CHAPTER 2M. RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS

Section 2M.01 Scope

Support:

01 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, game-hunting facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

02 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:

03 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.09.

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

Section 2M.02 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

Support:

01 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:

02 *Highway agencies providing recreational and cultural interest area signing should establish a policy with 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:

03 Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs may be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing non-vehicular events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities.

Support:

04 Symbols for use only within recreational and cultural interest area facilities are noted in Table 2M-1.

05 Section 2A.09 contains information regarding the use of recreational and cultural interest area symbols on other types of signs.

Section 2M.03 Regulatory and Warning Signs

Standard:

01 **All regulatory and warning signs installed on roads and streets open to public travel within recreational and cultural interest areas shall comply with the requirements elsewhere in this Manual.**

Section 2M.04 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Guide Signs

Standard:

01 **When a General Information symbol contained in Chapter 2H (see Figure 2H-1) is used in conjunction with recreational and cultural interest area signing on roadways outside a recreational and cultural interest area facility, the legend and background color of the General Information symbol sign shall be as prescribed in Chapter 2H.**

02 **When a General Service symbol contained in Chapter 2I (see Figure 2I-1) is used in conjunction with recreational and cultural interest area signing on roadways outside a recreational and cultural interest area facility, the legend and background color of the General Service symbol sign shall be as prescribed in Chapter 2I.**

Option:

03 For roadways inside a recreational and cultural interest area, General Information symbol signs and General Service symbol signs may have a white legend on a brown background (see Figures 2H-1 and 2I-1).

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

General	
Bear Viewing Area	RS-012
Bus Stop *	RS-031
Campfires *	RS-042
Deer Viewing Area	RS-011
Fire Extinguisher *	RS-090
Lighthouse	RS-007
Lookout Tower	RS-006
Nature Study Area	RS-141
Pick-Up Trucks *	RS-140
Recycling *	RS-200
Sea Plane	RS-115
Smoking*	RS-002
Tunnel *	RS-005
Viewing Area	RS-036

Services	
Electrical Hook-Up *	RS-150
First Aid *	RS-024
Laundromat *	RS-085
Picnic Shelter	RS-039
Picnic Site	RS-044
Post Office *	RS-026
Showers *	RS-035
Tramway	RS-071
Trash Dumpster *	RS-091

Water Recreation	
Beach	RS-145
Boat Ramp	RS-054
Canoeing	RS-079
Fishing Area	RS-063
Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch *	RS-117
Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft	RS-121
Marina *	RS-053
Motorboating	RS-055
Scuba Diving	RS-060
Seal Viewing	RS-106
Swimming	RS-061
Waterskiing	RS-058
Whale Viewing	RS-107

Accommodations	
Men's Restroom *	RS-021
Parking	RS-034
Recreational Vehicle Site *	RS-104
Restrooms *	RS-022
Sleeping Shelter	RS-037
Trailer Site *	RS-040
Women's Restroom *	RS-023

Land Recreation	
All-Terrain Trail	RS-095
Archery	RS-116
Baseball	RS-096
Climbing	RS-082
Golfing	RS-128
Hiking Trail	RS-068
Horse Trail	RS-064
In-Line Skating *	RS-125
Skateboarding *	RS-098
Spelunking/Caves *	RS-084
Technical Rock Climbing *	RS-081
Tennis	RS-129
Wildlife Viewing	RS-076

Winter Recreation	
Chair Lift/Ski Lift	RS-105
Cross Country Skiing	RS-046
Dog Sledding	RS-143
Sledding	RS-049
Snow Tubing	RS-144
Snowshoeing	RS-078
Winter Recreational Area	RS-077

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*For use only within recreational and cultural interest areas where speed limits are 25 mph or less.

Standard:

04 **Except as provided in Section 2M.09, 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:

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

Option:

06 Mirror images of symbols may be used where the reverse image will better convey the message (see Section 2A.09).

Section 2M.05 Symbol Sign Sizes

Guidance:

01 *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.*

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

Option:

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

Section 2M.06 Use of Educational Plaques

Guidance:

01 *Educational plaques should accompany all initial installations of recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs. If used, the educational plaque should be the same width as the symbol sign.*

Option:

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

Support:

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

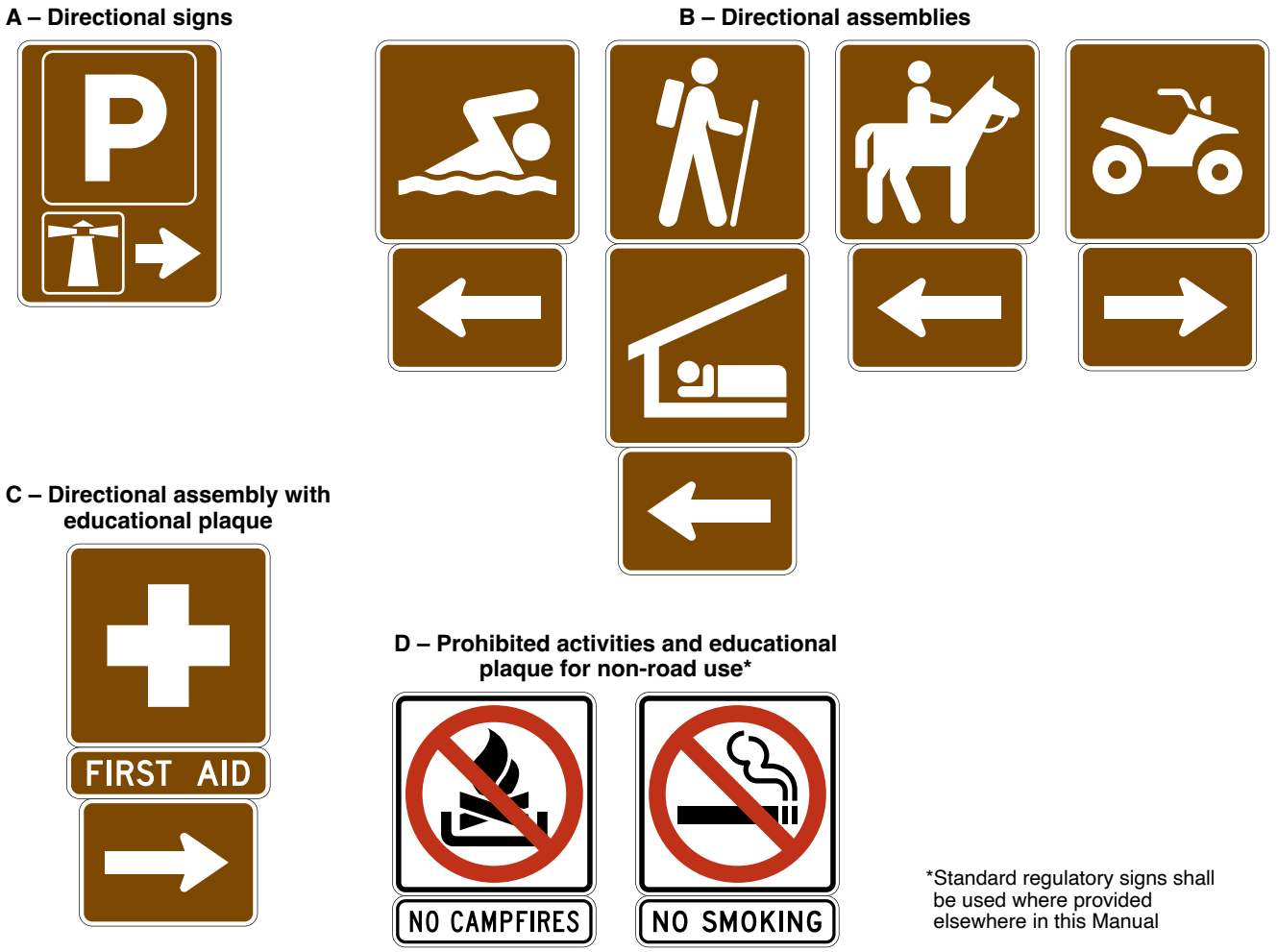
Section 2M.07 Use of Prohibitive Circle and Diagonal for Non-Road Applications

Standard:

01 **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 diagonal. 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. The diagonal shall be oriented from the upper left to the lower right portions of the circle as shown in Figure 2M-1 and as detailed in the "Standard Highway Signs" publication.**

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

Figure 2M-1. Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibitive Circles and Diagonals



Section 2M.08 Placement of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs

Standard:

01 **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).**

02 **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:

03 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.

04 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:

05 **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:

06 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.

Guidance:

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

Option:

08 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs (see Figure 2D-6) with white arrows on brown backgrounds may be used with recreational and cultural interest area 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).

Section 2M.09 Destination Guide Signs

Standard:

01 **When recreational or cultural interest area destinations are displayed on a Supplemental guide sign (see Section 2E.51), the sign shall be rectangular in shape with a white legend on a green or brown background.**

Option:

02 Trapezoidal-shaped signs (see Figure 2M-2) may be used to display recreational and cultural interest area destinations on conventional roads.

Standard:

03 **Whenever the trapezoidal shape is used, the color combination shall be a white legend and border on a brown background. When the trapezoidal shape is used for a sign with a directional arrow, a right-angled trapezoid with the wider dimension of the bases (parallel sides) at the top of the sign shall be used. The diagonal leg of the trapezoid shall be oriented in the same direction as the directional arrow. When the trapezoidal shape is used for an advance sign legend, such as with a distance or action message, an isosceles trapezoid with the wider dimension of the bases at the top of the sign shall be used.**

Option:

04 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 (see Section 2E.23) and the Exit Direction sign (see Section 2E.25) may have a white legend and border on a brown background.

Standard:

05 **All Exit Gore (E5-1 series) signs (see Section 2E.26) shall have a white legend and border on a green background. The background color of the interchange Exit Number (E1-5P Series) plaque (see Section 2E.22) shall match the background color of the guide sign above which it is mounted. 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.** Rev. 1

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

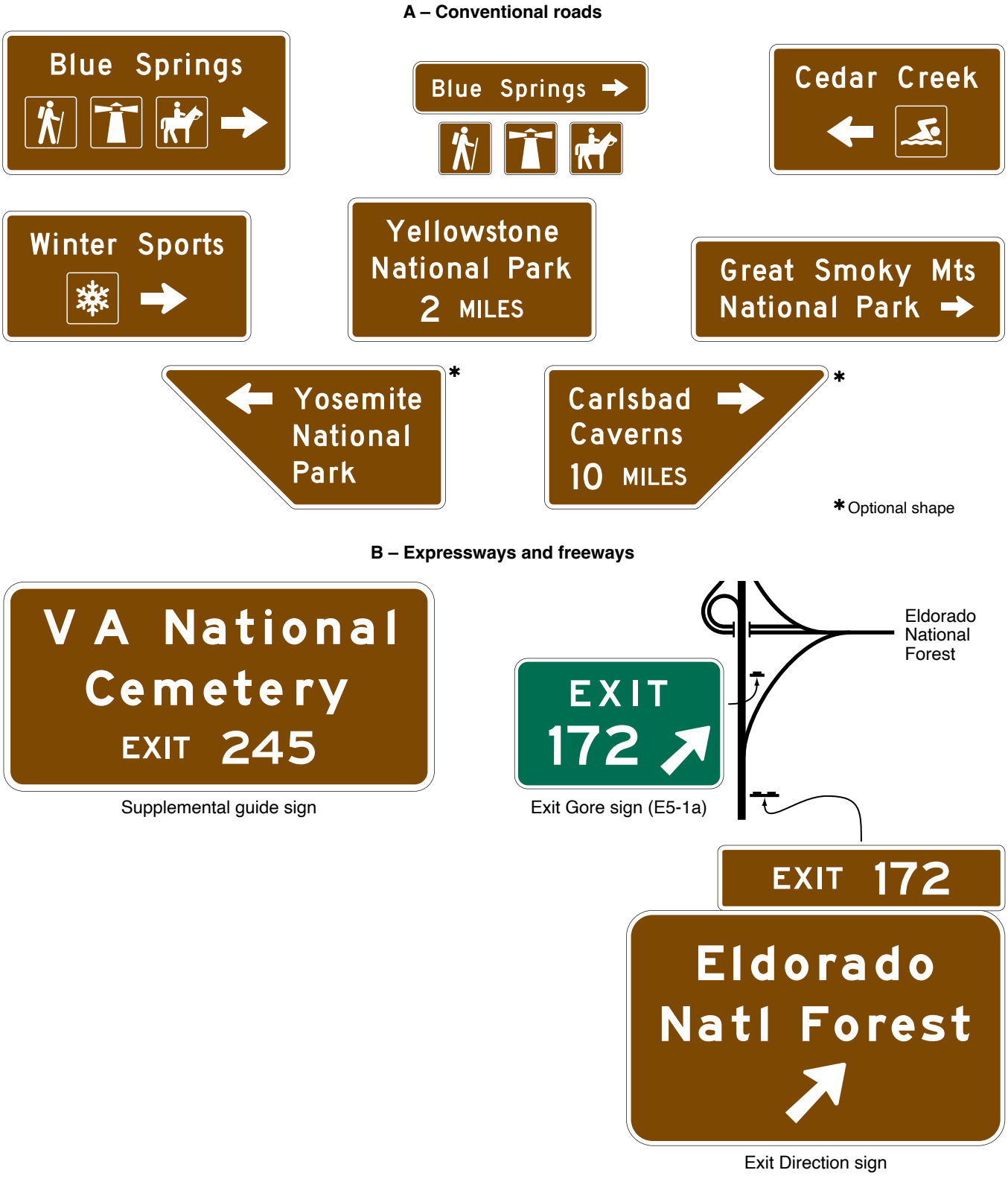
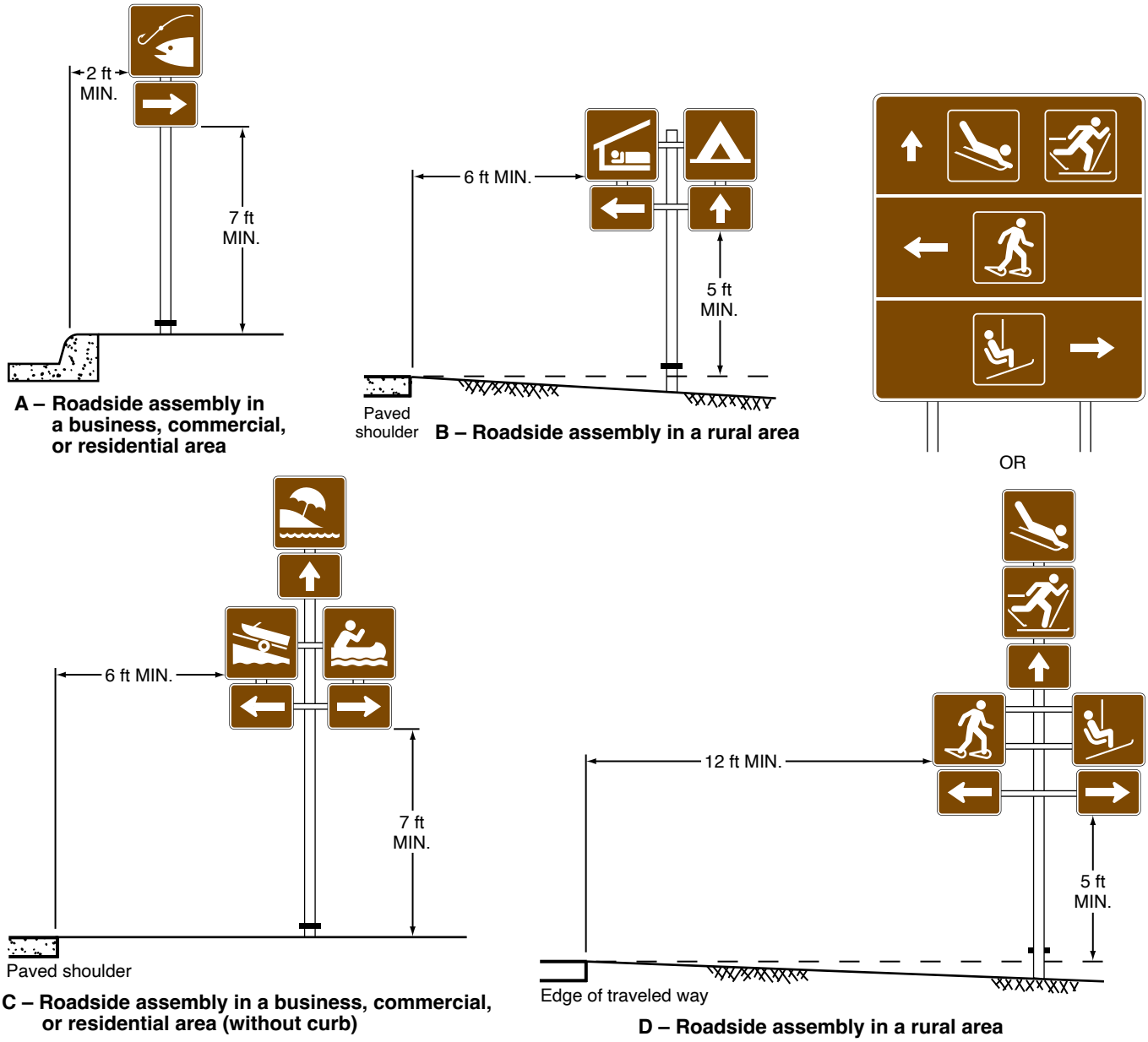


Figure 2M-3. Arrangement, Height, and Lateral Position of Signs Located within Recreational and Cultural Interest Areas



Note: See Section 2A.16 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 existing poles are close to the curb

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

Support:

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

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

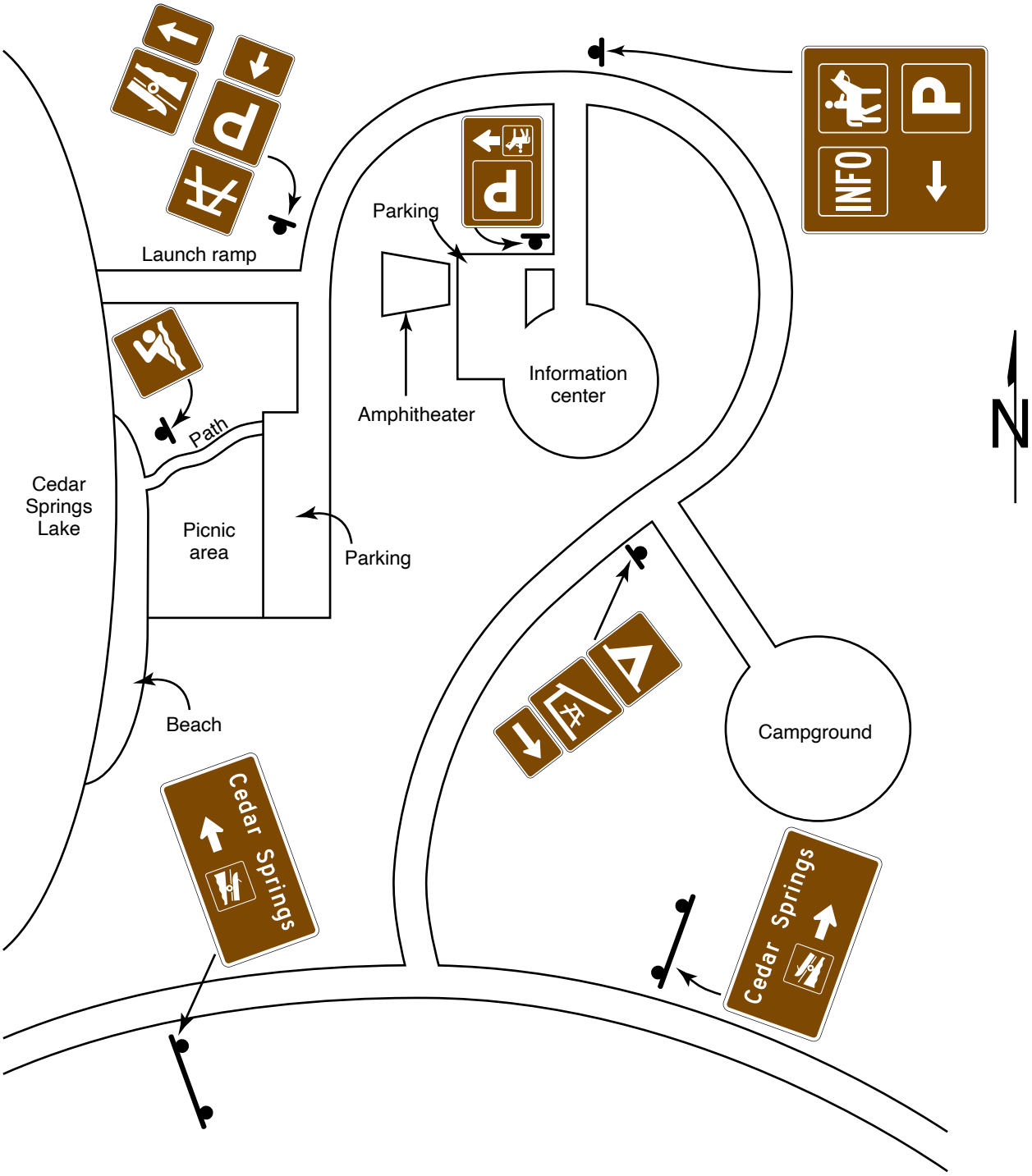


Figure 2M-5. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for General Applications



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

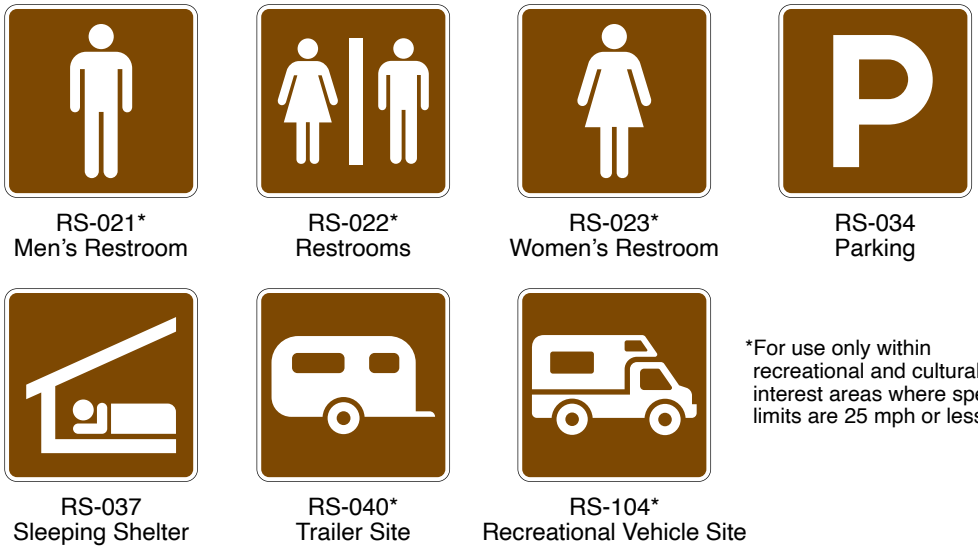


Figure 2M-7. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Services



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



RS-053*
Marina

RS-054
Boat Ramp

RS-055
Motorboating

RS-058
Waterskiing

RS-060
Scuba Diving

RS-061
Swimming

RS-063
Fishing Area

RS-079
Canoeing

RS-106
Seal Viewing

RS-107
Whale Viewing

RS-117*
Hand Launch/
Small Boat Launch

RS-121
Jet Ski/Personal
Watercraft

RS-145
Beach

*For use only within recreational and cultural interest areas where speed limits are 25 mph or less.

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



RS-046
Cross Country Skiing

RS-049
Sledding

RS-077
Winter Recreational Area

RS-078
Snowshoeing

RS-105
Chair Lift/Ski Lift

RS-143
Dog Sledding

RS-144
Snow Tubing

Section 2M.10 Memorial or Dedication Signing

Support:

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

02 Named highways (see Section 2D.56) are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways, and property addresses. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway for the purposes of highway signing or road user navigation and orientation.

03 Section 2A.20 contains information regarding excessive use of signs. Because memorial or dedication names are not official highway names, memorial and dedication signing is not essential to providing navigational guidance.

Guidance:

04 *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.*

05 *Memorial or dedication signs should have a white legend and border on a brown background. On all such signs, the design should be simple and dignified, devoid of any appearance of advertising, and in general compliance with other signing.*

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

Standard:

07 **Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the highway mainline because the provisions of Paragraph 4 of this Section cannot be met, (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 traffic control devices, 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 post-mounted sign installation.**

08 **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 the name, such as "Dedicated to." 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 "Standard Highway Signs" publication (see Section 1A.05). The route number or officially mapped name of the highway shall not be displayed on the memorial or dedication sign.**

09 **Memorial or dedication signs shall not imply that a highway has been officially renamed.**

10 **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.**

Guidance:

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

12 *When used, memorial or dedication signs should be located in accordance with the provisions for excessive use of signs (see Section 2A.20).*

Support:

13 Paragraph 36 of Section 2D.45 contains provisions regarding the use of memorial or dedication signing in conjunction with Street Name signs.