

9.2 Signs

9.2.1 Scope

The Town of Rockville recognizes that signage is an important design element of the physical environment. Therefore, this Code is intended to implement the goals and policies of the General Plan, particularly with regard to developing a town that is visually attractive while preserving the safety and improving the aesthetics of the Town's buildings, streets, highways and pedestrian circulation systems.

9.2.2 Intent

1. The content of this chapter is not meant to replace any easement, covenant, condition, or other existing agreement that may be more restrictive.
2. Whenever the application of this chapter is uncertain the question shall be referred to the Planning Commission for determination; and
3. If any part of this chapter is for any reason deemed invalid or unconstitutional by a court of proper jurisdiction, that section shall be deemed separate from the remaining sections of this chapter.

9.2.3 Objectives

The objectives and conditions for sign regulations contained in this chapter are designed to maximize public convenience with a rational system of signing that enhances the Town's aesthetic values and promotes public safety. Maximum standards are provided and are in no way designed to discourage creativity or investment. The objectives are as follows:

1. To direct people to various places of business and special activities, to provide for the maximum public convenience and to provide public safety.
2. To encourage signs that are compatible with on-site uses.
 - a. To protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. To maintain the rural atmosphere of the neighborhoods.

9.2.4 Application for a Permanent Sign

Application for a permanent sign permit shall be made upon a form provided by the Town and shall contain such information as may be required to assure compliance with this Chapter.

9.2.5 Method of Review for a Permanent Sign

After receipt of a sign application, the Planning Commission shall render a decision to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the sign request at their next regularly scheduled meeting provided the application is complete and is received twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the meeting. Such review will ensure that any sign proposal is in conformance with this chapter and is consistent with the Town's objectives.

9.2.6 Permit Issuance

Upon approval by the Planning Commission, and payment of all associated fees, the Town Clerk shall issue the permit.

9.2.7 Fees

The application fee for a sign permit shall be fixed from time to time by Town Council resolution. The fee may be doubled upon installation of a sign prior to obtaining a sign permit.

9.2.8 Variance

Application for a variance from the terms of this title shall be reviewed by the Variance/Appeal Hearing Officer as outlined in Chapter 3.2.3 – Variance/Appeal Hearing Officer.

9.2.9 Prohibited Signs

9.2.9.1 General Prohibition

Rotating, moving, flashing, reflecting, revolving, blinking, or neon signs; billboards; signs placed on vehicles or trailers; signs resembling or imitating official traffic or government signs are prohibited.

9.2.9.2 Public Right-of-way

Signs placed on public property or in the public right-of-way of any sidewalk, street, alley, or highway are prohibited unless otherwise stipulated in this Chapter.

9.2.9.3 Visibility

When the location, size, height, or shape of any sign unreasonably interferes with traffic and or pedestrian visibility such sign is prohibited.

9.2.9.4 Illumination, Use of (i.e. Reflectors, Flood Lights or Spotlights)

The illumination of all permanent signs must comply with the regulations as set forth in Chapter 11, Outdoor Lighting. Seasonal, long term and short-term temporary signs may not be illuminated.

9.2.10 Special Provisions

9.2.10.1 Banners, Flags, and Flagpoles

1. Permanent Banners are not permitted. Temporary banners will be permitted upon approval of the Planning Commission. Banners are to be defined as signs over three feet in length in any direction. Flags shall not exceed the standard flag size of 3'x5'.
2. Town sanctioned flag displays are permitted along the road edge, between the sidewalk and ditch or road.
3. Permit Required:
 - a. Flagpoles taller than 25 feet need to be permitted. Considerations in the permitting process include but are not limited to:
 - i. Placement on parcel as to not be a nuisance either visually or audibly to neighbors and community,
 - ii. Construction plans are required showing base and stability of the pole,
 - iii. Lighting design and electrical plans if applicable,
 - iv. Size of flag.
4. Permit not Required:
 - a. Flagpoles can be 25 feet tall or less without a permit. Flags on these flagpoles cannot be larger than 3 feet by 5 feet.
 - i. Flags flown on any size pole cannot be in violation of the noise ordinance (Chapter 1.20 and Chapter 8.19.5.5.)

9.2.10.2 Temporary Signs on Town Property

Temporary signs shall be allowed only by permit approved by a Planning Commissioner as a simple permit, a meeting is not necessary. Applications shall be submitted on the same form provided for permanent signs. Conditions shall be stipulated upon receipt of this form. The Planning Commissioner shall review the request and may issue a temporary sign permit consistent with the following regulations:

1. Limited to Town-recognized functions.
2. Signs for special events sponsored by community or civic organizations, for public events or public celebrations may be permitted. Such signs shall be approved on an individual basis by a Planning Commissioner as to size, height, color, location, safety, and period of display. Such signs shall be permitted over the public right-of-way provided they are approved by the Utah Department of Transportation and/or Town utilities providers as to materials, method of attachment and safety to the public. Tethered hot air balloons and other inflatable objects, larger than three feet (3') in height and banners larger than eighty (80) square feet are not permitted under the provisions of this Chapter.
3. Signs for promoting town recognized functions shall not exceed eight (8) square feet of the total area of the sign.

9.2.10.3. Vehicular Signs

Vehicular signs are restricted. It is unlawful for any person or business to maintain/park a vehicle on private or public property, for the primary purpose of serving as a non-moving sign display.

9.2.11 Signs, Conditions, and Size

1. The conditions in this Chapter are designed to be uniform and consistent and to set flexible standards allowing for a maximum of creative expression. The number and area of signs outlined are intended to be maximum standards.
2. All categories of signs must be a maximum total of 16 square feet in area. Permanent and seasonal signs may be double sided, with a maximum area of 16 square feet per side.
3. This maximum 16 square foot area will include all solid areas of the sign mounting structure. For example, the stone structure on a monument style sign must be an area of no larger than 16 square feet.
4. Pole structures used to mount signs which are separate and allow vision between the mounting and the sign are not included in the 16 square foot maximum area.
5. In the event of multiple smaller signs, the maximum total area will be no larger than 16 square feet when the area of the signs is added together.

9.2.11.1 Permitted Signs and Conditions

1. Permanent Signs. Permanent Signs must be permitted as explained in section 9.2.4 of this chapter. Examples of permanent signs include but are not limited to Business Signs for Licensed Bed and Breakfasts, Personal Property Entrance signs, Subdivision Entrance Signs, and Personal Property Address Identification signs not attached to the house. These signs can be lighted according to Chapter 11.5.5 and 11.5.6, with approval during the permit process. Permanent Signs shall only be placed on the property that is designated by the sign.
2. Seasonal Signs. Seasonal signs do not need permits but must comply with size and placement requirements as included in this chapter. Example of Seasonal

Signs are, but not limited to Farm Produce Stands, or sales of farm goods as listed in section 9.1.24 of this Code. Seasonal Signs are permitted only for the time when the seasonal function occurs, such as for as long as the produce stand is opened. These signs cannot be lighted. Seasonal Signs shall only be placed on the property that is designated by the sign.

3. Long-Term, Temporary Signs: Long-Term Temporary signs do not need permits but must comply with size and placement requirements as included in this chapter. Long-Term Temporary Signs can be displayed for no longer than 6 months. In the event a Long-Term Temporary Sign needs to be in place for longer than 6 months, a permit will be required according to section 9.2.5 of this chapter. Examples of Long-Term Temporary Signs include, but are not limited to, Construction Signs, Real Estate Sales Signs, and Political Election Signs. Each of these signs need to be removed within 15 days of the completion of the project, close of escrow or election. These signs cannot be lighted. Long-Term Temporary Signs may not be placed on Town property, including the strip between the sidewalk area and the ditch or road.
4. Short-Term Temporary Signs. Short Term Temporary Signs do not need permits but must comply with size and placement requirements as included in this chapter. Short Term Temporary Signs can be on display for no longer than 72 hours. Examples of Short-Term Temporary Signs include but are not limited to garage or yard sale signs, private functions or private parties. No more than 2 small (less than 4 square feet each) Short Term Temporary Signs are allowed within the public area between the sidewalk area and ditch or road, with only one being permitted directly across the street from the function to aid in directions.

9.2.12 Sign Standards for Permanent Signs

The purpose of this section is to provide sign standards that will enhance the quality of life and community standards of the Town. Therefore, all new and existing business signs are subject to design review. The design standards set forth in this Chapter shall be adhered to for all signing in all zones.

9.2.12.1 Architectural Style

Each sign shall be designed with a specific intent and purpose to relate to the architectural style or character of existing improvements upon lots, buildings, and other signs surrounding the site.

9.2.13 Non-conforming Signs

It is the intent of this Chapter to recognize the eventual elimination of signs not conforming to the provisions of this Code, and the prohibition of new signs that violate these regulations. Any sign legally existing before the effective date of adoption of this Code shall be a legal non-conforming sign. Any sign erected after the adoption of this Code that does not conform to these provisions shall be removed, altered, or replaced pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

9.2.14 Notice and Removal

If the Planning Commission finds that any sign has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions set forth in this Chapter, written notification of the status of the non-conforming sign(s) and a request that such sign be removed or brought into compliance within thirty (30) days of such written notification, shall be made to the property owner by the Planning Commission.

If proper action to correct a sign's status has not been completed at the end of the thirty (30)-day period, a written notice to remove said sign within ten (10) days shall be made by the Planning Commission.

If both the thirty (30) and ten (10)-day notices and waiting periods pass without proper correction, the Planning Commission may cause a sign to be removed without further notice. Expenses related to such removal shall be paid by the property owner.

1. If a sign is removed in response to official notice and is later placed or used in an illegal location or manner; the Planning Commission may have the sign removed without notice.
2. Any sign found to be an immediate danger to persons or property shall be removed summarily and without notice by a duly appointed official. All costs associated with the removal shall be assessed against the property owner.
3. Any signs erected on public property in violation of the provisions hereof shall be removed by order of the Planning Commission.

The cost of the removal or alteration of any sign and any subsequent related expense shall, by the terms of this Chapter, be paid by the property owner or person that caused the sign to be erected on public property and shall become a debt owing the Town of Rockville for the collection of which the Town of Rockville may maintain a civil action.

9.2.15 Structural Safety

9.2.15.1 Prevention Codes

Every sign, including the frame and all parts, as well as supports and/or anchorage shall be manufactured, fabricated, assembled, constructed, and erected in compliance with current building, electrical and fire prevention codes.

9.2.15.2 Maintenance

Every sign, including the frame and all parts, as well as supports and/or anchorage shall be maintained in proper repair and state of preservation. The display surface of all signs shall be kept neatly painted and/or posted. Any sign victimized by graffiti shall be removed, repaired, or repainted within ten (10) days or be subject to removal by the Town at owner's cost.

9.2.15.3 Identification

Every sign erected, altered, or relocated shall have on file with the Town:

1. the date of erection, alteration or relocation;
2. the permit number (when appropriate);
3. a photograph of the sign as erected and installed; and
4. the voltage and other pertinent information (including locations for emergency electrical shutoff) regarding any electrical or other apparatus associated with the sign.

9.2.15.4 Illumination

1. Only externally illuminated signs that comply with the International Building Code and Chapter 11, Outdoor Lighting are permitted.
2. Sign Lighting for Permanent Signs. Only Permitted Permanent Signs can be illuminated.
3. Signs may be unlighted or lighted externally.
4. All sign lighting must be designed, directed, and shielded in such a manner that the light source is not visible beyond the property boundaries where the sign is located. Lighting for signs must be directed so that only the sign face is

illuminated. All lighted signs must be stationary. Flashing or intermittent lights are prohibited.

5. Standards for externally illuminated signs. Lighting for externally illuminated signs shall be mounted at the top of the sign and directed to illuminate only the sign face.
6. Freestanding monument style signs may be illuminated with ground mounted lighting provided the light is shielded and aimed to illuminate only the sign face.

9.2.16 Officials

All officials and public employees of the Town of Rockville vested with the duty or authority to issue permits shall conform to the provisions of this Code and shall issue no permit, certificate, or license for uses in conflict with the provisions of this Code. It shall be the duty of the Town or their designee to enforce the provisions of this Chapter.

9.2.17 Unlawful Signs and Enforcement

Any sign erected, constructed, altered, enlarged, converted, moved or maintained contrary to the provisions of this Code shall be declared unlawful and shall be subject to Rockville Town penalty and enforcement regulations. (See Section 1.19)

<u>Offense Code Violation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Default Severity Class</u>	<u>Suggested Fine/Bail Amount</u>	<u>Mandatory Court Appearance?</u>
Rockville Ordinance 9.2	Sign Violations	Infraction	First Offense 50; Second Offense \$75; Third Offense \$150	No