

TABLE 4.17 Effective Reading Distance and Letter Size

Distance, ft	Capital letter size, in	Symbol size, in
30	—	3.0
40	—	4.5
50	1.0	5.0
75	1.0–2.0	6.5
100	1.5–2.5	8
150	2.5–3.0	12
200	3.0–4.0	15

SOURCE: Charles W. Harris and Nicholas T. Dines, *Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1988), p. 200. Used with permission.

Water Features

Ponds and pools have become very popular landscape features in recent years. Successful ponds and pools are always a marriage of good design and sound construction. Even small variances in construction or incomplete details in a design may result in an unsatisfactory pond. A water feature can bring a great deal to a landscape of any size. People are drawn to water features perhaps more than to any other single landscape feature. One reason for this preference is that there are clearly important psychological and emotional values in well-designed water features. Whether it is the sound of falling water, the turbulence of fountains or falls, or the cooling effect of spray and evaporative cooling, water features are highly valued elements of both the designed and natural landscape.

Pools and ponds

Water features are used in many forms in the landscape, ranging from very natural appearing small ponds to very formal precision water veils. The possibilities are limited only by the imagination and the physical characteristics of water. For purposes of this chapter, water features will be discussed in terms of small pools and ponds. Ponds are illustrated in Figs. 4.67 through 4.70. Ponds include biotic features such as plants and perhaps fish whereas pools have no biotic elements. The key to the water feature is the pool or pond: The presence of fountains or falls or other features are framed within the pool or pond. In the past, concrete has been the most common and popular material for pond or pool construction, but with the development of more sophisticated geotextiles and plastics, fiberglass prefabricated pools and fabric pond liners have become the most common choice. Ponds are constructed using rigid preformed basins or liners, most commonly made of fiberglass, EDP, PVC, or similar materials. The pond liner should be selected for durability and ease of