

PART 2. SIGNS
Chapter 2M. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs
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MN Rev. 2
MN Rev. 6
MN Rev. 2

PART 2. SIGNS

Chapter 2M. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

2M.1 Scope

SUPPORT:

Recreational or cultural interest areas are attractions or traffic generators that are open to the general public for the purpose of play, amusement, or relaxation. Recreational attractions include such facilities as parks, campgrounds, gaming facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

The purpose of recreation and cultural interest area signs is to guide road users to a general area and then to specific facilities or activities within the area.

OPTION:

Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs directing road users to significant traffic generators may be used on freeways and expressways where there is direct access to these areas as provided in Section 2M.9.

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used off the road network, as appropriate.

2M.2 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

SUPPORT:

Provisions for signing recreational or cultural interest areas are subdivided into two different types of signs: (1) symbol signs and (2) destination guide signs.

GUIDANCE:

When highway agencies decide to provide recreational and cultural interest area signing, these agencies should have a policy for such signing. The policy should establish signing criteria for the eligibility of the various types of services, accommodations, and facilities. These signs should not be used where they might be confused with other traffic control signs.

OPTION:

Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs may be used on any road to direct persons to facilities, structures, and places, and to identify various services available to the general public. These guide signs may also be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing non-vehicular

events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities.

SUPPORT:

Section 2A.12 contains information regarding the use of recreational and cultural interest area symbols on other types of signs.

2M.3 Regulatory and Warning Signs

STANDARD:

All regulatory and warning signs installed on public roads and streets within recreational and cultural interest areas shall comply with the requirements of Chapters 2A, 2B, 2C, 7B, 8B, and 9B.

2M.4 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs

STANDARD:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol guide signs shall be square or rectangular in shape and shall have a white symbol or message and white border on a brown background. The symbols shall be grouped into the following usage and series categories:

- A. General Applications,
- B. Accommodations,
- C. Services,
- D. Land Recreation,
- E. Water Recreation, and
- F. Winter Recreation.

SUPPORT:

Table 2M-1 contains a listing of the symbols within each series category.

OPTION:

Mirror images of symbols may be used where the reverse image will better convey the message.

MIN Rev. 1

MIN Rev. 2

General	
Bear Viewing Area	RS-012
Bus Stop	RS-031
Campfires *	RS-042
Cans or Bottles *	RS-101
Cultural Interest Area	RS-142
Dam	RS-009
Deer Viewing Area	RS-011
Falling Rocks *	RS-008
Fire Extinguisher *	RS-090
Lighthouse	RS-007
Lookout Tower	RS-006
Nature Study Area	RS-141
Pets on Leash *	RS-017
Pick-Up Trucks	RS-140
Point of Interest	RS-080
Radios *	RS-103
Rattlesnakes *	RS-099
Recycling *	RS-200
Sea Plane	RS-115
Smoking *	RS-002
Snack Bar *	RS-102
Stay on Trail *	RS-123
Strollers *	RS-111
Tunnel	RS-005
Viewing Area	RS-036
Walk on Boardwalk *	RS-122
Wood Gathering *	RS-120

Accommodations	
Baby Changing Station (Men's Room)	RS-137
Baby Changing Station (Women's Room)	RS-138
Men's Restroom	RS-021
Parking	RS-034
Recreational Vehicle Site	RS-104
Restrooms	RS-022
Sleeping Shelter *	RS-037
Trailer Site	RS-040
Walk-In Camp	RS-148
Women's Restroom	RS-023

Services	
Drinking Water	RS-013
Electrical Hook-Up	RS-150
Firewood Cutting *	RS-112
First Aid	RS-024
Grocery Store	RS-020
Kennel	RS-045
Laundromat	RS-085
Litter Receptacle	RS-086
Lockers/Storage *	RS-030
Mechanic	RS-027
Picnic Shelter	RS-039
Picnic Site	RS-044
Post Office	RS-026
Radiator Water	RS-124
Ranger Station	RS-015
Sanitary Station	RS-041
Showers *	RS-035
Stable	RS-073
Theater	RS-109
Trail Shelter *	RS-043
Tramway	RS-071
Trash Dumpster	RS-091

Land Recreation	
All Terrain Trail	RS-095
Amphitheater	RS-070
Archery	RS-116
Baseball *	RS-096
Climbing *	RS-082
Corral	RS-149
Driving Tour	RS-113
Exercise/Fitness	RS-097
Golfing *	RS-128
Hang Gliding	RS-126
Hiking Trail	RS-068
Horse Trail	RS-064
In-Line Skating	RS-125
Interpretive Trail	RS-114
Off-Road Vehicle Trail	RS-067
Rock Collecting *	RS-063
Skateboarding *	RS-098
Spelunking/Caves	RS-084
Technical Rock Climbing	RS-081
Tennis	RS-129
Wildlife Viewing	RS-076

Water Recreation	
Beach	RS-012
Boat Motor	RS-147
Boat Ramp	RS-054
Canoeing	RS-079
Diving	RS-062
Fish Cleaning *	RS-093
Fish Hatchery	RS-010
Fish Ladder *	RS-089
Fishing Area	RS-063
Fishing Pier	RS-119
Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch	RS-117
Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft	RS-121
Kayaking	RS-118
Lifejackets *	RS-094
Marina	RS-053
Motorboating	RS-055
Rafting	RS-146
Rowboating	RS-057
Sailing	RS-056
Scuba Diving	RS-060
Seal Viewing	RS-106
Surfing	RS-059
Swimming	RS-061
Tour Boat	RS-087
Wading	RS-088
Waterskiing	RS-058
Whale Viewing	RS-107
Wind Surfing	RS-108

Winter Recreation	
Chair Lift/Ski Lift	RS-105
Cross Country Skiing	RS-046
Dog Sledding	RS-143
Downhill Skiing	RS-047
Ice Fishing	RS-092
Ice Skating	RS-050
Ski Jumping	RS-048
Sledding	RS-049
Snow Tubing	RS-144
Snowboarding	RS-127
Snowmobiling	RS-052
Snowshoeing	RS-078
Winter Recreational Area	RS-077

* For non-road use only

Table 2M-1 Category Chart for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbols

2M.5 Symbol Sign Sizes

GUIDANCE:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 24 x 24 inches. Where greater visibility or emphasis is needed, larger sizes should be used. Symbol sign enlargements should be in 6-inch increments.

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 30 x 30 inches when used on guide signs on freeways or expressways.

OPTION:

A smaller size of 18 x 18 inches may be used on low-speed, low-volume roadways and on non-road applications.

2M.6 Use of Educational Plaques

GUIDANCE:

Educational plaques should accompany all initial installations of recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs. The educational plaque should remain in place for at least 3 years after the initial installation. If used, the educational plaque should be the same width as the symbol sign.

OPTION:

Symbol signs that are readily recognizable by the public may be installed without educational plaques.

SUPPORT:

Figure 2M-1 illustrates some examples of the uses of educational plaques.

A - Directional Signs



B - Directional Assemblies



C - Directional Assembly with Educational Plaque



D - Prohibited Activities and Educational Plaque for Non-Road Use *



* Standard regulatory sign shall be used where provided elsewhere in this Manual.

Figure 2M-1 Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibitory Slashes

2M.7 Use of Prohibitive Circle and Diagonal Slash for Non-Road Applications

STANDARD:

Where it is necessary to indicate a prohibition of an activity or an item within a recreational or cultural interest area for non-road use and a standard regulatory sign for such a prohibition is not provided in Chapter 2B, the appropriate recreational and cultural interest area symbol shall be used in combination with a red prohibitive circle and red diagonal slash. The recreational and cultural interest area symbol and the sign border shall be black and the sign background shall be white. The symbol shall be scaled proportionally to fit completely within the circle and the diagonal slash shall be oriented from the upper left to the lower right portions of the circle as shown in Figure 2M-1.

Requirements for retroreflection of the red circle and red diagonal slash shall be the same as those requirements for backgrounds, legends, symbols, arrows, and borders.

2M.8 Placement of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs

STANDARD:

If used, recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be placed in accordance with the general requirements contained in Chapter 2A. The symbol(s) shall be placed as sign panels in the uppermost part of the sign and the directional information shall be placed below the symbol(s).

Except as provided in the following Option, if the name of the recreational or cultural interest area facility or activity is displayed on a destination guide sign (see Section 2M.09) and a symbol is used, the symbol shall be placed below the name (see Figure 2M-2).

OPTION:

When the legend Wildlife Viewing Area is displayed with the RS-076 symbol on a destination guide sign, the symbol may be placed to the left or right of the legend and the arrow may be placed below the symbol (see Figure 2M-2).

The symbols displayed with the facility or activity name may be placed below the destination guide sign as illustrated in Figure 2M-2 instead of as sign panels placed with the destination guide sign.

Secondary symbols of a smaller size (18 x 18 inches) may be placed beneath the primary symbols (see Drawing A in Figure 2M-1), where needed.

STANDARD:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbols installed for non-road use shall be placed in accordance with the general sign position requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

SUPPORT:

Figure 2M-3 illustrates typical height and lateral mounting positions. Figure 2M-4 illustrates some examples of the placement of symbol signs within a recreational or cultural interest area. Figures 2M-5 through 2M-10 illustrate some of the symbols that can be used. Illustrations of all of the recreational and cultural interest area symbols that can be used are found in Appendix C of this Manual.

GUIDANCE:

The number of symbols used in a single sign assembly should not exceed four.

OPTION:

The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs with white arrows on brown backgrounds shown in Figure 2D-5 may be used with Recreational and Cultural Area Interest symbol guide signs to create a Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Directional Assembly. The symbols may be used singularly, or in groups of two, three, or four on a single sign assembly (see Figures 2M-1, 2M-3, and 2M-4).

2M.9 Destination Guide Signs

GUIDANCE:

When recreational or cultural interest area destinations are displayed on supplemental guide signs, the sign should be rectangular or trapezoidal in shape. The order of preference for use of shapes and colors should be as follows: (1) rectangular with a white legend and border on a green background; (2) rectangular with a white legend and border on a brown background; or (3) trapezoidal with a white legend and border on a brown background.

STANDARD:

Whenever the trapezoidal shape is used, the color combination shall be a white legend and border on a brown background.



Figure 2M-2 Examples of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Guide Signs

OPTION:

Destination guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be posted at the first point where an access or crossroad intersects a highway where recreational or cultural interest areas are a significant destination along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways. Supplemental guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be used along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways to direct road users to recreational or cultural interest areas. Where access or crossroads lead exclusively to the recreational or cultural interest area, the advance guide sign and the exit direction sign may have a white legend and border on a brown background.

STANDARD:

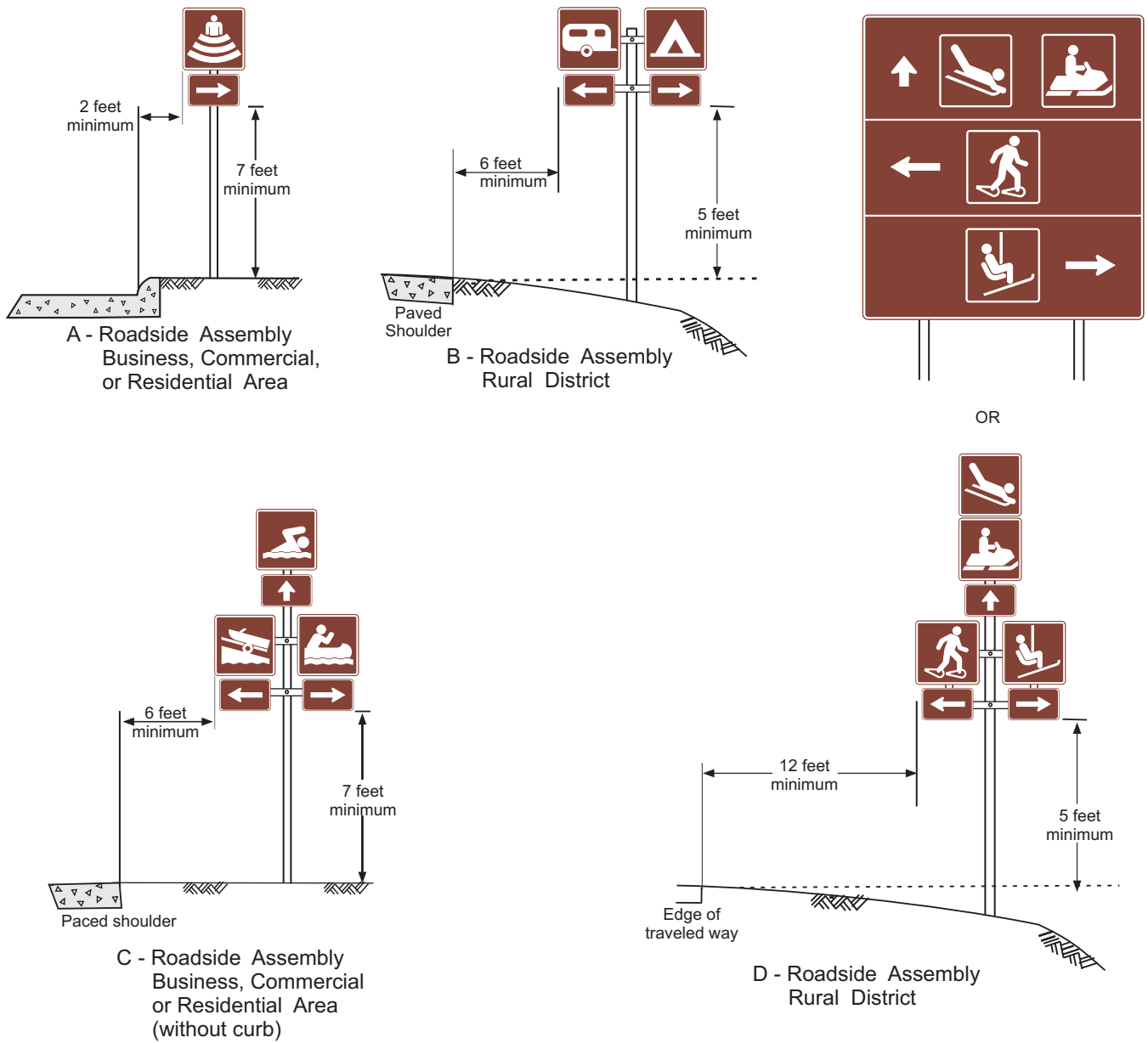
All Exit Gore (E5-1 and E5-1a) signs (see Section 2E.37)

shall have a white legend and border on a green background. The background color of the interchange Exit Number (E1-5P and E1-5bP) plaque (see Section 2E.31) shall match the background color of the guide sign. Design characteristics of conventional road, expressway, or freeway guide signs shall comply with Chapter 2D or 2E except as provided in this Section for color combination.

The advance guide sign and the Exit Direction sign shall retain the white-on-green color combination where the crossroad leads to a destination other than a recreational or cultural interest area.

SUPPORT:

Figure 2H-2 illustrates destination guide signs commonly used for identifying recreational or cultural interest areas or facilities.



Note: See Section 2A.19 for reduced lateral offset distances that may be used in areas where lateral offsets are limited, and in urban areas where sidewalk width is limited or where poles are close to the curb.

Figure 2M-3. Arrangement, Height and Lateral Position of Signs Located Within Recreational Cultural Interest Areas

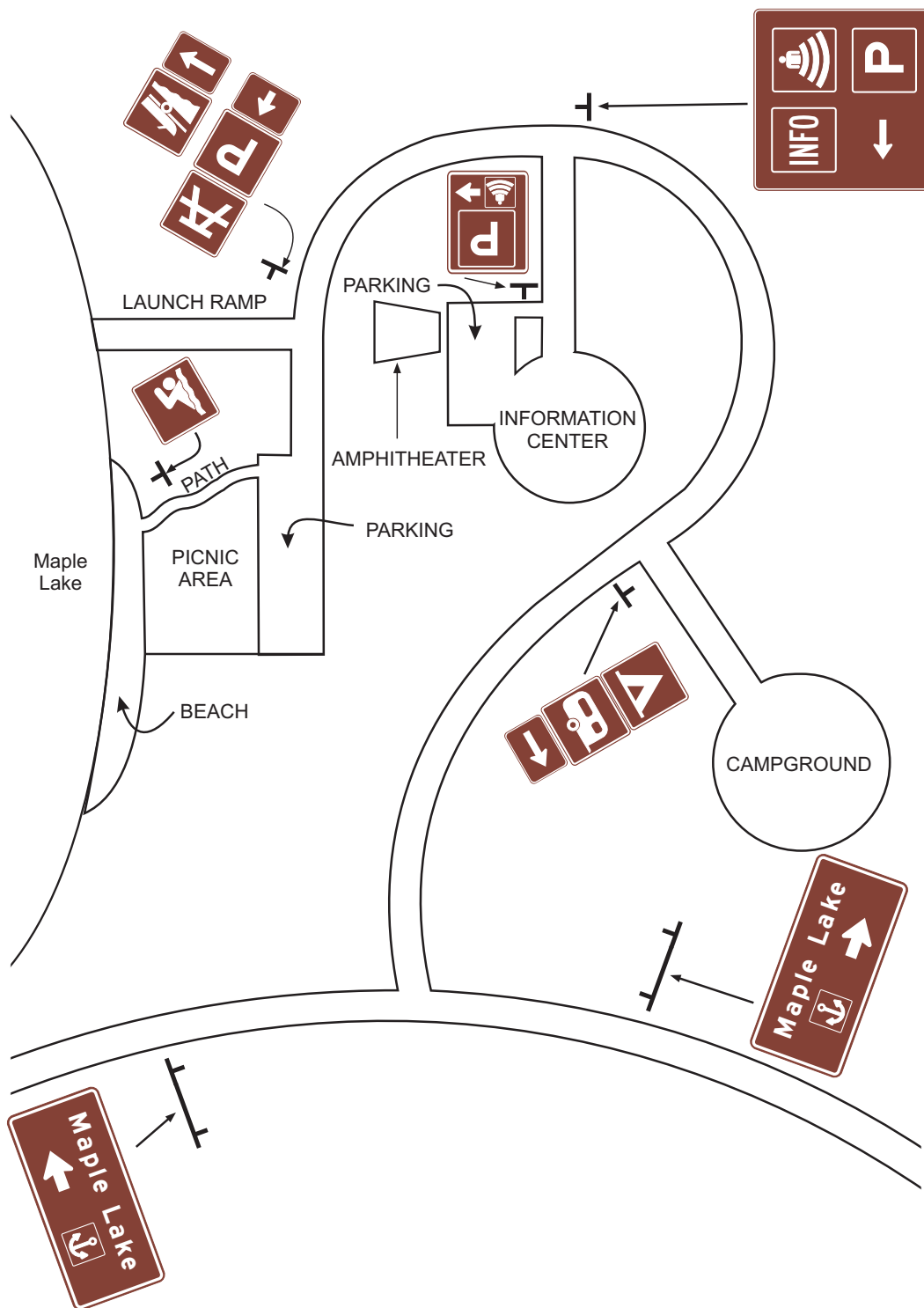


Figure 2M-4 Examples of Symbol and Destination Guide Signing Layout



RS-002
Smoking



RS-005
Tunnel



RS-006
Lookout Tower



RS-007
Lighthouse



RS-008
Falling Rocks



RS-009
Dam



RS-011
Deer Viewing Area



RS-012
Bear Viewing Area



RS-017
Pets on Leash



RS-031
Bus Stop



RS-036
Viewing Area



RS-042
Campfires



RS-080
Point of Interest



RS-090
Fire Extinguisher



RS-099
Rattlesnakes



RS-101
Cans or Bottles



RS-102
Snack Bar



RS-103
Radios



RS-111
Strollers



RS-115
Sea Plane



RS-120
Wood Gathering



RS-122
Walk on Boardwalk



RS-123
Stay on Trail



RS-140
Pick-up Trucks



RS-141
Nature Study Area



RS-142
Cultural Interest Area



RS-200
Recycling

Figure 2M-5. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for General Application

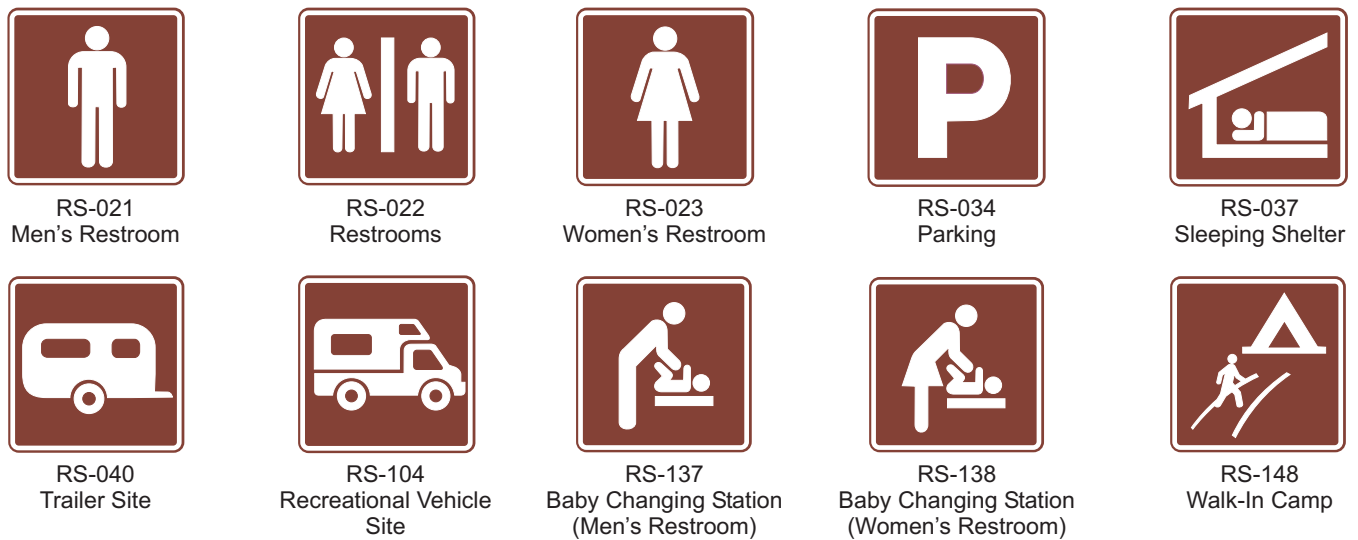


Figure 2M-6. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Accommodation



Figure 2M-7. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Services



Figure 2M-8. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Land Recreation



Figure 2M-9. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Water Recreation



Figure 2M-10. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Winter Recreation

2M.10 Memorial or Dedication Signing



M1-X5x



M1-X5r

SUPPORT:

Legislative bodies will occasionally adopt an act or resolution memorializing or dedicating a highway, bridge, or other component of the highway.

GUIDANCE:

Such memorial or dedication names should not appear on or along a highway, or be placed on bridges or other highway components. If a route, bridge, or highway component is officially designated as a memorial or dedication, and if notification of the memorial or dedication is to be made on the highway right-of-way, such notification should consist of installing a memorial or dedication marker in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location where parking is provided with the signing inconspicuously located relative to vehicle operations along the highway.

OPTION:

If the installation of a memorial or dedication marker off the main roadway is not practical, memorial or dedication signs may be installed on the mainline.

GUIDANCE:

Memorial or dedication signs should have a white legend and border on a brown background.

STANDARD:

Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the mainline, (1) memorial or dedication names shall not appear on directional guide signs, (2) memorial or dedication signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other necessary signing, and (3) memorial or dedication signs shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow. The memorial or dedication signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an independent sign installation.

Memorial or dedication signs shall be rectangular in shape. The legend displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be limited to the name of the person or entity being recognized and a simple message preceding or following the name, such as "Dedicated to" or "Memorial Parkway." Additional legend, such as biographical information, shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. Decorative or graphical elements, pictographs, logos, or symbols shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. All letters and numerals displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be as provided in the Federal "Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book (see Section 1A.11). The route number or officially mapped name of the highway shall not be displayed on the memorial or dedication sign.

Memorial or dedication names shall not appear on supplemental signs or on any other information sign on or along the highway or its intersecting routes.

OPTION:

The lettering for the name of the person or entity being recognized may be composed of a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters.

GUIDANCE:

Freeways and expressways should not be signed as memorial or dedicated highways.

SUPPORT:

Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway. Section 2D.53 contains provisions for the signing of named highways.

2M.10.1 Recreational or Cultural Interest Guide Signs and Symbol Signs on One Structure.

OPTION:

Symbol signs may be installed below a recreational or cultural interest area advance guide sign located on conventional highways and expressways.

STANDARD:

Symbol signs shall not be installed on freeways.

GUIDANCE:

Advance guide signs are normally installed 1/2 mi in advance of the access road to the recreational or cultural interest area.

OPTION:

Up to four 24 x 24 inch symbol sign panels may be installed horizontally beneath each recreational or cultural interest area guide sign (see Figure 2M-11).

GUIDANCE:

For structural and aesthetic reasons, the cumulative overall length of these symbol sign panels should not exceed the length of the recreational or cultural interest area sign.

STANDARD:

Sign panels installed beneath recreational or cultural interest area guide signs shall match those shown in Figure 2M-7. Symbol signs not illustrated on Figure 2M-12 shall be mutually agreed upon by MnDOT, MN DNR, and the FHWA.

When symbol sign panels are installed below an existing recreational or cultural interest area sign panel, the sign structure shall meet the requirements of the MnDOT Traffic Engineering Manual.

In order to provide the proper sign structure design, the existing sign structure shall be modified or replaced with the correct structure. The entire structure shall meet all of the pertinent mounting height requirements as shown in Figure 2M-3. Vertical heights shall be measured to the bottom of the symbol sign panels.

OPTION:

Seasonal changes of symbol sign panels may occur when they are mutually agreed upon by the local road authority and the requesting agency. The road authority's personnel will be responsible for changing, storing and reinstalling the symbol sign panels on the sign structure. This work may be delegated to the requesting agency's on-site staff.

STANDARD:

All signing costs for the fabrication and installation of the symbol sign panels, as well as all sign structure modification or replacement costs, shall be paid by the requesting agency.

2M.11 Resort Information Signs

2M.11.1 Purpose

SUPPORT:

Resort Information signs (Slat Signs) are addressed in Minnesota Statutes 160.283 through 160.285.

STANDARD:

For the specific purpose of this sign program, and as defined by these statutes, a "resort" shall be as defined in section 157.15 or a golf course, restaurant, or motel as defined in section 157.15 or recreational camping area as defined in section 327.14, subdivision 8.. The purpose of Resort Information signs is to provide identification and directional information to resorts for motorists after they have turned off from a trunk highway onto a local road.

2M.11.2 Application

STANDARD:

Resort Information signs shall be used only on "those county state-aid highways, county highways, and town roads within one-half mile of areas that have restrictions on the erection of advertising devices along or adjacent thereto imposed under the applicable provisions of Chapter 173 (Minnesota Statute 173).

They shall not be installed on any MnDOT maintained trunk highway, expressway, freeway, or interstate.

2M.11.3 General Design


STANDARD:

Each Resort Information sign shall be rectangular in shape having a white legend on a green background. The sign has no border. Logos or symbols of any kind shall not be used on the sign.

The legend on each Resort Information sign shall be limited to the name of the resort, golf course, motel, restaurant, or recreational camping area. The legends shall not include promotional advertising.

The legend shall be reflectorized, whereas the background may be reflectorized or nonreflectorized. However, reflectorized and nonreflectorized sign panels shall not be intermixed on an assembly.

2M.11.4 Style and Size of Lettering

STANDARD:

The standard lettering and letter spacing for the Resort Information signs shall be 4 inch upper case letters following the spacing dimensions specified in the "Minnesota Standard Signs Manual." (available from Map & Manual Sales Unit, page ii). The legend shall be centered on the sign.

2M.11.5 Size and Arrangement

STANDARD:

Each Slat Sign shall be 48" x 6".

The topmost sign or trailblazer sign of the Resort Information sign assembly shall be 48" x 12" and contain the word "RESORTS" along with one arrow to show which direction the motorist must travel to reach the resorts on the signs below. There shall be only one trailblazer sign on each assembly.

Each sign structure shall be capable of supporting one trailblazer sign and not more than five Resort Information signs placed beneath each other. (see Figure 2M-11)

The Resort Information signs shall be arranged alphabetically reading from top to bottom.

2M.11.6 Sign Locations

STANDARD:

The Resort Information sign assembly shall be located at least 500 feet from the nearest interstate highway ramp and at least 300 feet from any intersection. The assembly shall not obstruct the driver's view of other traffic control devices. They shall be placed at least 200 feet apart and at least 300 feet from other traffic control devices.

OPTION:

The sign assemblies may be located laterally outside the normal longitudinal alignment of other traffic control signs, but within the right-of-way.

STANDARD:

The location of other traffic control devices shall at all times take precedence over the location of Resort Information signs.

GUIDANCE:

Position, height, and lateral clearance of Resort Information sign assemblies should be governed by Sections 2A and 2D of the MN MUTCD except as required above.

2M.11.7 Administration

OPTION:

Counties may use county road and bridge funds for the purchase, fabrication, installation and maintenance of Resort Information signs along or adjacent to roads under their jurisdiction or town roads within the county at the expense of the requester.

STANDARD:

The requester shall reimburse the county for 100 per cent of the cost of the signs as per MN Statute 160.285, subd. 1.



Figure 2M-11 Example of a Resort Information Sign Assembly