

Crane Point Museum and Nature Center

Florida Keys Land & Sea Trust • Marathon, Florida

Exterior wayfinding and interpretive program
 6 miles of trails 63 acres
 Project budget \$ 201,000

Development: Matt Kirchman, Rebecca Schreiber (KPC)
 Design: Edward Malouf (KPC)
 Illustration: Jennifer Arrington
 Detailing, Production: Edward Malouf
 Graphics pressing: Fossil Industries Inc.
 Structures, Install: Wood & Wood, Inc.

Designed a wayside and interpretive program for 6 miles of trails on this 63 acre site. Over 80 maps, wayside panels, and species identification panels were researched, written, beautifully illustrated, and produced and installed to complement the new boardwalk and a vibrant educational program. The illustrative approach used a combination of hand-drawn maps with computer added color to complement the artist's drawings. In addition, the site was given a new graphic identity and presence along Route 1 with a highway banner program. Content interpreted; solution holes, a wild bird rescue program, mangroves and the difference and inch in elevation makes. This was completed by Edward Malouf while a project manager/designer at KPC Inc.



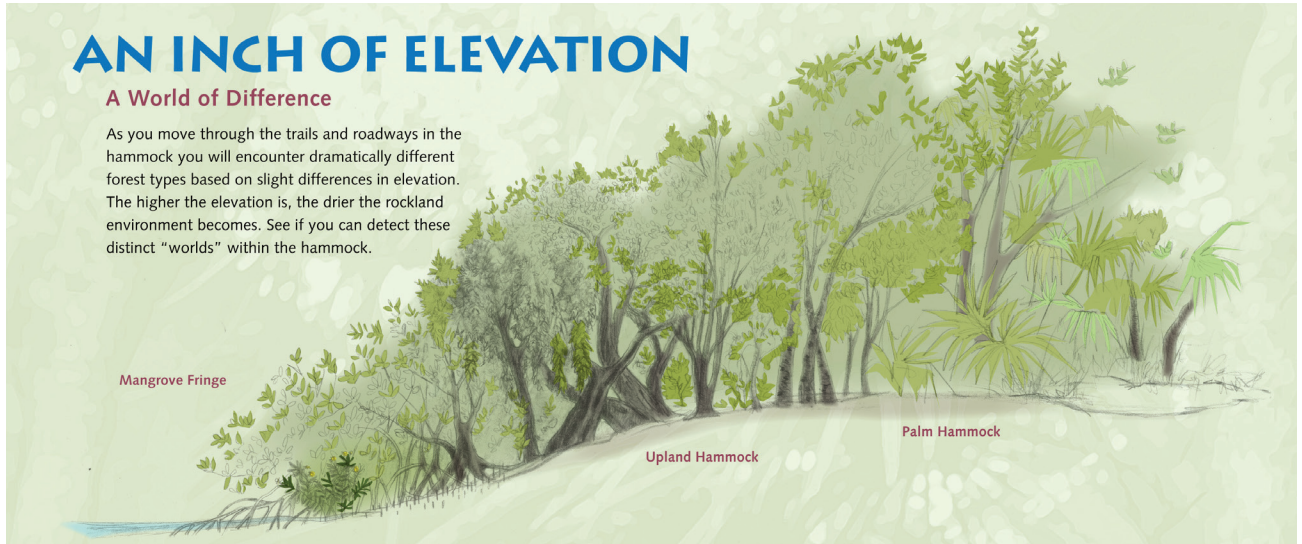
This comprehensive outdoor interpretive program included; 2 main entry signs, 7 highway banners, 3 information kiosks, 5 trailhead directionals, 32 waysides, 12 directionals, 13 trail story, 24 species identification units, and a 3 unit species program.



AN INCH OF ELEVATION

A World of Difference

As you move through the trails and roadways in the hammock you will encounter dramatically different forest types based on slight differences in elevation. The higher the elevation is, the drier the rockland environment becomes. See if you can detect these distinct "worlds" within the hammock.



Mangrove Fringe

Upland Hammock

Palm Hammock

PALM HAMMOCK

Crane Point's crowning feature is the Palm Hammock, the most highly endangered habitat in the Keys. Existing only between mile markers 47 and 60 this highly productive ecosystem is dependant upon the surrounding hardwood hammocks to protect it from storm damage drying winds. This one-of-a-kind diverse gem, acquired in 1989, supports a vigorous program to educate the public and encourage the conservation and preservation of the Florida Keys natural environment, unique on the globe.

What is a Palm Hammock?

A Palm Hammock is defined as a hammock of which at least 25% of the canopy is comprised of Key and Florida Thatch Palms.



In bloom

In fruit

In bloom

In fruit

Florida Thatch palm
Thrinax radiata

Key Thatch palm
Thrinax morrisii

Sugar-coated Jet Fuel

Migratory birds feast on the fruits of these palms. The sugary flesh provides a quick burst of energy while the protein and oils in the kernel sustain the bird during his long flight.

Observe the icons  They indicate who benefits from the plants.



AN OASIS IN THE HAMMOCK

Freshwater Solution Holes

Whether they live in the arid environment of the Keys year round, or they're just passing through, animals depend on the fresh water found in this solution hole located in Crane Point Hammock.

The Proof is in the Prints
Although you may not see larger animals, the soft mud bank surrounding the solution hole records evidence of visiting turtles, snakes and raccoons.

Can you find?

- Key mud turtle
- Brown banded water snake
- Signs of raccoons
- White crown pigeon
- Dragonfly laying its eggs
- Green anole
- Southeastern 5-lined skink

Next Rest Area: South America
Watch for songbirds flashing about the hammock edges. Listen for their songs. Most of the migratory birds from the northeast travel through the Keys and are dependent upon hammocks for fuel and water to make the crossing to South or Central America, or the West Indies.

Zip Zip..... Dip
Look for dragonflies, damselflies and darners. As nymphs these ferocious insects prowl the water feeding on other insects, crustaceans & small fish. The adults may be spotted zipping through the air to catch food and occasionally dipping their slender abdomens into the water to scatter eggs.

MANGROVE TRAIL

Interpretive Locations

- 1 An Inch of Elevation
- 2 Salted and Soaked
- 3 Natural Mosquito Control

Rachel Creek
Mangrove Basin
Tropical Hardwood Hammock
ADDERLEY LANE

YOU ARE HERE

CRANE POINT
Museum, Nature Trails & Historic Site

