

Policy: The Use of Exterior Property Lighting

Goal: To reduce light pollution within Tollgate. Among the many attributes of living in Tollgate is the solitude of the forest nighttime. Found within its many definitions; “light pollution occurs when artificial light intrudes on the nighttime setting” (sfgate.com).

Types of lighting and permitted usage:

Outdoor Lighting- The primary function of this type of exterior lighting is to provide illumination of an area for an activity (party), safety (porch lights), or pedestrian, visitor guidance (low intensity driveway, walkway, or address). Permitted usage: 1. Activity- these lights may be on for the duration of the activity, and then are to be turned off no later than midnight. 2. Safety- these lights may be left on as long as the use of light mitigates the concern for safety. These may include motion-activated lights. Therefore, sometimes lights may be left on all night if expecting guests, or the same lights turned off when returning from shopping. 3. Visitor guidance- these lights are permitted to stay on all night. Typically these solar or low voltage are activated by darkness or a timer.

Decorative Lighting- The primary function of this type of exterior lighting is a visually aesthetic presentation to enhance the features of the property (tree spot lights), create or illuminate an object with light (carving, wall sculpture) or create a visually, pleasing feeling using lighting (porch railing or gazebo “twinkle lights”). Permitted usage: 1.If power is 110 volt or 12 volt, these lights are to incorporate a timer causing the lights to turn off no later than midnight. 2. If each light is individually solar battery powered they may be left on given that decreased battery power or daylight will turn it off.

Special Occasion- The primary function of this type of temporary Decorative Lighting is to enhancing the feeling of a special time or theme (birthday party, outdoor dinner) or holiday (4th of July, Halloween, Christmas). This type of lighting is temporary because both the duration of time and the reason it is displayed are temporary. Permitted usage. 1. For special times and themes, lighting is to be displayed only for the activity and turned off no later than midnight. 2. Holiday (traditional or legal) lighting may be put up one week prior to; then is to be taken down within two days after the holiday. The only exception is the “Christmas Season” which is defined here as running from the day after Thanksgiving Day through News Years day. All holiday lighting is to be timed to turn off at midnight.

Common Areas - The only lighting permitted (originating) in common areas adjacent to a residential lot is, Visitor guidance lighting.

Adopted 1-27-2015