Signs that require a permit

Freestanding and monument signs: A sign on the property that is not attached to the building. The size allowance is based on the zoning district and distance from the centerline of the adjacent street. The sign size is calculated by the distance of the closest edge of the sign from the centerline of the road.

Wall signs: Sign attached to the wall of the building. The amount of signage allowed is calculated by zone, the principal building frontage, and the distance of the sign from the centerline.

Electronic Messaging Display (EMD): These are allowed only in commercial and industrial zone districts. At least 50% of the total sign face must be non-EMD. Moving text or images are not allowed, and transitions must be instant and subtle (e.g., fade or dissolve).

General Information

- Wall signs and freestanding signs are not calculated the same way. The Greeley Sign Code “allows” wall signs in that they are permitted to be larger than freestanding signs given a similar setback.
- In general speaking, a sign can be taller and larger the further it is inside the property line.
- Setbacks: The minimum distance required between the apparent centerline of the right-of-way and any portion of a sign or sign structure. (see example below).
- Properties with more than 200 feet of street frontage can have one freestanding sign. Properties with less than 200 feet are not permitted a freestanding sign, unless the wall sign is traded out for some or all of the wall signage for a freestanding sign.
- Properties with more than 500 feet can have 2 freestanding signs.
- Permit fees are based on the valuation of the sign. Sign permits are issued by the Building Inspection Division after the Planning Division has approved the size and location of the sign.
- Temporary sign permits are issued by the Planning Division.
- Signs for a home occupation are not allowed.
- Historic signs are those that have been officially designated as a historic landmark by the Greeley Historic Preservation Commission. The sign must be structurally safe.
- Public schools are encouraged to adhere to the same sign standards as private schools in the R-H zone district.
- Holiday decorations are allowed 60 days prior to the holiday and no more than 30 days after the holiday.
Signs

This guide specifies the general standards and requirements for signs in the City of Greeley. Please also consult Chapter 18.54 of the City of Greeley Development Code for complete information on signs before applying for a sign permit. The zone district of property plays a key role in how much signage is permitted. A Greeley zoning map and the Code can be found at www.greeleygov.com.

An important function of signage is to assist in the identification and advertisement of business locations, products and services, public facilities, and residential developments. Sign regulations are used to set standards, as well as ensure signs contribute positively to the City’s image. The sign types and general regulations listed below are examples of the most common sign. For a complete list of sign types and regulations, please consult Chapter 18.54 of the City’s Development Code.

Allowances for signs not needing a permit

Include, but not limited to:

Address signs: 2 signs limited to 2 square feet each.

Change of copy: Once a structure receives legally conforming status from the City, the sign copy may thereafter be changed without a permit. All other copy changes, such as painted signs or channel lettering, require a sign permit.

Election signs: No more than 32 square feet. These signs are only allowed on sites with property owner permission.

Garage and private sale signs: One garage or private sale sign is allowed per residential property. The sign must be placed on private property owned or leased by the person holding the sale, not to exceed six square feet in size.

Human “spinning” signs: A sign carried or worn by a person, whether on public or private property. A person carrying or wearing a sign may be located on a public sidewalk, provided that traffic is not impeded and the individual is not in harms way.

Open house signs: A sign no more than 6 square feet in size and 5 feet in height announcing an open house event is allowed per property. Such signs can be displayed only on the day of the open house and the day prior to the open house. On premises or off premises display of signs is permitted only with the consent of the owner.

Portable signs (“A-Frame”): Allowed if it is within 20 feet of the entrance to the business, is no larger than 6 square feet, no greater than 48 in. in height and only visible during business operation hours.

Real estate signs: No more than 7 square feet for residential and 32 square feet for commercial or industrial uses.

Wind driven devices: Devices are allowed only in commercial and industrial zoned properties. They must not exceed 2 feet in width and 8 feet in height.

Window signs: No more than 25% of any individual window pane visible from street frontage or adjacent property can be covered.

Prohibited Signs

Include, but not limited to:

Flashing, moving, or animated signs: Any sign or part of a sign which is designed to move in any manner, including rotating, revolving, spinning, flapping, waving, shimmering or imitates governmental warning devices is prohibited (e.g., sirens, police lights).

Off-premise signs, (e.g., billboard): Signs advertising a business can only be located on the business property. No new billboards are permitted: Only grandfathered off-premise signs are allowed.

Roof signs: Letters, numbers, or images which project above the roofline are prohibited.

Nongovernmental signs or public utilities: No sign may be attached to utility poles or other public structures within the public right-of-way, except as specifically authorized by the City.

Signs placed in the public right-of-way: Signs located in any portion of the public right-of-way are prohibited unless they meet the provisions necessary or do not have a Right-of-Way Structure Revocable Permit, when required.

Temporary Signs

Temporary signs: These require a temporary sign permit, which can be found at: http://greeleygov.com/services/planning/documents. They are allowed a maximum of 60 days per year. No more than 50 square feet in industrial and C-H zones, and no more than 33 square feet in R-H and C-L zones are allowed.

Search lights and beacons are considered temporary signs and are allowed 3 days per calendar year. Inflatable signs containing advertisements shall be less than 33 square feet and will be allowed 60 days per calendar year.