

(c) Interior driveways shall be subject to the setbacks in subsection (a) and (b). Entrances and exits shall be subject to the setbacks in subsection (b).

(d) All setback areas required under this section shall be landscaped and/or screened as provided for in section 800 of the Design and Construction Standards Manual and may provide adequate width for location of utility easements.

4. Off-site parking facilities, constructed in accordance with section 600 of the Design and Construction Standards Manual and 32-305.20.3., shall be subject to setbacks as set forth in subsection 3. above.

5. For each tenant occupancy permit, paved parking designed in accordance with this Chapter and the Design and Construction Standards Manual shall be demonstrated to be available. (No. 92-41, 4-7-92; No. 92-59, 6-16-92; No. 92-70, 7-7-92; No. 94-16, 3-15-94; No. 94-67, 10-4-94; No. 96-6, 1-16-96; No. 96-47, 5-7-96; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.11. Same; Modifications

Modifications of the side setback where joint driveways and or joint entrances are proposed may be approved by the Planning Director. (No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Editor's note--This section was previously part of section 32-250.10, above, and was set out separately herein pursuant to Ord. No. 04-78, adopted Dec. 21, 2004.

Sec. 32-250.12--32-250.15. Reserved.

Editor's note--Ord. No. 94-67, adopted Oct. 4, 1994, renumbered then-section 32-250.14 as section 32-250.10.2. herein. Said ordinance also repealed then-sections 32-250.11--32-250.15. Formerly, sections 32-250.11--32-250.15 pertained to parking credit allowance; parking deferrals; layout and design; setbacks; and off-street stacking spaces, respectively. Then-section 32-250.11 derived from No. 92-59, adopted June 16, 1992, and No. 94-1, adopted Jan. 11, 1994; section 32-250.12 derived from No. 92-59; section 32-250.13 derived unchanged from No. 91-127, adopted Oct. 22, 1991; section 32-250.14 derived from Nos. 92-59 and 94-1; and section 32-250.15 derived unchanged from No. 91-127.

Sec. 32-250.20. Sign Regulations.

Sec. 32-250.21. Types of Signs.

1. Only the following types of signs, where permitted by this Chapter, shall be allowed in Prince William County:

(a) Business sign: A freestanding or facade sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, which calls attention to a product, commodity, or service available on the premises, including the name and/or logo of the business offering same. Except as provided by Schedule A for motor vehicle fuel stations, canopy signs shall be deemed facade signs.

(b) Directional sign: A freestanding or facade sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, and which may be pointed or contain an arrow, and which directs traffic to a use or area on the premises.

(c) Home business sign: A freestanding or facade sign, non-illuminated, which calls attention to a home business located on the premises.

(d) Mall sign: A freestanding sign, illuminated or nonilluminated, which identifies the name of the mall and principal tenants (but not the available products and services). The advertising area of a mall sign which is devoted toward listing names of tenants within the mall shall not exceed seventy (70) percent of the total permitted area of the sign. The mall sign may have two (2) faces back to back.

(e) Mall entrance sign:

(1) Individual store entrance sign: Only tenants with individual entrances leading directly into the store from the exterior of the mall (whether connected to internal walkways or not), may have a facade sign located at the entrance. These are to be treated as facade signs unless otherwise noted.

(2) Main entrance sign: A sign located at a public entrance to the mall proper, either over it or to either side. This sign shall be limited to facility name and logo, or a maximum fifty (50) percent tenant names.

(f) Off-site advertising sign: A freestanding sign, illuminated or nonilluminated, which directs traffic to a specific location not on the premises, and which may also call attention to a product, service or commodity.

(g) Public sign: Any sign erected by a public agency or publicly-owned utility.

(h) Secondary sign: A freestanding or facade sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, which is generally not necessary for the operation of a use on the premises, but which provides useful information to the general public. Such signs shall not advertise a product, commodity or service, but may include no hunting, fishing, trespassing signs, and no parking

(i) Shopping center sign: A freestanding or facade sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, which identifies the name of a shopping center and its principal tenants. The advertising area of a freestanding shopping center sign which is devoted toward listing names of the tenants within the center shall not exceed seventy (70) percent of the total permitted area of the sign.

(j) Subdivision sign: A freestanding sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, located at the entrance to a residential subdivision, which gives the name of the subdivision and logo, if any. A subdivision sign may have two (2) faces back-to-back

or, if integrated as part of landscaping or solid structural features, may be two (2) signs, each constructed at either side of the entrance into the subdivision.

(k) Temporary sign: A non-illuminated freestanding or facade sign, erected on a temporary basis or an illuminated freestanding or facade sign located in a commercial or industrial zoning district. Temporary signs may call attention to construction projects on the premises; real estate or building space for sale or lease on the premises; grand opening, coming soon, now hiring, now open, or related temporary commercial activities upon the premises; or political or campaign signs which advertise a candidate, legislation, referendum or other issue relating to an election or voting event, or to community or civic events, projects, or meetings. Other temporary signs not specifically authorized by this section 32-250.21 are prohibited.

(2) All other signs shall be prohibited in all zoning districts. For purposes of clarity, specifically included among prohibited signs are the following:

(a) general advertising signs (also known as outdoor advertising, or billboards), which shall be defined as: Any sign, illuminated or non-illuminated, which calls attention to a product, commodity or service, which product, commodity or service is not directly related to (although it may be available from) the use(s) of the property on which sign is located; and

(b) portable signs, which shall be defined as: Any sign that is mounted on any vehicle, trailer, or chassis; A-frame; or not permanently affixed to a foundation or a building or structure, and is easily carried and moved to another location. This section shall not preclude temporary signage approved in accordance with sections 32-250.25 and 32-250.26. (No. 94-1, 1-11-94; No. 02-76, 7-23-02; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.22. General Regulations for Signs.

1. Except for locational advertising signs, all signs shall be located within respective property lines of the parcel on which the use or activity being advertised is located, and shall not project into any public right-of-way, existing or proposed to be dedicated by the landowner, unless approved as provided by subsection (a) hereafter when located on right-of-way immediately abutting the advertiser's premises. Such signs and their locations shall not obstruct or interfere with traffic, sighting distance, signals and public signs.

(a) Signs to be located within proposed public right-of-way shall receive written approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

(b) All signs shall be located and maintained in a manner that does not obscure sight distances required by section 600 of the Design and Construction Standards Manual.

2. All signs affixed to building facades shall not project above the wall area of the facade upon which they are located, nor project more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the wall. All signs affixed to a roof shall not project above the roof line, and shall be designed so that structural supports are enclosed and not visible. In no event shall any facade sign project more than eighteen (18) inches into any required yard or setback. When only one facade sign is permitted, it shall be located near the tenant's main public entrance.

3. Sign illumination shall be of enclosed lamp design or indirect lighting from a shielded source, and shall not cause a glare or nuisance beyond the property lines.

4. No sign shall be illuminated by flashing, occulting, revolving or intermittent lighting, nor shall any sign consist of any moving parts. The following shall be prohibited:

- (a) wind activated signs, except as provided for flags in this section;
- (b) helium-filled or inflated signs;
- (c) streamers, banners and balloons;
- (d) portable signs.

5. Illuminated signs located within fifty (50) feet of a property line that abuts an agricultural or residential district shall only be lighted during the hours of operation. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, subdivision signs and the signs approved in conjunction with a positively proffered rezoning or a Special Use Permit, illuminated signs are prohibited in all agricultural and residential districts.

6. Sign area shall be measured as the rectangular area enclosing all elements of the sign. Freestanding signs shall have no more than two (2) faces. If the two (2) faces are not back-to-back, the angle of separation between the two (2) faces shall be less than forty-five (45) degrees. If the angle is forty-five (45) degrees or greater, the sign shall be considered as two (2) separate signs and shall be approved only if the site qualifies for two (2) signs. The back of freestanding signs with only one face used for signing area shall be a single color. Sign setbacks shall be measured from the closest projecting edge of the sign. Portions of a sign structure may project no more than three (3) feet from the edge of the sign area, measured from the informational portion of the sign.

7. Signs located on waterfront property shall be permitted both at the water frontage and road frontage, provided all other regulations of this Chapter are met.

8. With the exception of permitted shopping center signs, and for sale or lease signs, individual freestanding signs shall not be permitted within the boundaries of a shopping center as defined herein.

9. Motor vehicles (including but not limited to trucks, buses, vans, automobiles and tractors), containing any type of sign (other than painted name, logo, and business information on a commercial vehicle) shall not be parked or placed in any zoning

district within sight distance of a public street, easement or private road. This prohibition shall not apply to overnight parking of vehicles where otherwise permitted by this Chapter.

10. All freestanding signs shall have a street number for the principal address of the site affixed to the sign. Such numbers shall be large enough to be read from the main road by fire and rescue personnel and the general public.

11. Patriotic flags such as the flag of Prince William County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States Armed Forces, the United States of America, and corporate and nonprofit organization flags used in conjunction with patriotic flags shall be permitted. Corporate flags, nonprofit organization flags, and patriotic flags shall be limited to one each per lot and are subject to the limitations identified in Schedule A.

12. For purposes of this section, the building front shall be deemed the part of the building containing the main entrance, as determined by the Zoning Administrator. (No. 94-1, 1-11-94; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.23. Consideration of Modification of Sign Provisions

1. The Board of County Supervisors may approve on-premise signs that are not in accordance with the standards set forth in these sign provisions by approval of a specific proffer or conditions of a Special Use Permit, provided that the standards that will apply shall be (in the case of a rezoning) specifically proffered by the applicant and accepted by the Board of County Supervisors, or (in the case of a Special Use Permit) the standards that will apply shall be made a part of the conditions of approval.

2. In considering a request for a modification of the standards of this section, the Board may approve or deny the request in the case of a rezoning in accordance with the general criteria of section 32-700.43.4., and in the case of a Special Use Permit in accordance with the general criteria of section 32-700.54. In addition, the following factors shall be considered by the Board more specifically:

(a) The nature of the proposed use, including such factors as whether the use is a destination or one that relies more on drive-by visibility.

(b) The character of the existing area and the impact on the visual appearance of adjacent and nearby properties and rights-of-way, particularly entrances to the County from the interstate highways or surrounding jurisdictions, and the major streets leading from those entrances.

(c) Whether a unique situation exists, causing a need that is not recurring in nature.

(d) The area's designation on the County's Comprehensive Plan.

(e) The existence of a special visual obstruction or difficulty in locating the use, making the application of the general provisions of this section too restrictive.

(f) Whether the use and/or proposed sign is within a Highway Corridor Overlay District (HCOOD). (No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Editor's note--Former section 32-250.23 derived from Ord. 94-1, adopted Jan. 11, 1994, and entitled "Special Sign Regulations for Certain Uses" was repealed pursuant to Ord. 04-78, adopted Dec. 21, 2004. The provisions contained in new section 32-250.23 were previously part of section 32-250.24, and were relocated herein pursuant to Ord. No. 04-78.

Sec. 32-250.24. "Schedules A and B:" Location, Number, Size, Height and Setbacks for Signs.

Signs shall be permitted, and their number, size, height and setbacks governed, in accordance with the provisions of "Schedule A, Sign Regulations", and Schedule B, "Sign Regulations for Highway Corridor Overlay Districts (HCOODs)". (No. 94-1, 1-11-94; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

SCHEDULE A, Sign Regulations^{3, 4}

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
Business/ Institutional (not including mall, shopping center, and home business signs) Freestanding signs	All districts for non-residential uses only	One freestanding sign along each street frontage	0.5 square foot per foot of frontage along public ROW; maximum 80 square feet	20 feet in commercial and industrial districts 15 feet in all other districts	10 feet, or one foot for each foot in height, whichever is greater
Facade signs		Single tenant buildings: Two Three for corner lots in commercial, office, and industrial districts. Multi-tenant building ⁵ :	3 square feet per foot of building ⁶ or unit width ⁷		

³ See Schedule B for Highway Corridor Overlay District (HCOOD) signage standards.

⁴ Areas within RPC, Residential Planned Community, and planned development districts, shall adhere to the sign regulations applicable to the uses constructed therein.

⁵ The distinction between multi-tenant buildings with or without shared entrances was removed.

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
		One per unit Two for end/corner units			
Changeable copy ⁸	Only for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public signs • religious institution or school bulletin boards • theatre, arena or similar use • restaurant preview and menu boards • motor vehicle fuel price signs • business signs for commercial complex with a minimum of 10 individual businesses 	Permitted as a portion of other permitted business/institutional signage on the property.	Maximum of 50 percent of sign face.		
Directional	All districts for non-residential uses only	Any number necessary to direct traffic within a site	3 square feet	3 feet	3 feet
Flags	All districts	One of each type (see section 32-250.22.11.	Maximum flag dimensions in accordance with maximum pole height: 4 feet by 6 feet	Maximum pole height in accordance with maximum flag dimensions 25 feet	One foot for every foot in height.

⁶ For the purposes of this section, the building front shall be deemed the part of the building containing the main entrance, as determined by the Zoning Administrator (32-250.22).

⁷ The limitation of 36 square feet for signage in all other districts was removed. Unit width shall be as determined by the Zoning Administrator.

⁸ These signs were formerly identified as “Activity Signs”, a separate sign type. To minimize confusion and reflect actual practices, all permitted business/institutional signage may have a maximum of 50 percent of the advertising area as changeable copy.

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
			5 feet by 8 feet	30 feet	
			5 feet by 9.5 feet	35 feet	
			6 feet by 10 feet	40 feet	
Home Business	All agricultural and residential districts, and residential areas of planned development districts	One	4 square feet	5 feet	5 feet
Mall Mall signs (freestanding – maximum of 70% of advertising area for tenant list)	B-1 and planned development districts	One per 1,000 feet of public street frontage. Separate freestanding signs for pad sites not permitted	0.5 square foot per foot of frontage; maximum 200 square feet	20 feet ⁹	20 feet from public right of way and 100 feet from all off-site freestanding signs
Individual store entrance facade signs		One per exterior public entrance, or two for end units, whichever is greater	2 square feet per linear foot of unit width (measured along unit front) cumulative		
Main mall entrance signs		One per exterior public entrance, located at the entrance	2 square feet per linear foot of entrance width		
Motor Vehicle Fuel Station	As permitted in association with the use in non-residential and planned development districts	Two canopy signs (in addition to other signs permitted for business uses)	20 square feet		

⁹ Limitation allowing only a 12 foot high freestanding signs in planned development districts was removed.

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
Off-site ¹⁰ Advertising	B-1, M-1, and M/T, for non-residential uses only, with a Special Use Permit	One	100 square feet	40 feet	One foot for each foot in height of the sign from all property lines and 50 feet from all other off-site advertising signs

Restaurant Preview/Menu Boards ¹¹	As permitted in association with the use in non-residential and planned development districts	One (in addition to other signs permitted for business uses)	Maximum length: 8 feet	6 feet	10 feet
Secondary ¹²	All districts	Any number necessary for public convenience	6 square feet ¹³	5 feet ¹⁴	5 feet from all property lines
Shopping Center Shopping center signs (freestanding – maximum of 70% of advertising area for tenant list)	As permitted in the B-1, B-2, and planned development districts	One per 1,000 feet of public street frontage. Separate freestanding signs for pad sites not permitted	0.5 square foot per foot of frontage, maximum 100 square feet	20 feet ¹⁵	20 feet from public right of way and 100 feet from all off-site freestanding signs

¹⁰ These signs were formerly identified as “locational” signs, which was confusing. The name was changed to reflect an accurate description.

¹¹ These signs are typically intended to be located for viewing by customers using drive-up/drive-through service, not as business signs.

¹² The term “secondary sign” replaces “informational sign” and includes, but is not limited to, signs that hang below a canopy, or are oriented internally to the development.

¹³ The permitted advertising area decreased from 9 square feet to 6 square feet. The exception allowing 32 square feet for church bulletin boards was removed and incorporated into the provision for changeable copy on business signs.

¹⁴ The exception allowing church bulletin boards to have maximum height of 10 feet was removed.

¹⁵ Limitation allowing 12 foot high freestanding signs in planned development districts was removed.

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
Facade signs		One for interior units Two for end units	2 square feet per foot of unit width, cumulative		
Subdivision	All agricultural and residential districts, and residential areas of planned development districts	One at each entrance to a subdivision, unless part of an entrance feature.	64 square feet	10 feet	10 feet, or one foot for each foot in height, whichever is greater, from all rights-of-way
Temporary Temporary activities	All districts	One freestanding sign (located within the approved temporary activity area) One facade sign (where a temporary structure is approved)	32 square feet	10 feet ¹⁶	One foot for each foot in height, from all property lines
Non-residential properties		One freestanding sign per public street frontage; two maximum One facade sign per building or unit	32 square feet		

¹⁶ 10 feet represents an increase in height allowed for temporary activities and political/campaign signs (formerly 6 feet).

Type of Sign	Districts Where Permitted	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Setback for Freestanding Signs
Political/campaign signs, community/civic events, construction sites		<p>One for 0 to 600 feet of public street frontage</p> <p>Two for 601 to 1,200 feet of public street frontage</p> <p>Three for 1,201 to 2,400 feet of public street frontage</p> <p>Four for more than 2,400 feet of public street frontage</p>	<p>32 square feet for non-residential properties ¹⁷</p> <p>16 square feet for residential properties</p>		

SCHEDULE B, Sign Regulations for Highway Corridor Overlay Districts (HCODs)¹⁸

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
<p>Business/Institutional (not including mall, shopping center, and home business signs)</p> <p>Freestanding signs – Prior to February 20, 1996</p>	One freestanding sign along each street frontage	0.5 square foot per linear foot of frontage along public ROW; maximum 80 square feet	10 feet	10 feet

¹⁷ 32 square feet is now the standard area allowed for temporary signs on non-residential property. Temporary lease and all other permitted signs were formerly permitted 50 square feet.

¹⁸ Signage not specifically addressed in this schedule shall be allowed in accordance with Schedule A. This is a more permissive standard for HCODs created after February 20, 1996, which only allowed certain types of freestanding signs.

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Freestanding signs – After February 20, 1996 ¹⁹	One	Rural Parkway: 60 square feet Suburban Parkway: 40 square feet Urban Parkway: 40 square feet Rural Arterial: 60 square feet Suburban Arterial: 40 square feet Urban Arterial: 40 square feet	10 feet	10 feet
Facade signs – Prior to February 20, 1996 Business/ Institutional (not including mall, shopping center, and home business signs) Continued	Single tenant buildings: Two Three for corner lots in commercial, office, and industrial districts. Multi-tenant building ²⁰ : One per unit Two for end/corner units	a) Any portion located within 100 feet of the edge of right-of-way: 1.5 square feet per foot of building or unit front. Maximum: 150 square feet b) Located more than 100 feet from the edge of right-of-way: 2 square feet per foot of distance greater than 100 feet from edge of right of way c) For buildings with more than one story of occupied use: cumulative area shall be calculated in accordance with a) and b), above per story of building,		

¹⁹ All sign regulations for HCODs created after February 20, 1996, are also located in section 1000 of the Design and Construction Standards Manual. An update of the DCSM to be consistent with this schedule may be necessary.

²⁰ The distinction between multi-tenant buildings with or without shared entrances was removed.

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
		<p>and allocated in any proportion among faces of the building</p> <p>d) Cumulative maximum: 400 square feet or pursuant to 32-250.24, whichever is less</p>		
<p>Facade signs – After February 20, 1996</p>	<p>Single tenant buildings: Two Three for corner lots in commercial, office, and industrial districts.</p> <p>Multi-tenant building: One per unit Two for end/corner units</p>	<p>1.5 square feet per foot of building front or unit width within 100 feet of right-of-way</p> <p>2 square feet per foot of building front or unit width greater than 100 feet from the right of way</p> <p>400 square feet cumulative maximum</p>		
<p>Changeable Copy – Prior to February 20, 1996</p>	<p>Prohibited.</p>			
<p>Changeable Copy – After February 20, 1996</p>	<p>Permitted as a portion of other permitted business/institutional signage on the property.</p>	<p>Maximum of 50 percent of sign face.</p>		
<p>Directional Prior to February 20, 1996</p>	<p>Any number necessary to direct traffic within a site</p>	<p>3 square feet</p>	<p>3 feet</p>	<p>3 feet</p>
<p>After February 20, 1996</p>	<p>One per entrance, one per drive-through window</p>	<p>3 square feet²¹</p>	<p>3 feet</p>	<p>3 feet</p>
<p>Off-site Advertising</p>	<p>Prohibited</p>			

²¹ The DCSM currently has a standard of 4 square feet for these signs, which is greater than is what is allowed in non-HCOD areas. DCSM update is required.

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Shopping Center ²² Freestanding signs – Prior to February 20, 1996	One freestanding sign along each street frontage	0.5 square foot per linear foot of frontage along public ROW; maximum 80 square feet	10 feet	10 feet
Freestanding signs – After February 20, 1996	One per 1,000 feet of public street frontage	80 square feet	10 feet. Must be monument-style and landscaped at base.	10 feet. Permitted in buffer if part of an entrance feature.
Facade signs – Prior to February 20, 1996	One for interior units Two for end units	a) Any portion located within 100 feet of the edge of right-of-way: 1.5 square feet per foot of building or unit front. Maximum: 150 square feet b) Located more than 100 feet from the edge of right-of-way: 2 square feet per foot of distance greater than 100 feet from edge of right of way c) For buildings with more than one story of occupied use: cumulative area shall be calculated in accordance with a) and b), above per story of building, and allocated in any proportion among faces of the building d) Cumulative maximum: 400 square feet or pursuant to 32-		

²² Freestanding shopping center signs are permitted a maximum of 70% of advertising area for tenant list.

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Facade signs – After February 20, 1996	One for interior units Two for end units	250.24, whichever is less 1.5 square feet per foot of building front or unit width within 100 feet of right-of-way 2 square feet per foot of building front or unit width greater than 100 feet from the right of way 400 square feet cumulative maximum		
Subdivision Prior to February 20, 1996	One at each entrance to a subdivision, unless part of an entrance feature.	64 square feet	10 feet	10 feet, or one foot for each foot in height, whichever is greater, from all rights-of-way
After February 20, 1996	One at each entrance to a subdivision, unless part of an entrance feature. May be placed on each side of an entrance, with each sign meeting the bulk requirements	40 square feet	10 feet. Must be monument-style and landscaped at base.	10 feet. Permitted in buffer if part of an entrance feature.
Temporary Prior to February 20, 1996	Pursuant to Schedule A			
After February 20, 1996 Non-residential properties	One facade sign per building or unit One freestanding sign per public street frontage; two maximum	32 square feet	10 feet	One foot for each foot in height, from all property lines, located outside the buffer

Type of Sign	Number Permitted Per Lot	Maximum Size Per Face	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Political/campaign signs, community/civic events, construction sites	One for 0 to 600 feet of public street frontage Two for 601 to 1,200 feet of public street frontage Three for 1,201 to 2,400 feet of public street frontage Four for more than 2,400 feet of public street frontage	4 square feet	6 feet	
Residential properties	One	4 square feet	8 feet	

Sec. 32-250.25. Sign Permits; Generally.

1. Except for public signs and certain temporary signs (as set forth in section 32-250.26), no sign two (2) square feet or greater in size shall be erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered or repaired until a sign permit has been issued by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall issue such a permit upon application and payment of a fee as set by the Board of County Supervisors, provided all standards of these provisions shall be satisfied.

2. A sign permit may be combined with a building permit or other such County permit. The sign permit is null and void should the sign not be erected within six (6) months from the date of issuance, or if any information in the sign permit application is found to be false or inaccurate.

3. An application for a sign permit, in addition to other items that may be required for combined permits, shall include scale drawings of the sign showing all dimensions, height, copy, colors, type of material, structural and architectural supports or backgrounds, method and hours of illumination, and a scaled location plan of the site showing the following:

- (a) Proposed location of the sign, with setback distances from all property lines to the closest projecting edge of the sign;
- (b) Location, type and size of all other signs on the property;

(c) For facade signs, the location of the building with distances from all property lines, and the length (in feet) of all facades of the building upon which a sign will be placed as well as the projection (in inches) from facade or wall;

(d) Location and name of abutting streets;

(e) Zoning classification of the site and all adjacent properties. (No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.26. Same; Requirements for Temporary Signs.

1. Temporary signs shall only be permitted when the proposed sign meets the definition of “temporary sign” in the zoning ordinance.

2. A deposit/guarantee of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required upon submission of the temporary sign permit application. The deposit/guarantee will be refunded only after inspection by the Planning Office proves that the sign was removed prior to the assigned expiration date. If an approved temporary sign permit is not removed by the assigned expiration date, a Violation Notice and Correction Order will be issued and forfeiture of the deposit/ guarantee will result.

3. For freestanding signs, the maximum number of sign faces is two (2). If the two (2) faces are not flush together (back-to-back) then the angle of separation between the two (2) faces must be less than forty-five (45) degrees. If the angle is forty-five (45) degrees or greater, then the proposal will be considered as two (2) separate signs and approved only if the site qualifies for two (2) signs.

4. Permitted time period for temporary signs requiring a permit is as follows:

(a) Temporary commercial activity signs can only be approved for the same period of time permitted for the activity;

(b) “Now hiring,” “now open” and “grand opening” event signs can be permitted for a maximum of sixty (60) days (no renewals permitted);

(c) “Coming soon” or “future home of” signs can be permitted for one (1) year, and may be renewed thereafter for successive periods of one (1) year each. Regardless of such period of approval, the permit for a temporary sign shall automatically expire fifteen (15) days after a permit for any permanent sign for the same project is approved;

(d) Political and campaign signs, community or civic event signs calling attention to events, etc., should be posted to be erected no earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the event, and during the period the event is being conducted. They shall be removed by the person(s) responsible for the sign within five (5) days after the last date of the event or activity;

(e) Signs dealing with construction projects, including builders, developers, engineers, finance companies, associated consultants, or real estate matters (for sale, for lease, now selling), may be approved for one (1) year, and may be renewed thereafter for successive periods of one (1) year each, during the time occurring. A request for renewal shall require submission of a complete sign permit application no less than four (4) weeks prior to the assigned expiration date. Regardless to such period of approval, the permit for a temporary sign shall automatically expire fifteen (15) days after a permit for a permanent sign for the same project is approved.

(f) Temporary for sale or lease signs shall be removed by the person(s) responsible for the sign within fifteen (15) working days after the property is sold or leased. (No. 94-1, 1-11-94; No. 94-28, 5-3-94; No. 02-76, 7-3-02; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.27. Same; Temporary Signs Exempt From Sign Permit.

For sale or lease signs shall be permitted without a sign permit provided they are no larger than sixteen (16) square feet for residential uses and thirty-two (32) square feet for nonresidential use and are set back from all property lines one (1) foot for each foot in height of the sign, and there are no more than two (2) such signs on any lot. All other temporary signs two (2) square feet or larger in size shall require a sign permit, except as listed below:

1. Political and campaign signs shall be exempt from permit requirements, so long as they comply with the regulations contained in sections 32-250.26.1, 32-250.26.3, and 32-250.26.4, above, and the applicable provisions of Schedules A and B. Property owners wishing to place political and campaign signs on their property may request modifications of the requirements through the Special Use Permit process.

2. Up to three (3) temporary signs for the sale of a private residence and advertising an "open house" event shall be permitted without a sign permit and may be placed on- or off-site for up to four (4) hours before and up to two (2) hours after the activity and may contain an arrow. The signs cannot exceed four (4) square feet in size. The signs cannot exceed three (3) feet in height and only one (1) such sign shall be permitted per lot. The signs shall be placed on private property only with the consent of the owners. (No. 02-76, 7-23-02; No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.28. Public Signs.

Public signs shall not require a sign permit; however, they shall be subject to the standards in Schedule A. (No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.29. Removal of Signs.

Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe, as determined by the County Building Official, or endangers the safety of a structure, premises or the public, or is erected or

maintained in violation of this Chapter, or is abandoned or the use with which it is associated is abandoned or discontinued within the meaning of section 32-601.21, the Zoning Administrator may, by the issuance of a Violation Notice and Correction Order, order such sign to be made safe and comply with this ordinance, or be removed. Failure to comply with the notice (as set forth in the provisions of Part 1000 of this Chapter) shall constitute grounds for the Zoning Administrator to have the sign removed, and the cost thereof shall be borne by the person so notified as an addition to any fine imposed by a court of law for a violation of this Chapter. If the cost is not paid as an addition to a fine, the County may seek to recover such cost by any means allowed at law or equity.

Sec. 32-250.30. Buffer Areas

Certain uses permitted by this Chapter, when abutting each other, are incompatible and create conflict that may be reduced or eliminated by appropriate measures. Buffer areas established between incompatible uses minimizes these conflicts and the adverse impact of such essentially incompatible development. These provisions are intended to provide a mechanism whereby adjoining properties may be shielded from the adverse consequences of such development. (No. 04-78, 12-21-04)

Sec. 32-250.31. General Policy; Buffer Area Required.

1. Buffer areas are required on properties in accordance with the circumstances and widths specified in section 800 of the Design and Construction Standards Manual. The minimum buffer width is generally a uniform dimension across the entire length of the common property line. An existing required buffer area on an abutting property shall not be used to satisfy buffer requirements on a subject property, unless a reciprocal agreement has been recorded in the land records agreeing to providing the buffer or unless modified pursuant to section 32-250.32.

2. Notwithstanding the requirements of the Design and Construction Standards Manual, a parcel created and zoned before May 4, 1982, shall be required to provide no more than ten (10) percent of its total area for such buffer, subject to the provision of an absolute minimum buffer of fifteen (15) feet on each parcel. The buffer area for lots eligible for the ten (10) percent buffer requirement shall be calculated as follows: Total lot area times ten (10) percent divided by the length of the common property line for which the buffer zone is required.

3. Every use requiring establishment of a buffer area shall note the following restriction regarding the use of such buffer on a plat or other instrument recorded among the land records:

“Land designated as buffer area shall preserve existing vegetation, as appropriate, or shall be landscaped and may only be used for uses or facilities in accordance with the requirements of the Prince William County zoning ordinance and the Design and Construction Standards Manual”.