

SECTION 18 SIGN REGULATIONS

SUBDIVISION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to protect the traveling public from distraction and maintain the natural and scenic beauty and attractiveness of roadsides in Murray County.

1. All signs hereinafter erected, altered, substantially repaired, relocated or maintained shall conform to the provisions of the Ordinance. No sign shall be allowed in any zoning district unless it is a permitted use, conditionally permitted use or accessory use established in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
2. The regulations contained herein do not apply to signs painted, attached by adhesive, or otherwise attached directly to or visible through windows and glass portions of doors.

SUBDIVISION 2. GENERAL STANDARDS

1. All signs erected, altered, substantially repaired, relocated, or maintained following the effective date of this Ordinance shall conform to the regulations in this Ordinance.
2. All signs shall be properly identified stating the name and address of the individual or firm responsible for the sign.
3. Private signs are prohibited within the public right-of-way and easements on any public property.
4. Illuminated signs shall be diffused or indirect so as not to direct rays of lighting onto any state, County, or township road or residential structure.
5. No sign shall be erected that, by reason of position, shape, movement, color, or any other characteristic, interferes with the proper functioning of a traffic sign or signal or otherwise constitutes a traffic hazard; nor shall signs be permitted which would otherwise interfere with traffic control.
6. Flashing signs and signs giving off direct light that may be confused with traffic, aviation, or emergency signaling are prohibited.
7. All signs, with the exception of billboard/advertising signs, shall be set back from the right-of-way of public roads and from adjacent property lines, not less than 10 feet from the closest part of the sign, including any brace, guys, or anchors.
8. No sign shall be permitted that obstructs any window, door, fire escape, stairway, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress, or egress of any building or structure.

SUBDIVISION 3. PERMITTED SIGNS

1. Signs Permitted or Conditionally Permitted Per District.

SP = Special Protection A = Agricultural R = Rural Residence
 B = General Business I = Industry S = Shoreland

Type of Signs	District Allowed	Maximum Number	Maximum Area	Other Restrictions
Agricultural product	A	Unlimited	None	None
Billboard/Advertising	B, I	One	500 square feet	Conditional Use
Construction	SP, A, R, B, I, S	One	32 square feet	Removal required when project completed
Crop Demonstration	A	Unlimited	None	Removal required following harvest
Directional	SP, A, R, B, I, S	One per entrance/exit	None	None
Freestanding	A, B, I	One	100 square feet	Maximum height 35 feet
Home Occupation	SP, A, R, B, I, S	One	32 square feet	None
Identification and nameplate	SP, A, R, B, I, S	Unlimited	None	None
Institutional	SP, A, R, B, I, S	One	32 square feet	None
Memorial	SP, A, R, B, I, S	Unlimited	None	None
Political	SP, A, R, B, I, S	Unlimited	None	Removal required 10 days following election
Portable	A, B, I	One	32 square feet	May be erected up to 30 consecutive days
Public	SP, A, R, B, I, S	Unlimited	None	None
Real Estate	SP, A, R, B, I, S	Unlimited	None	None
Real Estate Development, Housing Development	SP, A, R, B, I, S	One	100 square feet	Removal required when project completed, sold, or leased
Roof	B, I	One	100 square feet	Conditional Use
Wall and projecting, canopy or marquee	A, B, I	One	Total of 300 square feet	Minimum height 10 feet

2. Placement of Signs allowed in the "B-1" GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT and "I" INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.
 - A. Sign structures developed on property for which the sign relates shall be limited to not more than one (1) for a lot of one hundred (100) foot frontage or less and to only one (1) per additional one hundred (100) feet of additional lot frontage. Such structure may not contain more than two (2) signs per facing.
 - B. No sign may be erected within one hundred (100) feet of an adjoining residential property.
 - C. No sign may be erected within one hundred (100) feet of property used for church or school purposes.
 - D. No sign may be erected less than eight hundred (800) feet from any other advertising device on the same side of the right-of-way, except in the "B-1" or "I" DISTRICT.
 - E. The aggregate square footage of sign space per lot shall not exceed the sum of the (1) square foot for each front foot of lot.
 - F. No sign shall extend in height more than six (6) feet above the highest outside wall or parapet of any principal building.

SUBDIVISION 4. CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED SIGNS

Billboard/Advertising or Roof signs are allowed only in the "B-1" GENERAL BUSINESS or "I-1" INDUSTRY DISTRICTS and are subject to the following regulations:

1. All Billboard/Advertising or Roof signs shall require a conditional use permit (CUP), in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of this Ordinance.
2. Spacing. All conditionally permitted signs shall not be located closer than 1,320 feet to any other advertising sign measured in any direction.
3. Size, height, and length of conditionally permitted signs.
 - A. Billboard/advertising signs shall not exceed five hundred (500) square feet in total area including all faces nor shall the billboard/advertising sign shall exceed forty (40) feet in length.
 - B. Roof signs shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in total area including all faces.
4. Setbacks. All conditionally permitted signs shall conform to setback, yard and height requirements for the districts they are located in.
5. Exclusionary areas. No billboard/advertising signs shall be directed or maintained within five hundred (500) feet of any state or county park or within one hundred (100) feet of any residential zone, church, school or playground.

SUBDIVISION 5. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

1. Political signs are allowed in any district on private property with the consent of the owner of the property.
2. A real estate sign for purposes of selling, renting, or leasing a property may be placed in any yard of the property.
3. Real estate development and housing development signs may be erected for the purpose of selling or promoting a single-family or multiple-family residential project. The plat of the development must be recorded with the Murray County Recorder prior to the erection of a sign. The sign shall be removed when the project is completed, sold, or leased.
4. Portable signs must advertise the use located on the premises. Portable signs must be securely placed so as to avoid damage or creation of a nuisance.
5. Projecting signs shall not project over a public sidewalk.
6. All signs, together with all of their supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be kept in repair and in a proper state of preservation. 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, and other necessary acts. The display surfaces of all signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times.
7. Any sign which becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises or endangers the public safety shall be taken down and removed or structurally improved by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure, or land upon which the sign is located within 10 days after written notification from the Zoning Administrator.
8. All sign locations shall be kept free from unreasonable growth, debris, or rubbish. Failure to correct such conditions after being so directed in writing by the Zoning Administrator shall be cause for removal of the sign or signs on said location or locations.

SUBDIVISION 6. AMORTIZATION

Any sign or billboard existing on the effective date of this Ordinance which does not conform to the regulations set forth in this Ordinance shall become a non-conforming use and shall be discontinued; uses of signs and billboards which become non-conforming by reason of a subsequent change in this Ordinance shall also be discontinued within a reasonable period of amortization of the sign. See Section 25, Subdivision 2 for schedule of amortization.

SUBDIVISION 7. ABANDONED SIGNS

Removal Required. Abandoned signs should be removed by the owner of the sign. Any such sign not removed shall be subject to removal by the County 30 days after the Zoning Administrator shall have served a notice of removal on the owner thereof by mail or, if the owner cannot be found, publication in the legal newspaper of the County. The notice of removal shall specify the nature of the violation, the action required by the owner, and the date by which the action must be completed. If the owner of the sign is not the owner of the premises on which the sign is located, the owner of the premises shall also be served. The expense of removal, if not paid by the owner of the sign within 30 days after removal thereof by the County and billing of the owner of the sign, shall be assessed against the real estate on which the sign is located in the manner in which improvements are assessed. This shall not limit any other rights that the County has to enforce collection of the cost against the owner of the sign and the owner of the property.

SUBDIVISION 8. INSPECTION

Any sign or billboard for which a permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator or his duly authorized representative may enter upon any property or premises to ascertain whether the provisions of this Ordinance are being obeyed. Such entrance shall be made during business hours unless an emergency exists. The county shall order the removal of any sign that is not maintained in accordance with the provisions of Subdivisions 2 and 5 of this Section. Notice shall be given to the county of any change in sign owner.