What signage is allowed within the public right-of-way?

Signs allowed to be placed in the public right-of-way without regulation include those related to public and government services, traffic control, safety and warming signs.

Signs not related to public or government services are allowed in the right-of-way and no permit is required, but they are regulated. These types of signs include political signs, community event signs, commercial signs, garage sale signs and non-commercial signs.

For the most part, signs in the right-of-way have to be portable signs — that is, they must be movable by a single person without assistance. They are limited in size to a maximum of 8 square feet in area and a maximum height of 4 feet.

Signs in the right-of-way may never be placed in medians, in planter strips that are landscaped with more than just grass and street trees, in such a manner as to impede vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian circulation or in a manner that blocks vision at intersections.

All signs placed in the right-of-way, other than political signs, must indicate the name, address and telephone number of the sign owner, a direction of travel and the type of event.

Because the purpose of portable signs in the right-of-way for commercial events or businesses is to direct customers to the business/event, they may only be displayed when the business to which they relate is open or the event they announce is actually taking place. This limitation does not apply to political signs and some community event signs.

The number and location of signs allowed in the right-of-way (except for political signs which are not limited) depends on the type of zoning district where the business or event is located. Businesses/events within a commercial or industrial zone are allowed a maximum of one (1) sign in the right-of-way. Signs for businesses/events within a residential zone may only be placed at intersections. While there is no limit on the total number of signs allowed, only one sign per event per intersection is allowed. For detailed requirements related to signs permitted within the public right-of-way read Mukilteo Municipal Code Chapter 17.80.060 or contact the Mukilteo Planning & Community Development Department at the phone number and address listed on the back of this brochure.

Garage sale and other non-commercial signs

Portable signs in the right-of-way for garage sales and other non-commercial events are subject to the same limitations as other portable signs regarding size, height, when they can be on display and the information required to be on the sign. There is no limit to the number of signs allowed for garage sales and non-commercial events, but they may only be placed at intersections and only one sign per event per intersection is allowed.

Enforcement of regulations

All signs illegally placed within the City’s right-of-way may be removed without notice by City staff. Staff will not wait to receive a complaint before picking up illegal signs. After pick up, attempts will be made to notify the sign owner. Even if those attempts are not successful, signs not retrieved within ten (10) days will be disposed of without further notice. If you believe the City has picked up your sign, or if you have been contacted to inform you your sign(s) were picked up, you should contact City Hall at (425) 263-8000 to verify the City has your sign(s) and to make an appointment to retrieve your signs. Generally, signs can be picked up from City Hall 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The first time you come to City Hall to retrieve your sign you must meet with a planner who will explain what made your sign illegal and why it was picked up. You will also be provided written information regarding regulations for “Signs in the Public Right-Of-Way”. Your sign(s) will be returned to you and you will not be charged an impoundment fee nor will you be issued a citation.

If you have a sign picked up a second time and you want your sign back you will have to pay a $25.00 impoundment fee at City Hall for each sign that was picked up. You will also be cited for violating Mukilteo Municipal Code Chapter 17.80 - Signs, and issued a civil infraction ticket as provided for by MMC 18.25 - Civil Infractions. Each sign is considered a separate violation. Each day a sign is in violation constitutes a separate violation. The fine for civil infractions follows an escalating scale as shown below:

- 1st Occurrence $ 50.00/violation
- 2nd Occurrence $125.00/violation
- 3rd Occurrence $250.00/violation

With a fourth offense, you will not be provided the opportunity to retrieve your sign and it will be discarded without notice. However, civil penalties will continue to be assessed as provided for in MMC 18.25.
Our Goal!
Partnering with the Community to achieve voluntary compliance.

Questions?
If you have any questions, are considering displaying a sign within the City, or want to review your options....

Call....
City of Mukilteo Planning Department
(425) 263-8043
Fax (425) 212-2068

Location....
11930 Cyrus Way
Mukilteo, Washington 98275

Hours....
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This brochure is intended to be for information only. Please be advised that this brochure may not be complete and is subject to change.