

ORDINANCE #2000-01

BURNETT COUNTY SIGN ORDINANCE

SECTION I: PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect and preserve the natural scenic beauty of Burnett County. Tourism and recreation are an important part of Burnett County's economics and these activities are enhanced by natural northwoods aesthetics. At the same time Burnett County wishes to permit the careful planning, future growth and efficient maintenance of our public roadways. It is the intent of this ordinance to promote safety, convenience and enjoyment of public travel while protecting the natural beauty and amenities of our landscape by regulating placement of signs throughout the County.

SECTION II: APPLICABILITY

- A. This ordinance shall regulate the placement of signs in all unincorporated areas of Burnett County.

SECTION III: GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Definitions:

1. Sign-any device visible from a public place whose essential purpose and design is to convey either commercial or non-commercial messages by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or representations. Non-commercial flags or any flags displayed from flagpoles or staffs will not be considered to be signs.
2. Sign Structure - Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
3. Double Faced Sign - A sign with two faces back to back or with an interior angle of less than 30 degrees (also known as V-signs).
4. Off Premise Sign - A sign whose message content does not bear any relationship to the activities conducted on the premises on which it is located.
5. On Premise Sign - A sign whose message content bears a direct relationship to the activities conducted on the premises on which it is located.
6. Temporary Sign - A sign intended to display either commercial or non-commercial messages of a transitory or temporary nature. Portable signs or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground, not permanently affixed to a building, or attached to a sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, are considered temporary signs.
7. Freestanding Sign - A sign principally supported by one or more columns, poles, or braces placed in or upon the ground.
8. Directional Signs - Signs containing directional information about public places owned or operated by federal, state, or local governments or their agencies; publicly or privately owned natural phenomena, historic, cultural, scientific, educational, and religious sites; and areas of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for outdoor recreation, deemed to be in the interest of the traveling public. Also arrow or guidance signs providing names and guidance information for residences or businesses.

B. General Provisions:

1. Any sign hereafter erected shall conform to the provisions of this ordinance and the provisions of any other ordinance or regulation of the County.
2. No sign other than an official traffic sign or similar sign shall be erected within the right-of-way lines of any street, road, highway, or public way.
3. Signs projecting over public walkways may do so subject to a minimum clearance height of ten (10) feet from grade level to the bottom of the sign.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section E, no sign or structure shall be erected at the intersection of any road in such a manner as to obstruct the free and clear vision of a driver of any motor vehicle, nor at any location where by its position, shape or color it may interfere with or obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device.
5. If a commercial or industrial premise contains more than one property usage, the sign area(s) will still be considered as a single usage for the free standing sign. Signage within and on the façade of a building will not count towards square footage or number of signs.
6. Every sign permitted by this ordinance must be kept in good condition and repair. When any sign becomes insecure, in danger of falling, or is otherwise deemed unsafe by the Land Use Committee, or if any sign shall be unlawfully installed, or erected, in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance or State Laws, the owner thereof and/or the person or firm using the sign shall, upon written notice of the Land Use Administrator forthwith in the case of immediate danger and in any case within not more than ten (10) days, remove or repair said sign. If the order is not complied with, the Land Use Administrator may remove or cause such sign to be removed at the expense of the owner of the property and/or the owner of the sign.
7. Any sign legally existing at the time of passage of this ordinance that does not conform to the provisions of this ordinance, shall be considered a protected non-conforming use and may continue in such status until such time as it is either abandoned or removed by its owner. Maintenance of the sign for purposes of changing the sign message shall not be considered an alteration requiring conformance with the ordinance.
8. A double faced sign as defined elsewhere in this ordinance shall only be allowed with the two faces displayed back to back or with an interior angle of no greater than 30 degrees. Such sign will be considered one sign structure and each side will not be considered a separate sign for purposes of display area size restrictions.
9. Temporary signs, unless otherwise regulated by specific provisions of this ordinance related to size, use, and district in which placed, shall be subject to the following regulations:
 - a. No temporary sign shall be permitted to be displayed for a period in excess of 45 days in any one period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days. (No permit required.)
 - b. The size and spacing of any temporary sign shall conform to requirements of Section E.1 and E.2.
 - c. Subdivision development signs: The Land Use Administrator shall issue a special permit for a temporary sign in any district in connection with the

marketing of lots or structures within a subdivision provided the sign is located entirely on the property being developed, and must apply to all applicable building setback requirements specified in this ordinance, or the Shoreland Protection Land Use Ordinance. The signs must not exceed 96 square feet. Such permits may be issued for a period of one year and may be reviewed for additional periods of up to one year upon written application at least thirty (30) days prior to its expiration.

10. All signs are prohibited from all zoning districts in Burnett County unless specifically authorized to be located in the district in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

C. Sign Placement

1. On premise signs are allowed in any district subject to space and size requirements as provided for in Section E.2 of this ordinance.
2. Signs not requiring a permit as described in Section F.6 are permitted in any district.
3. Directional signs shall be a maximum of 7"x72" on common post.

D. Prohibited Signs

1. No off premise sign shall contain, include, nor be composed of any animated or moving parts.
2. No sign shall be painted upon or attached to trucks, other vehicles or boats, or parts thereof, and parked on a parcel for purposes of visual display. Vehicles operating in the normal course of business (other than used solely for the display of signs) are exempt from this provision.
3. No off premise signs shall be located within 1000 feet of navigable water.

E. Sign Dimensions and Spacing

1. Off Premise Signs:

Class of Hwy.	Spacing Between Sign Structures on Same side of Road	Spacing From Public Road Intersection*	Area/Size of Signs (per direction)
Town Roads	1320 Feet	300 Feet	40 Square Feet
County Roads	1320 Feet	300 Feet	40 Square Feet
State and US Hwy.	2640 Feet	300 Feet	128 Square Feet

**As measured from intersection of road intersecting centerlines.*

2. On Premise Signs:

District	Number of Signs	Total Sign Area	Maximum Height
Residential	1	8 Square Feet	5 Feet

Commercial	1 Freestanding Sign	96 Square Feet (96 Square Feet each side for double faced signs)	20 Feet
Agricultural	No Limit	96 Square Feet	15 Feet
Industrial	1 Freestanding Sign	96 Square Feet	20 Feet

(The number and area of signs will not pertain to signs within and on the façade of a building advertising the use/business within such building.)

F. Permits

1. A permit must be obtained from the Burnett County Land Use Office for the erection of all signs or sign structures, except for those noted in Section F.6.
2. Before any permit is granted for the erection of a sign or sign structure requiring such permit, plans and specifications shall be filed with the Burnett County Land Use Office showing the dimensions and materials to be used. The permit application shall be accompanied by the written consent of the owner or lessee of the premises on which the sign is to be erected.
3. No new sign or sign structure shall hereafter be erected or constructed except as herein provided and until after a permit, if required, has been issued by the Burnett County Land Use Office.
4. No sign or sign structure shall be enlarged or relocated except in conformity to the provisions herein, nor until a proper permit, if required, has been secured. The changing of copy, display and/or graphic matter, or the content of any sign shall not be deemed an alteration.
5. Permit fees to erect, alter, or relocate a sign shall be in accordance with the sign fee schedule adopted by the County.
6. Signs not requiring a permit and not requiring compliance to Section III. E. but must meet all other requirements of this ordinance:
 - a. Historical markers and sign erected by the State or Burnett County Historical Society.
 - b. No Hunting or Trespassing signs not to exceed one and one-half square feet in area/size per sign.
 - c. Public utility signs indicating danger.
 - d. Political campaign signs provided that such signs be erected no sooner than 60 days prior to the election and shall be removed within 7 days following said election. Maximum sign area shall be 16 square feet in non-residential districts and 8 square feet in residential districts. Political and campaign signs shall not be attached to public signs or utility poles. No such sign shall be placed within the right-of-way lines nor closer than 50 feet from an intersection, or over the right-of-way.
 - e. Real estate signs shall be limited to one on premise sign per lot or parcel and must not be illuminated. In residential districts such signs shall be limited to 8 square feet in area. In all other districts, real estate signs shall not be more than 16 square feet in area. Real estate signs shall be removed within 30 days after the sale or lease has been accomplished.
 - f. On premise religious symbols, insignia, or signs not exceeding 96 square feet.

- g. Vehicular signs on trucks, trailers, buses or other vehicles while operating in the normal course of business, which is not in the display of signs.
- h. On premise temporary signs pertaining to drives or events of philanthropic, educational, religious organizations, or other non-profit organizations as defined by the IRS, provided such signs are posted not more than thirty (30) days prior to said event and are removed within 7 days after the event.
- i. Directional and instructional signs which provide instructions or direction and are located entirely within the property to which they pertain and do not exceed eight (8) square feet in area and do not in any way advertise a business. This includes but is not limited to such signs as identifying rest rooms, telephone, parking areas, entrances and exits.
- j. Directional signs to cottages or residences provided they do not interfere with or obstruct the view of any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device. Each sign not to exceed 7"x72" and must be on common posts. (Business directional signs not included in exemption.)
- k. Test plot signs erected in agricultural districts provided each sign does not exceed 8 square feet in area.
- l. Public or private signs required as specifically authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute or ordinance.
- m. On premise temporary advertising banners provided the banners do not exceed 32 square feet and displayed for no more than 45 consecutive days. Temporary sign not to be included in total square feet allowed as on premise signs.
- n. Temporary garage/yard/auction type signs for no more than a 72 hour period of time after which must be completely removed by individual placing sign.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and publication as provided by law.

ENACTED by the Burnett County Board of Supervisors on January 13, 2000.

PUBLISHED in BURNETT COUNTY SENTINEL on January 19, 2000.