



City of Denton's Public Works Department Neighborhood Street Sign Topper Program Guidelines

Neighborhood Sign "Toppers" are mounted above street name signs to demark entrances to neighborhoods from arterial or collector streets. The City approves "Toppers" recognizing that "Toppers" may serve as a catalyst for kindling interest in improving neighborhoods. For the concept to work, a requested neighborhood needs to be large enough to possess clear neighborhood boundary intersections. To have "Toppers" installed, sponsors must:

- Demonstrate consensus for the specific sign "Topper" design; and
- Gain City approval of the specific "Topper" design to ensure they are tasteful, will not confuse motorists as to street names, or potentially draw criticism from neighbors.

These guidelines were prepared to help neighborhoods by providing key information as to how they may request and receive authorization to install Toppers. Please see the **Neighborhood Street Sign Topper Program Procedures** packet for additional information.

Sign toppers are installed to demonstrate neighborhood unity or identify the boundaries or existence of homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, such as a historic district, or proposed residential neighborhood developments. To maintain a consistent and suitable standard for neighborhood sign toppers, all homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, and proposed residential neighborhood developments requesting sign topper installation shall adhere to these guidelines set by the City of Denton's Traffic Operations team and work with the City Liaison to meet all guidelines prior to installation. It should be noted that this policy and the requirements listed below are only applicable on City maintained streets.

Important Disclaimer: By law, the City of Denton controls all aspects of the public right of way including the sole right to install and remove any item placed at any time for any reason without notice.

Street Sign Topper Content

Sign content shall indicate one graphic per homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, or proposed residential neighborhood developments. Staff will consider all proposed color pantones. Please note, signs with background colors similar to or the same as traffic safety and/or regulatory signs **will not be approved**.

Size and Shape Guidelines

Toppers should be attractive, readable, and not interfere with street sign navigation. Toward that end, the following guidance is offered:

- Toppers shall contain only acceptable content such as the neighborhood or association name.
- Colors must be different from those used on street name signs, so as to avoid motorist confusion thinking the "Topper" sign is the name of a street.
- Intricate design/color schemes are wholly ineffective and need to be avoided. Background color needs to contrast with text color to make words stand out.
- Essential words should be a minimum of 2" in height. Signs may be easy to read when standing close by but look substantially smaller when viewed from a distance and mounted 12 feet in the air.

Reserved Colors for Traffic Control Signs



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- Red, Florescent Yellow, Florescent Yellow/Green, and Orange

Historic Neighborhoods (National Register, State or Local Historic Districts)

Brown backgrounds with white text is suggested for designated neighborhoods.

Suggested Background Color

Acceptable colors include:

- Light Brown: PMS 497
- Dark Brown: PMS 476
- Dark Grey: PMS 432
- Dark Red: PMS 202
- Dark Blue PMS 296
- Dark Green: PMS 233
- Black
- White

Light greens or blues are not recommended.



Font Color

Text must be clearly visible on background. Recommended colors include:

- White
- Off-white
- Black
- Dark Brown



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Font

The following fonts are acceptable to use:

- Times New Roman
- Garamond
- **Palatino Bold**
- Goudy Old Style
- **Helvetica Bold**
- CASTELLAR

Script font is not allowed.

Street Sign Topper Design Standards

Size: Approx. 9" x 22.5" (see Page 5 for 'Diagram Examples')

Shape: As shown on page 5

Extended Mounting Plate: Approx. 12" in width

Material: .080 Aluminum

Reflectivity Standards: Signs will need to be reflective, and sign background and content must contrast.

Font Size: Height at least 2"

Font: Type will be left to the discretion of the homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, or proposed residential neighborhood developments requesting the signs.

Graphics: The City of Denton will only allow one graphic per homeowner association, non-homeowner association, special district, or proposed neighborhood development. In accordance with copyright laws the City of Denton logo cannot be used without official consent from the City of Denton.

Petitioning Process

The homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, or proposed residential neighborhood developments representative coordinating the sign topper process shall provide all petition documentation and checklists to the City Liaison. This material is provided in the "Neighborhood Eligibility and Engagement" portion of the **Neighborhood Street Sign Topper Program Procedures** packet. Installation will not commence until these petitioning processes are complete.

A sample of the proposed sign topper (including a detailed mock-up, image, or draft of the sign toppers content, color, font, and dimensions) **should** be provided to the City Liaison.

City Obligation

The City of Denton has budgeted for a maximum of twenty-five (25) signs per homeowners and neighborhood associations, non-homeowner or non-neighborhood associations, special districts, or



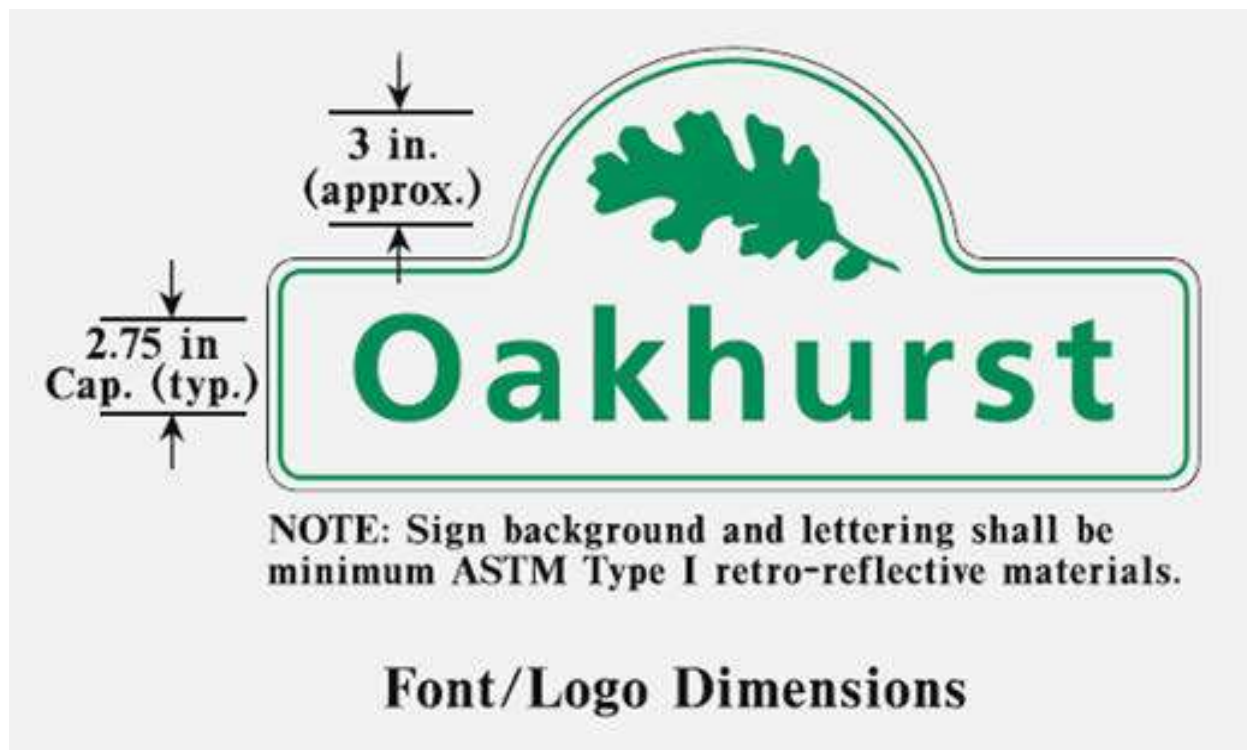
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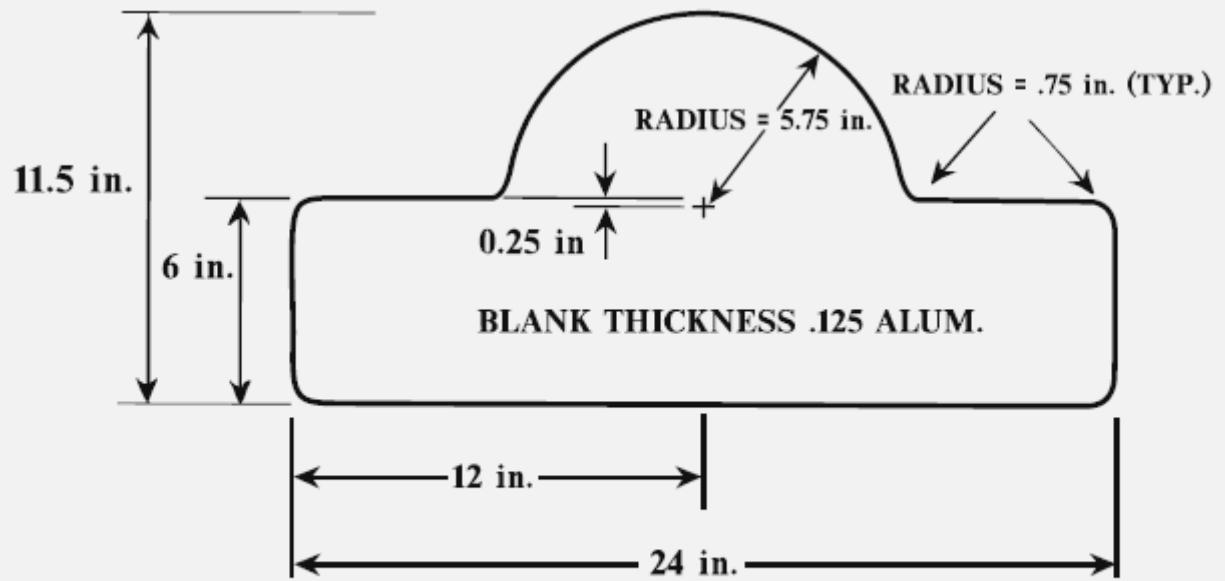
proposed residential neighborhood developments. If the neighborhood requires more than 25 signs the applicant will be responsible for the cost of the additional signage.

The City Traffic Operations recommends spare signage based on other cities that have implemented this program. Traffic Operations can store a maximum of five (5) signs to be used as replacements in the occurrence of theft or damage. Once the spare inventory is exhausted the applicant will be responsible for purchasing replacement signage.

PLEASE NOTE: The City of Denton Traffic Department follows the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards and guidelines and wants to ensure that all signs in the city ROW are safe, legible, and provides a clear message. Traffic control devices (TCDs) are very critical for the safe and efficient transportation of people and goods. The MUTCD, by setting minimum standards and providing guidance, ensures uniformity of traffic control devices across the nation. The use of uniform TCDs (messages, locations, sizes, shapes, and colors) helps reduce crashes and congestion, and improves the efficiency of the surface transportation system. Uniformity also helps reduce the cost of TCDs through standardization. The information contained in the MUTCD is the result of years of practical experience, research, and/or the MUTCD experimentation process. This effort ensures that TCDs are visible, recognizable, understandable, and necessary. The MUTCD is a dynamic document that changes with time to address contemporary safety and operational issues.

Diagram Examples





Sign Dimensions



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