

**Sign Definitions
For
Clarification of Burnsville Sign Ordinance**

Definitions:

- 1. Abandoned Sign:** A sign shall be considered abandoned when the business activity or firm, which such sign advertises, is no longer in operation or does not have a current occupation tax certificate in effect.

- 2. Advertising Statuary:** Means an imitation representation or similitude of a person or thing which is sculptured, molded, modeled, or cast in any solid or plastic substance, material or fabric and used to promote or represent a commercial enterprise.

- 3. Amortization:** A provision requiring nonconforming signs, as determined in section _____ of these regulations, to either become conforming or be removed within a set period of time, otherwise known as the amortization period.

- 4. Animated Sign:** Means any sign which is designed to give a message through a sequence of progressive changes of parts or lights or degree of lighting, accomplished by natural manual, mechanical, electrical or other means.

- 5. Awning:** A structure made of cloth, metal, or other material affixed to a building in such a manner that the structure may be raised or retracted from a building to a flat position against the building, but not a canopy.

- 6. Banner Sign:** A temporary sign that is mounted on or attached to a non-rigid surface such as cloth, fabric, or paper.

- 7. Billboard:** Any sign which advertises goods, products, services, or facilities not sold, produced, manufactured or furnished on the premises on which the sign is located. These signs are also known as outdoor advertising, billboards and poster panels.

- 8. Business Sign:** A sign which is clearly adherent to the business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment sold or offered upon the premises where the sign is located or attached. Such sign shall be customarily and commonly associated with the operation of the establishment or premises by showing the name, use, hours of operation, services offered or events.

9. Campaign or Election Sign: A sign that advertises a candidate or issue to be voted upon on a definite election day.

10. Canopy: A permanent structure other than an awning made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure

11. Changeable Copy Sign: A sign that is designed so that characters, letters, or illustrations can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or surface of the sign and is displayed in a casement made of glass or Plexiglas.

12. Civic Sign: Means a sign which describes some aspect of public or quasi-public uses or facilities. Location, services available, functions, activities, or conditions/limitations of use. Owners may include a governmental entity, educational institution, society or association (including religious) church, charitable organization, medical institution or public utility.

13. Construction Sign: A temporary sign identifying the persons, firms or businesses directly connected with a construction or development project and may include the name of the future site occupant.

14. Directional Sign: A sign that provides on-site directional assistance for the convenience of the public such as location of exits, entrances, and parking lots.

15. Double Faced Sign: A sign with two parallel, or nearly parallel, faces, back to back and located not more than (24') from each other.

16. Electrical Sign: A sign or sign structure in which electrical wiring, connections or fixtures are used as a means of advertising.

17. Electronic Message Board: Any sign that uses changing lights to form a sign message or messages wherein the sequence of messages and the rate of change is electronically programmed and can be modified by electronic processes.

Electronic Message Boards shall be limited to light emitting diode (LED) or liquid crystal display (LCD) boards and shall not contain any scrolling, moving or animated display. The minimum time between any display change shall be three seconds for onsite commercial signs. Electronic Message Boards shall be allowed in the same size and locations as other sign types permitted in the zoning ordinance.

18. Erect: Means to assemble, construct, build, raise, place, install, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or establish.

19. Exempt Sign: A sign not subject to all regulations of the zoning code and do not require a permit.

20. Flashing Sign: An illuminated sign on which the artificial or reflected light is not maintained stationary and color at all times when in use. Any sign which revolves or moves, whether illuminated or not, shall be considered a flashing sign.

21. Freestanding Sign: A sign which is supported by one or more upright poles, columns, or braces in or upon the ground, and not attached to any building or structure. Also known as a ground sign or pylon sign.

22. Landmark Sign: An existing, possibly non-conforming, on premise sign, which exhibits unique characteristics, enhances the streetscape or identity of a neighborhood and, as such, contributes to the historical or cultural character of the streetscape or the community at large.

23. Illegal Sign: Any sign erected or maintained in violation of a preceding ordinance or erected, altered, removed, or replaced in violation of this ordinance.

24. Illuminated Sign: A sign illuminated in any manner by an artificial light source, whether internally or externally lit.

*The following was submitted by **Chuck Alridge**:*

** All lighting fixtures designed or placed so as to illuminate any portion of a sign shall meet the following requirements.*

1. Fixture (luminaire)—the light source shall be completely concealed within an opaque housing, or appropriate evergreen landscaping, so as not to be visible from any street right of way.

2. Light source (lamp)—only incandescent, florescent, metal halide, or color corrected high-pressure sodium may be used.

3. Mounting. Fixtures must be mounted in such a manner that its cone of light does not cross any property line of the site

4; Illumination levels, Illumination levels will be constant and there will be no flicker, strobe or flashing effect contained within or be a part of any signage. The amount of illumination shall not be excessive (not to exceed 10 foot candles from the sign surface)

5. *Operation. Signs may only be illuminated during the hours the respective business is open to the public.*

25. Marquee Sign: A sign attached to or hung from a marquee which is a permanent portion of a building which projects over a public or private right-of-way.

26. Monument Sign: A monolithic sign in which the bottom of the sign is flush with the ground and the vertical dimension of the sign is greater than the horizontal dimension.

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27. Murals: Displays painted directly on a wall which are designed and intended as a decorative or ornamental feature. Painted wall decorations do not contain advertising text, numbers, address, registered trademarks, or registered logos.

28. Nonconforming Sign: A sign that was lawfully erected and maintained prior to the adoption of this ordinance, and which by reason of such adoption fails to conform to all applicable regulations and restrictions of this ordinance.

29. Off Premises Sign: Any sign that is used to attract attention to an object, person, product, institution, organization, business, service, event or location that is not located on the premises upon which the sign is located. This definition does not include governmental traffic, directional, or regulatory signs or notices of the federal, state, county or city government or their public agencies.

30. Portable Sign: A sign that is not permanently affixed to a building, structure, or the ground or designed to be permanently affixed to a building structure, or the ground. Portable signs include a-boards, portable reader-boards, and similar signs.

31. Projecting Signs: A sign which is supported by an exterior wall of a building and which is displayed perpendicular to the face of the building.

32. Public Interest Sign: A sign on private property that displays information pertinent to the safety or legal responsibilities of the general public such as warning and no trespassing signs.

33. Real Estate Sign: A sign that is used to offer for sale, lease or rent the premises upon which such sign is placed.

34. Roof sign: A sign erected or maintained in whole or in part upon, over, or above the roof or parapet of a building.

35. Sign: Any outdoor notice containing words, letters, figures, numerals, emblems, devices, trademarks, or trade names, or combinations thereof.

36. Sign Area: The surface area of a sign shall be computed as including the entire area within a regular geometric form or combinations of regular geometric forms comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all elements of the matter displayed. A suggested addition would read as follows: however, in computing sign area only one (1) side of a double-faced sign structure shall be considered. Frames and structural members not bearing advertising matter shall not be included in computation of the surface area.

37. Sign Compliance: No type of exterior sign may be erected, posted, reposted, placed, replaced, hung, painted or repainted in any district except in compliance with this ordinance.

38. Temporary Sign: A sign which is not permanently installed in the ground or affixed to any structure or building and which is erected for a period of time as permitted in the ordinance.

1. Banner Signs: Temporary on-premise banners advertising the initial opening of a business establishment or special sales are permitted provided the location of such signs are approved by the Zoning Administrator. Temporary banners for annual civic events and special holidays may be strung across public rights-of-ways provided the location, height and size are approved by the Zoning Administrator and are displayed for no more than 30 days.

- *Maximum advertising area: 32 sq ft.*
- *Maximum Height 4 ft*

2. Construction Signs. Temporary signs announcing new buildings or projects, erected after the commencement of building construction or site development. Each construction site will be limited to one sign.

- *Not to exceed 20 sq. ft ?*
- *Not to exceed 8 ft in height ?*

3. Political Signs: Signs may be displayed during a period beginning 30 days prior to an election and concluding 48 hours after the election. In the event of a runoff election, political signs for the candidate involved may remain on display until 48-hours after the runoff election.

* Maximum Size: 3 Square Feet

* Maximum Height: 3 feet high

* Maximum Number: 1 per candidate per lot of record

4. Real Estate Signs (On Premises): On-Premises real-estate signs advertise the sale or lease of the property on which said sign is located. Signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of the sale or lease of the property. Signs advertising lots for sale within an approved subdivision may be posted at the entrance to the subdivision and shall be allowed until 75 percent of the lots are sold within the subdivision.

* Maximum Size: 6 square feet for individual residential properties and 16 sq. ft for multi-family residential, non-residential properties, vacant properties and subdivisions.

* Maximum Height: 4 ft tall

* Maximum Number: 1 per street frontage per lot of record

5. Special Event Signs: Signs may be erected by public or non-profit organizations such as schools and churches for promoting public events such as fund drives, fairs, festivals, sporting events, etc. Signs may be displayed in C-1, C-2 and I-1 zoning districts during a period beginning 30 days prior to the event and concluding 48 hours after the event.

* Maximum Size: 16 square feet

* Maximum Height: 6 Feet Tall

* Maximum Number: 1 on- premises sign

6. Window Signs: Signs temporarily attached or temporarily painted to a window or door, announcing sale or special features, provided they do not exceed 50% of the area of said window or door. Signs that exceed 35% of the area of said window shall be treated as wall signs. Signs shall be removed within 2 days after the termination of such sale or special event.

- Maximum coverage: 35% of window or door area

7. Yard Sale Signs: Residential yard signs may be used under the following criteria.

- One sign per residence
- Not to exceed 3 sq. ft in surface area
- Not to exceed 3 feet in height
- Maximum time for display not to exceed 48 hours

39. Wall Sign: Any sign directly attached to an exterior wall or exterior parapet of a building or dependent upon a building for its support with its exposed face parallel or approximately parallel to the plane of the building or structure on which the sign is affixed.

40. Window Sign: Any sign attached to or directly applied onto a window or glass door of a building for viewing from the exterior of such building.

Shopping Center: Two or more retail or commercial establishments, including those located on out parcels, having any or all of the following characteristics:

- a. establishments are connected by party walls, partitions, canopies or similar features
- b. some or all of the establishments are located in separate buildings which are designed as a single commercial group sharing common parking areas and vehicular ways and which are connected by walkways or other access ways
- c. establishments are under the same management or association for the purpose of enforcing reciprocal agreements controlling management of parking
- d. establishments are structurally designed in an integrated fashion around or along the sides of a promenade, walkway, concourse or courtyard.

Sign Height: The distance measured from the highest point of a sign to the base of the sign at the ground.

May consider adding the following: The ground may not be altered for the sole purpose of changing sign height.