

**River Oaks Park
San Jose, California**

River Oaks Park is a redwood- and oak-studded landscape in close proximity to the busy wildlife corridor of Coyote Creek. In 2012, we created interpretive media for two distinct park audiences: adults enjoying a casual walk and young children ready for a playful nature-based challenge.

Paying attention to the needs, interests, and challenges of young children, The Acorn Group enhanced the park’s tot lot by creating interpretive media that revolve around a simple interpretation of circadian rhythms.



Our creative team designed Nature’s Clock—a large in-ground circular installation consisting of one large set of in-ground bronze medallions that symbolically depict one hour on a 12-hour clock and a second set of medallions, each a bas relief of an animal whose peak activity corresponds to a particular hour. As young children and their caregivers “walk around the clock,” they discover that some animals emerge and others retreat as the Sun rises or sets.



A child-friendly interpretive panel accompanies Nature’s Clock—its art consisting of paper collages of a squirrel and raccoon. These images reinforce the message conveyed in the playful text.

We also created two interpretive panels for the adult crowd. One celebrates the creek’s wildlife; the other, the role trees play in improving water and soil quality.

