

City of Goshen

Outdoor Lighting Regulations

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to:

- A.** Safeguard the privacy of property owners by mitigating glare and light trespass emanating from outdoor lighting fixtures, which may affect neighboring properties.
- B.** Protect the safety and well-being of pedestrians, motorists, senior citizens, and individuals with visual impairments from glare that may impede safe navigation and travel.
- C.** Encourage the adoption of energy-efficient and cost-effective outdoor lighting solutions.
- D.** Allow for reasonable flexibility in the selection and design of light fixtures, subject to compliance with these regulations.
- E.** Minimize the impact of atmospheric light pollution within the jurisdictional boundaries of the city.

SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY

The provisions set forth in these regulations shall apply to all outdoor lighting installations within the jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, including, but not limited to:

- A.** New outdoor lighting installations on both private and public properties.
- B.** The replacement, modification, or upgrade of existing outdoor lighting fixtures.
- C.** All outdoor lighting installations are situated within residential and commercial zoning districts.

SECTION 3. RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING STANDARDS

In residential zoning districts, the following provisions shall govern the installation and operation of outdoor lighting fixtures:

A. Lighting Intensity: Residential outdoor lighting fixtures may emit a maximum of 1,100 lumens for the purpose unless lighting is on a timer not to exceed ten (10) minutes for the purpose of landscape, walk-way and security.

B. Sign Lumens. Illuminated signs are prohibited in residential zones.

C. Color Temperature:

1. Outdoor lighting fixtures utilizing Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology shall not exceed a color temperature of 3,000 Kelvin, which shall produce an amber-colored light tone.
2. Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) or incandescent bulbs shall emit light of a yellow hue.

D. Shielding Requirements:

1. All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be equipped with proper shielding, including hoods, and shall be aimed downward to prevent light spill and glare that may affect adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. The foot candle should not be more than 1 foot.
2. Any upright fixtures shall be adequately shielded to prevent light spill into the sky or onto neighboring properties, ensuring that no upward light pollution or glare is generated.

SECTION 4. COMMERCIAL LIGHTING STANDARDS

In commercial zoning districts, the following standards shall apply to outdoor lighting installations:

A. Lighting Intensity: Commercial outdoor lighting fixtures may emit the minimal amount of lumens for the purpose of security in and around the building and other structures as well as parking and walking area. Light pollution on neighboring residential properties is prohibited.

B. Sign lumens shall not exceed 2,700 lumens between sunset and sunrise and shall not exceed eight thousand (8,000) lumens during daylight hours.

C. Color Temperature. Outdoor lighting fixtures utilizing Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology shall not exceed a color temperature of 3,000 Kelvin, unless suitable lighting is not available from the customary source below that temperature or is mandated for the specific purpose by state or federal law, or a professional opinion substantiates that a higher temperature is necessary for safely performing some particular lawful function.

D. Shielding Requirements:

1. All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be equipped with hoods or similar shielding mechanisms and shall be directed downward to prevent excessive light spill and glare. Foot candles should not exceed one (1') foot.
2. Any uplighting utilized for the illumination of signage or architectural features shall be properly shielded and confined within the boundaries of the property to prevent light trespass onto adjacent properties or public rights-of-way.

SECTION 5. PUBLIC UTILITY LIGHTING

Public Utility Lighting is determined by the utility company; however, when there is a choice of wattage, lumens, or kelvins, the lower option must be selected.

SECTION 6. SPORTS FACILITIES LIGHTING STANDARDS

In sports facilities, the following provisions shall apply to outdoor lighting installations to ensure safety, visibility, and minimal environmental impact:

A. Lighting Intensity.

1. The maximum allowed intensity for outdoor lighting fixtures in sports facilities shall not exceed 8,000 lumens per fixture in areas designated for athletic events or activities.
2. For practice fields and other non-event areas, lighting intensity shall not exceed 8,000 lumens per fixture.

B. Color Temperature.

1. All lighting fixtures utilized in sports facilities must use LED technology with a color temperature not exceeding 3,000 Kelvin to provide adequate visibility while minimizing harsh lighting conditions and potential glare.

C. Shielding and Glare Prevention.

1. All lighting fixtures in sports facilities shall be properly shielded to prevent direct light spill into surrounding areas, including residential properties and public rights-of-way as well as minimize light pollution.
2. Fixtures should be aimed to direct light onto the playing surface, ensuring that no light escapes beyond the boundaries of the field.
3. Any elevated lighting, such as on poles, shall incorporate full shielding mechanisms to prevent light pollution and glare into the sky or neighboring properties. Light poles may not exceed fourteen (14') feet in height.
4. Lighting must be designed to limit the impact on the surrounding environment and to protect the nocturnal habitat of local wildlife.

D. Time of Use.

1. Sports facility lighting should only be operational during the hours of athletic events or scheduled practices. Lighting should be turned off immediately following the conclusion of events or practices.
2. Maintenance at any sports facility must be completed during the day so that lighting does not have to be used at night.

E. Emergency Lighting.

1. Emergency lighting, such as exit path lighting or lights for immediate safety purposes, shall comply with the appropriate intensity and shielding standards, ensuring that safety is not compromised.

F. Compliance with Other Regulations.

1. Sports facilities must adhere to all local zoning and planning regulations related to lighting, including any applicable noise or sound ordinances that may interact with lighting use.

G. Monitoring and Adjustments.

1. The City Zoning Official or the Mayor's designee shall have the authority to assess lighting installations in sports facilities to ensure compliance with these regulations.
2. In the event of any non-compliance, corrective action orders may be issued to adjust lighting intensity, shielding, or other factors to meet the established standards.

SECTION 7. EXEMPTIONS

The following categories of outdoor lighting shall be exempt from certain provisions of these regulations:

- A. Temporary lighting used for special events, including, but not limited to, festivals, parades, or similar events, provided such lighting is in operation for no longer than thirty (30) days.
- B. Street lighting not owned by the city where the tariff for compliant fixtures would be significantly more expensive than comparable compliant fixtures, or where compliant fixtures are not available from the relevant utility.
- C. Lighting used for seasonal decorations, provided such lighting is in operation for no longer than sixty (60) days.
- D. Motion-sensor security lighting, provided that such lighting is designed to automatically turn off after a duration of no more than ten (10) minutes.
- E. Navigation lighting, including, but not limited to, radio towers, television towers, cellular communication towers, and similar structures, as well as associated lighting fixtures.
- F. Fossil fuel lighting.
- G. All other lighting is prohibited without a variance approval.

SECTION 8. COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES AND APPEALS

- A. **Monitoring and Compliance:** Compliance with the provisions of these regulations shall be monitored by the City Zoning Official.
- B. **Appeal:** All administrative interpretations of this ordinance may be appealed to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission may consider certain alternatives on a case-by-case basis. All decisions made by the Planning Commission may be appealed to the Goshen City Council.
- C. **Variance Process.**
 - 1. A variance application may be filled out for \$200.00 fee, a fee city council has determined satisfactory.

2. All lighting variance applications must provide public notice to surrounding properties within 200' of all property boundaries.
3. The Board of Zoning Adjustment will hear all variance application requests.

D. Noncompliance. Violators may face a fine of up to \$250 for each infraction, with each day of noncompliance considered a separate violation. Citations may be issued by a certified officer of the law, leading to potential legal action.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.