

To: Philadelphia Art Commission

Clean Air Council(the Council) respectfully requests administrative approval for open space improvements inside of Cobbs Creek Park in Philadelphia, PA 19148.

The Council has worked in Cobbs Creek Park and Eastwick over the past decade working to extend Cobbs Creek Trail and elevate residents' concerns surrounding the park adjacent communities. The Council has focused on gaining new road improvements installed along the Parkway and additional safety improvements planned for the future to enable neighbors to be more safely connected to Cobbs Creek Park. The Cobbs Creek Play Art Project aims to strengthen these connections by creating an overt welcome to the park and trail and inviting residents to have *their* fun. These sorts of inviting infrastructure, signage, and safe spaces follow recommendations from the [Equity of Access to Trails Study](#), which was informed by Cobbs Creek residents.

The Council held three community meetings over 4 months in 2023 to gather community inspiration, creativity and imagination to re-envision four Cobbs Creek Park entrances between Spruce St and Florence Ave. The goal of this project is to encourage community members to explore the park and trail at safe crossings, offer new play and learning spaces for children, and connect residents to park programming and activities. This project follows years of [community advocacy](#) surrounding dangerous driving behavior and an absence of pedestrian infrastructure along Cobbs Creek Parkway. Cobbs Creek Park residents reported feeling unsafe walking, biking, and driving near the Parkway, creating a barrier to access the park and trail. Community demands for safer roadway conditions were finally answered in 2021 by the Streets Department and PennDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Project, which installed life saving road safety measures including new guard rails, traffic signals, speed cushions, and other traffic calming measures.

The Play Art Project will incorporate asphalt art murals painted on the paved trail, and play structures immediately adjacent in the park next to the trail. The murals will highlight safe entrances with bright colors and community inspired images, themes, and words. Play structures next to the trail will further connect residents to and from the park, and offer features that children can climb, jump, and interact with to create lasting links between neighbors and the benefits and resources of the park and trail. Both features will offer learning opportunities that build children's literacy related to the nature found in the park.

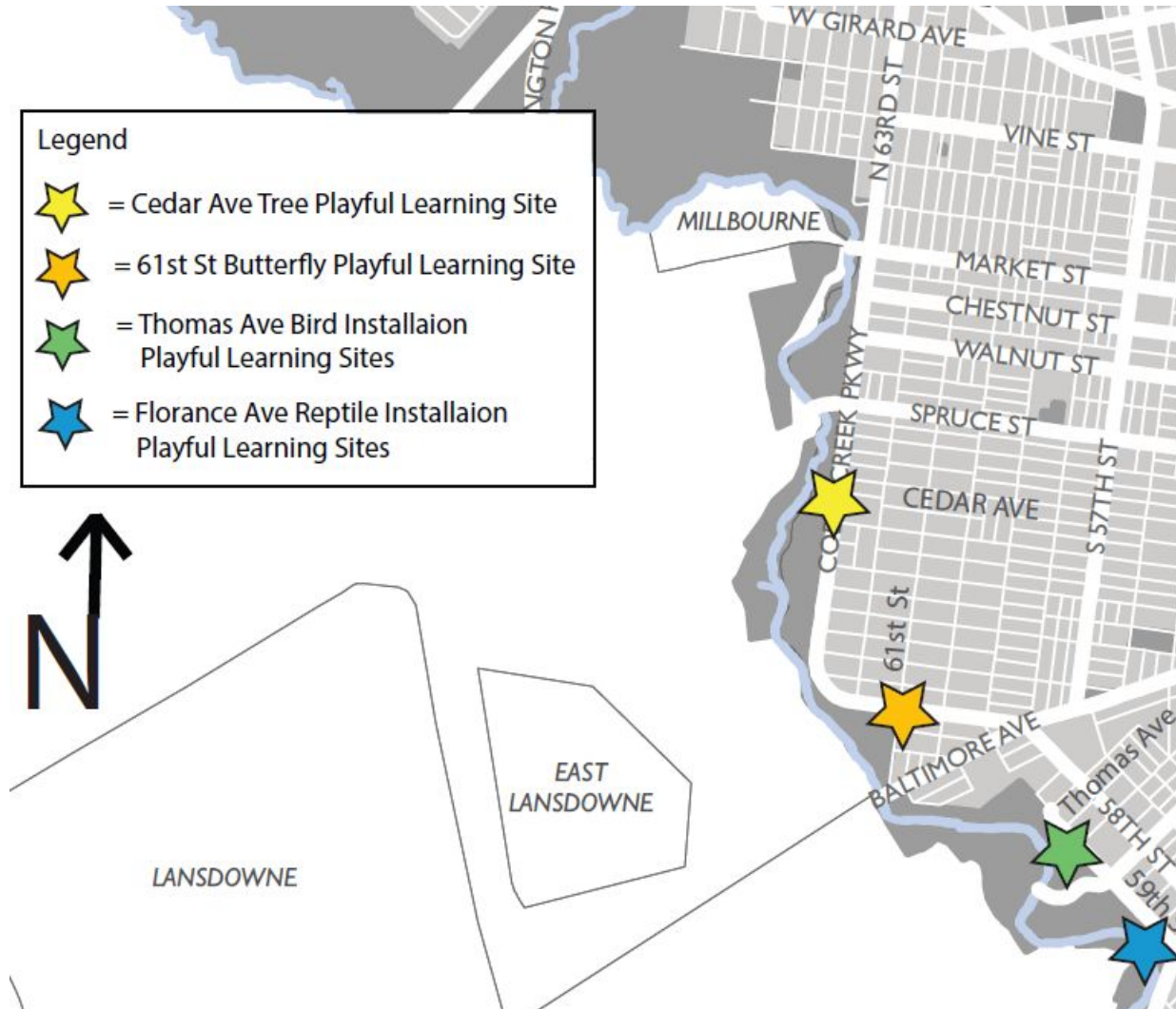
The three community workshops were held in the Spring of 2024 to identify locations, ideas, and themes for the project's design inspiration. Workshop activities included Lego building, image voting, theme identification, collective poetry, location selection, and group mural drawings in order to identify community themes and subject matter for the designers to draw inspiration from.

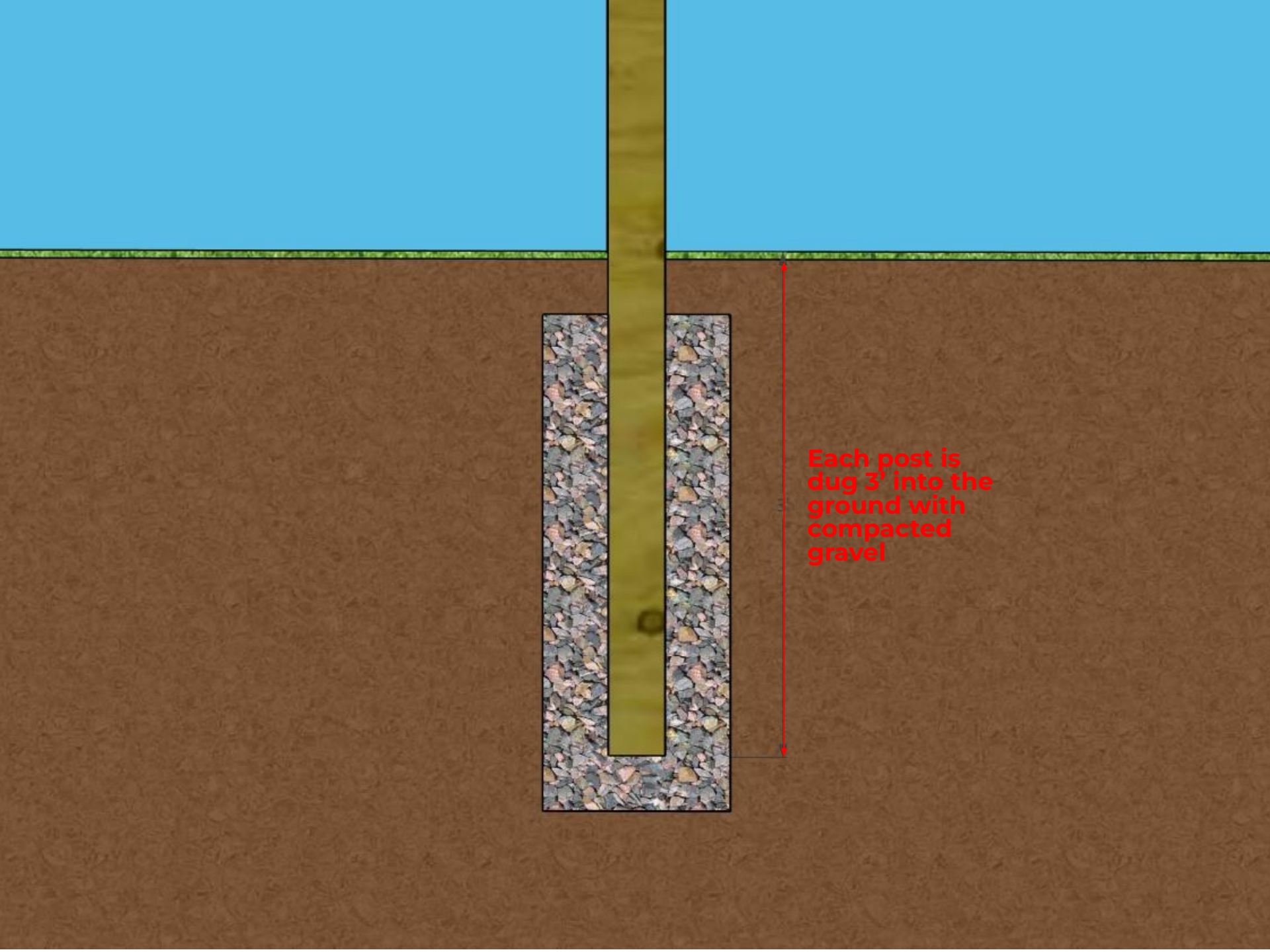
Over the Spring of 2024 the project team sorted through resident input and feedback collected through the workshops and landed on final project locations and themes. Several themes emerged from workshops and survey's with three guiding focuses for the design including active play, nature, and seating. The designs include child age appropriate connections to nature that highlight native plants, animals, creek/stream and trails that can be found within the park. Active play and rest areas are also included that have various forms of balancing. Four locations were identified for the project including Cedar Ave, 61st, Thomas Ave, and Florence Ave along Cobbs Creek Parkway/63rd St.

Thank you for your consideration, Will Fraser [wfraser@cleanair.org](mailto:wfraser@cleanair.org) (203) 570-7687

**CAC Kaboom**

# Cobbs Creek Park/Trail Playful Learning Site Map





Each post is  
dug 3' into the  
ground with  
compacted  
gravel



# **BIRD INSTALLATION**

# MAIN BIRD SIGN

## COBBS CREEK BIRDS

How many birds can you see?

How many feathers can you find?

How big is your hand compared to the birds?  
ALL BIRDS ARE REAL SIZE.



### DID YOU KNOW THAT SOME BIRDS HAVE WINTER HOMES?

4 out of the 5 birds shown below travel thousands of miles every spring and fall to find better weather and breed. Cobbs Creek is on the Atlantic Flyway, one of four major migratory routes for birds in the United States.

Where do you like to go when it gets cold?



### C is for

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Northern Cardinals can be found in the park all year round. They mostly eat seeds, but also feed on insects and fruit.

What other animals are red?



### K is for

KINGFISHER

Blue Jay Kingfishers can be found in the park March-December. They eat fish, crayfish, frogs, tadpoles, and aquatic insects.

What other animals are blue?



### G is for

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Goldfinches live in Perry Park year round. They eat seeds from weeds, grasses, trees, and plants in the daisy family.

What other animals are yellow?



### P is for

PINE SISKIN

Pine Siskins eat mostly seeds, vegetable matter, and insects. They follow their food in the winter.

What else is the size of your hand?



### Y is for

YELLOW BELLED SAPSUCKER

Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers eat berries and ants, tree sap, fruits, and nuts. They can be found in the park April through October.

What kinds of fruit do you like to eat?

## LOOK UP!

What birds do you see? Use the binoculars for a better look!

### CUTTHROUGH

Look through the feather at the trees! Do you see any of the birds on this board?

## DID YOU KNOW...



Birds do not just like hanging out in trees, they love to spend time in tall grasses too.

The meadows located off Whitby Ave were home to baseball fields for 75 years. In the early 2000s they were converted to meadows that attract thousands of birds and offer a place to stop along their migratory path.

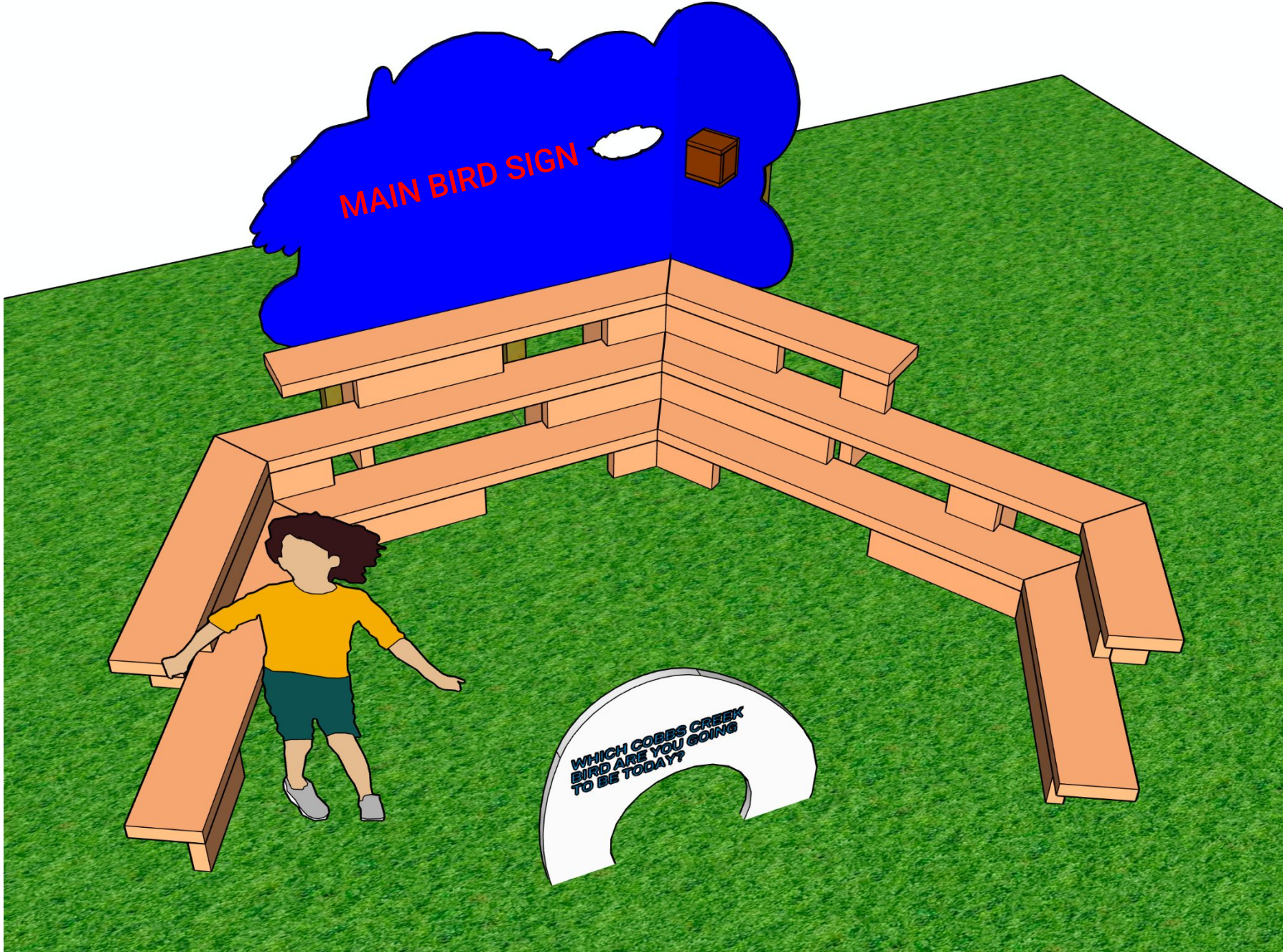


## ACT LIKE A BIRD!

Spin the wheel to get a bird verb!







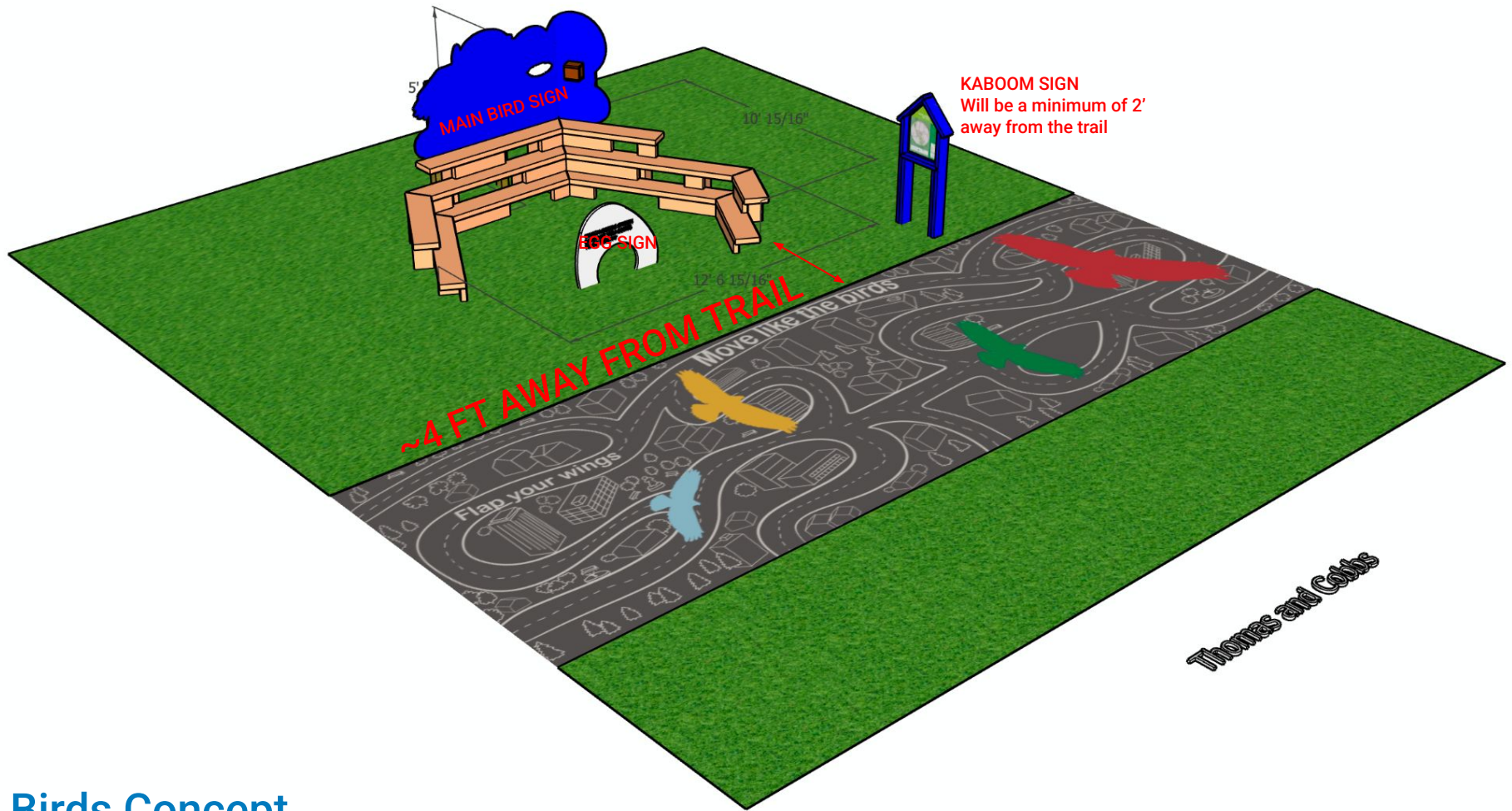
MAIN BIRD SIGN

WHICH COBBS CREEK  
BIRD ARE YOU GOING  
TO BE TODAY?



# Bird Asphalt Art Design



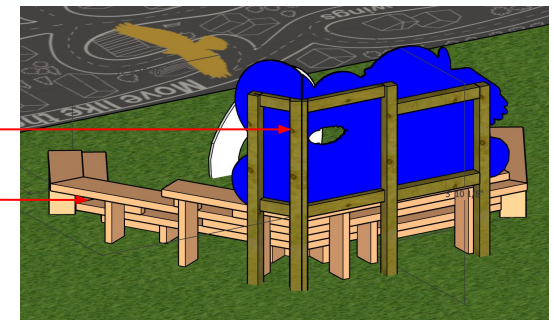


Thomas and Cobbs

## Birds Concept

### Materials and Sizing:

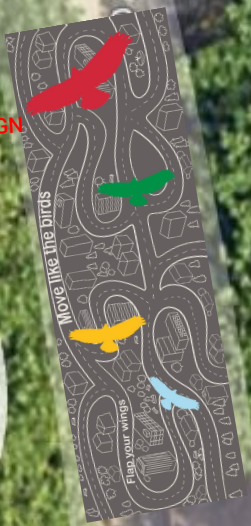
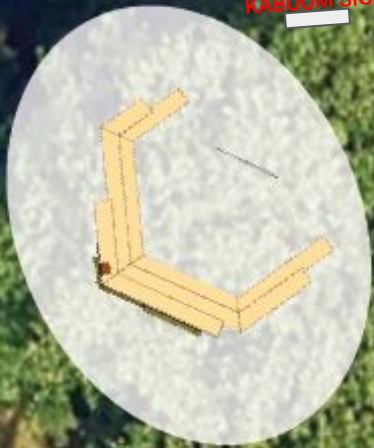
- 10mm printed coroplast for main bird signage
- 3mm printed coroplast for small KABOOM signage with paint washed cedar frame
- 4x4" pressure treated pine posts sunk into the ground by 3' for sign base and "egg" with compacted gravel for the frame
- 4x4" pine for balance beam "birds nest"
- Total dimensions for entire installation are ~12.5' x ~10'
- Total height is under 6'
- Ground surface: grass
- Ground mural is 10' x 30'





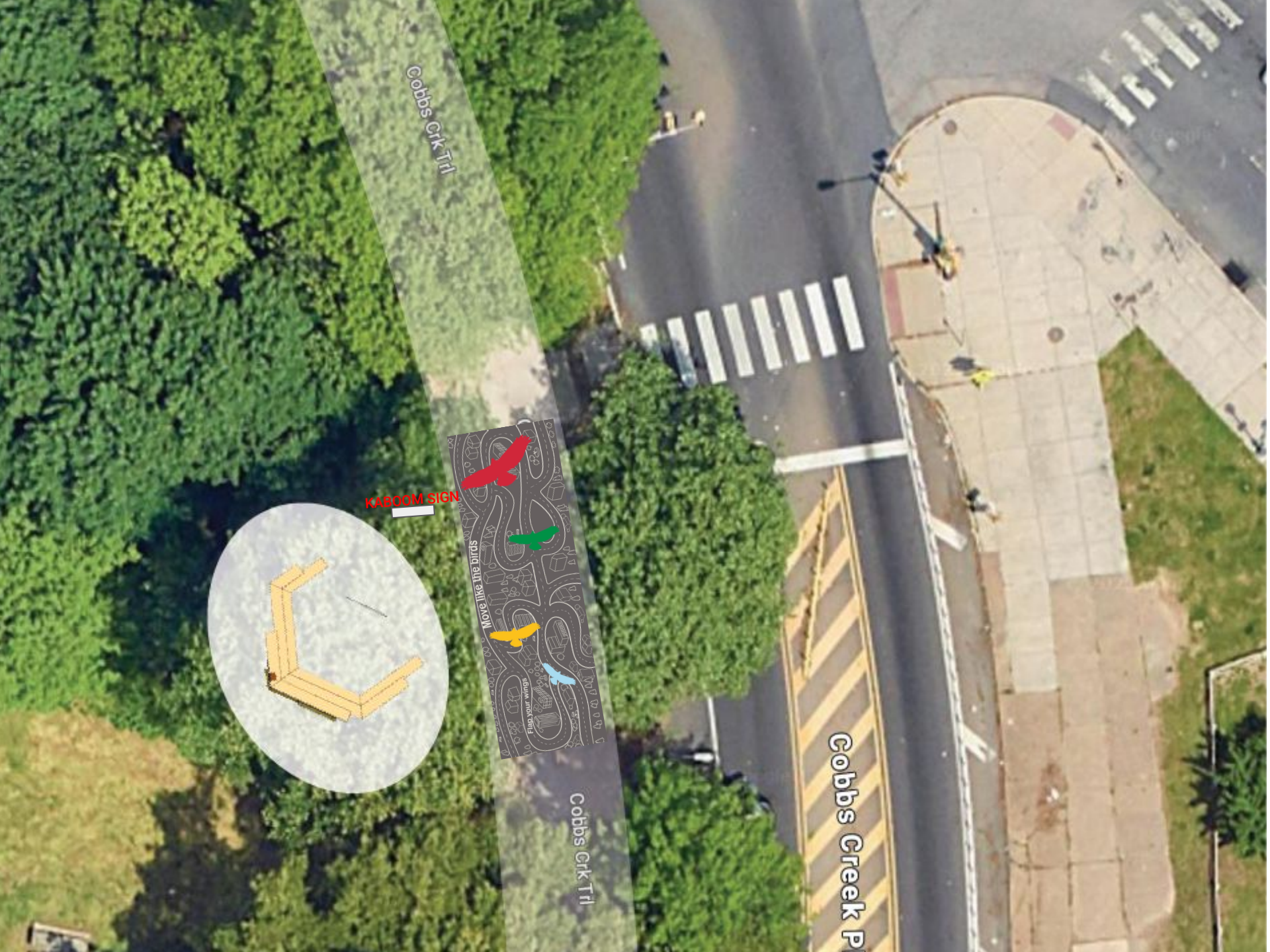
Cobbs Crk Trl

KABOOM SIGN



Cobbs Crk Trl

Cobbs Creek P



# **REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN INSTALLATION**



# MAIN REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SIGN

FROGS THIS WAY!

This cutout will be mounted near the opening in the trees called out on the sign



JUMP LIKE A FROG!

How high can you jump?

## COBBS CREEK REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS



**G** is for EASTERN GARTER SNAKE

These snakes can be found in meadows, gardens, and forests. They eat a variety of things like worms, including earthworms, grasshoppers, small fish, and even mice and birds!

What sound does a snake make?



**A** is for EASTERN AMERICAN TOAD

These toads are very common, and can be found in meadows, fields, and forests. They live in your local Philly park! They hide away during the winter, and eat insects like ants, spiders, and crickets.

What sound does a toad make?



**W** is for NORTHERN WATER SNAKE

These snakes can be found in lakes, streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. They like to soak in the sun and swim! Fish and amphibians are their favorite foods!

What other things like to swim?



**R** is for EASTERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDER

These salamanders like damp habitats and live in the forests. They eat a variety of small invertebrates, like insects, worms, and snails.

What other things live in a forest?

### TOADS & FROGS

Did you know that toads are frogs? The word "toad" is used for frogs that have warty and dry skin, shorter legs, and wider bodies.

How big is your hand compared to the reptiles and amphibians above?

### DID YOU KNOW...



Cobbs Creek Park was not always a friendly place for frogs, toads, salamanders, and snakes.

In the early 1900s, Cobbs Creek was a fast growing neighborhood that saw streets and buildings replace meadows and woodlands, often resulting in flooding. Factory chemicals and raw sewage emptied directly into Cobbs Creek. Thankfully, the creation of Cobbs Creek Park helped to preserve hundreds of acres of open space. By 1914, Philadelphia had built a sewer, which kept waste from entering the creek, making it a happy home for reptiles and amphibians.

### FROGS THIS WAY!



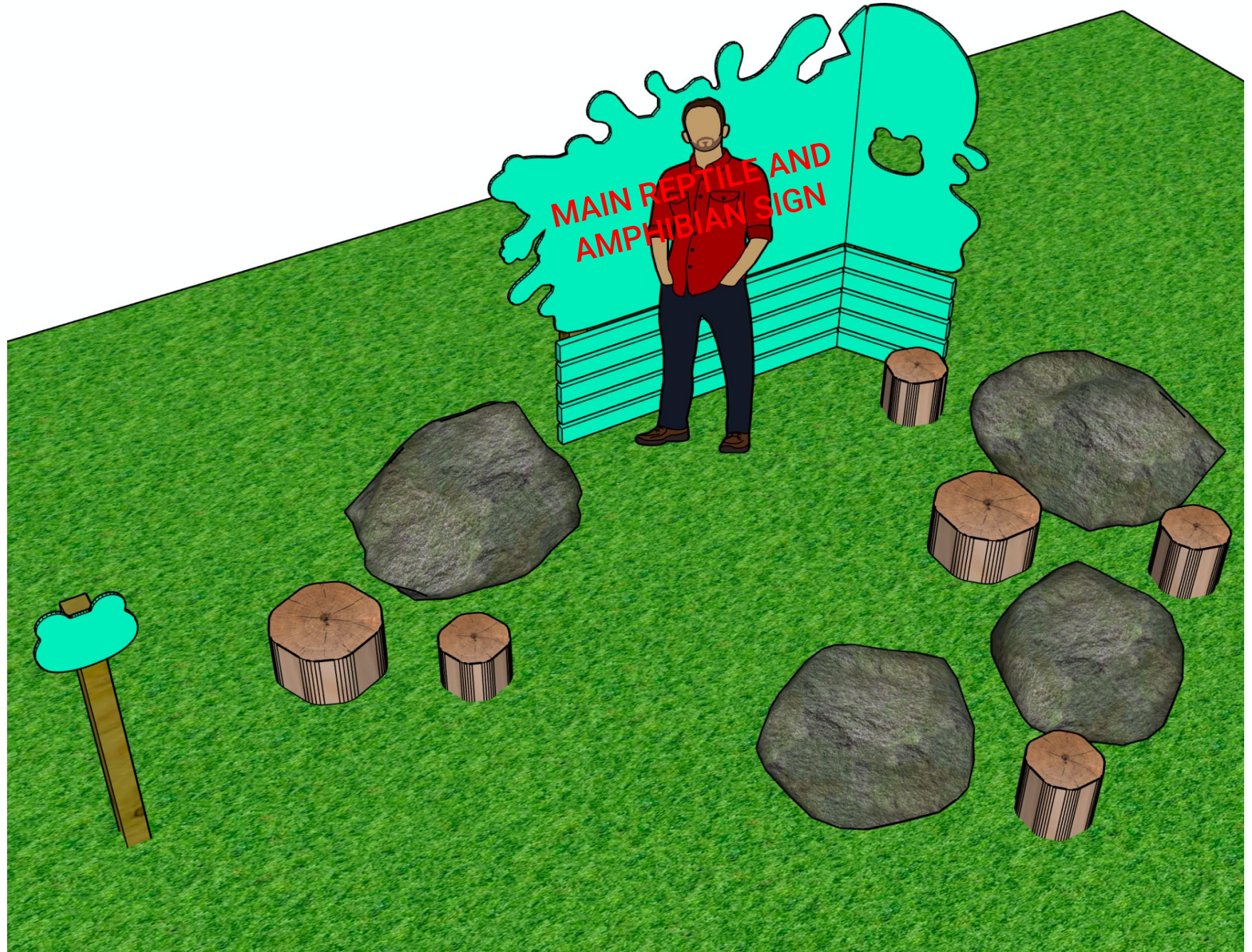
LOOK THROUGH THE FROG TO FIND A PATH TO THE CREEK. ARE THERE ANY FROGS OR TOADS NEAR THE WATER?



### STUMP JUMP CHALLENGE

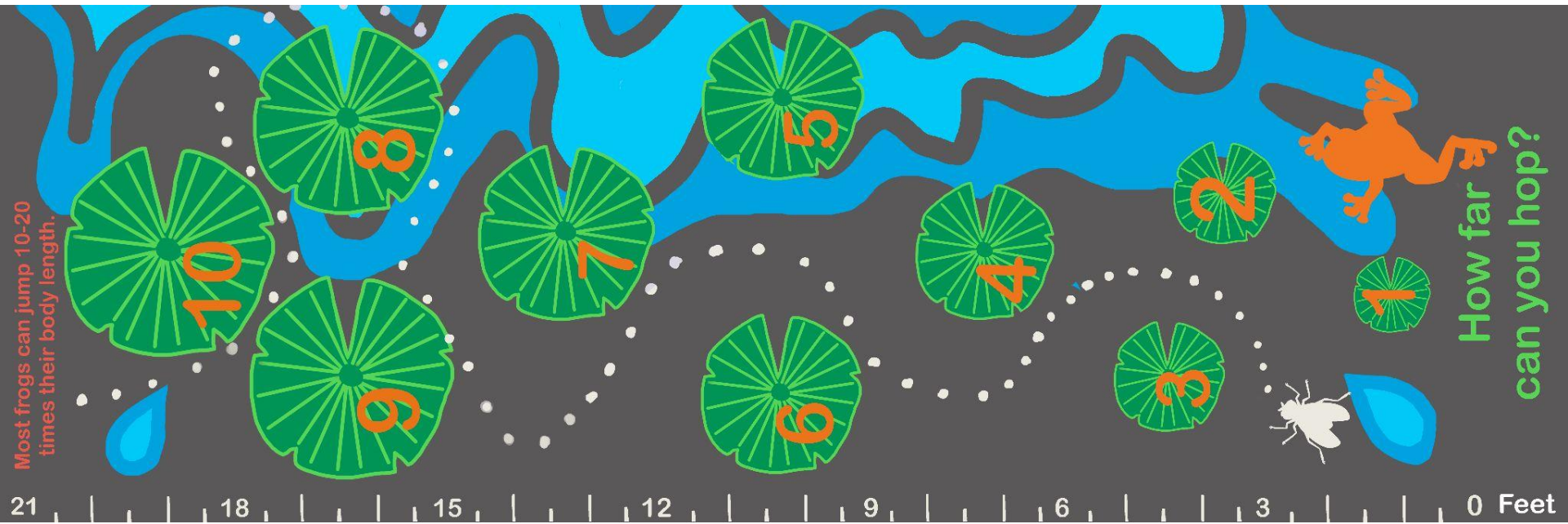
Spin the wheel to choose a creature. Act out how they move across the stumps!







# Reptiles & Amphibians Asphalt Art Design







## Amphibians Concept

### Materials and Sizing:

- 10mm printed coroplast for main reptile and amphibian signage
- 3mm printed coroplast for small KABOOM signage with paint washed cedar frame
- 4x4" pressure treated pine posts sunk into the ground by 3' for sign base with compacted gravel for the frame
- 12-20" high wooden stumps and boulders set in ground 3-12" on compacted gravel
- Total dimensions for entire installation are ~13' 2" x ~9' 8"
- Total height is under 6'
- Ground surface: grass
- Ground mural is 10' x 30'







Cobbs Crk Trl

Cobbs Creek Pkwy

Cobbs Crk Trl

Cobbs Creek Pkwy

Cobbs Crk

KABOOM SIGN



**BUG INSTALLATION**



# MAIN BUG SIGN

## COBBS CREEK INSECTS

How big is your hand compared to these bugs?

How many different bugs can you find around the park?

The upper portion of the human body can be split into sections similar to a bug!

### INSECT ANATOMY

All insects have three main body parts: a **HEAD**, a **THORAX**, and an **ABDOMEN**

All insects have 6 legs. How many legs do you have?

### S is for

**BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY**

This Black Swallowtail is found throughout much of North America. The caterpillar that turns into a butterfly is called a parsley worm because it eats parsley.

What is your favorite vegetable or herb?

### C is for

**EASTERN COMMA BUTTERFLY**

The Eastern Comma can be found in woods near ponds, ponds, streams, swamps, and other water sources. This butterfly is said to be able eating fruit, dung, and animals from meat.

What ingredients are in your favorite meal?

### Citizen Scientists have observed nearly 150 different insects in Cobbs Creek!

This includes beetles, butterflies, moths, and other cool bugs!

### R is for

**RED MARKED BEETLE**

The Red Marked Beetle has this name since they live and eat in the common milkweed plant.

What is your favorite thing about where you live?

### B is for

**BROWN REPTED BUMBLE BEE**

The Brown-Belted Bumblebee is a common bee species that pollinate from May through October.

What is your favorite flower?

## DID YOU KNOW...

As more homes and buildings were built in the early 1900s, many tributaries of Cobbs Creek were channeled into underground pipes. For example, Thomas Run, also known as Amasaucka Creek, once flowed from 53rd and Walnut Street to 61st and Cobbs Creek Parkway. It is now part of Philadelphia's sewer system.

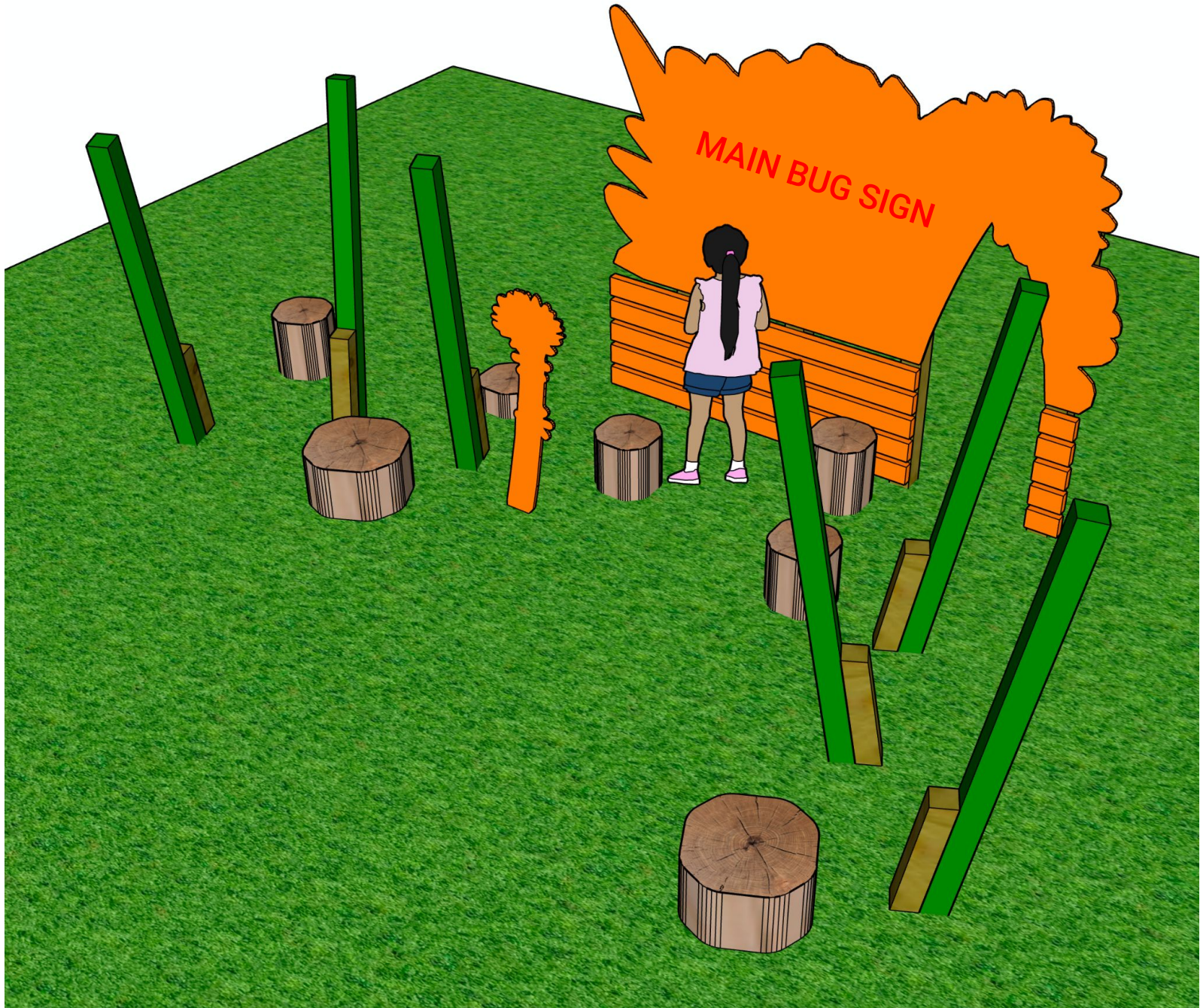
WEAVE THROUGH THE FLOWERS LIKE A BUTTERFLY

FIND ALL OF THE HIDDEN BUGS ON THIS SIGN!  
Hint: There are 20

### Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!

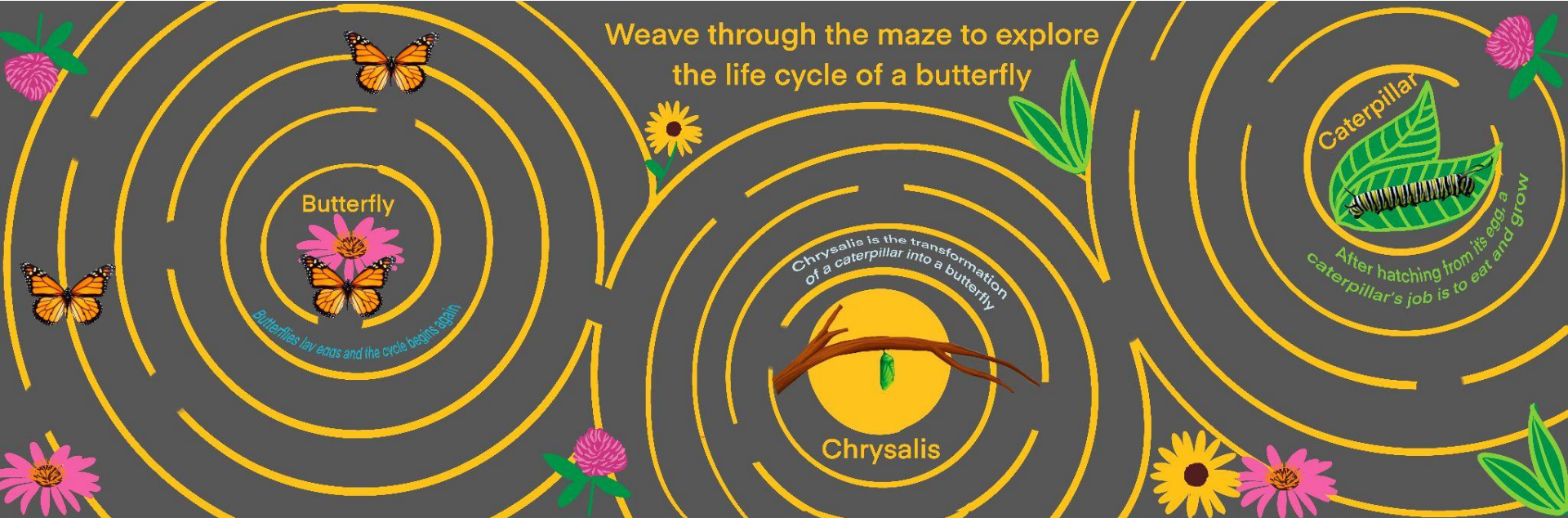
Spin the wheels below to get a bug and a verb, and act out the combination!

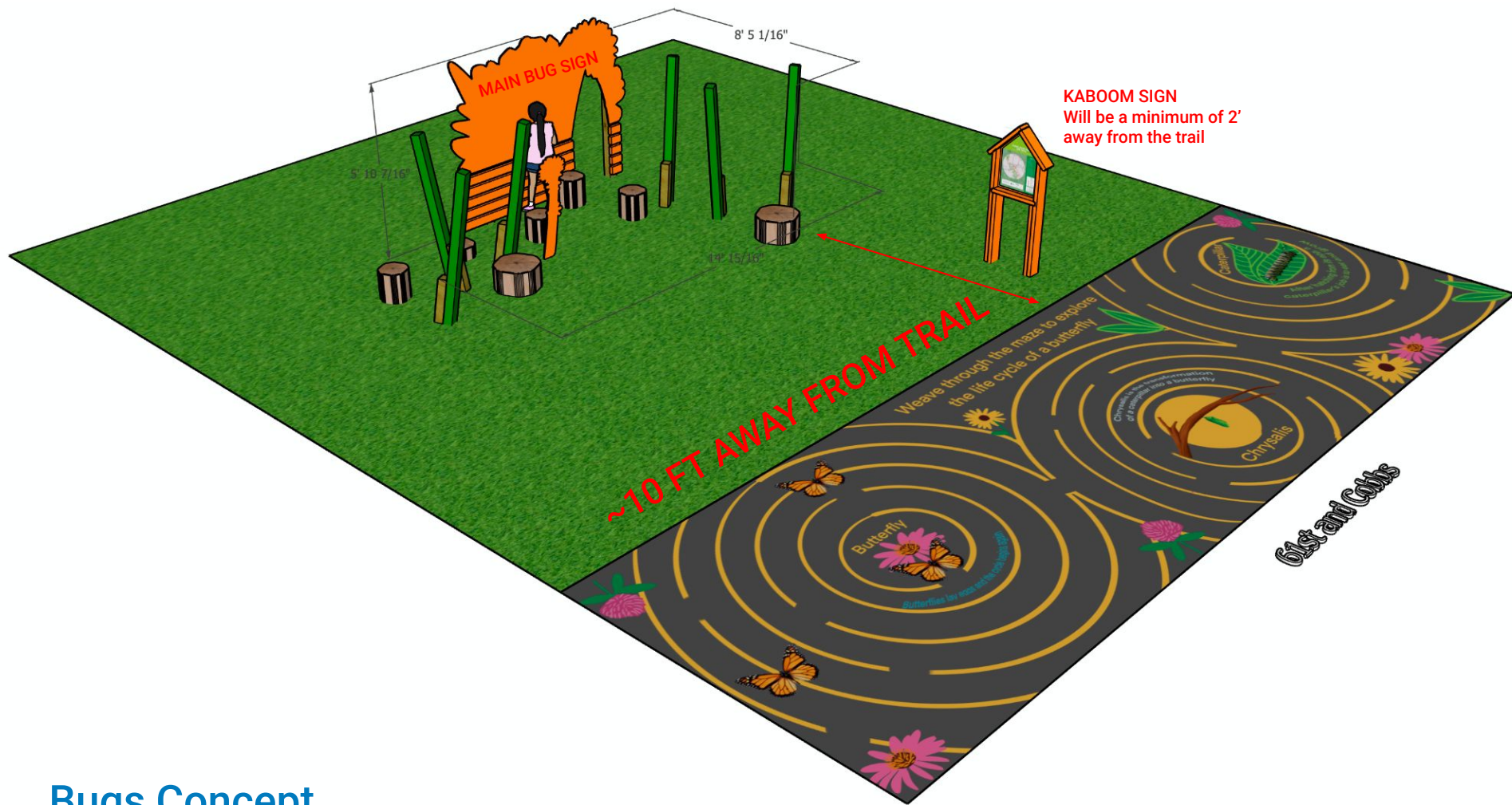






# Butterfly Asphalt Art Design

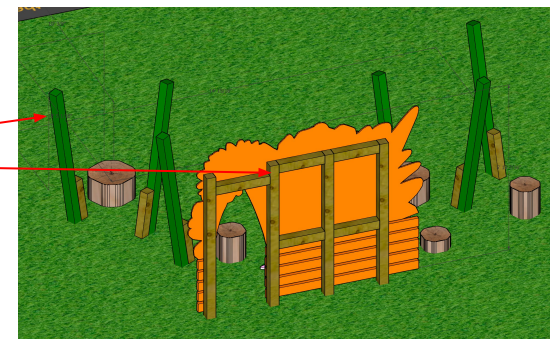




## Bugs Concept

### Materials and Sizing:

- 10mm printed coroplast for main bug signage
- 3mm printed coroplast for small KABOOM signage with paint washed cedar frame
- 4x4" pressure treated pine posts sunk into the ground by 3' for sign base and "grass" posts with compacted gravel
- 12-20" high wooden stumps set in ground 4-12" on compacted gravel
- Total dimensions for entire installation are ~14' x ~8' 5"
- Total height is under 6'
- Ground surface: grass
- Ground mural is 10' x 30'





Cobbs Creek Pkwy

Elen

KAROOM SIGN



6042

# TREE INSTALLATION



# MAIN TREE SIGN

## THIS TREE IS LIKE ME!

LEAVES are like LUNGS  
BRANCHES are like ARMS  
A TRUNK is like a SPINE  
BARK is like SKIN  
ROOTS are like FEET

How many leaves can you count on this board?  
100% Leaves do a billion in the background too!

### Trees age too!

You can tell the age of a tree by counting the rings inside.

How old is this tree?  
Fun fact: The oldest tree alive right now is around 5000 years old!

How old are you?

The trunk will spin to reveal the pockets of text

Do you know how long the trunk is on this tree?

How long does it take for the trunk to grow this thick?

How long does it take for the trunk to grow this thick?

## DID YOU KNOW...

The Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center was originally built as a horse stable and park ranger station for the Fairmount Park Police Unit.

After years of sitting vacant, civil leader Carole Williams-Green had an idea to create an environmental center. With the help of community partners, she raised money to transform the space into the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center. The Center opened in 2002 and was further renovated in 2024. It now features a lab, bird sanctuary, community garden, walking trails, classrooms, and creekside nature paths.

## TREASURE CHEST

Find a leaf, take a leaf!

Find the prettiest leaf around. Leave it in the treasure chest for someone else to enjoy!

## TREASURE HUNT!

Can you find these tree treasures?

ACORNS    BARK    STICKS  
NUTS    LEAVES

Put your treasures in the chest above for others to enjoy!

**S** is for SUGAR MAPLE

Sugar Maples have one best known feature: being the primary source of maple syrup and having bright red, orange, and yellow leaves in the fall.

What other things change color as they get older?  
What is your favorite color?

**A** is for AMERICAN BEECH

American Beech trees can grow up to 110 feet tall with big, small, spiny nuts called beechnuts.

American Beech bark is smooth. What else is smooth?

**H** is for HONEY LOCUST

Honey Locust trees are just one of the legumes or beans, family. They produce long, veer pods that animals eat.

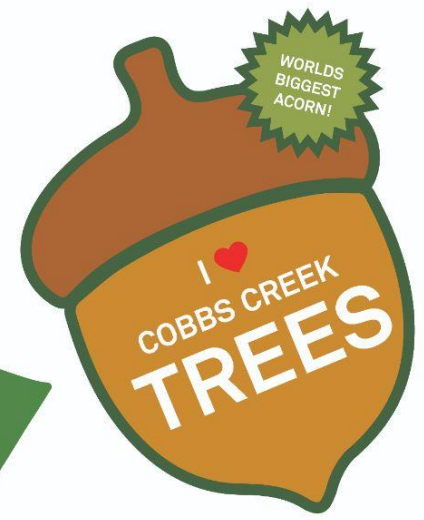
What types of beans do you eat?

**E** is for EASTERN WHITE PINE

Eastern White Pine trees provide food and shelter for many small animals like squirrels. They can live over 400 years.

Who is the oldest person you know? How old are they?

How big is your hand compared to each leaf?







MAIN TREE SIGN



# Tree Asphalt Art Design

Jump on the acorns to  
get to the other side



Which way is the wind  
blowing the red leaves?





## Trees Concept

### Materials and Sizing:

- 10mm printed coroplast for main tree signage
- 3mm printed coroplast for KABOOM signage with paint washed cedar frame
- 4x4" pressure treated pine posts sunk into the ground by 3' for sign base and "tree branch" with compacted gravel for the frame
- 12-20" high wooden stumps set in ground 4-12" on compacted gravel
- Total dimensions for entire installation are ~15' 3" x ~7.5'
- Total height is ~5.5'
- Ground surface: grass
- Ground mural is 10' x 30'







**KABOOM SIGN**

Jump on the scores to get to the other side

Which way is the wind blowing the red leaves?

A decorative banner with autumn-themed illustrations of leaves and acorns. It includes a compass rose icon and the text 'Which way is the wind blowing the red leaves?'.





# COBBS CREEK PARK AND TRAIL



## Neighborhood Points of Interest

Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center	0.01 miles	▲
Cobbs Creek Recreation Center	0.5 miles	▲
Laura Sims Skate House	0.6 miles	▲
Anderson Elementary School	0.6 miles	▼
Motivation High School	0.9 miles	▼
Blanche A Nixon/ Cobbs Creek Library	0.9 miles	▲
60th St Business Corridor	0.9 miles	➤
Septa 63rd St. Market-Frankford Line Station	0.9 miles	➤
Christy Recreation Center	1 mile	➤
Fernwood Cemetery	1.2 miles	➤
Haddington Woods	1.2 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Trees	0.6 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Birds	0.9 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Reptiles and Amphibians	1.2 miles	▲

### LEGEND

	Paved trail (ADA accessible)
	Unpaved trail
	58th St Greenway
	Parking
	Water fountain
	Restroom (open during business hours)
	Pedestrian crossing
	Police station
	Playful Learning Site

### SEPTA Public Transit Lines

	SEPTA Market-Frankford Line
	SEPTA Trolley Routes
	SEPTA Regional Rail Routes
	SEPTA Bus Routes (Phila)
	SEPTA Bus Routes (DelCo)





# COBBS CREEK PARK AND TRAIL



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Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center	0.01 miles	▲
Cobbs Creek Recreation Center	0.5 miles	▲
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Blanche A Nixon/ Cobbs Creek Library	0.9 miles	▲
60th St Business Corridor	0.9 miles	▲
Septa 63rd St. Market-Frankford Line Station	0.9 miles	▲
Christy Recreation Center	1 mile	▶
Fernwood Cemetery	1.2 miles	▶
Haddington Woods	1.2 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Bugs	0.6 miles	▼
Playful Learning Site: Birds	1.7 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Reptiles and Amphibians	1.8 miles	▲

### LEGEND

- Paved trail (ADA accessible)
- Unpaved trail
- 58th St Greenway
- Parking
- Water fountain
- Restroom (open during business hours)
- Pedestrian crossing
- Police station
- Playful Learning Site

### SEPTA Public Transit Lines

- SEPTA Market-Frankford Line
- SEPTA Trolley Routes
- SEPTA Regional Rail Routes
- SEPTA Bus Routes (Phila)
- SEPTA Bus Routes (DelCo)





# COBBS CREEK PARK AND TRAIL



## Neighborhood Points of Interest

Paschalville Library	0.4 miles	▲
McCreesh Recreation Center Playground and Skatepark	0.4 miles	▲
Catherine Elementary School	0.5 miles	▲
Blue Bell Inn	0.5 miles	▼
Bell Avenue Elementary School	0.6 miles	▲
Holy Cross Cemetery	0.7 miles	▲
Water Street Playground	0.7 miles	▼
John M. Patterson Elementary School	0.7 miles	▲
Mount Moriah Cemetery	0.9 miles	▲
Philadelphia 12 District Police Station	0.9 miles	▶
Elmwood Park	1 mile	▲
Yeadon Public Library	1 mile	▶
Colwyn Police Station and Municipal Building	1.1 miles	▲
Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center	3.1 miles	▲
Playful Learning Site: Birds	0.3 miles	▶
Playful Learning Site: Bugs	0.9 miles	▶
Playful Learning Site: Trees	1.8 miles	▶

### LEGEND

	Paved trail (ADA accessible)
	Unpaved trail
	58th St Greenway
	Parking
	Water fountain
	Restroom (open during business hours)
	Pedestrian crossing
	Police station
	Playful Learning Site

### SEPTA Public Transit Lines

	SEPTA Market-Frankford Line
	SEPTA Trolley Routes
	SEPTA Regional Rail Routes
	SEPTA Bus Routes (Phila)
	SEPTA Bus Routes (DelCo)





# COBBS CREEK PARK AND TRAIL



## Neighborhood Points of Interest

Paschalville Library	0.4 miles	↗
McCreech Recreation Center Playground and Skatepark	0.4 miles	↗
Catherine Elementary School	0.5 miles	↗
Blue Bell Inn	0.5 miles	↘
Bell Avenue Elementary School	0.6 miles	↗
Holy Cross Cemetery	0.7 miles	↗
Water Street Playground	0.7 miles	↘
John M. Patterson Elementary School	0.7 miles	↗
Mount Moriah Cemetery	0.9 miles	↖
Philadelphia 12 District Police Station	0.9 miles	↗
Elmwood Park	1 mile	↗
Yeadon Public Library	1 mile	↗
Colwyn Police Station and Municipal Building	1.1 miles	↗
Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center	3.1 miles	↖
Playful Learning Site: Reptiles and Amphibians	0.3 miles	↗
Playful Learning Site: Bugs	0.9 miles	↗
Playful Learning Site: Trees	1.5 miles	↗

### LEGEND

	Paved trail (ADA accessible)
	Unpaved trail
	58th St Greenway
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	SEPTA Bus Routes (DelCo)







# Cobbs Creek Art in the Park: Nature Learning

CREATED BY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

*In collaboration with Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center,  
Cobbs Neighbors, Cobbs Creek Library, Tiny Trekkers, Amber Art,  
and Tiny WPA*

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Brought to you by **Play Everywhere Philadelphia**, a grant program that supports the creation of playful learning spaces which are designed to promote early childhood literacy and learning in everyday locations across Philadelphia.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



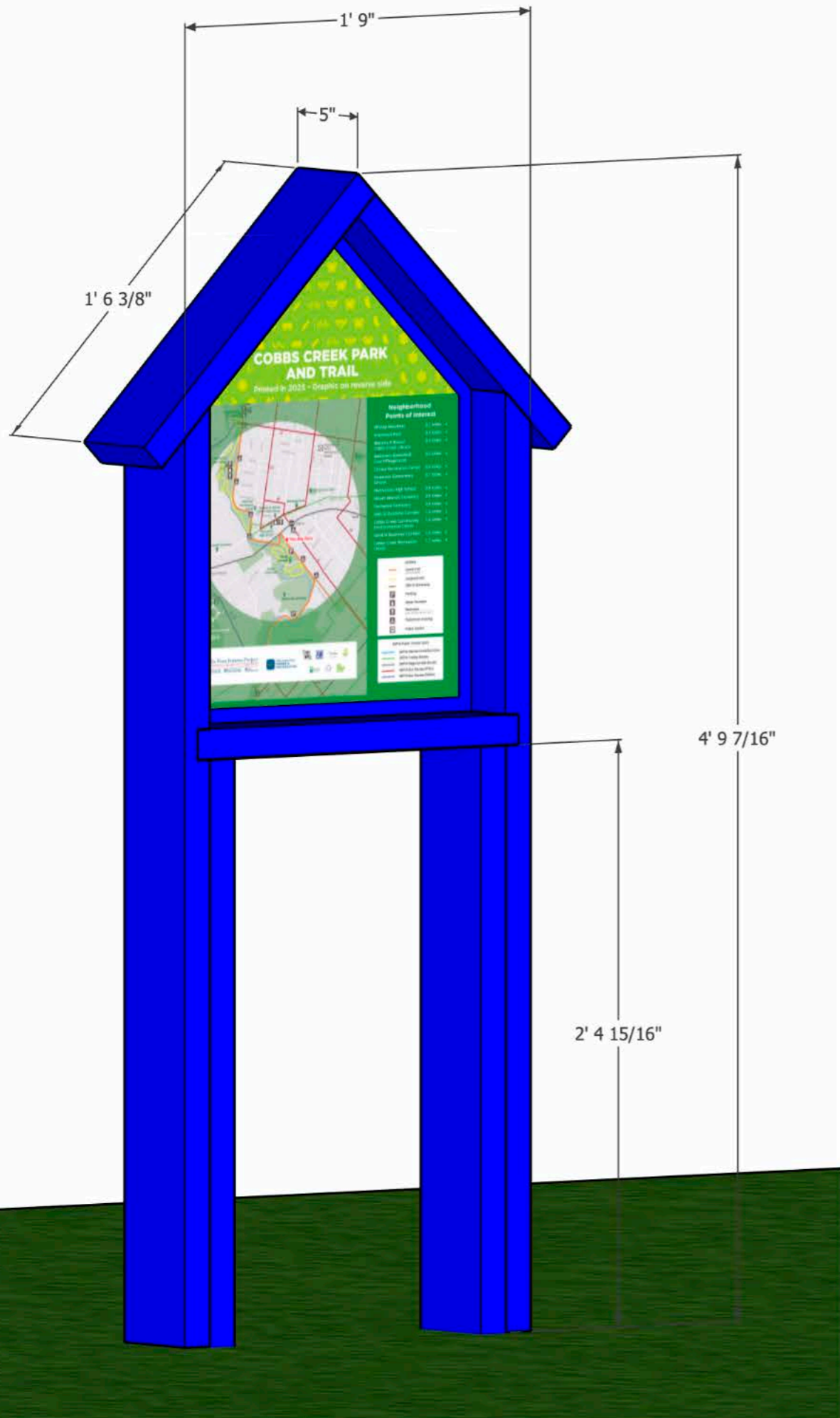
WilliamPennFoundation



[kaboom.org/philly](https://kaboom.org/philly)

View all of the Play Everywhere Philadelphia sites!







Location	Date
Cedar Ave (Trees)	
Mural Installation	Tuesday, April 15th 10am - 2pm
Signage Installation	Tuesday, April 14th 11am - 2pm
61st St (Bugs)	
Mural Installation	Thurs, April 17th 10 -2pm
Signage Installation	Friday April 16th 11-2pm
Florence Ave (Birds)	
Mural Installation	Wed, April 22nd 3-6pm
Signage Installation	Friday April 18th 11-2
Thomas Ave (Reptiles)	
Mural and Signage installation	Friday April 25th & Sat, April 26th 10-2 (Ribbon Cutting)