

MAPLE LAKE
SIGN ORDINANCE

53.01 Title, Intent, and Purpose.

Subd. 1. Title. This section shall be known, cited and referred to as the "Maple Lake Sign Ordinance" except as referred to herein, where it may be referred to as "this Section."

Subd. 2. Intent and Purpose. The provisions of this Section are intended to allow creativity, a reasonable degree of freedom of choice, an opportunity for effective communication, and a sense of concern for the visual amenities on the part of those who design and display signs while, at the same time, assuring that the public is not endangered, annoyed, or distracted by the unsafe, or disorderly, use of signs. The purpose of this Section is:

- i. To encourage the effective use of signs as a means of promotion and communication in Maple Lake;
- ii. To maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and the City's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth;
- iii. To establish standards that permit businesses a reasonable and equitable opportunity to advertise;
- iv. To improve pedestrian and traffic safety;
- v. To ensure that signs do not create safety hazards;
- vi. To preserve and promote civic beauty, and prohibit signs which detract from this objective because of size, shape, height, location, condition, cluttering, or illumination;
- vii. To minimize the possible adverse effect of signs on nearby public and private property; and
- viii. To enable the fair and consistent use of authority to enforce these sign restrictions.

Subd. 3 Scope. This ordinance is intended to regulate signs visible from the outside. The following types of signs are excluded from regulation by this ordinance: non-commercial incidental signs (such as no parking, entrance, loading only, telephone, etc.) that are 1 square feet or smaller and less than 36 inches off the ground; signs that are not oriented to a public thoroughfare and assist motorists for convenience; signs located inside a building which may be visible from the outside but are oriented to customers inside the building; menu boards not directed towards streets; signs located above gas pumps; scrolling messages inside a building; non-commercial holiday signs and decorations; signs or displays which contain or depict only a message pertaining to a religious, national, state, or local holiday and no other matter; or signs required by law.

53.02 Definitions

Subd. 1. Address Sign. A sign communicating street address only, whether script or in numerical form.

Subd. 2. Alter. Any major changes to a sign, but shall not include routine maintenance or painting.

Subd. 3. Animated Sign. Any sign that uses technology of any type to create the impression of movement or change of lighting to depict action or create a special effect or scene, including devices with or without a commercial message, such as spinners and windsocks, but not including barber poles and time and temperature signs. A sign or portion thereof that changes in content, color, illumination or intensity more than eight times per day shall be considered an animated sign.

Subd. 3. Area Sign. A freestanding sign placed at the entrance of a residential subdivision consisting of 40 or more lots; a multiple residential complex consisting of 20 or more units or three or more structures; an office, business or industrial structure containing three or more independent businesses or organizations; a single business and/or industrial complex consisting of three or more separate structures existing on individual platted lots or as a planned unit development; a mobile home court; or any integrated combination of the above.

- Subd. 4. Awning sign.** A building sign or graphic printed on or in some fashion attached directly to the awning material.
- Subd. 5. Balloon sign.** A temporary sign consisting of a bag made of lightweight material supported by helium, hot, or pressurized air which is greater than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter.
- Subd. 6. Banner.** Flexible material affixed to a building, vehicle, poles, rope, or other supporting structures by one or more corners.
- Subd. 7. Beacon.** Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same lot as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move.
- Subd. 8. Billboard.** See Off Premises Advertising Sign.
- Subd. 9. Building Facade.** That portion of the exterior elevation of a building extending from grade to the top of the parapet wall or eaves and the entire width of the building elevation.
- Subd. 10. Cabinet Sign.** A sign that has framing around the entire sign message with a movable face/door.
- Subd. 11. Campaign Sign.** A temporary sign promoting the candidacy of a person running for a government office, or promoting an issue to be voted on at a governmental election.
- Subd. 12. Canopy.** See Awning.
- Subd. 13. Changeable Copy Sign.** A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign. A changeable copy sign may be changed electronically provided that the message/display changes no more than one time in a 24 hour period.
- Subd. 14. Commercial Message.** Any sign wording, logo, or other representation that, directly or indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity.

- Subd. 15. Commercial Speech.** Speech advertising a business, profession, commodity, service or entertainment.
- Subd. 16. Construction Sign.** A temporary nonilluminated sign placed at a construction site.
- Subd. 17. Development Project Sign.** A sign placed at a development site.
- Subd. 18. Dynamic Display.** Any characteristic of a sign that appear to have movement or that appear to change, caused by any method other than physically removing and replacing the sign or its components, whether the apparent movement or change is in the display, the sign structure itself, or any other component of the sign. This includes a display that incorporates a technology or method allowing the sign face to change the image without having to physically or mechanically replace the sign face or its components. This also includes any rotating, revolving, moving, flashing, blinking, or animated display and any display that incorporates rotating panels, LED lights manipulated through digital input, “digital ink” or any other method or technology that allows the sign face to present a series of images or displays.
- Subd. 19. Electronic Graphic Display Sign.** A sign or portion thereof that displays electronic, static images, static graphics or static pictures, with or without text information, defined by a small number of matrix elements using different combinations of light emitting diodes (LEDs), fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices within the display area where the message change sequence is accomplished immediately or by means of fade, repixelization or dissolve modes. Electronic graphic display signs include computer programmable, micropocessor controlled electronic or digital displays. Electronic graphic display signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or other objects.
- Subd. 20. Elevation.** The view of the side, front, or rear of a given structure(s).
- Subd. 21. Employment Sign.** A temporary sign to announce employment opportunities in business and industrial zoning districts as well as public, institutional, and conditional uses in residential districts on that property location.

- Subd. 22. Erect.** To build, construct, attach, hand, place, suspend, or affix and also includes the painting of wall signs.
- Subd. 23. Flag.** Any fabric or similar flexible lightweight material attached at one end of the material, usually to a staff or pole and which contains distinctive colors, patterns, symbols, emblems, insignia, or other symbolic devices.
- Subd. 24. Flashing Sign.** A directly or indirectly illuminated sign or portion thereof that exhibits changing light or color effect by any means, so as to provide intermittent illumination that changes light intensity in sudden transitory bursts and creates the illusion of intermittent flashing light by streaming, graphic bursts showing movement, or any mode of lighting which resembles zooming, twinkling or sparkling.
- Subd. 25. Freestanding Sign.** Any stationary or portable, self supported sign not affixed to any other structure, such as a monument or pylon sign.
- Subd. 26. Grade.** Grade shall be construed to be the final ground elevation after construction. Earth mounding criteria for landscaping and screening is not part of the final grade for sign height computation.
- Subd. 27. Illuminated Sign.** Sign illuminated by an artificial light source either directed upon it or illuminated from an interior source.
- Subd. 28. Inflatable Devices.** Any three-dimensional (3-D) object supported or filled by forced air, helium or other gas.
- Subd. 29. Information Sign.** Any sign, including on premises directional signs, menu boards, and public information service signs, giving information to employees, visitors or delivery vehicles, but containing no advertising.
- Subd. 30. Legally Established Nonconforming Sign.** Any sign and its support structure lawfully erected prior to the effective date of this ordinance which fails to conform to the requirements of this ordinance. A sign which was erected in accordance with a variance granted prior to the adoption of this ordinance and which does not comply with this ordinance shall be deemed to be a legal nonconforming sign. A sign which was unlawfully erected shall be deemed to be an illegal sign.
- Subd. 31. Marquee / Marquee Sign.** Any sign attached to or made a part of a

marquee. A marquee is defined as a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building wall at an entrance to a building or extending along and projecting beyond the building's wall and generally designed and constructed to provide protection against the weather.

- Subd. 32. Monument Sign.** A freestanding sign under 8 feet in height erected on one or more freestanding shafts, posts, or piers which are solidly affixed to the ground and not attached to a building. A monument sign shall be considered one sign though it may have two (2) faces.
- Subd. 33. Motion Sign.** Any sign which revolves, rotates, has any moving parts or gives the illusion of motion.
- Subd. 34. Multi-Vision Sign.** Any sign composed in whole or part of a series of vertical or horizontal slats or cylinders that are capable of being rotated at intervals so that partial rotation of the group of slats or cylinders produces a different image and when properly functioning allows on a single sign structure the display at any given time one of two or more images.
- Subd. 35. Nameplate Sign.** Any sign in a residential district which states the name and/or address of a business or occupant of the lot where the sign is placed.
- Subd. 36. Non-Commercial Speech.** Dissemination of messages not classified as Commercial Speech which include, but are not limited to, messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service and informational topics.
- Subd. 37. Obsolete sign.** Any commercial sign and/or its supporting sign structure which remains without a message or whose display surface remains blank for a period of one (1) year or more, or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which no longer applies, shall be deemed to have been abandoned. Signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change in ownership or management of such business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of one year or more. Any sign remaining after demolition of a principal structure shall be deemed to be abandoned. Signs which are present because of being legally established nonconforming signs or signs which have required a conditional use permit or a variance shall also be subject to the definition of abandoned sign.

- Subd. 38. Off Premises Advertising Sign.** A billboard, poster panel, painted bulletin board or other communicative device which is used to advertise products, goods, services, ideas or noncommercial speech which are not exclusively related to the premises or owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- Subd. 39. Off Premises Directional Sign.** A directional sign located upon property other than the lot of a development or use for which off site direction is intended.
- Subd. 40. Official Sign.** A sign which is erected by a governmental unit or other public or semipublic institution for identification or traffic.
- Subd. 41. On Premises Sign.** A sign relating in its subject matter to the premise on which it is located or to products, accommodations, services or activities thereon.
- Subd. 42. On-Premises Directional Sign.** A sign erected on private property which contains no advertising, and is specifically intended to facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles into, out of and circulating upon the site on which such signs are located.
- Subd. 43. Owner.** In the case of a lot, the legal owner of the lot as officially recorded by Wright County, and including fee owners, contract for deed purchasers and ground lessees. In the case of a sign, the owner of the sign including any lessees.
- Subd. 44. Painted Wall Sign.** A sign which has been painted directly onto a building wall, using the wall material as a base of the sign.
- Subd. 45. Parapet.** That part of any wall or wall-like structure located entirely above the roof line.
- Subd. 46. Pennant.** See Banner.
- Subd. 47. Pole Sign.** See Pylon Sign.
- Subd. 48. Portable Sign.** Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported, including, but not limited to, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels; signs

converted to A- or T-frames; umbrellas used for advertising. Signs attached to or painted on vehicles parked and visible from the public right of way shall be prohibited unless the vehicle is used daily in the operation of the business. Portable signs do not include menu and sandwich board signs;

- Subd. 49. Principal Building.** A building or buildings in which is conducted the principal use of the lot, not including storage buildings, garages, and buildings for other clearly accessory uses.
- Subd. 50. Projecting Sign.** Any sign which is affixed to a building or wall in such a manner that its leading edge extends more than one foot beyond the surface or such building or wall face.
- Subd. 51. Public Street Right of Way.** The entire right of way of any public street.
- Subd. 52. Pylon Sign.** A freestanding sign erected on one or more freestanding shafts, posts, or piers which are solidly affixed to the ground and not attached to a building. A pylon sign shall be considered as one sign though it may have two faces provided that the angle separating the faces does not exceed 20 degrees.
- Subd. 53. Real Estate Sign.** A temporary sign placed upon a property advertising that particular property for sale, for rent or for lease. A real estate sign shall be considered as one sign though it may have two (2) faces.
- Subd. 54. Residential District.** Any district zoned for residential uses.
- Subd. 55. Roof.** The exterior surface and its supporting structure on the top of a building or structure. The structural make-up of which conforms to the roof structures, roof construction and roof covering sections of the Uniform Building Code.
- Subd. 56. Roof Line.** The upper-most edge of the roof or in the case of an extended facade or parapet, the upper-most height of said facade.
- Subd. 57. Roof Sign.** Any sign which is located on a roof.
- Subd. 58. Rotating Sign.** A sign or portion of a sign which turns about on an axis.
- Subd. 59. Sandwich Board Sign.** Two (2) sided self-supporting temporary signs

which may be no more than three feet (3') in width and four feet (4') in height. Sandwich board signs are allowed only during business hours and must be removed on a daily basis.

- Subd. 60. Sign.** Any letter, word or symbol, poster, picture, statuary, reading matter or representation in the nature of advertisement, announcement, message or visual communication whether painted, posted, printed, affixed or constructed, including all associated brackets, braces, supports, wires and structures, which is displayed for informational or communicative purposes.
- Subd. 61. Sign Structure.** The supports, uprights, bracing and framework for a sign including the sign area.
- Subd. 62. Sign Surface Area.** The entire area within a single, continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the actual sign surface. It does not include any structural elements outside of the limits of such sign and not forming an integral part of the display. In the case of a sign or sign strip designed as an integral part of the unused background of such a sign may be excluded; in this case, the sign area shall be calculated as the smallest rectangle around the perimeter of each word or character. Only one side of a double face or v-shaped sign shall be used in computing total surface area. Signs shall have a maximum of 2 faces unless otherwise specified.
- Subd. 63. Site.** A lot or combination of contiguous lots which are intended, designated, and/or approved to function as an integrated unit.
- Subd. 64. Standpipe.** A large vertical pipe into which water is pumped in order to produce a desired pressure.
- Subd. 65. Street Banner.** Any banner sign which is stretched across and hung over a public right-of-way which advertises public entertainment or event.
- Subd. 66. Street Frontage.** The side of a lot abutting one or more streets. An interior lot has one street frontage and a corner lot has two (2) or more frontage.
- Subd. 67. Suspended Sign.** Any building sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal plane surface and is connected to this surface.
- Subd. 68. Temporary Sign.** Any sign which is erected or displayed for a specific period of time, and not of a permanent nature.

- Subd. 69. Time and Temperature Sign.** A sign that displays only current time and temperature information.
- Subd. 70. Total Site Signage.** The maximum permitted combined area of all signs allowed on a specific lot.
- Subd. 71. Video Display Sign:** A sign that changes its message or background in a manner or method of display characterized by motion or pictorial imagery, which may or may not include text and depicts action or a special effect to imitate movement, the presentation of pictorials or graphics displayed in a progression of frames that gives the illusion of motion, including, but not limited to the illusion of moving objects, moving patterns or bands of light, or expanding or contracting shapes, not including electronic changeable copy signs. Video display signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or other objects.
- Subd. 72. Visible.** Capable of being seen by a person of normal visual acuity (whether legible or not) without visual aid.
- Subd. 73. Wall.** Any structure which defines the exterior boundaries or corners of a building or structure and which has a slope of sixty (60) degrees or greater with the horizontal plane.
- Subd. 74. Wall Sign.** Any building sign attached parallel to, but within 24" of a wall, or erected and confined within the limits of an outside wall of any building or structure, which is supported by such wall or building, and which displays only one (1) sign surface. Banners do not qualify as a wall sign.
- Subd. 75. Window Sign.** Any building sign, pictures, symbol, or combination thereof, designed to communicate information about an activity, business, commodity, event, sale, or service, that is placed inside a window or upon the window panes or glass and is visible from the exterior of the window.
- Subd. 76.** The definitions set forth in this Section 53.02 are in addition to the definitions set forth in Section 2, which shall apply to this Section 53, except that in the event of a conflict between the Sections, the definitions in Section 53.02 shall apply.

53.03 General Provisions/Sign Regulations. This Section shall regulate the height, area, graphics, color, materials, and other visual aspects of signs and sign structures.

Subd. 1. Building Permit. A building permit shall be required for any permanent non-portable sign which exceeds 4 square feet in area.

Subd. 2. Electrical Signs. The installation of electrical signs shall be subject to the State's Electrical Code. Electrical services to such signs shall be underground.

Subd. 3. Illuminated Signs.

A. Illuminated signs shall be shielded to prevent lights from being directed at oncoming traffic in such brilliance that it impairs the vision of the driver. Signs shall not interfere with or obscure an official traffic sign or signal. This includes indoor signs which are visible from public streets.

B. Illuminated signs shall be shielded to prevent lights from interfering with other land uses on adjacent lots.

C. Illuminated signs shall not pulsate or change in the intensity of the light emitted, except as may be permitted by Interim Use Permit.

Subd. 4. Projecting Signs. Projecting signs:

- 1) may not project more than 6 feet from the wall provided that the sign does not extend beyond the curb;
- 2) must be at least 10 feet above the ground;
- 3) must be located within the middle 50% of the building unless the property owner obtains written permission from the neighboring, infringing property owner and records said permission with the County Recorder's office;
- 4) may not exceed 24 square feet in size.

Subd. 5. Address Sign. Except for farm buildings, at least 1 address sign identifying the correct property number as assigned by the City shall be required on each principal building in all districts. The number shall be at least 3 inches in height and legible from the road. The

number shall not exceed 12" in height.

Subd. 6. Traffic Interference. Signs shall not create a hazard to the safe, efficient movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. No sign shall be erected in any zoning district that, by reason of position, shape, or color, would interfere in any way with proper functioning or purpose of a traffic sign or signal. No private sign shall contain words which might be construed as traffic controls, such as "Stop," "Caution," "Warning," unless the sign is intended to direct traffic on the premises. Additionally, signs located on a corner lot must comply with Section 53.04, Subd. 1 G.

Subd. 7. Intereference with Street Lights. Signs shall be located so as to not interfere with street lights.

Subd. 8. Obsolete Signs. Any commercial sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted or a product sold shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building or land upon which the sign may be found within 10 days after written notice from the Zoning Administrator. The sign frame may remain only upon approval of the City Council.

Subd. 9. Measuring Height. The height of the sign shall be computed as the vertical distance measured from the base of the sign at Grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign.

Subd. 10. Duration and Frequency of Certain Temporary Signs.

A. The following signs shall be permitted in the respective districts specified in Section 53.06 provided that such signs are displayed no more than 4 times per year for no more than 4 weeks in duration each time. (A maximum of 16 weeks in one calendar year). The 4 times per year may run consecutively.

Balloon	Banners	Inflatable
Off premises Advertising	Portable	

The person requesting the temporary sign shall complete and file with City Hall, a form as provided by the City, indicating the type, location, and duration of the temporary sign.

Temporary signs allowed under this Section 53.03, Subd. 10 A shall not be included in the size and number limits specified in Section 53.08.

- B. Construction, Development, Employment, and Real Estate signs shall be permitted as provided in Section 53.07 for as long as the property is under going construction, a position is vacant, or the property is for sale. These signs may be in addition to the number of signs allowed in Section 53.08 but they must comply with the size limits specified in Section 53.08.

Subd. 11 Dynamic Displays

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- A. Findings. Studies show that there is a correlation between dynamic displays on signs and the distraction of highway drivers. Distraction can lead to traffic accidents. Drivers can be distracted not only by a changing message, but also by knowing that the sign has a changing message. Drivers may watch a sign waiting for the next change to occur. Drivers are also distracted by messages that do not tell the full story in one look. People have a natural desire to see the end of the story and will continue to look at the sign in order to wait for the end. Additionally, drivers are generally more distracted by messages that are too small to be clearly seen or that contain more than a simple message. Time and temperature signs appear to be an exception to these concerns because the messages are short, easily absorbed, and become inaccurate without frequent changes. It is appropriate to allow changing messages only in limited circumstances and to impose reasonable conditions on those changing messages.

Despite these public safety concerns, there is merit to allowing new technologies to easily update messages. Except as prohibited by state or federal law, sign owners should have the opportunity to use these technologies with certain restrictions. The restrictions are intended to minimize

potential driver distraction.

In conclusion, the City finds that dynamic displays should be allowed on signs but with significant controls to minimize their proliferation and their potential threats to public safety.

B. Regulations. Dynamic displays on signs are allowed subject to the following conditions:

1. Only one contiguous dynamic display area is allowed on a sign face;
2. A dynamic display may not change or move more often than once every 4 seconds, except one for which changes are necessary to correct hour-and minute, date, or temperature information. Time, date, or temperature information is considered one dynamic display and may not be included as a component of any other dynamic display.
3. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects unless otherwise waived by the City as part of the interim use process;
4. The images and messages displayed must be complete in themselves, without continuation in content to the next image or message or to any other sign;
5. Every line of copy and graphics in a dynamic display must be at least 7 inches in height on a road with a speed limit of 25 to 35 miles per hour, nine inches on a road with a speed limit of 36 to 45 miles per hour, 12 inches on a road with a speed limit of 46 to 55 miles per hour and 15 inches on a road with a speed limit of more than 55 miles per hour;
6. Dynamic displays must be designed and equipped to freeze the device in one position if a malfunction

occurs. The displays must also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner must immediately stop the dynamic display when notified by the City that it is not complying with the standards of this Ordinance;

7. Dynamic displays must comply with the following brightness standards:
 - a. No sign may be brighter than is necessary for clear and adequate visibility;
 - b. No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance as to impair the vision of a motor vehicle driver with average eyesight or to otherwise interfere with the driver's operation of a motor vehicle;
 - c. No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance that it interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, device or signal;
 - d. All signs that will have illumination by a means other than natural light must be equipped with a mechanism that automatically adjusts the brightness in response to ambient conditions. These signs must also be equipped with a means to immediately turn off the display or lighting if it malfunctions, and the sign owner or operator must immediately turn off the sign or lighting when notified by the City that it is not complying with the standards in this section.
8. No dynamic graphic display sign may be located within 500 feet of another dynamic graphic display sign.

53.04 Location and Setbacks

Subd. 1

Location.

- A. Signs shall not be affixed to a fence or utility pole, nor shall such signs be painted, attached, or in any manner affixed to trees, rocks, or similar natural surfaces, except that address or identification signs engraved or painted on a landscape rock or similar natural surface as part of a landscape plan shall be allowed.
- B. No sign shall be placed within any drainage or utility easement provided however, if there is no reasonably alternative location, the City in its sole discretion may allow a sign to be placed in a drainage or utility easement through the use of an Encroachment Permit agreement provided the owner pays the City's costs incurred.
- C. No sign shall be placed within the right of way except those otherwise specifically allowed in this Section and the following: public signs erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post legal notices, identify public property, convey public information, identify a community festival or event, or direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic; informational signs of a public utility regarding its poles, lines, pipes, or facilities; emergency signs erected by a governmental agency, a public utility company, or a contractor doing authorized or permitted work within the public right-of-way.
- D. No sign or sign structure shall be erected or maintained that prevents free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape. No sign or sign structure shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
- E. Signs shall not be located in any manner that would constitute a hazard to any person or property.
- F. Signs located in non-residential districts which are prohibited in residential districts shall be positioned so that the visibility of the copy is minimized from residential use or districts along adjoining side and rear yard property lines.

- G. All corner lots: signs shall not be permitted within 20 feet of any corner formed by the intersection of 2 streets. The 20 feet shall be in the form of a triangle with 2 sides formed by the property lines and the 3rd side formed by a straight line connecting the 2, 20 foot points on each side of the corner. But, a sign may extend into the triangular area if, 1) the clearance above the street grade is more than 8 feet, and 2) no part of the sign encroaches in the triangular area at an elevation less than 8 feet above street grade

- H. Setbacks: Signs shall comply with the following setbacks. The setback shall be measured perpendicularly to the nearest part of the sign.

AG	6 feet from sidewalk, property line, or driveway, whichever is greater
R-1, R-2, & R-3	3 feet from sidewalk or property line, whichever is greater
R-4	6 feet from sidewalk, property line, or driveway, whichever is greater
RB-1	Residential Use: Same as R-1 Business Use: Same as B-1
B-1	3 feet from sidewalk or property line, whichever is greater
B-2	10 feet from property line or public road easement, whichever is greater
I-1	10 feet from property line or public road easement whichever is greater

53.05 General Prohibition. Any sign or attention getting device not specifically regulated by this Section shall be considered prohibited, including but not limited to Painted Wall, Suspended, and Video Display signs, until the City Council can make a determination as to its acceptability and, if appropriate, initiate an amendment to this Section.

53.06 Permit, Application, Etc.

Subd. 1. Signs identified in this Section that require an Interim Use Permit shall follow the process and procedures set forth in Section #11 (Interim Use Permits). The additional requirements of this Section shall also apply to sign applications. The City may place conditions upon Interim Use Permit approval to ensure that the proposed display will be compatible with the existing and/or proposed land uses in the underlying zoning district.

Subd. 2. In addition to the application process identified in Section 11 (Interim Use Permits), the following information for a sign Interim Use Permit shall be supplied by an applicant upon a form prescribed by the City and a fee shall be imposed in accordance with a fee schedule established by City Council resolution:

- A. Name, address, and telephone number of person making the application and name, address, and telephone number of person owning sign, if different.
- B. Dimensions of the proposed sign on the property.
- C. A site sketch showing the location of the proposed sign upon the property in relation to lot lines, building structures, parking areas, existing and proposed signs and any other physical features and showing distances where appropriate.
- D. Color sketch showing complete description of sign including content and type of material.
- E. Plans, specifications, and methods of construction and attachments to the buildings or placement method in the ground.
- F. Written consent of the owner or lessee of the site on which the sign is to be erected.
- G. Such other information as the City shall further require to show full compliance with this Section and all other laws and ordinances of the City.

53.07 Types of Signs Permitted in Each District

Subd. 1

ALL DISTRICTS		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
Banner	Address	
Campaign	Flag	
Construction	Free Standing	
Development	Information	
Real Estate		
Street Banner (with City Permission)		

Subd. 2

AG DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
Portable	Monument	
	Nameplate	

Subd. 3

R-1, R-2 & R-3 DISTRICTS		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
	Area	
	Nameplate	
	Monument	

Subd. 4

R-4 DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
	Area	
	Monument	
	Nameplate	
	On Premises Directional Sign	

Subd. 5

MH1 DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
	Area	
	Monument	
	Nameplate	
	On Premises Directional	

Subd. 6

RB1 DISTRICT			
Temporary	Permanent		Interim
Sandwich Board	Area	Nameplate	
	Awning	On Premises	
	Cabinet	Projecting	
	Marquee (Cannot be lit)	Wall	
	Monument		

Subd. 7

MXR DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
	Area	
	Monument	
	Nameplate	

Subd. 8

B1 DISTRICT			
Temporary	Permanent		Interim
Inflatable	Awning	On Premises Directional	Animated
Off Premises Advertising	Cabinet	Portable	Beacon
Portable	Changeable Copy	Projecting	Electronic Graphic Display
Sandwich Board	Marquee	Time & Temp	Flashing
	Monument	Wall	Motion
	Off Premises Directional	Window	Multivision
	On Premises		Rotating

Subd. 9

B2 DISTRICT			
Temporary	Permanent		Interim
Balloon	Advertising	On Premises	Animated
Inflatable	Area	On Premises Directional	Beacon
Off Premises Advertising	Awning	Portable	Electronic Graphic Display
Portable	Cabinet	Public Informational	Flashing
Sandwich Board	Canopy	Pylon	Motion
	Changeable Copy	Time & Temp	Multivision
	Marquee	Wall	Rotating
	Monument	Window	
	Off Premises Directional		

Subd. 10

11 DISTRICT			
Temporary	Permanent		Interim
Balloon	Area	On Premises	Animated
Portable	Awning	On Premises Directional	Beacon
Sandwich Board	Cabinet	Portable	Electronic Graphic Display
Off Premises Advertising	Canopy	Projecting	Flashing
	Changeable Copy	Pylon	Motion
	Ground	Time & Temp	Multivision
	Marquee	Wall	Rotating
	Monument	Window	
	Off Premises Directional		

Subd. 11

PUBLIC DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
Portable	Area	
	Monument	

Subd. 12

AP DISTRICT		
Temporary	Permanent	Interim
Portable	Area	
	Monument	
	On Premises Directional	
	Portable	
	Roof	

53.08 Size Limits for Each District

Subd. 1

District	Size Limits
AG	1 sign not to exceed 32 square feet with a maximum height of 8 feet
R-1	1 sign not to exceed 16 square feet with a maximum height of 6 feet
R-2	1 sign not to exceed 16 square feet with a maximum height of 6 feet
R-3	1 sign not to exceed 16 square feet with a maximum height of 6 feet
R-4	1 sign not to exceed 32 square feet with a maximum height of 8 feet
RB1	Residential use - Same as R1 Business use- Same as B-1 unless modified as part of CUP process

District	Size Limits
B-1	<p>Maximum of 1 Freestanding Sign in addition to Wall/Projecting</p> <p>Overall size limit for All Signs: The total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of the front building facade. For signs on a corner lot, the total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of either 1) the front or 2) the side building facades. For purposes of calculating area, the wall itself shall be used. The wall shall not include the area of any canopy.</p> <p>Additionally, A freestanding sign is allowed as part of the 25% total size limit provided that it is no more than 16 square feet with a maximum height of 6 feet</p>
B-2	<p>Maximum of 1 Freestanding Sign in addition to Wall Signs.</p> <p>Each Building: The total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of the front building facade. For signs on a corner lot, the total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of either 1) the front or 2) the side building facades. For purposes of calculating area, the wall itself shall be used. The wall shall not include the area of any canopy.</p> <p>Additionally, a freestanding sign is allowed as part of the 25% total size limit provided that it is no more than 110 square feet with a maximum height of 30 feet</p>

District	Size Limits
I-1	<p>Maximum of 1 Freestanding Sign in addition to Wall/Projecting</p> <p>Each Building: The total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of the front building facade. For signs on a corner lot, the total area of all signs may not exceed 25% of the area of either 1) the front or 2) the side building facades. For purposes of calculating area, the wall itself shall be used. The wall shall not include the area of any canopy.</p> <p>Additionally, a freestanding sign is allowed as part of the 25% total size limit provided that it is no more than 110 square feet with a maximum height of 30 feet</p>

Subd. 2 A freestanding sign or sign structure constructed so that the faces are not back to back shall not have an angle separating the faces exceeding 20 degrees unless the total area of both sides added together does not exceed the maximum allowable sign area for that district.

Subd. 3 Calculating sign area -

- A. Wall sign - The entire sign area, including frame, shall be calculated in determining sign area.
- B. Freestanding sign- The sign area shall be determined by measuring the entire sign area less any supports.

53.09 Sign Maintenance.

 Subd. 1. Maintenance. All signs shall be maintained in a safe, presentable, and good structural condition at all times. Maintenance shall include painting, repainting, cleaning, replacement, or repair of defective parts, replacement of missing letters and other necessary acts. Any sign which the City finds is in a dangerous or defective condition shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises on which the sign is located. The owner or lessee of any sign or the owner of the land on which the sign is located shall keep the grass or other growth cut and the area free from refuse.

53.10 Non-Conforming Signs.

Subd. 1. Except for signs determined to create a public safety hazard due to content or due to disrepair and condition and illegally established signs, all legally established non-conforming signs existing upon the effective date of this Chapter shall not be enlarged or reconstructed, but may be continued at the size and in the manner of operation existing upon such date.

Subd. 2. A non-conforming sign may not be:

- I. Structurally altered except to bring it into compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- ii. Enlarged.
- iii. Re-established after its removal or discontinuance.
- iv. Repaired or otherwise restored, unless the damage is less than 50 percent of the sign structure.
- v. Replaced.

Subd. 3. Non-Conforming Sign Maintenance and Repair. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as relieving the owner or user of a legal non-conforming sign or owner of the property on which the legal non-conforming sign is located from the provisions of this Section regarding, safety, maintenance, and repair of signs, provided, however, that any repainting, cleaning, and other normal maintenance or repair of the sign or sign structure shall not modify the sign structure or copy in any way which makes it more non-conforming or the sign shall lose its legal non-conforming status.

Subd. 4. Non-Conforming Uses. When the principal use of land is legally non-conforming under the Zoning Ordinance, all existing or proposed signs in conjunction with that land shall be considered conforming if they are in compliance with the sign provisions for the most restrictive zoning district in which the principal use is allowed.

53.11 Unsafe or Dangerous Signs. If the City finds that any sign, temporary or permanent, or other advertising structure regulated herein is in disrepair (parts missing or broken, chipped paint, bent parts, etc.), unsafe or insecure, a menace to

the public, or in violation of the provisions of this Section, the Zoning Administrator or designee, shall give written notice to the holder of the permit. The holder of the permit shall remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the standards required by this Section and indicated by the Zoning Administrator within 10 days after issuance of such notice. If after receiving said notice such person fails to remove or alter said sign so as to comply with the provisions of this Section, such sign shall be deemed to be a nuisance and may be abated by the City by proceedings taken under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429, and the cost of abatement, including administration expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees, may be levied as a special assessment against the property upon which the sign is located.

Subd. 1. The City may cause any sign or sign structure which is an immediate public hazard to be removed summarily after a reasonable attempt has been made to have the property owner remove the sign.

Subd. 2. The notice of violation shall be sent by certified mail to both the permit holder and the property owner, if they are different persons.

53.12 Violations. The following shall be a violation of this Section and will be subject to the enforcement remedies and penalties provided by this Section, by the Zoning Ordinance, and by State law:

Subd. 1. To install, create change, erect, or maintain any sign in a way that is inconsistent with any plan or permit governing such sign or the lot on which the sign is located.

Subd. 2. To install, create, erect, or maintain any sign requiring a permit without such a permit.

Subd. 3. To fail to remove any sign that is installed, created, erected, or maintained in violation of this Section, or for which the sign permit has lapsed.

Subd. 4. To continue any such violation. Each day of a continued violation shall be considered a separate violation when applying the penalty portions of this Section.

Subd. 5. Each sign installed, created, erected, or maintained in violation of this Section shall be considered a separate violation when applying the penalty portions of this Section.

53.13 Non-Commercial speech

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this sign ordinance, all signs of any size containing Non-Commercial Speech may be posted from August 1 in any general election year until 10 days following the general election and 14 weeks prior to any special election until 10 days following the special election.

53.14 Substitution Clause

The owner of any sign which is otherwise allowed by this sign ordinance may substitute non-commercial speech in lieu of any other commercial speech or non-commercial speech. This substitution of copy may be made without any additional approval or permitting. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over any other non-commercial speech. This provision prevails over any more specific provision to the contrary.

53.15 Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Sign Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Sign Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted the Sign Ordinance in each section, subsection, sentence, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

53.16 Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine and/or imprisonment as set forth in Minnesota Statute Section 609.03, as may be amended. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. The City may issue a stop work order for any and all work on signs under construction that are not in conformance with this Section. In the case of a sign that poses an immediate danger to the public health or safety, the City may take such measures as are available under the applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, City Code, and building code for such circumstances. In addition, the City may seek injunctive relief in Wright County District Court to require conformance with this Section. All costs and reasonable attorneys fees incurred by the City in enforcing the provisions of this Section shall be paid by the violator of this Section.

Amendment History of this Section

Amended December 16, 2008 (R2008-62). Effective Date: January 1, 2009. Amended in its entirety.

Amended July 21, 2009, (R2009-41). Effective Date: November 11, 2009. Amended section 53.03,

Subd. 11 Dynamic Display Signs.