

# CHAPTER 10: SIGNS

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## **CHAPTER 10: SIGNS**

### **Section 10.1 Purpose & Applicability**

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- A. This Chapter is intended to regulate signs and their placement throughout the Town of Angier and its extraterritorial area for the following purposes:
1. To provide a pleasing overall environmental setting and good community appearance, which is deemed vital to the continued economic attractiveness of the Town and its environs;
  2. To create a more productive, enterprising, professional business atmosphere;
  3. To allow signs appropriate to the planned character and development of each zoning district;
  4. To ensure that permitted signs do not become a hazard or nuisance;
  5. To promote traffic safety;
  6. To prevent conflicts with public safety signs;
  7. To protect and enhance the value of properties; and
  8. To promote the public safety and general welfare of the Town of Angier and its ETJ.
- B. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the construction, erection, alteration, use, type, number, location, size, height, and maintenance of all signs. Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move, or replace any sign visible from off-site, without first having obtained a sign permit for such sign from the Zoning Administrator as required by this Ordinance.

### **Section 10.2 General Provisions**

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#### **10.2.1 Sign Design Standards**

- A. Materials, colors, and shapes of proposed signs shall be designed so as to integrate with the buildings and the surrounding area. Specifically, colors shall match that of the exterior of the structure to the greatest extent possible.
- B. The sign shall not be excessive or confusing.

#### **10.2.2 Sign Area**

- A. For wall signs, placard signs, and window signs, the area of the sign shall be the smallest rectangle that can encompass all letters, logos, background, and integral parts included in the sign.
- B. For freestanding signs, neighborhood identification signs, and other similar signs, the area shall not include the area of the surface to which the sign is affixed. For example, a decorative framework or wall shall not be included in the sign area.

#### **10.2.3 Sign Height**

The height of a sign shall be measured from the highest point of a sign to the point of ground surface beneath it. Ornamentation such as caps, spires, and finials shall not extend more than two (2) feet from the top of the sign. The use of berms or raised landscape areas is only permitted to

raise the base of the sign to the mean elevation of the fronting street and shall not be used as a means to avoid compliance with regulations.

**10.2.4 Sign Setbacks**

- A. All signs shall set back a minimum of 10 feet from side property lines.
- B. No sign shall be placed in the street right-of-way or sight triangles.
- C. No freestanding ground sign shall be located within 50 feet of any other freestanding ground sign. In cases where this requirement prevents location of a sign on a site on which no other sign exists, a sign may be placed at the furthest distance possible from existing freestanding ground signs on adjacent property.

**10.2.5 Sign Illumination**

Illuminated signs shall conform to the following:

- A. All illuminated signs shall have their lighting directed in such a manner as to illuminate only the face of the sign.
- B. External light sources shall not be visible from the right-of-way nor cause glare hazards to pedestrians, motorists, or adjacent properties.
- C. A maximum of 10 foot candles may be permitted on any portion of sign.
- D. All lighting shall meet all applicable building and electrical codes.
- E. A sign within 100 feet of an existing residential use shall not be illuminated between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- F. Lighting for signs shall be maintained and shall not create excessive noise.
- G. Back lit signs located in the Town Center Land Use Classification shall be limited to two (2) colors.

**10.2.6 Maintenance and Upkeep of Signs**

- A. All signs and all components thereof, including supports, braces, and anchors shall be kept in a good state of repair, in compliance with all building and electrical codes, and in conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance (unless deemed a legal non-conforming sign by Nonconformities Chapter of this Ordinance). Any sign which is determined by the Zoning Administrator or building inspector as being insecure, in danger of falling or otherwise endangering the public safety shall be immediately removed by its owner unless it is repaired and made to otherwise comply with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- B. If a sign advertises a business, service, commodity, attraction or other enterprise or activity that is no longer operating or being offered or conducted, then that sign and sign structure

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shall be considered discontinued regardless of reason or intent and shall, within 30 days after such discontinuation, be removed by the owner of the property where the sign is located. A blank sign face shall be provided to prevent any exposed sign light bulbs and other internal sign components.

- C. If a non-conforming sign is damaged or destroyed fifty (50%) or more of its assessed value, such sign may be reconstructed only in compliance with the regulations found herein.

### 10.2.7 Amortization of Non-conforming Signs

Any sign which was erected, placed, attached, suspended, or otherwise put into use prior to the adoption date of this Ordinance shall, within 10 years of the effective date of this Ordinance, comply in every respect with the provisions contained herein. After that time, any such sign which does not comply with these regulations shall be removed or held to be in violation of this Ordinance.

### Section 10.3 Signs That Do Not Require a Permit

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The following types of signs are exempt from permit requirements and may be placed in any zoning district. Such signs shall otherwise be in conformance with all applicable requirements contained in this Ordinance. All such signs (except government signs) shall be located outside of the street right-of-way and shall not be illuminated.

A. Building Marker Signs

Signs etched into building or wall plaque that identify the name of the building, designer, year constructed, or provides similar information.

1. Maximum Size: Two (2) square feet
2. Maximum Number: One (1) per building entrance

B. Address Signs

Signs that identify the address of a property.

1. Maximum Size: Two (2) square feet
2. Maximum Number: One (1) per building side
3. Occupant/Street Number Signs

C. Directional Signs (on-premises)

Signs that are located on the premise/property to provide directions. Such signs contain no copy other than directional information.

1. Maximum Size: Three (3) square feet
2. Maximum Height: 43 inches tall
3. Maximum Number: As necessary

D. Flags

Flags or insignia of any nation, organization of nations, state, county or municipality, any religious, civic or fraternal organization, or any educational or cultural facility and/or any one corporate flag per lot.

1. Maximum Size: 45 square feet
2. Maximum Height: maximum district height
3. Maximum Number: Four (4) per lot of record
4. Use of the American flag shall be in conformance with the Federal Flag Code.

**E. Government Signs**

Signs posted or authorized by various local, State, and federal agencies in the performance of their duties including providing community information and facilitating economic development. Such signs include regulatory signs, traffic signs, welcome signs, bulletin board, and directory signs.

**F. Wayfinding signs (town-sponsored)**

Town sponsored wayfinding signs may be posted within the zoning jurisdiction of Angier. Such signs shall direct travelers and tourists to points of interest including the Town Center, government facilities, cultural arts facilities, historical sites, galleries, accommodations, restaurants, and shops. These directory signs shall meet the design requirements of town sponsored signage as directed by the Town Board of Commissioners. The Town shall install and maintain the signs and shall have discretion over the text posted on the signs. This shall not apply to directory signs installed and maintained by NCDOT.

**G. Legal and Warning Signs**

Signs erected to warn of danger or hazardous conditions such as signs erected by public utility companies or construction companies; signs required for or specifically authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute or ordinance.

**H. Incidental signs**

Signs that cannot be read from the street right-of-way which inform or instruct customers or visitors on-site (i.e. drive-through menu boards, gas pump signs, bulletin boards).

**I. Stadium signs**

Signs located within a stadium intended to be read only by persons seated within the stadium.

**J. Real Estate Signs (on-premises)**

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

1. Maximum Size: Six (6) square feet for individual single-family residential properties and 32 square feet for multi-family residential properties, non-residential properties, vacant properties, and subdivisions
2. Maximum Height: Four (4) feet tall for single-family residential and six (6) feet for multi-family and non-residential
3. Maximum Number: One (1) per street frontage per lot of record

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### Section 10.4 Temporary Signs That Require a Waiver

Temporary signs shall not be subject to a sign permit or fee, but persons or entities placing temporary signs shall sign a waiver stating that they understand and agree to adhere to the requirements for each type of temporary sign. Temporary signs shall not be located within a public street right-of-way or sight triangle and shall not be attached to trees or utility poles or on publicly-owned property. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated except for temporary holiday decorations. Temporary signs that do not fit into one of the following categories are not permitted.

#### K. Real Estate Signs (Off-premise)

Off-premise signs that advertise the sale of residential property. Signs shall only be displayed on weekends and shall not be erected before 5:00 p.m. on Friday and shall be removed by 7:00 a.m. on Monday.

1. Maximum Size: Three (3) square feet
2. Maximum Height: Three (3) feet tall
3. Maximum Number: Three (3) off-premises signs

#### L. Holiday Decorations (Non-residential only)

Temporary decorations or displays, when such are clearly incidental to and are customarily and commonly associated with any national, local or religious holiday/celebration may be displayed not more than 45 days prior to and not more than 14 days following said holiday.

#### M. Yard Sale Signs

Signs shall only be displayed on weekends and shall not be erected before 5pm on Friday and shall be removed by 7:00am on Monday.

1. Maximum Size: Four (4) square feet
2. Maximum Height: Three (3) feet tall
3. Maximum Number: One (1) on-premises sign per street frontage and two (2) off-premises signs

#### N. Window Signs

Signs temporarily attached or temporarily painted to a window or door, announcing sales or special features. Signs that exceed the maximum coverage shall be treated as wall signs.

1. Maximum Coverage: 30 percent of window area

#### O. Sidewalk Signs

A-frame or sandwich board signs may be used to announce sales or special feature during hours of operation only. Such signs shall be professionally made of materials intended for sign manufacturing and shall not impede pedestrian traffic, safety, or access.

1. Maximum Size: Six (6) square feet
2. Maximum Height: Three (3) feet

**Section 10.5 Signs That Require a Temporary Permit**

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**A. Political Signs**

Signs may be displayed during a period beginning 45 days prior to an election, primary, or referendum and concluding seven (7) after the election. In the event of a runoff election, political signs for the candidates involved may remain on display until 48-hours after the runoff election.

1. Maximum Size: Six (6) square feet
2. Maximum Height: Four (4) feet tall
3. Maximum Number: One (1) per candidate/referendum per lot of record

**B. Special Event Signs (On & Off Premise)**

Signs may be erected by public or non-profit organizations such as schools and churches for promoting public events such as fund drives, fairs, festivals, sporting events, etc. Signs may be displayed during a period beginning seven (7) days prior to the event and concluding 48 hours after the event. Such signs shall not be illuminated. Off premise signs will be on town property only.

1. Maximum Size: 32 square feet
2. Maximum Height: Six (6) feet tall
3. Maximum Number: One (1) on-premises sign and three (3) off-premises signs

**C. Banners**

Banners advertising sales or special features may be hung against a wall face only for a fourteen (14) day period of time, no more than six (6) times annually.

1. Maximum Size: 32 square feet
2. Maximum Number: One (1) per business up to six (6) times annually

**D. Inflatable Signs**

Inflatable signs, including inflated balloons, having a diameter of greater than two (2) feet may be flown only for a fourteen (14) day period of time, no more than six (6) times annually

1. Maximum Size: 32 square feet
2. Maximum Number: One (1) per business up to six (6) times annually.

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## Section 10.6 Signs That Require a Permit

Unless otherwise listed herein, signs shall obtain a permit as outlined within this Section.

### 10.6.1 Signs Permitted by Type

		Max. # of walls with signs	Max. # signs per			Max. sign area		Max. Height	Min. distance between signs on same property	Notes
			Street Frontage	Project	Entrance	Project < one acre	Project > one acre			
<b>SINGLE TENANT</b>	Ground		1	2		70 sq. ft.	70 sq. ft.	20 ft.	300 ft.	
	Wall	3				sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall	sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall			
<b>MULTI-TENANT &amp; SHOPPING COMPLEX</b>	Ground		1			40 sq. ft. + 10 sq. ft. for each tenant up to 100 sq. ft.	40 sq. ft. + 12 sq. ft. for each tenant up to 150 sq. ft.	20 ft.	300 ft.	
	Wall	2*				sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall	sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall			Applies to each tenant of complex
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION</b>	Ground				1	NA	32 sq. ft. per entrance	20 ft.		
<b>CIVIC &amp; INSTITUTIONAL</b>	Ground		1	2		70 sq. ft.	70 sq. ft.	20 ft.	300 ft.	
	Wall	3				sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall	sq. ft. = Total linear ft. of mounting wall			Applies to each facility
<b>OFF-PREMISES CIVIC</b>	Ground			2		6 sq. ft.	NA	8 ft.		
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	Temporary Ground		1	1		32 sq. ft.	64 sq. ft.	8 ft.	300 ft.	Must be removed at completion or end

**10.6.2 Additional Requirements by Sign Type**

**A. Ground Signs**

1. All Ground signs shall be monument, pole, or arm style. Monument signs shall be constructed with the bottom of the sign portion of the structure beginning no more than three (3) feet from the ground and shall not exceed six (6) feet in height. Pole signs shall include encasement around any and all poles on the sign.
2. Developments with two (2) or more tenants shall utilize a multi-tenant sign.
3. If changeable copy, electronic reader board, or LED signs are utilized as part of a permitted ground sign, then the total area of such sign shall be a minimum of 30 percent and a maximum of 50 percent changeable copy, electronic reader board, or LED signage. Electronic reader board or LED signs that display anything other than the time and temperature shall not change messages or images more often than every five (5) seconds.

**B. Wall Signs**

1. The total allowable area for wall signs in the table above shall include canopy signs and awning signs.
2. Maximum projection is 12 inches from the wall face.
3. Signs shall not extend above the parapet or eave of the building.
4. Wall signs shall not utilize changeable copy, electronic reader board, or LED area.
5. As indicated with an asterisk (\*) in the “Signs Permitted by Type” Table, a second wall sign shall be permitted for multi-tenant and shopping mall complexes in cases where the second wall has frontage on a major corridor or if entrances are located on both walls.

**10.6.3 Amortization of Non-Conforming Signs**

Any sign which was erected, placed, attached, suspended, or otherwise put into use prior to the adoption of this Ordinance shall, within 10 years of the date of adoption of this Ordinance, comply with the following provisions. After that time, any such sign that does not comply shall be removed or be considered in violation of this Ordinance. All poles that are included as part of, or are related to, an existing pole sign shall be encased.

**Section 10.7 Prohibited Signs**

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- A. Any sign which the Administrator determines obstructs the view of bicyclists or motorists using any street, approach to any street intersection, or which interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures any traffic sign, device, or signal shall be prohibited.
- B. Illuminated, highly reflective signs, or spot lights which hamper the vision of motorists or bicyclists.
- C. Signs not erected by a public authority which may be erroneously construed as government signs or emergency warning signs. An example of this is a sign which contains a picture of a traffic sign plus the word "Stop", "Yield", "Slow", "Danger", or any other simulation of traffic or regulatory signs or messages.

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- D. Any sign located outdoors which interferes with free passage from or obstructs any fire escape, downspout, window, door, stairway, ladder, or opening intended as a means of ingress or egress or providing light or air.
- E. Any sign (other than a government sign), banner or display placed on any curb, sidewalk, post, pole, hydrant, bridge, tree, or other surface located on, over, or across any public street or right-of-way, unless otherwise permitted.
- F. Illuminated tubing or strands of lights except for temporary holiday displays as permitted in this Chapter.
- G. Portable signs and any sign whose sign face was initially constructed and designed to be placed and/or transported on wheels, regardless if said sign face is removed from its base and placed on or in the ground so as to otherwise classify said sign as a "ground" sign as herein defined.
- H. Parked vehicles with messages (exempting vehicles with commercial advertising which are used regularly and customarily to transport persons or property for business and are not intended for primarily for advertising use).
- I. Rotating signs.
- J. Roof signs and signs that extend above the parapet wall.
- K. Billboards.
- L. Off-premises signs and signs placed on property without permission of its owner(s) or agent, unless otherwise permitted in this Chapter.
- M. Other signs not expressly permitted in this Ordinance.