

# **ENGINEERING STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION**



## **VOLUME 3**

**Parks, Trails, and Recreation  
Design and Construction Requirements**

**Approved by Ridgefield City Council  
May 22, 2025**

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## **Chapter 1 – General Planning, Design, and Approval Requirements**

### **1.00 Requirements for Public and Private Improvements**

#### **A. General**

The purpose of these standards is to define requirements for the design and construction of public and private improvements to serve new and future developments. These include parks, trails, and open space improvements as required by the development review process, City Ordinance, and other City policies adopted by the City Council. Where not governed by building or other codes, standards for site grading, erosion control, parking lot and driveway construction, and other infrastructure on private property shall be governed by these standards for the purposes of design and inspection. No such work shall commence prior to City approval of the construction plans. Designs submitted shall be stamped by a registered Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the State of Washington.

All public improvements and private parks, trails, and other applicable recreational assets shall be designed and constructed according to the most recent editions of the United States Access Board Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design and the Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines in such a manner as to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as per the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

#### **B. Organization of Standards**

These Standards are separated into three volumes: 1) Volume 1 - Design and Planning, 2) Volume 2 - Construction Specifications and Details, and 3) Volume 3 – Parks, Trails and Recreation Design and Construction Requirements. This volume (Volume 3) includes standard details and standard drawings, which shall be considered part of the engineering plans approved by the City.

#### **C. Shortened Designation**

These City of Ridgefield Engineering Standards for Public Works shall be cited routinely in the text as the "Standards".

#### **D. Applicability**

These Standards shall govern all new construction and upgrading of facilities both in the right-of-way and on private property for: transportation related facilities; storm drainage facilities and stream channel improvements; water improvements; and park, recreation, and open space facilities used by the public.

#### **E. Requirements for Public Welfare**

It is the purpose of these standards to provide for and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and not create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of these standards.

The Standards established by this Chapter are intended to represent the minimum design standards. Compliance with these Standards does not relieve the designer of the responsibility to apply sound professional judgment to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Additionally, since these are minimum standards, special site conditions and environmental constraints may require a greater level of protection than would normally be required under these Standards. The designer must apply these Standards bearing in mind these constraints.

## **F. Two-year Maintenance Surety Bond Requirement**

The developer is required to provide a maintenance bond for a minimum of 20% of the full cost of construction for all public and private improvements for a period of two (2) years after acceptance of the project, which will not be released without written approval by the City. The developer is to provide from their Contractor an itemized contractor's cost worksheet on the City's cost estimating template. Contractor shall use State Prevailing Wage costs to develop estimate. Coordinate with City for latest template. The 2-year maintenance agreement includes public and private construction work. The Contractor shall place the following note on the worksheet; "To the best of my knowledge the itemized quantities and cost included herein are an accurate account of the full cost of construction to be provided as required to meet the City's Maintenance Bond requirement".

### **1.01 Abbreviations and Definitions**

ABA	Architectural Barriers Act
AC	Alternating Current
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
CPSI	Certified Playground Safety Inspector
Designed Use	The single user type that determines the United States Forest Service (USFS) technical specifications for a trail's construction and maintenance. While multiple uses may be allowed, the Designed Use dictates the trail's design elements, such as tread width, grade, and structures, ensuring it meets the needs of the primary intended user.
DC	Direct Current
FSORAG	Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines
FSTAG	Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines
HMA	Hot Mix Asphalt
Multi-Modal Trail	A trail designed primarily for transportation purposes, accommodating multiple user groups, including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and non-motorized or limited motorized users (such as electric-assisted bicycles or mobility devices in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act).
NRPA	National Recreation and Parks Association
ORAR	Outdoor Recreational Access Route
PROS Plan	Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan
RCFP	Ridgefield Capital Facilities Plan
RCPRP	Ridgefield Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan
Recreational Trail	A trail primarily intended for leisure, exercise, and outdoor recreational activities, such as hiking, running, biking, horseback riding, or nature observation. Recreational trails are typically located within parks, natural

	areas, or public lands and are designed to enhance outdoor experiences rather than serve as primary transportation corridors.
TIR	Technical Information Report
Trail	A designated path, route, or corridor intended for non-motorized or limited motorized use, providing access for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, or other recreational or transportation purposes. The classification and designed use of a trail determines the specific design parameters and regulatory requirements that apply.
Trail Class	The prescribed scale of trail development that characterizes the intended design and management of a trail, including tread width, surface, structures, and signage. The United States Forest Service (USFS) defines five Trail Classes, ranging from minimally developed (Trail Class 1) to fully developed (Trail Class 5).
Trail Constructed Feature	A human-made element intentionally built or installed to support the function, safety, and sustainability of a trail. These features are designed to enhance user experience, provide structural support, manage environmental impacts, and ensure compliance with trail design standards. These include but are not limited to, bridges, boardwalks, retaining walls, steps, drainage structures, signage, and other elements necessary for maintaining trail integrity and accessibility.
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service

Additional Abbreviations and definitions are listed in Chapter 1 of Volume 1 of the Standards.

## 1.02 Submittal Requirements

Design Plans for Parks, Trails, and Open Space areas and facilities shall be submitted for engineering review. Submissions shall demonstrate conformity with the most current versions of the Ridgefield Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (RCPRP), Ridgefield Capital Facilities Plan (RCFP), and Ridgefield PROS Plan. Plans shall adhere to the Design Plan Format defined in Chapter 1 of Volume I of the Standards and include details of the following when applicable:

- Trail location and proposed Trail Classification of each, wherein Recreation Trails require the proposed USFS Trail Class and Designed Use.
- Trail Right-of-Way, Design Tread Width, Design Surface, Design Grade, Design Cross Slope, Design Clearing, and Design Turns where appropriate.
- Trail Profile View to include Design Surface Material, Design Surface Depth, Base Material, Base Material Depth, Compacted Surface Width, Vegetation Barriers, and Shoulder Widths where applicable.
- Location of all Trail-Constructed Features including but not limited to puncheon, trail bridges, boardwalks, waterbars, and switchbacks. For a listing of trail-constructed features, refer to the 2014 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications. (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/trailplans>)

- Location of proposed play structures to include protective surfacing material, depth and area, as well as model examples of any prefabricated play equipment.
- Location of all amenities and fixtures to include footings and model examples of each.
- Location, type designation, and graphics for all signage and striping.
- Location and model example of irrigation control systems.
- Location of all maintenance and emergency response access points.

The placement of all trails, trail-constructed features, playgrounds, play structures, signage, surface markings, irrigation controls, access points, and all other amenities and fixtures must be clearly indicated on all plan sets and are subject to city review to ensure appropriateness, recreational utility, user safety, maintenance efficiency, and compliance with ADA, FSORAG, and FSTAG, where applicable.

### **1.03 Review Procedure**

Review procedures shall be defined in Chapter 1 of Volume I of the Standards.

### **1.04 Inspections**

Inspection requirements shall be defined in Chapter 1 of Volume II of the Standards.

### **1.05 Penalties**

Failure to comply with these standards will be cause for stop work orders, withholding or withdrawing approval of plans or plats, revocation of permits, forfeiture of bond, withholding Temporary and/or Final Certificate of Occupancy, and/or penalties as provided by law.

## Chapter 2 – Trails

### 2.00 Trail Classification

The City of Ridgefield establishes the following trail classifications —Arterial, Collector, Hiking, and Semi-Primitive— which are designed to accommodate varying levels of usage and environmental sensitivity. These standards define the functional, dimensional, and material specifications required to ensure that each trail is constructed to fulfill its intended purpose in a manner that is both safe and sustainable.

#### A. Multi-Modal Trails: Arterial and Collector Trails

Multi-modal trails prioritize connectivity, accessibility, and safety while integrating seamlessly into both urban and natural environments. Surfaces are typically constructed of asphalt or concrete to support higher traffic volumes and ensure long-term durability. These trails are designed to accommodate a variety of users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, offering a wider and more durable surface compared to recreational trails.

All multi-modal trails must adhere to the most current Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Design Standards for Shared Use Paths (WSDOT Design Manual, M22-01.23, Chapter 1515 Shared Use Paths). In general, Multi-Modal Trail classifications require the following characteristics:

- Right-of-Way: Extends a minimum of 60' beyond the edge of the pavement. (14'-18')
- Design Tread Width: 10' (12' Preferred)
- Design Surface: Asphalt (Concrete or other hard, non-slip surface permitted for bridges or boardwalks)
- Design Grade: 5% Maximum
- Design Cross Slope: 2% Maximum
- Design Clearing: 8'-10' above trail surface, 60"-72" beyond the edge of the pavement.
- Design Turns: 6'-8' Radius Minimum
- Design Surface Material: HMA (exempted from Trail-Constructed Features)
- Design Tread Depth: 3" Minimum
- Base Material: Crushed Aggregate
- Base Material Depth: 3" Minimum
- Compacted Native Surface Width: Extends a minimum of 3' beyond the edge of the pavement.
- Vegetation Barrier: Not Applicable to Asphalt Surfaces.
- Shoulder Width: Extends a minimum of 2' beyond the edge of the pavement at grade and gradually tapers off to the native surface thereafter.

All multi-modal trails must demonstrate conformity with the most current versions of the Ridgefield Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (RCPRP), Ridgefield Capital Facilities Plan (RCPF), and Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Plan.

All multi-modal trails must be defined as either Arterial or Collector, as defined below and approved by the City of Ridgefield.

- **Arterial Trail**

Arterial Multi-Modal Trails serve as the primary transportation routes within a trail network, connecting major destinations such as city centers, schools, parks, employment hubs, and residential neighborhoods. These trails are designed to accommodate high volumes of users and support various non-motorized modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists, and other permitted users.

- **Collector Trail**

Collector Multi-Modal Trails function as secondary routes within a trail network, facilitating connections between Arterial Multi-Modal Trails and local destinations such as neighborhoods, parks, or community facilities. These trails serve moderate user volumes and provide access to the broader trail system while supporting similar non-motorized modes of transportation.

## **B. Recreational Trails: Hiking and Semi-Primitive Trails**

Recreational Trails provide a more rugged, natural experience, catering to walkers, hikers, and sometimes cyclists. These trails are often located in sensitive environmental areas and require minimal surfacing, typically consisting of compacted earth or aggregate to blend with the natural surroundings. These trails are narrower than Multi-modal trails and prioritize environmental preservation and low-impact recreation.

All recreational trails must adhere to the most current United States Forest Service Trail Design Parameters (FSH 2309.18, Section 23.11, Exhibit 01) and the most current United States Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG).

All recreational trails must have a defined Designed Use and Trail Class, as defined by USFS and approved by the City of Ridgefield. Applicants are required to construct trails in accordance with the most current USFS Trail Design Parameters (FSH 2309.18) that align with the city-approved Designed Uses and Trail Classes.

- **Hiking Trails**

Hiking Trails shall be defined as those trails with a Designed Use of Hiker/Pedestrian, Trail Class of 5 (Fully Developed), and with a Design Tread Width defined as Non-Wilderness (Double Lane) according to the most current USFS Trail Design Parameters. In general, Hiking Trail classifications require the following characteristics:

- Right-of-Way: Extends a minimum of 48" beyond the edge of the pavement. (120"-168")
- Design Tread Width: 72"-120"
- Design Surface: Asphalt (exempted from Trail-Constructed Features) with no protrusions or obstacles
- Design Grade: Target Grade of 2%-5%, Short Pitch Maximum no greater than 5%-12% with compliance with FSTAG, and Maximum Pitch Density of 0%-5%.
- Design Cross Slope: Target Cross Slope 2%-3% (or crowned), with a Maximum Cross Slope of 3%.
- Design Clearing: 8'-10' above trail surface, 60"-72" beyond the edge of the pavement.
- Design Turns: 6'-8' Radius
- Design Surface Material: HMA (exempted from Trail-Constructed Features)

- Design Tread Depth: 3" Minimum
- Base Material: Crushed Aggregate
- Base Material Depth: 3" Minimum
- Compacted Native Surface Width: Extends a minimum of 2' beyond the edge of the pavement.
- Vegetation Barrier: Not Applicable to Asphalt Surfaces.
- Shoulder Width: Extends a minimum of 1' beyond the edge of the pavement at grade and gradually tapers off to the native surface thereafter.
- **Semi-Primitive Trails**

All recreational trails that fall outside the definition of Hiking Trail stated above are recognized as Semi-Primitive Trails. The City of Ridgefield recognizes that recreational uses may vary across the trail system. As such, designers and developers may propose trails with ranging Designed Uses, Managed Uses, and Trail Classes. This includes but is not limited to Mountain Bike or Equestrian Uses. Applicants are encouraged to initiate conversations with city staff when exploring unique recreational experiences or creating recreational access to Prominent Features within their developments. The construction of Semi-Primitive Trails requires review and pre-approval by the city.

## **2.01 Trail Surface Water Control**

All trail construction must consider surface water runoff to mitigate erosion, enhance trail durability, and ensure long-term usability for the community. As such, the Technical Information Report (TIR) defined in Volume 1 of these standards must include Trails and Trail-Constructed Features as a part of its analysis to complete the final design plans.

### **A. Multi-Modal Trails**

Arterial and Collector Trails are required to adhere to the most current Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Design Standards for Shared Use Paths (WSDOT Design Manual, M22-01.23, Chapter 1515 Shared Use Paths). As such, applicants shall design all pavement structural sections in the same manner as a highway, considering the quality of the subgrade and the anticipated loads on the path, which includes maintenance and emergency vehicles. Applicants must provide a firm, stable, and slip-resistant pavement surface.

### **B. Recreational Trails**

Trail-Constructed Features for Hiking and Semi-Primitive Trails are required to adhere to the standards found in the 2014 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications. (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/trailplans>) These include but are not limited to punchon, trail bridges, boardwalks, waterbars, culverts, and switchbacks.

## Chapter 3 – Playgrounds

### 3.00 General

The City of Ridgefield is committed to ensuring the safety and accessibility of all publicly accessible playgrounds in the city. To this end, every publicly accessible playground is required to be inspected and certified by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) upon commissioning by the city. CPSI Inspections ensure each play structure meets federal safety standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the industry best practices set by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NPRA), and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards within each. These standards can be found in CPSC's Public Playground Safety Handbook.

### 3.01 Playground Safety Inspections

All publicly available playgrounds must pass a Playground Audit administered by a certified CSPI at the completion of initial construction or alteration. Playground audit reports are to be filed with the city prior to final approval. It is recommended owners develop regular maintenance, audits, and inspections of their playgrounds to ensure user safety. Owners are responsible for the maintenance and operation of their playgrounds. Playground audit reports should be comprehensive, similar to the Playground Audit Guide for ASTM and CPSC Compliance.

### 3.02 Inclusive Design Principles

While the standards set by the CPSC and NPRA comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), playgrounds in the city are encouraged to take inclusive-design playground accessibility into consideration during design and construction. The NPRA provides for the following Principles of Inclusive Playground Design:

- **Principle 1: Equitable Play** – The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities
- **Principle 2: Flexibility in Use** – The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use** – Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- **Principle 4: Perceptible Information** – The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Principle 5: Tolerance for Error** – The design minimized hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- **Principle 6: Low Physical Effort** – The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with minimum fatigue.
- **Principle 7: Size and Shape for Approach and Use** – Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulations and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture or mobility.

### **3.03 Playground Surfacing Requirements**

In alignment with the City of Ridgefield's commitment to safety, accessibility, and leadership in inclusive-design principles, all playgrounds located within Community Parks shall be required to utilize one of the following safety surfacing systems:

- **Pour-In-Place Rubber Surfacing**
- **Rubber Tire Surfacing**
- **Bonded Rubber Mulch**

Exceptions to these requirements may be granted at the sole discretion of the City, provided that a compelling reason is demonstrated. Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, playgrounds intentionally designed as nature play areas, where alternative surfacing may support environmental education, natural aesthetics, or ecological function. All exceptions must be reviewed by the City prior to final approval.

## **Chapter 4 – Amenities and Fixtures**

### **4.00 General**

These standards have been developed to ensure that all amenities and fixtures in Ridgefield's parks and trails meet the highest standards for longevity, durability, accessibility, and efficient maintenance. The objective is to create uniform, high-quality public spaces that remain accessible and enjoyable for all users. Developers, designers, and builders are required to adhere to these standards as part of their contributions to the city's infrastructure.

### **4.01 Park Classifications**

The classification of parks and trails in Ridgefield reflects the diverse recreational and community needs of the city. Each classification establishes a framework for the design, size, and functionality of spaces to ensure they are developed in alignment with their intended purpose. These classifications provide context to the amenities and fixtures expected within recreational spaces.

#### **A. Community Park**

Community Parks are large spaces, ranging from 15 to 50 acres, designed to cater to diverse recreational needs through a mix of active and passive uses. These parks typically feature parking facilities, restrooms, pathways, picnic areas, and play structures, serving residents within a 1-mile radius accessible by driving, walking, or biking.

#### **B. Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood Parks, sized between 2 and 4 acres, are designed for informal play and passive recreation. Common features include pedestrian paths, benches, play equipment, and multi-use fields. These parks serve nearby residential areas within a half-mile walking or biking distance.

#### **C. Pocket Park**

Pocket Parks, generally smaller than half an acre, address localized recreational needs. They often include small playgrounds or open grass areas with minimal site furnishings and are intended for residents within a quarter-mile radius.

#### **D. Trails**

Trails are classified separately under Chapter 2 of Volume 3 of the Standards, which details specific requirements for Arterial, Collector, Hiking, and Semi-Primitive trails.

### **4.02 Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (ORAR)**

Not all routes within a park are considered trails. According to the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG), routes between constructed features, trails, amenities, and fixtures are classified as Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (ORARs). ORARs are designed to provide accessible connections to key facilities like restrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, and parking lots. ORARs feature firm, stable surfaces and adhere to ADA and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) standards, prioritizing usability for individuals with mobility challenges.

ORARs shall be constructed according to the most recent Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG). ORARs shall be provided between all constructed features, amenities, and fixtures within parks.

#### **4.03 Design Specifications of Placed Amenities**

The inclusion of specific within Ridgefield's parks and trails is essential for fostering community engagement, enhancing usability, and ensuring accessibility for all users. Each amenity is designed to meet standards for durability, efficiency, and compliance, contributing to the longevity and maintenance of these public spaces. Developers, designers, and builders must adhere to these design specifications to create cohesive, high-quality recreational environments.

##### **A. Refuse Receptacles**

Refuse receptacles, including trash and recycling cans, must be constructed from durable, weather-resistant materials and equipped with lids or covers to minimize rainwater collection and wildlife access. These are required at all parks, regional trails, and connector trails and should be placed near signage, entrances, restrooms, shelters, playgrounds, and other high-traffic areas. Refuse receptacles must adhere to the FSORAG Section 4.5 Trash, Recycling, and Other Essential Containers.

##### **B. Restrooms**

Restrooms are required to be fully ADA-compliant and designed to withstand freezing conditions while minimizing maintenance and the potential for vandalism. These facilities are required in all community parks and should be centrally located in high-use zones.

##### **C. Dog Waste Stations**

Dog waste stations must include a trash can, a bag dispenser, and a small sign, all affixed to the station post. Stations are required in all parks and trails. They must feature lids to prevent water collection and should be installed near trail entrances, junctions, and rule signage.

##### **D. Picnic Tables**

Picnic tables must be built from durable, weather-resistant materials and secured to stable footing. They should be installed in locations likely to attract users for picnics and gatherings. They should be strategically placed in designated picnic areas, near playgrounds, and in other common gathering spaces to enhance visitor convenience and enjoyment. The City may require the placement of picnic tables if deemed necessary for the space. All picnic tables must comply with FSORAG Section 4.1 Picnic Tables.

##### **E. Benches and Seating**

Benches and seating must be constructed from durable, weather-resistant materials and secured to stable footing. They are required for community parks, neighborhood parks, adjacent to each playground, and along Arterial Trails at Prominent Features. Benches and Seating must adhere to the FSORAG Section 4.4 Benches.

##### **F. Bike Racks**

Bike racks must be securely fixed to footings and placed to avoid interference with pathways. They are required in community and neighborhood parks. Racks should be installed near park entrances and trail termini or other high-use areas.

## **G. Lighting**

Lighting must adhere to dark-sky compliance standards, reducing light pollution while enhancing safety. Lighting installations are required in parking lots within Community Parks. Multi-modal trails may require lighting if called for the most recent versions of the RCPRP, RCFP, and Ridgefield PROS Plan.

### **4.04 Placement Considerations**

The placement of amenities and fixtures within parks and trails must reflect the classification of the space, ensuring alignment with its intended purpose, user demographics, and maintenance efficiency. These placement guidelines provide developers, builders, and designers with clear requirements and recommendations for each classification, ensuring cohesive and functional public spaces.

#### **A. Community Parks**

Amenities in community parks must accommodate high levels of usage and diverse recreational activities. Restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and parking areas should be centrally located to maximize accessibility. ORARs must be provided to connect key features such as sports fields, shelters, and restrooms, with benches and lighting placed along ORARs for user comfort and safety. Bike racks should be positioned near entrances and recreational hubs, while trash and recycling receptacles should be available at high-use areas, including shelters, sports fields, and parking lots. Open spaces should include designated zones for group activities and events, with nearby access to water fountains and seating.

Community Parks must include the following, at a minimum:

- Park Rules and Etiquette Sign at each park user entrance (Arterials Trail entrances, Collector Trails entrances, and Parking Lots).
- At least one Interpretive Sign to enhance user experience.
- At least one Informational Kiosk to enhance user experience.
- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign at each trail entrance.
- Dog Waste Station at each trail entrance and some high-traffic areas.
- Refuse receptacles (trash and recycling) in high-traffic areas.
- Bike Racks in centrally located areas.
- Benches or seating at each playground.
- Benches or seating at distinctive viewpoints.
- Publicly available restroom.

#### **B. Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks must prioritize features that support casual, local use. Playgrounds should be centrally located within clear sightlines from seating areas and paths. Multi-use fields should include

adjacent benches, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains. ORARs must be provided to connect key features, such as playgrounds and small picnic shelters. Bike racks and dog waste stations should be installed at entrances for convenience.

Neighborhood Parks must include the following, at a minimum:

- Park Rules and Etiquette Sign at each park entrance (Arterial Trail entrances, Collector Trail entrances, and Parking Lots).
- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign at each trail entrance.
- Dog Waste Station at each trail entrance and some high-traffic areas.
- Refuse receptacles (trash and recycling) in high-traffic areas.
- Bike Racks in centrally located areas.
- Benches or seating at each playground.
- Benches or seating at distinctive viewpoints.

### **C. Pocket Parks**

Amenities in pocket parks should reflect the smaller scale of these spaces, focusing on simplicity and ease of maintenance. A small playground or open grassy area should serve as the focal point, with a bench or seating installed nearby. Trash receptacles and dog waste stations should be located at the park's entrance or near its primary amenity. ORARs, if present, should connect the entrance to key features. Placement should consider visibility and safety for users within the surrounding residential area.

Pocket Parks must include the following, at a minimum:

- Park Rules and Etiquette Sign at each park entrance (Arterial Trail entrances, Collector Trail entrances, and Parking Lots).
- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign at each trail entrance.
- Dog Waste Station at each trail entrance and some high-traffic areas.
- Refuse receptacles (trash and recycling) in high-traffic areas.
- Benches or seating at each playground.
- Benches or seating at distinctive viewpoints.

### **D. Trails**

Trail amenities must be distributed at strategic points to enhance the experience for users and support regular maintenance operations. Trailheads and junctions should include trash and recycling receptacles, dog waste stations, and benches. Bike racks should be placed at key trailheads and termini, especially those connecting to parks or public spaces. Lighting is required along Arterial Trails near urbanized areas and trailheads for safety, while hiking and semi-primitive trails should maintain a natural aesthetic with minimal fixtures to preserve their character.

Arterial and Collector Trails must include the following, at a minimum:

- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign at each trail entrance.

- Dog Waste Station at each trail entrance and junctions of Arterial or Collector Trails.
- Refuse receptacles (trash and recycling) at each trail entrance.
- Benches and seating at Prominent Features, as requested by the City.

Local and Semi-Primitive Trails must include the following, at a minimum:

- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign at each trail entrance.
- Dog Waste Station at each trail entrance and junctions of Arterial or Collector Trails.

## **Chapter 5 – Signage**

### **5.00 Graphic Identity**

All signage installed within Ridgefield's Parks and Recreation system must comply with the City's most recent Style Guide and Parks & Recreation Graphic Identity & Sign Guidelines. These guidelines identify the following signage graphical standards:

- Trail Rules and Etiquette Sign
- Park Rules and Etiquette Sign
- Information Kiosk
- Interpretive Sign
- Hazard Identification Sign

Sign placements and surface markings must be clearly indicated on all plan sets and are subject to city review to ensure appropriateness, user safety, and ADA compliance. Sign graphics, materials, and placements shall receive final approval by the city prior to fabrication and installation. Signage must be designed for longevity and ease of maintenance, with vandal-resistant materials and weatherproof finishes required for all installations.

### **5.01 Surface Markings**

Surface markings enhance safety and provide clear guidance to park and trail users. These markings ensure safe navigation and delineate key areas, helping to reduce conflict between different user groups. Arterial and Collector Trails require the placement of durable, reflective yellow centerline surface markings in the following scenarios:

#### **A. Road-Intersecting Trails**

When intersecting with a road, trails must feature a minimum 30-foot yellow centerline leading up to the intersection and continuing for 30 feet beyond the road crossing to ensure clear visibility and separation of directional traffic.

#### **B. Hazard Identification**

Trails with obstructed views, sharp turns, or curves, as well as intersections with other Arterial or Collector Trails, must have a yellow center line extending a minimum of 30 feet prior to the hazard and continuing the duration of the hazard zone. Additional reflective or textured surface markings may be required in areas of significant risk, such as high-traffic zones.

## **Chapter 6 – Landscaping**

### **6.00 General Landscaping**

All landscaping within parks, trails, and public recreation areas in Ridgefield must reflect the city's commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. Landscaping designs shall emphasize the use of native and drought-tolerant plant species to reduce water usage, enhance local biodiversity, and minimize maintenance requirements. Design approaches should foster a harmonious balance between aesthetics, functionality, and environmental preservation.

Landscaping must create safe, inviting, and visually appealing spaces that encourage public use and enjoyment. Plants selected should contribute to soil stability, erosion control, and the overall ecological health of the site.

### **6.01 Irrigation**

All irrigation systems must be equipped with a central control system powered by Alternating Current (AC) and connected to an electric meter. Direct Current (DC) or battery-operated irrigation control systems are not permitted unless a waiver is provided by the City because the installation of AC-powered systems would be infeasible. Infeasibility is to be determined by the City.

Plan sets must explicitly specify the power source for the irrigation control system and provide a general layout of the entire irrigation system. This requirement is intended to ensure ease of use for maintenance personnel, promote water conservation, and enhance long-term system reliability. Requests for waivers to install DC or battery-operated irrigation control systems must be documented within the approved plan sets.

### **6.02 Landscaping Plan**

Developers and designers are required to submit a comprehensive Landscaping Plan as part of all parks and recreation development projects. Landscaping Plans must adhere to the requirements specified in RMC 18.725 LANDSCAPING.

### **6.03 Native Plant List**

Landscaping designs should prioritize the use of native plants to promote ecological health, reduce water usage, and ensure long-term sustainability. All plant selections must comply with RMC 18.830 NATIVE PLANT LIST.

### **6.04 Tree Plan**

A dedicated Tree Plan must accompany all parks and recreation development projects to ensure the preservation, enhancement, and appropriate placement of trees within public spaces. Tree Plans must adhere to the requirements specified in RMC 18.840 TREES.

## **Chapter 7 – Maintenance and Safety**

### **7.00 General Maintenance and Safety**

Ensuring the long-term sustainability, safety, and accessibility of parks and trails is crucial for fostering public enjoyment and protecting community investments. This chapter outlines maintenance and safety standards designed to create secure, inclusive, durable, and easy-to-maintain spaces.

### **7.01 Safety Considerations**

Safety considerations are critical in the design and maintenance of parks and trails. Designs must ensure clear and unobstructed access for emergency personnel, as well as reasonable mitigations to risks to the public and maintenance personnel.

#### **C. Emergency Response Access**

All parks and trails must have clear signage, as specified in Chapter 5 of these standards, to ensure quick identification and to assist first responders in efficiently reaching the site during an emergency.

All parks must include curb ramps at least 96 inches wide to accommodate entry and access for emergency responders during an emergency.

All trails must include curb ramps with a width no less than the minimum width of the trail's classification minimum width, as specified in Chapter 2 of these standards.

All park layouts must provide clear, unobstructed pathways of at least 72 inches from parking areas to all recreational features.

#### **D. Bollards Trail Entrances Adjacent to Roads**

Bollards must be installed at all road-intersecting Arterial and Collector trail entrances to deter unauthorized vehicular entry.

Bollards must be spaced no more than 48 inches apart, providing sufficient clearance for bicycles and mobility devices.

All Bollards must be readily removable for emergency and maintenance access.

#### **E. Trail Surface Markings and Signage**

Arterial and Collector Trails must include a Trail Hazard Notification Sign and surface markings at all visually obstructed corners as specified in Chapter 5 of these standards to deter pedestrian and non-motorized transportation collisions.

Arterial and Collector Trails must include a Trails Hazard Notification Sign and surface markings as specified in Chapter 5 of these standards at all road-intersecting trail entrances and vehicular road intersections to deter trail user and vehicular collisions.

Arterial and Collector Trails intersecting and crossing vehicular roads require road signage notifying drivers of the trail intersection to deter trail users and vehicular collisions.

### **7.02 Maintenance Considerations**

#### **A. Maintenance Equipment Access**

All parks must include curb ramps at least 96 inches wide to accommodate entry and access for maintenance equipment.

All trails must include curb ramps with a width no less than the minimum width of the trail's classification minimum width, as specified in Chapter 2 of these standards.

All park layouts must provide clear, unobstructed pathways of at least 72 inches from parking areas to all structures and recreational amenities and fixtures.

All parks and trails must accommodate safe parking and staging of maintenance vehicles with utility trailers, measuring 10 feet by 40 feet.