

Article XIV
Sign Regulations

Section 1 - General Provisions
(Amended 5/25/10)

1. The following types of signs are prohibited in all zoning districts:
 - (a) Any sign of which all or any part is in motion by any means, including fluttering, rotating or other moving signs set in motion by movement of the atmosphere.
 - (b) Any sign displaying flashing or intermittent lights or lights of changing degrees of intensity, except a sign indicating time or temperature, with changes alternating on not less than five second cycle, or message board, when such sign does not constitute a public safety or traffic hazard, in the judgment of the Zoning Administrator.
 - (c) Any lighting either by exposed tubing or strings of lights, either outlining any part of a building or affixed to any ornamental feature thereof.
 - (d) Any sign that obscures or interferes with a sign displayed by public authority for the purpose of giving traffic instructions or direction or other public information.
 - (e) Any sign that uses the word "stop" or "danger" or otherwise presents or implies the need or requirement of stopping or caution of the existence of danger or which is a copy or imitation of or which for any reason is likely to be confused with any sign displayed by public authority.
 - (f) Any sign that obstructs any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress for any building, as required by law.
 - (g) Any sign or illumination that causes any direct glare into or upon any building other than the building to which the sign may be related.
 - (h) Any sign that violates any provision of any law of the State relative to outdoor advertising.
2. General advertising signs may be permitted only if necessary to direct customers to a place of business located within Caroline County. The primary intent of such signs shall be directional and not for advertising purposes. In no case shall the combined square footage for off-site signs exceed one hundred (100) square feet, nor shall any one sign exceed twenty-five (25) square feet.
3. No sign shall be located or illuminated in such a manner as, in the opinion of the Zoning Administrator, to cause a traffic hazard. Where a permit is required, the permit shall not be issued until the location and illumination, if any, of the sign are approved by the Zoning Administrator, who may consult with the Resident Highway Office, Virginia Department of Highways, to assist him in determining whether a traffic hazard exists.
4. No part of any sign projecting more than twelve (12) inches from any wall or from any other support shall be not less than ten (10) feet above the level of the ground at that point. Signs projecting over vehicle travel lanes shall be not less than fourteen (14) feet above ground level.
5. Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a structure or premises or the public, or is erected or maintained in violation of this Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall order such sign to be made safe or comply with this Ordinance, as the case may be, or be removed. Such order shall be sent by registered mail and shall be complied with within twelve (12) days from the date of mailing said order by the persons owning or responsible for the sign.

6. Signs shall be exempt from setback requirements in all zones provided, however, that no sign shall be so located as to interfere with vehicular sight distances at intersections or to create a safety hazard
7. Any internally illuminated sign must have a U.L. Label or the electrical system must be approved by the building inspector.
8. A bulletin board not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in size may be permitted in any use district provided that such bulletin board is used in conjunction with churches, schools, or similar places of public assembly.
9. No permanent sign shall be erected, constructed, posted, painted, altered, maintained, or relocated without first obtaining a sign permit from the Planning Department. Each application for a sign shall be accompanied by a set of plans showing the dimensions of the sign; its structure, character, and design; the method of illumination, if any, and the exact location of the proposed sign.
10. The location of the sign as determined by the Director of Planning shall not interfere with the location or placement of any official traffic control devices or with the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and such sign shall not impair any sight distance reasonably necessary for pedestrian or traffic safety.

Section 2 - Signs Permitted in Rural Preservation (RP) District

(Amended 3/28/95)

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum of such signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
2. Public signs.
3. Subdivision signs.
4. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.
5. Business signs provided that (a) no portion of a freestanding sign shall be greater than twenty (20) feet from ground level, (b) no wall sign shall be greater in height than the roof line of the main building located on the premises, (c) the aggregate area of wall signs shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet. There shall be no more than one (1) freestanding sign on any one lot or premises, except that where said lot or premises fronts on two or more streets a second such sign is permitted.
6. General advertising signs provided that such signs meet the specifications contained herein.

Section 3 - Signs Permitted in Agricultural Preservation (AP) District

(Amended 3/28/95)

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
2. Public signs.
3. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.
4. Business signs provided that (a) no portion of a freestanding sign shall be greater than twenty (20) feet from ground level, (b) no wall sign shall be greater in height than the roof line of the main building located on the premises, (c) the aggregate area of wall signs shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet. There shall be no more than one (1) freestanding sign on any one lot or premises, except that where said lot or premises fronts on two or more streets a second such sign is permitted.

Section 4 - Signs Permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum size shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
2. Public signs.
3. Subdivision Signs.
4. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size shall not exceed four (4) square feet and that not more than one (1) such size shall be located on any lot or premises.

Section 5 - Signs Permitted in Mobile Home Parks (MHP-1)

1. Same as those permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts.

Section 6 - Signs Permitted in Planned Unit Development (PUD-1) Districts

1. Same as those permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts.
2. By special exception, business signs provided that (1) freestanding signs shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height and one-hundred (100) square feet in size and (2) wall signs shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in size.
3. Sign Regulations in the Planned Recreation and Entertainment District (RE):
(Adopted 5/25/10)
 - A. Generally, all signs shall be of a uniform color, character, size and design. If illuminated internally, only the letters shall be transparent and logos or symbols shall be opaque.
 - B. Free-standing signs provided that such signs meet the following standards:
 - (1) One such sign per 2,000 feet of road frontage, which may denote all businesses on the premises. Such sign shall be no more than sixteen (16) feet in height as measured from the average adjacent grade and not exceed one-hundred (100) square feet in size. The development or project identification part of the sign shall not exceed 60 square feet. No individual tenant or business may exceed 40 square of area on the free standing monument sign. Such sign shall be a monument style with a brick and/or masonry base, said support structure shall be no more than twenty (20) feet in height including all appendages.
 - (2) Individual free-standing signs for businesses shall not be permitted. Free standing directional sign of (12) square feet each shall be permitted. The directional support structure shall not exceed the height of the monument sign and shall be similar in design and character. However, if an individual free-standing sign is required by circumstances (such as an isolated outparcel or business where the development's sign cannot properly delineate), such sign shall be governed as follows; such freestanding sign shall be of a monument type with a brick and/or masonry base, no more than ten (10) feet in height and not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in size.
 - (3) Free standing monument type signs may be two sided only. Directional signs may be multisided. Monument signs shall be ground lighted only and directional signs may be internally lighted, however only the letters shall be transparent and the sign face, logos or symbols shall be opaque.
 - (4) Permanent internal property free standing directional or informational signs shall be located at least fifty (50) feet from all adjacent roadways and property lines. These signs shall be similar in design and character to the property line directional signs. Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in total and may not contain any advertising. The signs may not

exceed 12' in height as measured from the average ground level around the sign. There shall be no more than one sign for every 5 acres of total site area.

C. Wall signs provided that such signs meet the following standards.

(1) Free standing buildings with one occupant: an aggregate size of all signs shall not exceed 2 square feet of sign area for every one lineal foot of building frontage on a public or private street or road (frontage on alleys or service road not for the use of the general public not included) up to a maximum of 300 square feet. Buildings fronting on two or more public or private streets or roads may use the sum total as an aggregate or any combination thereof for the signage. Not more than one wall sign over each entrance, up to a maximum of two, is permitted.

(2) Free standing buildings with multiple occupants: all signage shall be of a uniform color and design. an aggregate size of all signs shall not exceed 2 square feet of sign area for every one lineal foot of building frontage on a public or private street or road (frontage on alleys or service road not for the use of the general public not included) up to a maximum of 300 square feet. Buildings fronting on two or more public or private streets or roads may use the sum total as an aggregate or any combination thereof for the signage. Not more than one wall sign over each entrance, up to a maximum of two, is permitted.

D. Temporary signs must be non-illuminated and may be made of vinyl, metal, cloth or similar materials. No paper signs shall be permitted. Each sign may be 32 sq. ft. in size and no more than one temporary sign per 5 acres shall be allowed. Signs may be free standing or attached to a structure however shall not exceed 8'-0" above adjacent grade. These temporary signs shall be permitted for a period of no more than 30 consecutive days.

Section 7 - Signs Permitted in Business (B-1) and Industrial (M-1) Districts

1. Public signs.

2. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.

3. General advertising signs provided that such signs meet the specifications contained herein.

4. Business signs provided that such signs meet the following standards:

(a) For individual businesses and industries not located in shopping centers or industrial parks - one (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted on any lot or premises except that lots having frontage on two streets shall be permitted to erect two such signs provided that the combined square footage shall not exceed the total normally permitted for one sign. Such signs shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height. The aggregate size of all such signs shall not exceed two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 300 square feet for each side of a building which faces a street.

(b) In shopping centers and industrial parks - one (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted identifying the shopping center or industrial park. Such sign may list the tenants of the center/park but shall not exceed forty (40) feet in height. The maximum size of such signs shall be two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of street frontage provided however that no such sign shall exceed four hundred (400) square feet. Centers/parks having more than one street frontage may have an additional sign for each additional street frontage. Each store or industry may have one wall sign. The maximum height of such signs shall not exceed five (5) feet above the height of the building. The maximum size of such signs shall be two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of one hundred (100) square feet. Each store or industry shall also be permitted one (1) identification sign not to exceed ten (10) square feet in size on the rear of the building to identify the tenant and one under canopy sign not to exceed six (6) square feet in size.

Section 8 - Sign Permits, Applications, and Fees
(Amended 10/28/97)

No sign shall be erected, constructed, posted, painted, altered, maintained, or relocated without first obtaining a sign permit from the Zoning Administrator. The application for a sign permit shall be made on the provided forms and submitted to the Zoning Administrator's office. Each application shall be accompanied by a set of plans showing the dimension of the sign; its structure, character, and design; the method of illumination, if any; and the exact location proposed for the sign. The fee for each sign shall be in the amount set forth in the fee schedule adopted separately by the Caroline County Board of Supervisors.