

**ARTICLE XI
SIGNS**

§ 1101 Scope and Applicability.

1. The purposes of this Article shall be to:
 - A. Promote and maintain overall community beautification;
 - B. Establish reasonable time, place and manner regulations on the exercise of free speech, without regulating content;
 - C. Promote traffic safety by avoiding distractions and sight distance obstructions;
 - D. Protect property values and ensure capability with the character of neighboring existing and planned land uses; and
 - E. Assist in carrying out the goals of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Advertising Act, as amended.

§ 1102 Nonconforming Signs.

1. Signs legally existing at the time of enactment of this Ordinance and which do not conform to the requirements of the Ordinance shall be considered nonconforming signs. Any nonconforming sign which is damaged to an extent of twenty-five (25) percent or more of its cost of replacement or that is removed shall be replaced only with a conforming sign, except as below.
2. The Zoning Hearing Board may allow the voluntary replacement of existing lawful nonconforming freestanding and wall signs by signs with a smaller sign area and lower height as a special exception provided that the new signs would be of such a size, character and illumination that they would not conflict with adjacent uses.

§ 1103 Definition of Signs.

1. See Section 1202.

§ 1104 Construction.

1. Every permanent sign permitted in this section shall be constructed of durable materials and shall be kept in good condition and repair. Any sign which is allowed to become dilapidated may be repaired or removed by the Township at the expense of the owner or lessee of the property on which it is located.

§ 1105 Abandoned or Outdated Signs.

1. Signs advertising a use no longer in existence or a product no longer available shall be removed, painted to be blank or changed to advertise the new use or product within sixty (60) days of the cessation of the original use.

§ 1106 Exempt Signs.

1. The following type of signs are exempt from the regulations of this Ordinance:
 - A. Temporary Signs.
 - B. Official Signs. These are not regulated in any form by this Ordinance.
 - C. Memorial or historic markers. When approved by the Board of Supervisors or a State or Federal government agency,
 - D. Signs physically carried by a person, which are Permitted without regulation by this Ordinance.
 - E. Signs Not Visible. Signs that are not visible from a public street or any exterior lot line are Permitted without regulation by this Article.
 - F. Officially Required Signs. Signs that include only such information as is specifically required to be posted out of doors by a government agency or the Township are Permitted without regulation by this Article.
 - G. Very Small Signs. Signs of less than one square foot in area that cannot be read by a person of normal eyesight from a public street, or any property line are permitted without regulation by this Article.
 - H. Window Signs. Window signs that are not of a permanent nature, provided that they meet the other requirements of this Article.
 - I. Decorations. Decorations for a Township, County, State or Federal government recognized holiday provided they are posted not more than twenty (20) days (except 60 days prior to Christmas) prior to the event and removed within ten (10) days after the event.
 - J. Flags. Flags of any nation or level of government.
 - K. Signs Within Right-of-Way. Signs within the existing right-of-way of a public street when officially authorized by the Board of Supervisors or PennDOT, as appropriate.

§ 1107 General Location.

1. Setback From Streets. No sign shall be erected within five (5) feet of or project over any existing and/or future street right-of-way.
2. Sight Distance. No sign shall be so located or arranged that it interferes with the sight distance requirements of this Chapter.
3. On-Premises. No signs except Permitted Off-Premises, Official, or Public Service Signs shall be erected on a property not owned by the proprietor of or owner responsible for the placement of the sign.
4. Setbacks. No sign shall be located within a required side or rear setback for an accessory structure, except along lot lines that abut a commercially or industrially-used or zoned lot

(other than a street right-of-way). A sign may be located within a required front yard, provided that the "setback from streets" in this Section is complied with.

5. Permission of Owner. No off-premises sign shall be posted on any property, unless permission has been received by the owner.
6. No sign shall be posted on any utility, telephone pole or any public utility pole.
7. No temporary signs shall be placed within Penn Dot or Township legal rights-of way.

§ 1108 Illuminated Signs.

1. See Section 903.
2. Times of Illumination. Signs within two hundred (200) feet of a dwelling or a residential district should not be illuminated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

§ 1109 Vehicle Signs.

1. Any vehicle or structure to which a sign is affixed in such a manner that the carrying of such sign or signs no longer is incidental to the primary purpose of the vehicle or structure but becomes a primary purpose in itself, shall be considered a freestanding sign and as such be subject to requirements for freestanding signs in the district in which such vehicle or structure is located.

§ 1110 Signs Prohibited in All Districts.

1. General Restrictions.
 - A. Signs that include words or images that are obscene, pornographic, and/or speech not protected by the First Amendment, pursuant to the United States Supreme Court, shall be prohibited in all zoning districts.
 - B. Signs which contain information that states or implies that a lot may be used for any purpose not permitted under the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.
2. Specific Types of Signs. The following types of signs shall be prohibited in all zoning districts:
 - A. Any sign that emits smoke, visible vapors or particles, sound or odor.
 - B. Signs that are of such character, form, shape, or color that they imitate or resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device to an extent that threatens the public safety of pedestrians and/or vehicular traffic.
 - C. The outlining of rooflines, doors, windows or wall edges by illuminated neon light tubing.
 - D. Signs that use reflective materials to give the appearance of flashing, blinking, twinkling or electronically changing messages.
 - E. Balloons of greater than five (5) cubic feet.

- F. Any sign on a mobile stand.

§ 1111 Area of Signs.

1. The following regulations shall be used in computing the area of signs:
 - A. "Sign area" shall include all lettering, wording and accompanying designs and symbols, together with the background whether open or enclosed on which they are displayed. One "freestanding sign" may include several signs that are all attached to one structure, with the total "sign area" being the total area of each sign on the structure.
 - B. The sign area shall not include any structurally supporting framework and bracing, nor wooden framing if such area does not include any display, lettering or sign and if such area is clearly incidental to the display itself.
 - C. Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to or painted on a surface, building, wall or window, the area shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other regular shape, including the sign background, which encompasses all of the letters and symbols.
 - D. In computing the sign area of a sign with only two faces, only the sign area of one side (the larger of any two if they differ) shall be considered. If the interior angle formed by the two faces of the double-faced sign is greater than 60 degrees, then both sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area. No sign shall have more than two faces.
 - E. Unless otherwise specified, all square footages are maximum sizes.

§ 1112 Sign Permissions.

1. Table X establishes the following:
 - A. The following signs require a permit
 - B. The respective districts where specific sign types are allowed, subject to permit requirements set forth in this Article.

LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, Article XI
 Adopted December 13, 2023

Table X: Sign Type Permissions

P: Sign is allowed, subject to all relevant permit requirements

	TD1	TD2 - 5	TD6	TD7	TD8	TD9	TD10	TD11
On-Premises Signs								
Freestanding								
A-Frame Sign	P		P	P		P		
Ground Sign	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pylon Sign			P	P	P			
Building								
Wall Sign	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Window Sign			P	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting Sign			P	P	P	P	P	P
Marquee Sign			P	P	P	P	P	P
Awning Sign			P	P	P	P	P	P
Building Identification			P	P	P	P	P	P
Canopy Sign				P	P	P	P	P
Off-Premises Signs								
Freestanding								
Billboard								See Section 621

§ 1113 Sign Dimensional Criteria.

See Appendix A.

§ 1114 Approval of Signs Associated with Proposed Conditional Uses and Special Exception Uses.

1. Any new or expanded sign that is to be associated with a proposed Conditional or Special Exception use or an expansion or change of a nonconforming use shall be reviewed and either be approved or denied at the same time that the Conditional or Special Exception use or nonconforming use is being reviewed. The Zoning Hearing Board shall consider compatibility with adjacent land uses at that time.

§ 1115 Sign Area Bonuses.

1. Intent. To encourage designs of signs that will be highly compatible with nearby residences and other attractive natural features and areas.
2. Applicability. These bonuses may apply to any freestanding on-premises sign in a TD6, TD7, TD8, TD9, TD10, or TD11 District.
3. Wood. Twenty-five (25) percent sign area bonus when a sign area is constructed completely of natural wood (other than required fasteners) and all freestanding signs on the lot have a maximum height of ten (10) feet.

§ 1116 Digital Signs or Electronically Changing Signs.

1. Digital signs shall only be permitted to be located within five hundred (500) feet of the right-of-way, as permitted within a TD8 Zoning District. Where applicable, such signs shall be located, constructed, and maintained in accordance with all applicable Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations, in addition to all Lower Nazareth Township regulations. Where there is a conflict between regulations, the more restrictive regulation shall apply.
 - A. A digital sign shall not be placed within one thousand (1,000) feet of a residential dwelling unit or residentially zoned land, as measured from a point directly opposite the sign, along the nearest edge of the right-of-way on the same side of the roadway.
2. Electronically changing message signs shall only be permitted to be located within fifty (50) feet of the right-of-way. Where applicable, such signs shall be located, constructed, and maintained in accordance with all applicable Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations, in addition to all Lower Nazareth Township regulations. Where there is a conflict between regulations, the more restrictive regulation shall apply.
 - A. An electronically changing message sign shall not be placed within two hundred (200) feet of a residential dwelling unit or residentially zoned land, as measured in any direction.
 - B. An electronically changing message sign shall be landscaped with plants and shrubs requiring minimal maintenance. The permit application for an electronically changing message sign shall require a landscape plan in accordance with this Chapter which includes the botanical and common names of the plants to be used, the sizes to be planted and the quantity and spacing of each.
3. A digital sign or electronically changing message sign shall be separated a minimum of one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet from any other digital sign or electronically changing message sign. The distance between sign structures shall be measured between points directly opposite the signs, along the nearest edge of the right-of-way on the same side of the roadway.
4. The luminance of the sign display shall be controlled so as to not create glare, hazards, or nuisances.
 - A. All messages, images or displays on a digital sign or electronically changing message sign shall remain unchanged for a minimum of eight (8) seconds. Signs of twenty four (24) square feet or less which indicate only the time, temperature, date or similar information shall be excluded.
 - B. The time interval used to change from one complete message, image or display to the next complete message, image or display shall be a maximum of one second.
 - C. There shall be no appearance of a visual dissolve or fading in which any part of one message, image or display appears simultaneously with any part of a second message, image or display.
 - D. There shall be no appearance of flashing, twinkling, blinking, or sudden bursts of light, and no appearance of video motion, animation, scrolling, twirling, or flow of the message, image or display.

- E. The intensity and contrast of light levels shall remain constant throughout the sign face.
- F. The luminance or brightness of the display shall not exceed five thousand (5,000) nits during daylight hours and one hundred fifty (150) nits during hours of darkness. Each digital sign or electronically changing message sign shall be equipped with automatic dimming technology to adjust the sign's brightness based on ambient light conditions.
 - (1) The luminance specification shall be determined by a metering device held at a height of five feet and aimed towards the sign, from a distance of one hundred seventy five (175) feet.
 - (2) The metering device should be at a location perpendicular to the center of the digital sign (as seen in plain view) as this angle has the highest luminance.
 - (3) The measurement of luminance shall include the measurement of an all-white image displayed by the sign to evaluate the worst-case condition.
 - (4) If the difference between the sign turned on and the sign turned off is one-half (0.5) footcandle or less, then the sign luminance shall be determined to be in compliance.
- G. Digital signs and electronically changing message signs shall be inspected annually to verify dwell time and brightness level. An annual inspection fee as determined by the Township fee schedule, which may be amended from time to time, shall be charged for every digital sign and electronically changing message sign.
- H. Digital signs and electronically changing message signs placed within one thousand (1,000) feet of a residential property line, as measured in any direction from the visible face of the sign, shall be turned off between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- I. This section shall not include digital or electronic wall or window signs.
- J. Digital signs and electronically changing message signs erected by Lower Nazareth Township and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are exempt from these regulations.
- K. No lot shall contain more than one (1) of either a freestanding sign, digital sign or electronically changing message sign.

§ 1117 Manually Changeable Copy Signs.

- 1. Manually Changeable Copy Signs, pursuant to the sign permissions listed in this Chapter, shall only be permitted when integrated as part of the following types of signs:
 - A. Ground Sign.
 - B. Pylon Sign.
 - C. Marquee Sign.
 - D. Wall Sign.
 - E. Portable Sign.