

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

1-1. Purpose. The purpose of this manual is to present data compiled from experience and research that may be useful to Corps of Engineers personnel concerned with design of access and circulation to recreation sites, areas and facilities. The material presented in this manual is intended as design guidance for obtaining an end product which results in safe, useable, economical recreation developments and accessible to all.

1-2. Applicability. This manual is issued for the guidance of Division and District Engineers having responsibility for the design and construction of recreation developments at Civil Works projects.

1-3. References.

- a. TM 5-818-2
- b. TM 5-820-3
- c. TM 5-820-4
- d. TM 5-822-2
- e. TM 5-822-4
- f. TM 5-822-5
- g. TM 5-822-6
- h. EM 1110-2-1906
- i. Office of the Chief of Engineers, Standard Pavement Joint Curb and Gutter - Vehicular Rigid, Standard Drawing No. 40-17-02 dated 5 March 1962.
- j. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) D 6.1-1978, "Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices", U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 1978.
- k. Architectural Graphic Standards, 6th Edition, The American Institute of Architects, 1970.

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1. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 341 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20004:

- (1) A policy on Geometric Design of Rural Highways, 1965.
- (2) A policy on Design of Urban Highways and Arterial Streets, 1973.

1-4. Scope. This manual presents basic design considerations for all portions and modes of access and circulation to and about recreation areas and facilities. It sets out specific design considerations which when applied can eliminate confusion and duplication of design effort. An attempt is made to present the most efficient, practical and time tested designs. Additional guidance is given in the form of construction details and by illustrations of existing design solutions. The illustrations were selected for their soundness and completeness for meeting the public need for recreation facilities.

1-5. Discussion. Public use and enjoyment of recreation resources at Corps projects depends upon many factors. Whether the visit is by automobile, boat, or on foot access and circulation to and through park and recreation areas have a distinctive character and play a major role in influencing the recreating experience. The design and location of park access and circulation roads, parking areas, boat ramps, walks, steps, and trails must be in accordance with the philosophy of how a person views the park and can be as significant as participation in its activities. This philosophy of design aids in insuring that Corps projects become places to which people go for a special kind of experience, rather than merely places to get away from everyday activities. Within recreation lands, no road or other circulation system should be designed only as a connecting device to link points of interest. Every segment of every recreation access facility should relate to the environment and the recreation scene through which it passes in a meaningful way. Access and circulation in recreation areas should, to the extent possible, constitute an enjoyable and informative experience in itself. Directness of route of recreation roads should not be the overruling factor in selection of alignment. This manual covers the various means of access to recreation sites, areas and facilities. Special chapters cover road design; parking areas; roadside facilities; boat launching ramps; walks, steps and ramps; trails; and park entrances.