

**VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS  
DRAFT EXTERIOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS**

The primary mission of this Draft Ordinance is to provide comprehensive technical planning and management for the Village of Barrington Hills in order to preserve and enhance natural features while safeguarding the unique quality of life of Village residents. Recognizing the increasing size and scale of residential structures, the dramatic increase in the use of large scale lighting, and the increasing number of homes, this ordinance draft is designed to minimize impacts to Village residents.

Responsibility for stewardship of natural resources is an obligation which the residents of Barrington Hills are willing to accept in return for this quality of life. The Comprehensive Plan of Barrington Hills identifies its community character as supporting a remote, countryside lifestyle as an alternative to a more intense urban and suburban lifestyle. Recognizing this, the Village supports a safe, secure and functional nighttime environment free from clutter, light trespass and light pollution.

This Executive Summary is for information only. The official Draft Ordinance language can be found online at [http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/ZBA\\_Findings\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/ZBA_Findings_Recommendations.pdf). Definitions of technical terms have been defined in Section B of the WEB version, and have been capitalized here to generate an easy-to-follow dialogue.

**What Lighting is Covered:**

Applicability will affect all exterior lighting installed or replaced after the effective date of this Draft Ordinance, unless otherwise exempted. Exterior lighting such as, but not limited to, strobe lights, aerial lasers, revolving or pulsating lighting and lighting which is used to outline a building is prohibited.

Security lighting is **exempt** from this Draft Ordinance, and is defined as follows: exterior lighting installed primarily for personal safety or emergency purposes that is extinguished, either automatically or manually, within thirty (30) minutes after being triggered.

Other Exempt Lighting:

- Doorway Lighting.
- All temporary emergency Lighting necessary to ensure public safety.
- Holiday Lighting between October 20th and January 31st of the following year.
- Upward Lighting of flags in the form of a single ground-mounted, narrow cone spotlight located at the base of the flag pole which confines the illumination to the flag itself.
- Underwater Lighting used for swimming pools, provided such Lighting meets all relevant electrical codes.

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In any case, all Exterior Lighting shall not cause Glare and shall protect adjacent properties, roadways and waterways from Light Trespass and Excessive Lighting.

**Schedule of Implementation:**

All **new** Exterior Lighting installed after the effective date of this Section shall conform to all provisions of this Section.

In order to accommodate residents who have already installed non-conforming lighting, the implementation schedule is extended over 20 years to eliminate adverse impacts and costs. All **existing** non-conforming Exterior Lighting existing as of the effective date of this Section shall conform to the provisions of this Section as follows:

(a) Upon replacement or relocation of any Lighting Fixture, such Lighting Fixture shall conform to the provisions of this Section.

(b) Upon re-lamping (changing the light bulb), all replacement Lamps shall conform to the maximum Light Output limitations contained in the definition of Doorway Lighting and Subsections (E)3(a)(i) and (E)3(a)(ii) of this Section, as applicable, provided that the Fixture can accommodate a compliant Lamp.

(c) All Landscape Lighting shall conform to the time restrictions contained in Subsection (E)4

(d) On or before January 1, 2012, all Sports Lighting shall conform to the requirements contained in Subsections (E)6 and (F)9.

(e) On or before January 1, 2016, all Exterior Lighting shall conform to the height and setback restrictions contained in Subsection (E)3(b).

(f) On or before January 1, 2016, all Exterior Lighting shall conform to the prohibition on Mercury Vapor Light Fixtures contained in Subsection (E)5.

(g) On or before January 1, 2031 all Exterior Lighting shall conform in all respects to the provisions of this Section, including, but not limited to, the maximum Lumens per Measured Acre restrictions contained in Subsection (E)2.

**Rules for Conforming Lighting:**

For all non-exempt Exterior Lighting, the maximum Light Output shall not exceed:

(a) 15,000 Lumens for the Measured Acre that contains within such Measured Acre 100% of the square footage of the principal single-family detached dwelling located on the property,

(b) 10,000 Lumens per any Measured Acre not inclusive of the principal single-family detached dwelling, and

(c) a total on any given property under single ownership and control equal to 10,000 Lumens multiplied by the total number of acres of such property.

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As a rule of thumb, a 60 watt incandescent light bulb equals approximately 750 lumens. Lumens refer to the intensity of light emitted and viewed by the human eye, whereas wattage refers to the power consumed by the lighting element.

**Shielding and Mounting:**

All Exterior Lighting Fixtures shall be Fully Shielded or aimed at such an angle so as to eliminate Glare from such Lighting Fixture, except as follows:

- i. Landscape Lighting. Unshielded Landscape Lighting is permitted and is not required to be angled downward provided that the Light Source is not visible from adjoining properties (defined as seeing the heated element across property lines) and that each UL rated Fixture has a Light Output not in excess of 1,000 Lumens.
- ii. Driveway/Walkway/Identity Sign/Decorative Lighting. Unshielded Lighting at entryways, including driveways and walkways and Lighting for property identity signs, gates, fences, and post-top entrances is permitted and the Fixture is not required to be angled downward provided that each UL rated Fixture has a Light Output not in excess of 800 Lumens.
- iii. The maximum Mounting Height of a Fixture on a structure shall not exceed the height of the eave of such structure.
- iv. Except for Sports Lighting permitted under Subsection (E)6 below, all freestanding Lighting, including, but not limited to, Landscape Lighting affixed, attached, installed, mounted or placed on exterior vegetation such as trees, shrubs and other flora, shall be angled downward so as to eliminate glare and shall not exceed a Mounting Height of fifteen (15) feet. The setback for freestanding Light Fixtures from the property line shall be at least three times the Mounting Height, except there shall be no setback requirements for Lighting mounted on gates and fences, provided such Lighting does not exceed 0.1 foot-candles of Illuminance.

**Hours of Operation:**

Landscape Lighting shall not be operated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to dawn, provided, however, solar-powered Landscape Lighting that lacks an on/off switch may be operated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to dawn, further provided that such solar-powered Landscape Lighting does not exceed 0.1 foot-candles of Illuminance, subject to Subsections (E)2 and (E)3.

**Penalties:**

Notice will be provided to residents found in violation through the Village's normal mechanisms. Applicable Village staff shall be available to assist in working with the violator to correct identified Lighting violation(s). If the violation(s) is (are) not abated within the thirty (30) day period, the Enforcing Officer may institute actions and proceedings, either legal or equitable, to enjoin, restrain or abate any violations of this Section and to collect the penalties for such violations. A violation of this Ordinance, or any provision thereof, shall be carry a civil penalty

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of fifty (\$50) dollars for residential violations for each day of the violation after the expiration of the thirty (30) day period, and each day shall constitute a separate offense for the purpose of calculating the civil penalty.