

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

The Neighborhood Standards Division of Community & Economic Development is responsible for inspecting ordinance violations that cover the exterior, non-structural maintenance of the property.

This brochure explains some common ordinance complaints such as:

- Inoperable and abandoned vehicles
- Vehicles parking on the grass
- RV, trailer and boat storage
- Excessive garbage
- Fencing
- Tall grass
- Signs and banners
- Other Zoning Ordinances

City of Rockford
425 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
815-987-5600
815-967-6933 (fax)
815-987-5718 (TDD)



Excellence in Services

Signs & Banners

City of Rockford's Zoning Ordinance Article 51 addresses Signs and Banners. Because there are many types of signs and banners, the information in this pamphlet is intended to be used only as a guideline. For more specific information regarding the ordinance regulating signs and banners, please call the City of Rockford Current Planning Office at 987-5585.

Permits are required for most signs and banners and can be obtained through the Construction & Development Division.

Signs Not Permitted

- Signs which change messages by rotating or swiveling
 - Strobe lights
 - Mobile signs – any sign designed to be moved easily and not permanently affixed to the ground or to a structure or building
 - Searchlights, except by temporary permit
 - Signs erected on public property
 - Signs posted on fences which are located on property lines
 - Signs posted on utility poles, trees, or on other natural features
 - Sign erected on rooftops
 - Sandwich signs – a folding mobile sign
 - Signs attached to or painted on a vehicle parked on a adjacent to a public thoroughfare for the sole purpose of advertising
 - Signs carried, waved or otherwise displayed by persons either on public rights-of-way or in a manner visible from public rights-of-way intended to draw attention for a commercial purpose.
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Garage, Yard or Rummage Sale Signs

No permit is required if the proposed sign does not exceed the following limitations:

Garage, yard or rummage sale signs not larger than 2 feet by 2 feet, 4 square feet to be displayed only on private property for no more than 4 days in any 6 month period are permitted. Such signs shall be removed the day following the sale.

Garage, yard or rummage sale signs are limited to one per zoning lot in residential districts. Such signs are not permitted on property not used for residential purposes.

Banners

Banners or inflatable signs and advertising devices are permitted in Commercial and Industrial Districts for not more than 7 calendar days in any one 6 month period. There is a limit of 2 and a temporary sign permit is required.

Political Signs

Residential Property

Political signs on a residential property shall not exceed five (5) square feet in size. There are no restrictions on the number or duration of said signs.

Commercial and Industrial Districts

Political signs on commercial and industrial zoned property shall not exceed five (5) square feet in size, no more than two (2) signs per candidate or issue, may not be posted more than ninety (90) days prior to the election and must be removed within five (5) days after the election.

Additional political signs are subject to the same regulations as any temporary sign or inside window sign. Additional political signs are permitted only to the extent allowed under the zoning regulation.

Real Estate Signs

No permits are required for signs that meet the restrictions below

In residential districts: “For Sale”, “For Rent”, or “Open House” signs are permitted up to 5 square feet in size. Such signs are limited to one per zoning lot, except corner lots may display one sign visible from each street frontage, and may be displayed as long as the property is for sale or rent. Property directional signs are not larger than 2 square feet may be installed at the head of a cul-de-sac or an arterial street leading to the property during sale or lease period, but must be private property (e.g. not within the parkway between sidewalk and curb) and have that land owner’s permission.

In commercial and industrial districts: Signs up to 32 square feet on property up to 5 acres in size and up to 64 square feet on property of 5 acres or more. Such signs are limited to one per zoning lot, except corner lots may display one sign visible from each street frontage. Signs must be located in minimum of 5 feet from property line, located outside of the sight triangle and not distract the view of traffic. Signs must be removed within 14 days of sale or lease.

Get More Information

Neighborhood Standards was formed in 1998 by the City of Rockford to offer residents a single point of contact for all environmental issues and complaints.

If you would like to make a complaint or have a question regarding a City Ordinance, contact information is listed below. Our website contains forms for listing complaints as well as this brochure and more violation information.

All complaints are kept confidential. Your name will not be asked. When inspectors respond to a complaint they generally inspect the surrounding neighborhood for other violations.



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Community & Economic Development
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