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# Article Ten

## Sign Regulations



May 18, 2006  
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# Article Ten

## Sign Regulations

### 10.1 General Sign Standards

Applicability: This General Sign Standards section applies to all zoning districts as follows:

Purpose: The intent of sign standards is to accomplish the goals of the Comprehensive Plan; to regulate time, place and manner characteristics of signs; to avoid the proliferation of signs; to provide businesses with appropriate identification; to create a consistent streetscape; to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment of the town; to eliminate potential hazards to motorists and pedestrians resulting from sign clutter; and, to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Cicero/Jackson Township.

- A. Sign Permit Applicability: A sign permit is required for all signs located, erected, constructed, reconstructed, moved, and altered unless otherwise stated in the Sign Standards Section in this Article.
- B. Existing Signs: Signs existing prior to the adoption of these sign regulations shall either be conforming (i.e. it meets the new regulations), legally nonconforming (i.e. it met the old regulations and is now grandfathered), or illegal (i.e. it didn't meet the old regulations and doesn't meet the new regulations). See Article Eleven for more information.
- C. Landscaping: All permanent bases for ground-mounted signs shall be landscaped as follows:
  - a. The base of all permanent ground signs shall be effectively landscaped with living plant material or hard-scape material (i.e. decorative brick or rock) and maintained in good condition at all times.
  - b. The minimum landscaped area shall be equal to one-half (1/2) the total sign face area; and extend beyond all faces or supporting structures in all directions. The landscaped area shall include all points where sign structural supports attach to the ground.
  - c. Exposed foundations must be covered with a finish material such as brick, stone, or wood, or be screened with vegetation.
- D. Illumination: All illuminated signs shall comply with the following standards:
  - a. No sign shall have blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights, nor shall any device be utilized which has a changing light intensity, brightness of color, or give such illusion.
  - b. All illuminating elements shall be kept in satisfactory working condition and repaired or replaced if damaged or inoperable within fourteen (14) days, or as soon as possible if circumstances (e.g. weather or product availability) do not allow.
  - c. The direct or reflected light from a primary light source shall not create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public and/or private roadways and parking lots.
  - d. The light from any illuminated sign shall be so shaded, shielded, or directed such that the light intensity or brightness does not interfere with safety or visibility and does not project onto any adjacent property. No exposed light source is permitted.
  - e. Neon light elements may be used for internal illumination and/or when permitted otherwise in this Zoning Ordinance.
- E. Prohibited Locations: Signs may not be installed at any of the following locations:
  - a. In any public right-of-way, unless specifically authorized by the Town Council.
  - b. In any utility easement unless authorized by the City Engineer.
  - c. In any no-build or no-disturb zone.
  - d. In any public park or other public property, with the exception of those signs specifically permitted in this Zoning Ordinance.
  - e. On any traffic control signs, highway construction signs, fences, utility poles, street signs, trees or other natural objects.
  - f. Obstructing any door, fire escape, stairway, or any opening intended to provide entrance or exit for any building or structure.
  - g. In a manner that obstructs or interferes with safe movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

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- F. **Prohibited Signs:** The signs listed in this section are prohibited.
- a. **Animated Signs:** Signs that gain attention through animation, including:
    - 1. Signs that utilize any motion picture, laser, or visual projection of images or copy.
    - 2. Signs that emit audible sound, odor or visible matter.
    - 3. Signs that have blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights or which has a changing light intensity, brightness or color, or give such illusion.
  - b. **Misleading Signs:** Signs that are misleading, including:
    - 1. Signs that purport to be or are in imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal or which bear the words "Stop", "Slow", "Caution", "Danger", "Warning", or similar words.
    - 2. Signs that may be construed as or have on it a light of an emergency or road equipment vehicle.
  - c. **Roof Signs:** Signs to be placed on the roofs of structures and signs that extend above the roof line or parapet of a building.
  - d. **Vehicle Signs:** Vehicle signs are prohibited when the vehicle is parked on public or private property for the primary purpose of displaying the sign. Prohibited vehicle signs are not to be construed as vehicles with signs on them that:
    - 1. Are lawfully parked overnight or during nonbusiness hours for that operation, on public or private property;
    - 2. Are making deliveries, sales calls, or customary practices relating to doing business;
    - 3. Are making trips to transport persons or property; or
    - 4. Are in conjunction with customary construction operations on a construction site.
  - e. **Miscellaneous Prohibited Signs:**
    - 1. Trailblazer or point of destination signs.
    - 2. Search lights.
    - 3. Pennants, streamers, and/or spinners, except as permitted in this ordinance.
    - 4. Bench signs, except as permitted in this ordinance.
    - 5. Signs with moving or movable parts.
  - f. **Obscene Signs:** Signs that contain profane language, male genitalia or female genitalia are prohibited.
- G. **Inspection Provisions:** Signs for which a permit is required may be inspected periodically by the municipality for compliance with this Zoning Ordinance.
- H. **Maintenance:** All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean and working condition.
- I. **Abandoned Signs:** All on site signs, its mounting, and related components shall be removed within fourteen (14) days of the day the business which it identifies is no longer conducted. When a permanent sign exists that allows a "face-out/face-in" change to identify a new business, said sign may be left standing, but must be covered with a durable and attractive material. Under no circumstances shall any permanent sign be left in place for more than three (3) months. The owner of the premise upon which the sign is located is responsible for its removal or covering.
- J. **Noncommercial Message:** Noncommercial messages are permitted on all signs permitted in this Article.
- K. **Penalties:** Failure to comply with the provisions in this Zoning Ordinance will result in notices, enforcement and penalties as per Article Fourteen of the Cicero/Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance.
- L. **Government Flags:** The flag, pennant, or insignia of any nation, state, city or other political unit are exempt from needing a permit, but shall not be mounted more than thirty-five (35) feet in height and be more than forty (40) square feet in area (e.g. a five (5) foot by eight (8) foot flag).
- M. **Religious Symbols:** Religious symbols incorporated into the architecture on places of worship or structures owned and operated by religious organizations shall not be considered a sign unless accompanied with text.

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- N. Scoreboards: Scoreboards are exempt from needing a permit as follows: (1) when used in conjunction with a legally established sport field, and (2) when not containing any commercial messages, and (3) when the scoreboard does not exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the ground, and (4) when the total scoreboard area does not exceed one hundred (100) square feet, and (5) when the scoreboards are single sided.
- O. Holiday Decorations: Holiday decorations with noncommercial messages shall not be considered a sign.
- P. Murals: Murals are exempt from the sign standards and do not require a permit.
- Q. Street Addresses: Every building is required to post its numerical street address, and is exempt from needing a permit if installed as follows:
- a. *Single Family Residential Structure Addresses*: Street addresses for single family residential structures shall consist of arabic numerals (i.e. 1,2,3...) no less than three (3) inches in height and no more than eight (8) inches in height on its mailbox and/or at its main entrance door, whichever is more visible.
  - b. *Apartment Complex Addresses*: Street addresses for apartment complexes shall consist of arabic numerals (e.g. 1,2,3...) no less than five (5) inches in height and no more than ten (10) inches in height. Each apartment complex is required to have each building's address displayed in an obvious location if the entrance into each apartment unit is not clearly labeled with a street address.
  - c. *Nonresidential Use Addresses*: The minimum and maximum height for address numbers varies according to front setback as follows:
    1. If the address is posted one-hundred (100) feet or less from the road right-of-way, the numbers shall be between five (5) and twelve (12) inches in height.
    2. If the address is posted between one-hundred (100) and two-hundred (200) feet from the road right-of-way, the numbers shall be between eight (8) and sixteen (16) inches in height.
    3. If the address is posted over two-hundred (200) feet from the road right-of-way, the numbers shall be between twelve (12) and twenty (20) inches in height.
  - d. *Legibility*: All street addresses shall contrast to the color of the surface on which they are mounted and shall be clearly visible and identifiable from the street.
- R. Directional Devices: Directional devices are exempt from needing a permit if installed as follows:
- a. *Directional Device Use*: Directional devices shall be used to indicate points of entry or exit for a business, public amenity, or off-street parking area.
  - b. *Directional Device Area*: Directional devices are limited to a maximum of four (4) square feet in area per entrance.
  - c. *Directional Device Height*: Directional devices are limited to a maximum of forty-two (42) inches in height above the ground.
  - d. *Directional Device Placement*:
    1. Directional devices shall not interfere with safe vehicular or pedestrian traffic circulations.
    2. Directional devices shall not obstruct the view of drivers entering or exiting the lot.
    3. Directional devices shall not be placed within a public right-of-way.
    4. Directional devices shall be on the property to which it refers.
  - e. *Directional Device Quantity*: No more than two (2) directional devices shall be used per street frontage, with a maximum of four (4) per parcel.
  - f. *Directional Device Message*: Directional devices may contain information such as "in", "enter", "entrance", "out", "exit", "do not enter" or directional arrows indicating desired traffic movement. Further, directional devices may display a logo on up to forty percent (40%) of the total sign area, but shall not contain a commercial message or advertising. If a commercial message or advertising is desired on a directional device, or if the logo exceeds forty percent (40%) of the sign area; the sign will be regulated as a Directional Sign and shall not be exempt from getting a permit or the cumulative square footage allowed on a site.

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- S. Private Property Signs: Private property signs are exempt from needing a permit if installed as follows:
- a. *Private Property Sign Information*: Information signs are allowed only when they display either information necessary for the safety and convenience of residents and visitors, such as "beware of dog" and "no trespassing"; or information about a security system.
  - b. *Private Property Sign Area*: Private property signs may not exceed two square feet in area.
  - c. *Private Property Sign Quantity*: No more than one Private Property Sign is permitted per lot with less than one-hundred (100) feet of road frontage. One additional Private Property Sign is permitted per one-hundred (100) feet of additional road frontage over the initial one-hundred (100) feet.
  - d. *Private Property Sign Message*: Private property signs shall not contain a commercial message.
- T. The ground shall not be raised or lowered to artificially change the point at which a sign height is measured.

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## 10.2 Agriculture (AG) Sign Standards

The following signs are permitted in the AG District and are subject to the time, place and manner standards described for each type of sign.

A. Permanent Sign Standards: Permanent signs shall be permitted as follows:

- a. *Types of Signs Permitted:* Any combination of permanent wall signs and marker signs is allowed within the constraints of the regulations in this section.
- b. *Permanent Wall Signs:* The following standards apply to permanent wall signs.
  1. Prerequisite: Wall signs must be accessory to a primary structure and primary use on that site.
  2. Maximum Area: Any single wall sign shall not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet.
  3. Maximum Height: The wall sign shall not exceed five (5) feet in height.
  4. Maximum Height Above Ground: No part of a wall sign shall be more than twenty (20) feet above ground level.
  5. Distance From Building: A wall sign shall not protrude more than four (4) inches from the wall or face of the building to which it is attached.
  6. Maximum Number: One (1) wall sign is permitted per lot or multiple lots if used in combination.
  7. Limitations: No part of the sign may extend above the eaves of the roof or be mounted on the roof.
- c. *Permanent Marker Signs:* The following standards apply to permanent marker signs.
  1. Prerequisites: A lot have must have a minimum of five-hundred (500) feet of road frontage.
  2. Maximum Area: Any single permanent marker sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in sign area per side.
  3. Maximum Height Above Ground: No part of a permanent marker sign shall be more than twelve (12) feet above ground level.
  4. Maximum Number: One (1) permanent marker signs is permitted per five-hundred (500) feet of road frontage.
  5. Location: Permanent marker signs may not be placed in a median or public right of way. A ten (10) foot setback from the right of way is required.

B. Temporary Sign Standards: Temporary signs shall be permitted as follows:

- a. *Standard Temporary Signs:* The following standards apply to standard temporary signs.
  1. Maximum Area: The sign area for a standard temporary sign shall not exceed five (5) square feet per side.
  2. Maximum Height Above Ground: Any standard temporary sign shall not exceed four (4) feet above the ground.
  3. Maximum Number: One (1) standard temporary sign is permitted for lots with frontage on one (1) public street; and two (2) standard temporary signs are permitted for lots with frontage on two (2) or more public streets if they have at least three-hundred (300) lineal feet of combined street frontage.
  4. Location: A standard temporary sign must be located at least five (5) feet from any right-of-way, edge of pavement or curb associated with a roadway, aisle and driveway. A standard temporary sign cannot be located fully or partially on any public sidewalk.
  5. Separation: No two (2) standard temporary signs shall be closer than eighty (80) feet from one another.
  6. Duration: A standard temporary sign may stay in place for the duration of the temporary event (e.g. sale of property, garage sale, etc.). The standard temporary sign may be put in place up to five (5) days prior to the temporary event. All standard temporary ground or wall signs must be taken down within seven (7) days after the standard temporary signs purpose no longer exists.
  7. Permit: No permit is required for a standard temporary sign but the sign shall be in compliance with all development standards.
  8. Sign Type: A standard temporary sign must be a freestanding sign placed in a yard adjacent to a public right of way.