focused signage. Vehicular standards should utilize approved MDT fonts.**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NEXA RUST SANS

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

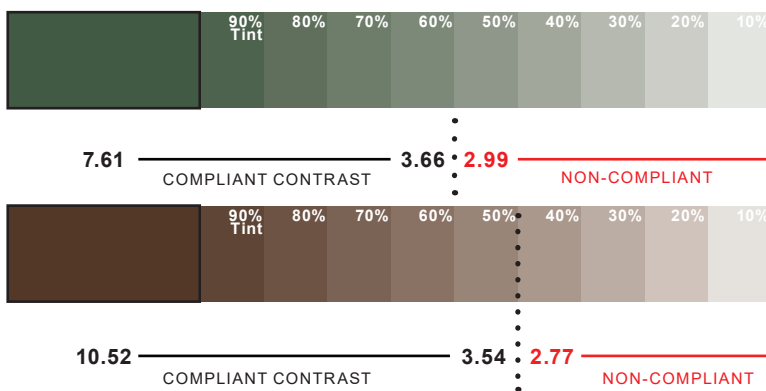
STANDARD ALPHABETS FOR HIGHWAYS SIGNS

The FHWA Series also known as Highway Gothic or the Standard Alphabet for Highway Signs is a series of fonts described in the Standards for Highway Signs and Markings addition to the MUTCD, these fonts are acceptable for use in signage legends, one example from this series can be seen below.

HIGHWAY GOTHIC- FHWA SERIES E

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr
Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

BRANDING COLOR PALETTE



The MUTCD specifies a minimum luminance ratio for backgrounds and legends of 3:1. This value represents a 3:1 contrast ratio between the sign background and any content such as lettering, directional arrows, or other mandatory sign markings which may be required by the MUTCD or MDT. This contrast ratio ensures that motorists will be able to quickly and easily discern critical directional information.

Color palettes established in the 2018 Branding Strategy are only partially compliant, and future designs should be tested prior to implementation.

PRIMARY DESTINATIONS - AMENITIES

Previous planning efforts had developed this comprehensive list of local amenities. Through stakeholder meetings and public meetings, this list was used as a base to identify sign locations and sign information to develop the signage schedule. From here, the list was reduced to show major destinations. This list could be utilized in other mapping exercises for brochures or pamphlets that are updated on a regular basis.

CIVIC

- City Hall
- Clark Fork Prof Building
- Community Center
- Courthouse
- Election Office
- Elementary School
- High School
- Junior High School
- Senior Center
- Sheriff's Office

SERVICES

- Airport
- Amerigas
- Energy Partners
- John's Fuel Farm
- Library
- Transfer Station

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Beagle's Bakery & Espresso
- Big Eddy's
- Black Bear Coffee
- Cheri's Coffee
- Clark Fork Elks Lodge
- Highlead
- Limberlost Brewery
- Wild Coyote

POINT OF INTEREST

- High Bridge
- Historic Fraternal Cemetery
- Wild Rose Cemetery
- Thompson Falls Dam
- Thompson Pass
- VFW Cemetery

RECREATION

- Pool
- Weber Gulch Trail
- Ainsworth Park
- Babe Ruth
- Pool Park Playground
- Power Park
- Bear Muscle Fitness
- Powerhouse Loop Trail
- Dog Park
- Railway Park
- Rex Theater
- Eddy Peak Fire Lookout
- River Trail
- Finlay Flats
- Flatiron
- Gazebo Park
- Graves Creek
- Island Park
- Kayak Launch
- Little League
- Mt Silcox WMA
- Mule Pasture
- Pickleball/Tennis
- Rivers Bend Golf Course
- Rose Garden & Fort
- Thompson Playground
- Softball Field
- Shooting Range
- Sqyalth Kwum
- Swimming Area
- Thompson Falls State Park
- Thompson River
- Wild Goose Landing
- Old Jail Museum

MEDICAL

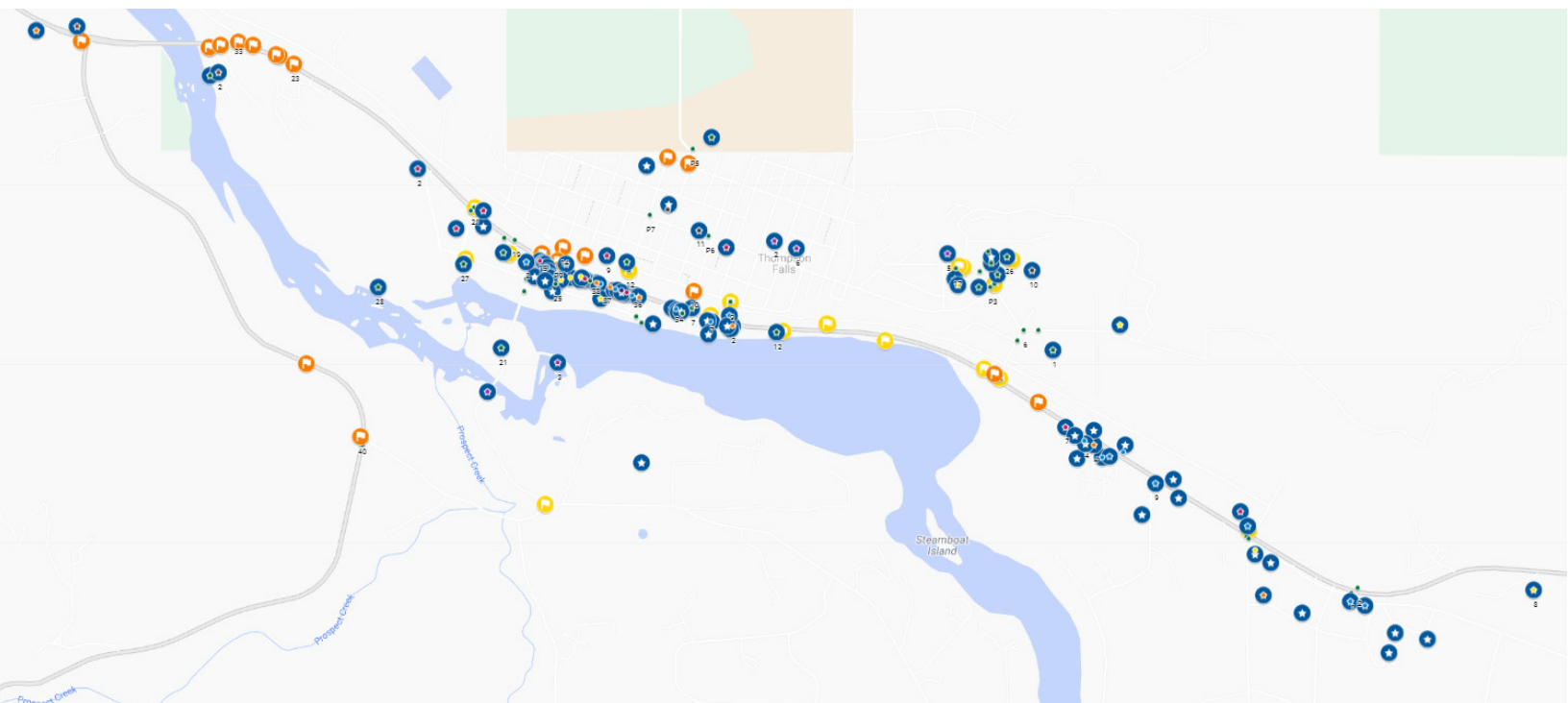
- Ambulance
- CFVH Family Medicine
- Fire Stations
- Lundgren Chiropractic
- Main St Medical
- River Town Dental
- Ryan Chiropractic
- Sanders County Mental Health
- Thompson Falls Vet
- Thompson Falls Family Pharmacy

LODGING

- Bear Creek Resort
- Birdland Bay RV
- Rimrock Lodge
- Riverfront Motel

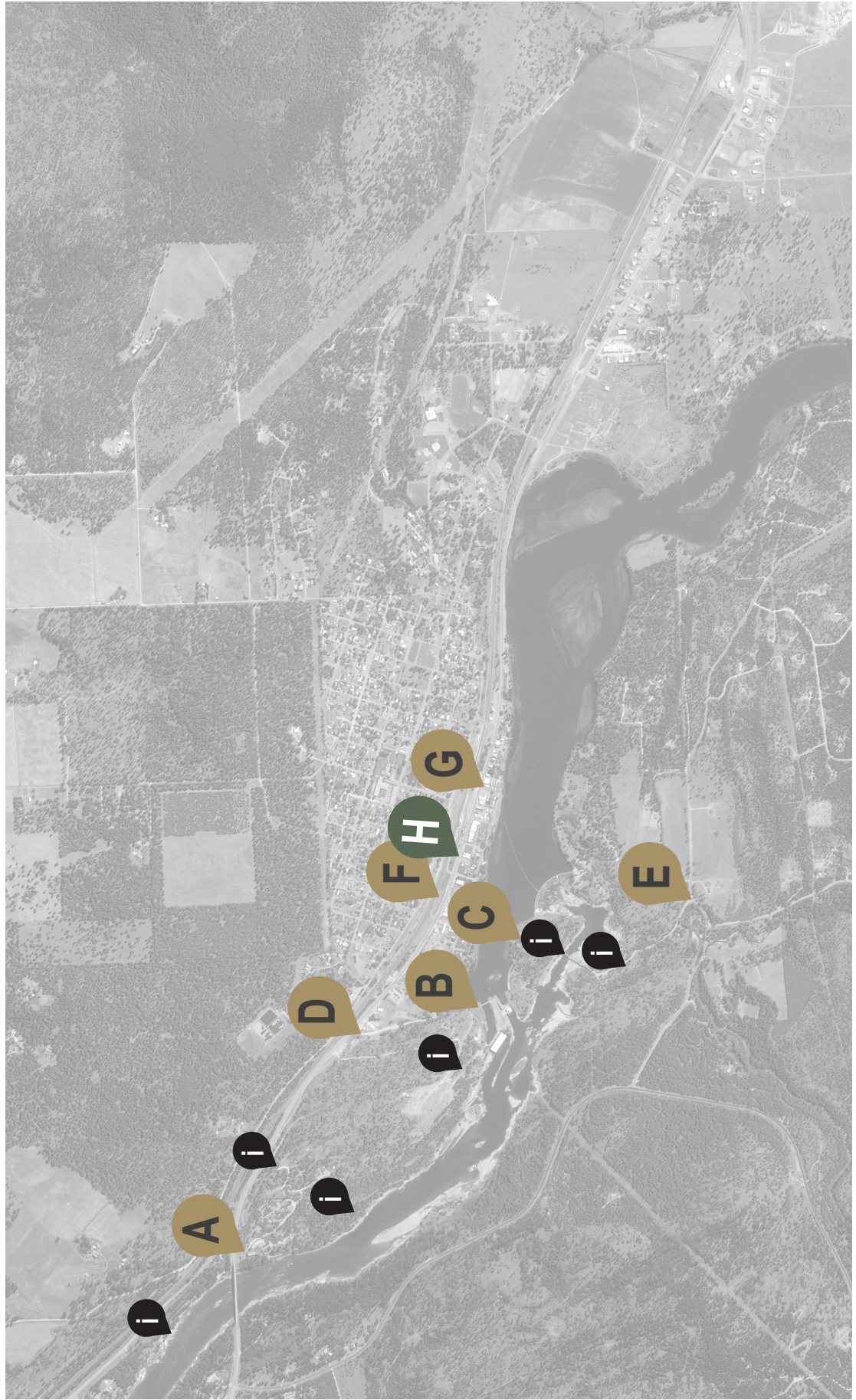
RETAIL

- Ace Hardware
- Big Bull Sports
- Crazy Moose Kayak & SUP Rentals
- Dollar Store
- East End Fuel
- Feed & Fuel
- Grocery Surplus
- Harvest Foods
- Linda's Gifts
- Napa Auto Parts
- S&S Sports
- Sanders Feed
- Studs
- Sunflower Gallery
- Town Pump
- True Value Hardware






SIGNAGE MAP

PEDESTRIAN, KIOSK, AND TRAIL IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE



SIGNAGE SCHEDULE

PEDESTRIAN, KIOSK, AND TRAIL IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

LOCATION	LOCATION DETAILS	CONTENT	SIGN STYLE OTHER
	<p>Marker on trail that can be seen from highway.</p>	<p>STATE PARK TRAIL ↑ POWERHOUSE LOOP TRAIL</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL</p>
	<p>Marker at beginning of trailhead.</p> <p>*Improvements should be made to clearly identify trailhead location.</p>	<p>POWERHOUSE LOOP TRAIL</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ASSET SIGN</p>
	<p>Marker at Trail Intersection</p> <p>*Lower priority as this trail is already marked but does not conform to standards</p>	<p>← DAM VIEWING AREA ↑ ISLAND PARK TRAIL ↑ HIGH BRIDGE</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL</p>
	<p>Marker at beginning of trailhead.</p> <p>*Improvements should be made to clearly identify trailhead location.</p>	<p>POWERHOUSE LOOP TRAIL</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ASSET SIGN</p>
	<p>Marker directing towards High Bridge.</p> <p>*Improvements are recommended to delineate pedestrian/vehicular traffic.</p>	<p>HIGH BRIDGE AND ISLAND PARK TRAIL</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ASSET SIGN</p>

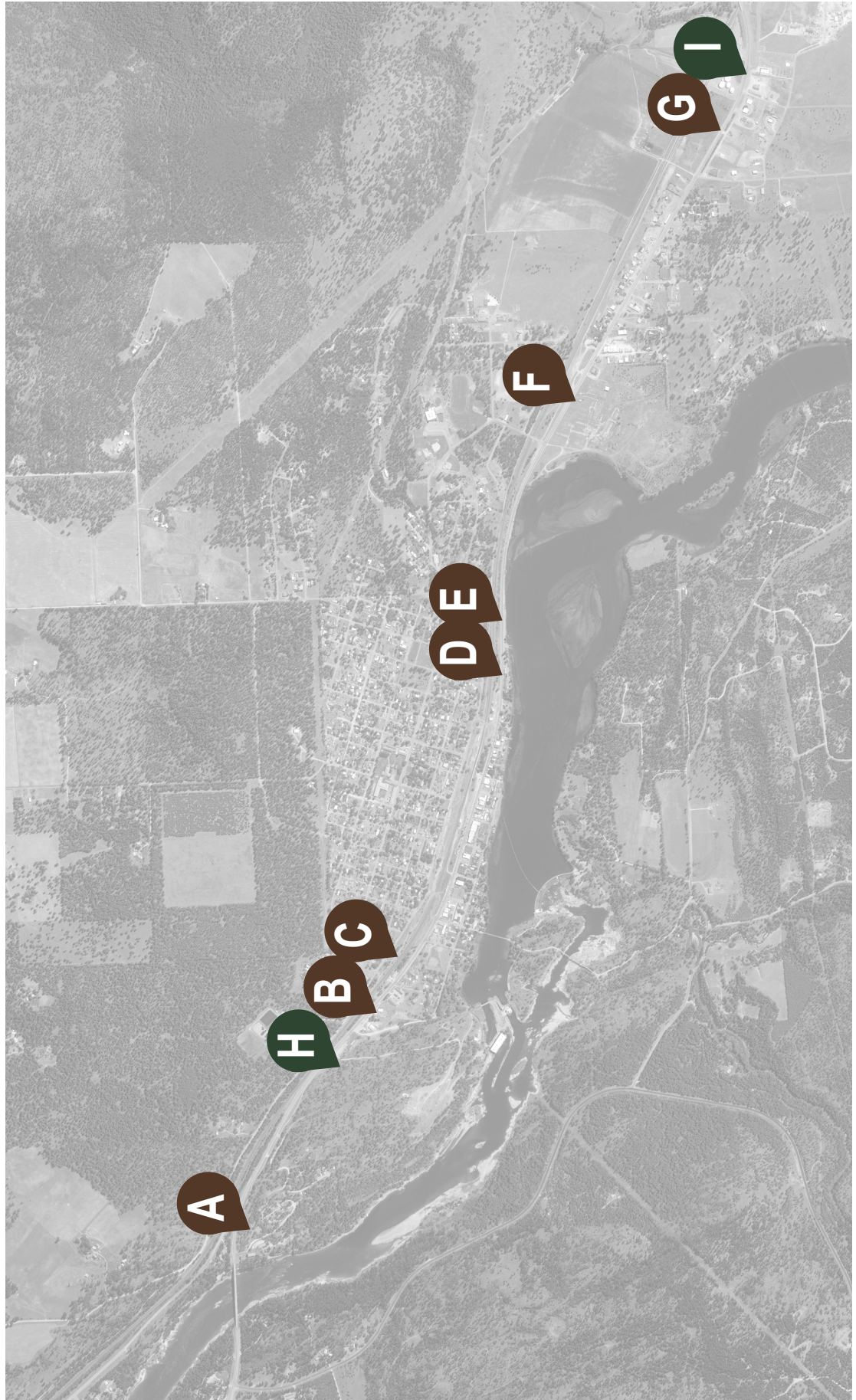
SIGNAGE SCHEDULE

PEDESTRIAN, KIOSK, AND TRAIL IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

LOCATION	LOCATION DETAILS	CONTENT	SIGN STYLE OTHER
	<p>Signage on the southern side of the street to identify this major intersection and possible pedestrian options.</p>	<p>↑ DOWNTOWN → HIGH BRIDGE ← SCHOOLS</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL</p>
	<p>Sign on the south side of the street across from the parking lot.</p>	<p>↑ DOWNTOWN → PARKING ↑ HISTORIC DISTRICT</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL</p>
	<p>Updated kiosk to replace existing kiosk at Sanders County Courthouse.</p>	<p>Updated Map on one side and area for community events/public notices on the other.</p>	<p>KIOSK</p>
	<p>Trail Markers located along trails approximately every half-mile or in complex areas to lead users along the trail and mark distances.</p>	<p>These should be used in addition to trailhead signs to users can easily identify routes and know distances.</p>	<p>TRAIL MARKERS</p>

SIGNAGE MAP

VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL AND COMMUNITY GATEWAY SIGNAGE



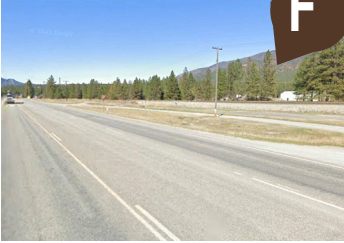



SIGNAGE SCHEDULE

VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL AND COMMUNITY GATEWAY

LOCATION	LOCATION DETAILS	SIDE/SPEED	CONTENT	
	A ROAD EDGE AT INTERSECTION HWY 200 AND RIM ROCK LN	EASTBOUND HWY 200 45 MPH	↑ HISTORIC DISTRICT ↑ DOWNTOWN ↑ THOMPSON FALLS RESERVOIR	ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL MDT ROW
	B ROAD EDGE MAIN ST AT LINCOLN ST WEST CURB	EASTBOUND HWY 200/ MAIN ST 35 MPH	DOWNTOWN THOMPSON FALLS	ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL MDT ROW
	C ROAD EDGE MAIN ST AT LINCOLN ST EAST CURB	EASTBOUND HWY 200/ MAIN ST 35 MPH	→ HISTORIC DISTRICT ← TRAIL ACCESS ↑ THOMPSON FALLS RESERVOIR	ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL MDT ROW
	D ROAD EDGE MAIN ST AT EAST RAMP ROAD	HWY 200 ACROSS WILD GOOSE LANDING	← RESERVOIR ACCESS ↑ DOWNTOWN → TRAIL ACCESS	ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL MDT ROW
	E BEFORE WILD GOOSE LANDING	EASTBOUND HWY 200/ MAIN ST 35 MPH	↑ HIGH SCHOOL ↑ GROCERY	ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL MDT ROW

SIGNAGE SCHEDULE

VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL AND COMMUNITY GATEWAY

LOCATION	LOCATION DETAILS	SIDE/SPEED	CONTENT	OTHER
	<p>ROAD EDGE HWY 200 ACROSS RIVER TOWN DENTAL</p>	<p>WESTBOUND HWY 200 45 MPH</p>	<p>↑ THOMPSON FALLS RESERVOIR ↑ DOWNTOWN → HIGH SCHOOL</p>	<p>ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL</p> <p>MDT ROW</p>
	<p>ROAD EDGE HWY 200 NEAR SALISH SHORES INTERSECTION</p>	<p>WESTBOUND HWY 200 45 MPH</p>	<p>↑ THOMPSON FALLS RESERVOIR ↑ DOWNTOWN ↑ HISTORIC DISTRICT</p>	<p>ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL</p> <p>MDT ROW</p>
	<p>ROAD EDGE HWY 200</p>	<p>EASTBOUND HWY 200/ MAIN ST 45 MPH</p>	<p>WELCOME TO THOMPSON FALLS</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GATEWAY</p>
	<p>This entrance into town has a distinct lack of arrival. The following pages detail ideas for enhancing the experience.</p>	<p>WESTBOUND HWY 200/ MAIN ST 45 MPH</p>	<p>See following pages.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GATEWAY</p>

WAYFINDING - EXISTING STRUCTURES

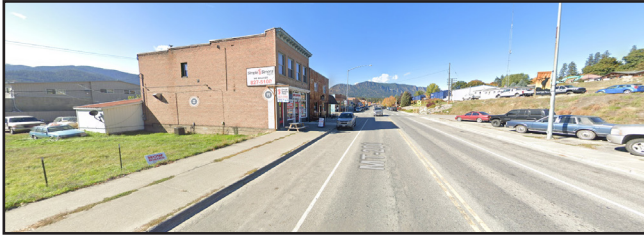


When entering into Thompson Falls from the East, there is a noticeable lack of entry. From a user experience, it is difficult to determine when you are entering into the community and equally as difficult to know the community is separated into two halves with the reservoir physically dividing the downtown area from the eastern portion of the community.

wayfinding elements - adding character to the structures as well as welcoming visitors. Many of these structures are privately owned and there may be an opportunity for collaboration with these owners. In some communities, large, open walls are used for art contests for local students and become a yearly tradition - adding an element of ever-changing interest.

There is an opportunity to along this corridor to potentially utilize existing structures as





Above: Example of a mural being utilized on an open building wall. Also notice across the street the integration of street trees to improve the continuity of downtown and add shade to the parking area.

Murals can be effectively used for wayfinding by incorporating visual cues and elements that guide individuals through a space. Here are several ways in which murals can serve as wayfinding tools:

DISTINCTIVE LANDMARKS

Murals can be designed to serve as distinctive landmarks within a location.

COLOR CODING

Incorporating a color-coded system into murals can help establish a visual hierarchy and convey specific information. Different colors or color patterns can represent different routes, areas, or points of interest. For Thompson Falls, the branding colors could be utilized.

ARROW AND DIRECTIONAL SYMBOLS

Including arrows or other directional symbols within the mural design can provide clear guidance on the direction to follow.

MAPPING ELEMENTS

Murals can function as artistic maps, illustrating the layout of key locations, streets, or points of interest.

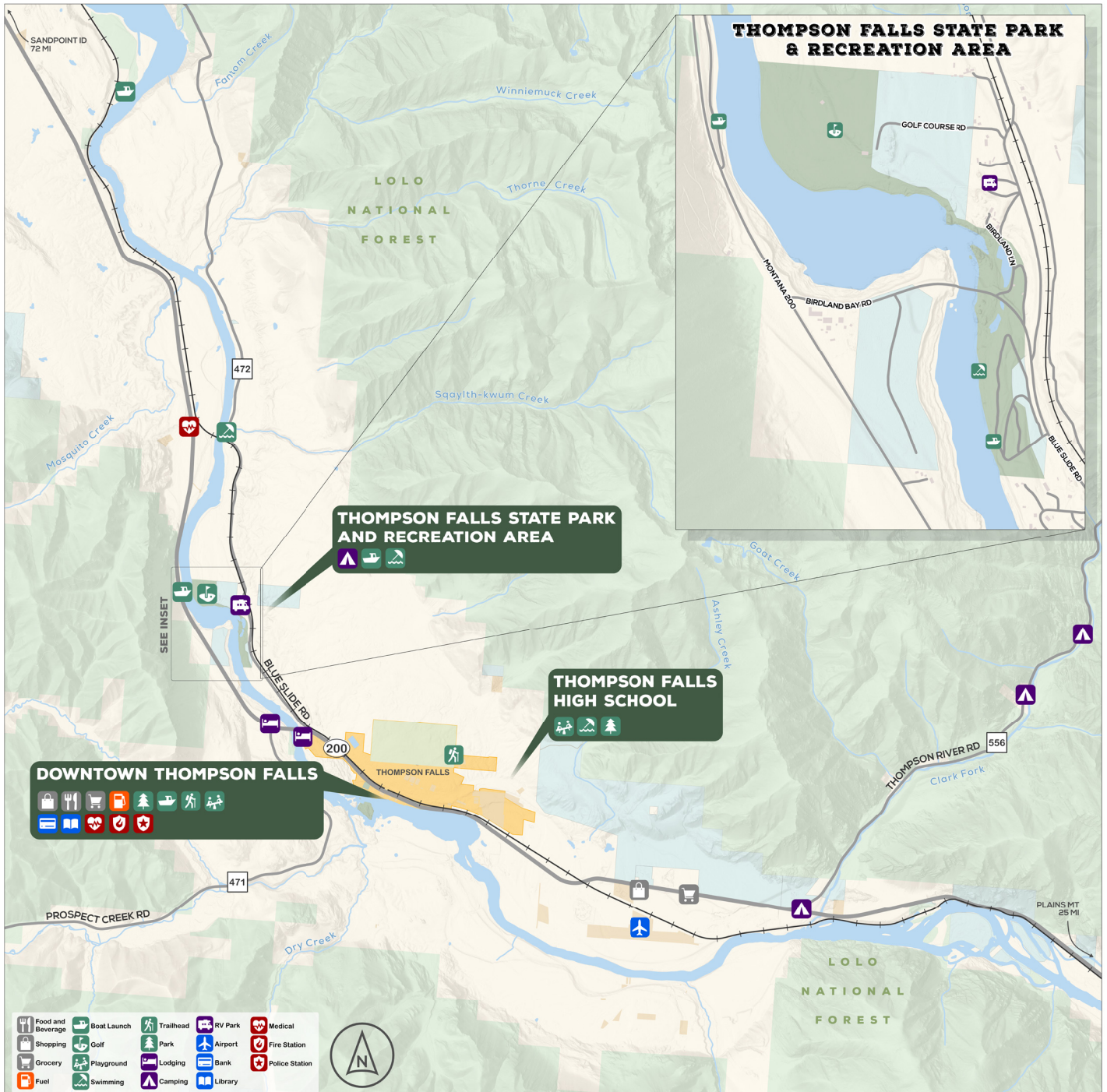
INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

Murals can be augmented with interactive elements such as QR codes or digital displays to provide interactive features and real-time information, additional details, or even navigation assistance.

KIOSK AND PRINT MATERIALS

OVERALL MAP

The maps for Thompson Falls were created with the existing branding and marketing standards in mind. These maps on this page as well as the following page can be utilized on print materials for distribution as well as on signage such as kiosks.



KIOSK AND PRINT MATERIALS

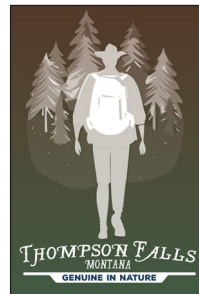
DOWNTOWN MAP



WAYFINDING - OTHER AMENITIES



There are several existing banner-style signs in the community, mounted on light poles. As these banners fade, it is recommended to incorporate new banners with styles similar to these:



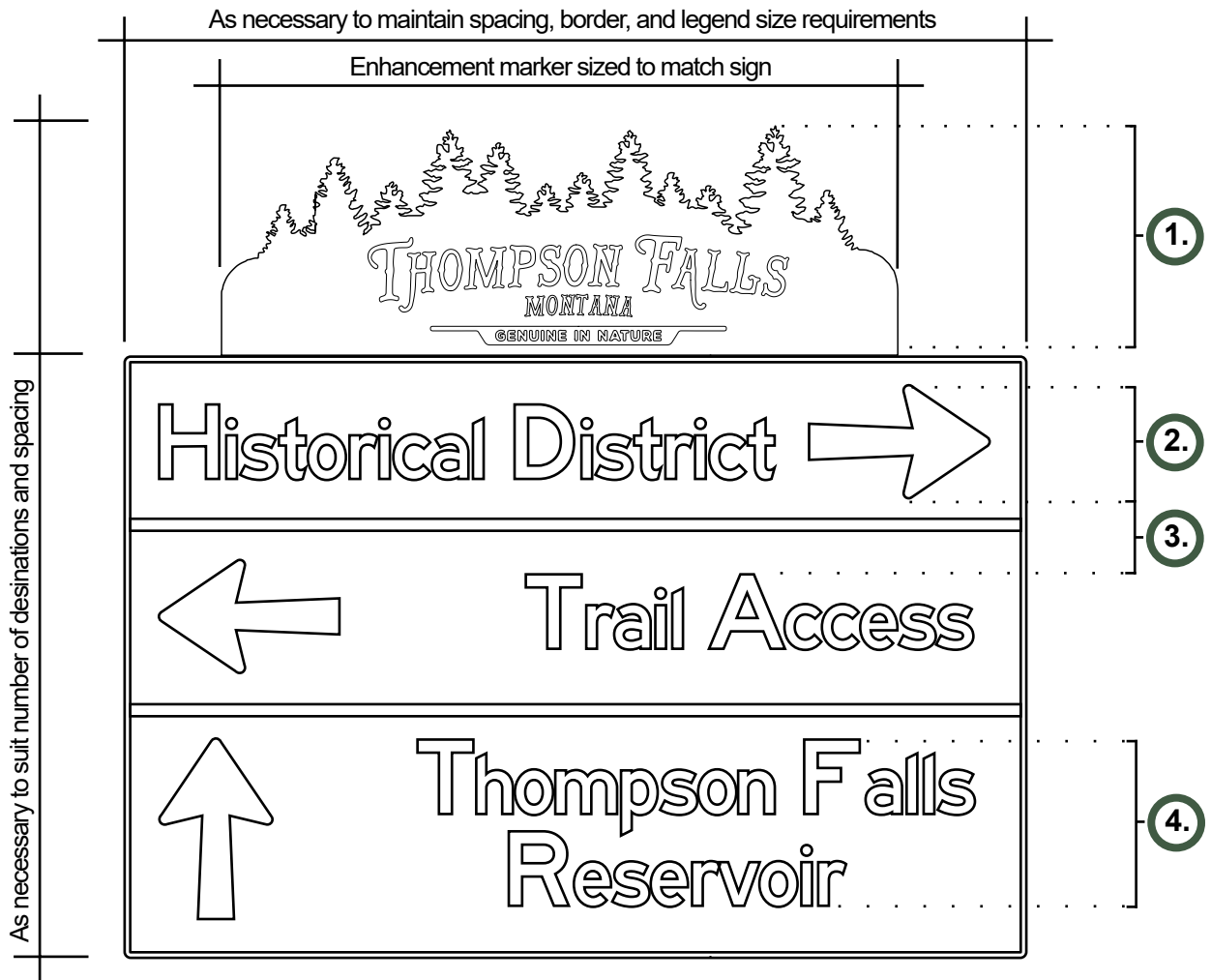
Banners should be refreshed throughout the year to incorporate holidays, special events, and recreation activities and more. These can be changed out on a regular basis to prolong the life of the banner and engage users.



Wayfinding can be incorporated into a number of downtown amenities including benches, trash cans, bike racks, sidewalk emblems, and even crosswalks.



EXAMPLE MDT COMPLIANT SIGNAGE



1. ENHANCEMENT MARKERS

The sizes and shapes of identification enhancement markers shall be smaller than the community wayfinding guide signs themselves. Identification enhancement markers shall not be designed to have an appearance that could be mistaken by road users as being a traffic control device....The area of the identification enhancement marker should not exceed 1/5 of the area of the community wayfinding guide sign with which it is mounted in the same sign assembly. MUTCD SECT 2D.50.40-42

2. ARROWS

The width across the arrowhead for the Types A, B, and C directional arrows should be between 1.5 and 1.75 times the height of the upper-case letters of the principal legend on the sign. MUTCD SECT 2D.08.23

3. LEGEND SPACING

Interline spacing should be approximately three-fourths the average of capital or uppercase letterheights in adjacent lines of letters. SHS Design Guidelines 8-2

4. LEGEND SIZING

The principal legend on guide signs shall be in letters and numerals at least 6 inches in height for all upper-case letters, or a combination of 6 inches in height for upper-case letters and 4.5 inches in height for lower-case letters. On low-volume roads with speeds of 25 mph or less, and on urban streets with speeds of 25 mph or less, the principal legend shall be in letters at least 4 inches in height for all upper-case letters, or a combination of 4 inches in height for upper-case letters and 3 inches in height for lower-case letters. MUTCD SECT 2D.06.03

PERMITTING

All of the Vehicular Directional signage is located along HWY 200 in a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Right-of-Way. Vehicular signage identified in the Sign Schedule as MDT ROW is located within this corridor and must apply for an Encroachment Permit. It is recommended to apply for multiple or all signs within the same permit application. The permit will allow the installation at the locations and methods approved during the

review. Sign maintenance will also be required under this permit.

Signs within the right-of-way of City or County roads must also get approval from the appropriate governing body. Additionally, signs to be placed on private property must get approval from the corresponding landowner.



Montana Department of Transportation Encroachment Application

2701 Prospect Ave
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
(406) 444-6200
www.mdt.mt.gov

Printed Date: 07/21/2022

Applicant Information				
First Name *		Last Name *		Email *
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Company				
<input type="text"/>				
Mailing Address *			Contact Phone *	
<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	
City *	State *	Zip *		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Alternate Contact/Co-Applicant Information (Optional)				
First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone	Contact Type
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Co-Applicant <input type="radio"/> Alternate Contact
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Co-Applicant <input type="radio"/> Alternate Contact
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Co-Applicant <input type="radio"/> Alternate Contact
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Co-Applicant <input type="radio"/> Alternate Contact
Location Information				
Sign Route *	Route Name		Mile Post Start *	Mile Post End
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Above: Example of MDT Encroachment Permit . Permit located at: <https://mtleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Standard-Encroachment-Requirements.pdf>

FUNDING STRATEGY



FUNDING STRATEGIES

PROJECT PLANNING TOOLKIT

Wayfinding Project Background

Thompson Falls is a community of about 1,300 people set in northwest Montana nestled in a quiet valley along the beautiful Clark Fork River. In recent years they've been planning for and implementing community enhancements including the creation of a Downtown Master Plan (2015), participating in the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program (RERC) in 2020, and completing pedestrian and roadway improvements along Main Street/ MT 200 in 2023. Thompson Falls completed a wayfinding plan, which was a goal of both the Downtown Master Plan and the RERC process, and they are seeking funding to help implement that plan.

The Setting - Main Street / MT 200

Main Street (Montana State Highway 200, MT 200) in Thompson Falls is the primary corridor through town and it also functions as the downtown and heart of the community with numerous local businesses that help define the character of the community. Because Main Street / MT 200 serves as both the downtown urban core and as the primary method for passing through Thompson Falls; special attention should be paid to the corridor and its advantages and challenges.

It is not hard to find Downtown Thompson Falls, in fact about 9,570 vehicles pass through on an average day . The challenge is that the community would benefit from a safe, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly corridor. This desire can be at odds with the design criteria applied to Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) routes, such as lane width, sight distance, signage setbacks, turning radii, etc. Roads typically function best as either a corridor for

cars or a living room for the community, but in Thompson Falls, Main Street (Highway 200) must do both.

In 2023 the Montana Department of Transportation partnered with Thompson Falls to update 30 sidewalk ramps along Main Street in an effort to improve pedestrian access and safety. These pedestrian improvements combined with the wayfinding implementation, will increase the safety and economic vitality of Thompson Falls.

Benefits of Wayfinding

Wayfinding can offer several benefits to Thompson Falls, as it can enhance the overall experience for residents and visitors alike by improving the following;

Improved Navigation: Help people navigate the Town more easily by providing clear signage and directional information leading to a sense of welcomeness and inclusivity, and improving visitor experiences.

Tourism and Economic Growth: Thompson Falls is known for its natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities, including the Clark Fork River and the Thompson Falls State Park. Wayfinding can help guide tourists to these attractions and encourage longer stays, leading to more economic activity.

Increased Foot Traffic: Effective wayfinding signage can direct pedestrians to local businesses, restaurants, and shops. Foot traffic is key to creating safe, vibrant communities - it leads to more community interactions, spontaneous shopping, and increased safety and economic activity. Walkable downtowns, town centers, and neighborhoods comprise only 1.2 percent of metropolitan land area—yet they generate 20 percent of the nation's

gross domestic product. Increased walkability is associated with higher home values across the country.

Branding and Identity: Wayfinding systems can incorporate the Town’s unique character and identity through the use of specific colors, design elements, and logos. Branding can help create a strong sense of place and community identity, making it more memorable. The Town has created a wayfinding plan including signage details like colors, materials, logos, etc., as well as a location plan showing which signs need to be placed in which locations.

Local Cultural and Historical Promotion: Wayfinding can highlight local cultural and historical sites such as museums (Old Jail Museum), historic landmarks (Thompson Falls Dam, Koo-Koo-Sint Bighorn Sheep Viewing Site), public art, and scenic hiking trails and

drives. This promotes a deeper understanding of the Town’s heritage and encourages cultural and educational tourism.

This section includes a summary of wayfinding related initiatives and community collaborators. The Thompson Falls Main Street (TFMS) initiative is a public-private partnership between community members, businesses, and local governments united by a goal of revitalizing the historic town center while strengthening the local economy by connecting the town to the region’s abundant recreational opportunities. TFMS is an all-volunteer organization that creates community connections to support a variety of projects that are guided by the town’s 2015 downtown master plan. Projects include community branding, repurposing of historic buildings, and streetscape improvements. The Cube Iron Cataract Coalition is a local organization dedicated to building community



Above: Pedestrian Improvements Along Main Street / MT 200. Photo Courtesy of MDT Thompson Falls - Urban - Construction Updates | Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) (mt.gov)

awareness of recreation opportunities in the wilderness areas. The coalition maintains some trails in the wilderness and publishes maps and other marketing materials to encourage locals and visitors to get out and enjoy nature.

The Thompson Falls Community Trails program is a non-profit organization devoted to managing and promoting trails for non-motorized use.

Thompson Falls collaborated with MDT on the pedestrian improvements project. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and Thompson Falls made significant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades and roadway improvements along the Thompson Falls Main Street / Montana Highway 200 (MT 200) corridor in Sanders County. The project began near the Thompson Falls Rural Fire Station at the intersection with Maiden Lane and extended southeast through the city for approximately one mile, ending at the entrance to Wild Goose Landing Park.

to attractions. Visitors driving or biking into Thompson Falls have little indication of all that exists in Thompson Falls – notably the abundance of parks and trails. Commonly called a wayfinding program, Thompson Falls can prominently display signs on the east and west end of town (on Highway 200) that direct people to Parks, Trails, Downtown, Public parking, Visitors Center (see action 2.1b), Public Lands, and Boat ramps. As signs should be placed along MT Highway 200, the City will need to work with the Montana Department of Transportation on location, design, and approval to ensure signs meet the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and MDT standards.

Project Plan for Implementation

The wayfinding project was identified in the 2015 Downtown Master Plan under the category of Awareness;

Goal #2 Visitors can easily obtain information on activities in Thompson Falls

Objective 2.1 Ensure visitors to Thompson Falls are aware of the recreational and cultural opportunities available

Action Item 2.1a is as follows;

Create and install consistent signage that directs visitors to attractions in Thompson Falls, including trails, parks, cultural landmarks and visitor information. Through the public outreach process it was apparent that many Thompson Falls residents would like to see improved signage in town directing people

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Updated December 2023

MOTORIST SIGNAGE

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Montana Department of Commerce	Montana Main Street Program - Planning and Project Grant	Town	\$50,000 1:5 match	February 28, 2024	Montana Main Street Program - Community MT	High

Thompson Falls is a member of the Montana Main Street Program and is eligible for a Planning and Project Grant. Thompson Falls was a recipient of the 2023 Planning and Project Grant to establish a wayfinding plan, and could submit again for implementation of the plan.

The department is currently working on updating program guidance. Please note that ongoing Main Street grants must be closed out or in the process of closing before a new grant application can be submitted.

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Montana Department of Commerce	Montana Main Street Program - Impact Program	City , County, Tribal Gov., 501(c)	\$50,000 1:5 match	February 28, 2024	Montana Main Street Program - Community MT	High

Impact Grants will support Montana Main Street Program member community efforts to implement high impact projects that activate spaces and execute concrete ideas for downtown revitalization. Impact grant funds can be used to activate public spaces, downtown retail spaces, and upstairs housing.

The department is currently working on updating program guidance. Please note that ongoing Main Street grants must be closed out or in the process of closing before a new grant application can be submitted.

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Glacier Country Tourism	Cooperative Marketing Project Match Program	City or Town	\$7,000 per project 1:1 match \$50,000 total for FY 2024	Rolling, starting on July 1 each year	Glacier Country Tourism Submission Manager	High

The intent of this program is to encourage the development of new or expanded marketing projects, thereby increasing the tourism appeal of the city or region to out-of-area visitors.

Wayfinding signs are eligible.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
USDA, Rural Development	Rural Business Development Grant	City or Town - must have a population less than 50,000	No max amount No match	February 28, 2024	Rural Business Development Grants in Montana	High

This program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue.

Wayfinding would fall under the Community Economic Development category as an eligible project

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
USDA, Rural Development	Community Development Initiative Grant	City or Town - must have a population less than 50,000	\$50,000 to \$500,000 1:1 match	July 2023 (annually)	Rural Community Development Initiative Grants in Montana	High

Rural Community Development Initiative grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Wayfinding implementation is eligible.

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
USDA, Rural Development	Community Facilities Grant and Loan	City or Town - must have a population less than 20,000	No match	Rolling	Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in Montana	Medium

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Low interest loans and grants are available. The maximum grant amount allowed is 75% of total project cost. Priority is given for small communities with a population of 5,500 or less, and low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

The median household income for Montana is \$63,249 in 2021. The median household income for Thompson Falls, as reported in the Downtown Master Plan for 2013 is \$32,031. The grantable amount allowed under this program is tiered and based on median household income. Updated income data should be reviewed, but it appears likely that Thompson Falls would qualify for some grant funding under this program in addition to a loan.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Avista	Economic and Community Vitality	501(c)3, civic org, or school	\$1.2M in 2022 (416 grants) Average grant, past 3 years ~\$7,500k	July 1 - August 1, 2024	Avistafoundation.com	Medium

The Avista Foundation, a community investment program of Avista Corp., provides funding to non-profit organizations addressing the needs of communities and citizens served by Avista Utilities in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, portions of southern Oregon, and Sanders County, Montana.

Focus Areas: Avista’s philanthropy programs are focused on education, environment, vulnerable and limited income populations, and economic and cultural vitality. Thompson Falls would need to partner with a 501(c)3 to be eligible.

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Montana Office of Tourism	Tourism Grant Program	City or Town	1:2 match w/ in kind up to 25%	Typically closes in September	Tourism Grant Program - Brand MT	Low - currently closed

Recently passed legislation, SB540 is significantly redeveloping the funding opportunities that may be provided through the Office of Tourism and they are in the early conversations of what that will look like. At this time there will not be a funding opportunity provided through the Tourism Grant Program this year.

Typically, wayfinding is an eligible project. This program should be re-examined next year.

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
NorthWestern Energy	Charitable Giving - Civic and Community	Non-profit	\$2.1M in 2022	Rolling, awards made quarterly	NorthWestern Energy charitable programs	Low

Thompson Falls would need to partner with a nonprofit organization.

This foundation has about \$20M in assets and funds about \$2M per year in grants. The Northwestern Energy Charitable Giving Program contributes to economic development, charitable donations and community sponsorships.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Funding Agency	Program	Eligible Entity	Avail. Funding/ Match	Application Deadline	Website	Priority
Funder's Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities	Partners for Places	Non-profit, government	\$45k to \$150k	February 27, 2024	Partners for Places – The Funders Network	Medium

Partners for Places aims to enhance local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada.

These one-to-one matching awards support the planning and implementing of urban sustainability and green stormwater infrastructure projects. These one-to-one matching awards provide partnership investments between \$45,000 and \$150,000 for one-year projects, or between \$75,000 and \$180,000 for two-year projects, with one or more local foundations required to provide at least a 50% matching grant.

Through Round 16, the primary partners were local governments and local foundations. The Partners for Places 2018-2023 strategy leads with racial equity and a sharper focus on how best to advance equitable and sustainable communities. Starting in Round 17, the primary partners also include local frontline community groups. This collaborative governance model is intended to more deeply embed the values and practice of racial equity into local community decision-making processes.

What is a frontline community? Partners for Places defines frontline communities as those most impacted by systems of oppression and injustice, economic disadvantage, and environmental harm.

In Montana, they have funded the Montana Community Foundation for the past few years (\$160k in 2022) as well as two projects in Missoula.

COST ESTIMATION - SIGNS

Actual signage dimensions and print area will vary as required to maintain compliance with background and legend size/spacing requirements. Traffic speeds, shoulder width, and local road conditions will also affect sign dimensioning and manufacturing. Compliance with MDT and FHWA standards for community wayfinding signage should be confirmed prior to consultation with a manufacturer.

Below is a cost estimate for multiple standard roadway and pedestrian sign types, these estimates do not include mounting or installation. Mounting and installation requirements vary depending on sign dimensions and location in the right of way as required by MDT. These estimates do not include the manufacture or installation of wayfinding enhancement markers. Actual costs will vary depending on dimensions and preferences for mounting.

Estimated costs are provided for the most common sizes of standard roadway signage:

- **Motorist 60" x 48" Roadway Sign (.080 gauge, reflective, aluminum) (Sign Only) - \$603.50**
- **Pedestrian 12" x 20.5" Roadway Sign (.080 gauge, reflective, aluminum) (Sign Only) - \$57.00**



BIG BEAR SIGN CO INC
 1315 Clark Fork Lane
 PO Box 17467
 Missoula, MT 59808

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
11/3/2023	2023-1776

In addition to signs for motorists and pedestrians, stakeholders and participants in public engagement have indicated an interest in unifying signage related to local parks and amenities as well as providing information on local businesses and recreation opportunities.

These estimates do not include the costs for installation or for accompanying structures or infrastructure necessary for mounting which will vary based on sign location and purpose. Signs placed in the MDT right-of-way will be required to meet the standards for signage for pedestrians.

Estimates for signage materials commonly utilized in these applications are below:

- **36"x60" Kiosk Board Sign with Map (Sign Only) (single sided, vinyl) - \$346.00**
- **48"x30" Community Asset Sign (Sign Only) (single sided, vinyl) - \$206.00**

Qty	Description	Rep		Project	
		Price Each	Total	Price Each	Total
2	12" x 20.5" .063 ALUM. SIGNS, 4CP ON WHITE ENGINEER GRADE REFLECTIVE SHEETING, UV LAMINATE, SINGLE SIDED - ROADWAY SIGN W/ICON, ROADWAY SIGN W/TEXT	57.00	114.00		
1	60" x 48" .080 ALUM. SIGN, 4CP ON WHITE ENGINEER GRADE REFLECTIVE SHEETING, UV LAMINATE, SINGLE SIDED - LARGE ROADWAY (MAX PRINT AREA IS 46" ON THIS SIGN, WOULD NEED A WHITE MARGIN AROUND SIGN)	603.50	603.50		
1	36" x 60" 3mm NUDO BOARD SIGN, 4CP ON WHITE PREMIUM CAST VINYL, UV LAMINATE, SINGLE SIDED - KIOSK SIGN W/MAP (DOES NOT INCLUDE STRUCTURE)	346.00	346.00		
1	48" x 30" 3mm NUDO BOARD SIGN, 4CP ON WHITE PREMIUM CAST VINYL, UV LAMINATE, SINGLE SIDED - PARK SIGN (DOES NOT INCLUDE STRUCTURE)	206.00	206.00		
Estimate is valid for 90 days.		Total		\$1,269.50	

Phone #	Fax #	E-mail
406-542-1871	406-541-4435	info@bigbearsign.com

APPENDIX



Thompson Falls Wayfinding Plan Survey

36

Responses

06:33

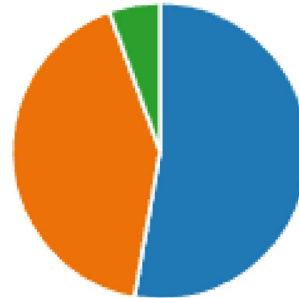
Average time to complete

Closed

Status

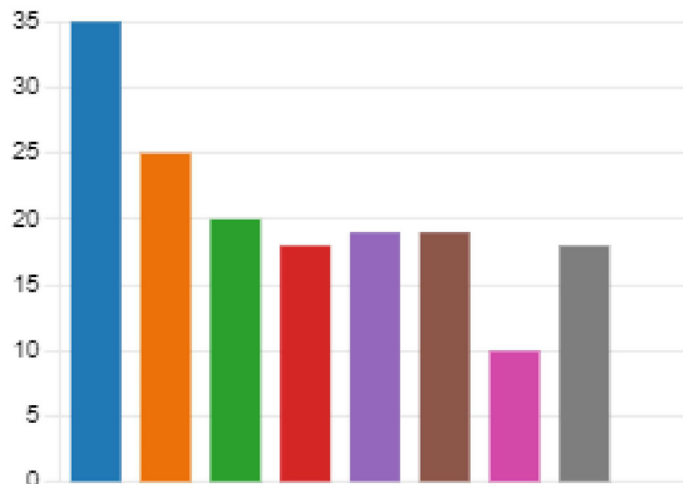
1. Are you a resident of Thompson Falls?

Yes, I live in town	19
Nope, but I live near town (neig...	15
Nope, but I have visited	2
I have never been to Thompson ...	0



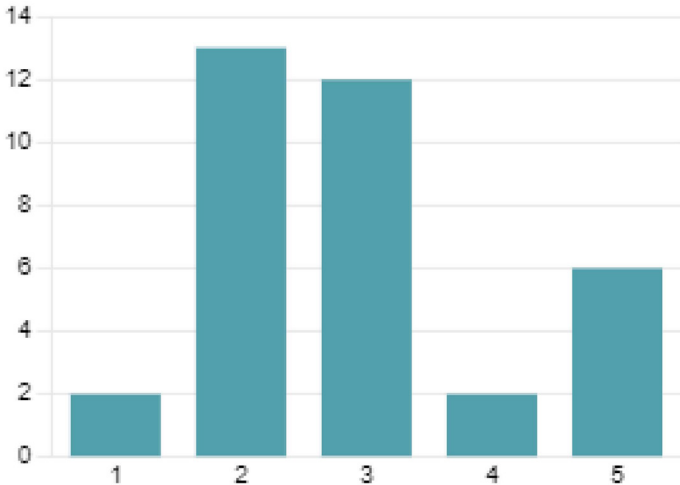
2. Who do you think will benefit from improved wayfinding signage? (Select all that apply)

Out of town visitors	35
Recreationalists	25
Families	20
Vehicular Users	18
Pedestrians/Bike Users	19
Businesses	19
Healthcare Users	10
Event Participants (Sports, Music...	18
Other	0



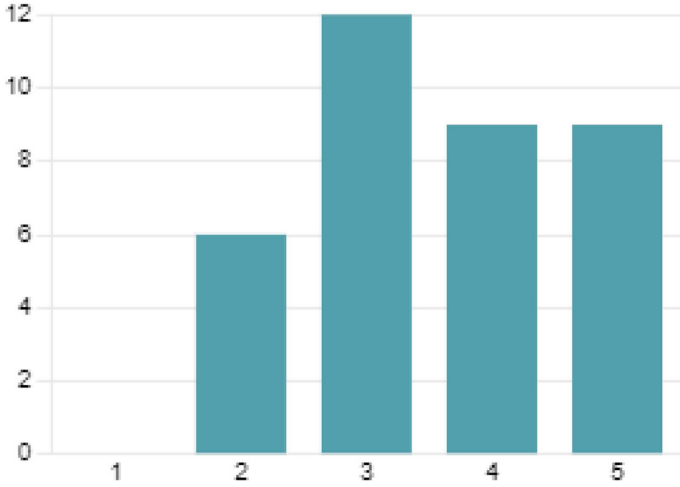
3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy do you feel it is for people to find Parks/Trails in and around town? (1 being the hardest to find, 5 being the easiest)

2.91
Average Rating



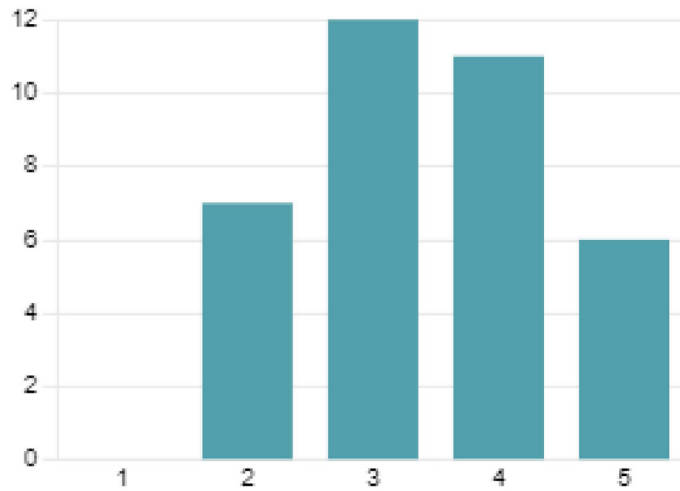
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy do you feel it is for people to find Businesses in and around town? (1 being the hardest to find, 5 being the easiest)

3.58
Average Rating



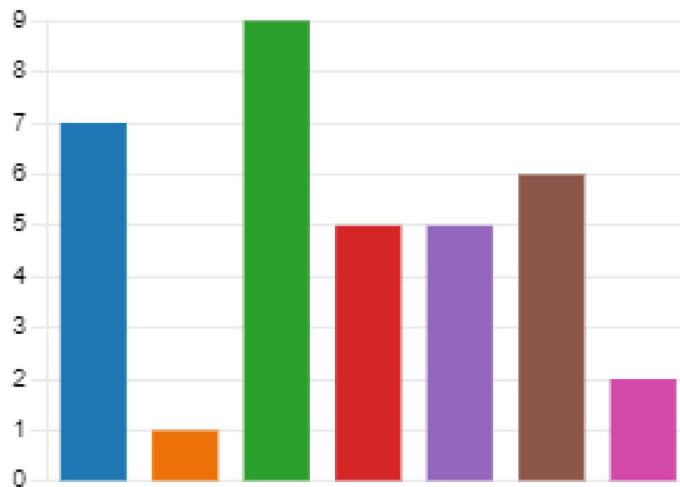
5. On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy do you feel it is for people to find Public Buildings (Schools, Courthouse, etc) in and around town? (1 being the hardest to find, 5 being the easiest)

3.44
Average Rating



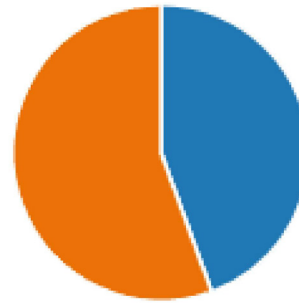
6. Think about a recent time you have used signs in another city. What did the signs help you navigate to?

- Hospitals 7
- Schools 1
- Park/Trail 9
- Businesses 5
- Municipal Building (Courthouse,...) 5
- The town itself (WELCOME TO....) 6
- Other 2



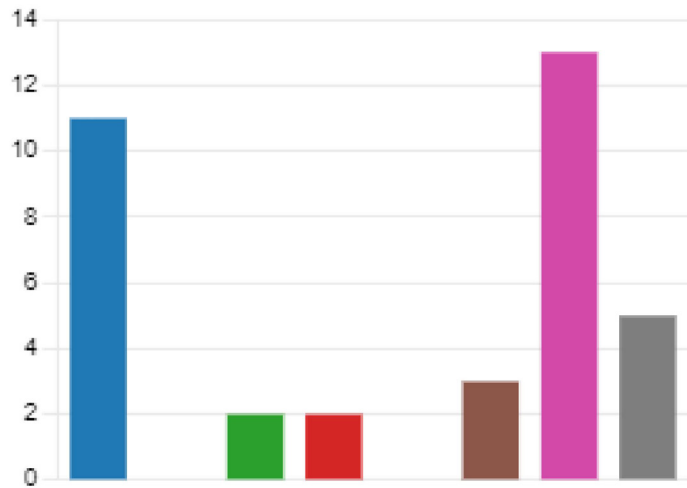
7. In recent years, have you noticed new signage around town?

● Yes	16
● No	20



8. I feel the existing signs in Thompson Falls are (select all that apply):

● Adequate	11
● Complicated	0
● Confusing	2
● Clear	2
● Busy	0
● Representative of Thompson Falls	3
● Lacking	13
● Other	5



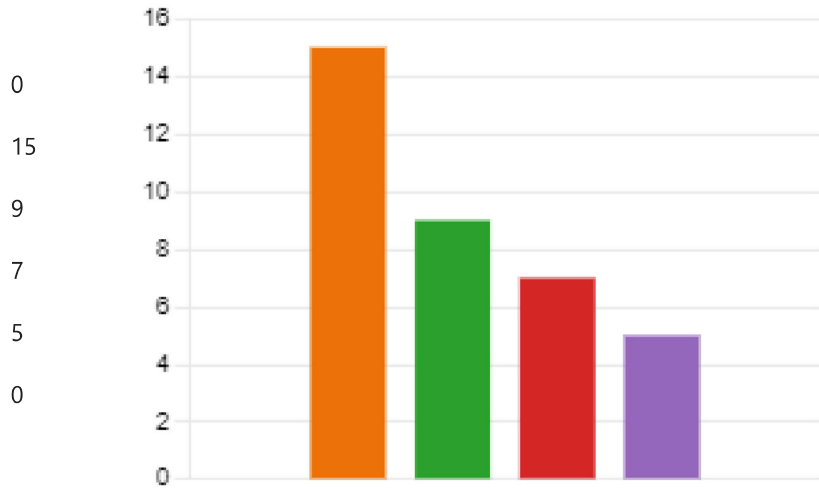
9. At which location on the map do you feel is the primary entrance into Thompson Falls?

● Area 1 (Pink)	9
● Area 2 (Yellow)	4
● Area 3 (Blue)	10
● Area 4 (Red)	7
● Other	5



10. Looking at only the map, which style is most appealing to you?

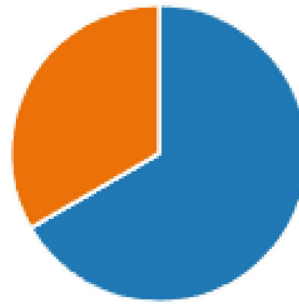
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4
- Option 5
- Option 6



11. Which of the two options to you prefer?

- Option A
- Option B

24
12



12. If you could only use one word to describe Thompson Falls, what would it be?

30
Responses

Latest Responses

"Enlightened"

"genuine"

"unique"

4 respondents (13%) answered **Home** for this question.



13. Anything else you would like us to know about wayfinding in Thompson Falls?

22
Responses

Latest Responses

"In the midst of an extremely dense foggy night, encountered a ..."

"I think it's pretty adequate as far as signs go. Maybe the gazebo..."

6 respondents (27%) answered **need** for this question.



13. Anything else you would like us to know about wayfinding in Thompson Falls?

22 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	N/A
2	anonymous	We need a cohesive design and color
3	anonymous	Please don't inundate the hwy with signage. Put it in one or two areas.
4	anonymous	A large, general sign would be helpful only at locations where a car could stop and people could get out and decipher. That would make Wild Goose Landing or the Park on the SE corner of town the most logical. And, of course, with google maps, we can all find specific businesses etc, but maybe not find the best entrance (and parking) to the various trail and park systems.
5	anonymous	Signs to the mule pasture are particularly in need of fixing.
6	anonymous	Adds character & welcoming value
7	anonymous	It would encourage people to stop, not just drive through
8	anonymous	given all the needs in town, this seems like a waste of time and money
9	anonymous	SIGNAGE FOR FISHING SPOTS MAY BE A GOOD OPTION IT IS ONE QUESTION WE GET AND ALSO FOR THOMPSON RIVER AREA
10	anonymous	keeping it consistent and clean
11	anonymous	Recreation (i.e. Golf Course, Parks, Trails)
12	anonymous	no
13	anonymous	JUST COULD BE BETTER.
14	anonymous	no
15	anonymous	Thank you for taking on this important project!
16	anonymous	Prominently include info about recreation activities nearby, outside of town - hiking, rafting, hunting
17	anonymous	This town needs a destination, a reason to come and a reason to stay.
18	anonymous	Don't mention Mule Pasture Trails, we like it sparse and quiet for locals. It has signage now. Sometimes travelers will use it as overnight camping which is against the rules. Thx
19	anonymous	The town definitely needs to advertise its attractions
20	anonymous	Small towns need to focus on what the citizens need, first and foremost.
21	anonymous	I think it's pretty adequate as far as signs go. Maybe the gazebo could be a possible visitor center?
22	anonymous	In the midst of an extremely dense foggy night, encountered a herd of wild roaming horses all over the road; barely avoided collision with any of them.