

Scenic Overlook

June 2013

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Scenic News:

In Charlotte they're planting trees but not as fast as the billboard industry is [cutting them down](#)...

PA Supreme Court [rules against](#) billboard company...

Auditors: illegal highway signs [could cost](#) Colorado federal funding dollars...

There's a [move to plant](#) native wildflowers along Florida's highways...

Kansas DOT [gives grant](#) to revamp scenic overlook...

Maitland, FL officials [look to write](#) billboard ban into city charter...

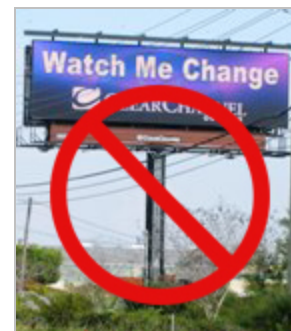


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More cities banning digital billboards

The billboard industry is meeting increasing resistance in its attempts to put up bright, flashing digital billboards as quickly as it can all around the country.

In just the last month several communities have joined the list of those banning the garish signs. In Michigan, the Ann Arbor City Council [voted to ban](#) digital billboards after many residents expressed concern about the signs' negative impacts on quality of life. [Scenic Michigan](#) provided critical organizational support for those opposing the billboards.



In Texas, the town of Jersey Village joined the nearby City of Houston in deciding that [it doesn't want](#) digital billboards there, either. [Scenic Texas](#) supplied important information and support for residents looking to protect themselves from the glare of the flashing signs.

Elsewhere, the towns of [Daphne, Ala.](#), [Maitland, Fla.](#), and [Eatontown, N.J.](#), have all decided that they too don't want digital billboards in their communities.

Palisades Park vista threatened by proposed office tower

The iconic and scenic view of the Palisades Park along the Hudson River is [being threatened](#) by the proposed construction of an office tower that would rise high above the Park's currently unbroken tree line.

The proposal by LG Electronics calls for a 143-foot tall office building, far higher than the area's longstanding 35-foot height limit. If constructed the



qualities of America's communities.

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building would be the first manmade structure visible above that section of the Palisades Park.

"The Palisades are a national landmark and that view is breathtaking," said Scenic America President Mary Tracy. "Scenic America encourages LG to embrace the alternative low-rise design, which would provide the same amount of office space and the same jobs while also preserving this iconic American vista."

Four former New Jersey Governors have jointly sent a letter to the CEO of LG Electronics, encouraging him to embrace the alternative low-rise design and preserve views of Palisades Park, the focus of a century of conservation going back to Theodore Roosevelt. The Palisades were designated a National Natural Landmark in 1983.

You can learn more and express your concerns to LG by visiting [this website](#).

Neal Peirce column calls for a halt to digital billboard proliferation

Legendary syndicated columnist Neal Peirce has written an article condemning the unchecked proliferation of digital billboards, particularly those along federal roads that are supposed to be protected by the Highway Beautification Act.

In [the column](#) Peirce says, "there have been no nationwide U.S. surveys to gauge Americans' opinion of the digital boards. But there's little question — in communities where citizens have a strong voice, opposition is high."



Responding to the industry's claim that digital billboards should be tolerated because of their potential safety uses, Peirce asks: "Aren't such warnings fundamentally the responsibility of state and local governments? Must drivers be watching private advertising billboards to catch crucial emergency information?"

[Click here to read the full column.](#)

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