

**TOWN OF NORWOOD, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 0814 SERIES 2026**

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING TITLE 7, SECTION 5.08 OF THE TOWN OF NORWOOD LAND USE CODE REGARDING "LIGHTING STANDARDS," ADOPTING THE 2026 DARKSKY INTERNATIONAL U.S. MUNICIPAL CODE FOR OUTDOOR LIGHTING, AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, PRESERVE THE NIGHT SKY, IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, AND CODIFYING THE SAME.

WHEREAS, the Town of Norwood, Colorado ("Town") recognizes that a naturally dark night sky is an important natural, economic, and aesthetic resource; and

WHEREAS, excessive, poorly designed, or inefficient outdoor lighting causes light pollution, glare, and light trespass, which degrades the nighttime environment; and

WHEREAS, light pollution negatively impacts public health, safety, wildlife, and the general welfare of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to minimize light pollution, promote energy conservation, and preserve the rural character of the Town through updated regulations; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International provides comprehensive, updated model standards designed to mitigate these negative impacts while maintaining adequate lighting for safety and security.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF NORWOOD, COLORADO:

Section 1. Repeal of Existing Section.

Title 7, Section 5.08 ("Lighting Standards") of the Town of Norwood Land Use Code is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. Adoption and Replacement.

Title 7, Section 5.08 of the Town of Norwood Land Use Code is hereby recreated, re-titled as "Outdoor Lighting and Dark Sky Protection Standards," and shall read as follows:

"5.08.010 - Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this Section is to regulate outdoor lighting to minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass; protect public health and safety; conserve energy; preserve the dark night sky; and provide for the administration and enforcement of these regulations.

5.08.020 - Adoption of the 2026 DarkSky International Municipal Code.

There is hereby adopted by reference the *2026 DarkSky International U.S. Municipal Code for Outdoor Lighting*, as published by DarkSky International. Three (3) copies of this code are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and are available for public inspection.

5.08.030 - General Performance Standards.

All outdoor lighting fixtures installed, replaced, or modified after the effective date of this Ordinance shall comply with the following standards:

- **Shielding:** All outdoor luminaires shall be fully shielded and aimed downward so that no light is emitted above a horizontal plane intersecting the lowest light-emitting part of the fixture.
- **Color Temperature:** The correlated color temperature (CCT) of all outdoor light sources shall not exceed 2,700 Kelvin.
- **Light Trespass:** No outdoor lighting shall cause light trespass exceeding 0.1 foot-candles at or beyond any property line.
- **Curfew Requirements:** Commercial and public outdoor lighting not required for immediate safety or security shall be extinguished or reduced by at least 50% through dimming controls by 10:00 PM, or one hour after the close of business, whichever is later.

5.08.040 - Exemptions.

The following lighting types are exempt from the provisions of this Section:

- Temporary emergency lighting used by law enforcement, fire, or medical personnel.
- Low-voltage architectural or landscape lighting not exceeding 500 lumens per fixture.
- Temporary holiday lighting displayed between November 15 and January 15.
- Lighting required strictly by federal or state regulations (e.g., aviation safety lighting).
- **Agricultural and Livestock Operations:** Lighting necessary for agricultural production, harvesting, or the immediate care, health, or management of livestock (including nighttime calving, veterinary care, or corral operations), provided such lighting is turned off or minimized when active agricultural tasks are not being performed.
- **Community Festivals, Fairs, and Special Events:** Temporary outdoor lighting used for town-approved community festivals, athletic events at public fields, county fairs, or fairground events. This lighting must be extinguished within one (1) hour after the conclusion of the daily event schedule.

5.08.050 - Amortization and Nonconforming Lighting.

All existing outdoor lighting fixtures that do not conform to the requirements of this Section shall be brought into compliance, replaced, or removed within five (5) years from the effective date of this Ordinance.

5.08.060 - Administration and Enforcement.

- **Plan Review:** Applicants for building, electrical, or land use permits shall submit an outdoor lighting plan showing fixture types, shielding designs, and bulb specifications to ensure compliance with this Section.
- **Right of Inspection:** The Town's designated code enforcement official shall have the authority to inspect properties at reasonable hours to determine compliance with the lighting standards.
- **Violations:** It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, or operate any outdoor lighting in violation of this Section.

- **Penalties:** Violations of this Section shall be subject to the enforcement mechanisms and penalties established in Title 7 of the Town of Norwood Land Use Code. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

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5.08.070 - Lighting Plan Review Fees.

To cover the cost of administrative and technical review, applicants for development, building, or electrical permits requiring outdoor lighting shall pay a Lighting Plan Review Fee at the time of application submission.

- **Residential (Single-Family / Duplex):** No fee (\$0.00) for standard applications.
- **Multi-Family Residential (3+ units):** \$50.00
- **Commercial / Industrial Developments:** \$150.00 plus any third-party engineering or technical verification expenses incurred by the Town.
- **Modifications to Existing Nonresidential Lighting:** \$25.00
- All fees established by this section may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Board of Trustees.”

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Section 3. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Codification.

The Board of Trustees hereby directs that the provisions of this Ordinance be codified and incorporated into Title 7 of the Town of Norwood Land Use Code.

Section 5. Effective Date.

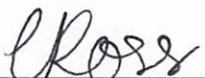
This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its final passage and publication as provided by law.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Norwood, Colorado, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 12th day of August, 2026, and ordered published as required by law.

TOWN OF NORWOOD, COLORADO

By: 
Candy Meehan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sidney Ross, Town Clerk