

Little Falls Wayfinding Project

Five local park and recreation areas in the City of Little Falls and Morrison County will have a series of new interpretive signs installed as part of the Little Falls Welcoming and Wayfinding project. This is a community-based project that builds up "cultural agility," the ability of community members to understand, incorporate, and successfully work within and between multiple cultural contexts. The project vision is to build up the cultural, natural and social capitals following the WealthWorks community development framework. The project's implementation was facilitated through the Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), local community members and students, with the City of Little Falls acting as the fiscal partner.

"For the enjoyment, pleasure, and benefit of the people."

The Little Falls Wayfinding project ties together the themes of cultural resources with the history of how energy and natural resources have shaped our local community. The project illustrates how these facets have changed over time up to the present day. The project acknowledges and honors the Indigenous cultures of American Indians who lived here prior to, and at the time of European and American settlement by incorporating Ojibwe language and the graphic art designs of two Indigenous female artists.

The signs were designed to highlight regional and local timelines along with place-based information reflecting uniquely important features at each park. The artwork is fresh and vibrant, and meant to be an appealing, welcoming and wayfinding addition for community members, and especially young families.



Jingle Dress Artwork by Adrienne M. Benjamin
Floral Applique by Jennie Kappenman



Meet the Artists



Amikogaabawiikwe indizhinikaaz. Awaazisii indoodem. Misizaaga'iganing indoonjibaa. Chiminising indaa. Niizh nindaanisag indayaawag, Bagwajikwe naa Zhaawanigiizhigookwe.

Adrienne M. Benjamin (She/Her/Hers) is an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) artist from the Chiminising community, a part of the Mille Lacs Reservation. She grew up in Isle, Minnesota. Adrienne considers herself a multi-disciplinary artist who creates different cultural embedded crafts with contemporary and traditional flair. Including but not limited to, Textile Arts, Writing, Design, Acrylic, Woodworking, Watercolor, and Poetry. Her main focus is creating current, socially relevant, and culturally significant work that intersects with Anishinaabe values, history, and lifeways. She is most recognized however for her jingle dress making and her work has been most recently featured in the "Misizaaga'iganing onjibaamagad bawaajige-omajigooday – The Dream Dress Comes From Mille Lacs," exhibit at Great River Arts, the "Ziibaaska'iganigooday - The Jingle Dress at 100" exhibit and "The Jingle Dress Tradition" a Minnesota TPT/PBS documentary. She has given cultural educational talks about the Mille Lacs jingle dress story at many schools around state in hopes of bridging understanding about the Ojibwe culture.



Jennie Kappenman is an enrolled member of the Red Lake Chippewa and descendant of the Leech Lake Ojibwe. Her artistry consists of Ojibwe beadwork, traditional regalia, satin applique florals married with contemporary materials and porcupine quillwork. Jennie has grown up immersed in traditional arts and has developed her style over the decades. Emphasis on bold colors and swirling vine work is what captivates her audience.

jiimaan
a canoe

ishkodewidaabaan
a train

People have relied on many forms of **transportation** throughout history. **Montreal canoes** made of **birch bark** could haul **three tons** of cargo on the open waters of the **Great Lakes**. Smaller canoes were used to **transport goods** to **trading posts**.

The **trestle bridge** is part of a **railway line** that once ran from **Little Falls** to **Brainerd**. Many **mainlines** and branch lines were built to create an **integrated network** that eventually became a **transcontinental** passageway to the **West**.

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Let's speak
Ojibwemowin!

Ojibwe language translations by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission Moxina'igan

Aaniin gakina awiya! Gidizhaa na agwajing? Gaye niin.
Ganawendan aki miinawaa nibi. Miigwech!

Hello everyone! Are you going outside? Me too. Protect
the land and water. Thank you!