

Parks & Recreation Signage Plan

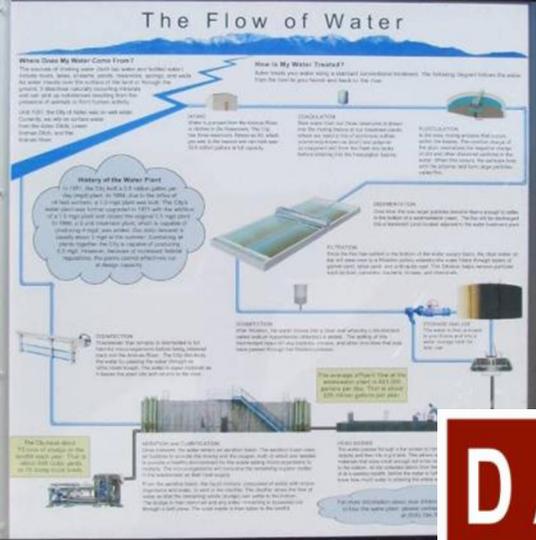
A detailed map of the park area, showing various trails, landmarks, and facilities. The map is printed on a light-colored background and includes a scale and a north arrow.

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Unlike motorist or bicyclist signage, there is no national standard for pedestrian signs. The nature of being a pedestrian in contrast to a motorist or bicyclist, means that the pedestrian can approach the sign more closely, and take as much time as they want to read it. Therefore a pedestrian sign can contain a lot more detail than is possible with a sign directed at motorists or bicyclists. Pedestrian signs are usually in the form of the following:

1. Directional. Directional signs are usually simple signs with an arrow indicating direction, a destination name, and sometimes distance to the destination.
2. Maps. Maps usually showing the pedestrian their location, and the surrounding streets and destinations.
3. Informational. Informational signs tend to be highly customized to reflect local conditions, historic importance, cultural significance, architectural styles, educational, regulatory, natural or man-made landscapes, etc.

Pedestrian signs need to be large enough to be read and contain helpful information, without causing visual problems such as sign clutter.

Objectives

The City of Aztec parks have many challenges in addressing every signage need due to the various uses and diverse settings of the parks and trails network system. The parks as defined in the city's Parks & Recreation Enhancement Plan 2012, varies from mini-parks to neighborhood and community parks with several various sport facilities present as well. With these challenges, an effective signage system must be guided by a series of goals and objectives. These objectives are listed below but in no particular order.

- Design a unified look for signage at the parks;
- Create flexibility within the context of a unified system;
- Use materials and styles that relate to the place and the signage types throughout the parks and trails;
- Create a signage program that is cost efficient in fabrication, implementation, and maintenance;
- Facilitate efficient pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular access throughout the parks and trails;
- Create a system that can be implemented in phases; and
- Create hierarchy of signage types for various applications.

Signage Program

This conceptual signage program provides an overview of the proposed signage system for the City of Aztec Parks and Recreation System. This calls for a comprehensive approach in which the use of typefaces, graphic messages and colors are carefully considered. From roadway and on-site directional signage to amenity identification, the signage program should act as one cohesive system and help to create a sense of place. It should provide concise and relevant information at key decision making points. It is the first layer of experience when a person visits a park or trail system.

Sign Type

The signage program addresses the following sign types to ensure that the public is provided adequate information when interfacing with the park or trail system:

- Regulatory Signs (Rules Panel, Prohibitive Signs)
- Vehicular Signs (Parking, Directional, Accessibility, Traffic Control)
- Trail Signs (Usage, Directional, Etiquette, Informational)
- Maps (Parks and Trails)
- Interpretive (Historical, Cultural, Natural Resources)
- Identification (Structure Names or Numbers)

Sign Layout

The following grid system (Figure 1.1) is meant to provide a standard format to guide the layout of margins, borders, text, arrows, and pictograms on directional signage. The grid format follows closely the system established by the National Park Service to provide optimum legibility and consistency. All directional sign panels should follow the graphic layout provided below. However, there may be instances where deviation from the guidelines may be necessary. The grid sizes are proportional to the specified capital letter height for each sign, therefore any changes in text size will also require change in grid size. This is meant to maintain uniform relationships between text, 'white-space', and panel size.

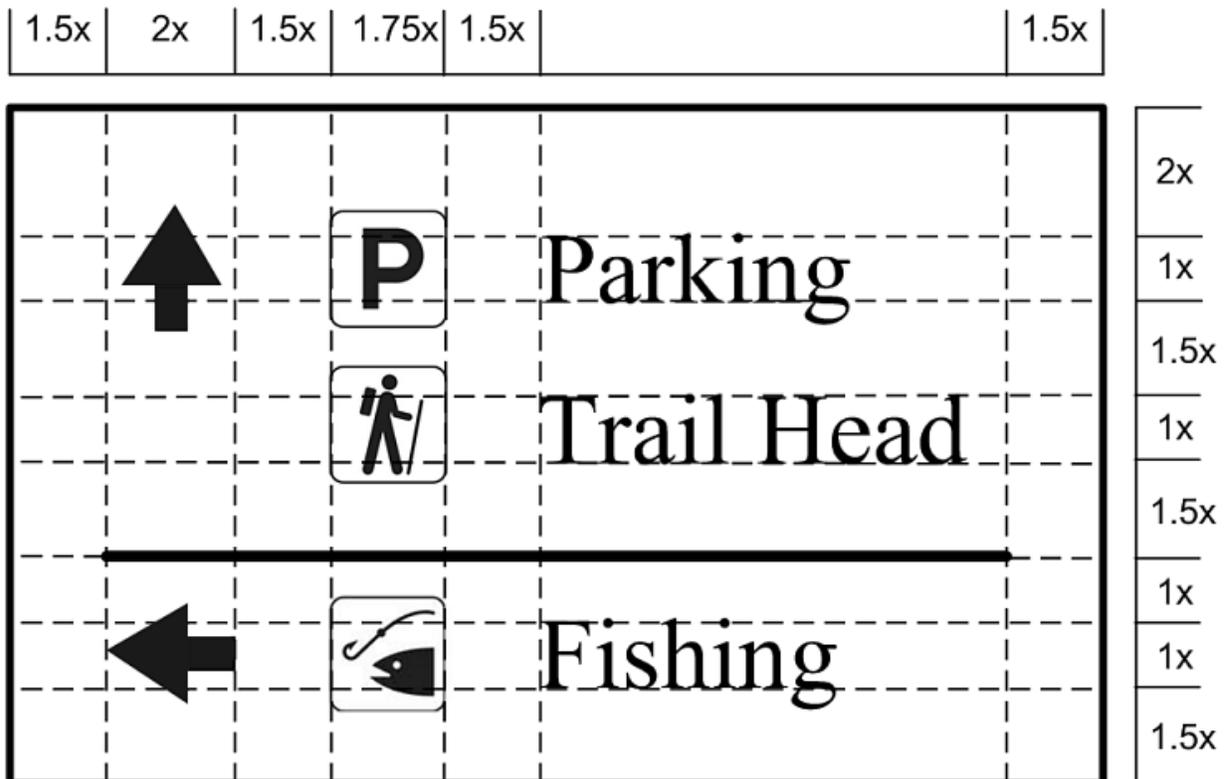


Figure 1.1. Directional Sign Layout.

Standard Fonts

The application of two different typestyles is recommended for use in the signage system. The use of a sans serif typeface and serif typeface shall be used.

1. The serif typestyle “Times New Roman” is to be used as the primary signage font for formal headings for locations, directions, services, etc. The serif style of this lettering is meant to be easily readable.
2. The sans serif typestyle “Aerial” is to be used for general body copy, and secondary header information. The style of sans serif lettering is to provide maximum readability for the listings, information, or postings on signs, which may range in contrast and size.

Standard Colors

Color is specified to balance visitor messaging requirements and support the identity of the Parks and Recreation System. Sign panels shall be white with black lettering or black with white lettering depending upon purpose and location. Exception to this shall be postings of hazards or warnings in which case backgrounds shall be red with white lettering. If other background colors are to be utilized due to purpose or location then all text, arrows, pictograms and borders shall be in contrast color (e.g. purple background with white letters).

Standard Pictograms

Symbols for park signage should use the National Recreation Symbols, designed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and refined and augmented by the Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD). This system includes 112 symbols and is considered an international pictographic language, therefore deviation from standard icons is not recommended. A sample of common National Recreation Symbols is provided below for reference and can be displayed with black background and white icon image or white background with black icon image.



Figure 1.2. Sample of National Recreation Symbols.

Directional Arrows

There is only one style of directional arrow recommended for the signage system. The arrow is sized as a proportion of the primary legend capital letter which shall be equal to 1.5x the height of the primary legend capital letter. A scale and alignment guide is provided in Figure 1.1.

Sign Structure

Signage will be displayed in various forms depending upon sign type, content and location. There will be five primary ways that signage will be installed:

- Direct Mount – signage that is relatively small, usually less than 4 sq ft and may be directly affixed to structures. Direct mounting is typical for identification signage (e.g. pavilion number, field name or number, regulatory, etc.)
- Post Mount – signage that normally ranges from 1 to 8 sq ft and location requires some form of support structure not available at the location. Post mounting of signs is feasible for directional signage, some regulatory/prohibitive signage, parking, etc. Depending upon panel size, post mount may require single or double posts.

- Kiosk – a sign structure with side posts and roof. The city has developed a style for such kiosks which are metal (see Figure 1.3). Where possible, kiosks built in-house will be utilized to display informational panels either in the size of 3 ft by 3 ft or 4 ft by 4 ft. The color scheme of the kiosk structure shall be black to minimize graffiti markings. Kiosks will minimally contain regulatory information and map information of the city. Depending upon size and location, a kiosk may contain interpretive information (cultural, historical, or natural) or other relevant public information. If kiosks are to be located in remote or along trails, a similar design with wooden construction may be utilized.

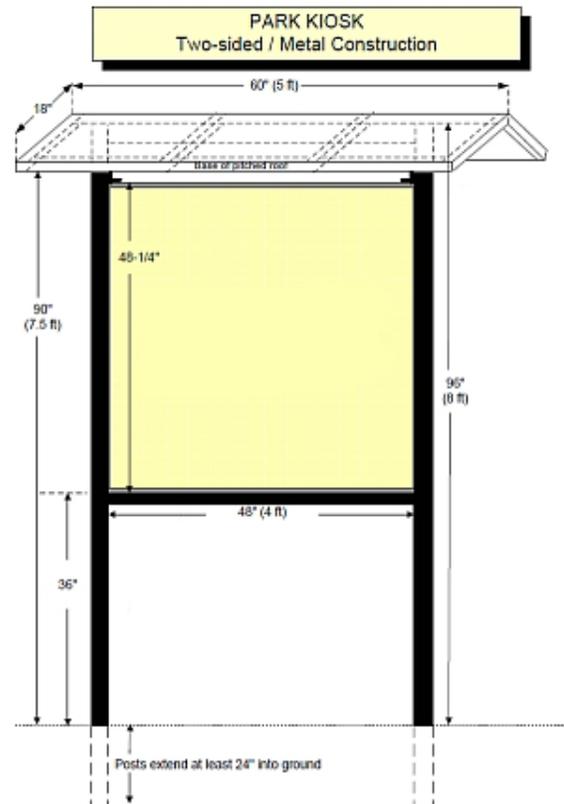


Figure 1.3. Park Kiosk.

- Monument – a formal sign structure intended for gateways and entrances to parks. Construction of such monuments will be dependent upon the park and location. The support structure may consist of double posts with landscaped bed or some other formal construction such as brick, stone, or cobble. To date, the city has built one such monument at Tiger Park (Figure 1.4.)



Figure 1.4. Example of a Monument Sign.

- Trail Posts – The city is looking at the use of Carsonite composite markers for trail markings. Such posts are built from composite materials which can withstand impacts, harsh weather, corrosive elements, UV exposure and allows for customizing each post with decals which can be manufactured locally.

SECTION 2. SPECIFIC SIGNAGE NEEDS FOR PARKS

Cap Walls Park

Cap Walls Park is a neighborhood park and does not necessarily need off-site directional signage. However, signage is required within the park and suggested signage location and type is shown in Figure 2.1. Map numbers correspond with the list.



Figure 2.1. Location of Proposed Signage at Cap Walls Park.

1. Replace park gateway sign in the form of a simple monument sign (posts & landscape box).
2. Kiosk adjacent to parking and near pavilion.
 - 1) Rules panel.
 - 2) City map.
3. Pavilion number, direct mount on both east and west ends of pavilion (completed).
4. Playground rules panel, double post mount.

Florence Park

Florence Park is another neighborhood park and does not necessarily need off-site directional signage. However, signage is required within the park and suggested signage location and type is shown in Figure 2.2. Map numbers correspond with the list.

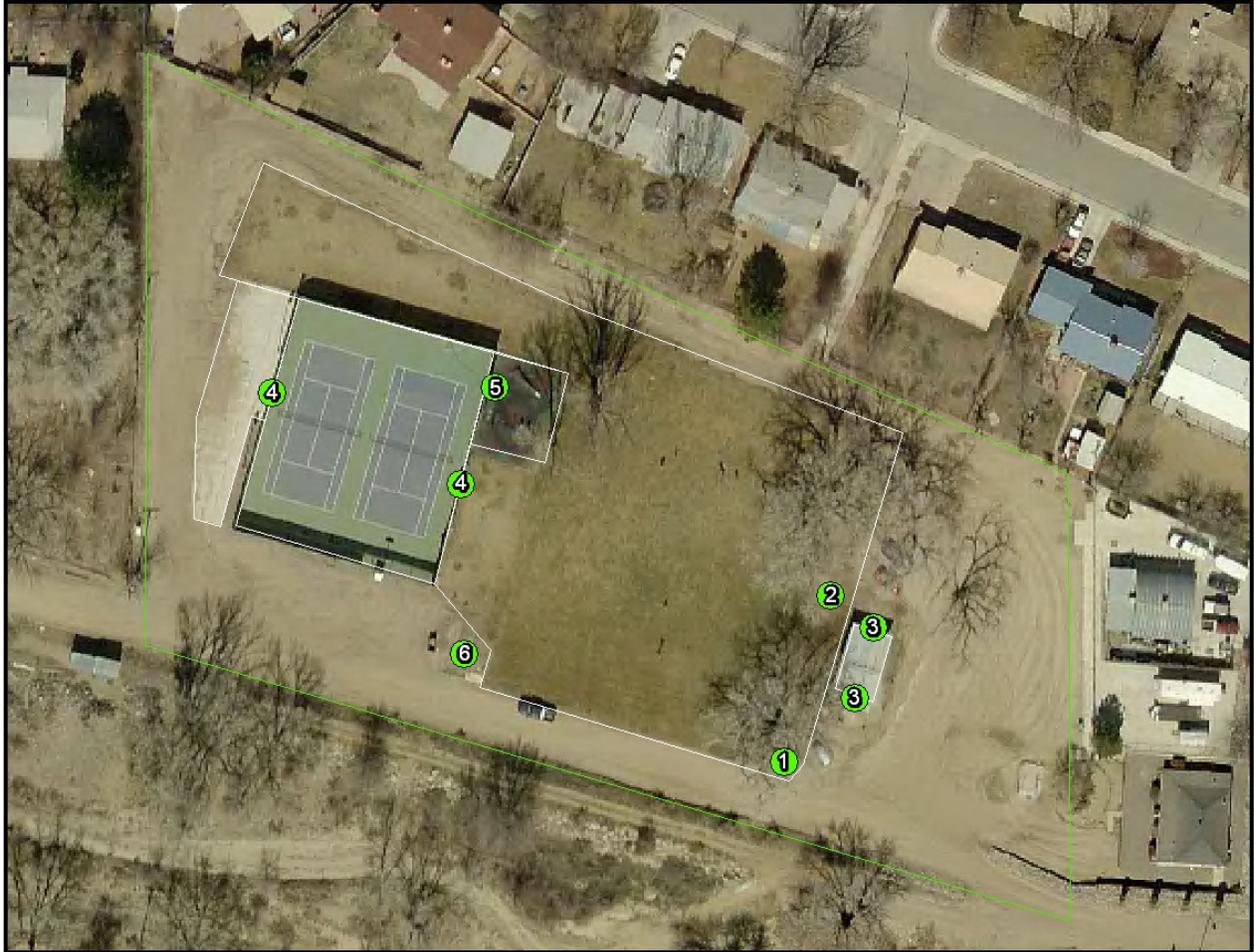


Figure 2.2. Location of Proposed Signage at Florence Park.

1. Replace park gateway sign in the form of a simple monument sign (posts & landscape box).
2. Kiosk adjacent to parking and near pavilion.
 - 1) Rules panel.
 - 2) City map.
3. Pavilion number, direct mount on both north and south ends of pavilion.
4. Tennis court and basketball rules panel direct mount and located at each entrance.
5. Playground rules panel, direct mount to adjoining fence.
6. Prohibitive parking signage when dumpster pad has been installed.

Other prohibitive or regulatory signage may be required and should be installed when needs or circumstances are identified.

Hartman Park

Hartman Park is a sports complex which contains seven baseball fields, three soccer fields, YAFL field and skateboard park. Given its community use and awareness, it does not seem to need off-site directional signage. However, signage is required within the park and suggested signage location and type is shown in Figure 2.3. Map numbers correspond with the list.



Figure 2.3. Location of Proposed Signage at Hartman Park.

1. New park gateway sign in the form of a simple monument sign (posts & landscape box).
2. Kiosk adjacent to parking and near new concession stand entrance.
 - 1) Rules panel.
 - 2) City map.
 - 3) Lockable showcase for sports association announcements.
3. Informational Kiosk.
 - 1) Fitness tips.
 - 2) City map.
4. Skateboard park rules panel direct mount and located at each entrance.
5. Kiosk adjacent to parking and near old concession stand entrance.

- 1) Rules panel.
- 2) City map.
6. Identification numbers for fields, direct mount on all three sides of backstop.
7. Playground rules signage, post mount.

Other prohibitive or regulatory signage may be required and should be installed when needs or circumstances are identified.

Kokopelli Park

Kokopelli Park is another neighborhood park that is in the conceptual designing stages at the time of this plan development. The park is proposed to have two small pavilions and a playground. Proposed signage is required within the park and suggested signage location and type is shown in Figure 2.4. Map numbers correspond with the list.

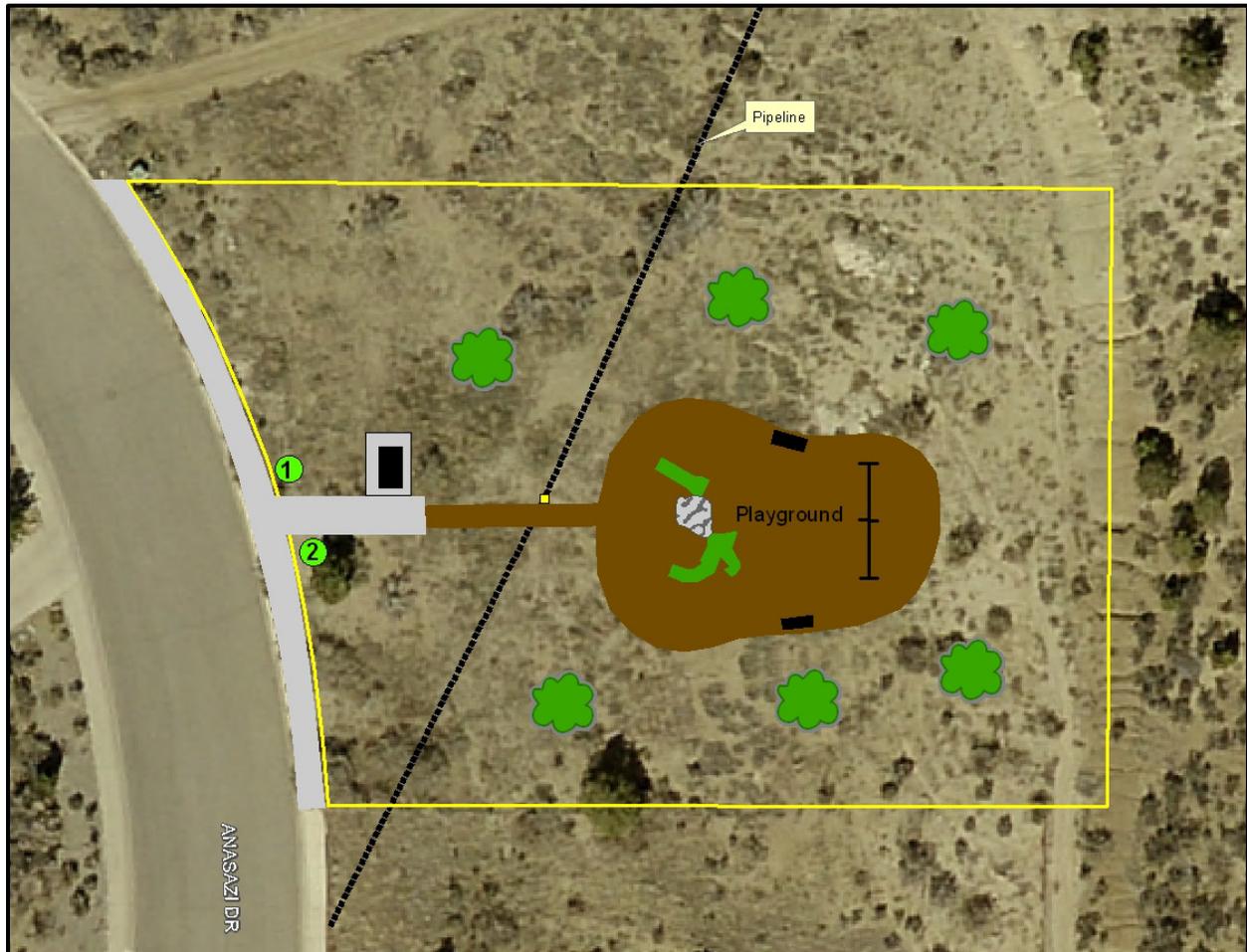


Figure 2.4. Location of Proposed Signage at Kokopelli Park.

1. New park gateway sign in the form of a simple monument sign (optional).
2. Kiosk adjacent to parking.
 - 1) Rules panel.
 - 2) City map.

Other prohibitive or regulatory signage may be required and should be installed when needs or circumstances are identified.

Main Avenue Courtyard

Main Avenue Courtyard is considered a special use area which is located in historic downtown. Signage is limited in the courtyard with currently only a plaque dedicating the courtyard.



Figure 2.5. Location of Proposed Signage at Main Avenue Courtyard.

1. A two-sided kiosk with city map and identification of “You are here” is recommended for the courtyard.

Memorial Rose Garden

The Memorial Rose garden is considered a mini-park which contains several special features. Built in 1970 by the Desert Planters Garden Club of Aztec it was dedicated to the City in 1972. Over its lifetime, the garden has been maintained by the garden club on a volunteer basis. In 1985, the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was added which honors the nation's armed forces, past, present, and future. Signage for this memorial is already in existence.

On June 7, 1999, John and Joyce Jackson participated in the planting of three trees east of the Memorial Rose Garden as part of their "Trail of Trees: One Family's Journey Crisscrossing the USA Planting Trees and Creating a Living Legacy" (John and Joyce Jackson, October 2010, Printing Arts Press). Two additional trees were planted later to accommodate the original five that were planned.



Figure 2.6. Location of Proposed Signage at Memorial Rose Garden.

1. New gateway sign in the form of a simple monument signs at east and west corners of the garden.
2. Monument sign for Municipal Complex.
3. Not shown on the map is the need for a memorial sign or plaque to honor the "Trail of Trees" legacy by John and Joyce Jackson. Location of the signage is still to be determined.

Minium Park

Minium Park is classified as a community park and is currently undergoing major upgrades which includes a water splash park, new restrooms, and new playground system. Given its central location and abundant use, it does not seem to need off-site directional signage. However, signage is required within the park and suggested signage location and type is shown in Figure 2.6. Map numbers correspond with the list.



Figure 2.7. Location of Proposed Signage at Minium Park.

1. Kiosk entrance to Splash & Play (Rules and CPR panels - completed).
2. Splash and Play rules panel for second entrance, double post install (optional).
3. Play ground rules panel, double post install (optional).
4. Kiosk adjacent to ADA parking.
 - 1) General park rules panel.
 - 2) City map.
5. Pavilion identification (completed).

Other prohibitive or regulatory signage may be required and should be installed when needs or circumstances are identified.

Municipal Complex

The Municipal Complex is considered a special use area which consists of a variety of city offices and services. As such, there are at least two locations where current signage exists for off-site directional signage. For purposes of consistency in appearance, these signs should be considered for replacement. With respect to on-site signage, several buildings have letter signage installed on buildings to identify the department or service. However, none of the lettered signage is uniform in style or appearance and it is recommended that such signage be replaced over time so that all buildings are uniformly lettered. In addition, the city has taken in consideration the need for pedestrian informational kiosks which would be double-sided and allow for the posting of information within the show cases. Minimally, a complex map will be posted on one side with the opposite side containing a city map and/or other public postings. Figure 2.7 is an example of the municipal kiosk that will be utilized. The sample also shows the optional brochure rack. Kiosks have been installed in locations shown in Figure 2.8.



Figure 2.8. Location of Municipal Complex Kiosks.

1. Informational kiosks with each containing a map of the city complex, possibly a city map and/or other informational postings as well as brochure racks.

Riverside Park

Riverside park is considered a community park and due to its locale could use at least one off-site directional sign at the intersection of Light Plant Road and W. Aztec Blvd. Currently Riverside Park is being considered for redesign in the Parks and Recreation Enhancement Plan 2012. As such, a complete signage plan cannot be developed until a design has been accepted. Minimally the following signage should be considered (Figure 2.9).

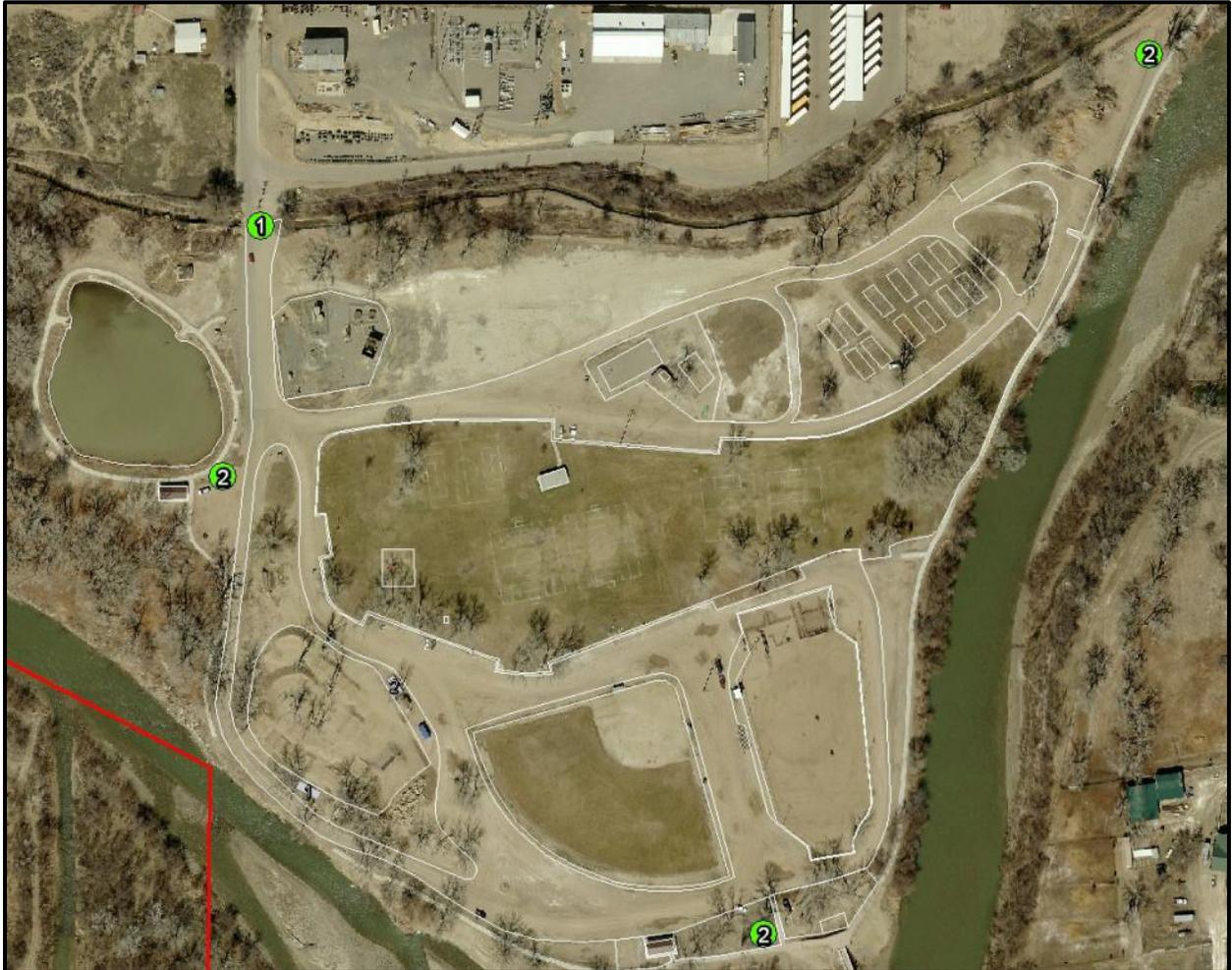


Figure 2.9. Location of Proposed Signage at Riverside Park.

1. Gateway entrance sign.
2. Kiosks at pedestrian bridge, north trail head, and fishing pond.

Other prohibitive, regulatory, or rules signage may be required and should be installed when needs or circumstances are identified or when new sports facilities are constructed.

Tiger Park

Tiger Park is a recently built community park which is adjacent to Reservoir #3. Signage has been created for this park and upon completion it appears that all signage necessities have been fulfilled. The types of signs located at this park include the following:

1. Gateway entrance sign for Tiger Park (completed).
2. Two-sided kiosks with park rules, fishing rules, city map, and information on how water is processed (completed).
3. Pavilion identification signs (completed).
4. Mileage markers placed every 0.10 mile around the 0.5 mile pathway around the reservoir (completed).
5. Warning signage about every 1,000 ft (completed).
 - 1) No Swimming
 - 2) Danger – Stay Off Rocks
 - 3) Danger – Keep Off Ice (seasonal signage).



Figure 2.10. Location of Tiger Park Signage.

SECTION 3. SPECIFIC SIGNAGE NEEDS FOR TRAILS

A conceptual plan for trails within the City of Aztec was developed by the Aztec Trails and Open Spaces organization in 2010. This plan outlines existing and proposed trails throughout the city. The plan identified some 11.7 miles (61,959 ft) of existing trails varying from simple earthen trails to concrete sidewalks. An additional 13.3 miles (70,445 ft) have been proposed in order to fully connect the trail system within Aztec.

In addition to the identification of existing and proposed trails, the plan also identified the need for signage on the trail system. The plan noted that signage should be standardized and that three fundamental types of signage should be present:

1. Directional
2. Informational
3. Regulatory

Kiosks

Informational signage should provide cultural, natural, and/or historic information in the form of informational kiosks located at trail heads. Several kiosk locations were identified in the ATOS trail plan and are as follows:

Animas River Pedestrian Bridge

1. Both sides of the pedestrian bridge, each would act as a gateway to the sites and locations on the opposite side of the Animas River. This important connection provides river access to Aztec Ruins National Monument and enhances the experience of visiting the national monument through trail use.
 - 1) East side would have a panel focusing on the Old Spanish Trail;
 - 2) West side would have a panel focusing on the Aztec Ruins National Monument
2. Map of other city parks and trails system.
3. Historical information on Aztec Ruins and Old Spanish Trail.

Riverside-Hartman Park Pedestrian Bridge

This signage was noted and included in with the Hartman Park and Riverside Park sections of this plan.

1. Both sides of the pedestrian bridge.
2. Map of other city parks and trails system.
3. Rules and regulations on use of the parks.

Tiger Park

This signage was noted in the Tiger Park section and has been implemented.

1. Entrance to the park.
2. Rules and regulations for use of the reservoir.
3. Map of other city parks and trails system.

Proposed Bridge Park

1. Map of other city parks and trails system.
2. History of bridge crossings at this location.
3. History of how the Animas River was named.

Proposed Townsend Wildlife Refuge

1. Nature key to local wildlife and plants.
2. Map of other city parks and trails system.

To date, kiosks have been established at Tiger Park and plans are in place for additional kiosks at Riverside-Hartman Park Pedestrian Bridge, top of the stairway at the '29 Bridge, and at the Animas River Pedestrian Bridge when it has been constructed.

Trail Markings

With respect to signage along the trails, the City will utilize brown Carsonite Flexible Marking Posts (Figure 3.1) that will allow for decals to be used in a variety of ways such as:

- City Logo which will identify the trail as an official city trail.
- Mileage segments.
- Directional arrows.
- Hazards or warnings.

Much like the parks, when needs or circumstances are identified that require the public's attention, then other prohibitive, regulatory, and/or informational signage may be installed.



Figure 3.1. Carsonite Post Sample.