

LIGHT PORTALS

HERM & AARON GREIDER

Proposal for the 2025 Cincinnati Nature Center
Light in the Forest event

Contact

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CHECK OUT THE VIDEO WITH SOUND LIGHT.GREIDER.ORG

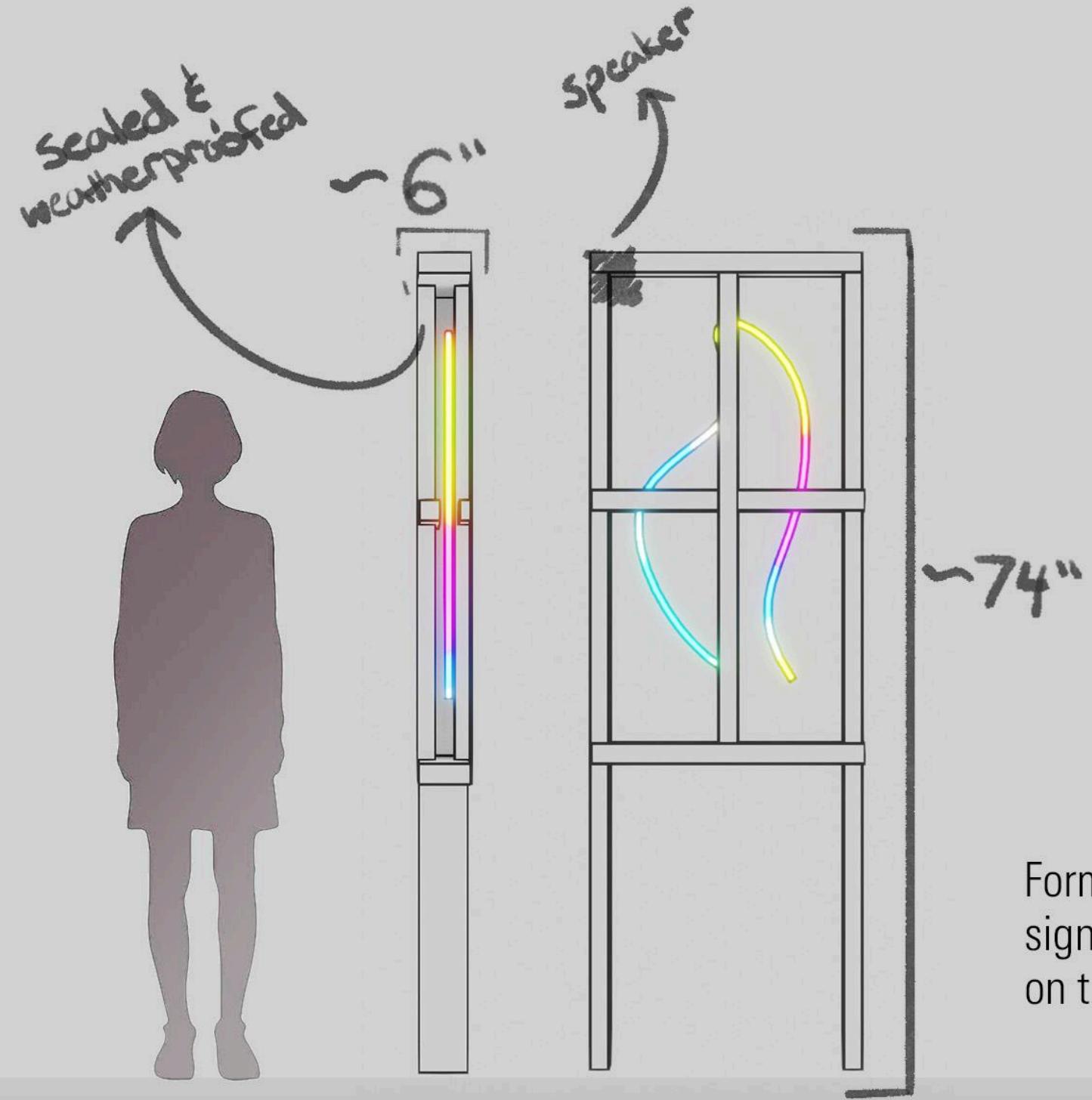
STEP UP TO THE PORTALS.

As you walk the nature path, soft chimes and flickering forest specters respond to your movements, creating a surreal, immersive experience. The *Light Portals* use repetition, sound, and subtle interactivity to make visitors feel surrounded by living light, blending the natural and the otherworldly to make the Portals feel malleable and alive.

Our *Light Portals* are built from reclaimed materials, letting the light of the past shine through and inviting visitors to imagine the history of the land beneath their feet.

The installation will be a construction of four individual wooden frames from reclaimed windows and doors, with programmable multicolor LED strips sealed between two panes and fully waterproofed. Each LED responds to data from proximity sensors, changing hue, intensity, and pattern to bring the illuminated “forest specters” to life. A programmable synthesizer will adjust notes and timbres based on visitor movement, fading tracks in and out and shaping waveforms for a more immersive experience. Each portal will feature a single speaker on the top, creating a compact surround sound setup.

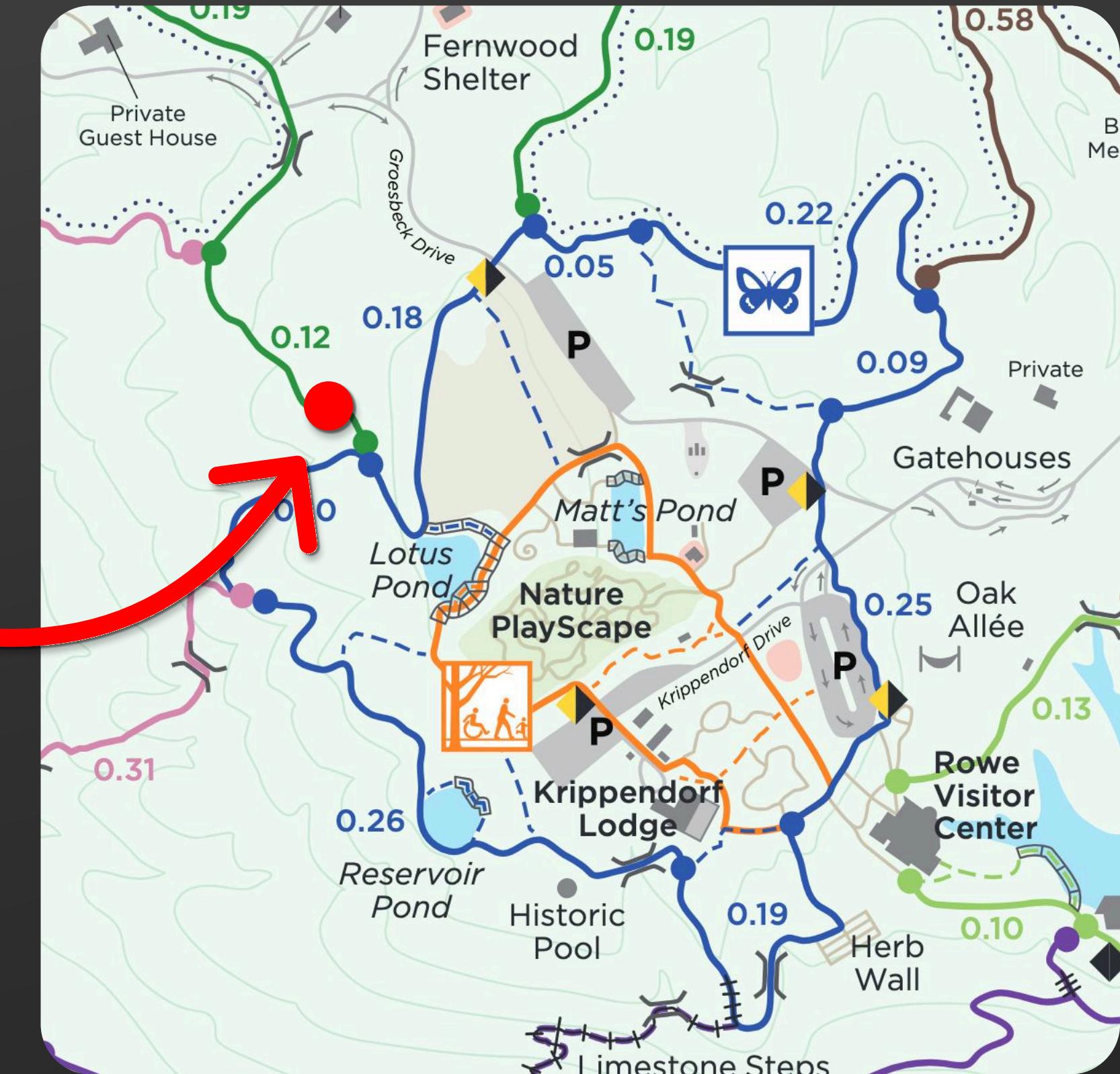




Forms may vary
significantly depending
on the specific materials sourced.

APPROXIMATE LOCATION

Northwest of Lotus pond, parallel with Groesbeck Drive





Herm Greider

Retired Software Developer with 40 years experience leading, designing, and coding all types of software systems for defense and commercial applications. BS Computer Science, UC. MS CS Wright State. Currently prototyping lighting and sound projects.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hermgreider>



Aaron Greider

Graphic Designer/Front-End Web Developer at Jungle Jim's International Market. BS Communication Design from UC DAAP 2022. Cincinnati Nature Center Member and new volunteer (2025!). Eagle Scout and native plant enthusiast. Bane of honeysuckle.

Budget

		Num per Portal	Total per Portal	Total Items	Total
Reclaimed Windows	\$30	2	\$60	8	\$240
6' LED strip	\$60	1	\$60	4	\$240
speakers	\$25	1	\$25	4	\$100
power supply for LED	\$40	1	\$40	4	\$160
cables	\$13	1	\$13	4	\$52
stake for ground	\$20	2	\$40	8	\$160
connectors	\$4	1	\$4	4	\$16
waterproof electronics box	\$6	1	\$6	4	\$24
proto board	\$7	2	\$14	8	\$56
microcontroller (w Bluetooth)	\$30	1	\$30	4	\$120
daisy seed (sound synthesis)	\$25	1	\$25	4	\$100
Incidentals (caulk, paint, screws...)	\$60	1	\$60	1	\$60
total			\$377		\$1,328

Project Plan

June

Early Prototype — 12" x 12" frosted pane, one LED strip with proximity and synth

June 30, 2025

Acquire windows and electronics

July 31, 2025

Finalize appearance

August 31, 2025

Construction of Portal frames

September 31, 2025

Portal software programming

October 31, 2025

Finishing touches and Backyard Halloween Demo

November 15, 2025

Installation

January, 2026

Teardown

Portfolio

Portfolio and supplemental video renderings available at:

light.greider.org

References

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