

Town of Snowmass Village, CO

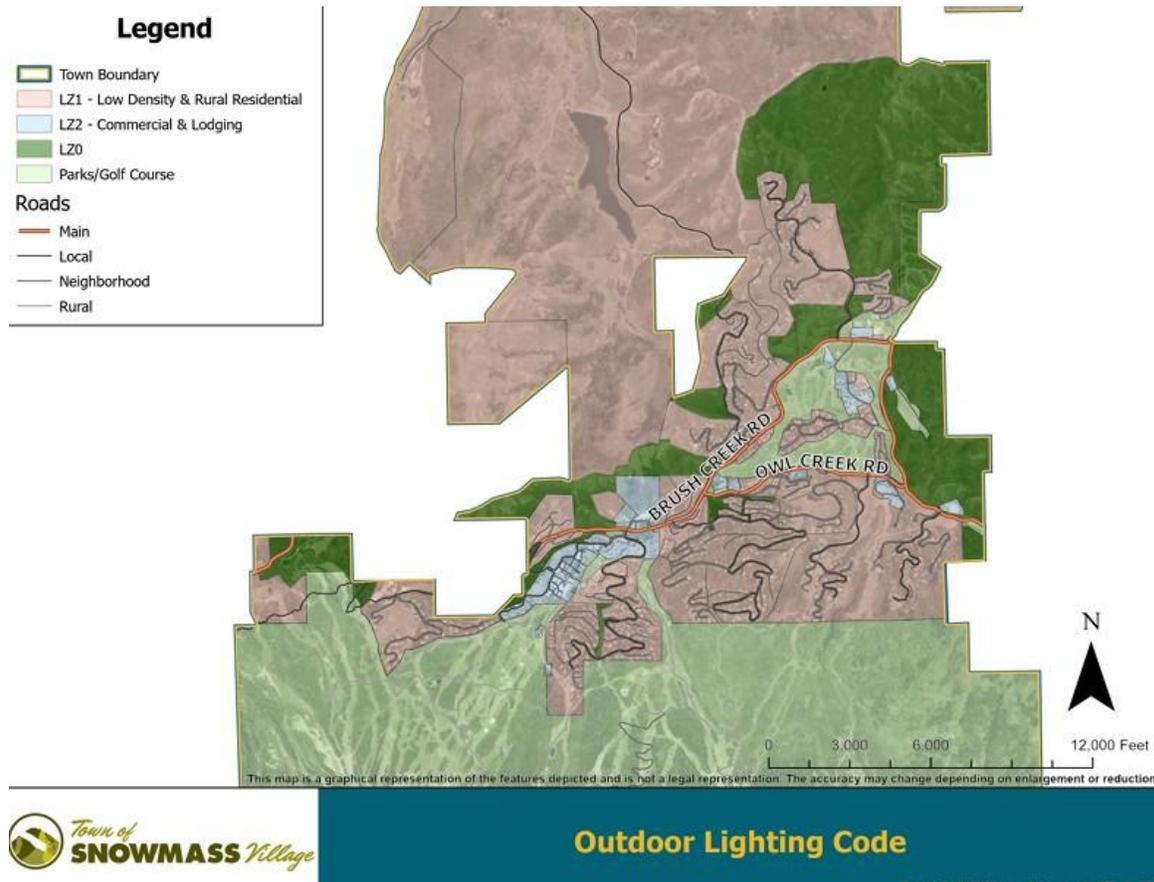
Municipal Code; Chapter 16A, Article IV, Division 6 – Lighting Standards

September 2, 2025, v0.10

Sec. 16A-4-600. – Purpose.

This article is intended to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents within the Town of Snowmass Village, enhance the town’s character and livability, prevent noncompliant outdoor lighting, reduce lighting conflicts between property owners, prevent the increase of sky glow, and preserve the naturally dark sky for the benefit of residents, visitors, wildlife, and the environment. Per the *Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting*, the following goals outline our outdoor lighting requirements:

- (1) Reduce excessive amounts of outdoor lighting and high-angle sources of glare that both contribute to an unsafe reduction in nighttime visual performance;
- (2) Reduce the use of unnecessary outdoor lighting during daytime hours to lessen the consumption of non-renewable energy and fuels;
- (3) Limit the use of outdoor lighting to help mitigate wasted energy and unnecessary *Light Pollution* that negatively affect the natural night sky, migration, and nocturnal ecosystems;
- (4) The Town of Snowmass Village, which has the authority to protect natural resources and maintain a healthy environment for present and future generations, will assign the following *Lighting Zones* to all property within the Town of Snowmass Village per the following map:



Sec. 16A-4-610. - Definitions.

- (1) **AFG:** Above Finished Grade
- (2) **ANSI/IES Outdoor Standards:** The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) recognizes the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) as the authoritative standards for lighting applications. Applicable outdoor standards and metrics for this ordinance include:
 - a. RP-2: Outdoor Lighting for Retail (Illuminance)
 - b. RP-6: Outdoor Sport and Recreational (Illuminance)
 - c. RP-8: Roadway and Parking (Luminance and Illuminance respectively)
 - d. RP-43: Outdoor Pedestrian Applications (Illuminance)
- (3) **ALAN (Artificial Lighting at Night):** Light that is created from human technology, such as electric lighting, rather than a naturally occurring process.
- (4) **Festoon String Lighting:** Decorative overhead lighting that consists of multiple electric lamps, evenly spaced, wired to a flexible cable, and strung between at least two mounting points.

Residential: Considered seasonal lighting. Lights must be turned off during nighttime hours.

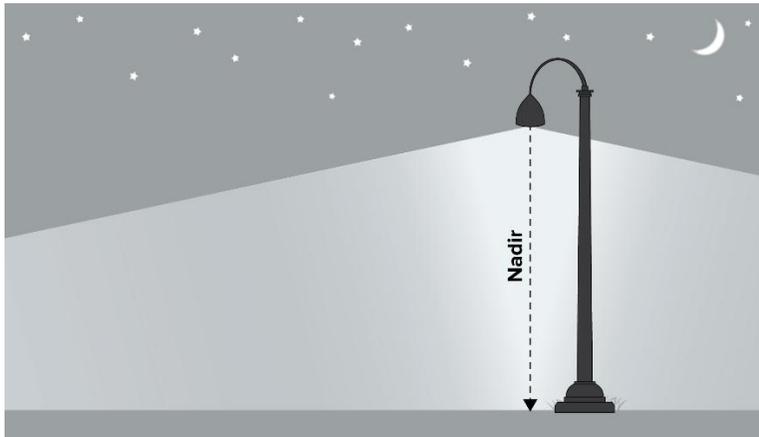
Commercial: Allowed year-round but must be turned off during nighttime hours.

- (5) **Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:** Co-authored and published by Dark Sky International and *ANSI/IES*, 1) Use light only if needed, 2) Distribute light only where needed, 3) Use light no brighter than needed, 4) Use light only when needed, 5) Use warmer color light when possible.
- (6) **Fully Shielded:** An installed *Luminaire* that produces no light rays above a simulated horizontal plane that passes through the lowest point where light is emitted. Examples include:



- (7) **Glare:** Light entering the eye directly from a luminaire or indirectly from reflective surfaces that cause visual discomfort or reduced visibility.
- (8) **Light Level:** The amount of maintained light that hits, or is reflected from, a surface as measured by *Luminance* or *Illuminance*.
- (9) **Light Pollution:** *ALAN* traveling into areas where it's not needed or wanted. This can be in the form of *Light Trespass*, glare, or atmospheric sky glow.
- (10) **Light Trespass:** *ALAN* illuminating past property lines and affecting other property owners or jurisdictions. Light trespass limits are measured at any location along a property line both horizontally on the ground plane facing upward and vertically at 5-feet above grade with the meter aimed toward the light source in question. Neither measurement shall exceed the established threshold.
- (11) **Lighting Zones:** An ANSI/IES/DarkSky system describing the luminous environment and related lighting conditions based on land uses and expected tasks. These include Lz0, Lz1, and Lz2.

- (12) **Lighting Zone Zero (0):** Open space areas characterized by predominantly dark areas such as rural, agricultural, and areas with limited built environment or adjacent to sensitive and protected lands.
- (13) **Lumen (lm):** A unit of measure for the quantity of light provided by a source.
- (14) **Luminaire:** A complete lighting unit, including the light source, housing, optics, and necessary electronics for the purpose of outdoor illumination.
- (15) **Lux (lx):** The unit of measure for illuminance.
- (16) **Nadir:** A downward vertical vector directly beneath the luminaire's light source, opposite to zenith.



- (17) **Nighttime Hours:** A time period for seasonal and non-essential outdoor lighting restrictions, Observed in residential and commercial zone districts between 10pm and 7am. Unless business operating hours end or begin within the nighttime hours. If so, nighttime hours will begin one hour after closing or one hour before opening.
- (18) **Residential Use:** Zoning districts dedicated exclusively to properties for low-density human residence and dwelling. Examples include single family, duplex, townhouse, and mobile home. This does not include apartment and mixed-use living.
- (19) **Seasonal Lighting:** A time period starting November 15 for temporary and decorative holiday-style lighting not intended for general illumination, including but not limited to string lighting, icicle lighting, and lighted inflatables. Observed in residential zone districts until January 31, and commercial zone districts until March 1.
- (20) **Security Lighting:** Illumination used specifically to protect people, property, and infrastructure from criminal threat. Security Lighting must be kept to the minimum amount of lighting required, and the time of the motion detector light shall not exceed five minutes. Walkway and driveway security lighting shall be under 42”.
- (21) **Shielding:** A *Luminaire* design, optical intervention, or physical accessory (such as a louver) preventing light emission from traveling into a particular area, angle, or region.

Sec. 16A-4-620. – Applicability.

- (1) The outdoor lighting requirements of this article shall be applicable to all outdoor *Luminaires* installed within the Town of Snowmass Village after September 17.
- (2) Existing outdoor *Luminaires* not meeting the requirements of this article and lawfully installed prior to September 17 shall be considered legal and repairable but non-conforming. Automatic trigger events causing compliance to this article are as follows:

- a. *Light Trespass* and *Nighttime Hour* requirements will go into effect September 17 or
- b. If the Community Development Director, or designee, determines that a *Luminaire* constitutes a hazard to public safety, compliance can be mandated; or
- c. All remaining installations of non-conforming *Luminaires* can be used and maintained until they are replaced.

Sec. 16A-4-630. – Exemptions.

- (1) **Lawful:** Lighting requirements mandated by a legal jurisdiction with broader authority (e.g., federal, state, or territorial) than the Town of Snowmass Village.
- (2) **Safety:** *Luminaires* installed for the benefit of public health, safety and welfare, including but not limited to:
 - a. Any contradictory building code or Department of Transportation illumination requirements.
 - b. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandated lighting for worker safety.
 - c. Temporary lighting used for worker safety during construction, repair, or similar activity.
 - d. Temporary lighting used by authorized first responders during emergency procedures.
- (3) **Permitted:** Temporary and semi-permanent lighting approved by the Town Manager, or designee, for special events, festivals, or community benefit.
- (4) Lighted trees at entrances to arrival centers, condominiums, and hotels are permitted.

Sec. 16A-4-640. – Prohibitions.

Unless otherwise specified in this article, the following are prohibited in the Town of Snowmass Village:

- (1) Use of unshielded outdoor lighting within Lz1.
- (2) Lighting (including but not limited to neon and fluorescent) used to outline a structure in whole or in part.
- (3) Use of outdoor televisions in residential zones.
- (4) All façade lighting is prohibited except where it is allowed under 16-A-4-690.
- (5) *ALAN* that interferes with the safe movement of motor vehicles, disables the vision of a motor vehicle operator, contributes to traffic control confusion (e.g., sources resembling or imitating traffic control lighting, railroad signals, blinking, flashing, moving, and revolving), or that hides or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic control devices.
- (6) Beacons and searchlights are prohibited, except for emergency use by authorized first responders.

Sec. 16A-4-650. – Building Permit Procedure.

Outdoor lighting plans shall meet the following requirements for residential, commercial, mixed use, or multi-family building permits, subdivision, planned unit development, illuminated signage, and development within environmentally sensitive area:

- (1) **Lighting Plans:** Acceptable means for outdoor lighting plans are as follows:
 - a. “Lighting Schedule”: For residential permits when specifically requested by the Community Development Director, or designee. This lighting plan shall be documented using a spreadsheet format by listing the *Luminaire* identifications (i.e., manufacturer, model number, type), *Luminaire* quantities, installation locations, and *Lumen* outputs for each.

- b. "Performance Method": For commercial, multi-family, mixed use, sports lighting or when specifically requested by the Community Development Director, or designee. Outdoor lighting plans shall include:
 - i) *Luminaire* identification (model number), installation locations, mounting heights, targeted directions, buildings, and other physical objects within the site.
 - ii) Site plan demonstrating conformance with this ordinance.
 - iii) Other information deemed necessary by the Building Official to document compliance with the requirements of this article.

(2) **Review:** Applications and lighting plans will be submitted as follows:

- a. Subdivisions, planned unit developments, or special review applications shall be submitted and reviewed with the applicable Land Use review process as defined in the Land Use and Development Code. The Building Official may review plans upon Land Use Approval for code compliance.
- b. Building permits for a commercial or residential structure shall be reviewed by the Building Official.
- c. Any appeals related to decisions regarding outdoor lighting shall be made to the Town Manager, or designee.

Sec. 16A-4-660. – Temporary Waiver Request.

Any person may submit a written request to the Community Development Director, or designee, for a temporary waiver request. The Community Development Director, or designee, shall have the authority to refer an application to the Planning Commission if deemed appropriate. If the temporary exemption request is approved, the waiver shall be valid for the dates designated by the town. Temporary waiver requests shall include:

- (1) Specific justification/purpose of the waiver request;
- (2) Description of *Luminaires* involved;
- (3) Duration and time period requested for waiver;
- (4) Proposed location on property;
- (5) Previous exemptions if applicable;
- (6) Other information deemed necessary by the Community Development Director, or designee.

Sec. 16A-4-670. - Enforcement and Penalty.

- (1) **Enforcement:** The Town Manager, or designee, is responsible to implement, administer, and enforce the provisions of this article, including alleged violation investigations.
 - a. The Town Manager, or designee, charged with enforcing this chapter shall have the authority to grant partial or complete waiver of the article requirements if a property owner demonstrates that compliance creates unreasonable hardship, as balanced against the potential impacts of non-compliance, or results in conditions that are materially detrimental to health, safety or welfare. The Chief Building Official shall have the authority to waive the requirements of this ordinance in order to comply with health and life safety requirements set forth in the adopted Residential, Building, and Electric codes.

- (2) **Penalty:** Any person, firm, or corporation found to have violated, disobeyed, omitted, neglected, or refused to comply with any provisions of this article shall be found in violation. The punishment shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 1-72 of this Municipal Code.

Sec. 16A-4-680. – General Outdoor Lighting Requirements.

Unless otherwise specified in this article, the following requirements apply to all *Luminaires* and *Luminaire* installations in the Town of Snowmass Village:

- (1) **Legal:** All outdoor *Luminaires* and *Luminaire* installations shall comply with federal, state, municipal codes, applicable energy and building codes, product safety labeling, the requirements of this ordinance, and be subject to the appropriate permit and inspection requirements thereof
- (2) **Light Distribution:** Unless otherwise specified, all *Luminaires* shall be *Fully Shielded*, downward directed, except:
 - a. Festoon string lighting in commercial zone districts when no individual lamp emits more than 50 lumens, and the lumen density of the string is no greater than 25 lumens per foot;
 - b. All clear-lensed point light sources must be shielded. Any unshielded light source must use a non-clear clouded material as the primary lens to reduce glare from the light bulb.
- (3) **Trespass:** Unless otherwise specified, *Luminaire* lamp sources shall be located and optically shielded such that the lamp source(s) shall be minimally visible from adjacent property or public right-of-way during *Nighttime Hours*.
- (4) **Light Curfew:** During *Nighttime Hours*, non-essential outdoor lighting, including but not limited to sports field, landscape, and decorative lighting elements, shall be extinguished, except for the entrance to the designated check-in area for hotels, condominium hotels, and lodging with 24-hour check-in periods.
- (5) **Light Controls:** *Luminaires* activated by motion detection shall activate by motion within the same property on which they are installed. All motion activated lights that automatically turn on or brighten shall return to their off or dimmed state no more than [5] minutes after activity is no longer detected.
- (6) **Landscape Lighting:** Landscape lighting shall be low lux (under 40 lux) and is considered non-essential seasonal lighting. Does not include entrance to the designated check-in area for hotels, condominium hotels, and lodging with 24-hour check-in periods.

Sec. 16A-4-690. – Residential Lighting Requirements.

The following requirements are supplementary to the General Requirements and shall further regulate *Residential Use* properties:

- (1) Unshielded light sources meeting the requirements of Section 16A-4-680(2)(b) shall not exceed 850 lumens per *Luminaire* with a maximum of two (2) *Luminaires* per dwelling.
- (2) The total outdoor lumen allowance for *Residential Use* structures is 2.5 lumens per square foot (2.5 lm/sf). This is calculated on the approved above grade floor area of the structure and includes all building mounted and site lighting.
- (3) *Luminaires* shall not be pole mounted taller than 42 inches AFG.

Sec. 16A-4-691. – Public and Common Area Lighting Requirements.

- (1) The following requirements are supplementary to the General Requirements and shall further regulate public and common area uses including mixed use, commercial, and multi-family applications (e.g., condominiums, apartments): Outdoor charging stations shall target an average illuminance of 20 *Lux* within a 10-foot radius of the charging station and not exceed a maximum measurement of 40 *Lux*.
- (2) *Luminaires* used to illuminate parking lots and vehicle circulation areas shall not exceed a height of 20-feet *AFG*. The resulting illuminance shall provide a minimum of 2 *Lux* and not exceed 40 *Lux* horizontally at finished grade.
- (3) *Light Trespass* leaving non-*Residential Use* property shall be no greater than (3) *Lux* when measured 20-feet past the property line, into the public right-of-way.

Sec. 16A-4-692. – Roadway Lighting Requirements.

Roadway *Luminaires* and lighting plans shall be approved jointly by the Community Development and Public Works Departments.

Sec. 16A-4-693. – Seasonal Lighting Requirements.

Temporary *Seasonal* lighting is allowed in Residential from November 15 to January 31, and Commercial Zones from November 15 to March 1, provided it meets all of the following:

- (1) *Seasonal* lighting shall not interfere with the safe movement of motor vehicles or create dangerous glare conditions on adjacent roadways or properties.
- (2) *Seasonal* lighting shall be maintained in an attractive condition and not constitute a dangerous situation or fire hazard.
- (3) *Seasonal* lighting shall be extinguished during *Nighttime Hours*.