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

**Land Recreation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All-Terrain Trail</td>
<td>RS-095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>RS-070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>RS-116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball *</td>
<td>RS-096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing *</td>
<td>RS-082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral</td>
<td>RS-149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Tour</td>
<td>RS-113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise/Fitness</td>
<td>RS-097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golfing *</td>
<td>RS-128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang Gliding</td>
<td>RS-126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Trail</td>
<td>RS-068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Trail</td>
<td>RS-064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Line Skating</td>
<td>RS-125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Trail</td>
<td>RS-114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Road Vehicle Trail</td>
<td>RS-067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Collecting *</td>
<td>RS-083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding *</td>
<td>RS-098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelunking/Caves</td>
<td>RS-084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Rock Climbing</td>
<td>RS-081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>RS-129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Viewing</td>
<td>RS-076</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For Non-Road Use Only
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.

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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.
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.

**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.

**Support**

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

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

A - Roadside Assembly
Business, Commercial, or Residential Area

B - Roadside Assembly
Rural District

C - Roadside Assembly
Business, Commercial or Residential Area (without curb)

D - Roadside Assembly
Rural District

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-4  Examples of Symbol and Destination Guide Signing Layout
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
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.

Support

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

**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.
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.

Figure 2M-11   Example of a Resort Information Sign Assembly
Figure 2M-12  Symbol Signs Approved for Placement Below a Recreational or Cultural Interest Area Guide Sign