DESIGN STANDARDS FOR: WOOD USE IN PARKS

1.01 For all Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) projects, the aesthetics, standardization, environmental impacts, and ease and frequency of maintenance shall be the determining factors in the selection of construction materials for all applications.

1.02 Recycled Materials: In order to comply with the City Ordinance, the Department of Executive Administration mandates that all City Departments use recycled materials and products whenever and wherever possible. Recycled plastic lumber or reinforced plastic lumber shall be considered for use as a substitute for wood whenever practical (e.g., park benches, picnic tables, play equipment, signs, structures, buildings, etc.).

1.03 Preferred Alternative: Alternatives to solid wood are: concrete, masonry (brick or stone), metal (galvanized or powder coated / painted), recycled plastic lumber or a combined use of the preferred alternatives.

1.04 However, when wood is specified the following guidelines shall be used:

A. Wood Materials: (Intent = conservation of old growth timber resources).

1. No newly cut, old growth lumber shall be used in any form. Only second growth lumber is acceptable.
2. Use of reclaimed or recycled old growth lumber is acceptable.
3. Douglas Fir (select structural or better) is preferred for all applications (see Standard Grading Rules for each application for grade).
4. Cedar (Industrial - Clear C) is acceptable, for non-structural applications for weathering and aesthetic reasons. Use “appearance grade” Cedar in all applications.

B. Wood Treatments: (Intent = reduced negative human health and environmental impacts).

1. For the purposes of this document, wood treatment means the wood is preserved with an EPA approved pesticide or fungicide. SPR does not install creosote, pentachlorophenol or arsenate treated woods without a review exemption process held under the direction of the Parks Engineer. Treated wood shall be pressure treated, according to AWPA Quality Standard 3B (minimum retention of 0.20 lbs. per cubic foot) for above ground use, AWPA Quality Standard 4A (minimum retention of 0.41 lbs. per cubic foot) for ground contact or fresh water use, or AWPA Quality Standard 4B (minimum retention of 0.61 lbs. per cubic foot) for ground contact, or fresh water or important structural components with an EPA approved (Copper Azole) wood preservative. The only treatments currently

acceptable for wood use in Parks are either ACQ or CBA-A & CBA-B (use categories UC1, UC2, UC3, UC3B, UC4A, and UC4B) treatments. Wood for ground contact use shall be incised, and for above ground use it shall be non-incised. The Parks Engineer and the Director of Planning & Development Division must approve all exemptions to the above stipulations, in writing.

2. Treated Wood should not be used for outdoor, landscape construction, applications (ground contact), steps/stairs, and non-structural walls, without approval through the design review process (ProView and Standards Committee) and approved by the Parks Engineer.
3. Treated Wood can not be used for saltwater pilings or in direct contact with endangered species inhabited water or wetlands. In accordance with the Army Corps of Engineer guidelines, concrete or plastic encased steel are acceptable alternatives.
4. Testing and disposal of all treated wood materials (pentachlorophenol, creosote or pressure treated) shall be carried out under the direction of SPR's Environmental Services Unit.

C. Applications for Treated Wood: If design documents specify treated wood, it may be used for the following applications:

1. When replacing existing treated wood with new treated wood.
2. When wood use is considered, an alternative product is preferred. However, if specified, treated wood can be used for:

    a. Docks and floats (treated wood can be used if in accordance with the Washington State Department of Ecology guidelines for recommendations for reducing copper leachate.)
    b. Boardwalks (for posts and footings, see Army Corps of Engineer specifications for water or wetlands contact).
    c. Fence and sign posts (galvanized metal or recycled plastic lumber is preferred).
    d. Bleacher and dugout seats (aluminum is preferred, budget permitting).
    e. Trellises and arbors (if Douglas fir is used for structural components, it shall be pressure treated).
    f. Bollards (concrete preferred for fixed, galvanized steel is preferred for removable bollard applications).
    g. Bridges (metal is preferred, recycled plastic lumber decking, or pressure-treated wood structural members and decking is acceptable, with concrete footings, headwalls, and abutments). Bridge footings in endangered species waterways must meet State Department of Ecology recommendations for reduced copper leachate.

D. Picnic Tables: No treated wood shall be used. All wood for picnic tables shall be S4S, kiln dried Douglas fir, Grade C, industrial, or better (non-treated).

E. Play Equipment:

1. Alternate materials, other than wood, are recommended for all play area components as determined through the design review process (ProView and Standards Committee).
2. If wood components are considered desirable on play area projects, non-arsenate treated wood that is natural, stained, or painted is recommended and the following applications are acceptable; decking, platforms, roofs, ladders and railings.
3. Wood structural components (posts), with concrete footings below finish grades, and are acceptable, as determined through the design review process (ProView and Standards Committee).
4. If wood is considered desirable, for structural components, pressure-treated wood (incised) only is acceptable. Additional treatment may be required for below grade applications. Wood in direct contact with the ground is not acceptable, except as approved in writing by the Parks Engineer and the Director of Planning & Development Division.

END OF SECTION