

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1 PURPOSE

The Urban Design Standards Manual for new public improvements has been prepared as a mechanism to implement uniform design standards, procedures, and regulations for the preparation of public improvements. Public improvements are those that meet any of the following:

1. Are initiated, designed and constructed by or under the supervision of the Jurisdiction as a public improvement and maintained by the Jurisdiction.
2. Are initiated, designed and constructed by the private owner/developer's private engineer and contractor. Upon acceptance of the improvements in the local Jurisdiction system the improvements are maintained by the Jurisdiction.
3. Those improvements that require review and approval by the Jurisdiction, but will remain under private ownership, may be required to follow the design standards described herein. Each Jurisdiction will decide on their own if these types of improvements are to follow the design standards.

1.2 INTENT OF DESIGN STANDARDS

The values contained herein are considered fundamental concepts of basic design criteria which will serve as a framework for satisfactory design on new public improvements. The Project Engineer is encouraged to develop the design based on this framework and tailored to particular situations that are consistent with the general purpose and intent of the design criteria through the exercise of sound engineering judgment. Situations do arise that require special considerations. Therefore, to eliminate hardships or problems, the Jurisdiction may choose to vary the design criteria, procedures, and regulations. Should variances from the Design Standards be required, the reason for the variance should be documented and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The design standards as described for new improvements may not be attainable for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Each project of this type must be considered individually to determine if any of the design standards herein may apply.

The design standards from this manual and the Jurisdictional design specifications for public improvements should be used for the preparation of all design plans for new improvements or major reconstruction submitted by the Project Engineer for Jurisdictional review. The Jurisdiction will review all submittals for general compliance with the specific design criteria, procedures, and regulations. Approval by the Jurisdiction does not relieve the Project Engineer from the responsibility of ensuring that the calculations, design, and plans are accurate or are in compliance with the manual and fit the needs of a particular project.

The technical criteria not specifically addressed in this document should follow the provisions of each Jurisdiction's own policy or criteria.

1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE MANUAL

The Urban Design Standards Manual is organized into fourteen chapters: General Provisions, Stormwater, Sanitary Sewer, Water Mains, Roadway Design, Geotechnical, Erosion Control, Recreational Trails & Sidewalks, Utilities, Street Trees, Street Lighting, Parking Lots, Signalization, and Trenchless Construction. The chapters include general information, report documentation, plan design, federal, and state requirements. The manual provides a compilation of readily available literature relevant to the design of urban facilities. The chapters are designed so that revisions can be made by updating the effected sections, as necessary, to reflect up-to-date engineering practices and changes in technology.

1.4 JURISDICTION AND AGENCIES

These Design Standards shall apply to participating local governments except where superseded by the State and Federal Requirements.

1.5 AMENDMENT AND REVISIONS

The standards and criteria of each Jurisdiction will be amended as new technology is developed and/or experience gained in the use of these Design Standards indicate a need for revision. The revisions will be adopted and the Jurisdiction engineers shall monitor the performance and effectiveness of the Design Standards and will recommend changes and/or amendments as needed.

1.6 ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the responsibility of each Jurisdiction to enforce the adopted provisions of these Design Standards.

1.7 INTERPRETATION

The interpretation and application of the Design Standards shall be made by the Jurisdiction.

The following classification of improvements and definitions are provided for a clearer understanding of general policy. Table 2.1, page 19, provides a summary of Classification of Improvements.

Nothing in the Design Standards shall be construed as limiting the designer's options in regards to new and innovative technology. Each alternative proposed utilizing new or unproven technology must receive approval prior to implementation.