

ELLISVILLE UPDATES LIGHTING REGULATIONS TO INCREASE SAFETY, REDUCE LIGHT TRESPASS AND GLARE

On November 16, 2022 the City Council approved changes to the zoning and sign codes. The intent of the changes is to decrease light pollution, eliminate glare, maintain property safety, preserve views of the night sky, promote energy efficiency, community health, and harmony between neighbors.



Did you see the intruder at the gate?

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

A goal of the changes is to provide light that is closest to the natural light seen from the sun and stars. The light required is in the yellow color spectrum, which minimizes the use of light in the blue color spectrum. Great effort was made to make sure the rules are easy to interpret, easy to administer, and easy to enforce.

1. New and replacement outdoor light fixtures must be shielded so that the light shines downward — not upward which scatters light upward into the sky, nor directly sideways which results in horizontal glare that occurs when looking directly at a light bulb/lamp.
2. New and replacement outdoor light bulbs/lamps must feature a low Correlated Color Temperature (CCT), not to exceed 2700 Kelvin (K). CCT is essentially a gauge of how yellow (low CCT) or blue (high CCT) the color of the light emitted from a bulb/lamp appears

ABOUT LIGHT COLOR

Light color is measured in CCT or "correlated color temperature." It is listed in degrees Kelvin but has nothing to do with the temperature of the bulb. It is the color that iron glows when heated to that temperature. Lower degrees Kelvin appears warmer and less blue.

THESE BULBS ARE ALL THE SAME BRIGHTNESS.

WARMER WHITE IS MUCH EASIER TO LOOK AT. THE 2700K WARM WHITE BULB IS GOOD ENOUGH TO SEE COLORS ACCURATELY.



HOW WILL THE ORDINANCE BE ENFORCED?

New developments will be required to provide an outdoor lighting plan that meets the requirements of the ordinance before construction and an as-built plan after construction to verify the light installation is compliant.

Residential property owners who change or replace their outdoor light fixtures or bulbs/lamps after the adoption of the ordinance, will have to comply at the time the fixture or bulb is modified.

City staff are available to answer any questions to assist in determining compliance. Please contact: Bill Schwer, City Manager at bschwer@ellisville.mo.us