

GUIDE TO NON-COMMERCIAL TEMPORARY SIGNS

Guide Overview

This guide provides helpful information related to non-commercial temporary signs.

Types of Non-Commercial Temporary Signs

General Guidelines

Examples

Code Reference

Signage
Chapter 21A.45 SMC

Signage (Town Center)
Chapter 21B.45 SMC

Questions?

Submit Project Guidance
Visit the Permit Center

City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE
Sammamish, WA 98075
www.sammamish.us

ABOUT NON-COMMERCIAL TEMPORARY SIGNS

A non-commercial sign is any sign that does not contain a commercial message (e.g. advertisement). Examples of non-commercial signs include political signs and signs regarding fund raising or membership drive activities for non-commercial or nonprofit entities or groups.

Due to a 2015 Supreme Court case (Reed v. Gilbert, AZ), the City may no longer regulate noncommercial signs based on the content of the message. In other words, the City may no longer regulate political signs, fundraising signs, and community event signs differently. These sign categories have been replaced by a “non-commercial temporary sign” category.

On May 16, 2017, the Sammamish City Council passed [Ordinance O2017-436](#), which includes new regulations related to non-commercial temporary signs.

TYPES OF NON-COMMERCIAL TEMPORARY SIGNS	
Type 1: Non-A-Frame sign placed in City Right-of-Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May be up to 4 square feet in size and 3 feet above grade in height. – May be placed within City Right-of-way for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.
Type 2: A-Frame sign placed in City Right-of-Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May be up to 6 square feet in size and 3.5 feet in height. – May be placed within City Right-of-way for a maximum of 5 consecutive days.
Type 3: Temporary signs on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May be up to 32 square feet in size and 8 feet in height. – May be placed, with the permission of the landowner, for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Non-commercial temporary signs may not be placed in the following locations:

PLACES WHERE NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS ARE PROHIBITED	
Within center medians	Attached to traffic control signs
Within traffic circles or islands	Attached to utility or signal poles
Planting strips adjacent to City-owned land	Within roundabouts & areas on the outside edge of a roundabout
Within vehicle travel lanes	Within sidewalks

2. On roads with no sidewalk, non-commercial temporary signs must be placed outside of the edge of the asphalt and may not be placed so that any part of the sign extends over the asphalt.
3. Non-commercial temporary signs may not be illuminated.
4. Non-commercial temporary signs shall not be placed in a manner that negatively affects the health of trees, shrubs, or other landscaping.
5. Signs placed in violation of Chapter 21A.45 or 21B.45 SMC will be subject to enforcement and possible removal pursuant to SMC 21A.45.100.
6. Sign and property owners are responsible for removing their sign(s) after the sign has been posted for the maximum allowed duration.

EXAMPLES

Examples of Non-Commercial Temporary Sign types can be found on page 3 of this guide.

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[About Non-Commercial Temporary Signs](#)

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EXAMPLES OF NON-COMMERICAL TEMPORARY SIGNS

All pictures below are examples of sign types and are for illustration only.

TYPE 1 – NON-A-FRAME SIGN PLACED IN RIGHT OF WAY



This type of sign may be up to 4 square feet in size and 3 feet above grade in height. Non-A-Frame Signs may be placed within right-of-way for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.

TYPE 2 – A-FRAME SIGN PLACED IN RIGHT OF WAY



This type of sign may be up to 6 square feet in size and 3.5 feet in height. A-Frame Signs may be placed within right-of-way for a maximum of 5 consecutive days.

TYPE 3 – TEMPORARY SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY



These types of signs may be up to 32 square feet in size and 8 feet in height. With the permission of the landowner, temporary signs may be placed for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.