

**City of South St. Paul
Dakota County, Minnesota
Ordinance No. 1390**

**AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE SIGN ORDINANCE'S RULES FOR RESIDENTIAL
AND INSTITUTIONAL USE SIGNAGE AND CLARIFYING THE RULES FOR
AWNINGS**

The City Council of the City of South St. Paul does ordain:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. South St. Paul Section 118-273, 118-336, 118-338 and 118-339 are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 118-273. Exceptions to the minimum requirements for all districts.

The requirements and regulations specified in this chapter shall be subject to the following:

(2) *Permitted encroachments into required yards and setback areas.*

f. In the C-1, CGMU, and MMM districts:

1. Awnings. Awnings projecting from commercial, mixed-use, and multi-family residential buildings do not have a setback requirement from adjacent street right-of-way.
 - i. Projection. Awnings may extend over public property not more than seven (7) feet from the face of a supporting building and no portion shall extend nearer than two (2) feet from the face of the nearest curb-line measured horizontally. Any new projection over public property is subject to review and approval by the City Engineer.
 - ii. Clearance. All portions of any awning shall be at least eight (8) feet above the ground or pavement below. Nonrigid valances attached to an awning may extend down to a point not less than seven (7) feet above the ground or pavement below.

Sec. 118-333. - Definitions.

Area identification sign means a **freestanding** sign on private property, which identifies the name of a neighborhood, a residential subdivision, a multiple residential complex, a shopping center or area, an industrial park, an office park, or any combination of the above, but does not specifically identify the individual businesses therein. An area identification sign must be a freestanding sign unless a different type of sign is explicitly authorized by this ordinance for a specific use.

Sec. 118-336. Exceptions.

- (4) Sandwich board signs may be used in the C-1, CGMU-1, CGMU-2, and MMM zoning districts and for institutional uses in residential zoning districts provided they comply with the following:
 - i. There shall be no more than one sandwich board sign per property.
 - ii. The sandwich board sign is made of durable, exterior-grade materials that are weather-resistant.
 - iii. The sandwich board sign is located on the street frontage directly in front of the building which the sandwich board sign is for.
 - iv. The sandwich board sign must be located behind the curb and in such a manner as to prevent obstructing access to vehicles using on street parking.
 - v. The sandwich board sign must not obstruct a driveway or public sidewalk, trail, road, or other public right-of-way.
 - vi. The sandwich board sign is no larger than eight square feet and no greater than four feet in height.
 - vii. The sandwich board sign must be removed at the close of business and stored inside a building when the business or institutional use is closed. The sandwich board signs must not be permanently attached to the ground, building, or any other surface.
 - viii. Sandwich board signs are exempt from obtaining a permit.

Sec. 118-338. General provisions applicable to all zoning districts.

(j) *Wall signs.*

- (1) The total gross area in square feet of any wall sign shall not exceed ten percent of the total area of the wall on which the sign is located or 100 square feet, whichever is less.
- (2) Wall signs may be either:
 - a. *Attached.* Flat and parallel to the surface of the building and project no more than 12 inches; or
 - b. *Projecting.* Perpendicular to the surface of the building and no more than 12 inches in thickness. Projecting wall signs must also comply with subsection 118-338(~~1~~).

(l) *Projecting wall signs.*

- (2) Projecting signs may not extend over a public right-of-way or public property except with the written permission of the City Engineer. When a projecting sign extends over a right-of-way or a public property, there shall be at least ~~ten~~ eight feet of clearance between ground level and the lowest point of the projecting sign. In no case may a projecting sign come closer than two feet from the curblines.

- (n) ~~fNonilluminated eCanopy and awning signs.~~ Nonilluminated e Canopy and awning signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) They shall be limited to single-story buildings or to the first level only of multistory buildings.
 - (2) They shall have a minimum clearance of eight feet above grade. ~~unless projecting over a sidewalk, in which case clearance shall be 14 feet above grade.~~
 - (3) The maximum height of an awning or canopy shall be five feet.
 - (4) Wall hangers shall not be visible.
 - (5) Signage on awnings or canopies may be substituted for allowed wall signage but is limited to 25 percent of the awning or canopy area.
 - (6) No awning shall project over a public sidewalk or into a public right-of-way without the approval of the City Engineer.
 - (7) Illuminated canopy and awning signs shall comply with subsection 118-338(m)

Sec. 118-339. – Permitted signs by district.

See Figure A-1 detailing permissible signs by district.

Figure A-1

	R-1 R-2 R-3	R-4	CGMU-1	CGMU-2	MMM	C-1	GB	I
Maximum Gross Area of all Signage on the Property (Square Feet)	6*	24*	150	150	150*	150	200*	200*
Individual Sign Maximum Gross Area (Square Feet)	6*	24	100	100	100	100	100*	100*
Maximum Height (Feet)	6	6	6	6	6	6	10*	10*
Area Identification Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Box or Cabinet Signs	C*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dynamic Display Signs	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	—

Electronic Changeable Copy Signs	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	C
Electronic Graphic Display Signs	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	—
Freeway Signs	—	—	—	—	—	—	C*	C
Illuminated Canopy and Awning Signs	C	P	C	C	C	C	C	C
Menu Board Signs	—	—	C*	C	C	C	C	C
Monument Signs	<u>PE</u> *	P	C*	P*	P*	P	P	P
Nonelectronic Changeable Copy Signs	<u>CP</u> *	P	C*	C*	C*	P	P	P
Nonilluminated Awning and Canopy Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting Signs	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	—
Pylon Signs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wall Signs	<u>P/C</u> *	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

*See special conditions within each zoning district

(a) Within residential zoning districts (R-1 through R-3) signs must comply with the following regulations:

- (1) Aggregate property signage: The maximum gross signage for a property shall not exceed six square feet in gross area unless otherwise excepted below.
- (2) Individual signs: The maximum gross area per sign shall not exceed six square feet in gross area and six feet in height, or as otherwise excepted below.
- (3) The following types of signs are permissible:

a. Area identification signs.

1. Neighborhoods of single-family and two-family homes are allowed one area identification sign per subdivision or development which must be a monument sign and may not exceed 24 square feet in area.

2. Multifamily dwellings with at least four units are allowed one non-illuminated area identification sign which shall not exceed 6 square feet in area except as noted below. The sign must be an attached wall sign except as noted below.

3. In the R-3 district, multifamily dwellings on parcels larger than 25,000 square feet are allowed one non-illuminated area identification sign not

exceeding 24 square feet in area. The sign may be either an attached wall sign or a monument sign.

b. Nonilluminated awning signs and nonilluminated canopy signs.

c. Wall signs and monument signs for an institutional use.

1. Institutional uses shall be permitted one monument sign per property. No such sign shall exceed a gross area of 32 square feet. This sign may be illuminated.

2. Institutional uses may have up to 24 square feet of wall signage per street frontage. No more than 24 feet of wall signage may be directed towards each individual frontage. Illuminated wall signs shall require a conditional use permit.

3. Group family day cares, as defined in Section 118-7, are not considered an institutional use for the purposes of this section.

d. Nonelectronic changeable copy signs, which are allowed only for institutional uses.

~~ee. Reserved.~~

(4) The following types of signs require a conditional use permit:

~~a. Illuminated wall signs, which are allowed only for institutional uses. - Monument signs for institutional uses such as a church or recreational facility only, which shall be allowed one monument sign per lot. No such sign shall exceed a gross area of 32 square feet.~~

b. Illuminated canopy and awning signs on nonresidential buildings.

~~c. e.~~ Projecting signs.

~~d. Nonelectronic changeable copy signs~~

~~d-e.~~ Wall signs, including box and cabinet signs, if they are for a property that does not qualify for wall signage as a permitted use under the provisions listed in subdivision (3) above.

~~f. Box or cabinet signs for nonresidential uses.~~

~~e-g.~~ Dynamic display signs, electronic changeable copy, and electronic graphic display signs, are allowed only when located upon the monument sign of an institutional use ~~such as a church or recreational facility~~ and are subject to the following requirements:

1. The signage shall adhere to all requirements of subsection 118-339(c)(4)c.1 unless otherwise stated below.
2. The electronic sign shall be turned off between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

3. No part of the display shall change more than once every 15 seconds.
- (5) The following types of signs require an interim use permit:
 - a. A home occupation may be allowed one nonilluminated business sign in an approved location, not to exceed six square feet in area. The sign must be removed if the home occupation is discontinued. In the R-1 single family zoning district, no home occupation signage is allowed.
 - (6) The following types of signs are prohibited:
 - a—c. Reserved.
 - d. Freeway signs.
 - e. Menu board signs.
- (b) Within multifamily residential zoning districts (R-4) signs must comply with the following regulations:
- (1) Aggregate property signage: The maximum gross signage for a property shall not exceed 24 square feet in gross area unless otherwise allowed below.
 - (2) Individual signs: The maximum gross area per sign shall not exceed 24 square feet in gross area and six feet in height.
 - (3) The following types of signs are permissible:
 - a. Area identification signs.
 - b. Illuminated canopy and awning signs.
 - c. Monument signs. ~~Institutional uses as defined in code are permitted to exceed the 24 square foot allowance and have one monument sign up to 32 square feet in size, provided that it is the only sign on the property.~~
 - d. Nonelectronic changeable copy signs.
 - e. Nonilluminated awning signs and nonilluminated canopy signs.
 - f. Projecting signs.
 - g. Wall signs.
 - h. Box or cabinet signs.
 - i. Wall signs and monument signs for an institutional use.
 1. Institutional uses shall be permitted one monument sign per lot. No such sign shall exceed a gross area of 32 square feet.
 2. Institutional uses may have up to 24 square feet of wall signage per street frontage. No more than 24 feet of wall signage may be directed towards each individual frontage.

3. Group family day cares, as defined in Section 118-7, are not considered an institutional use for the purposes of this section.

- (4) The following types of signs require a conditional use permit:
- a. Dynamic display signs, electronic changeable copy, and electronic graphic display signs ~~are allowed~~ only when located upon the monument sign of an institutional use ~~such as a church or recreational facility~~ and are subject to the following requirements:
 1. The signage shall adhere to all requirements of subsection 118-339(c)(4)c.1 unless otherwise stated below.
 2. The electronic sign shall be turned off between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 3. No part of the display shall change more than once every 15 seconds.
- (5) The following types of signs are prohibited:
- a—c. Reserved.
 - d. Freeway signs.
 - e. Menu board signs.

SECTION 2. SUMMARY PUBLICATION. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance:

This ordinance updates the sign ordinance to approve an additional signage allowance for institutional uses in residential zoning districts. It also updates the general rules for signage in residentially zoned areas.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Approved: March 7, 2022

Published: March 14, 2022

Christy Wilcox, City Clerk