

PART 2. SIGNS

Chapter 2M. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

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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.

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General		Services		Water Recreation	
Bear Viewing Area	RS-012	Drinking Water	RS-013	Beach	RS-145
Bus Stop	RS-031	Electrical Hook-Up	RS-150	Boat Motor	RS-147
Campfires *	RS-042	Firewood Cutting *	RS-112	Boat Ramp	RS-054
Cans or Bottles *	RS-101	First Aid	RS-024	Canoeing	RS-079
Cultural Interest Area	RS-142	Grocery Store	RS-020	Diving	RS-062
Dam	RS-009	Kennel	RS-045	Fish Cleaning *	RS-093
Deer Viewing Area	RS-011	Laundromat	RS-085	Fish Hatchery	RS-010
Falling Rocks *	RS-008	Litter Receptacle	RS-086	Fish Ladder *	RS-089
Fire Extinguisher *	RS-090	Lockers/Storage *	RS-030	Fishing Area	RS-063
Lighthouse	RS-007	Mechanic	RS-027	Fishing Pier	RS-119
Lookout Tower	RS-006	Picnic Shelter	RS-039	Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch	RS-117
Nature Study Area	RS-141	Picnic Site	RS-044	Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft	RS-121
Pets on Leash *	RS-017	Post Office	RS-026	Kayaking	RS-118
Pick-Up Trucks	RS-140	Radiator Water	RS-124	Lifejackets *	RS-094
Point of Interest	RS-080	Ranger Station	RS-015	Marina	RS-053
Radios *	RS-103	Sanitary Station	RS-041	Motorboating	RS-055
Rattlesnakes *	RS-099	Showers *	RS-035	Rafting	RS-146
Recycling *	RS-200	Stable	RS-073	Rowboating	RS-057
Sea Plane	RS-115	Theater	RS-109	Sailing	RS-056
Smoking *	RS-002	Trail Shelter *	RS-043	Scuba Diving	RS-060
Snack Bar *	RS-102	Tramway	RS-071	Seal Viewing	RS-106
Stay on Trail *	RS-123	Trash Dumpster	RS-091	Surfing	RS-059
Strollers *	RS-111			Swimming	RS-061
Tunnel	RS-005			Tour Boat	RS-087
Viewing Area	RS-036			Wading	RS-088
Walk on Boardwalk *	RS-122			Waterskiing	RS-058
Wood Gathering *	RS-120			Whale Viewing	RS-107
				Wind Surfing	RS-108
Accommodations		Land Recreation		Winter Recreation	
Baby Changing Station (Men's Room)	RS-137	All-Terrain Trail	RS-095	Chair Lift/Ski Area	RS-105
Baby Changing Station (Women's Room)	RS-138	Amphitheater	RS-070	Cross Country Skiing	RS-046
Men's Restroom	RS-021	Archery	RS-116	Dog Sledding	RS-143
Parking	RS-034	Baseball *	RS-096	Downhill Skiing	RS-047
Recreational Vehicle Site	RS-104	Climbing *	RS-082	Ice Fishing	RS-092
Restrooms	RS-022	Corral	RS-149	Ice Skating	RS-050
Sleeping Shelter *	RS-037	Driving Tour	RS-113	Ski Jumping	RS-048
Trailer Site	RS-040	Exercise/Fitness	RS-097	Sledding	RS-049
Walk-In Camp	RS-148	Golfing *	RS-128	Snow Tubing	RS-144
Women's Restroom	RS-023	Hang Gliding	RS-126	Snowboarding	RS-127
		Hiking Trail	RS-068	Snowmobiling	RS-052
		Horse Trail	RS-064	Snowshoeing	RS-078
		In-Line Skating	RS-125	Winter Recreational Area	RS-077
		Interpretive Trail	RS-114		
		Off-Road Vehicle Trail	RS-067		
		Rock Collecting *	RS-083		
		Skateboarding *	RS-098		
		Spelunking/Caves	RS-084		
		Technical Rock Climbing	RS-081		
		Tennis	RS-129		
		Wildlife Viewing	RS-076		

* 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 lowspeed, 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.

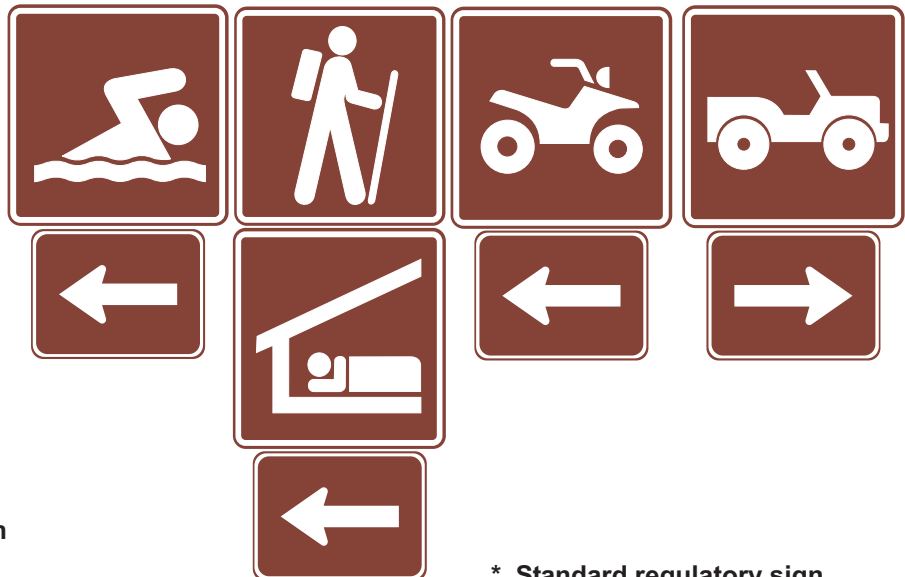
Support

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).

Symbol signs shall not be installed on freeways.

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.

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.

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.



B - Expressways and Freeways



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

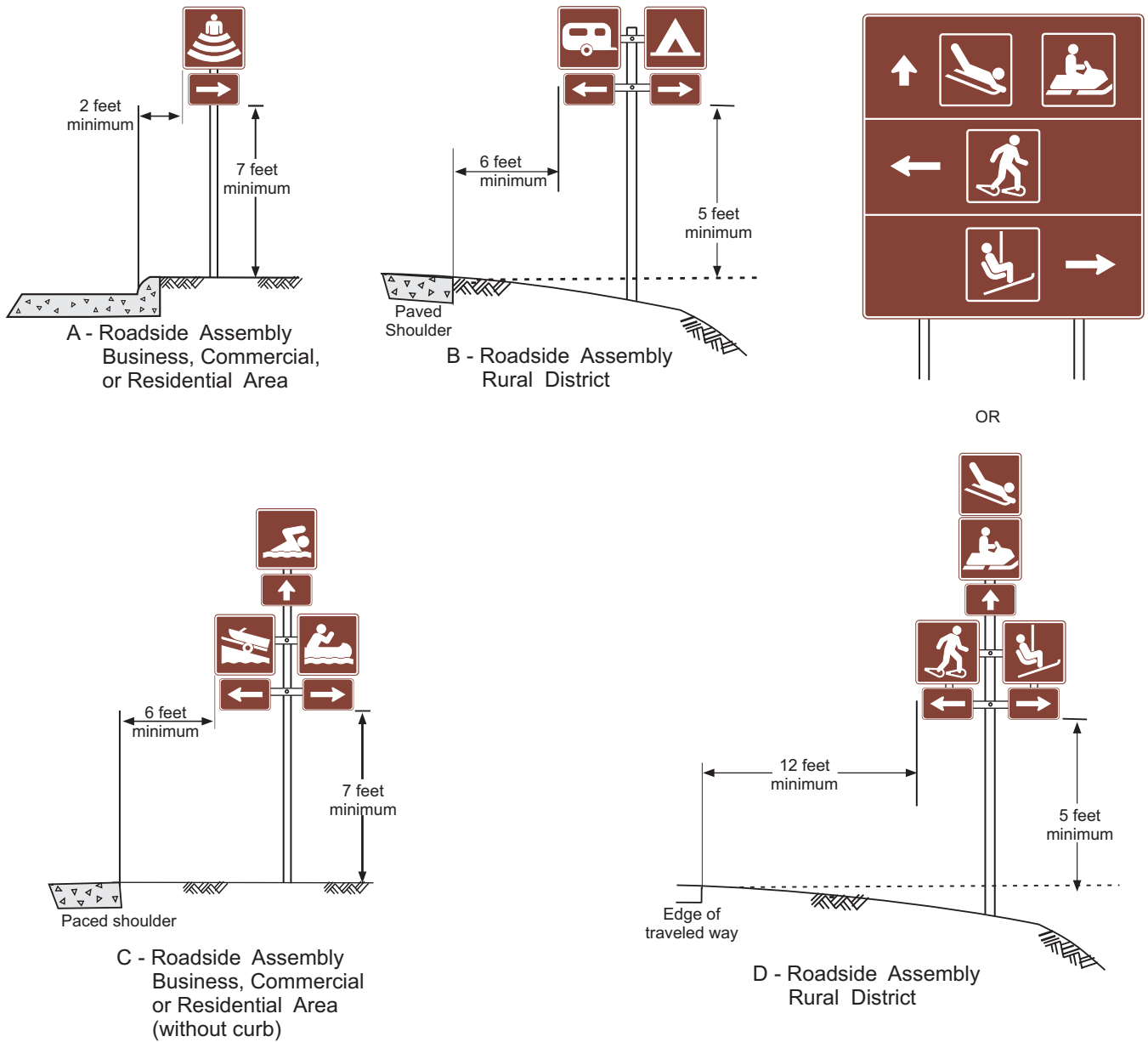
All Exit Gore (E5-1 and E5-1a) signs (see Section 2E.37)

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 2M-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

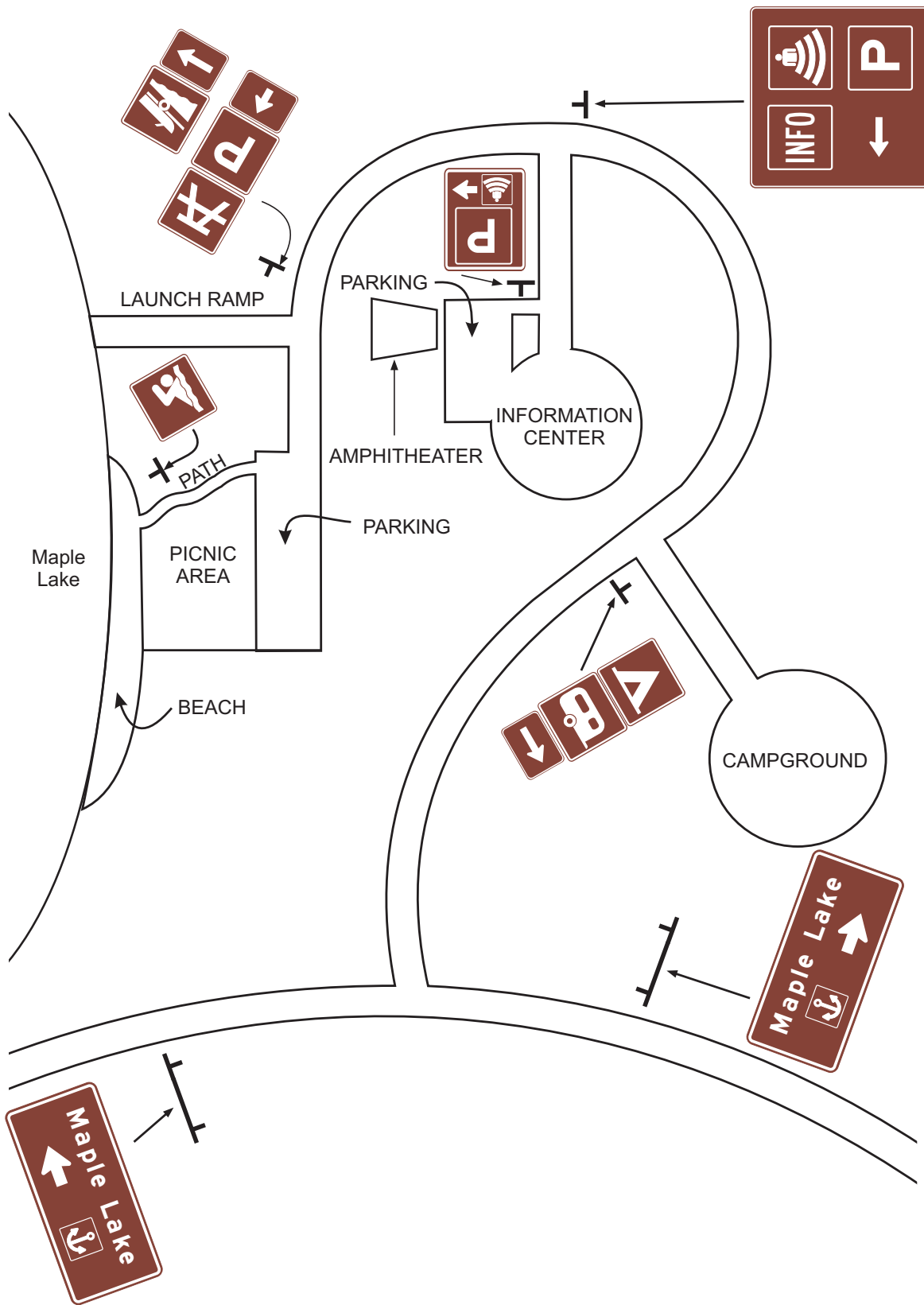


Figure 2M-4 Examples of Symbol and Destination Guide Signage Layout



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

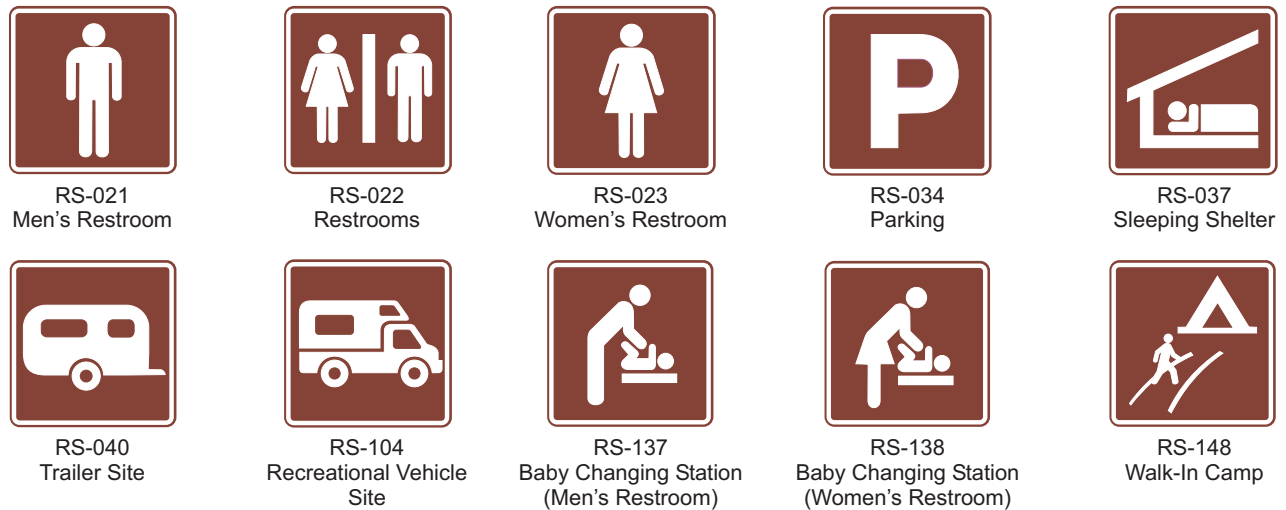


Figure 2M-6 Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Accommodation



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-X315 old M1-X5x



M1-X311 old 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 lowercase 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.

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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 percent of the cost of the signs as per MN Statute 160.285, subd. 1.

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



D7-X8a
Carry-in Access



RS-100
Information



RS-010
Campground



RS-044
Picnic Area



RS-081
Rock Climbing



RS-090
Bicycle Trail



RS-068
Hiking Trail



RS-064
Horse Trail



RS-128
Golf Course



RS-079
Canoeing



RS-054
Boat Ramp



RS-061
Swimming



RS-046
Cross Country Skiing



RS-052
Snowmobiling



RS-078
Snowshoeing

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Figure 2M-12 *Symbol Signs Approved for Placement Below a Recreational or Cultural Interest Area Guide Sign*