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1194

Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds

2021

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NFPA® 1194

Standard for

Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds

2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1194, *Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Recreational Vehicles. It was issued by the Standards Council on June 1, 2020, with an effective date of June 21, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1194 was approved as an American National Standard on June 21, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1194

The earliest activity of NFPA in the development of standards for recreational vehicle parks was in 1937, and the first NFPA standard on the topic, officially adopted in 1940, was entitled *Standard for Trailer Coaches and Trailer Coach Camps*. A revision of the 1940 standard was adopted by NFPA in 1952 (post–World War II), entitled NFPA 501, *Standards for Fire Prevention and Fire Protection in Trailer Coaches and Trailer Coach Courts*. In 1960, NFPA acted to approve a revised version that divided the earlier text into two parts — one designated NFPA 501A, adopted that year as *Standard for Fire Protection in Trailer Courts*, and the other designated NFPA 501B, adopted in 1971 as *Standard for Fire Prevention and Fire Protection in Mobile Homes and Travel Trailers*. NFPA 501B was further amended in 1963, and in 1964, a revision of NFPA 501A was approved.

During the years 1962–1964, the standards activities of the Mobile Homes Manufacturers Association and the Trailer Coach Association were consolidated. They produced standards under the American Standards Association (now known as ANSI) entitled *American Standard Installations of Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Systems in Travel Trailers* (A119.2-1963) and a similar *Standard on Mobile Homes* (A119.1-1963). These interorganizational arrangements were completed in 1964, and in 1969, the newly formed Recreational Vehicle Institute was added as a fourth cosponsor.

The first standard covering any aspect of recreational vehicle parks completed by the current ANSI-sponsored committee was the *Electrical Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks* (NFPA 501D-1971/ANSI A177.2-1972, subsequently redesignated as ANSI A119.4-1972). This edition of NFPA 1194 was prepared and published to update the previous material covering electrical safety in the 1964 edition of NFPA 501A, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Fire Protection in Trailer Courts*. In the 1971 edition of *NFPA 70, National Electrical Code*, electrical requirements for trailer courts first appeared, based largely on NFPA 501D-1971. Since it obviously was necessary to maintain coordination between NFPA 501D and *NFPA 70*, the sponsoring committees established liaison procedures so that the intent of Chapter 6 of the 1977 edition of NFPA 501D was identical to that of Part B of Article 551 of *NFPA 70*. Companion NFPA documents to NFPA 501D, besides *NFPA 70*, were NFPA 1192, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles*, and NFPA 501A, *Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Manufactured Home Installations, Sites, and Communities*.

Sponsorship for the 1977 edition of NFPA 501D was held jointly by the NFPA and the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA). The standard was developed by the Sectional Committee on Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds, which operated under the Correlating Committee on Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicles. The 1977 edition included substantive revisions to the previous edition in Chapter 6, Electrical Systems.

The 1982 edition, renamed *Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds*, was produced by the Committee on Fire Safety for Recreational Vehicles, formed on June 20, 1979. The committee was responsible for developing a standard for fire safety for recreational vehicles and recreational vehicle parks, and, therefore, the 1982 edition excluded all sections of the previous editions not considered within the committee scope. Sections dealing with environmental health and sanitation were notably excluded, as were requirements for park electrical

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systems, which are addressed by reference to *NFPA 70*. Modifications also were made in sections dealing with definitions and fire safety and to conform to the NFPA *Manual of Style*.

The 1986 edition included very minor reference changes and revised definitions. The 1990 edition contained a completely revised chapter on fire safety requirements, Chapter 3, so that non-fire safety items could be moved to other chapters handled by the ANSI A119 Committee. The standard was reconfirmed in 1993, and some sections that were considered operational concerns were deleted from Chapter 3 in the 1996 edition.

The 1999 edition of NFPA 501D was renumbered as NFPA 1194, and the duplicate requirement for a refuse disposal system was deleted from Chapter 3.

Only minor technical changes were made in the 2002 edition. However, the document was completely reorganized and editorially revised to comply with the requirements of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

Prior to the 2005 edition, the requirements for environmental health and sanitation were developed by the ANSI A119 Accredited Standards Committee, of which the RVIA was Secretariat. The requirements for fire safety were added, published, and distributed under one cover as ANSI A119.4/NFPA 1194 by ANSI, NFPA, and RVIA.

Through an agreement with the RVIA, responsibility for development of the standard was transferred to NFPA; therefore, the requirements for the design and construction features for recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds that are appropriate to provide adequate environmental health and sanitation, safety of electrical distribution systems, safety of LP-Gas storage and dispensing, and fire protection were combined into one standard, NFPA 1194.

The 2005 edition of NFPA 1194 was also subjected to editorial revisions in accordance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Technical changes to the standard included revisions of requirements to address the larger scale of recreational vehicles and to provide specific requirements for wildland/urban interface areas.

The 2008 edition provided new requirements for dead-end roads in excess of 100 feet in length. Associated annex material was added to depict a range of dead-end situations. New requirements also were added to address propane containers.

The 2011 edition included an updated and expanded definition of *recreational vehicles* as well as supporting material in the annex that described the various types of recreational vehicles. These sections were modified to be consistent with and match the wording in NFPA 1192, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles*.

The 2014 edition included a new requirement for a waste treatment system.

For the 2018 edition, the term *recreational park trailer* was replaced with *park model RV*. A new annex, Annex D, provides guidance on park operations.

For the 2021 edition, new provisions have been added to address grouped utility connection assembly pull-through sites and accessible camping unit sites. New annex language and figures have been added to provide additional insight to the provisions of the standard.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the fire safety criteria for recreational vehicles and recreational vehicle parks.

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

A reference in brackets [ ] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced and extracted publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex E.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 This standard shall provide minimum construction requirements for safety and health for occupants using facilities supplied by recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds offering temporary living sites for use by recreational vehicles, park model recreational vehicles, and other camping units.

1.1.2* This standard shall not cover the design of recreational vehicles, park model RVs, or other forms of camping units.

1.1.3 This standard shall not cover operational and maintenance practices for recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds.

1.2* Purpose. The purpose of this standard shall be to serve as a basis for regulations by authorities having jurisdiction over the facilities provided in new recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds and additions to existing facilities only.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard shall be applied to all new recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds and additions to existing facilities only.

1.3.2 This standard shall not be applied as a stand-alone design specification or instruction manual.

1.4 Retroactivity.

1.4.1 The provisions of this standard reflect a consensus of what is necessary to provide an acceptable degree of protection from the hazards addressed in this standard at the time the standard was issued.

1.4.2 Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this standard shall not apply to facilities, equipment, structures, or installations that existed or were approved for construction or installation prior to the effective date of the standard.

1.4.3 Where specified, the provisions of this standard shall be retroactive. In those cases where the authority having jurisdiction determines that the existing situation presents an unacceptable degree of risk, the authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to apply retroactively any portions of this standard deemed appropriate.

1.4.4 The retroactive requirements of this standard shall be permitted to be modified if their application clearly would be impractical in the judgment of the authority having jurisdiction, and only where it is clearly evident that a reasonable degree of safety is provided.

1.5 Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.5.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.5.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.6 Units. The primary units throughout this standard shall be U.S. customary units.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

Δ **2.2 NFPA Publications.** National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 1, *Fire Code,* 2021 edition.

NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers,* 2018 edition.

NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code,* 2020 edition.

NFPA 70®, National Electrical Code®, 2020 edition.

NFPA 72®, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code®, 2019 edition.

NFPA 1141, *Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas,* 2017 edition.

NFPA 1142, *Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting,* 2017 edition.

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire,* 2018 edition.

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NFPA 1192, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles,* 2021 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ANSI Publications. American National Standards Institute, Inc., 25 West 43rd Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10036.

ANSI A119.5, *Park Model Recreational Vehicle Standard*, 2018.

ANSI/ARI 1010, *Standard for Drinking Fountains and Self-Contained, Mechanically Refrigerated Drinking Water Coolers*, 2002.

2.3.2 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Publishing Office, 732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401-0001.

Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 141, "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations."

Title 42, United States Code, Chapter 6, Subchapter ZII, "Safety of Public Water Systems."

2.3.3 Other Publications.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2010 ADA Standard for Accessible Design Pocket Guide, ICC, Washington, DC, 2015.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 1, *Fire Code,* 2021 edition.
NFPA 1192, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles,* 2021 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Labeled. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

3.2.4* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.5 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.6 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.2.7 Standard. An NFPA Standard, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word "shall" to indicate requirements and that is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note, or other means as permitted in the NFPA Manuals of Style. When used in a generic sense, such as in the phrase "standards development process" or "standards development activities," the term "standards" includes all NFPA Standards, including Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guides.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Accessory Structure. Buildings that house offices, employee or operator living units, recreational facilities, grocery stores, convenience stores, gift shops, services, restrooms, dumping stations, showers, laundry facilities, storage units, and other support services customarily a part of a recreational vehicle park or campground operation.

3.3.2 Campground. Any parcel or tract of land under the control of any person, organization, or governmental entity wherein two or more recreational vehicle, recreational park trailer, and/or other camping unit sites are offered for use by the public or members of an organization for overnight stays.

3.3.2.1 ***Developed Campground.*** A campground with two or more recreational vehicle or recreational park trailer unit sites accessible by vehicular traffic, where sites are substantially developed and refuse disposal systems, flush toilets, bathing facilities, and water are provided.

3.3.2.2* ***Primitive Campground.*** A campground that is not accessible to vehicles and no facilities are provided for the comfort or convenience of the campers.

3.3.2.3 ***Semi-Developed Campground.*** A campground with two or more recreational vehicle or recreational park trailer unit sites, accessible by vehicular traffic. Roads and facilities (toilets and/or privies) are provided.

3.3.2.4* ***Semi-Primitive Campground.*** A campground accessible only by walk-in, equestrian, or motorized trail vehicles where rudimentary facilities (privies and/or fireplaces) might be provided for the comfort and convenience of the campers.

3.3.3* Camping Unit. A portable structure, shelter, or vehicle designed and intended for occupancy by persons engaged in RVing or camping.

3.3.4 Camping Unit Site. A specific area within a recreational vehicle park or campground that is set aside for use by a camping unit.

3.3.5 Camping Unit Stand. A specific area within a recreational vehicle park or campground set aside for use by a camping unit.

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3.3.6 Density. The number of camping unit sites on a unit of land area.

3.3.7* Gross Trailer Area. The total plan area measured to the maximum horizontal projection of exterior walls in the setup mode.

3.3.8 Offset (Sewer Lines). A combination of elbows or bends in a line of piping that brings one section of the pipe out of line but into a line parallel with the other section.

3.3.9* Park Model Recreational Vehicle (also known as Recreational Park Trailer or Park Model RV). A single living unit that is primarily designed and completed on a single chassis, mounted on wheels, to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or seasonal use, is certified by the manufacturer as complying with all applicable requirements of ANSI A119.5 and (1) has a gross trailer area not exceeding 400 ft^2 (37.15 m^2) in the setup mode or, (2) if having a gross trailer area not exceeding 320 ft^2 (29.72 m^2) in the setup mode, has a width greater than 8.5 ft (2.59 m) in the transport mode. [**2018:**ANSI A119.5]

3.3.10 Park Model RV Site. See 3.3.4, Camping Unit Site.

3.3.11 Park Model RV Stand. See 3.3.5, Camping Unit Stand.

3.3.12 Propane (Liquefied Petroleum Gas, LP-Gas, LPG). Any material having a vapor pressure not exceeding that allowed for commercial propane composed predominantly of the following hydrocarbons, either by themselves or as mixtures: propane, propylene, butane (normal butane or isobutane), and butylene. [**1192,** 2021]

3.3.13 Public Water Supply. A municipally or privately owned and approved community water supply system designed to distribute water to consumers within a defined geographical area.

3.3.14 Rear of Site. A line designating the rearmost part of the stand that is perpendicular to the longitudinal centerline of the stand.

3.3.15 Recreational Unit Site. See 3.3.4, Camping Unit Site.

3.3.16* Recreational Vehicle (RV). A vehicle or slide-in camper that is primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or seasonal use; has its own motive power or is mounted on or towed by another vehicle; is regulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as a vehicle or vehicle equipment; does not require a special highway use permit for operation on the highways; and can be easily transported and set up on a daily basis by an individual. [**1192,** 2021]

3.3.17* Recreational Vehicle Park. See 3.3.2, Campground.

3.3.18 Recreational Vehicle Site. See 3.3.4, Camping Unit Site.

3.3.19 Recreational Vehicle Stand. See 3.3.5, Camping Unit Stand.

3.3.20 Sanitary Disposal Station. A facility provided for emptying of the waste-holding tanks.

3.3.21* Service Structure. A structure or portion thereof that is used to house sanitary facilities, such as water closets or lavatories.

3.3.22 Sewage. Any liquid waste containing animal or vegetable matter in suspension or solution, or the water-carried wastes resulting from the discharge of water closets, laundry tubs, washing machines, sinks, dishwashers, or any other source of water-carried waste of human origin or containing putrescible material.

3.3.23 Sewer Branch. For recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds, that portion of a sewer system that receives the discharge from more than one sewer lateral.

3.3.24 Sewer Lateral. That portion of a sewer system that serves a single site or structure.

3.3.25 Sewer Main. That portion of a sewer system that receives the discharge from all sewer laterals or branches within the recreational vehicle park or campground.

3.3.26 Stand. See 3.3.5, Camping Unit Stand.

3.3.27 Utility Connection Assembly. A single hookup assembly located on the site and containing connections for any of the following: potable water, sewer inlets, electrical power, phone, or television.

3.3.28 Water Riser Pipe. That portion of the water system serving the recreational vehicle, recreational park trailer, and/or other camping unit site that extends from the water supply main through a lateral branch and terminates at a water connection.

3.3.29 Water Supply Station. A facility for supplying potable water.

Chapter 4 General Requirements

4.1 Differing Standards. Wherever nationally recognized standards and this standard differ, the requirements of this standard shall apply.

4.2 U.S. Federal Regulations. Where federal regulations under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration supersede all or part of this standard as applied to any category of regulated motor vehicles, the federal regulations shall apply.

4.3 Electrical Requirements. All electrical installations, systems, and equipment shall comply with Article 551, Part VI, and other applicable sections of *NFPA 70*.

4.4 Wildland/Urban Interface Areas. Where campgrounds and RV parks are located in wildland/urban interface areas as determined by the authority having jurisdiction, the installations shall comply with NFPA 1141 and NFPA 1144 as applicable.

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Chapter 5 General Design Criteria for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds

5.1 Park Design and Construction.

5.1.1 Site Plans for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Developed Campgrounds.

5.1.1.1 The location and arrangement of each recreational vehicle park and campground shall meet the approval of the chief of the authority having jurisdiction.

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5.1.1.2 A site plan shall be supplied to the fire, emergency medical services (EMS), and law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction.

5.1.1.3 This site plan shall show and identify camping unit sites, each stand, major structures and facilities, and water supply for fire protection purposes in the recreational vehicle park or campground, to facilitate response by emergency services such as fire, police, and ambulance.

5.1.1.4 Means of access for emergency responders shall consist of roadways, fire lanes, parking lot lanes, vacant camping unit stands, or a combination thereof, and shall be provided to all structures.

5.1.1.4.1* Multiple Access Roads. More than one fire department access road shall be provided when it is determined by the AHJ that access by a single road could be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climate conditions, or other factors that could limit access. [**1:**18.2.3.3]

5.1.1.5 Roads shall be designed and constructed to allow evacuation simultaneously with emergency response operations.

5.1.1.6 Bridges.

5.1.1.6.1 When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire department access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with nationally recognized standards. [**1:**18.2.3.5.5.1]

5.1.1.6.2 The bridge shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. [**1:**18.2.3.5.5.2]

5.1.1.6.3 Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges where required by the AHJ. [**1:**18.2.3.5.5.3]

5.1.2 Roads. Minimum widths of recreational vehicle park and campground roads designed to accommodate all types and sizes of camping units shall be 10 ft (3.0 m) per traffic lane and 8 ft (2.4 m) per parallel parking lane.

5.1.2.1 Roads leading to accessory structures shall be designed and constructed to accommodate the load and turning radius of the largest apparatus typically used to respond to that location.

5.1.2.2 Roads leading to accessory structures shall be not less than 20 ft (6.1 m) of unobstructed width with a 13.5 ft (4.1 m) vertical clearance.

5.1.2.3 Road curves designed for use by all types and sizes of camping units shall have a minimum internal radius of 30 ft (9.1 m).

5.1.2.4* Turnarounds shall be provided for all dead-end roads over 100 ft (30.5 m) in length, and those designed for use by all types and sizes of camping units shall have a minimum internal radius of 30 ft (9.1 m).

5.1.2.5* Dead Ends. Dead-end roads in excess of 100 ft (30.5 m) in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus no greater than every 500 ft (152.4 m) and at the closed end.

5.1.2.6 Turning Radius. The turning radius of a road shall be as approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

5.1.3 Structures. Every structure in a recreational vehicle park or campground that does not meet the definition of a camping unit shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable building codes.

5.1.4 Swimming and Bathing Facilities. If provided, such facilities shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

5.1.5 Camping Unit Site Size. The occupied area of a camping unit site shall not exceed 75 percent of the site area.

5.1.6 Separation. A stand or structure shall be located at least 10 ft (3.0 m) from any other stand or structure.

5.1.6.1 A structure shall be permitted to be closer than 10 ft (3.0 m) to its stand if it is part of the stand or serves the recreational vehicle, recreational park trailer, or camping unit using that stand, providing a minimum of 10 ft (3.0 m) is maintained to any other stand or structure.

5.1.6.2 Tents shall be exempted from 5.1.6.

Δ **5.1.7 Site Identification.**

N **5.1.7.1** Each camping unit site shall be marked for identification.

N **5.1.7.2** Such markers shall be easily readable from the recreational park or campground street.

5.1.8* Stand. Each camping unit stand shall be designed and constructed at such elevation, distance, and angle with respect to its access to provide for safe and efficient placement and removal of camping units.

5.1.8.1 Each stand shall be constructed to minimize the development of ruts or low spots by vehicle tires.

5.1.8.2 Each stand shall be graded to provide drainage.

5.1.8.3 Each stand shall be a minimum of 8 ft (2.4 m) wide.

5.1.9 Gates.

5.1.9.1 The gate opening shall swing inward and shall provide a clear opening no less than 2 ft (0.61 m) wider than the gated road or driveway.

5.1.9.2 Emergency responders shall have ready access to locking mechanisms on any gate that restricts access.

5.2 Recreational Vehicle Site.

5.2.1 Recreation Vehicle Stand Construction. Each recreational vehicle site shall have a vehicular access.

5.2.2 Grouped Utility Connection Assembly for Back-In Sites.

5.2.2.1 Where a potable water supply connection, sewer inlet connection, electrical power, TV connection, and phone connection supply or discharge outlets are provided for an individual recreational vehicle stand, they shall be permitted to be grouped together in one assembly in accordance with 5.2.2.2 through 5.2.2.4.

5.2.2.2 The water and electrical assemblies shall be located on the left rear half of the site (driver's side of the parked recreational vehicle) on a line that is between 5 ft and 7 ft (1.5 m and 2.1 m) from the left edge (driver's side of the parked recreational vehicle) of the stand and shall be located at any point on this line from the rear of the stand to 15 ft (4.5 m) forward of the rear of the stand.

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