



**CAPE FEAR  
TRAILS**

# Cape Fear Trails Signage Guide

February 2026



# Introduction

## Overview

### Signage Guide Overview

Cape Fear Trails is the regional brand for the growing network of trails in the Wilmington area. The Cape Fear Trails signage guide has been developed to support consistent, high-quality communication across all WMPO member jurisdictions by outlining recommended signage and wayfinding elements for a regionally branded trail network. A unified approach to trail signage helps users navigate confidently, improves safety and accessibility, and creates a cohesive experience as they move between communities. Thoughtfully designed and clearly placed signage reduces uncertainty for less experienced users, enhances comfort and security, and makes the trail network more welcoming and intuitive for people of all ages and abilities.

The development of this guide was informed by input from planning partners, specifically staff from WMPO member jurisdictions, and trail users across the region. Their feedback shaped the guide's content, addressed common challenges in maintaining consistency, and clarified signage and user experience needs across different trail facilities. By combining professional best practices with these insights, the guide presents regionally branded signage recommendations that provide practical guidance for implementing a safe, intuitive, and cohesive trail network throughout the Wilmington region.

### Purpose and Intent

The primary purpose of this guide is to provide WMPO member jurisdictions with a clear and practical reference for producing trail signage that meets the Cape Fear Trails regional standard. It includes guidance for consistent design, placement, and branding of all signage and pavement markings across the trail network, while ensuring that local installations align with established national regulatory standards.

By following this guide, member jurisdictions can implement a unified signage system that supports safe and effective navigation for all trail users. The recommendations also aim to enhance trail experiences, enabling users to move through the network confidently and with a clear understanding of their surroundings, no matter which jurisdiction they are traveling through.

### Applicability of Guidance

For the purposes of the Cape Fear Trails signage guide, all recommendations apply exclusively to off-road trail facilities, including greenways and shared use paths. This guide does not provide guidance or recommendations for on-road bicycle facilities. Key definitions as they apply to this guide are provided on the following page.

# Introduction

## Overview

### How the Guide is Organized

The guide is organized into sections that reflect the key components of the Cape Fear Trails signage guide. An overview of the sections is provided below.

#### 1. Introduction

Outlines the purpose of the guide, explains how input and national standards informed its development, and provides a preview of the contents.

#### 2. Brand Standards

Outlines the Cape Fear Trails regional brand and the design elements that support a consistent visual identity across all signage and materials.

#### 3. Regulatory and Warning Signs

Outlines the sign types and appropriate placement for regulatory and warning signage in different trail contexts.

#### 4. Wayfinding Signs and Pavement Markings

Outlines the sign types, design requirements, and appropriate placement for wayfinding signage and pavement markings in different trail contexts.

#### 5. Implementation Guidance

Outlines general installation standards that support consistent and accessible placement of signage and markings across the regional trail network. It complements the detailed sign type guidance provided in sections 3 and 4 by addressing system-wide placement consideration.

### Definitions

Trail - An off-road shared use path or greenway facility designated for the use of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users. A trail is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic and is intended to support both recreational and transportation travel.

Trail Users - People using an off-road shared use path or greenway, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users as permitted by the facility. Trail users include individuals of varying ages, abilities, and travel purposes.

Regulatory Signs - Signs that inform trail users of laws, rules, or regulations that apply to trail use.

Warning Signs - Signs that alert trail users to unexpected conditions or potential hazards on or adjacent to the trail.

Wayfinding Signs - Signs that provide navigational guidance, route identification, and destination information to help trail users remain on the intended route and reach their destinations.

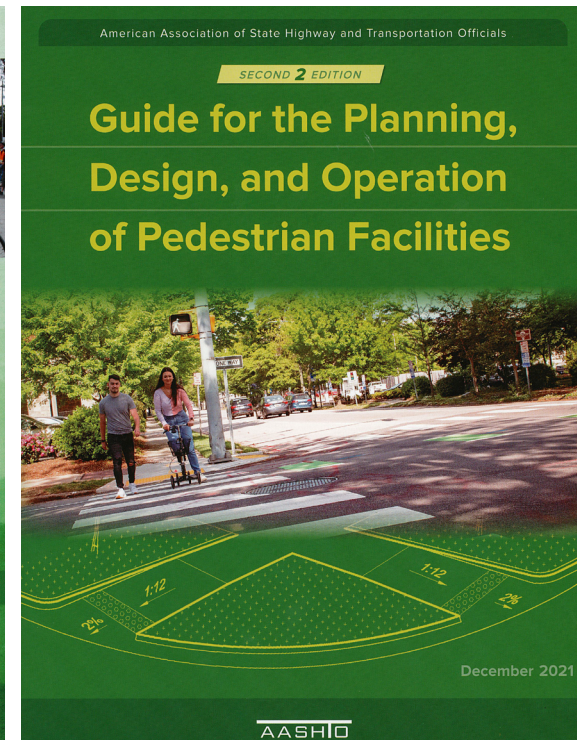
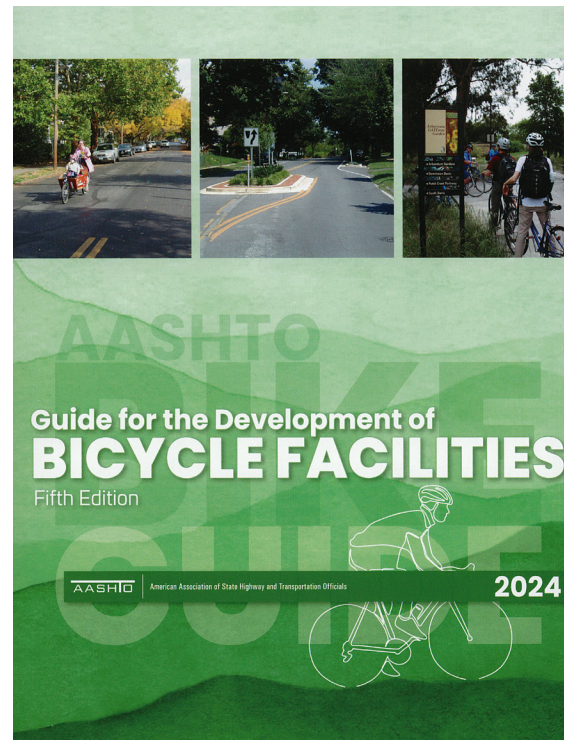
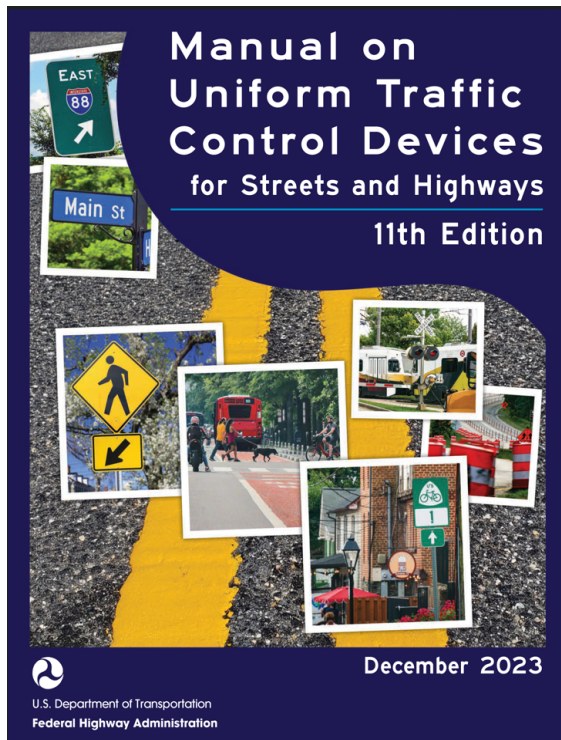
Pavement Markings - Surface markings used to organize movement, convey traffic rules such as lane separation or stop areas, warn of hazards, and provide wayfinding guidance for safe navigation.

# Introduction

## Reference Manuals

### Reference Manuals and Design Standards

All recommendations in this guide follow the latest editions of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities and Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities where applicable. These national references provide the framework that supports uniform, safe, and accessible trail and bicycle facility design. By grounding the guide in these standards, the Cape Fear Trails network can maintain consistency and national best practices while still accommodating local context.



Source: FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 11th Edition; AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition; AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, 2nd Edition

# Introduction

## Guiding Input

### Planning Partner Input

In November 2025, WMPO staff hosted a virtual meeting with member jurisdiction planning partners to review the development of the trail signage guide and the proposed regional approach. Input from this discussion directly influenced key design decisions, including the regional Cape Fear Trails logo and the visual characteristics of the wayfinding signage, such as color palette, layout, and overall look and feel. This collaborative process helped ensure the signage system reflects regional priorities while remaining practical for implementation by member jurisdictions.

### Trail User Input

In October 2025, WMPO staff conducted surveys at Empie Park and Autumn Hall along the Cross City Trail in Wilmington and at Mike Chappell Park on the Island Greenway in Carolina Beach to better understand trail users' needs and experiences. Staff aimed to meet trail users where they were, which is why the surveys were conducted on-site at these trail locations. Each location was surveyed three times during weekday mornings, weekday afternoons, and Saturday mornings between October 18 and October 25, with all surveying sessions lasting approximately one hour.

The survey questions, included on this page, focused on trail use, wayfinding, and signage preferences.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Circle the main purpose of your trip today:**

Commuting      Recreation/exercise      Other

**2. What information would you find most helpful on trail signs? (Check all that apply)**

Directions/wayfinding to nearby destinations

Trail rules and guidelines

Maps

Mile markers

Safety information

Intersection/yield reminders (e.g., "Stop," "Yield to pedestrians")

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What concerns do you have about trail use or signage? (Check all that apply)**

Not knowing where the trail leads/getting lost

Trail rules not clearly posted

No or inconsistent mile markers

Not sure how to report trail maintenance or safety issues

Not enough safety signs at crossings or intersections for trail users

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

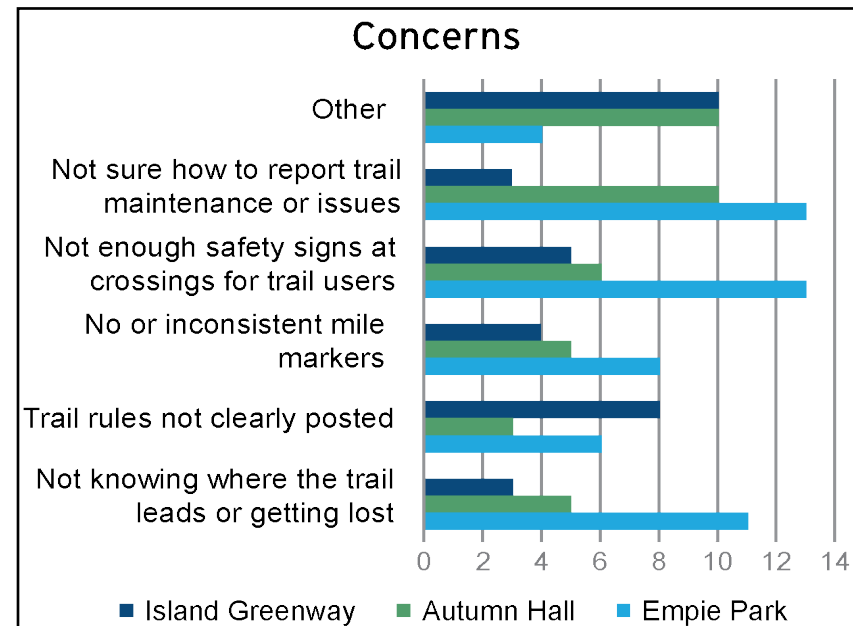
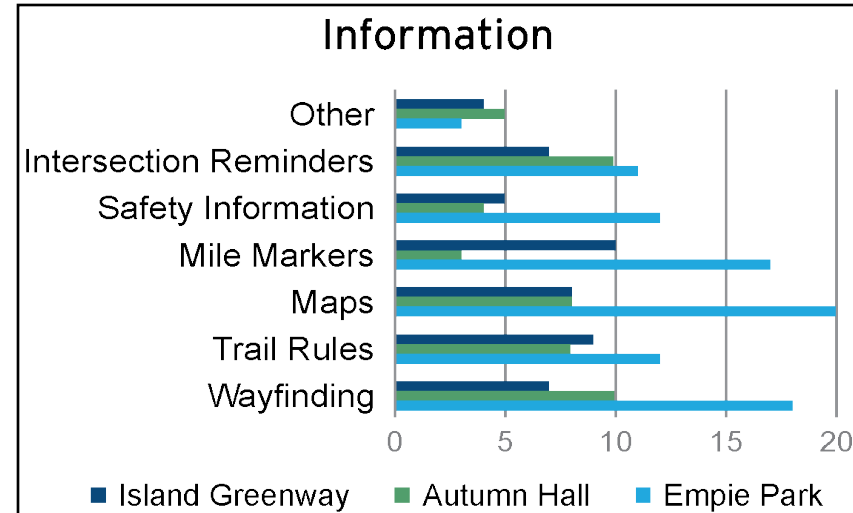
# Introduction

## Guiding Input

### Trail User Input

Feedback from trail users highlighted the critical need for clear and consistent information throughout the region’s trail network to support both safe and enjoyable experiences. Users repeatedly noted that maps, directional and wayfinding signs, and mile markers were the most helpful tools for understanding trail layouts, navigating between destinations, and tracking progress along the trails. Users also shared concerns related to safety and clarity, pointing to limited signage at crossings, a lack of clear guidance for reporting maintenance issues, and confusion about where trails lead or how to stay on the intended route. The results of the survey are summarized in the two graphs on this page, showing both the types of information users found most helpful and the concerns they identified.

This feedback played a central role in shaping the development of the Cape Fear Trails signage guide. It directly informed which types of wayfinding signs should be included to provide consistent guidance across different trail segments. In addition, users’ concerns about safety highlighted gaps that could be addressed through additional regulatory and warning signs, ensuring that both navigational and safety needs are met through the introduction of signage. Incorporating this input ensures that the signage guide reflects the perspectives of actual trail users within the implementation recommendations being provided to member jurisdictions.



# Brand Standards

## Overview

### Section Overview

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This section establishes brand standards for Cape Fear Trails to support a cohesive visual identity and a consistent navigation experience across the regional trail system. These standards are intended for use by WMPO member jurisdictions when planning, designing, and installing wayfinding elements along trails.

This section includes guidance for the use of the Cape Fear Trails logo, approved fonts and color palettes, symbols and arrows, and trail map design. Map standards address layout, required content, and appearance of maps included on wayfinding sign assemblies. To support consistent implementation, a standardized map template will be provided for use across jurisdictions.

These brand standards apply primarily to wayfinding signage. While the standards may also be applied to select communications and outreach materials such as flyers, posters, social media graphics, and presentations, their use outside of wayfinding signage should follow the guidance outlined in this section.

Regulatory and warning signs are governed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and are not addressed in this section.

The logos, icons, design and map elements, and other graphics included in this section are available to download in an EPS or SVG file format as applicable at [www.wmpo.org/cape-fear-trails](http://www.wmpo.org/cape-fear-trails).

# Graphic Standards

## Logos

### Logos

#### Logo Usage

The Cape Fear Trails logo should be used on most wayfinding signs and materials to create a consistent regional trail identity and enhance user confidence. Apply and place the logo as specified on cut sheets for wayfinding signage.

#### General Rules:

- Use only the official EPS logo files provided by WMPO
- Do not stretch, rotate, or otherwise alter the logo
- Maintain original proportions
- Do not change logo colors
- Use only approved brand colors for single-color logos

#### Logo Variations

##### Orientation

- Vertical logos (V1, V2, V3): when space is tall or square
- Horizontal logos (H1, H2, H3): when space is wide or short
- Icon-only logos (L1, L2): when space is limited

##### Background Color

- White or light backgrounds: V1 or H1
- Navy or dark backgrounds: V2, H2, or L1
- Single-color applications: V3, H3, or L2



# Graphic Standards

## Fonts

### Fonts

**Interstate** font is used throughout the Cape Fear Trails signage system. Interstate font provides clear, legible text at typical viewing distances and angles. It was selected for its similarity to Highway Gothic, an MUTCD-compliant signage font. Interstate is more accessible and is available through Adobe Fonts. Highway Gothic may be used as an alternative when available.

The wayfinding sign cut sheets specify font sizes.

- (T1) Text should be used for headers, including trail names.
- (T2) Text should be used for sub-headers.
- (T3) Text should be used for body text.

(T1) **ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**  
**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**  
**1234567890**

**Interstate Black**

(T2) **ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**  
**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**  
**1234567890**

**Interstate Bold**

(T3) **ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**  
**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**  
**1234567890**

**Interstate Regular**

# Graphic Standards

## Icons

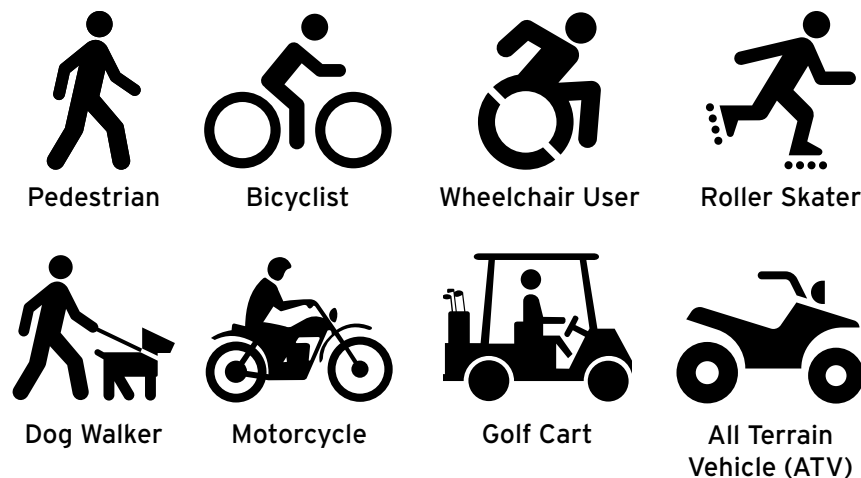
### Icons

#### Icons

Icons are an important tool in communicating to a diverse audience.

These icons have been selected for use with the sign system and other Cape Fear Trails communications and materials.

Icon IDs are used throughout the guide to reference approved symbols and their uses. Only icons shown here should be used unless otherwise approved by the WMPO.

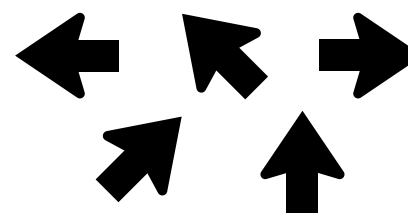


Green Check Mark

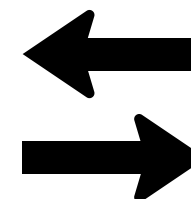


Red X

#### Directional Arrows



#### Turn Arrows



#### Arrows

The directional arrows selected for the sign program are legible and easily recognized.

# Graphic Standards

## Design Elements

### Design Elements

The Trail Header graphic is a decorative design element used at the top of most wayfinding signs. The use of this element is limited to what is prescribed within the sign guide and cut sheets. Further use of the Trail Header graphic should be avoided unless approved by the WMPO.

The cut sheets describe when the Trail Header Graphic should be used, and which dimensions are needed.

The design elements shown to the right are not to scale.



24x10 Trail Header



36x54 Trail Header

# Graphic Standards

## Colors

### Colors

These colors make up the color palette for Cape Fear Trails wayfinding signs and communications.

#### Primary Colors

Navy blue serves as the background color for wayfinding signs. Use white text on navy backgrounds. Navy blue and white are the dominant colors on wayfinding signs.

#### Secondary Colors

The secondary colors are drawn from the Cape Fear Trails logo and may be used as accent colors in communications and supporting graphics.

#### Limited-Use Color

Slate is used within specific design elements and should be used sparingly in communications as an alternative to navy blue.

#### Primary



Navy Blue  
#003a70  
Pantone 654 C



White  
#ffffff  
Pantone 11-0601 TCX

#### Secondary



Trail Gray  
#6b7584  
Pantone 4128 C



North Yellow  
#f7d300  
Pantone Yellow C



West Orange  
#fbb040  
Pantone 150 C



South Green  
#539c6b  
Pantone 7730 C



East Blue  
#29aae1  
Pantone 298 C

#### Limited-Use



Slate  
#1c3545  
Pantone 7546 C

# Graphic Standards

## Trail Maps

### Trail Maps for Wayfinding Signs

Trail maps for wayfinding signage should follow the provided example and use the designated color palette. Each map should align with nearby directional signs and clearly show the surrounding trail area.

Font for map labels: **Arial**

- 25 pt for Location Labels
- 30 pt for Street Names

Content to include on trail maps:

- Trail facility
- Connecting trail facilities where applicable
- Roadways
- Transit stops
- Parks
- Relevant points of interest (POI)
- “You are Here” location marker (star icon)
- Water bodies

Icons for trail maps:



Transit Stop Icon



“You are here” Star Icon

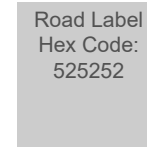


Point of Interest Icon

Color palette for trail maps:



Trail Facility  
Hex Code: #884C9E



Road Label  
Hex Code: 525252

Roadway  
Hex Code: #CCCCCC



Land  
Hex Code: #EFEBDA



Park Label  
Hex Code: 194A00

Park  
Hex Code: #C6E2B2



Water Label  
Hex Code: 0073B2

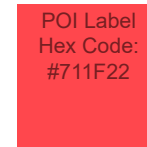
Water Body  
Hex Code: #86CBE4



Transit Stop  
Hex Code: #0367A6



“You are here” Star Icon  
Hex Code: #F7D300



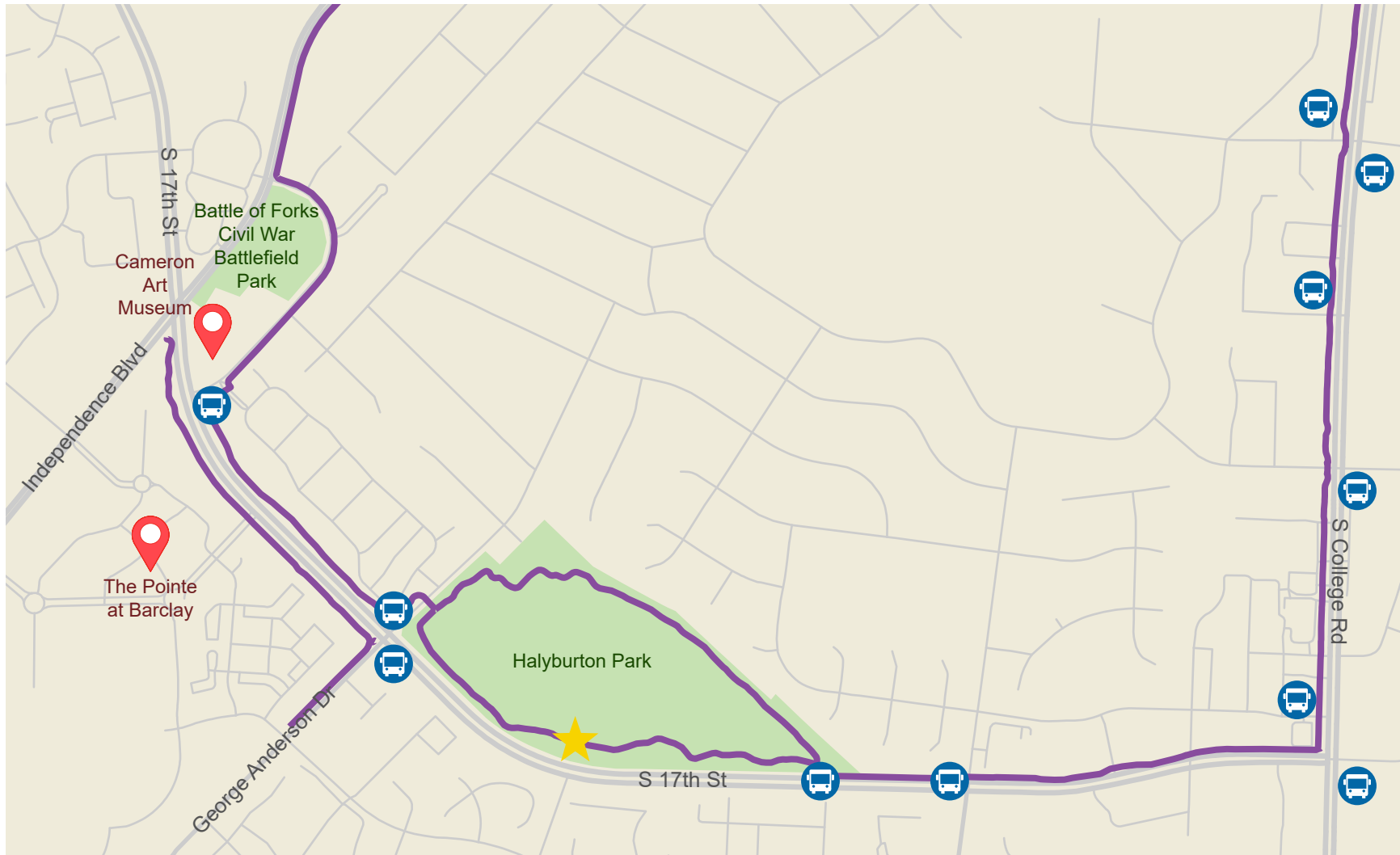
POI Label  
Hex Code: #711F22

POI Icon  
Hex Code: #FF474D

# Graphic Standards

## Trail Maps

### Trail Maps for Wayfinding Signs - Example



# Regulatory and Warning Signs

## Section Overview

Regulatory signs inform shared use path users of rules, regulations, and requirements. Warning signs alert users to changes in the path such as curves, narrowing, cross traffic, steep grades, and areas of potential high water. All regulatory and warning signage guidance is based on existing guidelines, from the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (5th edition) and the FHWA MUTCD (11th edition). Regulatory and warning signs included in this document are MUTCD compliant and should be implemented per MUTCD guidance.

The MUTCD 11th edition can be accessed via the FHWA website at <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.

Pavement markings for regulatory or warning purposes are also included in this section. Recommendations for markings were also developed in line with the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (5th edition) and MUTCD (11th edition).

This section includes specific wording to indicate the level of obligation for agencies when implementing regulatory and warning signs. The term “shall” indicates a mandatory standard, while “should” indicates recommended practice for typical situations. The term “may” is used when agencies have an option to choose whether to take the option.

Term	Obligation	Deviation?	Example
Shall	Required	No	Signs shall be retroreflective or illuminated so that they are visible at night.
Should	Recommended	Yes, with engineering judgment	Warning signs should be used in advance of locations where users may encounter unexpected conditions.
May	Optional	Yes	Shared use path plaques may be used to clarify that the facility is intended for bicyclists and pedestrians.

# Regulatory Signs

## Stop and Yield

Application of intersection controls should follow the principle of providing the least amount of restriction that is effective. Yield signs shall be installed where users have an adequate view of conflicting traffic as they approach the sign, and where users are required to yield the right-of-way to that conflicting traffic. Stop signs shall be installed at locations where shared use path users are required to stop.

When the placement of stop or yield signs is being considered, the right of way at a shared use path/roadway intersection should be assigned with consideration of the following:

- Local and state law
- Relative speeds of shared use path and roadway users
- Relative volumes of shared use path and roadway traffic
- Relative importance of shared use path and roadway

Intersections with no restrictive control may be feasible where the volume and speed of traffic is low and the recommended intersection sight distance is available for all approaches. As the combined volume of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic approaches 2,000 users/day into an intersection, and where intersections have

more than three approaches, the application of a yield or stop sign may be desirable.

For a shared use path/roadway intersection, the user volumes on the path should be considered. In such situations, the total user delay may be minimized if roadway traffic yields to path traffic. Yield or stop control is more appropriately applied on the roadway approaches, given analysis of speeds, sight distances, and traffic volume.

When sight distance is limited, efforts should be made to increase it by removing any obstructions or by providing geometric design that improves sight lines. The application of stop control may be required where adequate stopping distance cannot be provided to allow motorists to yield based on operating approach speeds, or where crash history indicates that restrictive control can remedy the crash problem.



R1-1



R1-2

# Regulatory Signs

## Stop and Yield

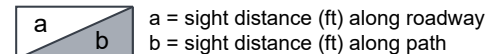
At locations where the volume of traffic from all approaches is relatively equal, there is an option to implement all-way stop control or choose an approach or approaches on which to apply restrictive control. Where all-way stop control is not desired, restrictive control should be applied to

- Approaches that conflict with the most pedestrians and cyclists;
- Approaches with obscured sight lines, dips, or crests that require lower approach speeds;
- Approaches with the longer sight distance from a controlled perspective to observe potentially conflicting traffic; and
- An approach of a low-volume street, road, highway, driveway, or shared use path where the application of the normal right of way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law.

### Example Placements

Yield sign for path users at intersection of Cross City Trail and Park Ave at Empie Park.  
 Yield sign for roadway at intersection of Cross City Trail and Wagoner Drive at UNCW.  
 Stop sign for path users at intersection of Cross City Trail and Riegel Road at UNCW.

Length of Path and Roadway Sight Triangle (ft)						
Bike Speed (mph)	Roadway Speed (mph)					
	15	20	25	30	35	40
10	96 58	128 59	160 63	192 68	224 74	255 81
11	97 64	129 65	162 69	194 75	226 82	258 89
12	98 70	131 70	164 75	197 82	230 89	262 97
15	105 87	140 88	174 94	209 102	244 111	279 122
18	112 105	150 106	187 113	225 122	262 134	300 146
20	118 116	157 117	197 125	236 136	275 149	315 162
25	133 145	178 147	222 156	266 170	311 186	355 203
30	149 174	199 176	249 188	298 204	348 223	398 244



Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition

Assumptions: Bicycle reaction time = 1.5 seconds  
 Width of path = 10 ft to 11 ft  
 Width of road lane = 11 ft to 12 ft  
 Length of bicycle = 6 ft  
 Length of motor vehicle = 18 ft  
 Grade = -2 percent to +2 percent

# Regulatory Signs

## No Motor Vehicles

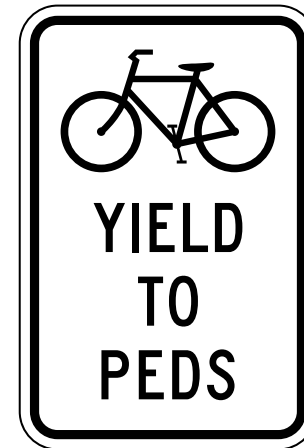
These signs may be installed at the entrance of a shared use path or at locations where the path is wide enough to fit a vehicle.



R5-3

## Bicycles Yield

This sign may be used at locations where a bicyclist is required to cross or share a facility used by pedestrians and is required to yield to the pedestrians.



R9-6

### Example Placements

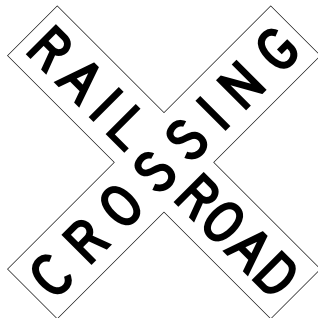
At Island Greenway gateway off Texas Ave (bollard placed currently).

At Oleander Drive/Independence Boulevard Intersection of Cross City Trail.

# Regulatory Signs

## Grade Crossing

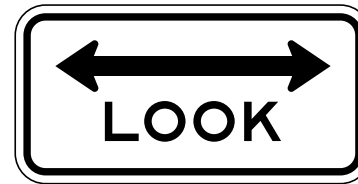
This sign should be used at approach to at-grade railroad crossings. It may be paired with a LOOK sign.



R15-1

## LOOK

The LOOK sign may be used in conjunction with a grade crossing sign at approach to railroad crossings. A LOOK sign should not be mounted on a Crossbuck Assembly that has a yield or stop sign mounted on the same support as the crossbuck.



R15-8

# Warning Signs

## Horizontal Alignment

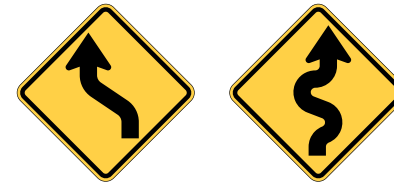
These signs may be placed at approach to unexpected changes in trail direction, at least 50 feet in advance.



W1-1

W1-2

W1-3

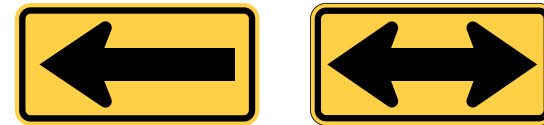


W1-4

W1-5

## Large Arrow

A large arrow sign may be placed at approach to unexpected changes in trail direction, at least 50 feet in advance.



W1-6

W1-7

## Intersection Warnings

Intersection warning signs may be placed in advance of an intersection of a trail and roadway to indicate the presence of an intersection when engineering judgment determines that the visibility of the intersection is limited on the shared use path approach. These signs should not be used where an intersection is controlled by a stop or yield sign or controlled by a signal. These signs should be placed 50 feet in advance of the intersection.



W2-1

W2-2

W2-3



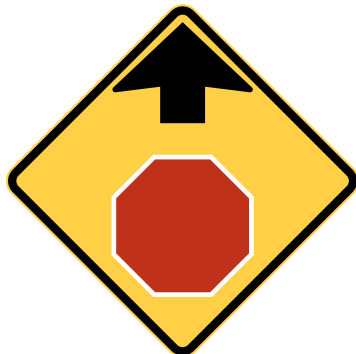
W2-4

W2-5

# Warning Signs

## Stop, Yield, and Signal Ahead

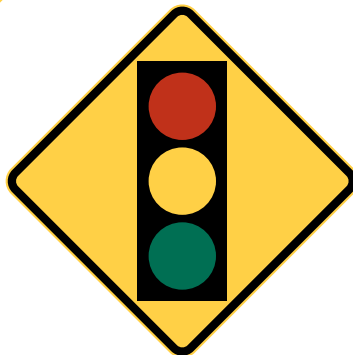
These signs should be placed on approach to primary traffic control devices that are not visible from a sufficient distance. Use the sight triangle table for reference.



W3-1



W3-2



W3-3

## Path Conditions

Signs which alert shared use path users to conditions which are not readily apparent may be placed on approach to those conditions. If used, these signs should be installed at least 50 feet in advance of the beginning of the condition.



W5-4a



W7-5



W8-10, W8-10P



W8-1



W8-2



W8-3

# Warning Signs

## Rail Crossing

A warning sign may be placed in advance of a crossing where the crossing is not readily apparent. If used, these signs should be installed at least 50 feet in advance of the crossing.

A skewed crossing sign may be placed at approach to a skewed crossing where it is not readily apparent. If used, these signs should be installed at least 50 feet in advance of the crossing.



W10-1



W10-12

## Low Clearance

This sign may be placed at approach to an underpass or bridge which has low clearance.



W12-2

# Regulatory and Warning Signs

## Dimensions

### Sign Dimensions

Sign Name	MUTCD Sign Code	Minimum Dimensions
Stop	R1-1	18x18
Yield	R1-2	18x18x18
No Motor Vehicles	R5-3	24x24
Bicycles Yield to Pedestrians	R9-6	12x18
Grade Crossing (Crossbuck)	R15-1	24x4.5
Look	R15-8	18x9
Horizontal Alignment	W1-1,2,3,4,5	18x18
Large Arrow	W1-6,7	24x12
Intersection Warnings	W2-1,2,3,4,5	18x18
Stop, Yield, Signal Ahead	W3-1,2,3	18x18
Path Conditions	W5-4a, W7-5, W8-1,2,3,10, W8-10P	18x18, 12x9 (plaque)
Rail Crossing	W10-1	24 dia.
Skewed Crossing	W10-12	18x18
Low Clearance	W12-2	18x18

Source: FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD), 11th Edition

# Warning Signs

## Object Markers

Object marker (Type 3) signs shall be placed where there are obstructions within or adjacent to a shared use path. A smaller version of the Type 3 object marker (6x18) shall be used when the sign is not intended to be seen by motorists.

**Type 3:** a striped marker, 6x18 inches, consisting of a vertical rectangle with alternating black and retroreflective yellow stripes sloping downward at an angle of 45 degrees toward the side of the obstruction on which traffic is to pass. The minimum width of the yellow and black stripes shall be 3 inches.

Type 3 object markers with stripes that begin at the upper right side and slope downward to the lower left side are designated as right object markers (OM3-R). Object markers with stripes that begin at the upper left side and slope downward to the lower right side are designated as left object markers (OM3-L). Object markers with chevron stripes that slope downward to both the lower left and lower right sides are designated as center object markers (OM3-C).



OM3-L



OM3-C



OM3-R

# Pavement Markings

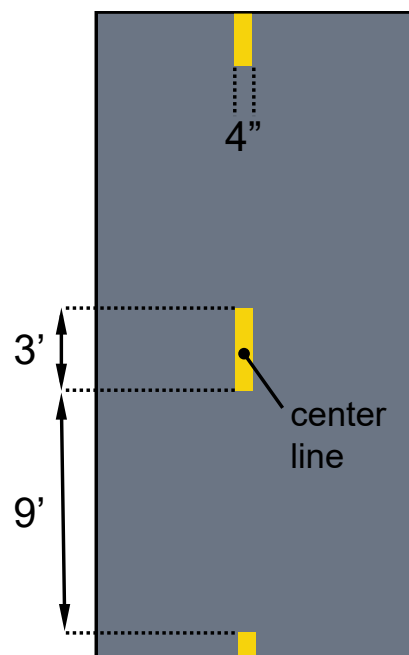
## Center Lines

Center lines are optional on shared use paths. A broken 4- to 6-inch yellow center line is the most typical where a center line is placed to encourage directional travel on one half of the path. Broken yellow lines should only be used where passing is permitted, while a solid yellow center line may be used to separate opposite directions of travel where passing is inadvisable. The broken lines should have a 1-to-3 segment-to-gap ratio with a 3-ft solid line followed by a 9-ft gap.

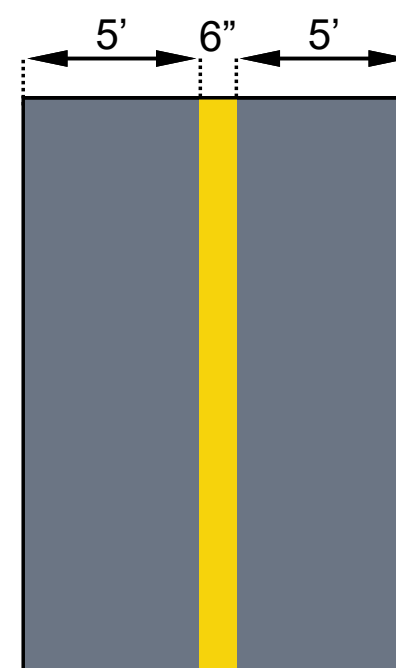
A center line may span an entire path or be used only at specific locations. The use of a center line stripe may be particularly beneficial in the following circumstances:

- Shared use paths with high user volumes (continuous)
- On curves with restricted sight distance (localized)
- On unlit shared use paths where nighttime use is permitted (continuous)
- When approaching intersections (localized)
- When approaching obstructions within the center of the shared use path, such as bollards (localized).

A solid 4- to 6-inch yellow center line may be used on the approach to intersections to discourage passing on the approach and departure of an intersection. If used, the stripe should be the length of the stopping sight distance from the edge of the sidewalk or roadway. A consistent approach to intersection striping may help increase awareness of intersections.



Note: Center line is 4" to 6" wide  
Broken line is 3'  
Gap between lines is 9'



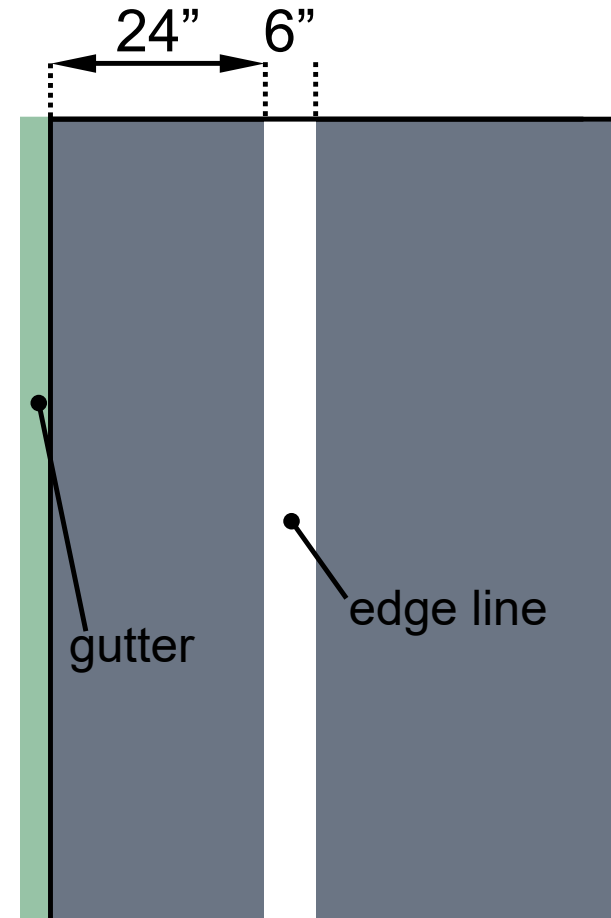
Note: Center line is 4" to 6"  
Minimum recommended path width is 10'

# Pavement Markings

## Edge Lines

4- to 6-inch white edge markings may be used on shared use paths under the following circumstances:

- Where nighttime use is permitted or routinely occurs
- At approaches to intersections to alert path users of changing conditions
- To separate pedestrians from cyclists when the path design includes a separate area for pedestrian travel
- When the shared use path width is changing significantly over a relatively short distance
- Approaches to marked constraints on the outside edge of the path, such as entrances to tunnels or when passing bridge abutments
- To establish a shy distance from an obstruction that may otherwise not be noticeable (see the section below for more guidance). Shy distance refers to lateral space trail users naturally keep between themselves and the edge of the path, or the buffer zone between the usable trail surface and the physical or perceived edge of the path.



Note: Edge line is 4" to 6"  
 Minimum recommended path width is 10'  
 Shy distance is 12" to 36"

# Pavement Markings

## Edge Lines

Physical Element	Shy Distance (inches)	
	Practical Minimum	Recommended Range
Intermittent Elements (tree, flex post, pole, etc.)*	0	24-36
Traffic Signs and Supportive Posts adjacent to Paths	24	36-48
Continuous Elements (fence, railing, gutter, etc.)	12	24-38
Vertical Curbs	6	12-24
Mountable or Sloping Curbs	0	6-12

*\*To reduce crash risks, eliminating the shy distance is not preferable as any additional shy distance will be beneficial.*

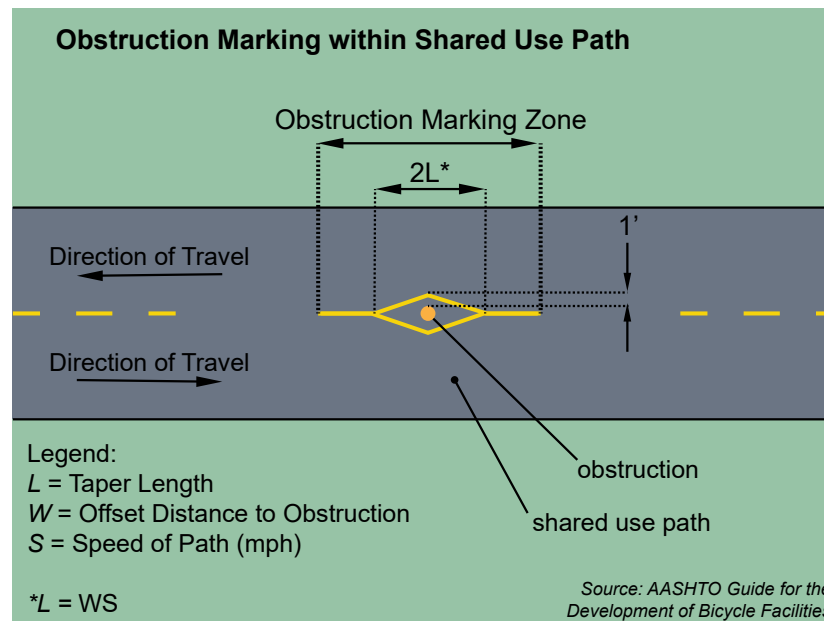
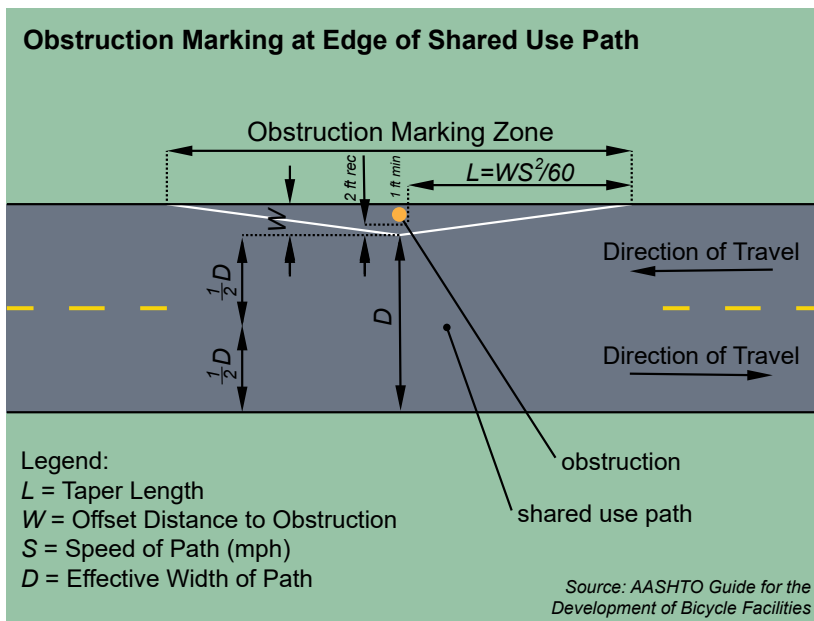
*Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition*

# Pavement Markings

## Obstruction Markings

Where an obstruction on the path cannot be avoided, channelizing lines should be used to aid users to avoid it. Channelizing lines (yellow for center, white for edge), should be used to guide users around the obstruction with advanced warning by signs if the obstruction is not otherwise visible.

For an obstruction located on the edge of the path, the edge line can also be supplemented with buffer markings or colored pavement to further emphasize the hazard. If a center line is present at the location, it should be adjusted to maintain relatively equal lane widths.



# Pavement Markings

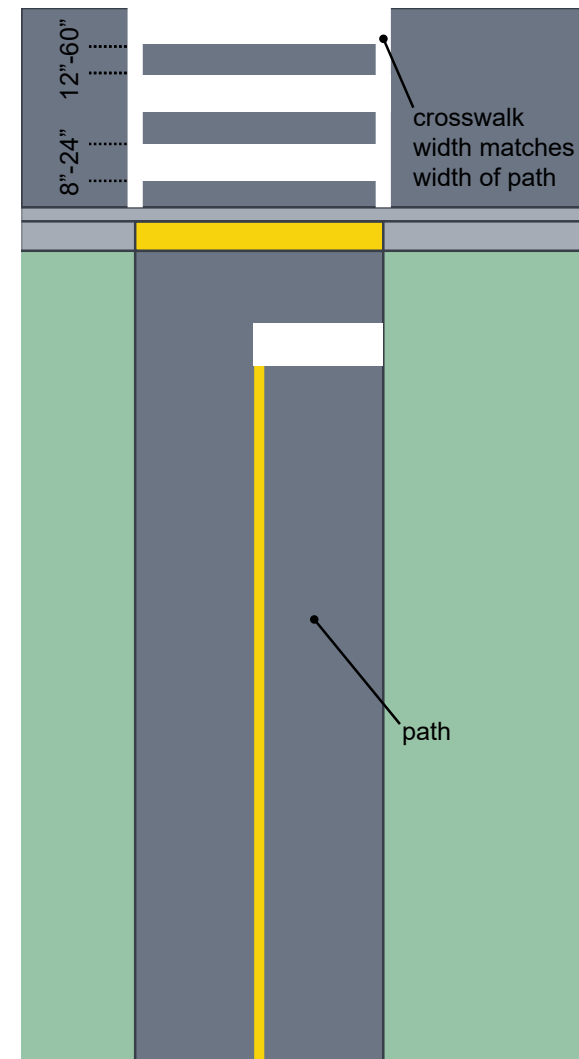
## Marked Crosswalks

Marked crosswalks are recommended at shared use path crossings of roadways. At midblock crossings, a marked crosswalk is necessary to establish a legal pedestrian crosswalk. Without a crosswalk, pedestrians and cyclists have the right to cross a roadway if they yield to approaching vehicles on that roadway and they are not restricted from crossing by a posted sign.

Locations where shared use paths intersect one another should follow similar design considerations for shared use path/roadway intersections, including:

- Making intersections conspicuous to all users;
- Providing adequate sight lines;
- Designing intersections and approaches with relatively flat grades;
- Designing intersections as close to a right angle as practical;
- Using speed reduction techniques where needed; and
- Using shared use path widening at intersections where needed.

Crosswalks shall be white. The height of each stripe shall be between 8 to 24 inches. The gap between each stripe shall be between 12 and 60 inches. The width of the crosswalk shall match the width of the shared use path. If a center line is desirable, it shall be the standard width of 4 to 6 inches and be a solid or broken yellow stripe.

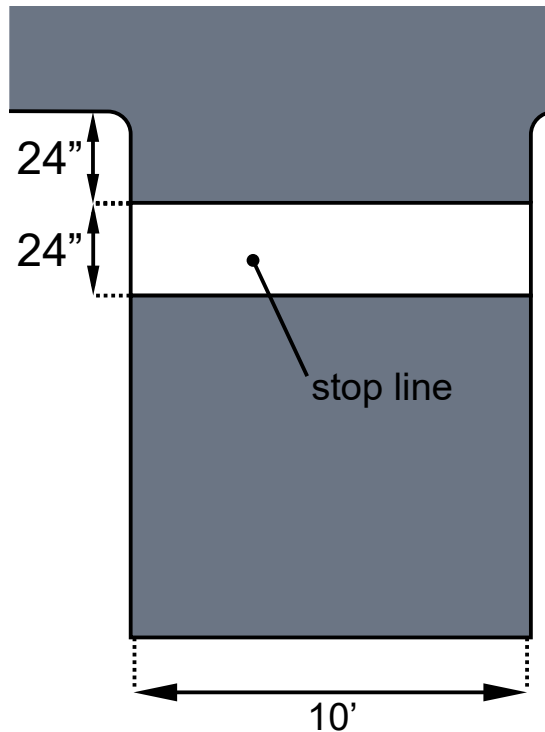


# Pavement Markings

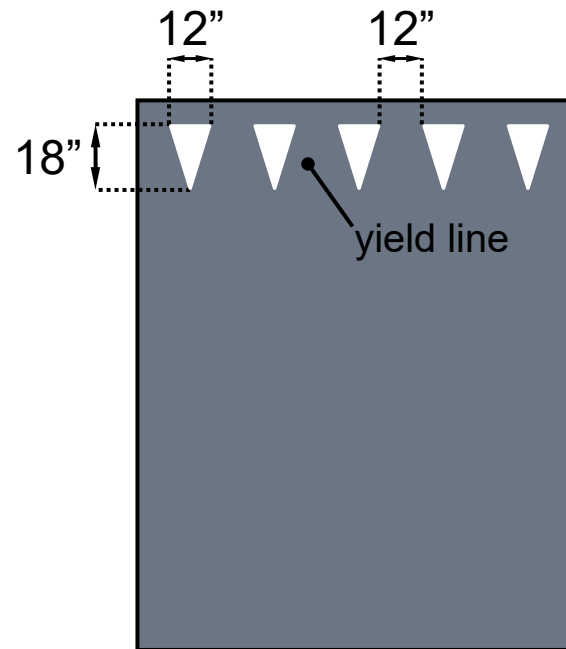
## Stop and Yield Lines

Stop or yield lines may be placed across the entire width of the path. If a center line is present, the stop or yield line should only be placed across the approaching section of the path. If used, the stop or yield line should be placed a minimum of two feet behind the nearest sidewalk or edge of roadway if a sidewalk is not present.

Stop lines should be white lines, 12 to 24 inches wide. Yield lines should comprise individual triangles with a base of 12 to 24 inches wide and a height equal to 1.5 times the base. The space between the triangles should be 3 to 12 inches.



Note: Stop line may be entire width of the path if center line is not used  
Minimum recommended width of path is 10'



Note: Base of triangles is 12" to 24"  
Height of triangles is equal to 1.5 times the base  
Space between triangles is 3" to 12"

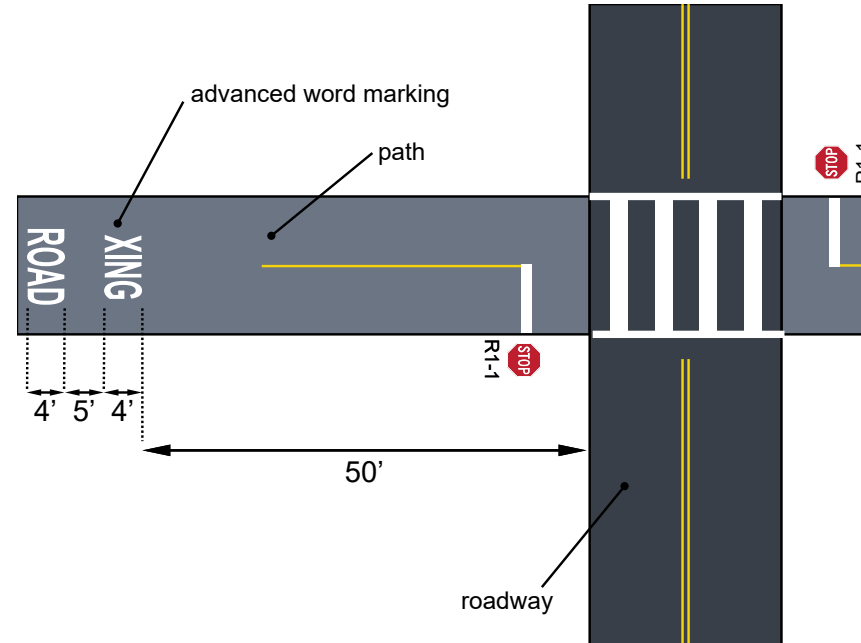
# Pavement Markings

## Advance Word or Symbol Markings

Advance word or symbol markings may be used on approaches to crossings where the crossing is unexpected or where there is a history of crashes, conflicts, or complaints. If a supplemental word marking is used, its leading edge should be located at or near the point where the approaching user passes the intersection warning sign or advance traffic control warning sign that the marking supplements.

Additional markings may be placed closer to the crossing if needed but should be at least 50 feet from the crossing. Advance pavement markings may be placed across the entire width of the path or within the approach lane.

Pavement markings should not replace the appropriate signs. They may be words or symbols as described in Parts 3, 8, and 9 of the MUTCD.



# Pavement Markings

## **Narrow Path Conditions**

---

The recommended minimum width of a shared use path is 10 feet. At locations where paths with higher volumes of users must narrow below recommended widths, consideration should be given to warning of the narrowed path condition. Advance warning signs should be considered where sight distance is restricted to the object or feature including the use of the path narrows sign. Appropriate channelization taper markings should be included to effect any changes in shared use path width ahead of the location. When narrower path widths occur at discrete locations, consider including a marked center line to help organize opposing directions of travel.

# Wayfinding Signs and Markings

## Section Overview

This section outlines the development of unified wayfinding signage recommendations for the region's trail network. The guidance is intended for WMPO member jurisdictions to implement using a consistent regional brand. Its purpose is to enhance trail users' experience by providing clear, consistent, and predictable navigation, reassurance, and safety information. These standards help users move smoothly between jurisdictions while maintaining uniform guidance, making it easier to navigate the Cape Fear Trails network with confidence.

This section also provides a detailed overview of the different types of wayfinding signs, guidance on appropriate placement along trail facilities, and cut sheets with specifications for fabrication and installation. This information is designed to support member jurisdictions in implementing the signage consistently, ensuring that the regional brand and messaging are applied uniformly while accommodating local context and trail conditions.

## Context and Considerations

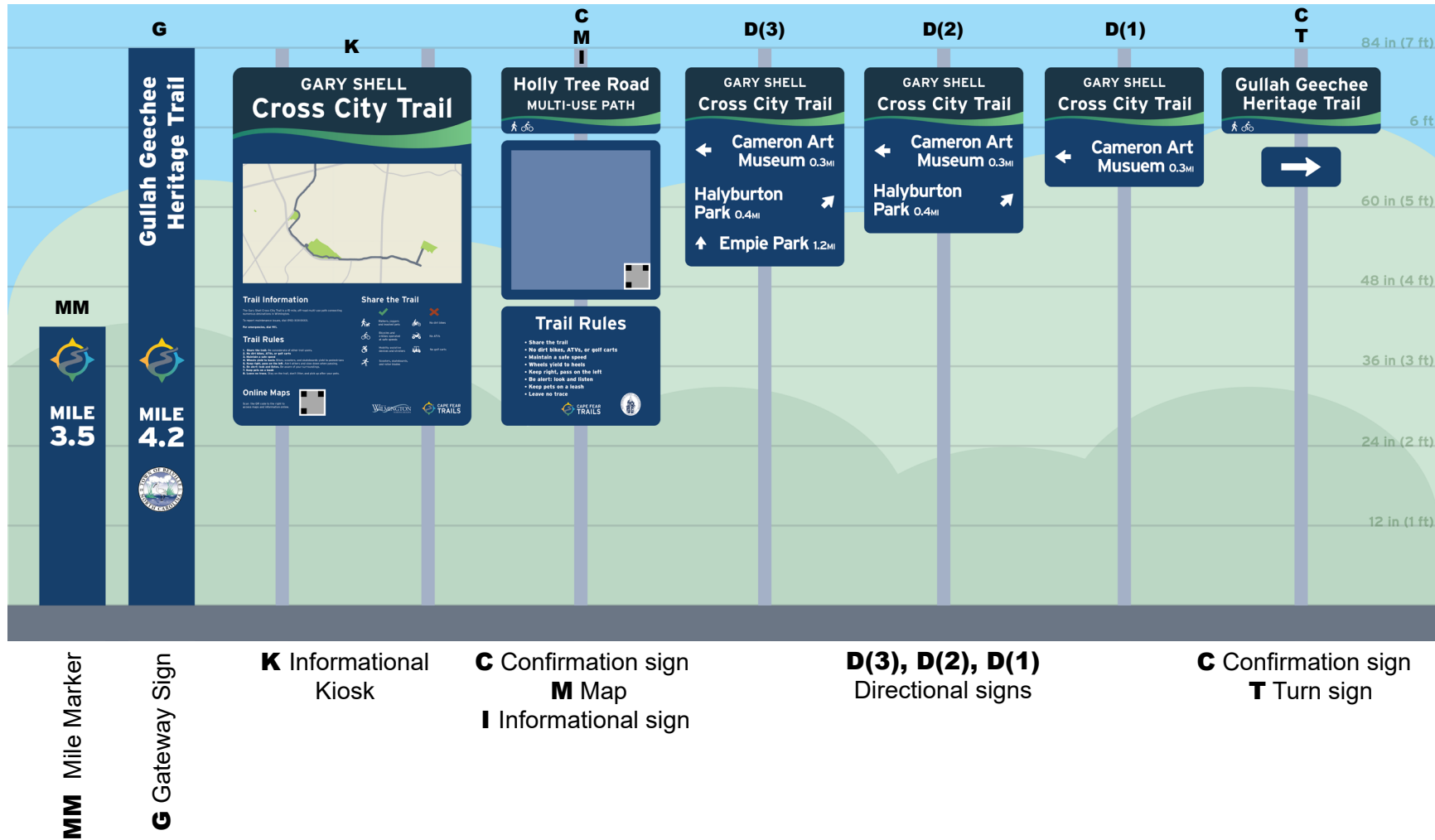
When implementing signage along trails, several factors should be considered to ensure guidance is clear, effective, and safe for all users.

Entry Points vs. Access Points - All primary entry points are access points, but not all access points are entrances. Entry points emphasize the start of the trail experience, while access points indicate locations where users may join or leave the trail network.

Sign Fatigue - Sign fatigue occurs when users encounter too many signs in a short distance, which can cause them to overlook or ignore important information. Proper placement and spacing help prevent this, ensuring that wayfinding and safety guidance remains effective and trail users can navigate the network confidently and safely.

# Wayfinding Signs

## Wayfinding Sign Family



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Confirmation Signs (C)

#### Definition

Signs that confirm to trail users that they are on the correct route or trail segment.

#### When to Use

- After directional signs and decision points
- Locations where a designated route is not linear
- After complex intersections
- *Do not use when another type of sign (turn, directional, regulatory, or warning) or pavement marking is present within 1-2 mile interval*
- *Do not use when approaching a turn*

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Approximately every 1-2 miles
- Within 50-100 feet immediately following turns

See the following cut sheet for sizing and layout details.

T1

T1

Pedestrian and  
Bicyclist

**Holly Tree Road  
MULTI-USE PATH**



**GARY SHELL  
Cross City Trail**



**Island Greenway**



**Gullah Geechee  
Heritage Trail**



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Confirmation Signs (C)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 24 inches wide x 10 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Install above other signs when part of an assembly

#### Layout and Graphics

- Use the standard background graphic titled “24x10 Trail Header” aligned to the top edge of the sign
- Size icons to 1.5 inches tall
- Place pedestrian icon 1.5 inches away from the left edge and 0.33 inches from the bottom edge of the sign
- Place bicyclist icon 3 inches away from the left edge and 0.33 inches from the bottom edge of the sign
- Do not resize or alter graphic elements

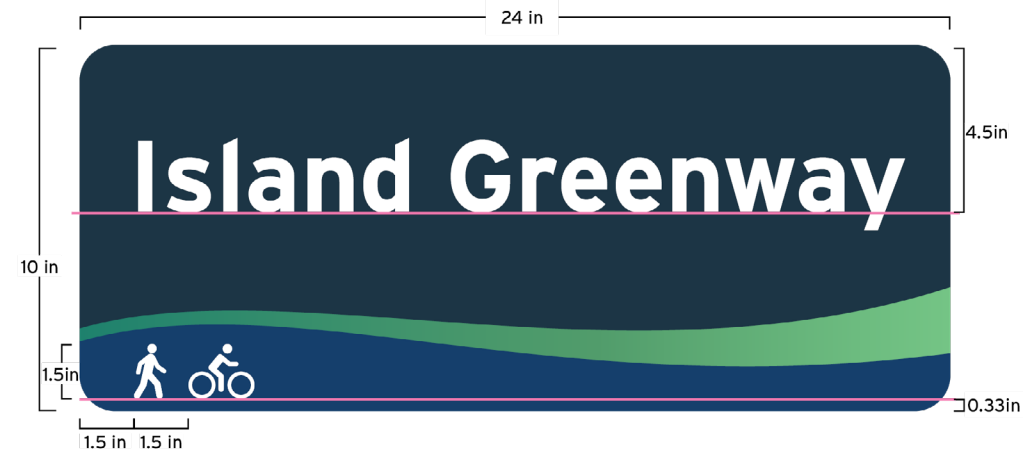
#### Text Options

##### One line:

- Place baseline of text 4.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Capital letters must be at least 2 inches tall

##### Two lines:

- First line of text begins 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Place baseline of second line of text 6.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Trail name: Mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall



— denotes baseline

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Directional Signs (D)

#### Definition

Signs that provide critical guidance for navigation, indicating destinations, route choices, and directional arrows at decision points. This type of wayfinding signs can also be referred to as a decision sign or destination sign. Each sign can display up to three destinations.

#### When to Use

- At decision points where route choices are available
- At intersections with other trail facilities or roadways

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Immediately at a decision point such as an intersection or at a turn.
- Within 50-100 feet immediately before an intersection or turn to allow for reaction time

See the following cut sheets for sizing and layout details.

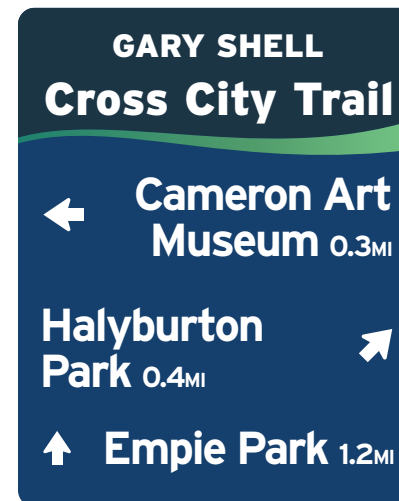


T1

T1

T2

24x10 Trail Header



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (1 Destination)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 24 inches wide x 18 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

- Use 24x10 Trail Header aligned to the top edge of the sign
- Vertically center directional arrows 4.5 inches above the bottom of the sign
- Align left edge of left- and up-pointing arrows 1.5 inches from the left edge of the sign
- Align right edge of right-pointing arrows 1.5 inches from the right side of the sign

#### Text Options - Header

##### One line:

- Place baseline of text 4.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Capital letters must be at least 2 inches tall

##### Two lines:

- First line of text begins 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Place baseline of second line of text 6.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Trail name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (1 Destination)

---

#### Text Options - Destination Listings

##### Destination text:

- Vertical spacing for destination listings requiring two lines of text must be 2.75 inches
- For destinations on the left or straight ahead, align text 1.5 inches from the right edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow.
- For destinations on the right, align text 1.5 inches from the left edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow
- Destination name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters

##### Distance text (optional):

- Place distance numeral one space after destination name
- Size text to 1.25 inches tall
- Add “MI” in caps after each distance
- For distances under one mile, include a leading zero and decimal, such as 0.5.

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (2 Destinations)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 24 inches wide x 22 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

- Use the 24x10 Trail Header aligned to the top edge of the sign
- Vertically center the first directional arrow 12.5 inches above the bottom of the sign
- Vertically center the second directional arrow 5 inches above the bottom of the sign

#### Text Options - Header

##### One line:

- Place baseline of text 4.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Capital letters must be at least 2 inches tall

##### Two lines:

- First line of text begins 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Place baseline of second line of text 6.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Trail name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (2 Destinations)

---

#### Text Options - Destination Listings

##### Destination text:

- Vertical spacing for destination listings requiring two lines of text must be 2.75 inches
- For destinations on the left or straight ahead, align text 1.5 inches from the right edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow
- For destinations on the right, align text 1.5 inches from the left edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow
- Destination name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters

##### Distance text (optional):

- Place distance numeral one space after destination name
- Size text to 1.25 inches tall
- Add “MI” in caps after each distance
- For distances under one mile, include a leading zero and decimal, such as 0.5

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (3 Destinations)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 24 inches wide x 30 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

- Use the 24x10 Trail Header aligned to the top edge of the sign
- Vertically center the first directional arrow 17.5 inches above the bottom of the sign
- Vertically center the second directional arrow 5 inches above the bottom of the sign
- Vertically center the third directional arrow 2.5 inches above the bottom of the sign

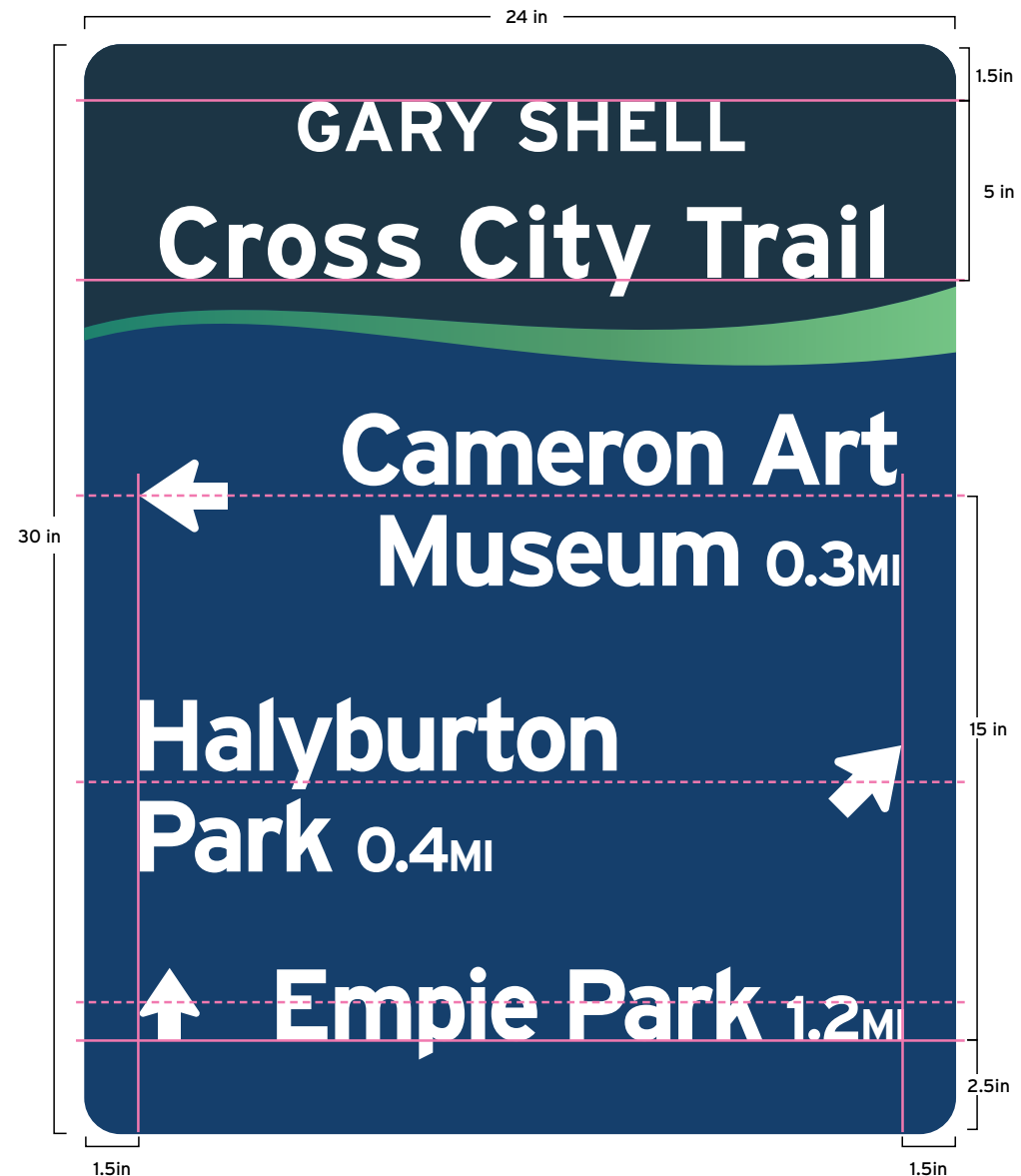
#### Text Options - Header

##### One line:

- Place baseline of text 4.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Capital letters must be at least 2 inches tall

##### Two lines:

- First line of text begins 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Place baseline of second line of text 6.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Trail name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Directional Signs (3 Destinations)

#### **Text Options - Destination Listings**

##### Destination text:

- Vertical spacing for destination listings requiring two lines of text must be 2.75 inches
- For destinations on the left or straight ahead, align text 1.5 inches from the right edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow
- For destinations on the right, align text 1.5 inches from the left edge of the sign and center vertically to the alignment of the complementary arrow
- Destination name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters

##### Distance text (optional):

- Place distance numeral one space after destination name
- Size text to 1.25 inches tall
- Add "MI" in caps after each distance
- For distances under one mile, include a leading zero and decimal, such as 0.5

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Gateway Signs (G)

#### Definition

Signs that mark the entrance to a trail, trail network, or jurisdictional boundary. This sign type typically serves as the first sign encountered when entering the facility.

#### When to Use

- At trailheads and primary entry points
- At primary access points where the trail crosses into a new community or jurisdiction
- At locations where a strong visual presence is desired to signal the start of a trail experience

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Spacing distances between repeat signage is context-dependent rather than at fixed spacing intervals

See the Section 5 for mileage rounding best practices.

(T1)

GARY SHELL  
Cross City Trail

(L1)



MILE  
4.2

(T1)

WILMINGTON

Gullah Geechee  
Heritage Trail



MILE  
4.2



Island Greenway



MILE  
4.2



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Gateway Signs (G)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 10 inches wide x 84 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

Cape Fear Trails logo:

- Logo size: 7 inches x 7 inches
- Center horizontally and place with the top edge aligned to 42 inches from the top of the sign
- Use full color, icon-only logo

Jurisdictional logos:

- Logo size: 7 inches wide and no greater than 7 inches tall
- Center horizontally and place with top edge aligned to 3 inches below distance numeral(s)
- Logos must have white background or a white border with white text

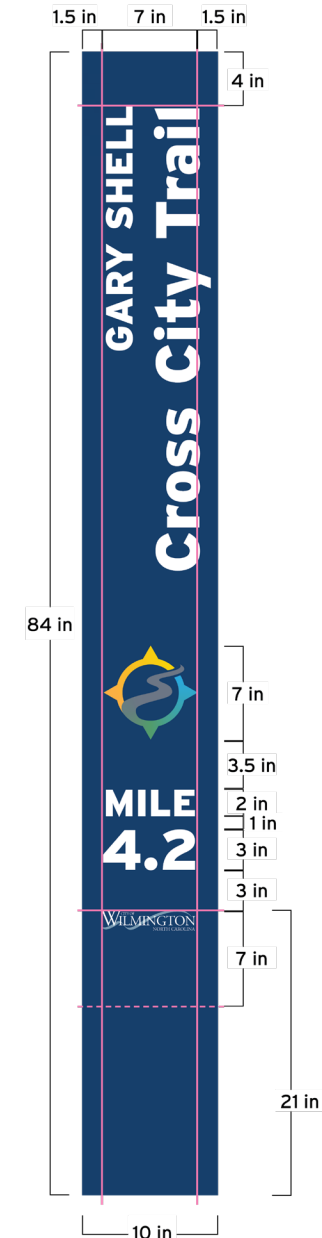
#### Text

Trail name:

- Rotate text 90 degrees counterclockwise and right align
- Place baseline of text on the right side 4 inches from the top of the sign
- Place and center text within 1.5 inch margins on the left and right edges of the sign
- Trail name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall

MILE text:

- Text and numerals must be horizontally centered
- Mile: ALL CAPS, 2 inches tall, placed 3.5 inches below Cape Fear Trails logo
- Distance numerals: 3 inches tall, placed 1 inch below "MILE" text



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Informational Signs (I)

#### Definition

Signs that provide guidance on acceptable trail behavior, safety rules, and shared-use etiquette. These signs are advisory only and are not the same as regulatory or warning signs which are overviewed in Section 3.

#### When to Use

- At trailheads and primary access points
- Before locations where etiquette guidance is especially important

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Placement is recommended locations where guidance is relevant
- Spacing distances between repeat signage is context-dependent rather than at fixed spacing intervals

T1

## Trail Rules

- Share the trail
- No dirt bikes, ATVs, or golf carts
- Maintain a safe speed
- Wheels yield to heels
- Keep right, pass on the left
- Be alert: look and listen
- Keep pets on a leash
- Leave no trace

T3

H2



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Informational Signs (I)

#### Sign Details

Size: 24 inches wide x 18 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone or below confirmation signs when a part of a sign assembly

#### Layout and Graphics

Cape Fear Trails logo:

- 6 inches wide
- Center align and place bottom edge of the logo with a 1.5 inch margin from the bottom of the sign

Jurisdictional logos:

- Horizontal logo: no more than 6 inches wide x 2 inches tall, right edge of logo aligned 1.5 inches from right edge of sign, centered vertically to Cape Fear Trails logo
- Circular or oval logo: must be 3 inches wide, centered on an axis 4.5 inches from the right edge of the sign

#### Text Options

- “Trail Rules” header: 2 inch tall capital letters, centered vertically with a 1.5 inch margin from the top of the sign
- Trail rules: bulleted list, left aligned 3.5 inches from left edge of sign



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Informational Kiosk (K)

#### Definition

Large, stationary structure providing comprehensive information. Information found on an informational kiosk includes a detailed map of the trail network, nearby points of interest, rules and regulations, and emergency contact details.

#### When to Use

- At trailheads and primary access points
- At high-use gathering areas where users may need to pause or orient themselves.
- At locations near amenities or points of interest where users are likely to stop.

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Placement is recommended at locations where users are highly likely to pause
- Spacing distances between repeat signage should generally not exceed 3 to 5 miles on extensive trail systems.



36x54 Trail Header

(T1)

(T2)

Green Check Mark, Red X

Left: Dog Walker, Bicyclist, Wheelchair User, Roller Skater

Right: Motorcycle, ATV, Golf Cart

(T3)

(H2)

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Informational Kiosk (K)

#### Quick Specs

Size: 36 inches wide x 54 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

- Use the standard 36x54 background graphic titled “36x54 Trail Header” aligned to the top edge of the sign
- Vertically center the map with 1.5 inch margins on all sides and place 7 inches above the bottom baseline of the header text

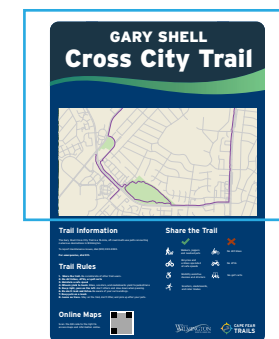
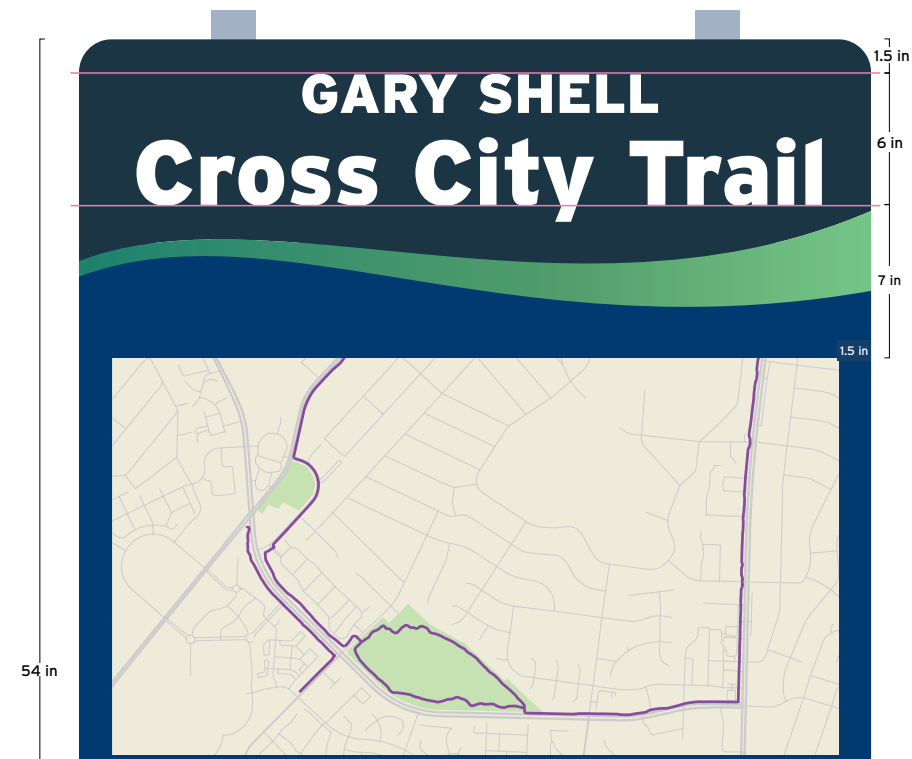
#### Text Options - Header

##### One line:

- Place baseline of text 4.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Capital letters must be at least 2 inches tall

##### Two lines:

- First line of text begins 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Place baseline of second line of text 7.5 inches from the top of the sign
- Trail name: mixed case, 2 inch tall capital letters
- Descriptor: ALL CAPS, 1.375 inches tall



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Informational Kiosk (K)

#### Layout and Graphics

- Place 4-inch wide QR code with the left edge of the QR code 10 inches from the left edge of the sign and the top edge 5.5 inches above the bottom of the sign

#### Text Options - Lower Left Side

##### Trail Information:

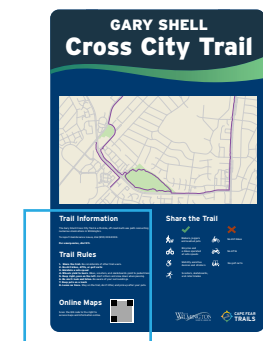
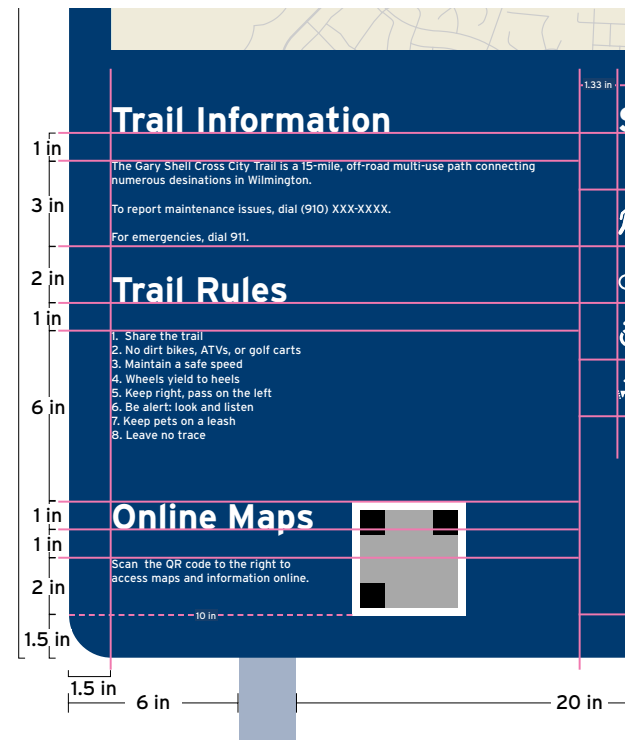
- Place baseline of header 18.5 inches from the bottom of the sign with a text height between 0.8 and 1 inch.
- First line of body text begins 1 inch below the baseline of the header text
- 3 inches of space to list relevant trail information

##### Trail Rules:

- Place baseline of header 2 inches below the last line of Trail Information text
- First line of body text begins 1 inch below the baseline of the header text with 6 inches available for the 8 trail rules
- Trail rules to be bolded and numbered

##### Online Maps:

- Place baseline of header 2 inches below the last line of Trail Rules text
- Body text "Scan the QR code to the right to access maps and information online." begins 1 inch below the baseline of the header text



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Informational Kiosk (K)

#### Layout and Graphics - Lower Right Side

##### Symbols:

- Left align all symbols and vertically center within a 2.672x2 inch grid
- Symbols are to be sized at 1.33 inches wide with the exception of “Wheelchair” at 0.83 inches wide and roller skater at 1.139 inches wide

##### Cape Fear Trails logo:

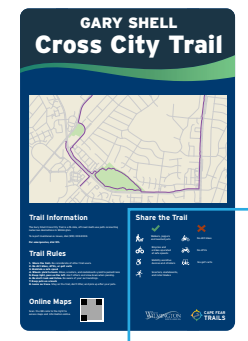
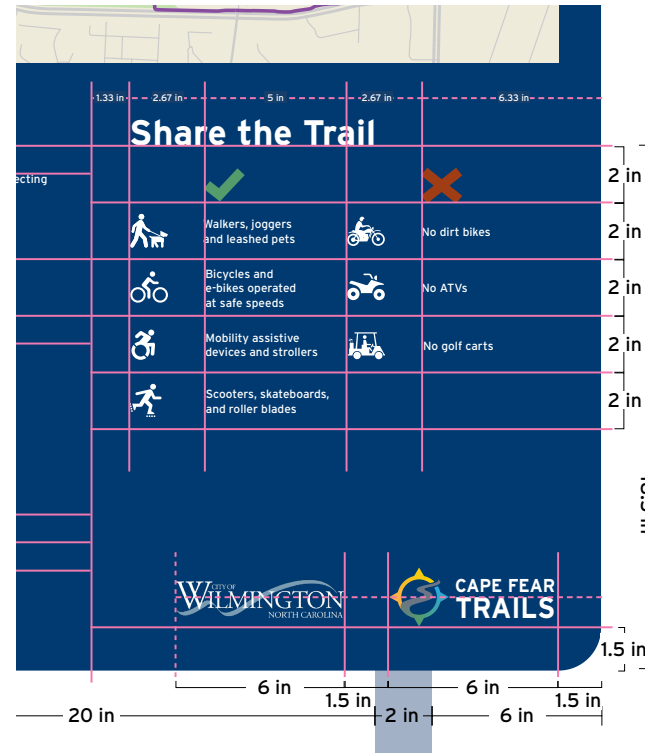
- 6 inches wide x 2.175 inches tall
- Place logo 1.5 inches from the right and bottom edges of the sign

##### Jurisdictional logos:

- Horizontal logo: no more than 6 inches wide x 2 inches tall, align right edge 1.5 inches left of the Cape Fear Trails logo, centered vertically with the Cape Fear Trails logo
- Circular or oval logo: must be 2 inches wide, place logo 1.5 inches to the left of the Cape Fear Trails logo and 1.5 inches above the bottom of the sign

#### Text Options - Lower Right Side

- “Share the Trail” header: placed 18.5 inches above the bottom of the sign with a text height between 0.8 and 1 inch
- Body text: text height at least 0.67 inches, left aligned and vertically centered to the complementing symbol



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Trail Map (M)

#### Definition

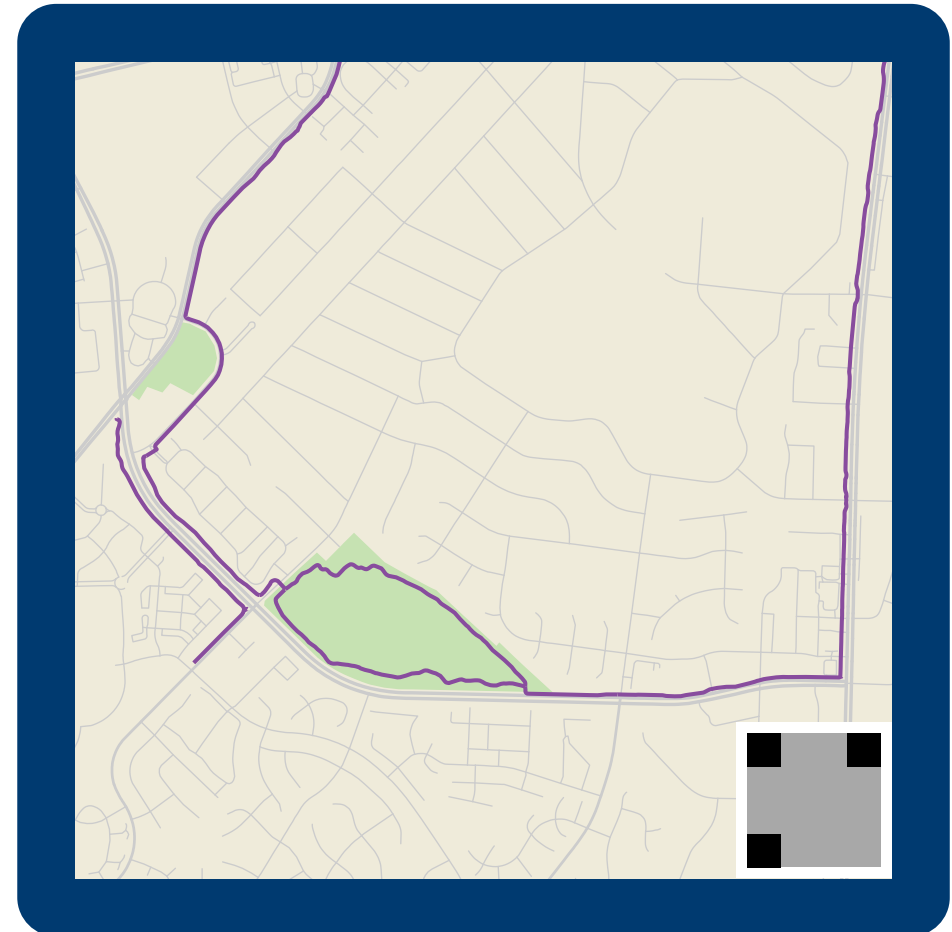
Signs that provide an overview of the trail network or an individual segment of trail and nearby points of interest. These signs support orientation, route selection, and understanding of connections within the broader trail system.

#### When to Use

- At trailheads and primary access points
- At major trail junctions or locations with multiple route options

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Placement should focus on key decision and orientation points rather than fixed distances
- Map signage is not intended for frequent repetition along the trail
- A confirmation sign must be included in the same sign assembly to reinforce correct route identification



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Trail Map (M)

#### Sign Details

Sign Size: 24 inches wide x 24 inches tall

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Install below a confirmation sign as a part of an assembly

#### Layout and Graphics

##### Map:

- 21 inches x 21 inches
- Place centered on the sign with 1.5 inch margins on all sides

##### QR Code:

- 4 inches x 4 inches
- Place at the bottom right of the sign with 1.5 inch margins from the bottom and right edges of the sign



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Mile Markers (MM)

#### Definition

Small, highly visible markers indicating precise distance along the facility from a defined start point (cumulative or remaining distance). These are essential for safety and pace tracking.

#### When to Use

- Consistently along the entire length of the facility, offset from the traveled way, and placed on the same side of the path throughout the route.

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Placement is recommended at regular, fixed intervals, typically every 0.1 miles, 0.5 miles, or 1.0 mile.

See the Section 5 for mileage rounding best practices.

L1



T1

MILE  
3.5

# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Cut Sheet

### Mile Markers (MM)

#### Sign Details

Size: 10 inches wide x 42 inches tall (4-sided post)

Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Mounting order: Standalone

#### Layout and Graphics

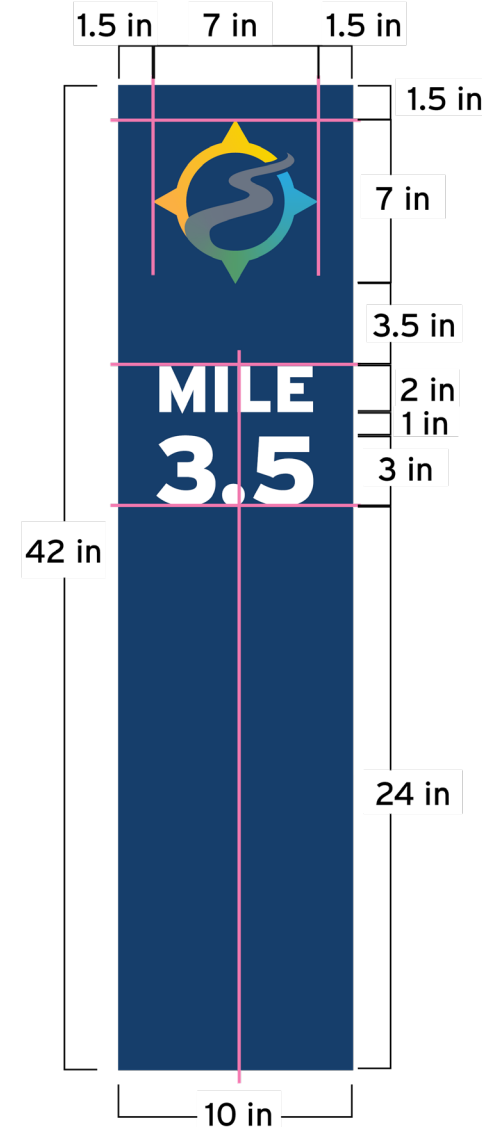
Cape Fear Trails logo:

- Logo size: 7 inches x 7 inches
- Center horizontally and place 1.5 inches from the top of the sign
- 1.5 inch margins between the logo and the left and right edges of the sign

#### Text Options

MILE text:

- Text and numerals must be horizontally centered
- Mile: ALL CAPS, 2 inches tall, placed 3.5 inches below Cape Fear Trails logo
- Distance numerals: 3 inches tall, placed 1 inch below "MILE" text



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Overview

### Turn Signs (T)

#### Definition

Signs used to indicate an upcoming change in direction and guide users to remain on the designated route. Turn signs are often paired with confirmation signs after the turn to reassure users they are on the correct path.

#### When to Use

- Before turns or trail junctions
- At intersections where a route changes direction
- Where the correct path to stay on route is not immediately obvious

#### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Within 25-50 feet immediately before an intersection or turn
- *At junctions with multiple trails or decision points, use directional signs instead of turn signs to clearly indicate route options and destinations.*

#### Quick Specs

Size: 12 inches wide x 6 inches tall

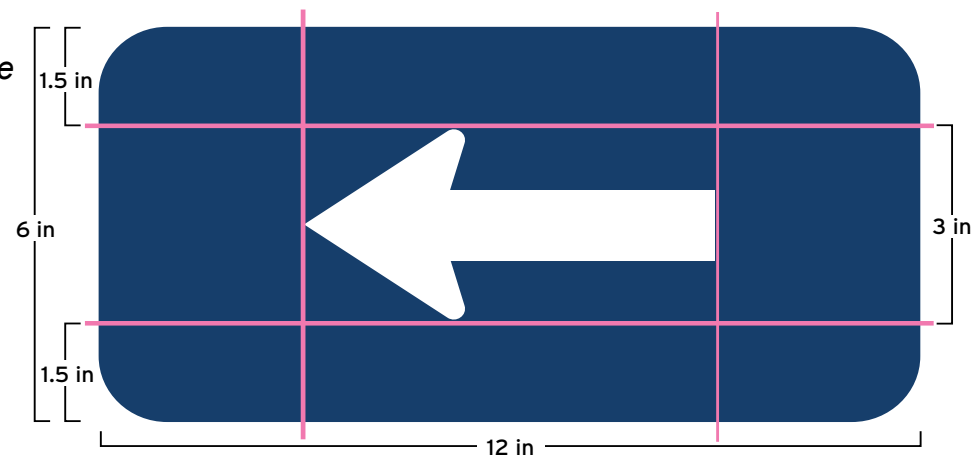
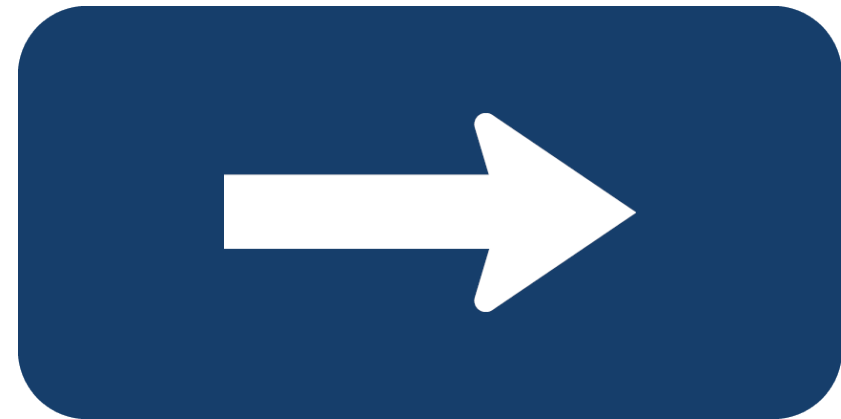
Background color: Navy blue (#003a70)

Corner rounding: 1 inch

Mounting order: Install below a confirmation sign as a part of an assembly

#### Layout and Graphics

- Place left or right turn arrow vertically and horizontally centered within the sign, with the arrow sized to 6 inches wide.



# Wayfinding Signs

## Sign Assemblies

Sign assemblies combine multiple wayfinding elements into a single installation to provide coordinated guidance to trail users. Using sign assemblies reduces sign clutter along trails, reinforces important information, and ensures that directional, informational, and reassurance signage is presented in a coordinated manner. A common approach is to position a confirmation sign at the top of the assembly, with trail maps, informational signs, or turn signs mounted below. This configuration supports legibility, minimizes confusion, and improves the overall trail user experience.

Assemblies should be thoughtfully configured and sited to provide guidance where users need it most while maintaining safety, accessibility, and visibility. Key considerations for assembly configuration include:

- Confirmation signs are typically placed at the top of an assembly to confirm to trail users they are on the correct route.
- Trail maps, informational signs, and turn signs can be mounted below the confirmation sign to provide additional context, route options, and guidance as needed.
- Assemblies should be installed at trailheads, major junctions, forks, and other points where users are likely to need guidance. Strategic placement ensures users can navigate complex trail areas with confidence.
- All assemblies must maintain proper vertical and horizontal clearances, as noted previously, to ensure visibility, accessibility, and safety for all trail users.

# Wayfinding Signs

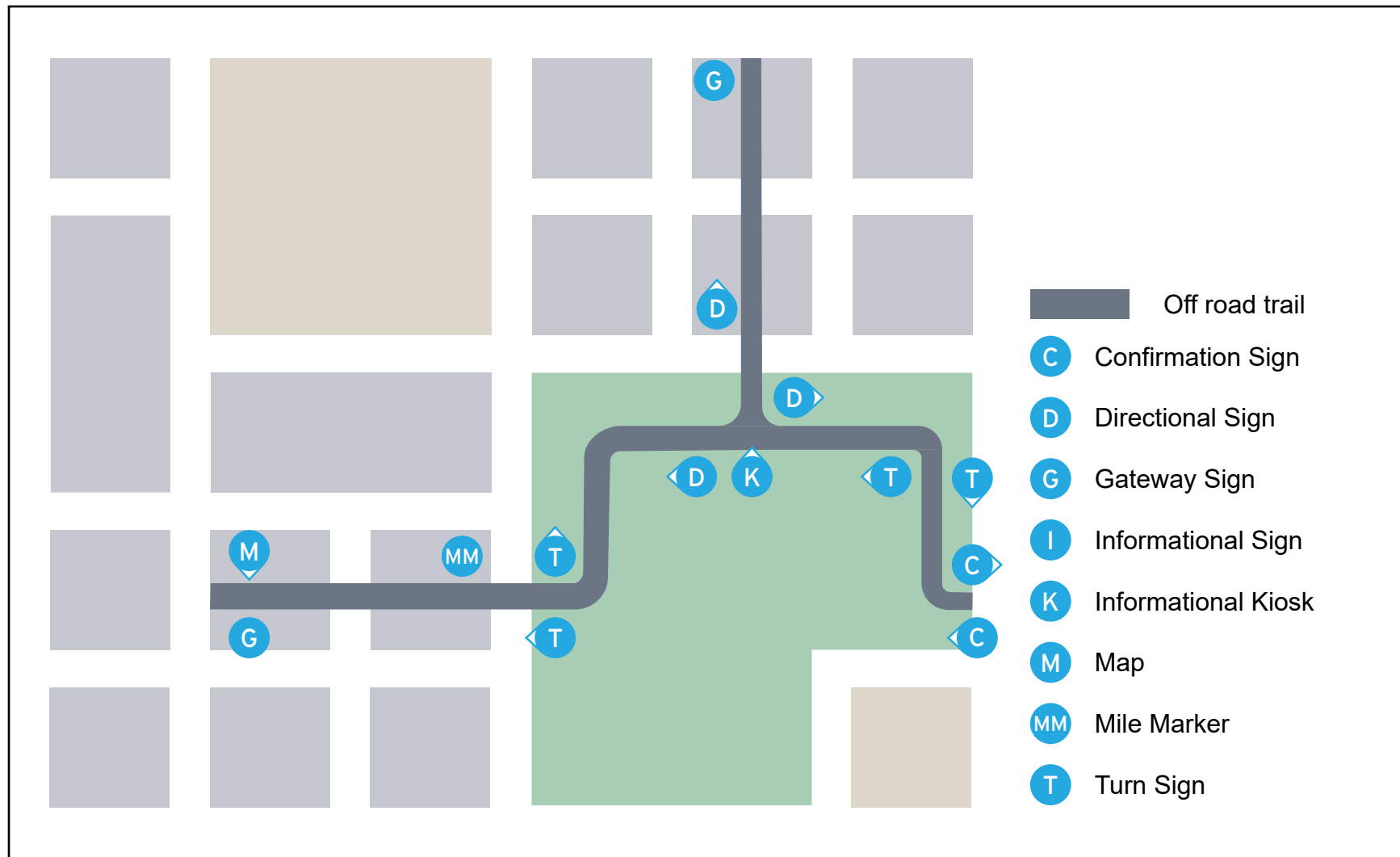
## Sign Assemblies

The following examples illustrate common sign assembly combinations and configuration options. These assemblies demonstrate how confirmation (C), trail maps (M), informational (I), and turn (T) signs can be arranged to provide clear and coordinated guidance for trail users.



# Wayfinding Signs

## Wayfinding Sign Placement Guidance



# Pavement Markings

## Route Markers

### Definition

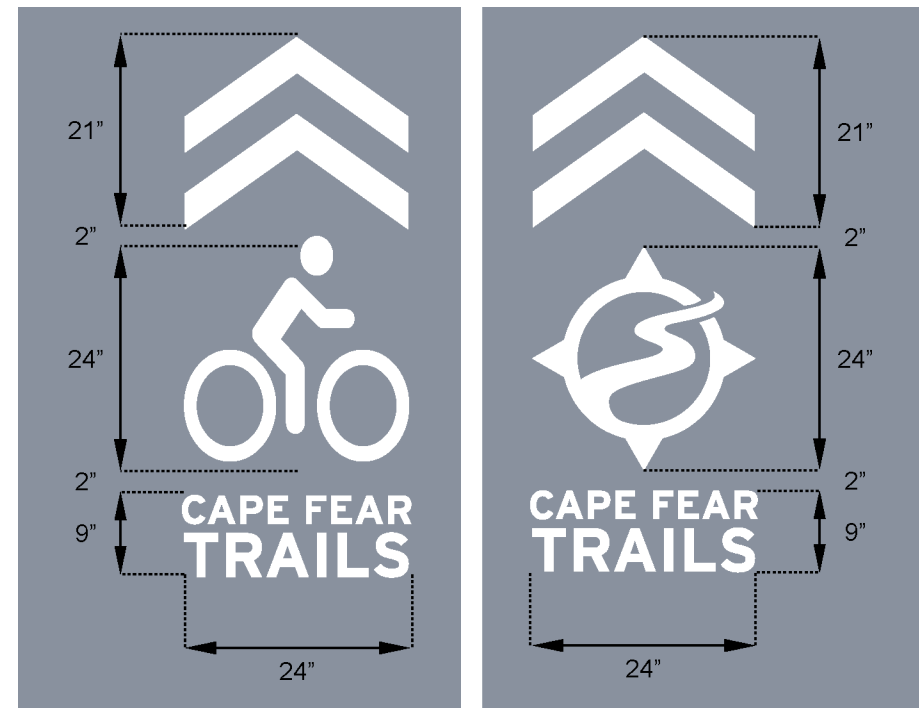
Pavement markings that identify the trail route and help users follow the designated path. Markings may also indicate the presence and direction of bicycle travel where clarification is needed.

### When to Use

- Downstream of primary access points to confirm entry onto a designated route
- Before and after intersections, forks, and transition areas
- Immediately following turns or changes in direction
- Where vertical signage is limited or where sign reduction is desirable
  - Strategic use of pavement markings can be used in lieu of confirmation signs to reduce sign fatigue and maintain clear guidance.

### Typical Placement and Spacing

- Route markers are recommended at intersections, after turns, and at key confirmation points.
  - National guidance supports flexible placement based on trail context rather than uniform spacing.



Note: Sizing may need to be adjusted based on size of lane/path. Do not alter proportions. Removing "Cape Fear Trails" from left example would be more DOT acceptable.

# Implementation Guidance

## Overview

### Section Overview

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This section provides general implementation guidance for trail signage and pavement markings, including sign placement and mileage rounding practices. These standards are intended to ensure that signage is safe, accessible, and does not impede travel for trail users.

Placement recommendations and mileage round guidance follows technical guidance from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Pedestrian Facilities, and Parts 3 and 9 of the MUTCD, as applicable. Member jurisdictions should apply these standards in conjunction with sign specific guidance to achieve uniform, compliant, and accessible signage.

# Sign Clearance Requirements

## Vertical and Horizontal Clearance

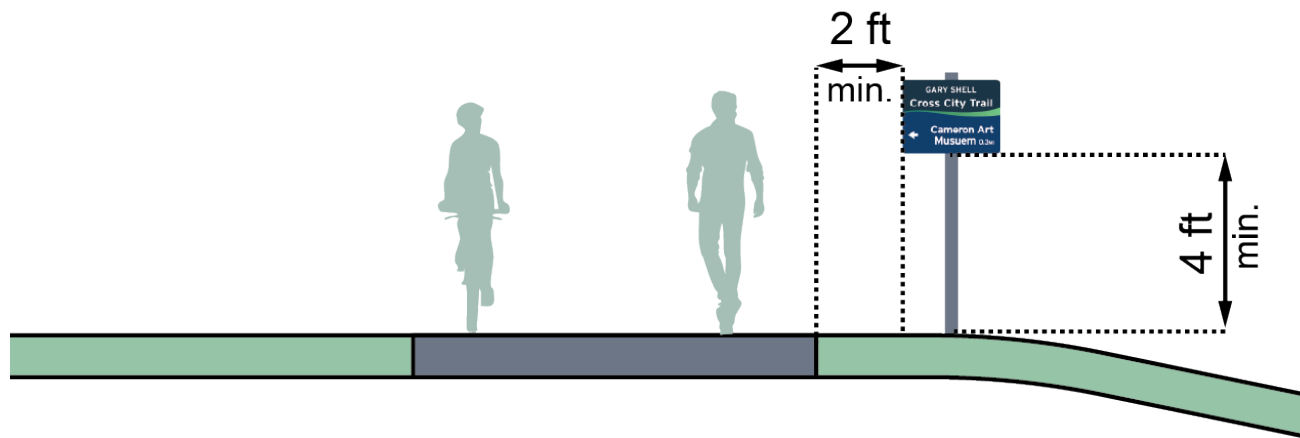
Proper placement of signs includes maintaining minimum vertical and horizontal clearances to keep trails safe, accessible, and compliant with ADA standards. These clearances allow signs to be seen and used without interfering with the flow of pedestrians, bicyclists, or other mobility device users.

### Mounting Height

Mounting height is the vertical distance from the trail surface to the bottom of a sign or wayfinding element. Signs shall have a minimum mounting height of 4 feet to allow safe passage for all trail users. Signs should also be positioned to avoid blocking sight lines along the trail.

### Lateral Offset

Lateral offset is the horizontal distance between the edge of the trail and the nearest part of a sign or wayfinding element. Signs shall maintain a minimum lateral offset of 2 feet from the edge of the trail facility. Placement should allow users to stop safely to read information without obstructing others and avoid conflicts with accessible routes, utilities, landscaping, or other trail features.



# Mileage Rounding

## Mileage Rounding Best Practices

To improve legibility and reduce cognitive load for users, mileage displayed on wayfinding signs and mile markers should follow standardized rounding practices informed by AASHTO guidance. Distances shall be rounded in a predictable and consistent manner that prioritizes readability over excessive precision. Rounding conventions should be applied consistently across all signage so users receive the same distance information regardless of sign type or location. This approach supports clear navigation and reduces uncertainty along the trail. The table below outlines the recommended mileage rounding practices.

Mileage Rounding Guidelines	
Distance (mi)	Guideline
< 0.2	Do not include mileage; blocks are appropriate, if necessary
0.2 - 5.0	Round mileage to the nearest tenth of a mile
> 5.0	Round mileage to the nearest whole mile

Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition