

## CHAPTER 5

### DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

#### SECTION 5700. SIGNS.

##### Subsection 5701. Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of this subsection is to establish regulations for the systematic control of signs and advertising displays within the unincorporated areas of Gadsden County. These standards are designed to protect and promote the general health, safety and welfare of the public in a manner consistent with the following objectives. (Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

1. To foster a good visual environment and enhance the economic well-being of the county as a place in which to live, visit and conduct business.
2. To contribute to the safe movement of traffic by controlling the excessive height, area and bulk of signs as well as certain types and lighting of signs which can distract the attention of pedestrians and motorists so as to constitute hazards to the traffic safety.
3. To encourage creativity and allow the sufficient conveyance of a message in a manner which promotes traffic safety and avoids visual blight.
4. To control the use of signs determined to be detrimental to the aesthetic sense and welfare to the County.
5. To regulate signs in a manner so as not to interfere with, obstruct the vision of, or distract motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians.
6. To encourage signs compatible to the area in which they are located and consistent with the category of use to which they pertain. (Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

##### Subsection 5702. Procedures.

- A. **Application.** An application for a sign permit shall be made with the Building Official and Growth Management Director. The Building Official's responsibilities shall include structural aspects such as foundation, electrical and wind-loading. The Growth Management Director's responsibilities shall review the size, type and location of proposed signs. (Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)
- B. **Enforcement.** The Building Official shall enforce the provision of this Code for all signs erected or displayed in the unincorporated areas of Gadsden County. (Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)
- C. **Exceptions.** Projects requiring a Development Order shall include a signage plan (including elevation drawings and placement) in their site plan drawings. (Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**Subsection 5703. Exemptions.**

**A. Exempt Signs.** The following types of signs are exempt from obtaining a permit:

1. Address/post box numerals.
2. Government regulatory signs erected by the City, County, state or federal government in furtherance of their governmental responsibility.
3. Historic building markers.
4. Directional signs.
  - a. Off-premises. The sign(s) may be used to direct vehicles or pedestrians to commercial and retail establishments, churches, schools, public assembly facilities or hospitals/emergency care facilities. The following standards shall apply to all off-premises directional signs.
    - i. Signs shall not exceed five (5) square feet.
    - ii. The signs shall be erected on non-residential designated land only.
    - iii. The owner of the non-residential uses shall obtain permission from the owner of the land upon which he erects the off-premises directional sign.
    - iv. No more than two (2) off-premises directional signs shall be erected for each non-residential use.
    - v. Off-premise directional signs shall not be illuminated.
    - vi. Maximum Sign Height: Eight feet (8').
    - vii. Minimum Setback: Five feet (5') from the nearest right-of-way line. (Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)
  - b. On-premise parking and traffic. These signs shall conform to the "Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices," as published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Commission. Signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area and may be placed on private property to direct and guide traffic and parking on same private property. Such signs shall not include advertising.
5. Occupancy signs. These signs shall not exceed one (1) square foot in area and shall bear the names of occupants of the property.
6. Service Entrance signs. These signs are for building identification, provided the sign face area does not exceed six (6) square feet and may or may not be illuminated.
7. Signs of thirty-two (32) square feet or less are exempted from the requirement that a permit be obtained but not otherwise from these sign regulations, provided that such sign, or combination of such signs, does not constitute a sign prohibited in Subsection 5704.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**B. Temporarily Exempt Signs.** The signs listed below may be erected without a sign permit, provided that standards of this Subsection are met.

1. Construction Site signs. These shall not exceed a total of one hundred (100) square feet. Such signs shall be removed within one (1) week following completion of the work.

2. Political signs. Temporary signs advertising political parties or candidates for election may be erected or displayed and maintained, provided that:
  - a. The signs shall not be erected or displayed earlier than one-hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the election to which they pertain.
  - b. The signs shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet in area per sign face.
  - c. The placement of the signs shall have the consent of the property owner.
  - d. The candidate shall be required to remove all political signs from County right-of-ways within fifteen (15) days, or state right-of-ways within thirty (30) days after: (1) withdrawal of his or her candidacy; (2) having been eliminated as a candidate; or (3) being elected to office. The County may impose a fine of up to \$500 for each subsequent week after notice is given.
3. Real Estate signs: For Sale, Lease or Rent signs. One (1) on-site sign is allowed in compliance with the following standards:
  - a. The sign is non-illuminated.
  - b. The sign is removed one (1) week after closing.
  - c. For single-family residences, the sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area for each parcel, property or structure.
  - d. For residential subdivisions, one thirty two (32) square foot sign is allowed until a permanent identification sign is erected.
  - e. For non-residential properties abutting a roadway for at least one hundred feet, the sign face area shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet.
  - f. One additional sign in conformance with letter e. above shall be allowed on any site abutting more than one (1) roadway, classified as collector or higher.
  - g. One (1) additional sign may be erected to designate an open house, on the day of the open house and shall be removed by sundown.
4. Legal Notice signs.
5. Garage Sale signs. Signs for garage sales, provided they are erected not more than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the sale and are removed within twenty-four (24) hours after the garage sale and do not exceed four (4) square feet per face.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

#### **Subsection 5704. Prohibited Signs.**

The following listed signs and sign types are prohibited:

1. Animated Signs. Except for those portions of signs displaying time and temperature, all animated signs are prohibited.
2. No sign, temporary or otherwise, shall be affixed to a tree or utility pole, except for posted signs.
3. No sign shall violate the "clear vision zone," see Subsection 5609.
4. No sign, including traffic signs shall be included within the road right-of-way, except those of a duly constituted governing body.
5. Obsolete signs. Obsolete signs shall be removed by the owner, or by the occupant, lessee, or person having the beneficial use of the property upon which the sign may be found within sixty (60) days after notice by the Planning and Zoning Director. Obsolete shall include signs that can be documented as having

no commercial or informational content for a period of one (1) year, or that advertise non-existent businesses, etc.

6. Signs that obstruct, conceal, hide or otherwise obscure from view any official traffic or government sign, signal or device.
7. Signs that create safety hazards.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

### **Subsection 5705. Billboard Prohibition**

As of the effective date of this ordinance, no new junior or regular sized billboards will be permitted in the County. Billboards that are in existence prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall be grandfathered, subject to Subsections 5704.5. and 5708.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

### **Subsection 5706. General Standards.**

**A. Permit requirements.** No person shall erect, alter or relocate any sign without first obtaining a sign permit unless sign is specifically exempted there from, pursuant to Subsection 5703 above. See Subsection 2102 for definitions. Signs constructed as a part of a new development shall be permitted at final site plan or plat approval.

**B. Measurements of sign face area and height.**

1. Sign face calculations. The sign face is the area of any regular geometric shape which contains the entire surface area of a sign upon which copy may be placed. The supporting structure or bracing of a sign shall not be counted as a part of the sign face area unless such structure or bracing is made a part of the sign's message. Where a sign has two (2) display faces touching back-to-back, the area of only one (1) face shall be considered the sign face area. Where a sign has more than one (1) display face, all areas which can be viewed simultaneously shall be considered as a sign face area.
2. Sign height:
  - a. The height of a ground sign shall be measured from the curb level, or ground level if there is no curb, to the top of the sign.
  - b. The height of a projecting sign shall be measured from the top of the sign face to the ground level.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**C. Sign illumination.**

1. Light spill over.
  - a. Any spotlight provided for illumination shall be shielded such that the light source cannot be seen from abutting properties or approaching traffic.
  - b. Lighting on any illuminated signs adjacent to residential property shall be shaded a directed at sign base in a manner so as to limit illumination on residential property. Only white light is permitted within five-hundred (500) feet of residential areas.
2. Types of illuminated signs include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Reflective;

- b. Internal;
  - c. Back-lit; and
  - d. Spot-lit.
3. Lighting, including neon tubing or other similar devices other than indirect lighting, may be used in sign design or to outline any building. Neon tubing or other special lighting effects when used in sign design or building outlining is restricted to two (2) linear feet of neon tubing or the like for each foot of frontage. Display of neon tubing or other special lighting effects will be limited to the maximum of two parallel lines of tubing. Neon tube lighting shall not pulse, flash, or otherwise deviate from an on or off switched condition.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**D. Number of signs.**

- 1. Each parcel of land shall be allowed one (1) on-premises, ground sign. Each business on a parcel of land shall also be allowed one projecting or wall sign, subject to the standards in Subsection 5707. Parcels with more than five hundred (500) linear feet of road frontage on a single roadway shall be allowed one (1) additional ground sign. There shall be a minimum separation of at least three hundred (300) linear feet between the two (2) signs.
- 2. When a site is located at the intersection of more than one (1) arterial or collector road, and uses pedestrian and/or vehicular access from these roads, one (1) additional sign shall be allowed for each arterial or collector road to which it has access.
- 3. When a business on a parcel of land backs onto another commercial area, then such business shall be allowed an additional wall sign in lieu of any other allowable wall sign designating the service entrance.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**E. Sign Alteration.**

A permit shall be required for any sign alteration that includes, but is not limited to the following: The addition of surface area, the changing outline of surface area, the changing of the location of the light source, the relocation of the sign display from one position to another. When sign message is changed or the business name is changed without altering the total sign or when a maintenance or repair is done on a sign or its structure, these activities shall not be considered an alteration.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**F. Clear Vision Zone.**

- 1. Horizontal Clearance: When a ground sign or any portion thereof, is erected within the clear vision zone, no part of the sign face shall be placed, nor shall supporting structures or bracing obstruct vision within three feet (3') and eight feet (8') above the grade, as measured at the right-of-way line of said roadway. See Subsection 5609 for picture of clear vision zone.
- 2. Vertical Clearance:
  - a. Pedestrian Way - Signs extending or hanging over any public or private sidewalk or pedestrian way shall not be less than nine feet (9') above the surface of such way.

- b. Vehicular Way - Signs extending or hanging over any public or private vehicular way shall not be less than fifteen feet (15') above the surface of such way.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

**Subsection 5707. Detailed Standards.**

**Permanent On-Site Signs:**

Ground signs, wall signs, painted wall signs, mansard signs, marquee and canopy signs, and projecting signs and roof signs thirty-two (32) square feet or less, will not be required to obtain a permit, unless electrical work is proposed.

- A. **Zoning.** Except where otherwise specifically provided, these signs shall be allowed only in zoning districts other than residential and agricultural districts. Neighborhood commercial applications shall be reviewed on a site by site basis within the public approval process.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

- B. **Aggregate Surface Area of All Signs.**

- 1. Shall not exceed two (2) square feet of area for each foot of building frontage occupied by the business displaying signs, or one (1) square foot of area for each foot of frontage of property occupied by the building whichever is greater.
- 2. Maximum aggregate surface area allowed for each frontage: Two hundred (200) square feet.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

- C. **Maximum Number and Placement of Signs.** Only one (1) ground sign and one (1) wall, painted wall, mansard, marquee, canopy, projecting, or roof sign shall be allowed for each premise. Lots that have frontage on more than one street may utilize up to the maximum sign surface area allowed for each frontage. Transfers of allowable area may be made provided the maximum allowable area per street frontage is not exceeded by more than fifty percent (50%). Allowable signage may be placed at any location on the premises.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

- D. **Special Maximum Surface Area Requirements for Wall Signs, Painted Wall Signs and Mansard Signs.** Where a wall, painted wall or mansard sign is the only type of sign used, the maximum surface area shall be determined by the distance from the sign to the right-of-way line of the abutting street. Area is the height times the width of the attached sign. For signs comprised of several component icons or lettering, area shall be the maximum height times overall length of the combined components.

Distance from Sign to Abutting Street	Maximum Surface Area of Sign
Less than 25 Ft.	100 Sq. Ft.
25 Ft. - 100 Ft.	200 Sq. Ft.
100 Ft. - 400 Ft.	250 Sq. Ft.
Over 400 Ft.	300 Sq. Ft.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**E. Maximum Height for Ground Signs.**

1. Arterial street location: twenty-five feet (25’).
2. Location within six hundred and sixty feet (660’) of an Interstate Highway Interchange: sixty-five feet (65’). Horizontal distance shall be measured from the nose of the off ramp intersection or a line from said nose to the centerline of the crossing roadway serving the business location. Height variances within this area are prohibited. The basis for the elimination of the height variances is the implementation of the DOT logo program on Interstate 10 which now provides location of upcoming commercial uses such as gas, food, and lodging.
  - a. No freeway-oriented sign shall be erected which would obscure another sign when viewed from the freeway.
  - b. No freeway-oriented sign shall be erected that will be closer than one hundred feet from another freeway-oriented sign.
  - c. No more than one freeway-oriented sign is permitted per property.
3. All other locations where allowed, eighteen feet (18’).

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**F. Wall Sign Projection.** The face of wall signs may not project more than twelve inches (12”) from the building wall to which they are attached (excluding raised letters or design provided maximum does not exceed fifteen inches (15’’)).

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-9-03)

**G. Mansard Signs.** Unless otherwise specified, the mansard roof portion of a structure may be used for the mounting of a sign, provided such sign shall not extend above the highest point of the mansard roof line upon which the sign is mounted.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**H. Marquee or Awning Signs and Canopy Signs.** Signs or sign structures located on a marquee or canopy awning shall be affixed flat to the surface and shall not be greater than two feet (2’) in vertical dimension above the marquee and shall not extend horizontally beyond the marquee or canopy. An identification sign may extend vertically below the marquee or canopy, but may not exceed the dimensions of one foot (1’) by six foot (6’), or exceed the width of the marquee or canopy, whichever is less, or extend less than 9’ from the walking surface below or thirteen feet (13’) from driving surface.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**I. Portable Signs.** All portable signs shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. Each developed lot or parcel shall be limited to one special portable sign which shall advertise only the use(s) on that site.
2. Portable signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in total area and shall not exceed six feet (6’) in total height.
3. Portable signs shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet (5’) from all rights-of-way and shall not encroach into the clear vision zone.
4. Portable signs shall not be placed within a defined driveway, access aisle, required loading zone, parking place, or drainage retention area.

5. Portable signs which are improperly maintained so as to be unsafe, illegible, or which advertise uses or businesses no longer in existence shall be removed by the property owner within thirty (30) days upon written notice by the Director of the Growth Management Department.
6. Portable signs shall not occupy that area beneath a ground sign reserved for clear visibility.
7. Portable signs may or may not be illuminated, but shall not utilize any flashing illumination.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**J. Projecting Signs.** All projecting signs shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. Projection Limitations: Eight feet (8') beyond the surface of the portion of the building to which it is attached or designed.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

2. Surface area and height limitations:

Building Size	Area Limits	Maximum Height to Sign Base
1 Story	12 Sq. Ft.	12 Ft.
2 Story	12 Sq. Ft.	12 Ft.
3 Story	32 Sq. Ft.	20 Ft.
4 Story	42 Sq. Ft.	20 Ft.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**K. Roof Signs.** All roof signs shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. Only on-site signs shall be allowed (i.e. no offsite advertising).
2. No part of any roof sign or roof sign structure shall project beyond the outline of the building wall.
3. Signs on multiple occupancy buildings shall be uniform in setback and height.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**L. Shopping Center Signs:** For each shopping center, signs bearing the name and identification of the shopping center and of the establishments on the premises shall be allowed, subject to the following requirements:

1. Maximum number of signs: One (1) ground sign for the first five hundred (500) linear feet of frontage adjacent to a street and one (1) additional ground sign for each additional five hundred (500) linear feet of frontage or major fraction thereof.
2. Maximum surface area for each shopping center ground sign shall be based on the gross leasable area (GLA) within the shopping center as follows:
  - a. Neighborhood shopping center at least twenty thousand (20,000) but less than one hundred thousand (100,000) square feet GLA: One hundred seventy-five (175) square feet.
  - b. Community shopping center at least one hundred thousand (100,000) but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) square feet GLA: Two hundred (200) square feet.

- c. Regional shopping center at least two hundred thousand (200,000) square feet GLA: Three hundred (300) square feet.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

**M. Signs for Establishments in the Shopping Center.**

- 1. Each establishment located within the shopping center shall be allowed: One (1) sign not to exceed two and one-half (2 ½) square feet of surface area for each linear foot of store frontage with a maximum surface area of two hundred (200) square feet; and one (1) hanging marquee sign not to exceed the dimensions of one foot (1') by six feet (6') and not to exceed the width of the canopy, whichever is less.
- 2. Shopping center identification signs shall not be located on the rear or sides of a shopping center when such display would orient the sign to a residential neighborhood.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

**N. Residential Signs.** One (1) permanent sign may be located at each entrance to a subdivision, multiple family residential development or manufactured housing park provided the following requirements are met:

- 1. Such sign shall contain only the name of the subdivision, development, or park and shall not contain promotional or sales material.
- 2. The sign shall not create a physical or visual hazard for motorists entering or leaving the subdivision.
- 3. An acceptable legal entity shall be provided by the developer or its assigns, to assure the maintenance of the subdivision sign.
- 4. The sign shall not exceed ten feet (10') in height.
- 5. The sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in area.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

**O. Signs in Multiple Occupancy Buildings.** Where a single building or a complex of buildings on a separate parcel of land that contains two (2) or more separate establishments, the following shall apply:

- 1. Building signs for individual establishments within multiple occupancy buildings:
  - a. Individual establishments with subdivisions of space by means of walls or partitions: One (1) sign not to exceed two and one-half (2 ½) square feet of surface area for each linear foot of establishment frontage with a maximum surface area of two hundred (200) square feet; and one (1) hanging marquee sign not to exceed the dimensions of one foot (1') by six feet (6') and not to exceed the width of the canopy, whichever is less.
  - b. All individual establishments with no subdivision of space by means of walls or partitions: One (1) wall sign. The building sign area for each individual establishment shall be a percentage of the frontage of the entire undivided area depending on the number of establishments. Two (2) establishments shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the building frontage; three (3) establishments shall not exceed forty-five percent (45%) of the building frontage; four (4) or more establishments shall not exceed thirty-three percent (33%) of the building frontage.

2. Ground signs for multiple occupancy buildings: Such buildings shall be permitted one (1) ground sign with surface area not to exceed one (1) square foot per foot of property frontage of the building or two (2) square feet per foot of building frontage whichever is greater, with a maximum of one hundred fifty (150) square feet. Transfers of allowable area may be made provided the maximum allowable area per street frontage is not exceeded by more than fifty percent (50%).  
Exception: Where more than one building exists on a separate parcel of land and each building is provided separate and distinct parking facilities and entrances to the property from other properties or roads, each building shall be permitted one (1) ground sign with surface area not to exceed one (1) square foot per foot of property frontage of the building, or two (2) square feet per foot of building frontage, whichever is greater, with a maximum of one hundred fifty (150) square feet.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

- P. Flags.** Flags are permitted on a building or property in commercial, light industrial and industrial provided the requirements stated below are met. Residential properties are exempt from these standards.
1. The flags must be an official flag of a city, state, educational institution, or country recognized by the Federal or State government, or shall bear only the corporate sign or icon of the business occupying the property.
  2. No more than one flag per represented country shall be allowed.
  3. The flags must be mounted no less than twelve feet (12') above the adjacent ground.
  4. The flag poles must be mounted no closer than twenty feet (20') apart.
  5. There shall be one (1) flag allowed per twenty feet (20') of property frontage.
  6. Flags attached to buildings may project over public sidewalks a maximum of four feet (4').
  7. Corporate flags: Identity flags shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet. Total flag area shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet.
  8. The U.S. flag shall be flown with appropriate respect; i.e. not twenty-fours (24) a day, seven (7) days a week, or in a faded, torn or tattered state.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

#### **Subsection 5708. Non-Conforming Signs.**

- A. Conformance.** All non-conforming signs within the unincorporated areas of Gadsden County shall be removed, changed or altered by the sign owner or owner of the property upon which the sign is erected to conform to the standards of this Code within ten (10) years from the effective date of this Land Development Code. Signs which are made non-conforming by governmental actions subsequent to this Code, shall be made conforming within ten (10) years of the action which creates the non-conformity.
1. Except as provided herein, no non-conforming sign shall be moved, enlarged, altered unless changed to conform with these regulations.
  2. Non-conforming signs may be maintained, repaired or the message of the sign may be changed. If however the non-conforming sign is to be relocated, replaced

or altered more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the replacement cost of the sign, the sign must be made to conform to the regulations contained in this Code.

(Ord. # 2003-006, 8-19-03)

- B. Removal of Illegal and Prohibited Signs.** Signs in existence at the effective date of this ordinance shall be allowed ninety (90) days for renewal. Any unlawful, or prohibited sign within the scope of this Code, placed after the date of the adoption of this Code, or found not to be in compliance, must be brought into compliance or removed within thirty (30) days of written notice to the property owner or his designee, agent, lessor, etc., unless it can be shown that an extension would be required to comply. Upon failure to comply with directives aimed at attaining compliance, the County's representatives may request a court order for removal. Cost of removal will be assessed against the property on which the sign is located or the lessee of the sign if there is a lease for the sign location. Any such sign erected in the public right-of-way shall be removed and disposed of at the direction of the Building Official.

(Ord. # 2001-001, 5-15-01)

## CHAPTER 2

### DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS.

#### DEFINITIONS.

##### **Subsection 2102. Specifically.**

**Billboard:** A sign as defined in §479.01(19), Florida Statutes and is an off-premise sign.

**Sight Triangle:** A triangular-shaped portion of land established at street intersection, or street and driveway intersection in which nothing is erected, placed, planted or allowed to grow in such a manner as to limit or obstruct the sight of motorists entering or leaving the intersection. Also known as the "clear vision zone."

**Sign:** Any object, device, display, structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors or indoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means including works, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images. Signs do not include the merchandise and pictures or model of projects or services incorporated in a window display, works of art which identify a product or scoreboards located on athletic fields.

**Sign, Animated:** A sign which utilizes motion of any part by any means, including wind power, or displays color changing, flashing, oscillating or intermittent lighting, electronic messages or moving images, or which emits visible smoke, vapor, particles, noise or sounds. The definition of animated sign shall not include changeable copy signs, where text can easily be changed for the purpose of advertisement of products and/or services (i.e. fuel signs).

**Sign, Construction:** Any sign giving the name or names of principal contractors, architects, and lending institutions responsible for construction of the site where the sign is placed, together with other information included thereon.

**Sign, Directional:** A sign permanently or temporarily erected by or with approval of any authorized government agency to denote the route to any city, town, village, historic place, shrine, or hospital; signs directing and regulating traffic; notices of any railroad bridge, or other transportation activity necessary for the direction or safety of the public; signs, notices, or symbols for the information of aviators as to location, directions, and landings, and conditions affecting safety in aviation; signs, notices or symbols as to the time and place of civic meetings and signs or notices erected or maintained upon public property giving the name of the owner, lessee, or occupant of the premises or the street number thereof.

**Sign, Ground:** Any sign which is supported by structures or supports in or upon the ground and independent of support from any building.

**Sign, Mansard:** Any sign attached to or erected against a mansard of a building, with the face horizontally parallel to the building wall. Since said sign is to be mounted parallel to and within the limitations of the building wall on which same is to be mounted, the same is deemed to be a wall sign and not a roof sign.

**Sign, Marquee:** A canopy or covered structure projecting from and supported by a building when such canopy or covered structure extends beyond the building line or property line.

**Sign, Non-conforming:** Any sign, legal at the time of its erection, which does not conform to the requirements of the current sign ordinance.

**Sign, Obsolete:** A sign which does not conform to the Standard Building Code for sign requirements or the Gadsden County sign ordinance, as amended.

**Sign, Occupancy:** Signs which designate the occupant or a lawful home occupation.

**Sign, Off-premise:** A sign relating to its subject matter to premises other than the premises on which it is located or to products, accommodations, services or activities available on premises other than the premises on which the sign is located, including a sign erected by the outdoor advertising business.

**Sign, Off-premises directional:** Those which direct the motorist or pedestrian to a business establishment.

**Sign, On-premise:** A sign relating its subject matter to the premises on which it is located, or to products, accommodations, services or activities on the premises.

**Sign, Political:** A sign identifying and urging voter support for or opposition to a particular issue, political party, or candidate for public office.

**Sign, Portable:** Any sign designed to be moved easily and not permanently affixed to the ground or to a structure or building. Signs shall be affixed only by temporary and removable anchoring systems (non-permanent).

**Sign, Projecting:** Any sign other than a wall sign affixed to any building or wall whose leading edge extends beyond such building or wall.

**Sign, Real Estate:** A sign which advertises the sale, rental or development of the premises upon which it is located.

**Sign, Roof:** Any sign erected, constructed, and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building with the principal support on the roof structure.

**Sign Area:** The entire face of a sign and all wall work including illuminating tubing

incidental to its decoration shall be included for measurement of sign areas excluding architectural trim and structural embellishments. In computing sign area, only one (1) side of a double face sign structure shall be considered.

**Sign, internal:** A sign illuminated by an internal lighting system.

**Sign, back-lit:** A sign illuminated by a light from the rear of a sign.

**Sign, spot-lit:** A sign illuminated by a spot light.

**Sign, temporary:** A sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, fabric, paper, plywood, or other light material and intended to be displayed for a short period of time.

**Sign, wall:** A sign attached to or erected against the wall of a building with the face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building wall.

**Signs, billboard:** Billboards are not allowed to be placed in Gadsden County. Existing signs are permitted subject to the limitations in this Code.

**Site Improvement:** Any man-made alteration to a parcel of land for purposes of preparing the land for future construction, the actual construction of structures or paved surfaces and/or the planning or installation of permanent landscaping.

**Site Plan:** The development plan for one or more lots or parcels on which is shown the existing and proposed conditions of the lot(s) or parcel(s) including all of the requirements set forth in this Code.

**Subsection 5609. Clear view of intersecting public rights-of-way and driveway (clear vision zone).**

**A. Purpose.** In order to provide a clear view of intersecting rights-of-way and/or private driveways to motorists, there shall be a triangular area of clear vision formed by the two (2) intersecting rights-of-way, driveways, or combination thereof. These standards shall apply to all developments which are subject to site plan approval. With regard to public rights-of-way, the size of the triangular area is based upon the functional classification of the impacted roadway and from the intersection of the street center lines for the various road classifications shall be as follows:

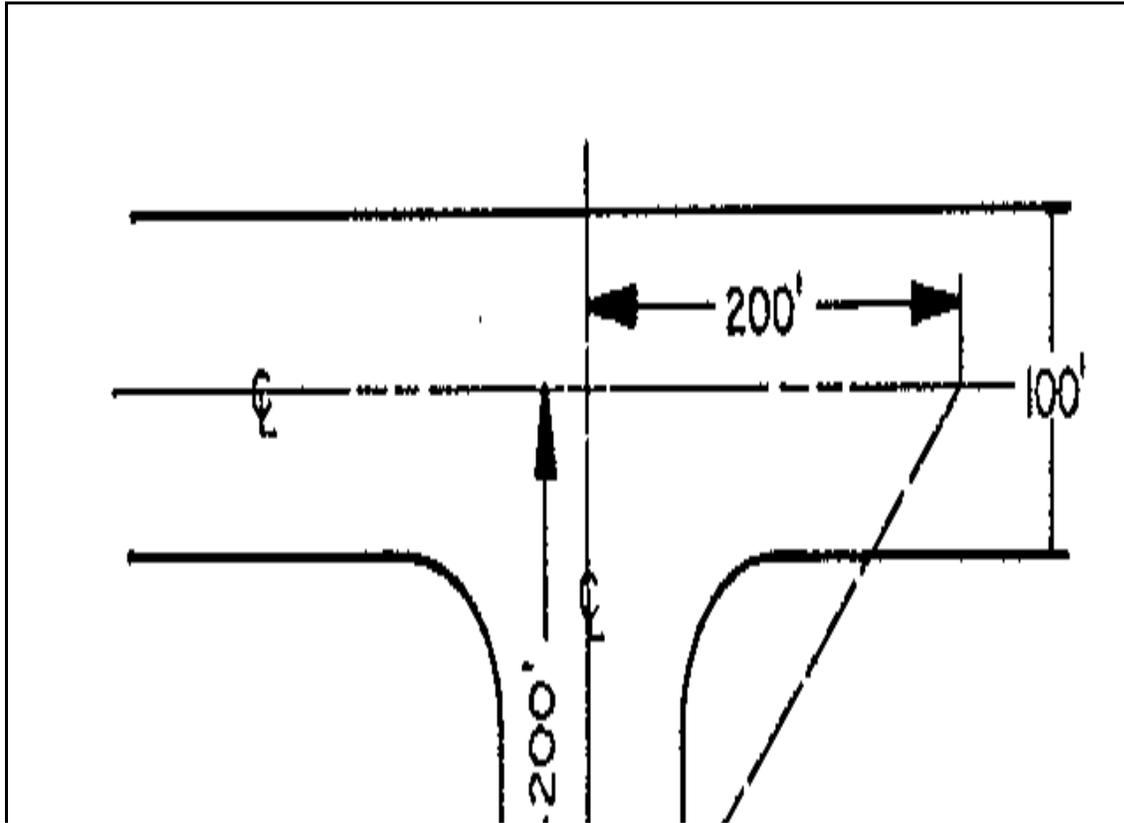
(Ord. # 1996-005, 7-2-96)

**B. Prohibitions.** On any portion of a lot that lies within the triangular areas described and illustrated below, nothing shall be erected, placed, planted, or allowed to grow in such a manner as to materially obstruct vision between a height of three feet (3') and eight feet (8') above the grade at the right-of-way line(s). This prohibition also applies to vehicle parking spaces.

(Ord. # 1996-005, 7-2-96)

**C. Geometry.** The Clear Visibility triangle shall be formed by connecting a point on each street centerline, to be located at the distance from the intersection of the street center lines indicated below, and a third line connecting the two points. (See figure below.)

(Ord. # 1996-005, 7-2-96)



D. The distance from the intersection of the street center lines for the various road classifications shall be as follows:

**Road Classification Distance from Centerline of Intersection**

Driveway or	
Residential Street	100 feet
Collector	160 feet
Arterial	200 feet

(Ord. # 1996-005, 7-2-96)