

SURVEY OF OTHER COMMUNITIES / OTHER RESEARCH NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE - UPDATE 2016

The following communities were surveyed through the Northwest Municipal Conference in September 2015. Additional communities that were not part of the NWMC survey were added through staff research, in March 2016. In all, 22 communities were surveyed.

Communities Surveyed in 2015: Arlington Heights, Barrington, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Carpentersville, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Evanston, Fox Lake, Hoffman Estates, Lincolnshire, Northbrook, Schaumburg, Skokie, Streamwood, Vernon Hills, and Wheeling.

Communities added in 2016: Oak Park, Naperville, Mount Prospect, Palatine, and Rolling Meadows.

**Allow some form of electronic sign by-right
(with restrictions) – 6 out of 22**

Carpentersville
Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village (specific corridors)
Naperville
Oak Park (sign overlay district)
Rolling Meadows (IL Route 53 Corridor)

Do not allow electronic signs – 6 out of 22

Arlington Heights
Buffalo Grove
Evanston
Fox Lake
Hoffman Estates
Lincolnshire

**Allow electronic signs through a conditional or
special permit/use – 9 out of 22**

Barrington (government/public lands only)
Bartlett
Mount Prospect
Northbrook (government/institutional only)
Palatine (specified corridors)
Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills (government use only)
Wheeling

Do not allow for businesses – 12 out of 22

Arlington Heights
Barrington
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Evanston
Fox Lake
Hoffman Estates
Lincolnshire
Northbrook
Schaumburg
Vernon Hills
Wheeling

Only allow for government use – 6 out of 22

Barrington
Hoffman Estates
Northbrook
Schaumburg
Vernon Hills
Wheeling

Municipality	Does your municipality allow Electronic Message Boards by right?	If so, please explain the process in which an EMB sign would receive zoning approval. For instance, is Council approval required? Do you require a public hearing prior to approval?	ALLOW VIA Board action or special use	ALLOW FOR government and civic uses
Arlington Heights	No	A sign variation is required which requires Design Commission review and Village Board approval.	No	
Barrington	No	Changeable copy, electronic signs are only permitted as civic event signs and require a special use permit. They are only permitted on publicly owned land in the B-4, P-L, and R-C districts. The special use permit process requires a public hearing and Board approval.	Yes	Yes
Bartlett	No	Zoning administrator reviews and makes recommendation to Board. Board approves motion by administrator.	Yes	
Buffalo Grove	No	Electronic signs on windows are allowed by variation. Electronic message signs for ground or wall signs are allowed by variation. Exceptions: Menu Boards at drive-thru's and gas station pricing signs that meet the specific size requirements are allowed.	No	No
Carpentersville	Yes	Zoning approval is granted through staff review and issuance of a sign permit. A public hearing is not required. Approval by the elected officials is not required.		
Des Plaines	Yes	In six districts electronic message board signs are permitted by right, in four others as a Conditional Use which would require City Council Approval.	Yes	
Elk Grove	Yes	Restricted to commercial and industrial use in specified corridors.		No
Evanston	No			
Fox Lake	No			
Hoffman Estates	No	The zoning code does not allow them in most cases (certain allowances are made for interior window signs), but the Village Board has approved electronic message boards in ground signs on a case-by-case basis through a public hearing process, with a Master Sign Plan addressing all exterior signs on the property.		
Lincolnshire	No	Prohibits electronic message board signs; however, variances have been granted to certain properties/businesses to permit EMB's.		
Mount Prospect	No	Requires a Special Use.	Yes	
Naperville	Yes	Static message only; can change no more than once every 10 seconds.		
Northbrook	No	Allowed only in institutional building district (includes government and civic uses), not commercial uses. Requires a special permit (Plan Commission public hearing and Board approval).	Yes	
Oak Park	Yes	Allow Digital Display screens (6 sf. maximum) but do not allow Digital Message Signs. Allow only in neighborhood or commercial sign overlay district.		No
Palatine	No	Requires a Special Use. Only allowed in specified corridors.	Yes	
Rolling Meadows	No	Only allowed in Illinois Route 53 sign overlay district.		
Schaumburg	No	Except for governmental entities and service stations (gas prices only)		Yes
Skokie	No	Reviewed by Appearance Review Commission for binding decision.	Yes	
Streamwood	No	Public hearing in front of Planning and Zoning Board. Village Board approval is required.	Yes	
Vernon Hills	No	Allowed administratively through the permit process only for the Village, public schools and the Park District. Any other use requires a public hearing for a variation.		Yes
Wheeling	No	Public Hearing with Plan Commission required for all signs.	Yes	