

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

O-2025-08 Relating to Feather Signs in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts

This Ordinance proposes to amend Table 10-2 “Prohibited Signs” to create an exception under Animated Signs for temporary Feather Signs on properties in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts. The intent of this change is to allow Feather Signs for up to 30 days at a time and no more than four times per year with appropriate spacing between signs and a reasonable setback from the property line. A sign permit is required to ensure Feather Signs are safely installed. The proposal also includes a definition for Feather Signs.

The attached materials include the full text of Ordinance O-2025-08 and excerpted sections of the City of Keene Land Development Code that are proposed to be amended with Ordinance O-2025-08. Text that is highlighted in yellow and bolded is proposed to be added, and text that is stricken through is proposed to be deleted.



CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and _____ Twenty Five

AN ORDINANCE _____ Relating to Feather Signs in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That Chapter 100 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by deleting the stricken text and adding the bolded and underlined text, as follows.

1. That Table 10-2, "Prohibited Signs," be amended to create an exception under Animated Signs for temporary Feather Signs on properties in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts. The intent of this change is to allow Feather Signs for up to 30 days at a time and no more than four times per year with appropriate spacing between signs and a reasonable setback from the property line. A sign permit is required to ensure Feather Signs are safely installed.

Feather Signs that are 20 sf or less in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts (sign permit required, max duration of 30 days at a time and no more than four times per year per property, spaced at least 10 ft apart and set back 15 feet from the property line).

2. That the following definition for "Feather Sign" be added to Article 29, "Defined Terms" of the Land Development Code:

Feather Sign (also known as Blade Sail Sign) - A sign made of flexible material that is generally, but not always, rectangular in shape and attached to a pole on one side so the sign can move with the wind.

Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

10.3 PROHIBITED SIGNS

The signs in Table 10-2 shall be prohibited in every zoning district, unless noted otherwise in this Article.

Table 10-2: Prohibited Signs

Prohibited Sign Types	Exceptions
Abandoned / Nonapplicable	Monument Signs are allowed
Sign with a sign face area > 200 sf	-
Sign erected or attached to Central Square common or Railroad Square	The temporary use of handheld signs is allowed.
Animated Sign	Revolving Barber Poles 4-ft high by 1-ft wide or less (may be internally illuminated & mounted on the business frontage) 1 flag / tenant frontage that is 15-sf or less, removed at closing, attached to a wall, and does not interfere with travel or maintenance of the public right of way. Feather Signs that are 20 sf or less in the Industrial and Industrial Park Districts (sign permit required, max duration of 30 days at a time and no more than four times per year per property, spaced at least 10 ft apart and set back 15 feet from the property line).
Channel Letter Signs & Reverse Channel Letter Sign	Allowed in BGR, DT-C, DT-G, DT-L, DT-E, CL, COM, CP, HC, I, IP, NB
Internally illuminated Sign	Allowed in BGR, DT-C, DT-G, DT-L, DT-E, CL, COM, CP, HC, I, IP, NB
Electrically Activated Changeable Copy Signs	-
Fluorescent Sign	-
Obscene Sign (per NH RSA 571-B:1)	-
Balloon Sign	Allowed as a Temporary Sign
Off-premises Sign	Allowed if permitted by state law
Reflectorized Sign	-

Roof Sign	May be mounted on architectural projections (e.g. canopies), eaves, or mansard facades
Snipe Sign	-

10.4 STANDARDS FOR ALL SIGNS

10.4.1 Placement and Location

- A. Each sign shall be located on the same site as the subject of the sign.
- B. No sign, other than signs placed by agencies of government with appropriate jurisdiction, shall encroach upon or over a public right-of-way without approval from City Council.
- C. No sign shall cover any portion of any building wall opening or project beyond the ends or top of the building wall to which it is affixed.

10.4.2 Construction and Maintenance

- A. No sign shall be erected, constructed, relocated, or otherwise maintained such that it does any of the following.
 - 1. Obstructs the free and clear vision of motorists or pedestrians in their travels.
 - 2. Causes distraction to motorists on adjacent public rights-of-way.
 - 3. Obstructs, interferes with, or may be confused with any government sign, restrictive sign, directional sign or other authorized traffic sign, signal, or device.
 - 4. Uses a revolving beacon.
 - 5. Obstructs any ingress/egress, inhibits light and ventilation, or constitutes a fire hazard.
- B. All signs and sign structures, including supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be kept in good repair and appearance in accordance with the provisions of this Article, and shall comply with all applicable construction standards, codes and regulations.

Event Venue - A facility that provides hosting and rental services of a banquet hall or similar facility for private events (e.g. wedding receptions, holiday parties, fundraisers, etc.) with on-site or catered food service to invited guests during intermittent dates and hours of operation. Live entertainment may occur as part of an event. An event venue is not operated as a restaurant with regular hours of operation.

Excavation Activity/Excavation Operations/Processing Activities - For the purposes of Article 24 - "Earth Excavation Regulations," excavation activity/excavation operations/processing activities shall mean the act of moving or removing earth, including but not limited to, all activities associated with the commercial taking of earth, production and processing of construction aggregate, transportation of earth and site restoration. Associated excavation and processing activities also include, but are not limited to: digging, drilling, blasting, bulldozing, crushing, washing, screening, sorting, scaling, weighing, stockpiling, loading, and transporting earth.

Excavation Area - For the purposes of Article 24 - "Earth Excavation Regulations," excavation area shall mean the surface area within an excavation site where excavation has occurred or is eligible to occur under the provisions of this LDC, and NH RSA 155-E. This area may be also referred to as the "pit surface area."

Excavation Perimeter - For the purposes of Article 24 - "Earth Excavation Regulations," excavation perimeter shall mean the land within an excavation site, which includes the excavation area, areas where excavation operations and processing activities are performed, stockpiling areas, and any areas where earth materials are or will be loaded or unloaded for purposes of transport.

Excavation Project - For the purposes of Article 24 - "Earth Excavation Regulations," excavation project shall mean a timeframe that includes all excavation activities to be conducted on an excavation site, including all excavation phases.

Excavation Site - For the purposes of Article 24 - "Earth Excavation Regulations," excavation site shall mean any area of contiguous land in common ownership upon which excavation takes place.

Façade - The front of a building or structure or any of its sides that faces a public right-of-way.

Fall Zone - The area within which there is a potential hazard from falling debris, such as ice, which encompasses a circle with a diameter equal to twice the height of a telecommunication facility as measured on the ground from the base of the facility.

Family - Family shall mean one of the following:
1) two or more natural persons related by blood, marriage, civil union, adoption, or foster care, living together as a single housekeeping unit with or without customary household helpers in a dwelling unit; or 2) a group of four or fewer natural persons, who are not related by blood, marriage, civil union, adoption, or foster care, living together as a single housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit. This term shall not preclude one natural person from being the sole occupant of any dwelling unit.

Farming - Any land, buildings or structures on or in which agriculture and farming operations or activities are carried out or conducted as defined by NH RSA 21:34-A. Such operations include, but are not limited to, animal husbandry, the cultivation, production, harvesting and sale of any agricultural, floricultural, viticultural, forestry, or horticultural crops as well as ancillary activities integral to the operation of a farm.

Feather Sign (also known as Blade Sail Sign) - A sign made of flexible material that is generally, but not always, rectangular in shape and attached to a pole on one side so the sign can move with the wind.

Fenestration - The arrangement of windows, exterior doors and other exterior openings on a building.

Fire Line - Any pipe, including appurtenant valves or fittings, conveying water from a water main to private fire apparatus, and conveying water at no time for other purposes except as provided under