

# Excerpt from *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media*

(version 1.0 October 2007 – [www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility))

## Publications—Large-print size

A template of an NPS large-print brochure and map is posted on the NPS Graphic Identity website, [www.graphics.nps.gov](http://www.graphics.nps.gov) (available on NPS computers only.)

### Text (Large-print size)

**Fonts:** Use sans-serif fonts. The standard NPS sans-serif font is Adobe Frutiger. For more details, see [www.graphics.nps.gov/templates/fonts.htm](http://www.graphics.nps.gov/templates/fonts.htm) (available to NPS computers only).

Do not use extremely **extended** or compressed fonts.

Do not use *italics* or **decorative** fonts.

#### Minimum Type Sizes:

Titles—55 point

Introduction—28.5 point

Body text—17.5 point

Headings—22 point

Captions—16 point

**Leading:** Text—17.5 on 22 point; introduction—28.5 on 35 point; captions—16 on 20 point.

Use **proportional letter spacing**, like Frutiger.

**Body text** shall be set in **caps and lowercase**.

**Alignment** shall be flush left and rag right. Avoid justified text.

Use **vertical lines** to separate text columns.

**Gutter widths** shall be a minimum of 22 mm; **outside margins** may be smaller, but not less than 12 mm.

**Do not hyphenate words at ends of lines** unless absolutely necessary to avoid extremely long or short lines. (It is better to rewrite the sentence.)

**Avoid underlining.** If underlining is used, it shall not touch the underlined letters.

Use **two letter spaces** between sentences, so that sentences have a visually distinct end and beginning.

Use a **maximum of 41 to 46 characters** (average) per line of body text.

**Paragraphs:** Use **one line space** open between paragraphs.

**Do not indent** paragraphs.

**Inks and toners** should be applied neither under-inked nor over-inked, for clear, crisp letterforms and image details.

Do not print type over other **competing textures** (background, photos, graphics, etc).

Type printed over some solid tones is acceptable. See “Publications, Standard Print Size, Contrast.”

## **Graphics (Large-print size)**

**Photographs** may be color or black-and-white.

A photograph’s primary subject should **clearly contrast** with the surrounding content.

**Line drawings** or floor plans should be clear and bold, with limited detail and a minimum type size of 16 points for labels.

## **Color (Large-print size)**

**Color Contrast:** For information, see “Effective Color Contrast” by Aries Ardit, Ph.D., at [www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org).

**Color combinations** influence readability of text. Recommended color combinations include black/white, black/yellow, dark blue/white, dark green/white. Avoid yellow/grey, yellow/white, blue/green, red/green, and black/violet. (*Courtesy of Design Guidelines for Media Accessibility*, by Parks Canada)

**Color-blindness:** see “Publications Guidelines: Visual: Maps—Large Print.”

## **Paper (Large-print size)**

**Surface** should minimize glare. Dull-coated white stock is low gloss and allows crisper letter forms than uncoated paper.

Paper should have **sufficient weight** to avoid “show-through” on pages that are printed on both sides.

## **Folds (Large-print size)**

**Fold configuration** should be as simple and easily understood as possible.

Multi-page documents should have a **flexible binding** that allows the opened publication to lie flat.

## **Maps—Large print size**

For a prototype large-print map, visit [www.nps.gov/hfc/carto/](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/carto/) and select “Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park” (CHOH). Compare to the standard print size. The specifications for these maps may be obtained by downloading the Adobe Illustrator files and checking the attributes within the file.

A template of an NPS large-print brochure and map is posted on the NPS Graphic Identity website, [www.graphics.nps.gov](http://www.graphics.nps.gov) (available on NPS computers only).

**Color-blindness:** People with color blindness cannot distinguish colors in the way that those with normal vision can. The condition is most commonly inherited. Red/green color blindness is by far the most common form of this condition.

The large-print map for the C&O Canal brochure was designed to accommodate red/green color blindness. This map can be a guide for the development of other park maps to solve the same problem.

To see how a map or image appears to viewers with various forms of color blindness, visit [www.vischeck.com](http://www.vischeck.com) (Windows) or [coloracle.cartography.ch](http://coloracle.cartography.ch) (Macintosh).

## **Converting standard-print maps to large-print:**

**Background tone:** Avoid bright white; it creates excessive glare.

**Critical information:** Use a ½-inch margin.

**Focus:** Generalize and/or widen line weight or feature.

**Roads:** Consider which roads are truly needed for interpretive purposes. Avoid creating solely a “driving map.”

Use ivory rather than white for the **road shield** background color.

**Type:** Use a sans-serif font like Frutiger. For a heavier weight, use Frutiger Bold rather than Frutiger Black, which is too thick.

For **state names**, use roman font, 100-percent black instead of gray. State names may be placed in an open area, not necessarily along a state line.

For **drainage labels**, keep words together rather than spacing out words and/or letters too widely.

Use **en dash** in place of a regular hyphen.

Use 18-point, 100-percent black type (Frutiger was used on the C&O map).

**Mileage Markers:**

Use 15-point black type.

Add the label “milepost” to the highest and lowest milepost on the map. This makes it easier to distinguish the other milepost numbers. Also add the label “milepost” to the map legend.

**Symbols:** Limit symbols to just two or three. Use shapes rather than pictographs.

**Town circles:** Make all of these a uniform size.

**State lines:** Use dashed lines, 70-percent black.

**Place a relatively heavy holding line around the legend.**

Use a 2-point holding line for the distance measure **scale**.

Use a compass rose to indicate “north” (and other directions).