

# CHAPTER 13 – STREET NAMING AND ADDRESSING

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## CHAPTER 13 – STREET NAMING AND ADDRESSING

### 13.1 GENERAL

This chapter describes the criteria used to name new streets and assign addresses to properties along those streets. Street names and addresses should be easy to locate. It is important that street names not be duplicated nor sound similar to any other street. Addresses must be consistent to provide easy location of all properties. Street layout is an important factor for being able to assign addresses that carry on in a general logical sequence. For the health, safety and welfare of the public, people must be able to describe their location for emergency services, and responding emergency personnel must easily find the location.

### 13.2 STREET NAMING

Since the 911 emergency dispatch system operated by the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) is a countywide system, all Local Entities within the Larimer County coordinate on their selection of street names to ensure that there are no duplicate street names county wide. This is a need for the rapid and efficient dispatch of emergency services. Each Local Entity participates in a web site based Street Name Inventory System coordinated by Larimer County.

#### 13.2.1 Name Selection System

The system may be accessed by anyone to check on street names. A proposed street name may be entered for testing to determine whether the name is acceptable. The system will indicate names already in use and show names that sound too similar. The web site address for the system is [www.larimer.org/streets/index.htm](http://www.larimer.org/streets/index.htm). Only the Local Entities assigning addresses may enter street names for reservation in the system. Street names are reserved as proposed at the time a plat is submitted for development review. Upon approval of the plat, the proposed street names will be transferred to the “existing” list. In some cases, Local Entities have reserved specific names for their future use.

#### 13.2.2 Street Naming Criteria

When assigning names to streets, follow the street naming criteria in **Table 13-1** titled “Rules of the Street.” This list appears on the Name Selection System web site, <http://www.larimer.org/streets/rules.htm>.

In Loveland (city limits only), refer to Title 12, Section 12.08 of the Loveland Municipal Code for the street naming policy.

#### 13.2.3 Major Street Names

In Fort Collins (city limits only) all arterial and collector street names shall be selected from a City Council approved list of reserved names. The names relate to the history of Fort Collins. The list is available in the Current Planning Department office.

In Loveland (city limits only), refer to Title 12, Section 12.08 of the Loveland Municipal Code for the street naming policy.

**Table 13-1**  
**“Rules of the Streets”**

<i>Standardization of road naming criteria</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use only accepted suffixes</li><li>2. Homonyms for road names are not acceptable.</li><li>3. Road names should be unique and not repeated in the County from this point forward, with the exception of continuation of existing streets.</li><li>4. Each Municipality and the County may develop a list of acceptable or recommended names for use in its jurisdiction. If there are duplications on such lists, and another Municipality or the County utilized the name, the name will be removed from the acceptable or recommended lists in the other jurisdictions.</li><li>5. Within the Growth Management Area around each Municipality, roads will be named using city/town names, not County road numbers. Outside of the GMA Boundary, County road numbers will be used. Street names, rather than County road numbers, will be used for internal roads in County subdivisions and 35 acre developments.</li><li>6. In the unincorporated area any road that serves as an access to multiple properties must be named. Multiple properties accessing of a single point from a County road may not use the single access point as a common address.</li><li>7. Continuous roads should have continuous names (with the exception of circle roads). Names should not change except at the Growth Management Area boundary, however, names are not required to change at the Growth Management Area boundary.</li><li>8. Recommend that road names must be simple to pronounce, in the opinion of the review jurisdiction.</li><li>9. Cardinal directions cannot be used in the name. Directions are used only to designate the portion of an existing road. (not acceptable - North Road, East Fort Road, Northstar Drive.)</li><li>10. No curse words or derogatory terms shall be used for road names.</li><li>11. These are meant to be minimum standards for each Municipality and the County. The main objective is to provide clear street names for citizens and for emergency dispatch and to minimize the possibility of emergency personnel being unable to find a location. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit any Municipality or the County from developing more extensive street naming guidelines.</li><li>12. Numerical addressing will not change from the current process.</li><li>13. All names shall be of the commonly acceptable spelling, according to a standard dictionary.</li><li>14. Street names cannot contain any punctuation or special characters. Only alphabetical symbols A through Z, and numbers 0 through 9 and blank spaces may be used in street names.</li><li>15. Anytime that a street makes a directional change of approximately ninety degrees, the street name shall change. A directional change of approximately ninety degrees shall mean a horizontal curve where a reduction in the design speed is required (i.e. a sharp turn vs. a sweeping curve).</li><li>16. Existing street names shall continue across intersections and roundabouts.</li></ol>

#### 13.2.4 Suffixes

Street suffixes, such as Court, Avenue, etc., which are used to complete the street name, shall conform to the requirements shown in **Table 13-2** titled “Approved Street Suffixes.” This list appears on the Name Selection System web site.

### 13.3 STREET ADDRESSING

The purpose of addressing is to provide a means to locate all properties within the Local Entity. The intent of each Local Entity is to assign addresses with an orderly system, which is consistent, predictable and understandable for everyone.

#### 13.3.1 Address Assignment

All addresses shall be assigned by the Local Entity. Addresses shall be assigned at the time, or shortly thereafter, the approved plat or deed is filed with the Larimer County Clerk and Recorder. The record of addresses is kept and maintained by each Local Entity for its own jurisdiction.

### 13.3.2 Address Changes

The Local Entity must approve any change in a property address. Any changes must conform to the addressing convention used by the Local Entity.

**Table 13-2**  
**Approved Street Suffixes**

<i>The following table lists the only suffixes that can be used for <b>new</b> street names.</i>		
<b>Suffix</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
Avenue	AVE	A roadway or thoroughfare that is continuous and not limited to a single subdivision.
Boulevard	BLVD	Street with a landscaped median dividing the roadway.
Court	CT	Permanently dead-end street or terminating in a cul-de-sac, not longer than 660 feet in length.
Drive	DR	A curvilinear street.
Lane	LN	Minor street within a subdivision.
Parkway	PKWY	A thoroughfare designated as a collector or arterial, with a median reflecting the parkway character implied in the name.
Place	PL	Permanently dead-end street, terminating in a cul-de-sac, or short through street, not longer than 660 feet in length.
Road	RD	A designated thoroughfare.
Street	ST	The common or default suffix.
Way	WAY	A curvilinear street.