

IRON RAILS TO GREEN TRAILS

The Transformation of Veterans Parkway from a Rail Line to a Greenbelt



Trains Run Through Town

For nearly 100 years (1888-1986), the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway traveled through this very spot. While passenger train service on this line began to dwindle in the early 1900s, freight trains kept rolling, connecting Los Angeles and Redondo Beach.

Photo on left: Train stopped near Center St. (now Manhattan Beach Blvd.), circa early 1900s. [Manhattan Beach Historical Society]
Photo on right: Train passing the same location, with the Metlox Spur now added, 1964. [Walter Abbenseth]



A New Path, A Fresh Purpose

As train service in town declines, the global "Running Boom" takes off. In 1978, the inaugural MB10K race is a resounding success, inspiring its volunteer committee to create a jogging path next to the tracks to support the growing number of active people in the area.

Photo on left: MB10K Committee and volunteers creating the jogging path, 1980. [MB10K Committee]
Photo on right: Runner on the path next to the tracks, 1984. [Manhattan Beach Historical Society]



Thriving Public Green Space

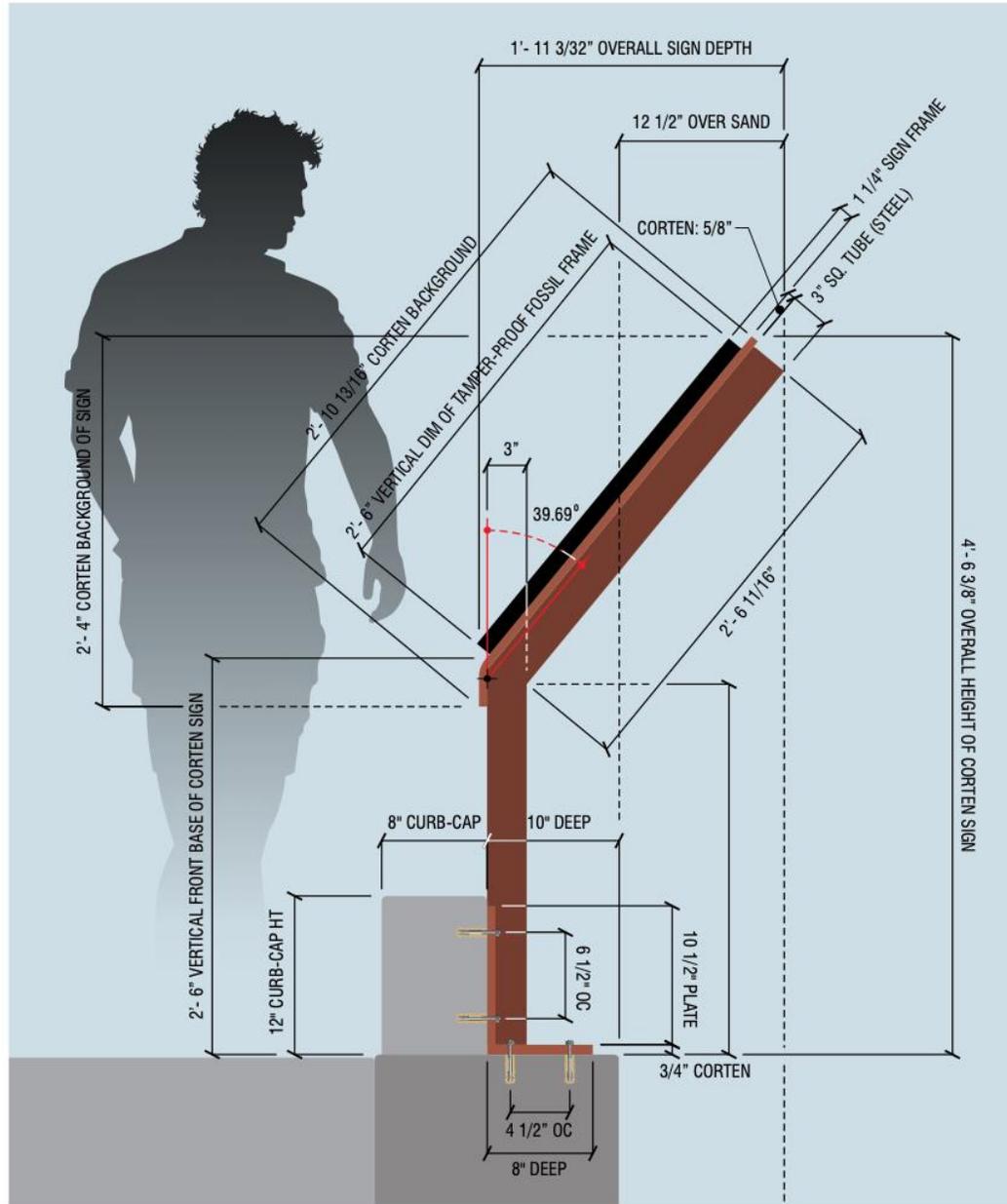
In 1986, the Santa Fe Railway Co. deeded 21.2 acres of abandoned railroad right-of-way to the City of Manhattan Beach. That same year, the train tracks are removed, beginning the transformation into a lush recreational area.

Photo on left: Mayor Jan Dennis (right), and councilwoman Connie Sieber (left) present a check to a Santa Fe representative, 1986. [Jan Dennis Collection]
Photo on right: View of Veterans Parkway after its naming ceremony, 1998. [MB Historical Society]

For more information, go to leadershipmb.org/past-class-projects/class-2026



Conceptual Image
of sign design



END VIEW / SCALED ATTACHMENT DETAIL w/ SUGGESTED BOLTS LAYOUT

SCALE: 1" = 1'- 0"