



# Memorandum

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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer  
**Date:** May 4, 2023  
**Subject:** Warning Sign Policy

At the last City Council meeting, the City Council received a request from a resident to place a warning sign near his home on Able Street for an autistic child.

After the City Council meeting, Councilmember Dirks inquired if there was a warning sign policy and requested, if there was none, that one be created for Council consideration.

Staff has determined that there current is no warning sign policy. Staff proposes the following language be adopted to help govern the placement of warning signs:

## WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs are used when it is deemed necessary to warn traffic of existing or potentially hazardous conditions on or adjacent to a highway or street. Warning signs require caution on the part of the vehicle operator and may call for a reduction in speed or a maneuver in the interest of safety for the motorist or pedestrian. The use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum. Overuse of warning signs, especially for conditions which are apparent, tends to breed disrespect for signs in general, and they lose their effectiveness. At residential speeds (under 35 MPH) motorists using due care can respond to hazards or conditions presented in the roadway without the need for warning signs.

### Guidelines:

1. The provisions of the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) shall be followed.
2. Traffic analysis, engineering, and property use facts and data shall be reviewed when considering warning signs.
3. General warning signs that are not about a specific hazard will not be placed, as they do not indicate expected driver actions
4. Absent supporting facts and data, warning signs will not be erected on residential streets.
5. Warning sign appropriateness will be reviewed as part of any street reconstruction.
6. Any of the following conditions may warrant the installation of a warning sign:

- a. Speed Advisory. Warning Sign in conjunction with another warning sign where geometrics or operating conditions warrant a reduced speed.
  - b. Curve or Turn Warning Sign. Installed in residential locations when inadequate sight lines warrant. Installed when a street or roadway turns at a right angle.
  - c. Park or Playground Warning Sign. Installed on the park property at the focal point or entrance to the park.
  - d. International Pedestrian Warning Sign. Installed on established pedestrian routes where 5 pedestrians per hour for two continuous hours are documented.
  - e. School, School Crossing, & School Bus Stop Warning Signs. Installation in accordance with Part VII of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
  - f. Stop Ahead, Yield Ahead, Signals Ahead Warning Signs. Installed on approaches where the traffic control sign is not continuously visible to the driver.
  - g. Dead End/No Outlet Warning Signs. Installed where a roadway terminates in a dead end or where a turn-about is necessary to return to a point of origin.
  - h. Disabled Person Warning Signs. Signs shall be black on yellow, standard warning colors
    - (1) Warning signs may be installed upon the request of a disabled person or by the representative of a disabled person.
    - (2) Requestors will be asked to notify the City to remove the sign when the disability no longer exists or the person moves.
    - (3) Disability status will be automatically reviewed after a five-year period.
    - (4) Signs available include: Deaf Child Area, Blind Child Area, Disabled Child/Person Area, Autistic Child Area.
7. Children at Play Warning Signs will not be installed within the City of Spring Lake Park.

If adopted, this sign policy will govern all future requests for warning signs. Staff recommends approval of the proposed policy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 753-784-6491.