

Figure 7-19: Path overcrossings, various configurations

Preventing Motor-Vehicle Access

Geometric Design

The most effective way to discourage motor vehicle access to paths is to make it physically difficult to do so. One method branches the path into two narrower one-way paths just before it reaches the roadway, making it difficult for a motor vehicle to gain access to the path.

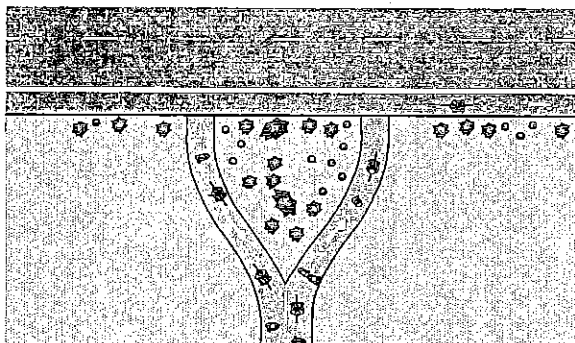


Figure 7-20: Path splits to prevent it appearing like a driveway

Another method is to create very tight curb returns to make it difficult for motorists to enter a path from the roadway.

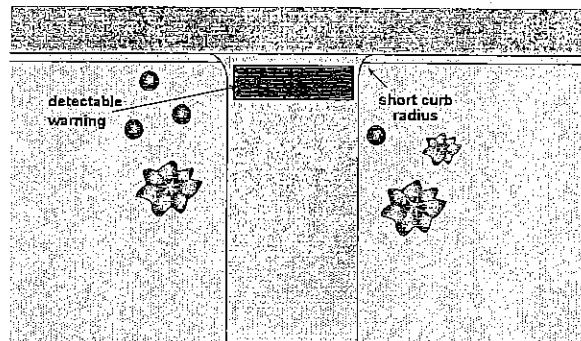
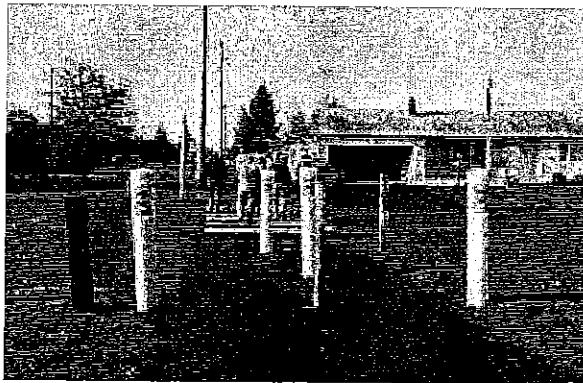


Figure 7-21: Tight curb radii prevent motor vehicle access

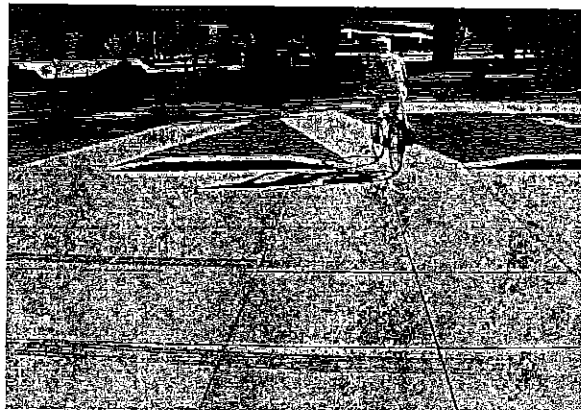
Bollards

Bollards may be used to limit vehicle traffic on paths. However, they are often hard to see, cyclists may not expect them and injuries result when cyclists hit them. Overuse of bollards is a serious hazard to bicyclists and may prevent path use by trailers, wheelchairs and other legitimate path users. In a group of riders, the riders in front block the visibility of those behind, setting up cyclists in the back of the pack for a crash.

Bollards should only be used when absolutely necessary. When used, they must be spaced wide enough (min. 5 feet) for easy passage by cyclists, bicycle trailers and adult tricycles as well as wheelchair users. A single bollard is preferred, as two may channelize bicyclists to the middle opening, with a potential for collisions. They should not be placed right at the intersection, but set back 20 feet or more, so users can concentrate on motor vehicle traffic conflicts rather than on avoiding the bollard. They should be painted with bright, light colors for visibility, illuminated and/or retro-reflectORIZED. A striped envelope around the bollard will direct path users away from the fixed object hazard. Flexible delineators, that collapse when struck by a bicyclist, should be considered.



Bollards are overused and can cause injury



Split path entry eliminates need for bollards

Offset Fencing

Placing railing or other barrier part way across a trail makes it possible for intended users to access the trail; maintenance vehicle operators are provided with keys to unlock the fences when they need access. The fences, like bollards, can be hazards to bicyclists and can restrict certain trail users from gaining access to the trail. They should be coated with retro-reflective material and well-lit.

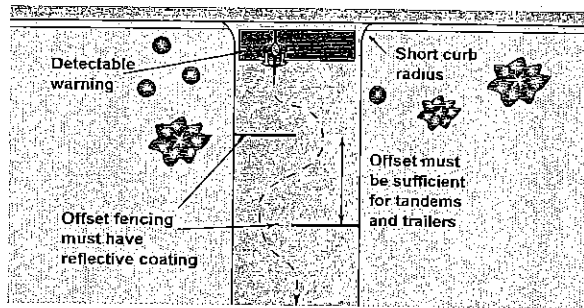
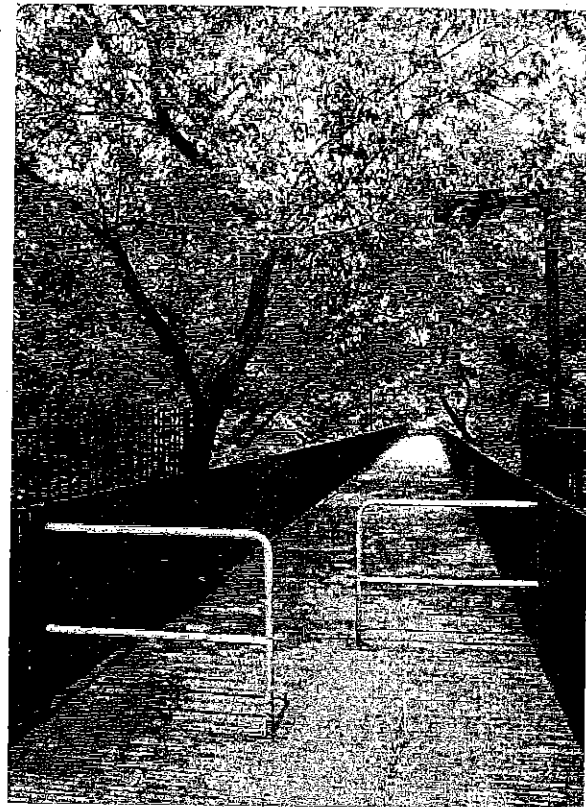


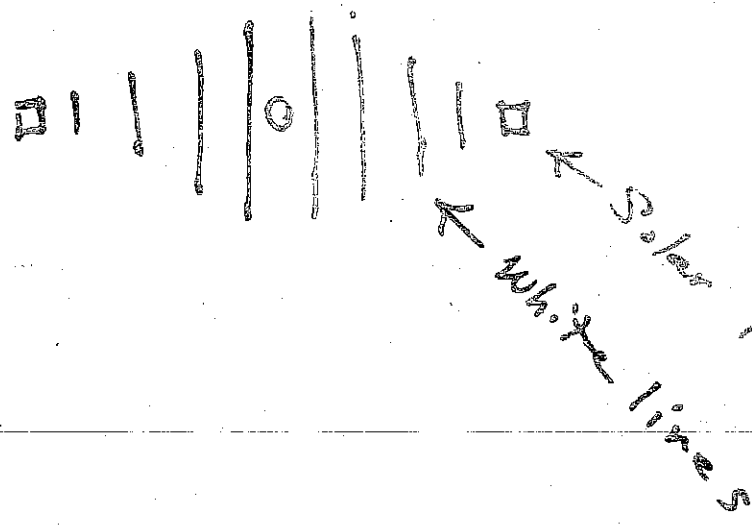
Figure 7-22: Offset gates prevent motor vehicle access



Offset fencing

Step 1

Top View Pot Dots



Step 2

Toller Metal
 with
 Epoxied
 Solar Pot Dot
 on top