



## Guide to Non-Commercial Temporary Signs

### **Key Information**

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

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 These sign categories have been replaced by a “non-commercial temporary sign” category.

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

### **General Guidelines**

- 1 Non-commercial temporary signs **may not be placed** in the following locations:
  - Within center medians
  - Within roundabouts and the areas on the outside edge of a roundabout
  - Within traffic circles or islands
  - Within vehicle travel lanes
  - Within sidewalks
  - Attached to traffic control signs
  - Attached to utility or signal poles
  - Planting strips adjacent to City-owned land
- 2 On roads with no sidewalk, non-commercial temporary signs **must be placed outside of the edge of the asphalt**, and **may not be placed so that any part of the sign extends over the asphalt**.
- 3 Non-commercial temporary signs **may not be illuminated**.
- 4 Non-commercial temporary signs shall not be placed in a manner that negatively affects the health of trees, shrubs, or other landscaping.
- 5 Signs placed in violation of Chapter 21A.45 or 21B.45 SMC will be subject to enforcement and possible removal pursuant to SMC 21A.45.100.
- 6 Sign and property owners are responsible for removing their sign(s) after the sign has been posted for the maximum allowed duration.

### **Types of Non-Commercial Temporary Signs**

- Type 1* **Non-A-Frame sign placed in the City Right-of-Way**
- May be up to 4 square feet in size and 3 feet above grade in height.
  - May be placed within City Right-of-way for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.
- Type 2* **A-Frame sign placed in the City Right-of-Way**
- May be up to 6 square feet in size and 3.5 feet in height.
  - May be placed within City Right-of-way for a maximum of 5 consecutive days.
- Type 3* **Temporary signs on private property**
- May be up to 32 square feet in size and 8 feet in height.
  - May be placed, with the permission of the landowner, for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.

## Examples of Non-Commercial Temporary Signs

*Note: all pictures are examples of sign types and are for illustration only*



### Type 1 – Non-A-Frame Sign Placed in Right of Way

- May be up to 4 square feet in size and 3 feet above grade in height.
- May be placed within right-of-way for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.



### Type 2 – A-Frame Sign Placed in Right of Way

- May be up to 6 square feet in size and 3.5 feet in height.
- May be placed within right-of-way for a maximum of 5 consecutive days.



### Type 3 – Temporary Signs On Private Property

- May be up to 32 square feet in size and 8 feet in height.
- May be placed, with the permission of the landowner, for a maximum of 180 consecutive days per calendar year.

*Note: the full text of the City's sign regulations can be found in Chapters 21A.45 and 21B.45 of the Sammamish Municipal Code.*