

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 06

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING VARIOUS STANDARDS IN THE SIGN CODE, THEREBY AMENDING CHAPTER 21 AND APPENDIX A OF THE CITY CODE

The City Council of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 21 of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting those words that are contained in brackets [] with strikethrough text and adding those words that are underlined, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 21: ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE III: DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

DIVISION D: SIGN REGULATIONS

§ 21.304.07 DEFINITIONS.

FREESTANDING SIGN. A sign with supporting framework placed on, or anchored in, the ground and which is independent from any building or other structure.

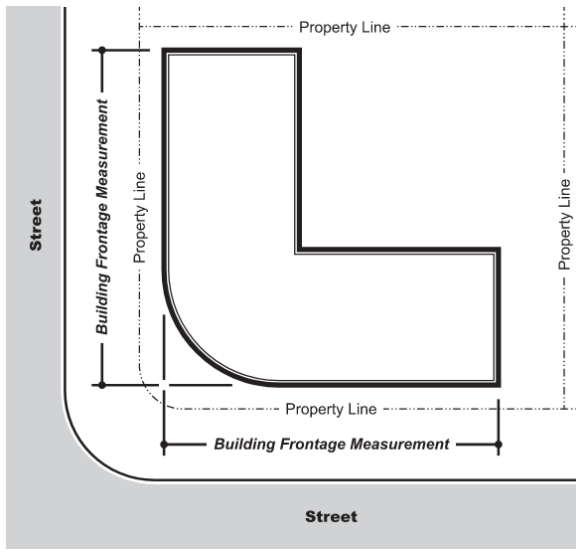
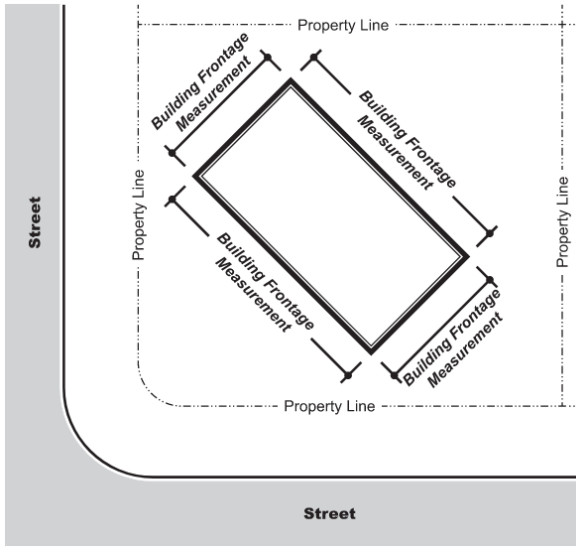
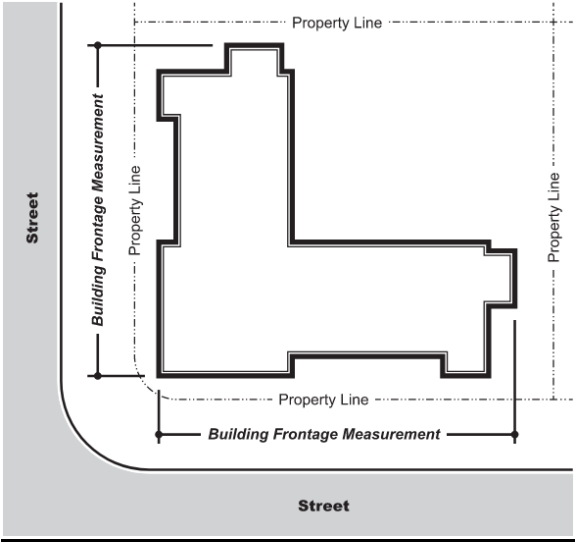
FRONTAGE, BUILDING. The linear distance of the side of a building measured on a per elevation basis.

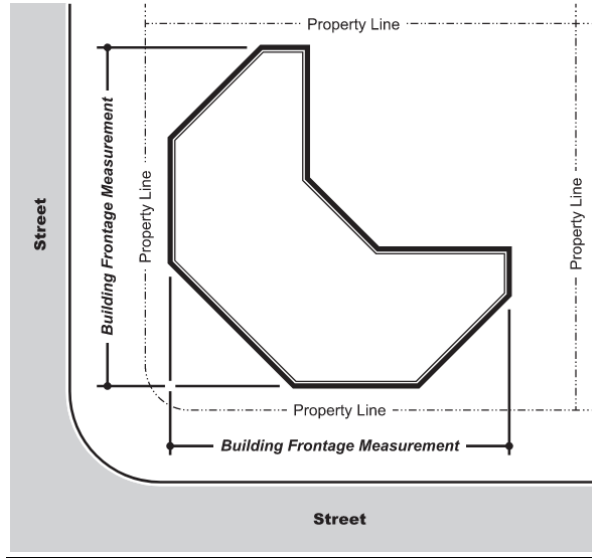
FRONTAGE, LOT. The line of contact of a property with the public right-of-way.

GRADE. The final ground elevation after construction. Earth mounding criteria for landscaping and screening is not part of the grade for sign height computation. See § 21.304.27 for graphic illustrations.

§ 21.304.08 COMPUTATIONS.

(f) *Building frontage measurement.* For the purposes of determining allowances for building signage, building frontage for uniquely shaped buildings will be calculated as shown in the following graphic illustrations:





§ 21.304.11 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

(b) *Prohibited signs.* The following signs are prohibited in all sign districts:

(14) [~~Roof signs~~]Reserved.

§ 21.304.12 REGULATED SIGNS EXEMPT FROM OBTAINING A SIGN PERMIT.

(a) The City Council finds that allocating public funds and staff resources to those signs that present the most public safety and aesthetic problems will better achieve the overall purposes of this sign code. Requiring a permit for every type of sign in the city would unduly tax staff resources, thus diluting the overall enforcement of this sign code. Therefore, the City Council finds that the following sign types shall be regulated pursuant to this sign code but shall be exempt from the requirement of obtaining a sign permit and from the payment of a permit fee, provided the sign meets all other applicable requirements of this sign code. These exemptions do not override any more restrictive terms in contracts or leases between owners and tenants or between common-interest communities and owners, tenants, members, or occupants.

(12) *Directional and incidental signs.* Directional and incidental signs are exempt from the permit requirement, subject to the following:

(A) *Size.* Signs may not exceed 12[~~eight~~] square feet when freestanding or[~~and 12 square feet~~] when mounted on a building, except in the Class IV Sign District, where directional and incidental signs may not exceed 20 square feet.

(B) *Height.* Signs may not exceed six feet in height when freestanding and 12 feet in height when mounted on a building.

(C) *Location*. Freestanding signs must be set back a minimum of ten feet from public streets or right-of-way and five feet from side and rear lot lines.

(D) *Identification*. Business, project, or site identification as part of a directional or incidental sign must not exceed ~~two~~[one] square ~~feet~~[feet].

§ 21.304.13 TEMPORARY SIGNS.

(b) *Temporary signs exempt from permit requirement*. The following temporary signs shall be allowed on a lot or site without a permit, provided the temporary sign meets the following standards and all other applicable requirements of this sign code:

<i>Temporary Sign Type</i>	<i>Maximum Number</i>	<i>Minimum Setbacks</i>		<i>Maximum Height (when freestanding)</i>	<i>Maximum Area</i>	<i>Maximum Duration</i>
		<i>Along Public Streets</i>	<i>Side or Rear Yard</i>			

Sign for a new multi-family residential (building sign only)	1 per street frontage	N/A	N/A	N/A ⁷	[64] 100 sq. ft	Must be removed within two years after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the new building

§ 21.304.15 SIGN TYPES ALLOWED BY SIGN DISTRICT.

(c) *Signs allowed by sign district*.

<i>Sign Types</i>	<i>Sign Districts</i>					<i>Sign Type Standards</i>
	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>	<i>Class V</i>	

Building Signs						§ 21.304.17

Canopy signs	P	P	P	P	P	
Roof-integral signs	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	
Roof signs			<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	
Service area canopy signs		P ³	P			

§ 21.304.16 FREESTANDING SIGNS.

(a) *Applicability*. Regulations for freestanding permanent signs are applicable to monument, pylon, incidental, and directional signs as defined in § 21.304.07.

(b) *General freestanding sign standards.*

(1) *Prohibitions.*

(A) *Clear view triangle.* No sign or sign structure taller than three feet in height may be located within a clear view triangle area as defined in § 19.03.

(B) *Encroachment into public easements.* No freestanding sign may encroach into or be located within a public easement of record without written approval from the City Engineer or their designee~~[Director of Public Works]~~.

(4) *Planned developments.* When there are multiple contiguous properties within an approved planned development of record, the properties are considered one property for the purposes of freestanding signage allowances. Additional signs may be approved through planned development flexibility as specified in § 21.208.03.

(5) *Orientation.* When a freestanding sign is located at and oriented towards the corner of a site with multiple intersecting street frontages, the property owner may choose to which street the freestanding sign shall be allocated.

(f) *Special freestanding sign provisions.* The following special freestanding sign provisions are applicable across all sign districts:

(2) *High usage parks, playfields, ~~[and]~~ golf courses, and community facilities.* Freestanding signage allowances at high usage park sites (Bush Lake Beach, Valley View Playfield, Gene C. Kelly Playfield, Dred Scott Playfield, Moir Park, Mount Normandale Lake Park, and Hyland Regional Park), high school playfields (Jefferson, Kennedy, and Lincoln school fields), golf courses (Dwan, Hyland Greens, and Minnesota Valley), and Bloomington Ice Garden are as follows in place of the sign number, height, and size regulations in subsection (c) above:

(A) *Main freestanding ~~[park]~~ sign.* One freestanding sign up to 80 square feet in area is allowed.

(B) *Additional freestanding ~~[park]~~ signs.* For parks, golf courses, and community facilities with more than one public entrance, one additional freestanding sign up to 24 square feet in area is allowed per entrance.

§ 21.304.17 BUILDING SIGNS (WALL, AWNING, CANOPY, PROJECTING, AND THE LIKE).

(c) *Basic design elements of building signs.*

(4) *Projecting and suspended signs.*

(A) *Minimum clearance.* Projecting and suspended signs must have a minimum clearance of eight feet above any sidewalk.

(5) Roof signs.

(A) Maximum height. Roof signs may not extend more than ten feet above the roof of a building and must comply with structure height limits in § 21.301.10.

(d) *Building sign standards.* Building signs must comply with the requirements in the following table according to the sign district in which they are located:

<i>Sign District</i>	<i>Building Sign Standards</i>		
	<i>Maximum Number of Building Elevations with Signage</i>	<i>Maximum Number of Buildings Signs Allowed</i>	<i>Maximum Total Area of Allowed Signage per Building Elevation</i>

Class V	4	Residential uses – [4]3 per building elevation Nonresidential uses – No limit	Residential uses – 50 sq. ft. Nonresidential uses – 1.25 sq. ft. per lineal foot of tenant space or building frontage with no individual sign exceeding 250 square feet when visible from and within 250 feet of a dwelling on designated residential property

§ 21.304.19 VIDEO SIGNS.

(a) *Findings and purpose.* Studies show a positive correlation between video signs and driver distraction. Distracted driving can result in increased traffic crashes or other hazardous events. The following standards are intended to minimize potential driver distraction, hazards to public safety, and related nuisance characteristics associated with video signs.

(b) *Orientation.* In all sign districts, the video sign must be placed, illuminated, and oriented in a manner that meets traffic safety standards as determined by the City Engineer or their designee and so that no portion of the sign face is visible from:

§ 21.304.21 SIGN CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS.

(a) *Construction standards.*

(1) *Conformance with building code.* All permanent signs must be constructed and erected in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota State Building Code. Where required, a building permit must be obtained prior to the installation of a sign.

(2) *Conformance with electrical code.* All lit signs must be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Electrical Code. Where required, an electrical permit must be obtained prior to the installation of a sign.

(3) Permanent sign materials. Permanent signs must be constructed of durable and rigid materials.

ARTICLE V: ADMINISTRATION AND NONCONFORMITY

DIVISION A: APPROVALS AND PERMITS

§ 21.501.06 MASTER SIGN PLAN.

(c) *Flexibility.* Upon making the findings in § 21.501.06(e), the Planning Commission, or City Council in the case of an appeal, may, at its reasonable discretion and with no obligation, grant flexibility to sign standards for number, size, location, and type through the master sign plan application process.

(d) *Review, ~~and~~ approval, and appeal.* New master sign plans and major revisions to previously approved master sign plans must be acted upon~~[reviewed]~~ by the Planning Commission~~[-and acted upon by the City Council]~~. If the Planning Commission action results in a tie vote, or if the approval or denial action is not consistent with the staff recommendation, the Master Sign Plan application is automatically sent to the City Council for final action. The applicant or a member of the public may appeal the decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council by submitting an appeal request with supporting materials within three business days of the Planning Commission decision. The appellant will be given the opportunity to present their case in front of the City Council. Following the approval of a master sign plan, ~~[S]~~staff may issue sign permits that have minor differences from the master sign plan provided the signs substantially conform to the spirit and intent of the approved master sign plan.

DIVISION B: APPLICATION PROCESSES

§ 21.502.01 APPLICATION PROCESSES.

(c) *Application processes and fees.* See City Code Appendix A for fees.

Application Processes	Review and Decision Making Authority					Notice		
	DRC	ST	HE	PC	CC	N	Mail	

Master Sign Plans								
Master sign plans		R		PH DM	[DM]	N	500	
Revisions to master sign plans		R		PH DM	[DM]	N	500	
Time extension on expiration		DM						
<u>Suspension or revocation of master sign plan</u>		<u>R</u>		<u>PH</u>	<u>PH DM</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>500</u>	
<u>Appeal of decision by the Planning</u>		R			DM			

<u>Commission (fee applies only if applicant appeals)</u>								
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Section 2. That Appendix A of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting those words that are contained in brackets [] with ~~strike through~~ text and adding those words that are underlined, to read as follows:

APPENDIX A: ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF AND FEE SCHEDULE

This appendix contains the various fees adopted by ordinance in the listed sections of the City Code.

CODE SECTION	CROSS-REF	DESCRIPTION	FEE
CHAPTER 21: Zoning and Land Development			
§ 21.502.01(c)	§21.502.01(b)(11)	Variances	
		Variance for single- and two-family dwellings	\$310*
		Variance for other uses	\$610*
		Appeal of decision by the Planning Commission (fee applies only if applicant appeals)	\$220*
		Master Sign Plans	
		Master sign plans	\$660
		Revisions to master sign plans	\$420
		Time extension on expiration	\$170
		<u>Appeal of decision by the Planning Commission (fee applies only if applicant appeals)</u>	<u>\$220</u>
		<u>Suspension or revocation of master sign plan</u>	<u>No fee</u>

Passed and adopted this 28th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Tim Busse

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kaytlyn Danielzuk

Secretary to the Council

APPROVED:

/s/ Melissa J. Manderscheid

City Attorney