We’re glad you would like to learn more about our StoryWalks!

The StoryWalk® idea originated in Vermont. The original-style StoryWalks were made by buying several copies of the selected title, laminating the pages, and attaching them to wooden stakes which could be driven into the ground at intervals along a trail, sidewalk, or path.

- There’s a summary of the original Vermont model and a link to an FAQ document on this page: [http://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk](http://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk)

In New Hanover County we currently have three permanent StoryWalk installations at Smith Creek Park *(Rainbow Stew* by Cathryn Falwell), Hugh MacRae Park (near the children’s play area -- *Bug Safari* by Bob Barner), and Carolina Beach Lake Park *(Pond babies* by Cathryn Falwell). These StoryWalks are collaborative projects funded by the New Hanover County Public Library, NHC Parks & Gardens, NHC Health Department, the NHC Library Foundation, and others. This summer we expect to install a fourth permanent StoryWalk, based on *How do you wokka-wokka* by Elizabeth Bluemle, at Veterans Park. We purchased the designs for these StoryWalks from Curious City -- their designs include prompts for physical activities in addition to the activity of walking between the signs.

- More about the Curious City StoryWalk model at [http://www.curiouscitydpw.com/2012/05/22/storywalk-from-curious-city/](http://www.curiouscitydpw.com/2012/05/22/storywalk-from-curious-city/) Curious City has been wonderful to work with and I can’t say enough great things about them.

Our current outdoor installations are weather-resistant sign boards mounted on custom-constructed metal frames which allow the sign boards to be changed so that the books can be rotated from site to site. We worked with our County Parks & Gardens Department on the fabrication specifications, which are based on their experience of what’s needed to withstand being outdoors in a public place in our climate. These are the specifications as provided by the local sign company which did the manufacturing for us:

**Rectangular, freestanding sign display frames**
- Sign frames fabricated with 1” x 1” welded aluminum tubing display frame with a 24” x 20” flat aluminum face to allow for a digitally printed overlay.
- Sign face frame will include mounting bracket on back to fit over SINGLE, 4” x 4” x 54” aluminum post (provided by client) (to stand out of ground 30” for viewing by children)
- Mounting bracket will allow for easy removal making top sign faces easily interchangeable as other storybook lines are added in future.
- Sign frames will include security retainers 1/2” (on face) by 1” (side to cover tubing); retainers will conceal edge of print (important for parks other than Airlie Gardens.)
- Frames will be sanded, acid washed, primed and painted with a two-part polyurethane paint. Color: BLACK. (or other specified color)

**Solvent Digital Print** (only) on cast 3M ControlTac IJ180 CV3 vinyl (air egress)
3M 8518 Premium Cast Gloss
Height: 20 In Length:24 In; SIDES: 1

The signs and display frames are mounted on pressure-treated wood posts set into the ground. Our County Parks people take care of the installation for us. We’ve been happy with this setup, but there’s no question that it’s expensive to produce: the
printing and fabrication costs run to around $560 per sign, and our StoryWalks range from 14 to 16 signs each. We’re looking at other, less expensive and less permanent options for creating StoryWalk sets for temporary installations, and possibly to circulate.

NHCPL has also used indoor StoryWalks for several years now at our Story Extravaganza event in late April. Like the original StoryWalks, these didn’t require copyright permission since the pages were not altered in any way. We just purchased a several copies of the books and took them apart. Since these were set up indoors, we didn’t even bother with laminating but just displayed the book pages around the walls of a room with props or activity ideas to go along with the pictures and text. Titles used for the indoor StoryWalks include Not a box by Antoinette Portis and The game of shadows by Hervé Tullet.

- You can see a photo albums for Pond Babies, Bug Safari, and Not a box at [https://www.flickr.com/photos/88732008@N03/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/88732008@N03/albums)

If you have more questions, let me know and I'll do my best to answer them.

More links:

- “Your School News” from NHC School TV, 10/27-11/2/2014 – coverage of Pond Babies launch event begins at about 1:10: [https://youtu.be/_Ek95c-CAbl?list=PLKqNwaFd_y48MMmg61qOkgYl9irqM32rl](https://youtu.be/_Ek95c-CAbl?list=PLKqNwaFd_y48MMmg61qOkgYl9irqM32rl)
- Curious City’s Flickr albums include multiple examples of their StoryWalks and some launch events: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/curiouscity/sets/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/curiouscity/sets/)
- Flickr photo archive for StoryTrail, Dawes Arboretum, Newark, OH: [http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=storytrail+ohio+arboretum](http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=storytrail+ohio+arboretum) The book pictured is Scoot! by Cathryn Falwell; pictures posted by Ms. Falwell who came to the area to do public programs when this StoryTrail was launched.