

Rootwise

Breaking the Boundaries of Museum Confines with Interpretation at Home

By: Anne Longman

PROBLEM

Not all individuals can physically get to or navigate public gardens and outdoor spaces, but would still benefit from the resources they offer. This project expands museum accessibility by allowing the public to have their own museum grade signage available online and at home. Additionally, the UW Arboretum has limited interpretive signage and would benefit from additional resources being available to the public on site. The public can freely access all of these materials, including free admission to the property, all database information, and printable QR codes without barriers. These codes are meant to be printed and placed in private yards and gardens, effectively allowing people to have museum grade signs in their own homes. This project is intended to encourage educational opportunities that stretch out of the institution's property line and increase accessibility to museum quality education.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to create easily accessible information for everyone. This project is available on a public platform (the internet) and in a public space (the arboretum). Allowing people to print out their own signs from home brings education and interpretation to those who may not be able to physically reach the arboretum, have a hard time with mobility, or struggle to stand for long periods of time. This information is fully accessible from any location, to any person who wishes to see it, without degrading the quality of experience for the viewer. This not only creates an inclusive environment for individuals who have physical disabilities, but also extends the reach of audience to rural communities or those who live far away from cities with conventional museum settings.



Examples of digital drawings created for the website

write text

website wireframe

foliage and seed drawings

Playtest, fix, and repeat

DELIVERABLE

Rootwise.info is a website that will live in perpetuity as a result of this project. It exists to serve the public with knowledge about trees, and will continue to be an anchor for anyone who decides to participate.

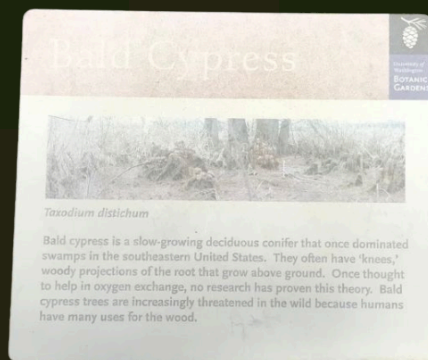
Visit [Rootwise.info](https://rootwise.info) to view the finished website.

NEXT STEPS

This website, as it continues to exist, will grow and change. Hopefully trees from other growing zones and parts of the United States will be added in over time, continuing to expand the index that already exists. Should the public choose to participate in creating their own signs, the number of people impacted by and influenced as a result of this website will increase each time a sign is made. The QR code system allows for exponential growth in the community of those involved in this process. This website will continue to live on as a publicly available, free resource, in perpetuity.

References

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sun faded signs at the arboretum

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