

Client:

Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA

Hancock Shaker Village, “The City of Peace,” has significant land resources beyond the borders of its interpreted village area. Some of the features of these lands include original quarries, and also remnant fields and pastures, orchards, and woodlots that embody rich narrative opportunities for the site.

Reference Contact:

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Project Staff:

Katie Boardman, Principal-in-charge, planner, research and copywriting
 Tom Elliott, designer, installation liaison
 Christian Goodwillie, HSV curator, research and editing

Project Approach:

Working from an interpretive outline of the project already developed for the project, CVG met with HSV Staff to focus the interpretive narrative and fit the concept to the physical site. With the help Henry Art, Director of Environmental Conservation Center of Williams College, plants and geological features were identified that would help reinforce the use of the lands – plants, fields, woods, and minerals, by the Shakers of The City of Peace. After detailed adjustments to graphic layouts and texts, full size prototypes of the wayside exhibits were produced and viewed in actual exhibit locations. The trail bed was designed by Open Space Management, and Folia Industries produced wayside exhibits.



Project Outcomes:

Working with HSV's staff, CVG aligned a visually and conceptually rich array of content and used these materials to develop a narrative for a new concept: a universally accessible nature and history trail interpreted with wayside exhibits through the fields, forests, and pastures that are a part of the larger historic site.

The exhibit given an Award of Merit, by the American Association for State and Local History in the fall of 2008, and was featured in a presentation at the ASLH Annual Meeting

