

The Importance of Addressing

The Legacy Toolkit

Forsyth County is currently correcting many addressing inconsistencies in order to improve emergency service response time and establish a common address database for all public service providers. While this process can initially cause confusion and create extra work for property owners, proper addressing is important in the delivery of services and ensuring the safety of people and property in Forsyth County. A clear system of addressing and street naming is important for several reasons:

Why is Addressing Important?

- **During an emergency, your address is how help finds you.** Every second counts when fire, police, and emergency medical personnel are looking for you or your residence. Technology and GPS are increasingly becoming our way of getting around. By having an accurate, logical addressing system and an up-to-date address database, all structures in Forsyth County will be easily found.
- **Addressing makes finding unfamiliar places easier.** When you are looking for an unfamiliar location, a logical addressing system where addresses appear in order helps you to find the location.
- **A modern addressing system sets standards that can be used as the county grows.** By re-addressing areas not correctly addressed now, we can maintain a logical addressing system that will have room for new people and properties as we develop into the future.
- **Roadway names should not be duplicated.** When someone is attempting to find an unfamiliar place, road names that are duplicated or that sound too similar to other road names can cause confusion. In an emergency, this confusion and time delay can be the difference between life and death.
- **Roadways should be named and all structures should be addressed.** Unnamed or unmarked roads are difficult to find in an emergency. In order for clear directions to be given, roads should be named and signed, and all occupiable structures on roads are required to be addressed.

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For more information on Addressing and Street Renaming, Contact the City-County Planning Board at 336.727.8000 or visit our web site at www.cityofws.org/planning.

Street Renaming Policies

The Legacy Toolkit

When a Street Must Be Named

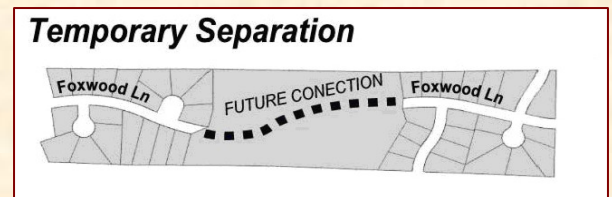
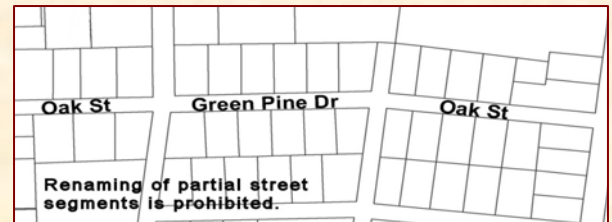
Street names are required for planned or existing streets, public or private, when the street serves as the primary means of ingress or egress for three or more dwellings. For nonresidential structures, any street that serves more than two buildings, or one building with multiple units accessed by individual exterior doors requires a street name.

A Minor Subdivision of lots will also require a street name if the following condition is present:

- Two or more lots are accessed by a new street

Street Naming Requirements

- Street name changes for continuous segments within an existing street, i.e., renaming of partial street segments, is prohibited.
- Separations in street segment names, even if intended to be temporary, are not allowed. When the streets are connected, one segment will be required to change its street name.



- Continuous streets passing from one existing subdivision to a new one must continue the same name.

Street Renaming Priority

When proposing to rename streets with similar names, the following circumstances will be taken into consideration in order of priority as follows:

Largest Impact. In most cases, the street with the larger number of homes, dwellings, or commercial structures along the roadway should have priority and retain the original name in order to minimize the number of people affected.

Oldest Street. When renaming either of two streets having an equal impact, the street that has been in existence and identified with a street name sign for the longest period of time should retain the original street name.

Historical Significance. When renaming either of two streets, the one located inside a designated historic district or with an original name of historical significance should retain the original name.

Street Signage

All public and private street signs must meet the standards of the Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. For public streets, signs must be ordered from the City of Winston-Salem sign shop by the Address Coordinator. It is recommended that private street signs are also ordered from the sign shop in order to ensure all standards are adhered to. While private street signs cannot be installed by the City, assistance will be given as to location and installation methods for such signs.

