

ARTICLE XI. SIGNS

Section 11.0 General Provisions

The following general provisions shall apply to signs within the jurisdiction of Iredell County. (See also Sections 16.18.1 and 16.18.2 for Roadway Protection Overlay guidelines for signs)

Section 11.1 In General

The regulations in this Article specify the number, types, sizes, heights, and locations of signs, which are permitted within the jurisdiction of Iredell County. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, place, alter or maintain a sign in the jurisdiction of Iredell County except in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 11.2 Determination of Sign Copy Area

In measuring the copy area of a sign permitted under this Article, the entire face of the sign shall be included. Where both sides of a double-faced sign contain lettering or other allowable display, one side only shall be used to compute the allowable copy area of the sign. Where the sign consists of individual letters, numbers, characters, figures or displays attached in some manner to a building or a sign face of irregular shape, the sign copy area shall include the area of the smallest circle, square or rectangle that can encompass the total sign area composed of letters, numbers, characters, figures or displays or the irregular shaped sign face. Where signs have appendages or additions, such as "pop-ups" or "cutouts" that extend beyond the main sign copy area, the area of such appendages or additions shall be measured separately, but included in the total sign copy area. Also to be included in the total sign copy area shall be any area designed for changeable copy. Where allowed, portable signs shall be counted toward permitted maximum total aggregate sign copy area and maximum number of freestanding signs on each public road.

Section 11.3 Determination of Sign Height

The height of a sign erected within 30 feet of a road right-of-way line shall be the distance from the grade level of the nearest edge of the road to the top of the sign or sign structure, whichever is greater. The height of all signs farther than 30 feet from a road right-of-way line shall be the distance from the grade level where the sign is erected to the top of the sign or sign structure, whichever is greater.

Section 11.4 Determination of Sign Setback

In determining setback, measurement shall be made from the nearest road right-of-way line.

Section 11.5 Minimum Sign Setback

No sign shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from any property line or closer than ten (10) feet from any road right-of-way, unless this violates any state or federal guidelines.

Section 11.6 Protection Under First Amendment Rights

Any sign, display or device allowed under this Article may contain, in lieu of any other copy, any otherwise lawful noncommercial message, which does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a commodity or service for sale; provided that such sign complies with the size, lighting, spacing, setback and other requirements of this Article. This includes signs requiring and not requiring a permit.

Section 11.7 Changeable Copy

Unless otherwise specified by this Article, any sign herein allowed may use manual, or electrically or mechanically activated changeable copy.

Section 11.8 Illuminated Signs

Signs, which are illuminated from within or from an external source, must be illuminated in a manner which avoids glare or reflection which in any way or manner interferes with traffic safety. Any external source of illumination, such as spotlights or floodlights shall be placed so that the source is not directly visible from any adjacent residential zoning districts.

Section 11.9 Permit Required

With the exception of those signs specifically exempt from requiring a permit, it shall be unlawful for any person to print, paint, stand, stain, engrave, construct, place, erect, illuminate, attach, suspend, enlarge, move, relocate, replace or otherwise put into use or materially alter any sign or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a zoning permit for such sign from the Zoning Administrator.

Notwithstanding the above, changing or replacing the permanent copy of an existing lawful sign shall not require a permit, provided the copy change does not change the nature of the sign such as to render the sign in violation of this Ordinance.

Section 11.10 Construction Standards

All signs shall be constructed according to the requirements of Chapter 23 of the State Building Code, as amended.

Section 11.11 Maintenance Required

Every sign and its support, braces, guys, anchors, and electrical equipment shall be maintained in safe condition at all times. All signs shall be kept in a state of good repair and aesthetic condition, free from defective, rusting, or missing parts (i.e. broken sign facing, broken supports, loose appendages or struts, disfigured, cracked, ripped or peeling paint or poster paper) or missing letters or numbers and shall be able to withstand the wind pressure as prescribed in the North Carolina Building Code. Illuminated signs shall not be allowed to operate with only

partial illumination. The area within ten feet in all directions of the base of a freestanding sign shall be kept clear of debris and undergrowth.

Signs that are structurally unsafe and thereby endanger the public safety shall be removed unless they are repaired and made to comply with the requirements of Chapter 23 of the State Building Code, as amended.

The message of a sign face may be changed at any time.

Section 11.12 Dangerous or unsafe signs.

If the Zoning Administrator shall find that any sign is dangerous or is menace to the public, he shall give written notice of such violations to the owner of the sign, or by leaving said notice with the manager or other person who is apparently in charge of the premises or by affixing a copy of the notice to the sign, sign structure or building for a period of five (5) days. The notice shall set forth the nature of the violation and order the violator to repair the sign in such a manner to be approved by the Zoning Administrator in conformance with the provisions of this Article or remove the sign forthwith in the case of imminent instability or immediate danger of falling, and in any case within ten (10) days of receipt.

If within ten (10) days the notice is not complied with, the Zoning Administrator shall have the authority to remove the sign at the recipient's expense and to destroy or otherwise dispose of the same.

In cases of emergency, the Zoning Administrator may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or unsafe sign without notice.

Section 11.13 Removal of Discontinued Signs

If a sign, other than an off-premises advertising (billboard) sign, advertises a business, service, commodity, accommodation, attraction or other enterprise or activity that is no longer operating or being offered or conducted, that sign and sign structure including, but not limited to, the supporting braces, anchors or similar components shall be considered discontinued regardless of reason or intent and shall, within one (1) year after such discontinuation, be removed by the owner of the property where the sign is located. This Section shall not be construed to prevent the changing of the message of a sign. This provision shall apply to all related signs located both on and off the premises.

Section 11.14 Removal & Disposal of Signs in Right-of-Way

The Zoning Administrator shall possess the authority to remove and destroy or otherwise dispose of any sign placed within the right-of-way of any road.

Section 11.15 Signs Expressly Prohibited

The following signs, components and characteristics are expressly prohibited within all zoning districts.

A. Simulated Public Safety, Warning or Traffic Signs

Signs by their location, color, illumination, size, shape, nature, message or appearance tend to obstruct the view of or be confused with official traffic, safety or warning signs or lights or other devices erected by governmental agencies. This prohibition includes signs having no bonafide safety necessity, involving the terms "CAUTION", "DANGER", "SLOW", "STOP" OR "YIELD", or which utilize geometric figures, symbols, lights, location or message not unlike official traffic, safety or warning signs, signals or lights. Provided, however, this provision is not intended to prevent the placement on private property of signs with "stop", "yield" or other such wording or design where such is necessary for traffic control or other such legitimate notice to the public.

B. Snipe Signs

Signs placed upon or attached to any curb, sidewalk, utility pole, post, fence, hydrant, bridge, another sign or other surface, public bench, road light, or any tree, rock or other natural object located on, over or across any public road or public property. Provided, however, this provision shall not apply to the posting of public interest, security and warning signs nor to road signs placed upon poles by the County for designating the names of roads.

C. Flashing Signs

Signs or devices with flashing, intermittent, animated or changing intensity of illumination, provided, however, traffic signals, railroad crossing signals and other official warning or regulatory signs and electronically controlled message centers or reader boards where different copy changes, involving alphabetical or numerical characters only, present messages of a public service or commercial nature shall not be considered flashing signs.

D. Motion Signs

Signs or devices designed to attract attention, all or any part of which use movement or apparent movement by fluttering, revolving, rotating, spinning, swinging, animation or moving in some other manner and are set in motion by movement of water or the atmosphere or by mechanical, electrical or any other means. This shall not apply to authorized temporary signs.

E. Signs Below Minimum Clearance

Signs, marquees, canopies and awnings with vertical clearance of less than eight (8) feet

above sidewalks and pedestrian areas and less than fourteen (14) feet above parking or vehicular passage areas.

F. Vehicle Signs

Signs placed upon, painted on, attached to or displayed on parked vehicles or trailers, where the primary purpose of the vehicle or trailer is to advertise a product or business or to direct people to a business or activity.

G. Signs Obstructing Motorist Visibility

Signs that substantially interfere with the view necessary for motorists to proceed safely through intersections or to enter onto or exit from public roads or private roads or driveways or that obstruct the motorists view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic including, but not limited to, signs in excess of three (3) feet in sight visibility triangles.

H. Signs in Rights-of-Way

Any sign erected in or over any public right-of-way except for major special event signs by special permit; and governmental signs.

I. Signs Emitting Glare

Signs with light sources or reflectivity of such brightness that result in glare, blinding or any other such adverse effect on motorist vision or into or upon any residential building not related to the signs; or which interfere with the effectiveness of, or obscures an official traffic sign, device or signal.

J. Pennants or Streamers

Pennants, streamers or flags consecutively strung together.

K. Obscene Signs

Signs containing words or graphics that are obscene, as defined in North Carolina General Statute 14-190.1.

L. Off-Premises Temporary Announcement and Construction Signs

Signs concerning construction site information, such as identification of the project, owner or developer, architect, engineer, contractor, subcontractors, material suppliers and funding sources, that are located on property other than where the construction is being done or is to take place.

M. Unspecified Temporary Signs

Temporary signs not expressly permitted by this Article.

N. All Other Signs not Specifically Permitted

Other signs not expressly allowed by this Article.

Section 11.16 Signs Permitted Without Permit

The following signs and devices shall be permitted without the issuance of a Zoning Permit, but must meet the standards set forth herein.

A. Public (governmental, utility) Signs

Signs erected by, on behalf of, or pursuant to the authorization of a governmental body, including legal notices, identification and informational signs, and traffic warning, directional or regulatory signs.

Official signs of a non-commercial nature erected by public utilities, including safety, warning and informational signs.

B. Warning (Health, Safety, Hazard) Signs

Temporary or permanent signs erected by government agencies, public utility companies or construction companies to warn of danger or hazardous conditions, including signs indicating the presence of underground cables, gas lines and similar devices or signs providing directions around such conditions.

C. Signs not legible off-premises

Signs which are not legible from the boundaries of the lot or parcel upon which they are located, or from any public thoroughfare or right-of-way.

D. Flags (non-advertising) (non-informational)

Flags except when such are used in connection with a commercial promotion or as an advertising device or as an integral part of a sign regulated under this Article; provided not more than three (3) such flags shall be flown on any lot or parcel and provided such flags are displayed on permanent pole structures. Failure to display such flags in a manner, which meets Congressional protocol will be a violation of this Ordinance.

Plain flags with no advertising or information provided such flags are displayed on permanent pole structures and are properly maintained. Proper maintenance shall not permit

flags, which are torn, ripped, frayed, separated from their grommets or incompletely affixed to their pole structures.

All flags used in connection with a commercial promotion as an advertising device or as an integral part of a commercial sign must comply with the regulations of this Article for area, height, number and location.

E. Incidental Object or Product Signs

Small decals consolidated and affixed to window or door panes, such as indicating membership in a business group or credit cards accepted at the establishment.

Any sign, painted or affixed to an object or product, where the sign is clearly incidental and accessory to the primary use and purpose of the object or product including, but not limited to, product dispensers and point of purchase displays for newspapers, soft drinks, gasoline, ice, telephone, ATM or similar items which indicate the contents of the machine, the name or logo of the supplier, the price and/or operating instructions.

F. Signs required by law

Legal notices and signs required by law, statute or ordinance.

G. Transportation facilities signs

Informational signs indicating bus stops, taxi stands, train stations and similar transportation facilities.

H. Campaign signs at polling places

Political signs displayed at polling places provided they are displayed in compliance with general law only on the day of the election is held and must be removed within seventy-two (72) hours of the close of voting.

I. Road numbers

Display of road numbers on residential and non-residential buildings, structures and mailboxes.

J. Handicapped Signs

Handicapped signs as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

K. Window Signs

Signs placed on or attached to the interior side of a window or door glass of a building by means of adhesive, paint or manufacturing process intended for viewing from the exterior of

such buildings; or a sign within a building, placed no more than twelve (12) inches behind the window which is visible through the window.

L. Temporary Signs

Temporary signs which do not meet the provisions of this Subsection shall be considered in violation of the Ordinance. Only Temporary (political), Temporary (real estate), Temporary (Bona Fide Farm), and Temporary (special event of a civic or non-profit organization) signs shall be permitted off-premises. No temporary sign shall be illuminated. Temporary signs shall be removed within five (5) days from the date the purposed use such sign ceased to exist.

Temporary signs subject to the following limitations:

Type	No.	Maximum Copy Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height if Freestanding (vert. ft.)	Maximum Display Time
Grand Opening	1	32	10	Once for 30 days
Going out of Business	1	32	10	Once for 30 days
Special event of civic or non-profit organization	2	32	8	30 days prior to event
Remodeling/Repair	1	4	6	Until work completed
Construction – one or two family dwelling	1	4	6	Until construction completed
Construction - other than one or two family dwelling	2	32	14	Until construction completed
Construction announcement	2	32	14	Until building permit issued
Political	-	32	14	60 days prior to the election
On-premises real estate sale/lease/rent of one or two family dwelling or lot	1	6	6	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Off-premises real estate sale/lease/rent of one or two family dwelling or lot	1	3	4	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized

Type	No.	Maximum Copy Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height if Freestanding (vert. ft.)	Maximum Display Time
On-premises real estate sale/lease/rent of other than one or two family dwelling or lot	2	32	12	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Off-premises real estate sale/lease/rent of other than one or two family dwelling or lot				Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Non-residential (ie. commercial, industrial)	2	32	10	45 days in any 90 day period
Off-premises signs for bona fide farms	N/A	9	8	14 days before until 7 days after normal marketing season

M. Miscellaneous Signs

Miscellaneous signs which do not meet the provisions of this Section shall be considered in violation of the Ordinance. Only Private Drive signs shall be permitted off-premises. No miscellaneous signs shall be illuminated.

Miscellaneous signs subject to the following limitations:

Type	No.	Maximum Copy Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height if Freestanding (vert. ft.)
Public Interest, Security Warning (no trespassing, soliciting, hunting or fishing/posted/privets/parking/danger/warning)	N/A	1	8
Home Occupations (Rural, Customary, or Grading)	1	3	4
Open/Closed/Hours	2	2	6
Permanent Professional or Business Announcement (wall)	1	2	N/A
Building Memorial (wall)	1	2	N/A

Type	No.	Maximum Copy Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height if Freestanding (vert. ft.)
Philosophical, Religious, Educational or other Non-commercial	2	2	4
Occupant/Address (ground or wall)	2	2	6
Private Drive	1	2	6
Informational/Instructional (traffic directions, restrictions or arrows, entrance, exit, location of restrooms, public telephones, parcel pick-up, freight or service entrances, parking/loading areas and the like)	N/A	10	4
Movable non-residential (ie. commercial)	2	16	6

Section 11.17 Signs Permitted with a Sign Permit in All Zoning Districts

The following signs are permitted in all zoning districts upon issuance of a sign permit provided that stated specific requirements, conditions and stipulations are met:

- A. On-premises signs identifying a single-family residential subdivision; apartment, townhouse, condominium or other multi-family residential complex; recreational facility or manufactured home park not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area. There shall be a limit of one (1) double-faced sign or two (2) single-faced signs for each road or driveway entrance to the development named on the sign. Such signs shall be limited to the name and the address of the premises and the on-site address and phone number of the resident agent and may be directly or indirectly illuminated. In addition one (1) identifying sign for an accessory management or rental office not exceeding six (6) square feet shall be permitted.

- B. One (1) on-premises identification sign or bulletin board for each road or driveway entrance indicating the name and/or address of the premises, schedule of services or activities, hours of operation, name of person(s) in authority, founding date of the organization or other information relevant to the operation of a school, college, park, public swimming pool, fire department, church, synagogue or other place of worship, hospital, sanitarium, art gallery, museum, library, YMCA, YWCA, community building, recreation center, coliseum or convention center, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area to be located on private property where the use occurs. If located on a roadway as identified in Appendix A at the end of Article XI, one of the following two options may be utilized: 1) one on-premises sign not to exceed seventy-two (72) square feet in area shall be permitted, however this shall be the only sign on the premises regardless of the number of entrances; or 2) one forty-eight (48) square foot on-premises sign shall be permitted in place of one thirty-two (32) square foot sign as detailed above. Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.

- C. Signs not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area advertising the sale of subdivision lots, not more than one (1) sign to be located on private property at each major approach to the subdivision; provided that the display of such signs shall be limited to a six-month period or until seventy-five percent (75%) of the lots are sold, whichever comes first, and may not be illuminated.
- D. One (1) on-premises ground or wall sign not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area for a legal non-conforming use in a residential zoning district in which it is located. Illumination of such signs shall be permitted only between sunrise and 10:00 pm.
- E. On-premises signs identifying private country clubs, golf courses, swimming/tennis clubs, equestrian centers, lakes, cemeteries and similar facilities operated on a profit or non-profit basis not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in copy area. There shall be a limit of one (1) double-faced sign or two (2) single-faced signs for each road or driveway entrance to the facility. Such signs shall be limited to the name, address, founding date and hours of operation and may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- F. One (1) on-premises identification sign for a convalescent home, nursing home, home for the care of children, medical clinic or dental clinic not exceeding twenty (20) square feet in copy area. Such sign shall be limited to the name and address of the home or clinic and may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- G. One (1) off-premises identification sign which denotes religious, charitable, fraternal, military or service organizations may be freestanding and may be located off-site, provided, however, that no one (1) individually chartered organization may have more than one (1) off-premises sign which shall not be illuminated. A sign denoting a single chartered organization shall not exceed nine (9) square feet in area. A number of such signs may be placed on one structure, provided, however, the copy area of each individual sign does not exceed three (3) square feet in copy area and the structure does not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in copy area.
- H. All freestanding signs permitted by this Section in all zoning districts shall have a maximum height limit of ten (10) feet and shall have a minimum setback of ten (10) feet from any public right-of-way.
- I. Wall signage not exceeding a total of 50 square feet shall be permitted for the uses in this section.

Section 11.18 Signs for Permitted Non-Residential Uses Permitted in Residential Districts

- A. On-premises signs for permitted non-residential uses in residential districts are permitted, except that sign copy area may not exceed 75% of the maximum size allowed under the provisions of the most restrictive non-residential district in which the uses are permitted.

- B. A maximum of two (2) off-premises signs shall be allowed for all legally operating businesses, (including legal non-conforming and farm related businesses accessory to an existing bona-fide farm) that are located on a road identified in Appendix A and B at the end of Article XI), and shall be subject to the following conditions:
1. Shall be located at the intersection of two (2) or more public and/or private roads,
 2. A sign permit shall be required for each sign,
 3. Signs shall not be illuminated,
 4. The maximum height shall be six (6) feet,
 5. The maximum size of each off-premises sign shall be nine (9) square feet. The aggregate sign copy of all off-premises signs under this category, unless the co-location option is used, shall be eighteen (18) square feet and the maximum number of signs at each approved location shall be two (2). *(This requirement will not include the location of legally existing or permitted off-premises church signs, however all business signs shall count toward these calculations)*
 6. In the event that co-location of more than one sign face or placard is utilized, the maximum aggregate square footage of each sign in an approved location shall be twelve (12) square feet. The maximum individual copy area of each sign face or placard when utilizing the co-location option shall be three (3) square feet.
 7. Where the aggregate sign copy area is met at an intersection, no additional signs shall be located within 1000 yards of that location,
 8. The minimum setback shall be ten (10) feet (minimum) from the road right of way, in accordance with sections 11.4 and 11.5 of this ordinance, and all signs shall be located outside of the sight triangle as described in Section 3.11, *Visibility at Intersections*.
 9. All off-premises signs addressed by this section shall be constructed to the standards of Section 3108 of the North Carolina Building Code and shall be tastefully done. No unpainted or unstained plywood signs, or any other signs that will not stand up to the elements shall be permitted.

Section 11.19 Signs Permitted in Non-Residential Zoning Districts

The following permanent signs are permitted, upon issuance of a zoning permit regarding the proposed sign(s), in non-residential zoning districts, provided that stated requirements, conditions and stipulations are met.

- A. Permanent On-Premises Signs Permitted per Single Establishment on a Single Parcel or Lot

The following permanent on-premises signs are permitted in the respective non-residential zoning districts for single establishments on single parcels or lots upon issuance of a zoning permit regarding the proposed sign(s), provided stated specific requirements, conditions and stipulations are met, as follows:

	R-O O-I	N-B	C-B	S-C	H-B G-B	M-1 M-2
Maximum Aggregate Sign Copy Area (Free-standing and wall signage)						
Up to a Maximum (Sq. ft.)	60	90	120	200	300	180
Maximum Number of Freestanding Signs	1	1	1	1	2	2
Maximum Copy Area of Freestanding Signs (sq. ft) (2) (3)	24	36	48	80	120	72
Maximum Height of Freestanding Signs (ft.)	12	15	18	25	30	25
Maximum Height Signs may be Above Roof Line (ft.)	0	0	0	0	10	5
Projecting Signs Permitted (Y=Yes; N=No)	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Type of Illumination Permitted B = Backlighted I = Internally Lighted E = Externally Lighted	B/E	B/E	I/B/ E	I/B/ E	I/B/ E	I/B/E

1. Maximum Total Aggregate Sign Copy Area may be increased by ten percent (10%) if no freestanding sign is used on the premises for the establishment.
2. One additional freestanding sign is permitted for lots with frontage on more than one road. A freestanding sign on a corner lot may be increased up to twenty-five percent (25%) if one (1) freestanding sign is used where more than one would have been allowed.

B. Permanent On-Premises Signs Permitted for Multiple Establishments on a Single Parcel or Lot

One combined or common permanent on-premises freestanding sign for multiple establishments on a single parcel or lot shall be allowed on each public road and may exceed the maximum copy area for freestanding signs in Subsection A. by the following percentages:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 - 10 establishments - up to 25% | 31 - 40 establishments - up to 100 % |
| 11 - 20 establishments - up to 50% | 41 - 50 establishments - up to 125% |
| 21 - 30 establishments - up to 75% | 51 or more establishments - up to 150% |

Maximum copy area in Subsection A may be exceeded by the same extent.

Other signs for each individual establishment shall be in accordance with Subsection A.

C. Permanent On-Premises Signs Permitted for Establishments on Adjacent Parcels or Lots Utilizing Shared Parking and Driveway Connections

Establishments on adjacent parcels or lots utilizing shared parking and driveway connections may exceed maximum copy area for freestanding signs in Subsection A by twenty-five percent (25%) for a combined or common freestanding sign. Maximum copy area in Subsection A. may be exceeded by the same extent. Such combined or common freestanding sign shall not be considered to be an off-premises sign for any of the establishments advertising on the sign. Establishments participating in combined or common freestanding signs may not also have individual freestanding signs.

D. Permanent Off-Premises Advertising (Billboard) Signs

The following permanent off-premises advertising (billboard) signs are permitted in H-B, G-B, M-1 AND M-2 Zoning Districts upon issuance of a zoning permit regarding the proposed sign(s), provided that the stated specific requirements, conditions and stipulations are met:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Permitted number of signs: | Limited only by spacing requirements. |
| Maximum copy area of signs (1): | 300 square feet (600 sq. ft. if located within 660 feet of the right-of-way of an Interstate Highway; 400 sq. ft. if located within 660 feet of a US or NC Primary Highway.) |
| Permitted number of Sign Faces: | One (1) sign face shall be permitted per sign, except that if back-to-back or v-shaped there may be two (2) sign faces; so long as the two sign display boards are located within fifteen (15) feet of each other at their farthest point. Not more than one principal message board per side shall be allowed. Side-by-side signs structurally attached to the same base shall be prohibited. |
| Permitted illumination: | Internally or externally illuminated |
| Permitted location (2): | Off-premises advertising (billboard) signs shall not be located closer than 100 feet to a residential zoning district or a residential use. The minimum horizontal separation on any one road between two off-premises advertising (billboard) signs shall be 1000 linear feet. Off-premises advertising (billboard) signs shall not be located less than 500 |

feet from any Interstate Highway access/exit ramp or safety rest area measured along the Interstate roadway from the beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main traveled way. (Refer to Figure A.) No portion of any sign shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from any property line.

Maximum height: 35 feet (50 feet if located within 660 feet of the right-of-way of an Interstate Highway; 40 feet if located within 660 feet of a US or NC Primary Highway)

Minimum setback: 10 feet

Maintenance: The area immediately surrounding advertising (billboard) structures shall be appropriately maintained.

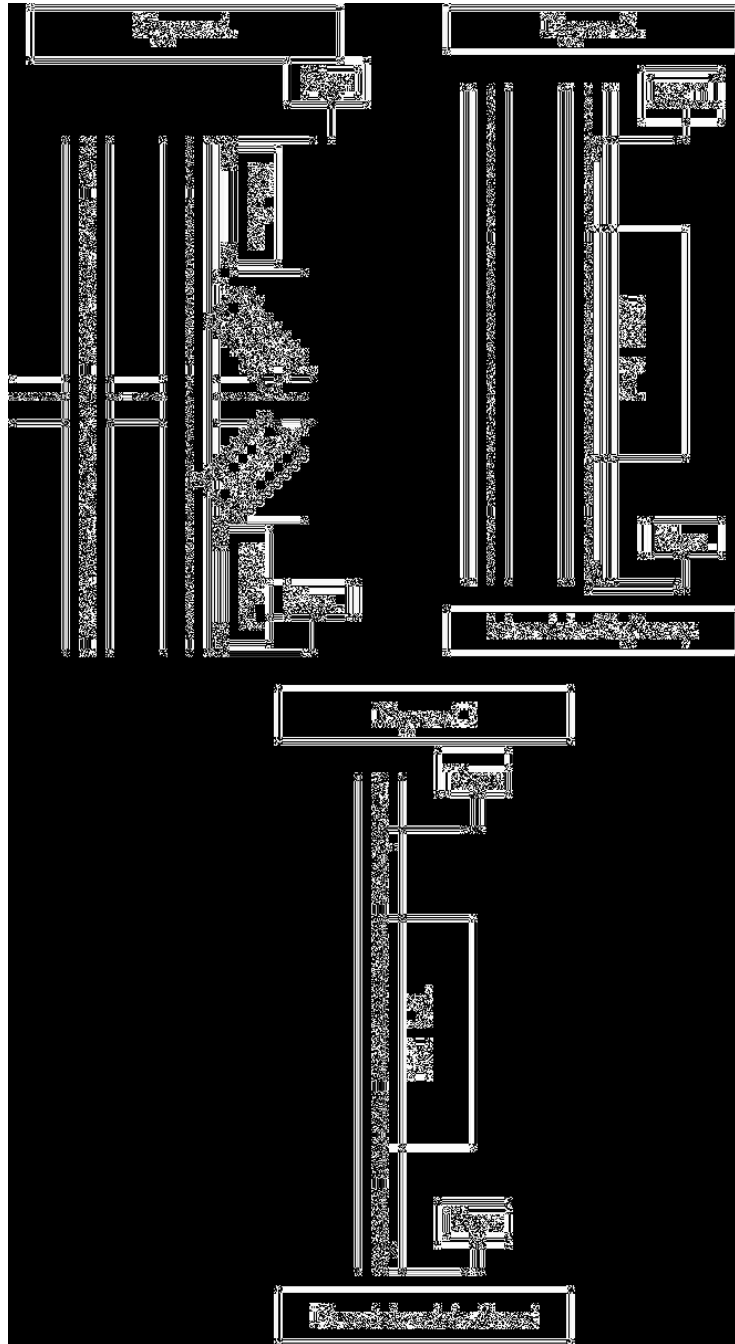
Special Requirements: All permanent off-premises advertising (billboard) signs on public roads located within 660 feet from the edge of the road right-of-way line shall, except as noted, meet the criteria established by the North Carolina Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Manual or the provisions of this Ordinance, whichever is stricter.

1. The maximum permitted copy area shall be determined from the road which the sign predominantly faces. If a sign equally faces two different roads, the larger of the two permitted copy areas may be erected. The copy area of an advertising sign shall be measured by the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle or combination thereof which will encompass the entire sign. The copy area shall include any border or trim but shall exclude the base or apron supports and other structural devices. If an advertising message appears on the base or apron, it will not be excluded from the copy area.
2. All advertising signs within 660 feet of the edge of an Interstate Highway right-of-way, located on opposite sides of the same roadway shall be spaced at least one thousand (1,000) feet apart from each other. This provision shall not apply when one side of the roadway and all advertising signs on that portion of the roadway are not visible to the motorist on the opposite side of the roadway. In no instance, however, shall two advertising signs on the same side of the roadway be located less than one thousand (1,000) feet apart. (Refer to Figure B.)

All advertising signs within 660 feet of the edge of all non-Interstate road rights-of-way, located on opposite sides of the same roadway shall be spaced 750 feet apart from each other. This provision shall not apply when one side of the roadway and all advertising

signs on the roadway are not visible to the motorist on the opposite side of the roadway. In no instance, however, shall two advertising signs on the same side of the roadway be located less than 750 feet apart. (Refer to Figure C.)

The distance between signs shall be measured along the center line of the road by the closest distance between the points of perpendicular intersection of each sign. All advertising signs shall be located at least one thousand (1,000) feet from any portion of the lot containing the principal use being advertised.



Section 11.20 Signs Permitted By Special Permit

The following signs are permitted only by special permit issued by the Zoning Administrator all stated regulations and to all conditions and requirements imposed by the Board in issuing the special permit.

A. Festival and Major Special Event Signs

For the purpose of giving directions and information, temporary on-premises and off-premises signs pertaining to festivals and other major special events are permitted with approval by the Zoning Administrator subject to a special permit specifying size, location, lighting, design, display and duration. The number of signs shall be set by the Zoning Administrator.

Section 11.21 Special Requirements for Signs Located on or Adjacent to Lake Norman

Signs, other than navigational signs which are located on or adjacent to Lake Norman shall be constructed in such a manner as to be compatible with the adjacent visual qualities of the area in which they are located. Such signs shall not unduly obstruct the view of the Lake from any adjacent lakeshore occupant and shall not be placed in the water nor within twenty-five (25) horizontal feet of the water's edge at elevation seven hundred sixty (760). When lighted, such signs shall have fixed, non-moving, indirect or internal lighting when necessary. There shall be no off-premises advertising signs placed or maintained so as to be visible from the Lake.

Section 11.22 Non-Conforming Signs (See also Article IV for other non-conforming uses)

The following requirements are established to regulated non-conforming signs:

A. Conformance Required

Any sign legally in use prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any amendments hereto which does not satisfy the requirements of this Article is declared to be nonconforming and may be continued subject to regulations of Subsection B. The eventual elimination, as expeditiously and fairly as possible, of nonconforming signs is as much a subject of health, safety and welfare as is the regulation of new signs.

B. Regulations of Non-Conforming Signs

A nonconforming sign may be continued but it shall not be:

1. Changed or replaced with another nonconforming sign, except that copy may be changed.
2. Expanded, altered or modified in any way, except to bring the sign into complete conformity with this Article.
3. Moved except to bring the sign into complete conformity with this Article.

4. Re-established once the sign structure has been removed.
5. Re-established after damage or deterioration as defined in Subsection D.

C. Illumination of Signs for Legal Non-Conforming Uses

Signs for legal non-conforming uses in residential districts shall be illuminated only between sunrise and 10:00 p.m.

D. Damaged or Deteriorated Non-Conforming Signs

If a non-conforming sign suffers more than sixty percent (60%) of its value by damage or deterioration it must be brought into conformance with this Article or removed. The value shall be determined as the replacement cost at the time of damage or destruction. The applicant is required to provide two (2) estimates from different companies to the Zoning Administrator, which will be averaged to determine the replacement cost. If the Zoning Administrator approves the replacement, it must be completed (i.e. final building approval) within 6 months of the determination. If the Zoning Administrator denies the replacement, the sign must be completely removed within thirty (30) days of the determination.

E. Maintenance of Non-Conforming Signs

Non-conforming signs shall be subject to all requirements of this Article regarding safety, maintenance and repair. Non-conforming signs shall be maintained in good condition including necessary non-structural repairs, incidental alterations or copy alterations, such as repainting and electrical repairs which do not extend or intensify the non-conforming features of the sign.

Appendix A

I-40	I-77	US 64/ NC 90
NC 150	NC 152	US 21
NC 115	NC 136	NC 801
NC 901	Old Mountain Road	Langtree Road

Appendix B

Amity Hill Road	Barry Oak Road	Bell Farm Road
Buffalo Shoals Road	Cornelius Road	Elmwood Road
Enochville Road	Fairmount Road	Greenbriar Road
Island Ford Road	Jennings Road	Little Farm Road
Old Mocksville Road	Ostwalt Amity Road	Perth Road
Scotts Creek Road	Sharon School Road	Sheffield Road
Shiloh Road	Snow Creek Road	South Chipley Ford Road
Tomlin Mill Road	Williamson Road	Woodleaf Road