

This is the plan for our planet project. The scale model we are building is patterned after the permanent installation along the Washington Mall near the Smithsonian Museums. Working in pairs, my Earth and Space Science students are preparing laminated "yard signs" for each of the planets (including Pluto), the sun and the asteroid belt. Each will show the size of the planetary body at 1 to 10,000,000,000 scale, and include other relevant information. Students will place the information on both halves of a standard-sized tag board so that - when the poster is folded in half - it will be readable from both sides.

Here's the request. In order to gain a sense of how much of space is - well - "space", we would like to place them in a straight line at the same 1 to 10,000,000,000 scale. That will take about 0.4 miles. The Lake Michigan Pathway along Pershing Drive (about 0.5 miles) would be perfect. Once we have calculated, measured and placed the signs, we would leave them for walkers and others to enjoy. Its proximity to the Laurel Clark Fountain and its related astronomical information would be a great tie-in.

Even laminated, we do not expect them to last a long time. The installation is easily removed whenever it seems appropriate.

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