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Introduction

This document was developed with extensive input from various City Parks and Recreation staff. Its goal is to establish a unique identity for the entire Virginia Beach park system, where individual park components relate to each other as well as to the City’s park system as a whole. This manual covers a wide range of park elements and systems, identifying specific types, materials, and installation practices.

It is the City’s standard that all sites should be easily accessible to the public by all modes of transportation: vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian. Standards for ADA accessibility are incorporated throughout this document. ADA accessibility should be accommodated at all sites to the fullest extent practical.

The preparation of this document meets the following three objectives:

The development and utilization of a single standards document by all Parks and Recreation Divisions.

The establishment of a pattern of common elements and an identifiable quality throughout all the city’s parklands.

The utilization of consistent, safe and cost effective elements that are easily maintained and managed and are implemented system-wide.

Key Components:

The Design Standards Manual identifies standard elements, materials, product information, specifications (as needed), and implementation practices. The main components of the manual are listed below. Each section includes text, images, and details to communicate the city’s standards. However, the details provided throughout the manual are not to be used for construction, but for general guidance as to common practices and design elements.

Park Development Standards

Specialized Facilities

Buildings

Parking Lots

Planting Design

Fields

Play Courts

Playground Systems

Walkways and Trails

Shelters

Lighting

Fencing
Section One

Park Development Standards
Definition: A municipal outdoor recreational facility that is unique to the Virginia Beach municipal parks and recreation system. These parks should service a variety of ages and emphasize family and organized group activities. Many times signature parks will have a special use facility or single purpose recreational activity, such as a fairground, outdoor theater, or festival area. These parks are typically designed for a full-day experience and are capable of holding large scale special events with supporting amenities.

Size: Greater than 100 acres

Service Standard: 3 acres / 1000 residents. Generally serve the entire city, however their location may be more dependent on the unique environment present rather than being sited for convenience.

Staffing: Staffed full-time with municipal employees

Utilities: Water, electric/power, telephone, sewer

Existing Signature Parks: Mount Trashmore and Little Island

Unique Amenities: Substantial waterfront or other distinctive amenity

Typical Amenities: Multiple athletic fields and/or special events area, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts, multiple playground areas, park trails, benches, multiple restrooms, vending machines, or concession areas, multiple picnic areas, large shelters, and grills, large parking areas, specialized facilities staff and maintenance buildings
Definition: A municipal outdoor recreational facility that provides a high level of outdoor recreational amenities that may include those amenities found at community parks, but may also include multiple game-quality athletic fields, skate parks, and/or disc golf courses. A metro park serves various ages, with emphasis on organized sport group activities and potential protection of natural areas. Metro parks are built and designed typically for a three to four hour experience. Metro Parks may be capable of holding special events.

Size: 50.1 to 100 acres

Service Standard: 3 acres/1,000 residents

Staffing: Staffed full-time with municipal employees

Utilities: Water, electric/power, telephone, sewer

Existing Metro Parks: Bayville, City View, Great Neck, Munden Point, Marshview, and Red Wing

Unique Amenities: Multiple athletic fields, skate parks, and/or disc golf courses

Typical Amenities: Basketball, tennis, volleyball courts, multiple playgrounds, large open play areas, park trails and benches, restrooms and vending machines or concession areas, multiple picnic areas, large shelters, and grills, large parking areas, kiosks, and staff/maintenance buildings
Community Parks (CP)

Definition: A municipal outdoor recreational facility that provides a mid-range level of outdoor recreational amenities that may include amenities found at neighborhood parks and at metro parks. A community park would service various ages, with emphasis on organized sport group activities and potential protection of natural areas. Community parks are built and designed typically for a two to three hour experience.

Size: 15.1 to 50 acres

Service Standard: 3 acres/1,000 residents

Staffing: Most community parks are not generally staffed full-time. However, these parks may be staffed during programmed events by municipal staff or private/non-profit organizations.

Utilities: Water, electric/power, telephone, sewer

Existing Community Parks: Beach Garden, Carolanne Farms, Dunwoody, Lynnhaven, Ocean Lakes, Plaza/Northgate, Providence, Three Oaks, Williams, Woodbridge, and Woodstock

Typical Amenities: Multiple athletic fields, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts, playground areas, park trails, benches, restrooms, vending machines, or concession areas, multiple picnic areas, large shelters, and grills, large parking areas, specialized facilities staff and maintenance buildings
Definition: A municipal outdoor recreational facility that provides a basic level of outdoor recreational amenities. Limited non-organized sport group activities are encouraged. This park would service various age groups with emphasis on the youth. In some cases, limited parking is provided in existing neighborhood parks. A neighborhood park is built and designed typically for a one to two hour experience and should be customized and designed for the demographic groups who use the park.

Size:

Small Neighborhood Park (SNP) .25-5 acres

Large Neighborhood Park (LNP) 5.1-15 acres

Service Standard: 2 acres / 1000 residents. Desirable location characteristics of a neighborhood park would be within a half-mile radius of residential neighborhoods and in close proximity to multi-family complexes. Ideally, these facilities should be located in conjunction with schools and centered within safe walking and bike access. They should serve a population within a comfortable walking distance of the park.

Staffing: These parks are not staffed.

Unique Amenities: Unlit practice diamonds and rectangular athletic fields, basketball, tennis, and/or volleyball courts, playground equipment, open play areas, park trails, benches, small shelters and picnic tables
Natural Areas (NA)

Definition: A municipal preservation area whose primary purpose is to preserve the indigenous vegetation and wildlife in order to serve as green infrastructure and as a scenic environment for Virginia Beach residents to enjoy. Natural Areas include areas for protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Recreational use might include passive recreation activities such as hiking, birding, and environmental education, but may also include public waterway access improvements, public fishing opportunities, and trail connections.

Size: There are no specific standards for size or acreage other than they should be sufficient to protect the resource and provide for appropriate usage.

Service Standard: 1 acre / 1000 residents

Staffing: Natural Areas are not generally staffed full-time, however, these parks may be staffed during programmed events or activities by municipal staff or private/non-profit organizations.

Utilities: Water, electric/power, and sewer as needed

Unique Amenities: Natural or cultural elements to be preserved

Typical Amenities: Park trails, overlooks, benches, water access, picnic tables, shelters, kiosks
Open Space Preservation Areas (OSPA)

**Definition:** A municipal preservation area whose primary purpose is to preserve the indigenous vegetation and wildlife in order to serve as green infrastructure and as a scenic environment for Virginia Beach residents to enjoy. The difference between OSPA sites and Natural Areas is that OSPA sites are generally smaller in size and interspersed throughout the city in order to provide a natural setting and visual relief from the built environment. OSPA sites include dedicated watersheds or natural/non-developed areas. Recreational use might include passive recreation activities such as hiking, birding, and environmental education, but may also include public waterway access improvements, public fishing opportunities, and trail connections.

**Size:** There are no specific standards for size or acreage other than they should be sufficient to protect the resource and provide for appropriate usage.

**Service Standard:** 1 acre / 1000 residents.

**Staffing:** General Open Space sites are not staffed.

**Utilities:** Water, electric/power, and sewer are not needed.

**Unique Amenities:** Natural or cultural elements to be preserved.

**Typical Amenities:** Park trails, overlooks, benches, water access, picnic tables.
Special Use Park (SU)

**Definition:** A municipal recreational facility that serves a specific recreational purpose. Special use sites include athletic complexes, golf courses, recreation centers, and water access sites. Each type of site may have specialized design and facility service standards, which are addressed more specifically in the Department of Parks and Recreation strategic plan. However, the buildings and fixtures should incorporate the standards and recommendations here in.

**Size:** Varies

**Service Standard:** Generally 1 acre / 1000 residents, however, service standards vary depending on the type of facility.

**Staffing:** Most of the special use sites are staffed full time with municipal employees. However, certain water access sites may not require staffing.

**Utilities:** All but the water access sites shall have water, power, telephone, and sewer.

**Special Use Site Types:**
- Athletic Complexes
- Recreation Centers
- Water Access Sites
- Resort Area Parks
Definition: Linkages are built connections or natural corridors that link community destinations together. Typically, the linear park is developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as walking, jogging, biking, in-line skating, hiking, and horseback riding.

Size: The size of the overall corridor varies, although where a trail is proposed, a minimum corridor width of 30’ is recommended.

Service Standard: 1 acre / 1000 residents. Ideally, these facilities are located throughout the city in conjunction with a variety of natural, cultural, and community destinations.

Staffing: Linkage sites are generally not staffed full time. Ideally, adjacent municipal or non-profit staffed destinations could serve as periodic staff for these areas.

Utilities: None required, however along certain areas lighting, call boxes, and/or other utilities may be desired.

Typical Amenities: Trails, overlooks, benches, bike racks, picnic tables, kiosks and shelters (if appropriate)
**Feature Requirements by Classification**

*Park Perimeters:* Parks are located in areas of varied topography with diverse environmental qualities and should be designed to avoid adjacent land use impacts.

*Accessibility:* All sites should be easily accessible to the public by all modes of transportation: vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian. ADA accessibility shall be accommodated at all sites to the fullest extent.

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*SP*  Signature Park  
*MP*  Metro Park  
*CP*  Community Park  
*NP*  Neighborhood Park  
*NA*  Natural Area  
*OSPA*  Open Space Preservation Area  
*SU*  Special Use  
*LINK*  Linear Park
Section Two

Specialized Facilities
Dog Parks

**Definition:** Enclosed fence area where dogs are able to freely run off leash.

**Location:** Staffed Parks

**Service Standard:** 1 site / 50,000 residents

**Size:** 1 acre minimum. Where additional space is available, it is recommended that 2 acres be utilized in order to rotate the open play area, as needed, from one acre to the next to allow for lawn recovery.

**Fence:** A 4’ high black vinyl coated chain link fence shall enclose the dog park area.

**Entry/Exit:** Bull pen design, generally a 10’x10’ fenced area with two gates. The bull pen area should be concrete or crushed stone. The surface material should also extend out at the entry/exit points in order to minimize the high use impacts on the area. All gates shall be ADA accessible.

**Lawn:** Within the dog park the lawn shall be mowed, irrigated, fertilized, aerated, and seeded on a regular basis. Where feasible, the dog park area should rotate as needed between two areas allowing lawn areas to recover.

**Shade:** Shade trees shall be located within the perimeter of the dog park area. Canopy coverage should ultimately shade at least 1/3 of the dog park area otherwise shade structures are required. When tree canopy is not available structured shade for each fenced area should be considered.

**Water:** Pet fountains should be located within each dog run area near the entrance bull pen as shown on the above diagram. The fountain should also have a hose bib attachment.

**Benches:** A minimum of three benches shall be located within the dog park area.

**Trash Cans/Bag Dispensers:** Trash cans and bag dispensers shall be located within the fenced dog runs.
Disc Golf

Description: Disc golf is played much like traditional golf, except players use a flying disc instead of a ball and clubs. A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target, which is an elevated basket.

Area Required: Ideally, a well balanced course has a mixture of holes that go completely through the woods, partially through woods, and mostly in the open. Typically, fairways in the woods range from 20-40 feet wide. Small recreational courses can usually fit 2-3 holes per acre depending on the terrain.

Layout: Fairways should not cross one another and should be far enough apart so errant throws are not constantly in the wrong fairway. Avoid installing fairways that are close to public streets, sidewalks and other areas where non-players congregate.

Length: Courses for recreational players should average less than 250 feet per hole, although, no hole should be shorter than 120 feet.

Hole Count: Most courses are either 9 or 18 holes.

Existing Courses: Are located at Bayville Farms Park and Munden Point Park
Disc Golf

**Tee Pads:** Two 5’ x 12’ concrete tee pads shall be located for each hole providing opportunities for players of varying skill levels. Tee pads shall be level from left to right. The maximum slope from front to back shall be 1%.

**Disc Golf Target with Base:** All parts of disc golf targets shall be hot dipped galvanized steel or stainless steel. Targets shall have 24 -chains, minimum 2/0 straight link. Poles shall be minimum 1 7/8” OD. Collars for attaching basket shall be a minimum of 5” long, and chain rack collar shall be a minimum of 4” long. Locking bases for disc golf targets shall be 18” long minimum.

**Weatherproof locks:** Weatherproof locks shall have 1 3/8” wide laminated steel body, 3/8” hardened boron alloy shackle, high security solid iron shackle shroud, removable 5-spool pin tumbler cylinder, and a dual ball bearing locking mechanism.

**Signs:** Install a rules sign prominently before the first tee. The shortest tee on each hole should have permanent signs indicating the hole number, length, and recreational par.

**ADA Compliance:** Efforts should be made to provide a legitimate opportunity to play for those with disabilities. If all holes can not be made accessible, a several hole loop on part of the course may provide that opportunity.
Type: Above ground street course on a concrete slab. Depending on the site, custom concrete skate parks and skate plazas may be appropriate.

Service Standard: 1 / 50,000 residents

Acreage: Signature/Metro Parks should have minimum 1 acre; Community Parks should have minimum 1/2 acre. All shall have 50% rideable area.

Slab Finish: Power trowel to a smooth finish. After curing, allow concrete to air dry. Apply one coat of industrial grade sealer.

Design: Skate parks should be designed by an experienced and qualified skate park designer.

Location: Staffed parks. A minimum of one city employee shall be located on site during all hours of operation.

Perimeter Fencing: 6-foot tall black vinyl coated chain link fence surrounding the skate park area with one gated entrance point.

Buildings: A small building providing shelter from the weather should be located at the skate park entrance for city staff. Power for attendant building and special events.

Viewing Areas: Viewing areas around the skate park shall be included in its design. These areas shall include such items as bleachers, picnic tables, shelters, benches, etc. Shade trees shall be located to provide shade over these areas.
End of Section
Section Three
Buildings
Design Principles

Description: Buildings located in parks include restroom facilities, park offices, storage buildings, etc. All buildings located on a site should complement each other and the surrounding environment in scale, materials and placement and always meet or exceed ADA compliance.

Building Orientation/Entry: Entrances should face or be clearly visible from an adjacent public street or associated parking area. The primary entry shall be clearly identified by articulation of the building mass or other architectural design solution. The main entry should be more visually dominant than service area entries.

Building Massing: When possible park offices, restroom facilities, and storage needs should be incorporated into single buildings. The massing or three-dimensional form of larger buildings should be broken into smaller components that more readily relate to the human scale.

Building Façade: The design of the building façade shall incorporate elements that help to break up long, undifferentiated walls or sides. Buildings should also incorporate design features and architectural elements that relate to the scale of pedestrians such as covered entryways. Split face block or hardy plank should be used on all facades. (Tan or Gray in Color)

Roof Materials: Standing seam aluminum roof (Gray or Blue in color)

Building Types

Park Offices: Park offices should be conveniently located adjacent to the primary parking facility/entrance drive and be heated and cooled.

Restrooms: Restroom facilities may be located within the park office building or located strategically throughout the park. These buildings should be heated.

Storage Buildings: Where storage needs are not able to be accommodated within other buildings on the site, separate storage buildings can be constructed. However, these buildings should be constructed in a similar style as other buildings of the site and associated outdoor storage areas should be screened from view.

Multi-Use Building at Providence Park
Section Four
Parking Lots
Parking Lots
Section Four

General Standards

**Description:** Parking lots should be designed to provide safe and convenient access to the site and its facilities. A variety of paving options exist within the Virginia Beach park system. Parking requirements will vary from little to no need for off-street parking at many neighborhood parks, to the need for large off-street parking lots at more active community and district parks.

The design of parking lots should be in conformance with the following:

1. City of Virginia Beach Zoning Ordinance, most recent edition
2. AASHTO’s policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, most recent edition
3. Americans with Disabilities Act/State and Federal Handicap Standards

**Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines:** Parking lots should incorporate methods for storm water management utilizing LID techniques. These include:

- End of island bioretention cell(s) with underdrain(s) and landscaping
- Bioretention cells or drainage inlets (or curb cuts) in the end-of-island bioretention cells and bioretention strips to collect runoff
- Bioretention cells between lines of parking stalls to increase the total treatment surface area of these systems
- One-way drive aisles to reduce impervious surfaces, where appropriate
- Permeable paving systems where appropriate. Where it is not feasible for the entire parking lot, it should be considered for portions of the parking lot such as overflow areas and/or parking stall areas.

**Safety:** Pedestrian movement in parked vehicle areas must be planned to provide the highest degree of safety and convenience. Plans for parking lots shall include pedestrian circulation incorporating walkways, narrowed crossways, and striped paving. Proposed landscaping should ensure the visibility and separation of pedestrians from vehicular paths. Refer to the Americans with Disabilities Act/State and Federal Handicap Standards.

**Entrances/Exits:** All entrances and exits shall have a clear visibility zone. The zone will vary due to adjacent street widths and speeds. Entrances and exits shall be located either directly across from or as far as possible from street intersections.

**Bicycle Accommodation:** Bicycle lanes and parking shall be provided, where appropriate, on ingress and egress routes and shall be consistent with standards identified and adopted by the City. Refer to the city’s Bikeways and Trails Plan for the location of existing and proposed bicycle paths.
**Asphalt Parking Lots**

**Use:** General standard for most applications

**Edging:** Encroachment barriers such as wheel stops or continuous concrete curbing of at least six (6) inches in height shall be preferred.

**Stall Widths:** Standard 9’ x 18’. Utilize standard white thermoplastic striping to delineate all stalls.

**Handicapped Spaces:** Provide a minimum of two 8’ x 18’ parking stalls with a central 5’x 18’ accessible area.
Gravel Parking Lots

Use: Gravel parking areas should only be utilized for low traffic and/or temporary parking areas.

Edging: Encroachment barriers such as wheel stops of at least six (6) inches in height shall be required for parking spaces.

Stall Widths: Standard 9’ x 18’

Handicapped Spaces: Provide a minimum of two 8’ x 18’ parking stalls with a central 5’x 18’ accessible area.
Use: For use in environmentally sensitive areas or where a pervious pavement application is desired.

Edging: Encroachment barriers such as wheel stops or continuous concrete curbing of at least six (6) inches in height shall be preferred. However, wood timbers may be acceptable in some applications.

Stall Widths: Standard 9’ x 18’. Utilize standard white thermoplastic striping to delineate stalls if paving material allows. Otherwise, utilize contrasting color pavers, or alternate patterns to delineate stalls.

Handicapped Spaces: Provide a minimum of two 8’ x 18’ parking stalls with a central 5’x 18’ accessible area. Delineate stalls as stated above.
End of Section
Section Five

Planting Design
Design Principles

Description: Plantings within city parks should focus on creating a simple and natural design that blends with the site and area rather than an elaborate and formal landscape solution. Plants should be located in random groupings to reflect natural environments. Avoid linear plantings except where special circumstances warrant that placement. The overall landscape plan should address conditions of the site such as controlling erosion, filtering storm water, screening of unsightly elements, creating shade and softening the appearance of structures. Avoid plantings that would restrict sight distance, require unusual maintenance, or interfere with already established indigenous plantings.

The following documents are hereby incorporated as part of these standards:

1. Refer to the City of Virginia Beach, Landscape Guide or Integrated Site Design Guide, or most recent edition, for parking lot, foundation, screening and buffering, specifications and standards.
2. Refer to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, American Standard for Nursery Stock, most recent edition, for various nursery stock standards.

Plant Materials: Park landscape plans should focus on the use of tree and shrub massing with limited perennial/annual beds.

Playgrounds: Landscape plans should utilize large canopy trees (particularly on the south and west edges) of playground areas to provide and average of 50% shade coverage at maturity.

Wooded Areas: Within wooded areas, do not remove the organic debris on the forest floor.

Waterways: A 20’ minimum vegetative buffer should be incorporated around all water edges. Pedestrian access to the water’s edge shall be limited to pre-determined areas. The vegetative buffer can either be a planted area utilizing bayscaping principles or an area where mowing is limited to two times a year at a 6”- 8” mow height. For waterways that are included in the Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection area, a minimum of 50’ vegetative buffer shall be provided.

Safety: Safety and security of park patrons shall be considered in all plant selections and placement. Designers shall keep in mind the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Species Selection: The use of native and drought tolerant plant materials is preferred. Species that produce litter problems should be limited to naturalized areas. Refer to the City’s Landscaping Guide or Integrated Site Design Guide for recommended plant lists.
City Standards: For more detailed and complete information refer to the City’s planting and turf specifications.

Bed Preparation: Place topsoil in areas where seeding and planting is scheduled. Topsoil shall be sifted, friable loam; free of subsoil, roots, grass, excessive amount of weeds, stone over 1” in any dimension, and foreign matter; acidity range 9 (pH) of 5.5 to 7.5; containing a minimum of 4 percent and a maximum of 25 percent organic matter. Topsoil can be prepared on site, or off site as needed. Provide imported topsoil as required to complete the work.

Topsoil Depth: Seeded grass - 4”; shrub beds - 12”; flower beds - 12”.

Mulch: All planting areas should be completely mulched with 3” of shredded hardwood mulch. Mulch should not be mounded up around the trunks of trees. This can cause disease and decay, and shorten the life span of the tree.

Planting Dates: Planting of containerized trees, shrubs and ground covers shall normally be performed between September 1 and May 15 and under favorable weather conditions. All other dates will be considered out of season.
Tree Planting Detail

- Do not prune terminal leader
- Prune co-dominant leaders
- Prune rubbing or crossed branches
- Prune broken branches
- Prune excessively narrow crotched branches
- Remove tags after inspection
- Prune suckers
- All pruning shall be done in accordance with accepted horticultural practices

- New 3/4" rubber hose
- 2 strands #12 pliable galvanized steel wire and turnbuckle
- 2 metal ribbed-backed stakes, orient stakes north-south
- Trees are to be planted so that the top of the root ball is at the same grade, or slightly higher, than existing grade.
- Form saucer with backfill, cover with 3" to 4" shredded hardwood mulch, keep mulch away from base of trunk
- Finished grade, typ.

- Remove container and cut any circling roots if container grown; pull back burlap from top 1/3 of root ball and remove all twine, wire basket and rope used to secure burlap and ball to tree root ball, typ.
- Specially prepared soil mixture; partially backfill, water to settle soil, finish backfilling planting soil mixture, typ.
- Leave undisturbed soil pedestal; dig hole 2 to 3 times root ball width.
Bed Edging Details

Typical Bed Edge (Not to Scale)

Typical Bed Edge at Concrete Curb (Not to Scale)
End of Section
Section Six

Fields
**Baseball / Softball Fields**

**Lights:** Metal Halide with timed lighting control system

**Backstop:** 30-foot long center panel with 40-foot long wings on each side. Height: 30-feet.

**Dugout Area:** The dugout area shall consist of a 36’ x 8’ concrete slab with two 15-foot long aluminum players’ benches.

**Orientation:** A line running from home plate to second base should point east-northeast. However, consider time of day for games and months when played.

**Grading/Drainage:** Minimum slope of outfield turf is 1% with adequate subsurface drainage. Maximum slope 2-1/2%. Drain away from home plate. The infield should be graded so that the baselines and home plate are level.

**Safety Buffer:** 10-foot minimum around the perimeter. No obstacles should be located closer than 50-feet to a field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Dimensions</th>
<th>Softball</th>
<th>Little League Baseball</th>
<th>Pony League Baseball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Pitching distance</td>
<td>38’</td>
<td>46’</td>
<td>54’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Home plate to backstop</td>
<td>25’ min.</td>
<td>25’ (optional dist)</td>
<td>40’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Baseline</td>
<td>55’; (50’ women)</td>
<td>60’</td>
<td>80’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Radius of skinned area</td>
<td>70’</td>
<td>50’</td>
<td>80’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Foul line</td>
<td>250’ (200’ women)</td>
<td>200’</td>
<td>250’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Home plate to ‘pocket’</td>
<td>250’</td>
<td>250’ (200’ to fence)</td>
<td>300’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Diameter - pitcher’s mound</td>
<td>16’</td>
<td>10’ (raised 6”)</td>
<td>15’ (raised 8”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Size of coaches’ box</td>
<td>3’ x 15’</td>
<td>4’ x 8’</td>
<td>8’ x 16’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Baseball / Softball Fields

**Field Specifications** - Field specifications are broken out into three tiers based on intended use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Soil Specifications</th>
<th>Irrigated</th>
<th>Lighted</th>
<th>Backstop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>League Fields</td>
<td>Loamy Sand Infield Mix</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3</td>
<td>Informal Multipurpose</td>
<td>Native Topsoil</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Backstop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The installation of field lighting is desired but will vary from field to field depending on the surrounding land uses.

**Bleachers**: 5 Row 21’ long aluminum with picket railing center stairs. Bleachers are to be bolted to a 30’x20’ concrete slab.

**Service Standards:**

**Softball**
- Youth Competitive - 1 / 5,000 residents
- Adult Competitive - 1 / 18,000 residents

**Baseball**
- 200’ Outfield - 1 / 3,125 residents
- 300’ Outfield - 1 / 18,000 residents
Baseball / Softball Field Dugout Covers

Materials: All new pipe railings shall be ASTM A53, grade B, Frame shall be 4” deep “C” joist (20 gauge galvanized steel) spaced at 16” on-center. Sheathing shall be 3/4” HDPE sheathing covered in 30# felt paper. Roofs shall be constructed of 1-1/4”x 1/4” corrugated galvanized metal (20 gauge). The metal roofs and exposed metal fascias (all sides) shall be powder coated to match façade of the site. All hardware shall be galvanized.

Construction: Metal “C” joist to be attached to 2-5/8” O.D. fence railing by using 3/16”x2-5/8” I.D. “U” bolts. (16” O.C.) Attach continuous 2”x4” pressure treated timber to the sides using self tapping galvanized wood screws and attaching the ends of “C” joist with 14 gauge 90 degree clip angles. Attached continuous hook strip to 2”x4” timber at 6” O.C. insert end cover into continuous hook strip and attach to 3/4” HDPE sheathing at 4” O.C.
**Fields**

**Section Six**

**Multipurpose - Football & Soccer**

**Orientation:** Long axis north to south

**Grading:** Long central axis should serve as high point with 1% slope draining to each side.

**Dimensions:** 160-feet wide x 360-feet long including two 10 yard end zones. There are no official dimensions for soccer.

**Safety Buffer:** 15-foot minimum of clearance from end lines and sidelines to vertical fixed objects.

**Soil Specifications:** Field specifications are broken out into two tiers based on intended use.

**Goals:** Utilize the portable soccer/football goal. In-ground single use goals are also options for these fields.

**Service Standards:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Football</strong></td>
<td>Youth - 1 / 4,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulation - 1 / 6,000 residents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Soil Specs.</th>
<th>Irrigated/Lighted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>League Play</td>
<td>Sandy Loam</td>
<td>*Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Informal Field</td>
<td>Native Top Soil</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The installation of field lighting is desired but will vary from field to field depending on the surrounding land uses.
**Multipurpose - Field Goals**

**Standard Soccer Goal Section (Not to Scale)**

**Use:** Portable combination goals are for use on multipurpose fields as needed. Combination goal must have removable football posts.

**Fabrication:** These goals are manufactured by city staff in park maintenance. The cross member with attached uprights is bolted to the standard aluminum soccer goal frames.

**Materials:** Aluminum pipe

**Installation:** Install per park maintenance staff guidelines.

**Combination Portable Goal (Not to Scale)**

**Standard Football Goal (Not to Scale)**
Section Seven

Play Courts
Basketball Court Layout (Not to Scale)

**Service Standard:** Outdoor Basketball - 1 / 2,500 residents

**Orientation:** Long axis is north to south

**Drainage:** Drain end to end

**Dimension Options:** Full court 35’ x 70’; half court 35’ x 35’

**Court:** Concrete slab with 2-inch wide white markings

**Safety Buffer:** 10-feet, or a minimum of 8-feet, unobstructed behind the back boundary line and a minimum of 6-feet on each sideline

**Pavement Area:** Allow a minimum of 3’ additional from sideline to edge of pavement

**Goal Post:** In-ground pole, 3 1/2” O.D. min, with a galvanized finish

**Backboard:** One-piece cast aluminum alloy backboard with 1” deep supporting flanges

**Net:** White nylon
**Location:** Staffed parks

**Court Construction:** Court construction shall consist of the pit, pit box, and backboard.

**Orientation:** Long axis north to south

Pit: The pit area shall be filled to a depth of 4 to 8 inches with either clay, sand, or soil.

**Safety Distance:** Space courts at least 12-feet apart measured stake to stake.

**Stakes:** Each stake shall be centered between the platforms with a minimum of 21-inches from the stake to the front and back of the pit. Stakes shall be 1-inch in diameter and shall extend between 14” and 15” above pit level. They shall have an approximate 3” lean toward each other.

**Backstops:** Backstops are recommended and should be 3-feet high and 6-feet wide.
Horseshoe Pit Details

Backboard Detail (Not to Scale)

Pit Detail (Not to Scale)
Service Standard: 1 / 5,000 residents

Orientation: April-October play, long axis is north to south. Year round play, long axis is northwest to southeast 22 degrees off true north.

Drainage: Drain side to side (preferred) or end to end at 0.8% to 1%. Never allow a high point at the net.

Multiple Courts: Allow a 10-feet minimum between courts.

Surface Material Color: Green court area and border area with 2” white stripes for court markings

Net: 42’ long and 3 1/4’ (39”) high and otherwise conforming to the regulations of the United States Lawn Tennis Association

Net Posts: Black Schedule 40 steel pipe 3” O.D. fitted with rust-proof cast aluminum caps

Lights: If provided, timer for lights shall be located on pole near court entrance.

Fence: 10-feet tall chain link fence, 1 3/4” mesh, 9-gauge core mesh minimum. All fence posts and hardware shall be black polyester coating 3-mil color powder electrostatically applied (powder coated finish). Fence mesh shall have a black vinyl coated finish.
**Orientation:** Long axis north to south

**Net:** Nylon

**Net Height:** 7’ 4 1/8” measured at the center of the playing court

**Net Dimensions:** 39” wide and minimum of 36-feet long

**Net Poles:** 2 1/2” O.D. schedule 40 galvanized pipe, wooden poles used at beaches. 3/8” diameter holes drilled at 2”, 14”, and 50” for eye bolt assembly.

**Safety Distance:** 10-feet minimum unobstructed behind the back boundary line and on each sideline or between courts

**Sand Court:** A minimum depth of 12” of sand with a filter fabric placed underneath the sand bed
Section Eight

Playground Systems
Play Structures

Description: For the purposes of this document, the term “play area” shall refer to any place or space physically defined and specifically and primarily intended for recreational use by children, generally between the ages of 2 and 12.

For these areas, the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation department adheres to the standards of several nationally recognized organizations where the design, construction, and maintenance of play areas are involved. The following documents are hereby incorporated as part of these guidelines:


Service Standard: 1 play area / 1,500 residents

Color: Colors shall be determined based on the park’s overall character and community aesthetics.

Earth Tone Colors: dark green, brown, or beige

Primary Colors: red, green, blue, yellow
Boundary Material: Pressure treated timber

Fasteners: All fastener hardware will be hot dipped galvanized fasteners.

Surfacing Material: Engineered wood fiber carpet chips

Uncompressed Depth: Recommended depth depends on fall heights. For general use, an 8” uncompressed depth is standard. Where equipment is being installed with fall heights in excess of 6 feet, contact the surfacing material manufacturer for recommended depths.

Drainage: Each playground site demands that the inner area of the playground shall have 4” of material excavated and graded, maintaining a 1.5 % slope toward a newly installed dry well. A layer of filter fabric shall then cover the space enclosed by the timbers. A 4” layer of #57 stone shall then cover the area enclosed by the timbers and then another layer of filter fabric will be installed over the entire enclosed playground area prior to installing the wood fiber mulch.
Playground Systems
Section Eight

Play Surfacing Details

Playground Access Ramp Side View (Not to Scale)

Typical Pour-in-Place Surface

Pour-in-Place Surface Detail (Not to Scale)

Typical Pour-in-Place Surface

Pour-in-Place Surface Detail (Not to Scale)
Section Nine

Walkways and Trails
General Guidelines

**Description:** This section establishes standards for public walkways, trails, and internal pedestrian circulation systems that will provide user-friendly pedestrian access.

**Width:** Primary walkways - 12’; secondary walkways - 8’. In certain circumstances the use of 6’ wide paths may be appropriate for minor connections.

**Connectivity:** Continuous internal pedestrian walkways, no less than 8 feet in width, shall be provided from the public walkway or right-of-way to the main entrance of all buildings and active amenity areas on the site. Walkways shall connect pedestrian activity such as, but not limited to, transit stops, street crossings, buildings, and major site amenities.

**Adjacent Plantings:** Walkways shall feature adjoining landscaped areas that include trees, shrubs, benches, etc.

**ADA:** All pedestrian amenities shall meet ADA guidelines, except where such amenities travel through environmentally sensitive areas.

**Other:** For additional information related to the development of safe trail facilities, refer to the third or most recent edition of the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (ASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
**Use:** ADA accessible pedestrian walkways, trails, and light vehicular service access

**Width:** Primary walkways - 12'; secondary walkways - 8'. In certain circumstances, the use of 6' wide paths may be appropriate for minor connections.

**Base:** The aggregate base should extend beyond the pavement edge so that the edge will be structurally reinforced.
Concrete Sidewalk

**Use:** ADA accessible pedestrian walkways, trails, and light vehicular service access

**Width:** Primary walkways - 12'; secondary walkways - 8'. In certain circumstances, the use of 6' wide paths may be appropriate for minor connections.

Typical Concrete Sidewalk
**Crushed Stone Trail**

**Use:** For use in environmentally sensitive areas where pedestrian access is desired.

**Width:** Primary walkways - 12'; secondary walkways - 8'. In certain circumstances, the use of 6' wide paths may be appropriate for minor connections. Areas where horses will be utilizing the trail, a 4-foot wide shoulder is recommended.

**Construction:** All trail construction shall include standard clearing limits as follows: brush and branches shall be removed to a height of 8 feet within 3 feet of the trail. Remove all roots and organic debris to a depth of 4 inches, where appropriate. See modified detail to the right for applications where less disturbance is desired. Establish a design cross-slope in sub-grade materials. Provide complete mechanical compaction. Where this is impractical or impossible, compact by hand with an appropriately weighted implement.
Natural Trail

Use: For use in environmentally sensitive areas where pedestrian access is desired.

Width: Primary walkways - 12’; secondary walkways - 8’. In certain circumstances, the use of 6’ wide paths may be appropriate for minor connections. Areas where horses will be utilizing the trail, a 4-feet wide shoulder is recommended.

Construction: All trail construction shall include the removal of stumps, exposed roots, and branches within the trail section and to a height of 8 feet.
**Use:** For pedestrian and light vehicular use

**Dimensions:** 6’ to 14’ widths; clear spans generally less than 20’. Where steep and unstable banks exist, the bridge’s overall length should be determined accounting for the re-grading and stabilization of the banks. The maximum recommended slope for banks is 3:1.

**Materials:** Southern yellow pine

**Decking:** Pressure treated solid sawn wood decking

**Fasteners:** Hot-dipped galvanized steel

**Approaches:** Approaches shall meet ADA requirements. Side slopes should be stabilized and should not exceed 6 to 1. Where steeper slopes are necessary, wing walls shall be utilized to stabilize the approaches and minimize erosion.

**ADA:** All bridge designs should meet ADA requirements.
Foot Bridges

Section One (Not to Scale)

Section Two (Not to Scale)

Section Three (Not to Scale)

Typical Bent Detail (Not to Scale)

Curb Splice Detail (Not to Scale)
Prefabricated Bridges

Use: For pedestrian and light vehicular use

Dimensions: 6’ to 14’ widths; clear spans from 20’ to 100’; span-to-width ratio generally 12:1. Where steep and unstable banks exist, the bridge’s overall length should be determined accounting for the re-grading and stabilization of the banks. The maximum recommended slope for banks is 3:1.

Materials: Southern yellow pine

Beams: Glued laminated wood beams

Decking: Pressure treated solid sawn wood decking

Connectors: Hot-dipped galvanized steel

Approaches: Approaches shall meet ADA requirements. Side slopes should be stabilized and should not exceed 6 to 1. Where steeper slopes are necessary, wing walls shall be utilized to stabilize the approaches and minimize erosion.

ADA: All bridge designs should meet ADA requirements.
Prefabricated Bridges

Concrete Abutment Section (Not to Scale)

Cross Section Abutment (Not to Scale)
Prefabricated Bridges

Cross Section Abutment (Not to Scale)

Timber Pile Wall End Abutment (Not to Scale)
Section Ten

Shelters
Wood Shelters

Description: Wood Shelters are available in a variety of sizes and configurations (square, rectangular, hexagon). All structural members, support columns, beams, and arches are made of pressure treated laminated wood. Sizes range from 12’ x 12’ to 30’ x 60’; hexagonal shelters range from 20’ to 45’ in diameter. All shelters shall comply with the following guidelines and standards:

1. The manufacturer of the structural glued laminated wood components shall conform to the manufacturing requirements of the American Institute of Timber Construction Standards and the Standard Specification or Glued Laminated Timber, AITC 117.

2. Quality Control shall be provided in accordance with the American National Standard of Wood Products—Structural Glued Laminated Timber (ANSI/AITC A 190.1) and the American Institute of Timber Construction Inspection Manual (AITC-200).

Service Standards: Large rental shelters - 1 / 2,500 residents

Laminated Lumber: All lumber shall be kiln dried Southern Pine graded to meet the requirements of Standard Specifications for Structural Glued Laminated Timber, AITC 117. Adhesives shall be wet-use (waterproof) complying with ANSI/AITC A190.1– latest edition.

Beams and Columns: All beams and columns shall be embedded glued laminated wood. Column sizes range from 6” x 6” to 8”x8”. Beam/column spacing ranges from 8’ O.C. to 10’ O.C. for larger shelters. Glulam beams/columns are to be pressure treated in accordance with American Wood Preservers’ Association Standards.

Roof Decks: All roof decks are to be 2 inch (nominal) #1 grade, single tongue and groove with V-joint bottom face, kiln-dried Southern Pine.

Fascia: All fascia will be 2” x 6” Southern Pine, #1 SPIB Grade, pressure treated in accordance with American Wood Preservers’ Association Standards.

Roof Surfaces: Architectural shingles or standing seam aluminum roof with one layer of 30 lbs. felt (a minimum 25-year written warranty is required) (Gray or blue in color)

Fasteners: All steel and hardware fasteners are to be hot-dipped galvanized unless stainless steel is specified with purchase order as required by site location.

Exposed Faces: All exposed faces of glulam members are to be coated with one coat of factory-applied clear penetrating sealer.

Column Footings: All column footings are to be 24” to 30” O.D. x 4’ depth concrete encasements (see detail).

Foundation: Contractor will excavate 6” of soil and compact subsurface prior to pouring class A3, 3000 psi fiber-reinforced concrete slab. All concrete will be finished by a process of floating and toweling to a smooth non slip light broom finish. All outer edges shall be finished to a 1/4” radius. Surfaces shall have a positive sheet drainage with no greater than 2% cross slope (see detail).
Wood Shelter Details

Prefabricated Roof Framing Details - Square & Rectangle Shelters (Not to Scale)

Footing And Foundation Detail
Metal Shelters

Description: Metal shelters are available in a variety of sizes and configurations (square, rectangular, hexagon). Sizes range from 12' x 12' to 30' x 60'; hexagonal shelters range from 20' to 45' diameter.

All metal shelters shall comply with the following guidelines and standards:

All material and fabrication shall comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) guidelines and specifications as related.

Service Standards: Large rental shelters - 1 / 2,500 residents

Structural Framing: Columns, rafters, tie-beams, purlins, etc. shall be Hollow Structural Sections (HSS) meeting ASTM A500 grade B. “I” beams tapered columns, open “C” channels, cold-formed box sections or wood products shall not be accepted.

Compression Rings: Compression rings shall be made of structural channel sections or welded plate sections that meet ASTM A36 grade steel.

Structural Connections: Structural connections shall be made with A325 high-strength bolts and A563 structural nuts, ASTM A307 grade anchor bolts, self-drilling screws and pop-rivets.

Metal Roof Panel: 24-gauge galvalume roof panel with a Kynar 500 paint finish or similar. The ribs shall be 1-3/16” high and 12” on center. Roof panel coverage shall be 36” wide; all angles shall be factory cut. The ribs shall run with the slope of the building for proper drainage.

Roof Color Options: Gray or Blue
Description: Gazebos are available in sizes ranging from 14’ to 35’.

Laminated Lumber: All lumber shall be kiln dried Southern Pine graded to meet the requirements of Standard Specifications for Structural Glued Laminated Timber, AITC 117. Adhesives shall be wet-use (waterproof) complying with ANSI/ATIC A190.1– latest edition.

Beams and Columns: All beams and columns shall be embedded glued laminated wood. Glulam beams/columns are to be pressure treated in accordance with American Wood Preservers’ Association Standards.

Roof Decks: Two-inch (nominal) #1 grade, end matched, single tongue and groove with V-joint bottom face, kiln-dried Southern Pine. Galvanized 16d nails shall be provided.

Fascia: All fascia shall be 2” x 6” Southern Pine, #1 SPIB grade, pressure treated in accordance with American Wood Preservers’ Association Standards.

Roof Surfaces: Class “A” fire rated black fiberglass shingles with one layer of 15lb felt (a minimum 25-year written warranty required) or standing seam metal roof (Gray in color).

Options: Gazebos can be purchased to include flooring, rails and/or benches if desired.
Shade Canopies

Description: Shade Canopies are available in a variety of sizes and configurations. The preferred configuration is the T-Cantilever style.

All shade canopies shall comply with the following guidelines and standards:
All material and fabrication shall comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) guidelines and specifications as related.

Use: Shade canopies provide relief from the sun installed above bleachers and in areas where little to no shade exists.

Structural Framing: Columns, rafters, tie-beams, purlins, etc. shall be Hollow Structural Sections (HSS) meeting ASTM A500 grade B. “I” beams tapered columns, open “C” channels, cold-formed box sections or wood products shall not be accepted.

Structural Connections: Structural connections shall be made with A325 high-strength bolts and A563 structural nuts, ASTM A307 grade anchor bolts, self-drilling screws and pop-rivets.

Shade Material:

Post Color Options: Green, Gray or Blue
Section Eleven

Lighting
Street, Parking Lot, Path, and Area Lighting

**Description:** Lighting standards are chosen based on products available at a reasonable cost, continuously stocked, and easily maintained through Dominion Power and Public Works Building Maintenance.

**Path Lighting**
- **Type:** Black Shoe Box or Bell Shaped
- **Lamp:** LED (Preferred)
- **Pole:** 10’ or 14’ mounting height; round tapered, fiberglass pole; finish dependent upon site, LED

**Street and Parking Lot Lighting**
- **Type:** Cobra Head Flat Lens
- **Lamp:** LED (Preferred)
- **Pole:** 25’ or 30’ mounting height; tapered concrete or fiberglass poles with 6’ to 12’ arms; gray finish

**Area Lighting**
- **Type:** Colonial
- **Lamp:** LED (Preferred)
- **Pole:** 10’ or 14’ mounting height; round tapered, fiberglass pole; black finish
Section Twelve

Fencing
Perimeter Fencing

Type: All perimeter fencing shall be constructed using 2-rail post and rail wooden fencing.

Posts: All posts shall be 4-inches in diameter by 5-feet long pressure treated pine that are mortised to accept rail ends and a chamfered post top.

Rails: All rails shall be 4-inches in diameter full round by 8-feet long pressure treated pine with the ends tampered to form a tenon that will be seated in the mortise of the posts and then fastened using #10d galvanized nails. All nail heads will be left protruding out 1/8 inch during installation.

Fasteners: All fastener hardware shall be hot dipped galvanized fasteners.

Finish: All fencing members shall be made from pressure treated pine in its natural condition.

Footings: All footings for post installation shall be a minimum depth of 24-inches below finish grade surface. All post holes shall be backfilled with #57 stone and tamped to compact the material around the post (see detail).

Optional Weld Wire: Weld wire may be specified to be attached to the inside of rails for added protection in select cases. For this purpose 36”x2”x4” 14-gauge galvanized weld wire shall be utilized.
**Fencing**

**Section Twelve**

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**Security Fencing**

- **Type:** All security fencing shall be constructed using 4' - 10' tall black vinyl coated chain link fence.

- **Top Rail:** 1-5/8” O.D. galvanized metal

- **Bottom Rail:** 1-5/8” O.D. galvanized metal

- **Line Posts:** 1-7/8” O.D. galvanized metal

- **Terminal Posts:** 2-3/8” O.D. galvanized metal

- **Fabric:** 9-gauge mesh core minimum

- **Fasteners:** All fastener hardware will be hot dipped galvanized.

- **Finish:** Posts, rails and hardware shall be black polyester coating 3-mil color powder electrostatically applied (powder coated). Fence mesh shall be vinyl coated.

- **Footings:** All footings for post installation will be a minimum depth of 24-inches below finish grade surface.
Use: Wooden guardrails shall be used wherever there is a need to channel pedestrians.

Posts: All posts will be 8” x 8” nominal by 4’ long pressure treated pine with a chamfered post top.

Rails: All rails will be 4” x 8” by 10’ long pressure treated pine.

Fasteners: All fastener hardware will be hot dipped galvanized fasteners.

Finish: All fencing members will be made from pressure treated pine in accordance with the standards of the American Wood Preservers’ Association left in its natural condition.

Footings: All footings for post installation will be a minimum depth of 24-inches below finish grade surface.

Safety: If guardrail is located within 6-feet of road edge, a 2-inch diameter hole should be drilled through each post 6-inches above grade.
**Use:** For use where occasional and/or emergency vehicular access is desired.

**Material:** Powder coated steel

**Posts:** All posts shall be similar to the drawing above, no round posts are acceptable.

**Fasteners:** All fastener hardware will be hot dipped galvanized fasteners. All bollards shall be fastened to concrete.

**Finish:** All finishes shall be powder coated.
End of Section
Section Thirteen

Signage
General Guidelines

**Description:** Signs are an important element in a park system. They identify, inform, regulate, protect, and educate. The goal for these standards is to establish consistency throughout the Virginia Beach park system, reduce the overall number of signs placed at park sites, and develop easily recognizable sign panels that efficiently relay the necessary information. For the purposes of this document, signs have been broken out into two main categories: informational signage and regulatory signage.

- Informational signs include three sub-categories: entry or identification signage, way finding signage, and educational signage.
- Regulatory signs include two sub-categories: standard MUTCD Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices signs, and site specific warnings and regulation signage.

**Site Signage Plan:** As new park sites are being developed, a site signage plan should be an integral part of the site’s development. The plan should identify the location and design of all site signage. Additionally, developed sites that are becoming overrun with the addition of numerous signs over the years should evaluate their signage, develop a site signage plan, and implement it as opportunities arise.

**Multiple Signs:** The placement of multiple signs on fences, trees, light poles, etc. should be avoided.

**Landscaping:** All entry or identification signage shall be planted as the base. A minimum of a 75 square foot planting bed shall be utilized.

**Font Type**

- Times New Roman - Type face utilized on all signs for the park name
- Sans Serif - Type face utilized on all signs for other supportive text located on the sign

**Font Style:** The utilization of both upper and lower case letters increases the legibility of text and is standard for all signs.

**Font Heights:** Heights of the dominating text shall be either 5”, or 6”. In general, most neighborhood park signs will utilize 5” tall letters and larger community and signature parks should utilize 6”-10” tall letters depending on the surrounding environment and sign placement. The size of all other graphic components will be based off of the font size of the dominating text.

**City Seal**

- Material: Seals can be manufactured in a variety of materials and methods.
- Color: The full color version should be utilized for all signs. On dark backgrounds the seal should be outlined with a thin black line just outside of the dolphin ring.
Signs
Section Thirteen

Design Standards Manual

Informational Signage - Entry Signage

Description: Heights of the dominating text shall be 5” or 6”. In general, most neighborhood park signs will utilize 5” tall letters and larger community and signature parks should utilize 6” tall letters. The ultimate determination of letter height should be based on the surrounding environment, the signs’ placement and the viewing distance. The size of all other graphic components will be proportionally related to the length of the name and spacing from the edge. For long park names, the use of two lines is recommended. The following depicts the graphic layout for entry signs.

Sign Panel Material: All sign panels are to be HDPE recycled plastic. (Green/White/Green)

Sign Panel Colors: Green (Pantone # 342 C)

Background shall have white letters and graphics; double sided, flush-mounted Virginia Beach City seal.

Sign Base / Support Structure: Signs shall be either post mounted at the ends with chamfered tops or attached to a base monument structure.

Post Mounted Signs: 6” x 6” recycled plastic post. Recycled plastic posts shall be gray in color with 1” chamfered top.

Monument Base Signs: Monument style bases should reflect the character of the site. (i.e. Split Face Block and Brick)
Informational Signage - Entry Signage

**Landscaping:** All entry or identification signage shall be planted as the base. A minimum of a 75 square foot planting bed shall be utilized.

**Site Address:** The site’s numerical address shall be located on the entry sign.

**Marquee Signs:** Marquee signs shall be used at designated special use and large parks where advertising is needed regularly. Support structure shall be made of brick or split face block.
**Description:** Heights of the dominating text shall be either 2”-5”. Although the size will also depend on the site and the viewing distance. The size of all other graphic components will be proportionally related to the height of the text.

**Sign Panel:** Aluminum is the standard panel material, however, high density urethane (sign foam) can be utilized in special circumstances.

**Colors:** Green (Pantone 342 C) background with white letters and graphics.

**Sign Support Structure:** All way finding signs shall be post mounted either at the ends or a single post located in the center.

**Sign Support Material:** 6” x 6” recycled plastic post for park related regulation signs and 2” x 2” metal posts for traffic and other regulatory signs. Recycled plastic posts shall be gray in color and have 1” chamfered top. Signs can also be mounted to structures.

* Along roadways, the height to the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum of 5-feet. Along walkways and trails, height to the bottom shall be between 4-feet and 5-feet.
Informational Signage - Educational

Format: Header should occupy approximately 1/8 of the panel height. The dimensions of the sign are typically 2’x3’.

Sign Panel: Exterior grade high-pressure laminate fused with anti-UV layers and graffiti resistant technologies

Header Color: Green (Pantone 342C) background with white letters. Color Virginia Beach City seal.

Sign Base / Support Structure: Educational signs can be either mounted on the original National Park Service (NPS) style low profile exhibit base or mounted upright at eye level.

Sign Base / Support Structure Material: Support structure shall be constructed out of high strength aluminum extrusion.

Sign Base / Support Structure Color: Flat black

Sign Base / Support Structure Size: 3”x3” 1/8” square steel posts. Posts are to be 30” tall plus a 24” extension on a 45 degree angle.

Location: Signs shall be located on either a paved or decked surface adjacent to a walkway or public space.
Graphic Standard Symbols: Nationally recognized graphic symbols should be used whenever possible to relay information. A full list of recreational symbols can be found in Chapter 2H of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), “Recreational and Cultural Interest Signs.” The manual can be found online at: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/HTM/2003/html-index.htm

Where an activity is prohibited, the standard red circle with slash should be utilized.

Directional Arrows: Standard MUTCD directional arrows shall be utilized. The dashed box surrounding the head of the arrow should be used for positioning on the sign, not for print.
**MUTCD Regulatory and Warning Signs**

**Description:** The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all streets and highways. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). All regulatory traffic control signage shall conform to the standards set forth in Chapter 2B of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) "Regulatory Signs." The manual can be found online at:


**Sign Panel:** Aluminum

**Support Posts Material:** Posts shall be 2” x 2” break-a-way metal posts.
Text Height: Heights of the text should be 1”-2”, although, the size may vary slightly depending on the site and the viewing distance. The size of all other graphic components will be proportionally related to the height of the text.

Text Style: San Serif

Sign Panel: Aluminum

Header Color: Green Pantone 342 C) background with white letters and graphics

Sign Panel Color: White with black letters

Sign Support Material: 6” x 6” recycled plastic post. Recycled plastic posts shall be gray in color and have 1” chamfered top.

Sign Support Material: 6” x 6” or recycled plastic post allowed to weather naturally. Recycled plastic posts shall be gray in color.

Location: Signs shall be located at the entrance to the facility on either a paved or decked surface adjacent to a walkway or public space.
Other Regulatory - Individual

**Text Height:** Heights of the text should be 1”-2”, although, the size may vary slightly depending on the site and the viewing distance. The size of all other graphic components will be proportionally related to the height of the text.

**Text Style:** San Serif

**Sign Panel:** Aluminum

**Header Color:** Green (Pantone 342 C) or red (Pantone 187 C) background with white letters and graphics

**Sign Panel Color:** White with black letters

**Sign Support Structure:** Individual regulatory signs shall be post mounted.

**Sign Support Material:** 6” x 6” recycled plastic post. Recycled plastic posts shall be gray in color and have 1” chamfered top.

Along roadways, the height to the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum of 5-feet. Along walkways and trails, height shall be between 4-feet and 5-feet.

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**Typical Regulatory Signs**

- **NO HITTING GOLF BALLS IN THE PARK**
- **INSERT NOTICE TEXT HERE**
Section Fourteen

Site Furnishings
Benches

**Type:** Vinyl coated bench

**Use:** For use within the timbered border of play areas

**Seat Boards & Backs:** All seat boards and backs will be decking mesh constructed of 9 gauge expanded metal or 11 gauge punched steel with a staggered pattern of 3/8” diameter holes at 5/8” apart center to center.

**Frame:** The frame shall be fabricated from 2-3/8” OD galvanized steel pipe that must conform to ASTM A-135 and ASTM A-500. All open ends will be capped with 16 gauge galvanized steel with die-formed and welded caps.

**Fasteners:** All hardware shall be corrosion resistant stainless steel fasteners.

**Finish:** All seat board and back assemblies shall be finished in a standard blue polyvinyl chloride coating. All leg assemblies shall have a black polyester powder coating.
**Location:** All benches should be located on a concrete or asphalt pad directly adjacent to a pedestrian walkway or public area.

**Surface Mount:** All surface mounted benches will be fastened to a concrete or asphalt slab with ground space dimensions not less than 8-feet long and 3-feet 6-inches wide (see detail sheet). Generally, 4-inch cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, crushed rock, decking, or other paving method is approved through the design review process.

**In-Ground Installation:** All concrete footings for in-ground installation will be a minimum depth of 24” below finish grade surface. If an in-ground bench is to be installed inside a playground’s timber borders, the length of the posts will be extended to allow for the thickness of the safety surfacing material. (Inside playground borders is the only acceptable location for in-ground installation.

**Bench Buddies:** Plaques may be attached to the back portion of the bench if the bench is installed as part of the Bench Buddies donation program. Plaques shall be 3”h x 8”w brown plastic plaque with white letters centered and securely attached to the bench.
Benches

**Type:** The all teak wood bench shall be used, as approved, for special or unique situations.

**Length:** 6 feet

**Wood Material:** 100% kiln dried solid teak wood

**Joinery:** Teak benches should be manufactured with tightly fitting mortise and tenon joinery.

**Finish:** Teak garden furniture should be extremely smooth to the touch with no rough edges. Teak benches should be allowed to weather naturally.
Description: All bike racks shall be made of aluminum. Various lengths are available to accommodate the needs of different sites.

Frame: 1-5/8” steel pipe frame with 1” galvanized tubing. Bike racks are available in a variety of sizes ranging from 5’ to 10’.

Location: Locate bike racks in the vicinity of the activity areas of the park facility. It is essential the racks be visible from areas such as entries, offices, recreation rooms, ball fields, and play areas so that security will be maximized at all times. If lighting is available, locate racks nearby.

Installation: All bike racks shall be placed on and secured to a 12’ x 12’ (maximum) pad that is installed flush with surrounding grades on all sides. Extend pad in all directions around the racks so that mowing can be accomplished around racks and bicycles. Generally, 4” cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, crushed rock or other paving method is approved through the design review process.
Grills

Description: All park grills are manufactured in-house by park maintenance staff. Three grill size options are available depending on the intended location. A utility shelf is standard for both the medium and large size grills.

Location: Grills should be conveniently located to picnic tables/shelters but away from overhangs, low branches, eaves, or other overhead obstructions. A minimum clear space of 5-feet shall extend in all directions. Place grills at a safe distance from foot traffic and play areas.

Installation: All grill posts shall be surface mounted. Ground space dimensions of the pad shall at a minimum allow for a 3-foot standing area in front of the grill. Generally, 4-inch cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, crushed rock, decking, or other paving method is approved. A minimum clearance of 27-inches shall be maintained between the finished grade and the bottom of the firebox.

Size:

- Mini - 280 square inch cooking surface
- Mid-Size - 532 square inch cooking surface
- Super - 900 square inch cooking surface

Firebox: 1/4” side steel plate with integral slots to allow grate to be adjusted to different heights; 12” high firebox walls

Grate: 1/2” round steel bars welded on 1” centers

Handles: 5/8” round steel bars welded through the sides of the firebox to prevent grate removal; coiled wire hand grips

Pedestal: The super and mid size grills are stationary. The mini grill rotates 360 degrees.

Finish: Non-toxic heat-resistant flat black enamel

Typical Super Grill
Grill Dimensions

**Mini Grill**

**Midsize Grill**

**Super Grill**
Picnic Tables

**Type:** 6’ vinyl coated picnic table

**Use:** For use within parks and within certain specialty sites as approved by the Planning, Design, and Development Division Head.

**Table Tops and Seat Boards:** Mesh will be constructed of 9 gauge expanded metal or 11 gauge punched steel with a staggered pattern of 3/8” diameter holes at 5/8” apart center to center.

**Frame:** 2-3/8” O.D. steel pipe that conforms to ASTM A-135 and ASTM A-500. All frames will have corrosion protection by a hot dipped zinc galvanized coating followed by a chromate conversion coating and a clear polymer coating.

**Diagonal Braces:** All diagonal braces will be made of 1” galvanized tubing or an approved bracing system.

**Finish:** All table top and seat board assemblies will be finished in a polyvinyl chloride coating.

**Size Options:**

- **Rectangular** - 72”l x 30”w x 30.5”h table top with 72”l x 12”w x 18.75”h seats
- **Round** - 46” diameter x 30”h table top with 12”w x 18.5”h seats
- **Square** - 46” sq with 38”l x 10.5”w x 18”h seats

Standard Color

Dark Green or Similar
**Installation:** All tables shall be placed on and secured to a pad with ground space dimensions not less than 10’ long and 9’ wide, 12.5’ long by 9’ wide for HC tables. Generally, 4” cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, crushed rock, decking, or other paving method is approved.

**Fasteners:** All hardware will be corrosion resistant stainless steel fasteners or hardware.
Trash Receptacles

**Type:** Recycled metal drum  
**Use:** Trash can standard for most circumstances  
**Size:** 55-Gallon  
**Finish:** Painted green or gray  
**Options:** Receptacle enclosure (dark green or gray)  
**Installation:** All trash receptacles shall be placed on and secured to a pad with ground space dimension not less than 3’ long and 3’ wide (see detail).

Generally, 4” cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, decking, or other paving method is approved through the design review process.
Description: Free standing water fountains shall be used conservatively. When possible, the incorporation of wall mounted fountains into existing or proposed site buildings is preferred. However, freestanding fountains should be used in isolated active parks where no other potable water source is available. Pet fountains shall be used at all dog parks. All fountains shall be designed to be easily winterized.

Type: ADA accessible with optional pet fountain

Use: To be used at isolated active parks where no other potable water source is available

Finish: Black powder coated

Options: Locking hose bid assembly

Installation: All free standing water fountains shall be surface mounted to a pad with ground space dimensions not less than 8’ wide and 5’ long. Generally, 4” cast in place concrete slabs shall be installed except where asphalt, crushed rock or other paving method is approved.
Use: Dog waste bag dispensers are to be utilized for encouraging pet owner’s to clean up after their pets.

Materials: Dog waste bag dispensers are made of polyethylene plastic material that is durable to outdoor use and UV protected.

Options: The dispenser may be stocked with two boxes (400 total) of biodegradable bags, or where deemed appropriate a neighborhood may supply bags as directed by operational and maintenance staff members.

Installation: Dispensers shall be attached using stainless steel fasteners to 2” x 2” standard metal posts. Installation shall be located directly next to a trash enclosure at all times.