

## **ARTICLE XVIII - SIGNS**

**1800-PURPOSE** - The purpose of this amendment is to promote and protect the public health, welfare, and safety by regulating outdoor signs of all types. It is intended to protect property values, create a more attractive economic and business climate, and to enhance and protect the physical appearance of the community. It is further intended to reduce sign or advertising distraction and obstructions that may contribute to traffic accidents, reduce hazards that may be caused by signs overhanging or projecting over public right-of-way, curb the deterioration of the natural environment and enhance community development.

**1801-EXCEPTIONS** - In all districts, the following types of signs are exempt from securing a permit; however, the regulations as specified shall apply:

1. **INSTITUTIONAL** - Signs setting forth the name of any simple announcement for any public, charitable, educational or religious institution located entirely within the premises; and civic, historic interest signs and the like;
2. **PRIVATE TRAFFIC DIRECTION** - Signs directing traffic movements, within a premises, not exceeding three (3) square feet in area for each sign;
3. **HOME OCCUPATION SIGNS** - Home occupation, professional signs announcing only the name and occupation of building tenant; to be no larger than two (2) square feet and placed a minimum of ten (10) feet from street right-of-way;
4. **WALL SIGNS** - Signs which are affixed to an exterior wall of a building and no part of which sign projects more than fifteen (15) inches and which identified the business, commodity, service or entertainment, which is offered, sold or conducted on the premises;
5. **TEMPORARY SIGNS** - As permitted by Section 1806 of this Article.
6. **GOVERNMENT SIGNS** - Signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in the discharge of any governmental function or required by any law, ordinance, or governmental regulation, are exempt from these regulations.

**1802-CONDITIONAL USE** - Signs in excess of the minimum standards as specified by this ordinance which identify establishments located in the proximity of major highways serving the motoring public for services such as lodging, food and gasoline, may be approved by the Township Board of Zoning Appeals as an exception to the ordinance.

**1803-SIGN AREAS** - The sign area shall be that area enclosed by one rectangle or painted area, the sides of which make contact with the extreme points or edges of the sign, excluding the supporting structure which does not form part of the sign proper or of the display. Where a double face sign is displayed, only one side shall be used in the computation of the sign area.

**1804-GENERAL REQUIREMENTS** - The following requirements shall be applicable to all signs in all districts:

1. A sign advertising a product or service shall be permitted only on the premises where such product or service is sold or available;
2. No signs shall extend over a sidewalk or other public way, and this shall include all accessory signs and advertising media;
3. No signs, including temporary accessory signs, shall employ any parts or elements which flash or make use of intermittent illumination to attract attention. This does not apply to any sign performing a public service function indicating time, temperature, stock market quotations or similar service;

4. A sign shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business which it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises. For the purposes of this paragraph, a sign shall be defined to include both the sign face and the poles and supports;

5. No sign shall be located as to constitute a traffic or safety hazard.

**1805-BUSINESS-INDUSTRIAL SIGNS** - In addition to the general requirements previously described, the following requirements shall be applicable to signs located on either business or industrial properties, unless otherwise exempted:

1. Only identity signs and temporary signs hereinafter described shall be permitted;

2. Free standing (ground supported) signs shall not exceed thirty (30) feet in height. Any sign more than sixteen (16) feet in height shall not be placed closer to a front or side street property line than one-half of the vertical dimension of its height, and no sign shall be placed closer than two (2) feet to an interior lot line. Free standing signs shall not be established less than eight (8) feet above street grade, except when placed a minimum of ten (10) feet from front or side street property line. Said eight (8) feet above street grade to be an unobstructed open space, except for poles or supports no more than twelve (12) inches in diameter.

3. Individual business parcels, community shopping centers, plazas, strip plazas, or malls shall be permitted only one (1) free standing, ground supported identification sign on a business/industrial parcel. Individual business parcels, community shopping centers, plazas, strip plazas, or malls located on a corner lot shall be permitted to place two (2) free standing, ground supported identification signs on a business/industrial parcel, one (1) sign on each street frontage at an entrance;

4. No portable or temporary accessory sign shall be placed on the front or face of any building, or on any premises except as provided for in these regulations.

5. Only one (1) banner, festoon, or pennant, not to exceed sixty (60) square feet in dimension, shall be displayed on any business or industrial property in conjunction with an allowable use. Said banner, festoon, or pennant shall only advertise products sold on the premises upon which the sign is located.

**1806-TEMPORARY SIGNS** - The following signs shall be permitted in all districts and shall be limited as herein stated:

1. **CONSTRUCTION SIGNS** which identify the architects, engineers, contractors, and other individuals or firms involved with the construction, but not including any advertisement of any product, and signs announcing the character of the building enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended, during construction period, to a maximum area of thirty-two (32) square feet for each firm. The signs shall be confined to the site of the construction and shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after occupancy of the premises;

2. **REAL ESTATE** signs advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the signs are displayed, up to a total area of thirty two (32) square feet;

3. **POLITICAL CAMPAIGN** signs announcing candidates seeking public political office and other data pertinent thereto. These signs shall be confined within private property. Political signs may not be posted within public right-of-way or on utility poles. A zoning permit is not required for placement of a political sign;

**4. TEMPORARY ACCESSORY SIGNS** - No more than one (1) sign, two (2) in the case of a corner lot--one (1) display on each street frontage advertising a price, special, etc.—which is in conjunction with the allowable use of the property shall be permitted. Said accessory temporary sign to be no larger than twelve (12) square feet, to be non-illuminated and not placed on the right-of way, and in no way obstruct traffic visibility. No person shall be permitted to park or place any vehicle, trailer or portable message sign of a permanent or semi-permanent nature on public or private property advertising the service or products at that or any other location or directing traffic to same;

**5. ROADSIDE STAND SIGNS** - Only one (1) sign not more than thirty-two (32) square feet in area in conjunction with a roadside stand/farm market use is permitted to be displayed on agricultural...or residential property, used to advertise seasonal agricultural sales. Such signs shall be removed at the conclusion of the seasonal sales;

**6. TEMPORARY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS** - Temporary directional signs may be authorized for a period up to six (6) months at a fee of five dollars (\$5.00), provided the following conditions are met:

a) A need for a sign to direct attention from the main thoroughfare, such as the identification of a new subdivision plat by a developer or contractor, must be established to the satisfaction of the Zoning Inspector;

b) A written authorization from the owner of the property on which the sign will be erected must be filed with the application;

c) Plans showing size, construction, copy and location of the proposed sign must be filed with the application;

d) Signs shall be no larger than four (4) feet by eight (8) feet, including ornamentation, and no higher than twelve (12) feet in overall height, including supports;

e) Signs shall be supported by skids upon the ground only;

f) No sign shall be permitted on a public property nor otherwise situated in such a way as to create a traffic hazard.

Such temporary directional sign permits may be renewed for two (2) additional periods (maximum sign life of 18 months); and signs not removed when permit has expired or not complying with the above conditions shall be deemed in violation of the Zoning Ordinance;

**7. TEMPORARY CIVIC NON-PROFIT SIGNS** - Temporary signs may be used by churches, parks, libraries, schools, and other public institutions and nonprofit organizations for promotion of special events held within Austintown Township. Such use shall be limited to ten (10) days prior to the event and permission of the property owner must be obtained prior to the placement of the temporary signage in any zoning district. No sign shall be placed as to constitute a traffic or safety hazard. A zoning permit is not required for placement of a temporary sign under this sign classification.

**1807-BILLBOARD SIGNS** - Billboards and outdoor advertising shall be permitted in all districts zoned as an agricultural, business or industrial classification (ORC 519.20), with the following limitations:

1. Only one (1) double face billboard sign shall be permitted per lot, with said billboard not to exceed an overall height of thirty (30) feet, not exceed a gross area of 300 square feet;

2. No portion of a billboard sign shall be placed on an agricultural, business, or industrial parcel closer than fifteen (15) feet away from a street front property line, side property line, or rear property line;
3. No billboard shall employ any parts or elements which revolve, rotate, whirl, spin or otherwise make use of motion;
4. No billboard shall have any flashing, running or sequential lights;
5. Billboards and outdoor advertising along a state highway, interstate highway, or designated federal aid primary system highway shall conform with all applicable state (O.D.O.T.) and federal regulations;
6. No billboard sign shall be affixed to, constructed on, or placed on a trailer, semi-trailer, or truck of any type.
7. The placement of billboard and outdoor advertising signs shall be so placed as to maintain a distance of one thousand five hundred (1,500) lineal feet between one another as measured from the base of each sign, regardless of whether the signs are both located on the same single road corridor or are both located on different road corridors.
8. No sign shall be placed closer than fifty (50) feet from any on-premise monument sign or pole sign
9. No sign shall be placed within five hundred (500) feet of any publicly owned or maintained property, including but not limited to, public lands and park property.
10. Digital billboard sign faces may not flash, blink, or use intermittent lighting. Digital billboard sign faces may not use motion, animation or video. Digital billboard sign faces shall have a static image lasting no less than eight (8) seconds. The digital billboard must go dark if there is a malfunction.
11. A digital billboard sign face shall be a conditional use requiring approval from the Board of Appeals if proposed within 200 feet of a Residential R-1 District, Residential R-2 District, and/or Residential R-3 District. The measurement shall be made from the closest point of the digital billboard structure to the closest point of an R-1, R-2, and/or R-3 property line.
12. A digital billboard sign face shall be a permitted use if proposed to be located more than 200 feet from a Residential R-1 District, Residential R-2 District, and/or Residential R-3 District and compliance with items 1-10 of Article XVIII – Section 1807-Billboard Signs is achieved for a new sign structure or if the existing billboard structure has a non-conforming setback or placement.