

§ 335-65

Outdoor lighting.

A. Purpose, applicability and goals.

(1) The purpose of this section is to improve the health, safety and general welfare of areas by restricting the nighttime emission of light rays which are the source of light trespass and/or unnecessary glare, and/or are detrimental to the safety and/or security of persons, property or vehicular traffic, and/or are detrimental to the traditional aesthetic values of the Village, curtail light pollution, reduce skyglow and improve the nighttime environment for wildlife, migrating birds and invertebrates, conserve energy and resources to the greatest extent possible, and/or unnecessarily restrict persons from the peaceful enjoyment of their property.

(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to all outdoor luminaires used, installed, replaced, altered, moved or repaired after the effective date of this chapter, except as this applicability is specifically expanded or reduced herein.

(3) The purpose of this section is to have all outdoor lighting be located, sized and directed so that the light emitted from the luminaires does not constitute light trespass, as defined herein. Additional goals of this section are to minimize the amount of electricity consumed, encourage practical outdoor lighting installations and eliminate unnecessary lighting that will protect sensitive environmental resources.

B. Effect on other codes. The provisions of this section are intended to supplement other applicable codes and requirements. Compliance with all applicable provisions of building, zoning, electrical and other codes must be observed. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of this section and other requirements, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

C. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated.

FOOTCANDLE

A unit of illuminance on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a uniform point source of light of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot.

KELVIN

A measure of light color temperature.

LIGHT TRESPASS

Light emitted by a luminaire that shines beyond the boundaries of the property on which the luminaire is located.

LIGHT SHIELD

Any attachment which interrupts and blocks the path of light emitted from a luminaire or fixture.

LUMINAIRE

The complete lighting system, including lamp and the fixture.

SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIALLY ZONED NEIGHBORHOOD

Any area in the Village of Elm Grove zoned Rs-1; Rs-2; Rs-3; or Rs-4.

D. Requirements.

(1) All outdoor luminaires shall be located, sized, installed, shielded, directed and/or maintained in such a manner that they do not constitute light trespass as described below. [Refer to Section § 335-88D(6)(i) for further guidance on outdoor lighting.]

(a) Light trespass within or adjacent to the boundaries of single-family residentially zoned

district may not exceed an intensity greater than one-half footcandle at a point four feet above the ground at the property boundary line.

(b) No light trespass in any other zoning district within the Village of Elm Grove may exceed one footcandle at a point four feet above the ground at the property line.

(2) No outdoor luminaire may be operated in such manner as to constitute a hazard or danger to persons or to safe vehicular operation.

(3) In the case of state and national flags, statues, entranceway markers, or other top-of-pole mounted objects which cannot be illuminated with downward directed lighting, upward directed lighting may be used only in the form of one or two narrow-cone spotlights which confine the illumination to the object of interest, and provided that the lighting is restricted to an angle of not less than 75° up from horizontal.

(4) Lighting that minimizes the amount electricity consumed such as energy efficient lighting sources and fixtures shall be specified and installed, to the maximum extent practicable.

(5) All nonessential lighting is encouraged to be turned off after business hours and/or when not in use, especially from 11 PM - 6 AM, during the peak period of spring and fall migration of birds, which is generally from April 15 to May 31 and September 15 to October 31.

(6) Where practical, outdoor lighting installations are to include timers, dimmers, sensors, and/or photocell controllers that turn the lights off during daylight hours to reduce overall energy consumption and eliminate unnecessary lighting. Sensor activated fixtures should not be triggered by activity off the subject property.

(7) Whenever possible, utilize warm-colored lighting (in the range of 2,100 - 2,200 Kelvin) that has a shorter reach and fewer negative effects on wildlife.

(8) Indiscriminate and excessive lighting should be avoided. Light should be directed only to where it is needed with appropriate intensity.

(9) On properties which are adjacent to or contain sensitive environmental resources such as wetlands and woodlands, any exterior lighting shall be limited to low-level lights and shields to minimize the amount of light entering any identified sensitive environmental resource area, to the maximum extent practicable.

E. Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this chapter, to the extent described as follows:

(1) Motion detector security lights, which are normally off and which are activated on for less than four minutes occasionally when motion is detected, are exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

(2) Outdoor luminaires used to provide illumination within public street rights-of-way are exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

Temporary exemptions. Requests for temporary exemptions from the provisions of this chapter may be submitted to the Village Board in written form describing the reason for the request and the nature of the request. If approved and granted in writing by the Village Board, such exemption shall be in force for not more than 30 days. Requests for a maximum of a thirty-day renewal may be made in a similar manner. The Village Board may terminate any temporary exemption for any reasonable cause, including but not limited to, concerns about safety or light trespass.

