

**ARTICLE XIV
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SECTION 14.01. APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS TO SIGNS.

All signs within Oak Ridge shall be hereafter erected, constructed, or maintained in accordance with the provision of the sections below and applicable sections of the Oak Ridge building codes and only those signs that are permitted by these regulations shall be permitted within the City of Oak Ridge. A sign permit is required for all permitted signs.

SECTION 14.02. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this article is to provide sign standards and regulations which allow for the legitimate needs for identification of residential, office, commercial, industrial and other activities while at the same time to maintain and enhance the environment; promote signs which do not unduly detract from the overall character and aesthetics of the community; encourage signs which are compatible with adjacent land uses; provide for a reasonable system of control of signs; promote effective use of signs as a means of communication and economic growth through the regulation of such things as size, location, design, and illumination of signs; and to advance the safety and welfare of the community as it relates to signs.

If any portion of this article is found to be in conflict with any other provision of any City codes, such as zoning, building, fire, safety, or health ordinance, the provision that establishes the higher standard shall prevail.

SECTION 14.03. MATRIX. The following matrix will be used in determining sign districts:

<u>ZONING DISTRICT</u>	<u>SIGN DISTRICT</u>
R-1-A, R-1-B, R-1-A/B, R-1-C, R-2, R-4-A, R-4-B, R-4-C, RG-1, G, P	RESIDENTIAL
E	EDUCATION
O-1, O-2, R-3	OFFICE-INSTITUTIONAL
B-1	NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS
B-2, B-3, UB-2	COMMUNITY BUSINESS
IND-1, IND-2, IND-3, FIR	BUSINESS PARK AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
*Those properties as shown on the Medical Campus District Map	MEDICAL CAMPUS ‘

SECTION 14.04. DEFINITIONS:

Signs: Any object, device, display, or structure, or part thereof, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct, or visually attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination, or projected images.

Note: This definition shall not include festival or holiday decorations, the noncommercial use of a flag, emblem, insignia, or other display of any nation or political subdivision, traffic, safety or similar regulatory devices; legal notices; signs or tablets which are primarily memorials; emblems of religious institutions that are attached to buildings; or flags or similar emblems of political, civic, philanthropic, educational, or religious organizations.

Abandoned Sign: A sign that no longer correctly directs or exhorts any person, advertises a bona fide business, lessor, owner, project or activity conducted or product available on the premises where such sign is displayed; or a permitted temporary sign for which the permit has expired.

Advertising Sign: A sign that has as its purpose to promote, advertise, or sell a product or service obtainable on the premises upon which the sign is located, and not to identify the premises.

Animated (Moving) Sign: Any sign or permanent structure that uses movement, projection, or change of lighting or other electrical impulses to depict action or create a special effect. Variable display signs, beacons and electronic moving message boards are animated signs under this article.

Awning, Canopy or Marquee Sign: A non-illuminated sign that is mounted, painted, or attached to an awning, canopy, or marquee.

Banners, Pennants, Festoons, and Balloons: Any sign of cloth, paper, fabric or other flexible material that is mounted by a pole, enclosed in a frame, or otherwise mounted to allow movement caused by wind which, with or without insignia, attracts the attention of the general public to a location or business. Festoons shall include, but are not limited to, a string of ribbons, tinsel, or pinwheels. Flags are not banners under this article.

Billboard (Outdoor Advertising Display Sign): A sign that is affixed to or erected upon a free-standing framework that directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located. Note: This type of sign is also commonly referred to as an off-premise sign. Any sign that is not an on-premise sign, as defined herein, shall be an off-premises sign.

Business Sign: A sign which directs attention to a business or profession conducted, or a commodity or service, sold, offered, or manufactured, or to an entertainment on the premises upon which the sign is located, or to which it is affixed.

Changeable Copy Sign (Readerboard): A sign containing letters or numbers that can be changed at will to display different messages. Electronic moving message board signs are not changeable copy signs under this article.

Channel Letters: Letters comprised of a U-shaped aluminum channel, with plastic front faces. Letters can be lighted with neon or Light Emitting Diodes (LED). Neon letters can be left open without faces (open faced neon letters).

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

Civic Sign: A sign that identifies a nonprofit institution or organization on whose premises it is located, and which contains (a) the name of the institution or organization; (b) the name(s) of the person(s) connected with it; and/or (c) greetings, announcements of events or activities occurring at the institution, or similar messages.

Community Bulletin Board Sign: A publicly owned sign whose contents shall be in the nature of a directory listing several religious, educational, charitable, philanthropic, civic or professional organizations.

Community Identification Sign: A publicly-owned sign that states the logo, trademark, or other identifying symbol; address; or combination of the name, symbol, and address which communicates the identity of the city.

Construction Sign: A temporary sign located on the premises during the period of construction identifying the names of the architects, engineers, contractors, subcontractors, financial supporters and/or others associated with the construction and development of the project.

Dilapidated Sign: A sign that is structurally unsound, has defective parts, or is in need of painting or other maintenance.

Directional Sign: A sign whose message is exclusively limited to guiding the circulation and flow of vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic on the site such as signs that convey enter/entrance, exit, one-way, and drive-thru.

Directory Sign: A sign, other than an identification sign, listing the names, uses, or locations of the various businesses or activities conducted within a building or group of buildings, that is centrally located and intended to provide on-site direction.

Entry Sign: A type of a ground sign that is non-illuminated, reflective or indirectly illuminated, with the exception of Light Emitting diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters, limited to a symbol and/or name identifying the development or site, and a numeric display of the site street address located at the main entrance. Such signs shall only apply to those sites with

five (5) or more buildings, five (5) or more lots, or are located in a contiguous campus environment.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

Exempt Sign: Any sign which is exempt from the permit requirements established herein, pursuant to Section 14.06 of this article.

Flag: Any fabric or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns or symbols that is used as a symbol of a governmental, commercial or non-commercial entity.

- (1) Commercial flag sign means any flag, which displays a commercial name, message, logo or symbol.
- (2) Decorative flag means any flag which displays any holiday, season, design, or the like which does not include any commercial name, message, logo or symbol.
- (3) Non-commercial/governmental/civic flag means any flag displaying a name, message, logo or symbol of any recognized governmental, religious, civic or non-profit agency.

Flashing Sign: Any sign which contains an intermittent or flashing light source, or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation, changes in the degree of light intensity, an externally mounted intermittent light source, or reflective metal strips.

Front Face:

The front elevation of a building that faces the front property line, as recorded on the plat and/or site plan. If a structure is located on a corner parcel, the side which includes the primary entrance shall be considered the front façade. If a structure located on a corner parcel contains more than one (1) primary entrance on more than one (1) side, the longer side with a primary entrance shall be considered the front façade. (*See Display 1. Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*)

Ground Sign: Any sign, other than a pole sign, which is independent of any other structure and in which the entire bottom of the sign is in contact with the ground or there is no more than thirty (30) inches clearance from the bottom of the sign to the ground below with the top of the sign not exceeding eight (8) feet from ground level; provided, however, that up to forty-eight (48) inches clearance from the bottom of the sign to the ground below shall be allowed for signs located in parking areas or immediately adjacent to parking areas.

(Ord No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

Halo Letters: A type of a ground sign that is non-illuminated, reflective or indirectly illuminated, with the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters, limited to a symbol and/or name identifying the development or site, and a numeric display of the site street address located at the main entrance. Such signs shall only apply to those sites with five (5) or more buildings, five (5) or more lots, or are located in a contiguous campus environment.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

Hanging Sign: A freestanding sign supported by the extended arm of a single post, with the overall height of the sign face not exceeding eight (8) feet from ground level.

(Ord No. 8-05 Revised Effective 6/30/05)

Height of Sign: The vertical distance from normal grade to the highest point of the sign. Any berming, filling, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign shall be included as a

part of the sign height. Note: The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest point of the sign face. Normal grade shall be construed to be the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign. In cases in which the normal grade of the sign is lower than the grade of the adjacent public/private street, normal grade shall be construed as the grade of the adjacent public/private street.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

Identification Sign: A sign giving the nature, logo, trademark, or other identifying symbol; address; or any combination of the name, symbol, and address of a building, business, development or establishment on the premises where it is located and which sets forth no other advertisement.

Illegal Sign: Any of the following: (1) a sign erected without first obtaining a permit and complying with all regulations in effect at the time of its construction or use; (2) a nonconforming sign whose use has ceased because the business it identifies is no longer conducted on the premises; (3) a nonconforming sign for which the amortization period has expired; (4) a sign that was legally erected but which later became nonconforming and then was damaged to the extent of fifty percent (50%) or more of its current replacement value; (5) a sign that is a danger to the public or is unsafe; or (6) a sign that pertains to a specific event that has not been removed within five (5) days after the occurrence of the event.

Illuminated Sign:

1. Direct: A sign whose light source is either located in the interior of the sign so that the rays go through the face of the sign, or which is attached to the face of the sign and is perceived as a design element of the sign.
2. Indirect: Illumination of a sign that is affected by a source of light not contained within the sign itself and is not visible elsewhere on the plot or parcel where said illumination occurs.

Inflatable Sign: Any sign that is either expanded to its full dimensions or supported by gases contained within the sign, or sign parts, included but not limited to a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

Instructional (Informative) Sign: Any on-premise sign containing no other message, copy, announcement, or decoration other than instruction or direction to the general public. Such signs include but are not limited to the following: identifying rest rooms, public telephones, walkways, entrance and exit drives, freight entrances and traffic direction.

Moving Copy Sign: A sign which incorporates an electronically or mechanically generated changeable copy message within the sign frame, but which does not incorporate any mechanical movement of the sign itself or any use of pulsating or undulating copy message.

Multi-Occupancy Facility: A development including, but not limited to, shopping centers and office complexes, consisting of two (2) or more separate establishments with separate exterior entrances sharing a common or connected building, and common or connected parking areas, or common pedestrian access and common or connected parking areas.

(Ord. No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

Neon Sign: An illuminated sign containing a glass tube filled with neon or phosphors which is bent to form letters, symbols or other shapes.

Nonconforming Sign: A sign lawfully erected and maintained prior to the adopting of this article that does not conform with the requirements of this article.

Obsolete Sign: Any sign which identifies or advertises any product, accommodation, service, or business which is no longer available to the public at the location indicated on the sign.

Official Sign: A sign whose content denotes an official program authorized or recognized by the City Manager or his/her designee to meet a public objective. Such signs shall include, but not be limited to, public notices, neighborhood watch programs, etc.

Off-Premise Sign: A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment not exclusively related to the premises where such sign is located or to which it is affixed.

On-Premise Sign: Any sign identifying or advertising a business, person, activity, goods, products, or services, located on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained.

Painted Wall Sign: Any sign or display painted directly on any exterior surface, exclusive of window or door glass areas.

Pennant: See definition of “banners, pennants, festoons, and balloons”.

Pole Sign: A sign that is mounted on a freestanding support so that the bottom edge of the sign face is six (6) feet or more above grade.

Political Sign: Temporary signs announcing and urging voter support for a particular election issue, political party or candidate for public office.

Portable Sign: Any sign, by design or construction, intended to be easily and readily relocated, and not permanently affixed to the ground, a frame, a building or other structure. Portable signs shall include, but are not limited to, signs mounted upon a trailer, bench, wheeled carrier, or other nonmotorized mobile structure with or without wheels.

Projecting Sign: A sign wholly or partly projecting out from a building face or wall, generally at right angles to the building.

Real Estate Marketing Sign: A temporary sign that relates to the sale, rental, lease or marketing of property or buildings or to construction activities on or about which the sign is located.

Roof Sign: Any sign erected or maintained in whole or part upon or attached to a sloped or flat roof of a building or upon a false front or rooflike facade.

Sign Administrator: The person designated by the City Manager as the staff member assigned to oversee the enforcement and interpretation of this sign article or said staff’s designee.

Snipe Sign: Any sign that is tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise affixed to trees, utility poles, stakes, fences or other objects, where the message appearing thereon is not applicable to the present use of the premises upon which the sign is located.

Supergraphics: Any mosaic, mural, painting or graphic art or combination thereof which is professionally applied to a building that does not contain any brand name, product name, letters of the alphabet spelling or abbreviating the name of any product, company, profession, or business, or any logo, trademark, trade name, or other commercial message. Supergraphics are exempt.

Surface Display Area: The entire area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the sign display which includes the writing, representation, emblem or any figure or similar character, together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate this design from the background against which it is placed, excluding the necessary supporting framework or bracing that is clearly incidental to the display itself. The copy of signs composed of individual letters, numerals, or other devices shall be the sum of the area of the smallest rectangle or other geometric figure encompassing all of said letters or devices. Double-faced signs shall be constructed so that the perimeter of both faces coincide and are parallel and not more than twenty four (24) inches apart. If the two (2) faces of a double-faced sign are of unequal area, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the larger face. (See Display 2- Geometric Area Calculations)

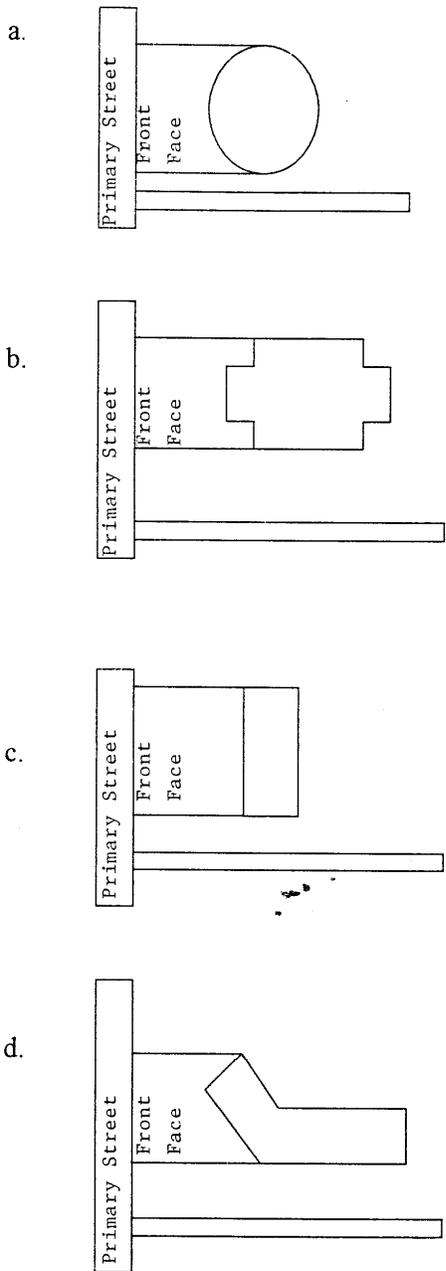
Temporary Signs: A sign including, but not limited to, placards, banners, pennants, posters, or other outdoor advertising displays not intended to be permanently displayed.

Wall Sign: A sign containing letters and/or graphics, installed flat against the exterior wall of a building or-structure in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for, or forms the background surface of the sign, has no connection to the ground, and does not project more than twelve (12) inches from such building or structure.

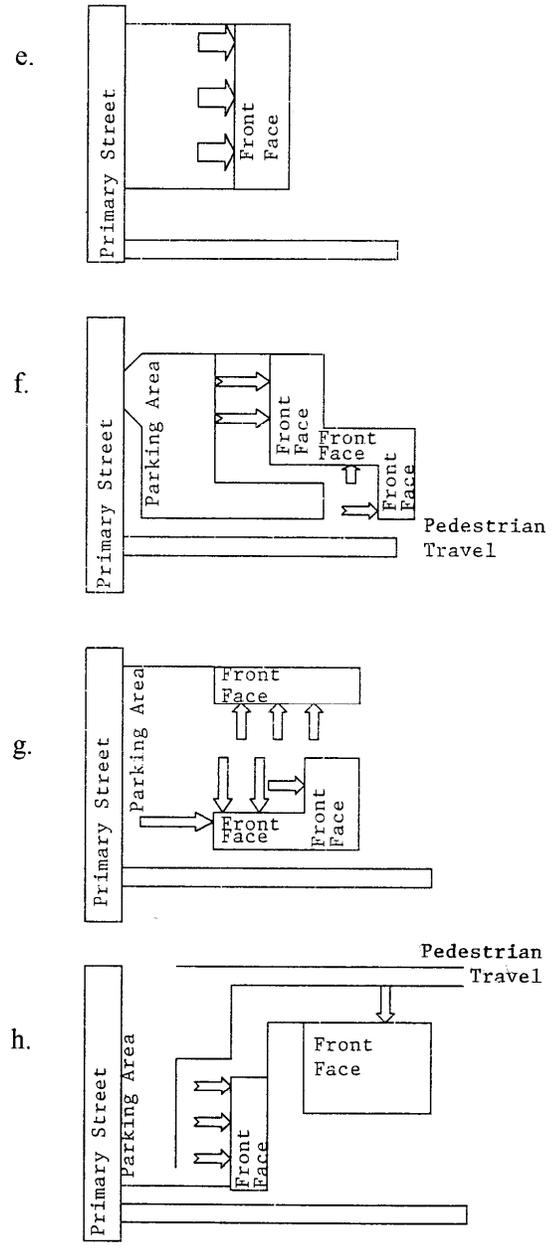
Window Sign: A sign posted, placed, affixed or painted on the interior of a window or door of a building exposed to public view. For the purpose of this Article, a temporary sign placed on the interior of a window for viewing from the exterior shall not be counted as a sign.

Display 1. Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities.

Single Occupancy Facilities

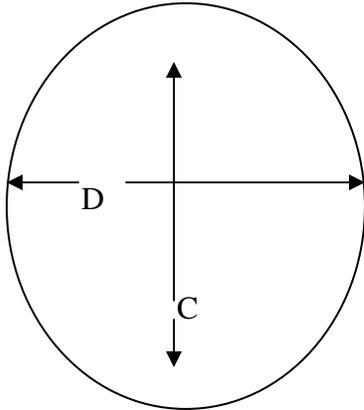


Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities

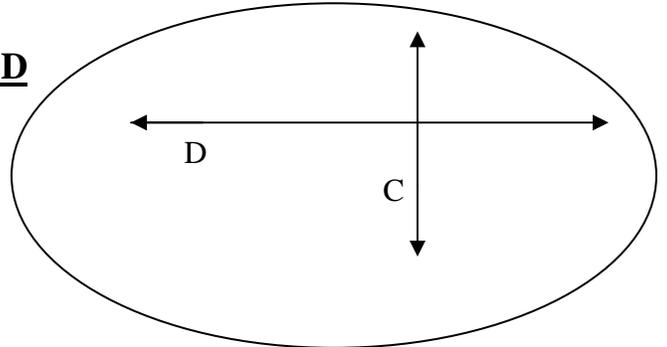


Display 2. GEOMETRIC AREA CALCULATIONS

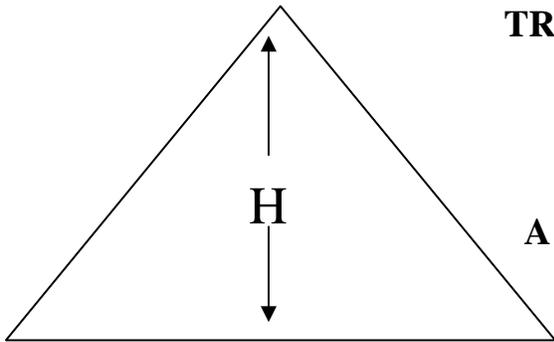
ELLIPSE



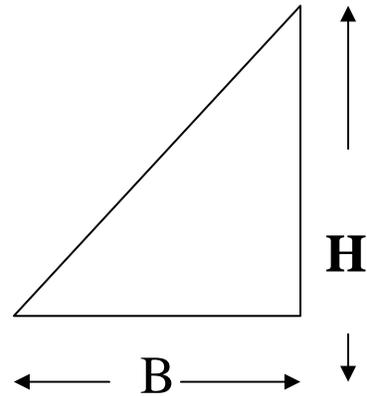
$$A = \frac{\pi \times C \times D}{4}$$



TRIANGLE

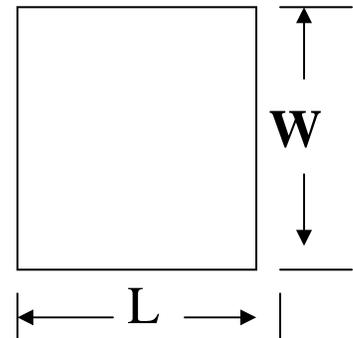
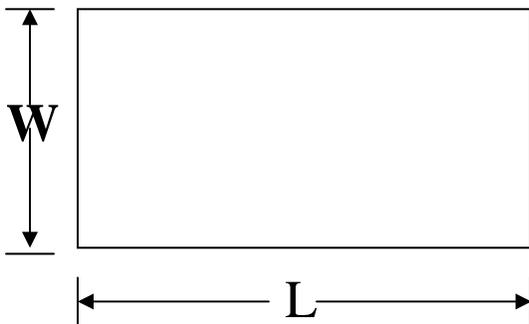


$$A = \frac{B \times H}{2}$$

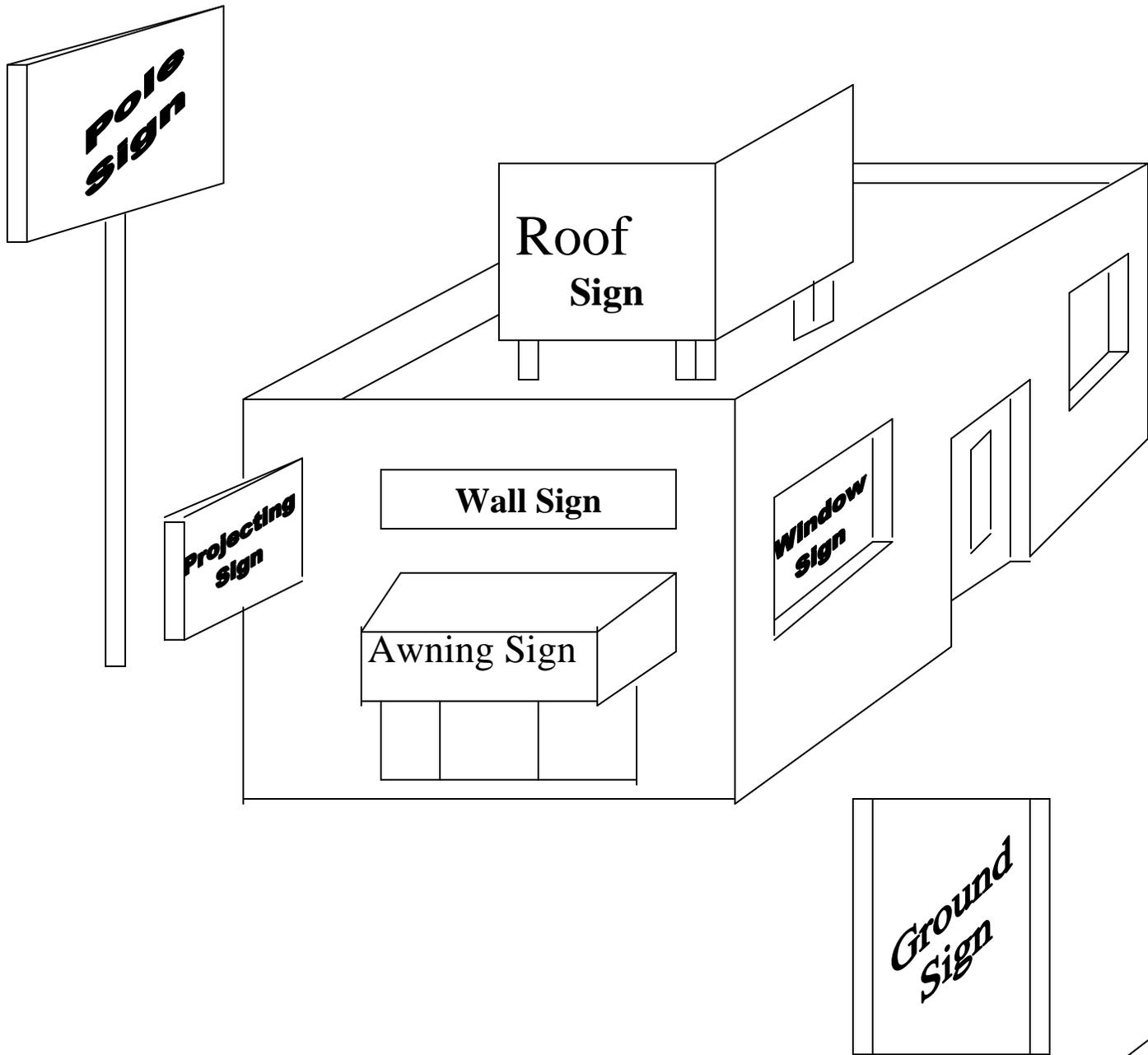


RECTANGLE

$$A = L \times W$$



Display 3. Illustration of Sign Types



SIGN TYPES

SECTION 14.05. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

1. No sign shall constitute a traffic hazard. No sign shall be erected along any street or at any intersection in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision or to create a hazard by blocking a safe line of sight as defined in the City Code of Ordinance, Sections 20-35 and 20-36, or as hereafter amended. At corner lots, ground or pole identification signs shall be located a minimum of thirty five (35) feet from the intersection of the edge of a road's right-of-way; or in the case where the right-of-way line is determined by a radius, thirty five (35) feet from the midpoint of that radius.

2. In the event more than one (1) ground and/or pole sign is allowed on a single parcel, the ground and/or pole signs shall be located a minimum of one hundred (100) feet apart from each other.

(Ord. No. 6-10 Revised Effective 5/13/10)

3. Temporary signs shall be allowed in all commercial office, and industrial districts only for temporary special events and are not to be displayed for more than fifteen (15) consecutive days or three (3) days after the end of the event, whichever is less. Special events shall include, but not be limited to, grand openings; business closings; and special promotional events such as seasonal sales. Only one (1) permit shall be issued for a given place of business during any four (4) month period. Temporary signs shall be non-illuminated and shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area. No such signs shall be snipe signs.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

4. Temporary signs, as defined in this article, shall be allowed in all other zoning districts only for special events such as, but not limited to, art and cultural events; recreation and sporting events; city, county or state sponsored events; and appertaining to campaigns, drives or events of civic, philanthropic, educational or religious organizations. This section shall also apply to all non-profit organizations in all zoning districts. Permits for such signs shall not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days. Such signs shall be allowed to be displayed the week prior to the individual special event and removed two (2) days after cessation of the individual special event. Signs may be interchanged to advertise individual activities throughout the thirty (30) day period. Temporary signs shall be non-illuminated and shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area. One (1) temporary sign on-site and three (3) temporary off-site signs for special scheduled recreation and sporting events shall be allowed. Off-site signs shall not be placed within any public rights-of-way unless written permission is granted by the City and shall be removed the Monday following the scheduled event. Only one (1) permit shall be issued for a given place of business during any four (4) month period. Temporary signs for athletic facilities/fields are defined in Section 14.07.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

5. The Sign Administrator shall determine the type, style and content of publicly owned community signs, and is responsible for their construction, placement and maintenance. One (1) non-illuminated or indirectly illuminated community bulletin board or community identification sign shall be allowed at the principal entrances of the City. Such signs shall not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) square feet of surface display area and shall not be higher than twenty (20) feet above ground level. Each organization is limited to three (3) square feet in size.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

6. Commercial flags, which includes the company's name, insignia, emblem, or logo on a flag, smaller than forty (40) square feet are allowed and shall not be counted against the maximum

signage allowed. However if the commercial flag is larger than forty (40) square feet then it shall count against the maximum signage allowed. Flags are limited to a maximum of three (3) flags per lot, only one of which shall include the company's name, insignia, emblem or logo.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

SECTION 14.06. SIGNS ALLOWED IN ALL DISTRICTS (EXEMPT SIGNS).

The following signs shall be allowed in all zoning districts, provided that the following requirements are met or exceeded. A sign permit shall not be required for the following:

1. Official public notices and/or official signs posted by public officers in the performance of their duties. Official signs such as those designating a neighborhood watch service program shall be non-illuminated and shall not exceed three (3) square feet of surface display area.
2. No sign shall be allowed in the public rights-of-way, except for public signs which are erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post legal notices, identify public property, convey public information; signs which direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic and which comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices; and informational signs of a public utility regarding its poles, lines, pipes or facilities.
3. Flags or emblems of the United States, the state of Tennessee, or their political divisions.
4. Freestanding political signs supporting a candidate for election or a position on an issue which is the subject of a referendum, provided that: they do not exceed sixteen (16) square feet of surface display area and eight (8) feet in height above ground level; signs not to be erected more than thirty (30) days prior to the election to which the campaign pertains; signs must be taken down no more than five (5) days after the election to which the campaign pertains; not allowed to be snipe signs or to be placed on traffic signs, street name signs, sidewalks, subdivision entrance signs or parks; signs shall be allowed within the rights-of-way provided that the signs shall be located a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the edge of pavement along arterial streets, not to be located in traffic islands or so as not to be located in areas which obstruct visibility pursuant to City Code of Ordinances, Sections 20-35 and 20-36, or as hereafter amended; and must meet the provisions set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated. A freestanding sign designed to be viewed from two (2) different directions shall be considered as one (1) sign, provided that the two (2) sign faces are parallel (back-to-back), mounted on the same support structures, and neither side exceeds 16 (sixteen) square feet. For all two-sided signs not mounted parallel (back-to-back), the total surface display area shall not exceed 16 (sixteen) square feet.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

5. Address signs, not more than one (1) for each street frontage of each principal use on a lot and none exceeding seventy-two (72) square inches of surface display area, showing only the numerical address designations of the premises upon which they are situated. All address signs shall be prominently displayed and written in contrasting colors to the color of the structure or background against which said signs are placed in order to facilitate emergency identification for public service employees.
6. Decals, numerals, names, addresses, hours, credit card information, etc., attached to the doors or windows of the principal building and all of which occupy a total area of two (2) square feet or less.

7. Construction signs are allowed only during the construction and development phase of the project, and must be maintained and removed ten (10) days after issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. A sign announcing an intended use of the premises in the immediate future may include only the project name, the nature of development (for example, professional office, apartments, condominiums, etc.), the name of the owner or agent, and one telephone number. Such sign shall be allowed pursuant to the issuance of a building permit and/or site review by City staff. Such sign shall be removed upon issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the project and prior to the issuance of a sign permit for the permanent signage.

(Ord. No. 8-05 Revised Effective 6/30/05)

8. Real estate marketing signs provided that only one (1) non-illuminated sign per lot except where the lot fronts two (2) or more streets, one (1) additional sign per lot per street frontage shall be allowed; the total surface display area not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet for non-residential (commercial and industrial zoning districts), sixteen (16) square feet for office-institutional zoning districts and six (6) square feet for residential zoning districts; shall not be over eight (8) feet in height measured from the ground level; may remain on the property the length of the sale and shall be removed ten (10) business days after the sale; and sign shall be maintained in good condition. A freestanding sign designed to be viewed from two (2) different directions shall be considered as one (1) sign, provided that the two (2) sign faces are parallel (back-to-back), mounted on the same support structures, and neither side exceeds 16 (sixteen) square feet. For all two-sided signs not mounted parallel (back-to-back), the total surface display area shall not exceed 16 (sixteen) square feet.

Signs for advertising open houses, including directional signs, shall be allowed three (3) days prior to the open house and removed the day after the open house. Note: Off-site directional signs are only allowed for the advertising of an open house and not for the sale of the house or place of business.

(Ord No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

(Ord. No. 18-09 Revised Effective 10/22/09)

9. Subdivision Off-Site Directional Signs. The purpose of this subsection is to provide a uniform coordinated method of offering developers a means of providing directional signs to residential projects while minimizing confusion among prospective purchasers who wish to inspect subdivisions, and promoting traffic safety and reducing the visual blight of sign proliferation. Permits for temporary signs in the public right-of-way are allowed on a limited basis during periods of new construction activity. Directional signs may only be used to direct traffic to subdivisions that are less than seventy-five percent (75%) complete. Residential subdivisions not located on a state highway shall be allowed to place either one (1) two-sided ground sign or two (2) one-sided ground signs not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet and not over eight (8) feet in height within the right-of-way of the nearest arterial street. Staff may issue a sign permit for a period of twenty-four (24) months. The Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission may grant extensions in twelve (12) month increments up until seventy-five percent (75%) build out of the subdivision or formal street acceptance, whichever is first.

This type of sign is allowed as follows:

- a. All temporary signs shall be constructed and designed of materials durable enough to withstand the elements to which the sign is to be subjected.
- b. No sign shall be illuminated, painted with light reflecting paint, or have moving parts.

- c. No sign shall be located in the clear sight triangle or obstruct or impair access to a public sidewalk, public or private street or driveway, traffic control sign, bus stop, or fire hydrant, or otherwise create a hazard.
- d. Signs in the right-of-way may not be posted on center medians, trees, utility poles, or other utility structures located in the right-of-way.
- e. Signs must have a sign permit prior to placement.
- f. If a temporary sign becomes a nuisance, or is not maintained, the sign may be subject to removal.
- g. Signs may not impair the integrity or character of the area in which it is located.
- h. Signs may not display any symbol or words that would likely be mistaken for an official traffic control sign.
- i. The sign display shall be limited to the name of the subdivision, directional instructions, and directional arrows.
- j. The person responsible for any sign shall be the owner of the subdivision being advertised.

(Ord. No. 18-09 Revised Effective 10/22/09)

SECTION 14.07. SIGNS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

a. Subdivision or Multifamily Development Entry Sign

- (1) One (1) ground entry sign with either two (2) sides or two (2) one-sided signs on each side of the entrance shall be allowed at each principal entrance. Such sign(s) shall be permanent and can be either indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated, with the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters. Each sign face shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

- (2) The top of the entry sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)

- (3) The developer or owner of land or property upon which the entry sign is located shall:

- (a) Make provision for the establishment of a homeowners' association for the joint ownership and maintenance of the sign; or

- (b) If no homeowners' association is provided for, the developer shall prepare an alternative proposal for ownership and maintenance of the sign(s), which shall be approved by the Planning Commission at the time of the final plat submittal.

b. Multi-family Identification Sign

One (1) Identification Sign, which is a permanent, indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated, wall sign announcing the identification of a multifamily dwelling shall be allowed per multifamily building. Such sign shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in surface display area.

c. Signs for Athletic Facilities/Fields

(1) Temporary signs for recreation and sporting events shall be allowed provided that the following criteria is met: temporary non-illuminated signs shall be allowed to remain for the length of the athletic season for which they are the primary users and/or scheduled times for use of the facility/fields but not to exceed four (4) consecutive months; a maximum of twenty (20) signs per athletic field shall be allowed; and a sign permit is required for each athletic field. Outdoor athletic fields with permanent seating for more than 5,000 persons shall be allowed a maximum of thirty (30) temporary signs per field. All signs covered for each sign permit shall be uniform in general design (size, color, and lettering). Individual temporary signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area. Such temporary signs shall be installed inside of the park so not to be visible from public rights-of-way and must be maintained by the owner(s) of such signs.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

(2) Sponsored scoreboards shall be allowed in athletic fields provided that the scoreboard(s) shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area and the advertising area is not to exceed thirty percent (30%) of the front face of the scoreboard. Outdoor athletic fields with permanent seating for more than 5,000 persons shall be allowed up to two (2) scoreboards of any size; however, in no event shall the advertising area on such scoreboard exceed fifty percent (50%) of the front face of the scoreboard. All sponsored scoreboards shall be permanently oriented toward the athletic field for visibility by attendees.

(Ord. No. 17-07 Revised Effective 8/30/07)

(3) Incidental signs, where the intent is to provide the public with information and in no way relates to a commercial activity, may be located throughout publicly owned parks and athletic facilities/fields. Incidental signs shall be allowed to identify appurtenances such as amenities and features in the parks and/or athletic facilities/fields that are secondary to the principal use of the parcel on which it is placed. These amenities and features may include, but are not limited to, The Friendship Bell, Secret City Commemorative Walk, Children's Globe, walking trails, greenways, and names of individual fields. Permanent incidental signs for publicly owned parks and athletic facilities/fields shall be allowed provided that the following criteria are met:

(a) The sign shall be freestanding, unless otherwise stated.

(b) The incidental sign for publicly owned parks amenities and passive areas shall not exceed 12 square feet of surface display area and the signs for active play areas and athletic field/facilities shall not exceed eighteen (18) square feet of surface display area.

(c) The top of the sign for publicly owned parks amenities and passive areas and active play areas and athletic fields/facilities shall be no higher than five (5) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*).

- (d) Only one sign per athletic field shall be allowed.
- (e) In the event multiple fields are located in a complex setting, one ground sign shall be allowed designating the name of the complex. The ground sign for the complex shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area and shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. Each athletic field shall be allowed one (1) incidental sign.
- (f) In the event there is a freestanding enclosed building/structure, such as the Rowing Finish Line Tower, then a single sign shall be allowed but shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area and shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level; or two (2) signs shall be allowed (either one ground sign and one wall sign, or two wall signs) provided that the total of the two signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area.
(Ord. No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

d. Signs for non-residential uses in residential districts

- (1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign or hanging sign shall be allowed per principal building. Such sign can be changeable copy readerboards, which shall be an integral part of the ground sign. Such sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, except changeable copy readerboards (double sided) surface display area can be thirty-two (32) square feet excluding the name of the non-residential use. Those letters are not to exceed eighteen inches (18”) in height. Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboards may be internally illuminated. The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. When a principal building has frontage on more than one (1) public/private street, one (1) additional ground or wall sign shall be allowed. In the event an additional sign is allowed, the additional sign shall not be located on the same street as the first sign. Additional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed.
(Ord. No. 8-05 Revised Effective 6/30/05)
- (2) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated wall sign shall also be allowed per principal building provided that the following requirements are met: the area of the wall sign is not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the principal building to which it is attached, as per *Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*; wall signs shall be placed flat against the principal building; the name and/or logo located on an awning shall be considered part of the wall sign; and wall signs shall not project above the apparent roofline or cornice.
(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)
- (3) Multi-Occupancy Facility Signs. In the event of two (2) principal uses (for example, church and school) one (1) additional ground sign shall be allowed for the second use. Such signs shall be at least five hundred (500) feet apart.
- (4) Non-illuminated directional signs shall be allowed in off-street parking areas provided that the surface display area shall not exceed four (4) square feet, the height of the sign shall be no higher than four (4) feet above ground level and are limited to a maximum of five (5) signs. Directional signs shall not count against the maximum

signage allowed.

SECTION 14.08. SIGNS FOR MEDICAL CAMPUS DISTRICTS.

The following section applies to those properties as designated on the Medical Campus District Map. The purpose of a designated Medical Campus Sign District is to acknowledge the need for a specific program of signs of a wayfinding nature in potentially urgent and/or life-threatening situations.

The objective is to provide clear, concise and uniform directional guidance to a variety of facilities within the campus; many of which provide urgent and/or emergency medical care and are therefore necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

1. Signs Allowed in Medical Campus Districts

- a. Primary Facility/Campus Directional Signs - signs providing basic directional information to destinations within the campus boundary. Legends shall be restricted to functional destination names (Emergency, Day Surgery, Visitor Parking, etc.) rather than named commercial destinations (Dr. Jones' Office, etc.).
- b. Secondary Campus Directional Signs - signs, located within the campus boundary, downstream in the message hierarchy from the Primary Directional Signs, providing more detailed directional information (e.g.: Visitor Parking vs. Staff Parking, etc.).
- c. Site Identification Signs - a sign, located as close as practical to the vehicular entrance of a stand-alone site (medical office, clinic, etc.). The sign may display the operational name of the facility (XYZ Surgery Associates, P.C., etc). The sign must include the street address of the facility (numerals and name - 1234 Main Street).
- d. Building Exterior Identification Sign - wall mounted signs, as identified above, which display the functional name of the facility.
- e. Miscellaneous Campus Signs - signs, primarily located on the site, which convey specific circulation information (parking areas), pedestrian and/or accessible pathway directional information (walkways) or regulatory messages (accessible parking, one way, etc.).

2. Locations, Sizes and Quantities Allowed in Medical Campus Districts

Locations, sizes and quantities of the sign types discussed above are to be determined as identified in the Wayfinding Signs Size and Location Guidelines, explained hereinafter.

3. Approvals

Each wayfinding program, sign type, location or series of locations, along with the display design and message inventory, shall be submitted to, reviewed and approved by the City Manager, or his/her designee, prior to the filing of an application for a sign permit. Location of signs shall also be noted on site plans. In the case of a new or expanded district, the initial comprehensive package of signs shall also be submitted to, reviewed, and approved by the Oak Ridge Planning Commission.

4. Wayfinding Signs Size and Location Guidelines

a. Graphics

- (1) Typography shall be restricted to sans-serif elements from one (1) of the following type family groups: Highway Gothic, Frutiger, Helvetica, Futura or Univers. Legends shall consist of initial upper case and lower case letterforms. Uniform display of the chosen typography and case-usage throughout the program is required.
- (2) No more than six (6) destination legends indicating one (1) direction, nor three (3) destination legends indicating two (2) directions shall appear as a single display.

- (3) Display of directional signs shall be “negative”, i.e. light color letterforms and graphic devices on a dark color background.
- (4) Light/dark contrast between the images and background shall be a minimum of seventy percent (70%), regardless of reflectance value.
- (5) Arrowforms shall conform to either the standard arrow as shown in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* or the universally available “barbed arrow”. In either case, uniform display of a common arrowform throughout the program is required.
- (6) Illumination and/or reflective graphic elements are encouraged, in descending order of preference as follows:
 - (a) External “wash” illumination and reflective legends/graphics.
 - (b) Reflective legends/graphics.
 - (c) External “wash” illumination w/non-reflective legends/graphics.
 - (d) Non-reflective legends/graphics.
 - (e) Internal illumination (cabinets or individual letterforms) is restricted to Campus Roadway Directory and/or Building Exterior Identification elements.

b. Locations and Sizes

- (1) Wherever possible signs shall be located directly outside the roadway right-of-way line. Sign location shall be based on viewing distance and geometry, given a five (5) degree horizontal half-cone of vision from the viewpoint.
- (2) Quantities shall be based on an established overall message sequence and across-campus preferred routes; displaying the required information only at the location where a turning or identification decision must be made.
- (3) Letterform size shall be based on a ratio of one (1) inch of cap-height for each thirty (30) feet of viewing distance (e.g.: 100 feet of viewing distance equals a cap-height of 3.33 inches; rounded up to a 4 inch cap-height), which reflects a standing still up to approximately twenty five (25) miles-per-hour posted speed. For each ten (10) mile-per-hour incremental increase of posted speed, the cap-height should be increased by one (1) inch.
- (4) Panel horizontal size shall be determined by the longest line of required legend, at the correct type size of the viewing distance, plus fifteen percent (15%) (e.g.: at the correct size, legend length equals 4.75 feet, adding 15% equals 5.46 feet; rounded up to 5.5 feet).
- (5) Arrowforms shall be at least equal to in vertical dimension and/or no more than 1.5 times greater than the vertical dimension of the written legend it supports.
- (6) Panel bottoms for all post-mounted directional sign elements shall be no closer to the

immediately adjacent finished grade than eight (8) feet. Over walkways, the bottom must be no closer than ten (10) feet above the walkway. In no case will post-mounted directional sign panels have a height greater than fifteen (15) feet above the above-referenced finished grade.

SECTION 14.09. SIGNS FOR EDUCATION DISTRICTS.

One (1) ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. In addition, one (1) wall sign shall also be allowed per principal building. When a principal building takes vehicular access from more than one (1) public/private street, or has two (2) accesses from the same public/private street and the second access is five hundred (500) feet or more from the first access, measured along the street from the centerline to centerline of each access drive, one (1) additional ground sign shall be allowed at the second access. When an additional ground sign is allowed, the total surface display area of the additional ground sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet and the top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

a. Ground signs

- (1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. Such sign(s) shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, except changeable copy readerboards (double sided) surface display area can be thirty-two (32) square feet excluding the name of the school. School name letters are not to exceed eighteen inches (18”) in height. Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboards may be internally illuminated.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

- (2) The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)

b. Wall Signs

- (1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the building to which it is attached, as per *Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*.

- (2) Wall signs shall be placed flat against the building.

- (3) The name and/or logo located on an awning shall be considered part of the wall sign.

- (4) Wall signs shall not project above the apparent roofline or cornice.

c. Multi-Occupancy Facility Signs

In the event of two (2) principal uses (for example, church and school) one (1) additional ground sign shall be allowed for the second use. Such signs shall be at least five hundred (500) feet apart.

d. Directional Signs

Non-illuminated directional signs shall be allowed in off-street parking areas provided that the surface display area shall not exceed four (4) square feet, the height of the sign shall be no higher than four (4) feet above ground level and are limited to a maximum of five (5) signs. Directional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

e. Signs for Athletic Facilities/Fields

Sponsored scoreboards shall be allowed for outdoor athletic facilities/fields with permanent seating for more than three hundred (300) persons provided the scoreboard does not exceed two hundred twenty-five (225) square feet in surface display area with the advertising area not to exceed thirty percent (30%) of the surface display area of the scoreboard.

(Ord. No. 12-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

f. Pole Signs

For school facilities with a student population greater than one thousand (1,000), one (1) indirectly or directly illuminated or non-illuminated pole sign shall be allowed. The pole sign may be either a changeable copy sign (readerboard) or a moving copy sign. The surface display area of the pole sign shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet. The top of the pole sign shall be no higher than fifteen (15) feet from ground level.

(Ord. No. 20-09 Revised Effective 12/24/09)

SECTION 14.10. SIGNS FOR OFFICE-INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICTS.

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

One (1) ground sign shall be allowed per principal building except as noted in Subsection E below. In addition, one (1) wall or window sign per principal building shall be allowed. The total combined area of all signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the principal building. In the event of multi-tenant occupancies, the owner shall determine what portion of each tenant's allowable sign area shall be allotted to the allowable ground sign(s).

a. Ground Signs

(1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area shall be allowed except as noted below.

(2) The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)

(3) Ground signs can either be changeable copy readerboards or moving copy sign, and either shall be an integral part of the ground sign. The moving copy sign shall not exceed one (1) line of moving copy. In no instance shall the combination of the changeable copy readerboard or moving copy sign display area and the ground sign surface display area exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, nor shall the combination exceed the height limitation of eight (8) feet.

(4) When a principal building takes vehicular access from more than one (1) public/private street, or has two (2) accesses from the same public/private street and the second access is five hundred (500) feet or more from the first access, measured along the public/private street from centerline to centerline of each access drive, one (1) additional ground sign may be allowed at the additional access, provided that:

(a) Such sign(s) shall be located at or near the access to such street; and,

(b) No other signs except directional signs, as permitted in Section 14.10(d) below, shall be allowed at or near the access to such street.

b. Wall Signs

- (1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the building to which it is attached, as per *Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*. Single story multi-occupancy facilities shall be allowed, one (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of that portion of the front face which the tenant leases.
- (2) Wall signs shall be placed flat against the building.
- (3) In the event the name and/or logo are located on an awning(s), the square footage shall be deducted from the allowable square footage for a wall sign.
- (4) Wall signs shall not project above the apparent roofline or cornice.

c. Window Signs

- (1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated sign shall be allowed per principal building in which the permanent window copy, painted or otherwise attached to the window surface, shall be limited in area to twenty five percent (25%) of the total surface area of that window.
- (2) The provisions stated above shall not restrict the reasonable application upon a window surface of lettering or decals giving the address, hours of business, entrance or exit information, professional or security information, and credit cards which are accepted; nor shall the surface area of such lettering or decals be included in the overall computation of allowable sign area.

d. Directional Signs

Illuminated or non-illuminated directional signs shall be allowed in off-street parking areas provided that the surface display area shall not exceed four (4) square feet and the height of the sign area shall be no higher than four (4) feet above ground level. Directional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed.

e. Identification Signs

For office and institutional buildings having 35,000 or more square feet of usable floor area, one (1) or more ground identification signs shall be allowed in lieu of any wall or window signs. Such ground identification signs shall be allowed per fifty (50) square feet of front face or per entrance, whichever is less. Such ground identification sign shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height nor ten (10) square feet in surface display area; shall be located at or near the street entrances; and shall not obstruct any safe line-of-sight for traffic.

f. Development Entry Signs

For developments that include five or more buildings or five or more lots, one (1) ground entry sign with either two (2) sides or two (2) one-sided signs on each side of the entrance shall be allowed at each principal entrance. Such sign(s) shall be permanent and can be either indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated, with the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters. Each sign face shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area and the top of the sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level.

SECTION 14.11. SIGNS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS.

One (1) ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. In addition, one (1) wall or window sign per front face shall be allowed. The total combined area of all signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the building. All establishments that have a current beer permit shall also meet the requirements of City Code Section 4-307.

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

a. Ground Signs

(1) One (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign or hanging sign not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in surface display area shall be allowed.

(Ord. No. 8-05 Revised Effective 6/30/05)

(2) The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)

(3) One indirectly or non-illuminated ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. Double-sided changeable copy readerboards shall be allowed and shall be an integral part of the ground sign. In no instance shall the combination of the changeable copy readerboards surface display area and the ground sign surface display area exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, except changeable copy readerboards (double sided) surface display area can be thirty-two (32) square feet excluding the name of the business, provided that such letters for the name of the business do not to exceed eighteen inches (18”) in height, nor shall the combination exceed the height limitation of eight (8) feet. Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboards may be internally illuminated.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

b. Wall Signs

(1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached, as per *Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*.

(2) Wall signs shall be placed flat against the building.

(3) In the event the name and/or logo are located on an awning(s), the square footage shall be deducted from the allowable square footage for a wall sign.

(4) Wall signs shall not project above the apparent roof line or cornice.

c. Window Signs

(1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated sign shall be allowed per principal building in which the permanent window copy, painted or otherwise attached to the window surface, shall be limited in area to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total surface area of that window.

(2) The provisions stated above shall not restrict the reasonable application upon a window surface of lettering or decals giving the address, hours of business, entrance or exit information, professional or security information, and credit cards which are accepted; nor shall the surface area of such lettering or decals be included in the overall computation of allowable sign area.

d. Multi-Occupancy Facility Signs

Each principal building shall be allowed one (1) ground sign. In the event of single story multi-occupancy facility, each establishment within the principal building shall be allowed one (1) indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated wall sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of that portion of the front face which the tenant leases. The property owner shall determine what proportion of each tenant's allowable sign area shall be allotted to the ground sign.

SECTION 14.12. SIGNS FOR COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICTS.

Either one (1) pole sign or one (1) ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. In addition, one (1) wall or window sign per front face shall be allowed. Roof signs shall only be permitted on lots with building grades fifty percent (50%) or more below grade of the adjacent street with Board of Zoning Appeals approval. The total combined area of all signs for single story facilities shall not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the principal building. The total combined area of all signs for two (2) story facilities shall not exceed 2.5 square feet per linear foot of the front face of the principal building. When a principal building has frontage on more than one (1) public/private street, one (1) additional ground, pole or wall sign shall be allowed for each additional public/private street to which the principal building has frontage. (Additional frontages which are functional elements of loading, storage, and dumpsters are not entitled to additional signs.) In the event additional signs are allowed, such signs shall be located at the midpoints of the principal building. Additional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed. All establishments that have a current beer permit shall also meet the requirements of City Code Section 8-807.

(Ord. No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

a. Pole Signs

- (1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated pole sign shall be allowed per principal building. Such sign shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet of surface display area.
- (2) The top of the pole sign shall be no higher than twenty (20) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)
- (3) Pole signs can be either changeable copy readerboards or moving copy sign, and either shall be an integral part of the pole sign. In no instance shall the combination of the changeable copy readerboards or moving copy sign surface display area and the pole sign surface display area exceed eighty (80) square feet nor shall the combination exceed the height limitation of twenty (20) feet. The changeable copy readerboard must be affixed to and be an integral part of the pole sign.

b. Ground Signs

- (1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. Such sign shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in surface display area.
- (2) The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet from ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)

- (3) Ground signs can either be changeable copy readerboards or moving copy sign, and either shall be an integral part of the ground sign. In no instance shall the combination of the changeable copy readerboards or moving copy sign surface display area and the ground sign surface display area exceed one hundred (100) square feet, nor shall the combination exceed the height limitation of eight (8) feet.

c. Wall Signs

- (1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached as per Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities. In the event the tenant is located on the corner lot of two (2) public/private streets, one (1) additional wall sign shall be allowed provided that the overall signage does not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the leasable front face wall.

(Ord. No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

- (2) Wall signs shall be placed flat against the principal building or parallel to the building on a canopy and may only face public/private streets or parking areas which are part of the development.

(Ord. No. 20-03 Revised Effective 10/16/03)

- (3) In the event the name and/or logo are located on an awning, the square footage shall be deducted from the allowable square footage for signs.

- (4) Wall signs shall not project above the apparent roofline or cornice.

d. Window Signs

- (1) When visible from a public/public street, one (1) illuminated or non-illuminated sign shall be allowed per principal building in which the permanent window copy, painted or otherwise attached to the window surface, shall be limited in area to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total surface area of that window.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

- (2) The provisions stated above shall not restrict the reasonable application upon a window surface of lettering or decals giving the address, hours of business, entrance or exit information, professional or security information, and credit cards which are accepted; nor shall the surface area of such lettering or decals be included in the overall computation of allowable sign area.

e. Roof Signs

With Board of Zoning Appeals approval, one illuminated or non-illuminated sign shall be allowed per principal building with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the roof to which it is attached and no portion of the sign shall be higher than five (5) feet above the apparent roof line or cornice. In the event of a single story multi-occupancy facility, each licensed business within the principal building shall be allowed one illuminated or non-illuminated roof sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of that portion of which the tenant leases.

f. Multi-Occupancy Facility Signs

Each principal building shall be allowed one (1) ground or pole sign. In the event of a single or two (2) story multi-occupancy facility, each licensed business within the principal building

shall be allowed one (1) illuminated or non-illuminated wall sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of that portion of the building face which the tenant leases. The property owner shall determine what proportion of each tenant's allowable sign area shall be allotted to the ground or pole sign.

(Ord. No. 11-06 Revised Effective 8/03/06)

g. Directional Signs

Illuminated or non-illuminated directional signs shall be allowed in off-street parking areas provided that the surface display area shall not exceed four (4) square feet and the height of the sign area shall be no higher than four (4) feet above ground level. Directional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed. Each sign may also bear the businesses' name, logo or trademark.

h. Development Entry Signs

For developments that include five or more buildings or five or more lots, one (1) ground entry sign with either two (2) sides or two (2) one-sided signs on each side of the entrance shall be allowed at each principal entrance. Such sign(s) shall be permanent and can be either indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated with the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters. Each sign face shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area and the top of the sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

SECTION 14.13. SIGNS FOR BUSINESS PARK AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS.

One (1) ground sign shall be allowed per principal building. In addition, one (1) wall sign per front face shall be allowed. The total area of all signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the front face of the principal building.

1. Types, Size and Location of Signs Allowed:

a. Ground Signs

- (1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated ground sign not to exceed forty (40) square feet in surface display area shall be allowed except as noted below.
- (2) The top of the ground sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level. (See definition for *Height of Sign*)
- (3) Number of Signs Allowed. When a principal building has frontage on more than one (1) public/private street, one of which exceeds three hundred (300) feet, one (1) additional ground or wall sign shall be allowed for each public/private street to which the principal building has frontage. In the event additional signs are allowed, such signs shall be located at the midpoints of the principal building. Additional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

b. Wall Signs

- (1) One (1) illuminated or non-illuminated sign, with an area not to exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached as per *Display 1 Illustrations of Single Occupancy and Multi-Occupancy Buildings and Facilities*.
- (2) Wall signs shall be placed flat against the main building or parallel to the building on an awning and may only face public/private streets or parking areas which are part of the development.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

(3) In the event the name and/or logo are located on an awning, the square footage shall be deducted from the allowable square footage for signs.

(4) Wall signs shall not project above the apparent roofline or cornice.

c. Multi-Occupancy Facility Signs

Each principal building shall be allowed one (1) ground sign. In addition, each establishment within the principal building shall be allowed one (1) wall sign. The total combined area of all signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet per linear foot of front face of the principal building. The owner shall determine what proportion of each tenant's allowable sign area shall be allotted to the ground sign.

d. Development Entry Signs

For developments that include five (5) or more buildings or five (5) or more lots, one (1) ground entry sign with either two (2) sides or two (2) one-sided signs on each side of the entrance shall be allowed at each principal entrance. Such sign(s) shall be permanent and can be either indirectly illuminated or non-illuminated with the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters. Each sign face shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area and the top of the sign shall be no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)

e. Directional Signs

Illuminated or non-illuminated directional signs shall be allowed in off-street parking areas provided that the surface display area shall not exceed four (4) square feet and the height of the sign area shall be no greater than four (4) feet above ground level. Directional signs shall not count against the maximum signage allowed. Each sign may also bear the businesses' name, logo or trademark.

f. Identification Signs

For office and institutional buildings having 35,000 or more square feet of usable floor area, one (1) or more ground identification signs shall be allowed in lieu of any wall signs. Such ground identification signs shall be allowed per fifty (50) square feet of front face or per entrance, whichever is less. Such ground identification sign shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height nor ten (10) square feet in surface display area; shall be located at or near the street entrances; and shall not obstruct any safe line-of-sight for traffic.

SECTION 14.14. NON-CONFORMING SIGNS.

Signs which were legally in existence prior to the adoption of this article, which do not conform to the provisions of this article, are declared non-conforming signs.

1. General Non-Conforming Sign Provisions. Subject to the exceptions hereinafter set forth, nothing shall prohibit the operation, repair, reinforcement or maintenance of a preexisting non-conforming sign after the effective date of this article, provided that non-conforming signs shall not be:

a. Changed to or replaced with another non-conforming sign.

- b. Structurally altered as to extend their useful life.
- c. Expanded.
- d. Relocated.
- e. Re-established after damage of more than fifty percent (50%) of the value at the time of such damage or destruction.
- f. Such repair, reinforcement or maintenance shall not in any way increase the degree of non-conformity of such sign. Nothing in this article shall prevent the strengthening or restoring to a safe condition of any portion of a sign or structure declared unsafe by the Sign Administrator. Such signs may be improved only to the extent that such improvement does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the current market value of the existing sign structure.
- g. Discontinuance or abandonment. Abandonment or obsolescence after one (1) year of a non-conforming sign shall terminate immediately the right to maintain such a sign.

2. Reserved.

SECTION 14.15. PROHIBITED SIGNS. All signs not expressly permitted under this article or exempt from regulation hereunder in accordance with the aforementioned sections or any other City ordinances are prohibited. Such signs include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Signs visible from a public right-of-way where by reason of the position, shape, intensity or color it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device; or which makes use of the words “stop” or “danger” or otherwise that may interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- 2. Signs which are not securely affixed to the ground, or otherwise affixed in a permanent manner to an approved supporting structure, including but not limited to portable, moving (animated), flashing, inflatable and revolving signs; provided however, that temporary signs specifically allowed under this article shall be exempt from this prohibition.
- 3. Flashing signs or signs that contain reflective materials, which present a hazard or danger to traffic or the general public.
- 4. Signs on public property, other than those erected at the direction or with the permission of a public authority having jurisdiction.
- 5. Signs which contain works or pictures of an obscene, indecent, or immoral character, which could offend public morals or decency.
- 6. Beacon lights.
- 7. Signs which are structurally unsound or which are rendered structurally sound by guy wires or unapproved facing or bracing.
- 8. Signs attached to, suspended from or painted on any vehicle(s) and/or trailer(s), which is parked on or visible from any street or public right-of-way and which is left stationary shall not be

allowed. This shall not apply to those signs which are required to be affixed to service vehicles by the requirements of federal, state, or local regulations; nor is this prohibition to be construed as prohibiting the identification of a firm or its principal products on a vehicle operating during the normal course of business.

SECTION 14.16. ILLUMINATION OF SIGNS. Illuminated signs shall adhere to the following provisions and restrictions in addition to those stated in the sign requirements by zoning districts.

1. Signs may be illuminated by a direct or indirect source of light, as per district regulations, provided the indirect light source is shaded, shielded or directed so that no direct rays or glare emanating from the light source are visible from any public right-of-way or abutting property.
2. No sign shall have blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights or other illuminating device, which has a changing light intensity, brightness or color.
3. Neon signs shall be allowed so long as they conform to all district regulations. Fluorescent tubes, which are typically used as a source of internal illumination, shall be shielded or diffused.
4. No colored lights shall be used at any location in any manner so as to be confused with or construed as traffic control devices.
5. Neither the direct nor reflected light from primary light sources shall create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public streets.

SECTION 14.17. GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS. All signs constructed or placed within the City of Oak Ridge must comply with all current building codes adopted by the City of Oak Ridge. An electrical permit must be obtained for installation of any sign requiring electrical service or connection.

1. **Inspections.** The Sign Administrator shall make inspections periodically for each permanent business sign displayed in the City to ensure compliance with the provisions of this article.
2. **Maintenance.** All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.
3. **Removal of Sign.** Any sign outside of the City's right-of-way or located on public property which is defaced; has internal illumination exposed; or whose face, frame and/or supports are chipped, peeling or otherwise damaged shall be deemed in disrepair. The Sign Administrator shall give thirty (30) days written notice for the removal of any permanent sign erected or maintained in violation of this article. Upon failure to comply with this notice, the Sign Administrator shall remove or cause to be removed the sign with the cost of such action charged to the responsible party or shall be issued a summons into City Court. The Sign Administrator and/or building inspectors without notice may remove temporary signs erected or maintained in violation of this article. The Sign Administrator and/or building inspectors shall be allowed to remove any sign that presents an immediate threat to the safety of the general public and there is no attempt by the owner(s) to correct the situation. Any removal of such signs shall be at the expense of the property owner. The property owner shall be determined by the most recent property tax roll listing.
4. **Obsolete and Abandoned Signs.**
 - a. Discontinuance or abandonment. Whenever the normal business activity of an occupant using a premises to which a preexisting sign is attached or related thereto has been

discontinued for a period of sixty (60) days or longer, such discontinuance shall be considered an abandonment of said sign. All electricity for the sign shall be turned off immediately. After a period of one (1) year, the property owner shall be responsible for removing, altering or replacing the sign face with a blank sign face. The City Manager may grant an extension in one (1) year increments to waive the requirement of replacing the sign with a blank face for a period not to exceed two (2) years.

- b. Obsolete or abandoned signs which are defaced; have internal illumination exposed; or whose frame and/or supports are chipped, peeling or otherwise damaged are prohibited and shall be removed by the owner of the property, the agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building or site upon which such sign or sign structure is erected within thirty (30) days after written notification from the Sign Administrator.
- c. In the event of non-compliance with the aforesaid terms and provisions, the Sign Administrator may proceed to have the sign owner and/or lessee brought into City Court for a hearing.

SECTION 14.18. PERMITS AND FEES.

1. Permits and Fee Requirements.

- a. All signs permitted under this article, including existing signs, shall require a sign permit except those identified as exempt signs in Section 14.06.
- b. No signs shall be erected, altered or relocated without a sign permit, except as otherwise provide herein. Electrical permits as required shall be obtained at the same time as the sign permit.

2. Applications. The sign permit application shall contain the following information: the name, address and telephone number of the sign owner and/or the sign erector; address and zoning district of the property to which the sign is to be attached or erected; scaled drawing showing the design, location, materials, finishes and colors of the proposed sign and the existing signs; and such other pertinent information as may be required to ensure compliance with this article and requirements of the City. Applications shall be on forms provided by the City of Oak Ridge.

3. Fees.

- a. The permit fee (non-refundable fee) for each sign allowed under the requirements of the article shall be based on the Building Permit Fee Schedule. Business or industrial sites allowed more than one (1) sign shall obtain a permit for each sign or submit as sign package. Annual sign permit renewals shall not be required, provided no changes are undertaken other than cleaning, repainting or other normal maintenance. The application fee for a sign permit shall be doubled when the installation or alteration of a sign is commenced or completed before the necessary permit is obtained.
- b. For any sign with internal or external lighting, including ground lighting, the City shall require an electrical permit and inspections pursuant to the provisions of the Electrical Code as adopted by the City of Oak Ridge.
- c. These fees shall not be levied against signs classified as civic signs, real estate signs, and exempt signs as defined in Section 14.06.
- d. These fees shall not be levied against public schools and non-profit organizations as defined

by the state (or can provide verification of non-profit status). Such waiver of fees for signs does not relieve the applicant from the responsibilities of meeting the sign requirements; acquiring all required permits; or prohibit the City from conducting all appropriate inspections.

4. **Nullification.** A sign permit shall become null and void if (1) the work for which the permit was issued has not been completed within a period of six (6) months after the date of the permit; and (2) the sign varies in any respect from the approved design or location.
5. **Permit Exceptions.** The general maintenance such as repainting, cleaning and other normal maintenance to prolong the life of a sign as originally approved shall not be considered as creating a sign and, therefore, shall not require a sign permit.

SECTION 14.19. ADMINISTRATION AND PENALTIES.

1. **Enforcement.** The Sign Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all of the provisions of this article. Upon presentation of proper credentials, the Sign Administrator may enter at reasonable times any building, structure or premises in the City of Oak Ridge to perform any duty imposed upon him/her by this article.
2. **Sign Appeals.** The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) shall not grant a variance for signs unless it makes findings based upon evidence presented to it as follows:
 - a. The particular physical surrounding shape, topographical or locational conditions of the specific property or structure involved would result in a particular hardship upon the owner as distinguished from a mere inconvenience, if the strict application of this article were carried out; and
 - b. The conditions upon which the petition for a variance is based would not be applicable; generally, to other property, or structure in the same general area; and
 - c. The variance will not authorize signs, sign structures, or other sign related activities other than those permitted by this article; and
 - d. Financial returns only, shall not be considered as a basis for granting a variance; and
 - e. The alleged difficulty or hardship has not been created by any person having an interest in the sign, sign structure, or property after the effective date of this article; and
 - f. That granting the variance requested will not confer on this applicant any special privilege that is denied by this article to other lands, structures, signs, sign structure, or buildings similarly situated; and
 - g. The variance is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure for sign purposes; and
 - h. The granting of the variance will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property or improvements in the area which the sign is located; and
 - i. The proposed variance will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, substantially increase congestion in the public streets, increase the danger of fire, endanger the public safety, or substantially diminish or impair property values within the

area.

3. **Prohibited Signs.** Under no circumstances shall the Board of Zoning Appeals allow a sign or sign structure, which is prohibited under the terms of this article, or any sign or sign structure expressly or by implication prohibited by the terms of this article.
4. **Conditions and Restrictions by the Board of Zoning Appeals.** The Board of Zoning Appeals may impose such conditions and restrictions upon the property, sign, or sign structure as may be necessary to comply with the provisions set out in the aforementioned standards, to reduce or minimize the injurious effect of such variation upon surrounding property and better carry out the general intent of this article. The Board of Zoning Appeals may establish expiration dates as a condition or as a part of the variances.
5. **Variance Appeals.** Any person, including any agency of the City of Oak Ridge government aggrieved by a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals on a variance may appeal by writ of certiorari to a court of appropriate jurisdiction. The judgment and findings of the Board on all questions of fact that may be involved in any appeal, cause, hearing or proceeding under this article shall be final and subject to review only for illegality or want of jurisdiction.
6. **Penalties.** Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each day's continuance of a violation shall be considered a separate offense. The owner of any sign, building or premises, or part thereof, where any matter in violation of this article shall be placed, or shall exist, and any person who may have knowingly assisted in the commission of any such violation, shall be guilty of a separate offense.

SECTION 14.20. SEVERABILITY. If any section or provision of this article were declared by a court of appropriate jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the article as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

(Ord. No. 8-03 Revised Effective 2/13/03)

SUMMARY OF SIGN REGULATIONS				
(Consult Text for Details)				
ZONE	TYPES OF SIGNS ALLOWED	ILLUMINATION	MAXIMUM SIGN AREA	MAXIMUM SIGN HEIGHT
SIGNS ALLOWED IN ALL DISTRICTS (EXEMPT SIGNS) (Section 14.06)	Official Signs	Non-Illuminated	3 Square Feet	-
	Political Signs	Non-Illuminated	16 Square Feet	-
	Address Signs	Non-Illuminated	72 Square Inches	-
	Decals, numerals, names, addresses	Non-Illuminated	2 Square Feet	-
	Construction Signs (Temporary Signs)	Non-Illuminated	32 Square Feet	-
	Real Estate Marketing Signs	Non-Illuminated	32 Square Feet (Commercial Zoning Districts)	8 Feet
			16 Square Feet (Office-Institutional Zoning Districts)	8 Feet
			6 Square Feet (Residential Zoning Districts)	8 Feet
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS (Section 14.07)	Subdivision or Multifamily Development Entry Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated w/the exception of Light Emitting Diodes (LED)-lit channel letters or halo-lit LED letters	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Multi-family Identification Sign (Wall Sign)	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	10 Square Feet	-
	Home Occupation identification Sign	Non-Illuminated	2 Square Feet	Has to be placed flat against the wall
	Signs for Athletic Facilities/Fields	Non-Illuminated	32 Square Feet	-
	Signs for Non-Residential Uses in Residential Districts	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated Changeable Copy * Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboard may be internally illuminated	32 Square Feet (Ground Sign) 2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the front face of the principal building (Wall Sign)	8 Feet (Ground Sign)
EDUCATION DISTRICTS (Section 14.09)	Ground Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated (Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboard may be internally illuminated)	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Wall Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the front face of the principal building	-
	Pole Signs (for schools with a student population greater than 1,000)	Indirectly or directly illuminated (can be either a changeable copy readerboard or moving copy sign)	60 Square Feet	15 Feet
OFFICE-INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICTS (Section 14.10)	Ground Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Wall Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the front face of the principal building (Wall Sign)	-
	Window Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	25% of the total surface area of the window to which it is attached	-

	Directional Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	4 Square Feet	4 Feet
	Identification Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	10 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Development Entry Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated *with the exception of Light Emitting Diode (LED) –lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS (Section 14.11)	Ground Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated *Surface display area of the changeable copy readerboard may be internally illuminated	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Wall Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached (Wall Sign)	-
	Window Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	25% of the total surface area of the window to which it is attached	-
COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICTS (Section 14.12)	Pole Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	80 Square Feet	20 Feet
	Ground Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	100 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Wall Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached (Wall Sign)	-
	Window Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	25% of the total surface area of the window to which it is attached	-
	Roof Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the roof to which it is attached	5 Feet
	Directional Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	4 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Development Entry Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated *with the exception of Light Emitting Diode (LED) –lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
BUSINESS PARK AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS (Section 14.13)	Ground Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	40 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Wall Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	2 sq. ft. per linear foot of the wall to which it is attached (Wall Sign)	-
	Development Entry Signs	Indirectly Illuminated or Non-Illuminated *with the exception of Light Emitting Diode (LED) –lit channel letters or halo lit LED letters	32 Square Feet	8 Feet
	Directional Signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	4 Square Feet	4 Feet
	Identification signs	Illuminated or Non-Illuminated	10 Square Feet	8 Feet

(Ord. No. 12-04 Revised Effective 5/14/04)
(Ord. No. 20-09 Revised Effective 12/24/09)