

This handout has been prepared by the City of Peachtree City to assist citizens, schools, and sign companies in understanding the requirements and issues related to graduation banners and signs. The following answers were obtained from the Peachtree City Code of Ordinances, [Chapter 66, Signs](#):

What licenses/permits does the City require for graduation banners and signs?

1. The City waives the permit requirement and associated \$30 fee for **graduation banners placed at subdivision entrances** from May 1 to June 12. Banners shall not exceed 35 square feet in overall size.
2. The City does not require a permit or fee for **graduation signs** placed on personal residential property. Graduation signs shall not exceed five feet (5') in height and sixteen (16) square feet in overall size. Only one sign per lot is permitted ([Sec 66-17 \(11\)](#)). If the above conditions are met, the property owner can place and remove graduation signs at anytime.
3. The City requires a [banner permit](#) and associated \$30 fee be submitted to the Planning Department for any **graduation banners placed at subdivision entrances** before May 1 or after June 12. Banners shall not exceed 35 square feet in overall size. The duration of the graduation banner permit shall not exceed one (1) month. All graduation banners shall be removed by June 12, unless otherwise permitted.

What are the requirements for placing graduation banners or signs?

Graduation Banners^{*}. Each banner shall be placed according to the following standards:

- a) Graduation banners cannot be attached to fences, trees, utility poles/boxes, or traffic control devices/signs; or attached to, supported by, leaning or resting on rocks or other natural objects ([Sec 66-5 \(4\)](#)).
- b) Graduation banners shall not be placed in the right-of-way of a public road, in a median, or within 200' of Highways 54 and 74. Banners shall not be placed any closer to the road than the subdivision sign, or ten feet (10') from the back of curb/pavement[†], whichever is more restrictive. Banners shall not obstruct vehicular, pedestrian, or golf cart traffic in any manner ([Section 66-18 \(a\)](#)).
- c) Graduation banners shall be temporarily staked into the ground using wooden landscape stakes (see Figure 1) or green metal "T" fence posts (see Figure 2) available at [Gill-roys](#), [Home Depot](#) or [Ace Hardware](#). All posts supporting banners shall be removed by June 12, unless otherwise permitted.
- c) Graduation banners shall not exceed 35 square feet in overall size. Two (2) banners are allowed per subdivision entrance.
- d) Graduation banners, when posted, shall not exceed five feet (5') in height.
- e) All graduation banners shall be removed by June 12, unless otherwise permitted.

Graduation Signs[‡]. Each sign shall be placed on residential property according to the following standards:

- a) Graduation signs cannot be attached to fences, trees, utility poles/boxes, or traffic control devices/signs; or attached to, supported by, leaning or resting on rocks or other natural objects ([Sec 66-5 \(4\)](#)).

^{*} See Figure 3

[†] Take care not to place banner or sign stakes into any underground utilities.

[‡] See Figure 4

- b) Graduation signs shall not be placed in the right-of-way of a public road, in a median, or within 200' of Highways 54 and 74. Signs shall not obstruct vehicular, pedestrian, or golf cart traffic in any manner. Signs shall not be placed any closer to the road than ten feet (10') from the back of curb/pavement[†] ([Section 66-18 \(a\)](#)).
- c) Graduation signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in overall size. Only one (1) graduation sign per lot ([Sec 66-17 \(11\)](#)).
- d) Graduation signs, when posted, shall not exceed five feet (5') in height ([Sec 66-17 \(11\)](#)).
- e) If the above conditions are met, the property owner can place and remove graduation signs at anytime.

Does the City restrict where and when graduation banners and signs can be placed?

Yes. The City has the following restrictions as outlined in [Chapter 66](#) of the Code of Ordinances:

- a) Graduation banners and signs cannot be attached to fences, trees, utility poles/boxes, or traffic control devices/signs; or attached to, supported by, leaning or resting on rocks or other natural objects ([Sec 66-5 \(4\)](#)).
- b) Graduation banners and signs shall not be placed in the right-of-way of a public road, in a median, or within 200' of Highways 54 and 74 ([Section 66-18 \(a\)](#)).
- c) Graduation banners and signs shall not be placed any closer to the road than ten feet (10') from the back of curb/pavement[†] on most residential roads. Banners shall not be any closer to the road than the subdivision sign ([Section 66-18 \(a\)](#)).
- d) Graduation banners and signs shall not obstruct vehicular, pedestrian, or golf cart traffic in any manner ([Section 66-18 \(a\)](#)).
- e) The size and number of graduation banners and signs are restricted as follows:
 - i. Banners shall not exceed five feet (5') in height and 35 square feet in overall size. Two (2) banners are allowed per subdivision entrance.
 - ii. Signs shall not exceed five feet (5') in height and 16 square feet in overall size. Only one (1) sign is allowed per residential lot.
- f) Graduation banner and sign duration restrictions:
 - i. All graduation banners shall be removed by June 12, unless otherwise permitted.
 - ii. If the above conditions for graduation signs are met, the property owner can place and remove the sign at anytime.

Why does the City restrict graduation banners from May 1 to June 12?

According to staff research, the surrounding high schools' graduation ceremonies start around mid-May and wrap up around the end of the same month. Allowing the graduation banners/signs from May 1 to June 12 allows the community to congratulate its students a few weeks before and after their graduation.

Historically, the City has had a challenge balancing the public's need to convey a noncommercial message and to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetics of the city. After many years of experience, staff has found that after a month, graduation banners and signs tend to look ragged, and the sheer number of them degrades the aesthetic attractiveness of the community. We also receive a sharp increase in the number of citizen complaints.

What is the purpose of restricting graduation banners and signs?

According to the Peachtree Sign ordinance, specifically [Section 66-1\(7\)](#):

Signs provide an important medium through which individuals may convey a variety of noncommercial and commercial messages. However, left unregulated, signs can become a threat to public safety as well a traffic hazard. Such signs may also constitute an aesthetic nuisance and be a detriment to property values and the city's public welfare. The city council intends by enacting this chapter to:

- a) *Balance the rights of individuals to convey their message through signs and the right of the public to be protected against the unrestricted proliferation of signs;*
- b) *Further the objectives of the city's comprehensive plan;*
- c) *Protect the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetics of the city;*
- d) *Reduce traffic and pedestrian hazards;*
- e) *Maintain the image of the city, particularly the planned community nature of the city;*
- f) *Protect property values by minimizing the potentially adverse effects and visual blight caused by signs;*
- g) *Promote economic development; and*
- h) *Ensure the fair and consistent enforcement of sign regulations.*



Figure 1 - Wooden stake



Figure 2 - Metal "T" fence post



Figure 3 - 35 sqft graduation banner



Figure 4 - 18" x 24" graduation sign