

It is the intent of this Section to allow the continuation of such non-conforming fences and walls until they are discontinued as provided herein. However, it is not the intent of this Section to encourage the survival of non-conforming fences and walls and such fences and walls that are declared to be incompatible with permitted fences and walls within the City.

An existing fence or wall not allowed by this Section, except when required by law or ordinance, shall not be enlarged, extended, reconstructed, or structurally altered unless such fence is changed to comply with the requirements of this Section. Maintenance of a non-conforming fence will be allowed when this includes necessary repair and incidental alterations which do not expand or intensify the non-conformity.

Fences or walls that are currently in the City's right-of-way (ROW) may remain in place if the property owner executes a ROW agreement with the City.

Fences or walls, other than decorative fences and walls, may be erected, placed, or located in front yards not to exceed four (4) feet in height; except that fences and walls up to six (6) feet in height are permissible in front yards having a depth of at least seventy-five (75) feet or more, or where a fence or wall forms a logical connection, or is in-line, with a wall or fence on either side of an existing wall or fence on the adjacent property.

This section does not apply to fences in existence before the effective date of this Ordinance, except that on sale or transfer of the property on which a non-conforming fence is located, or except when the fence is declared a nuisance or hazard as determined by the City Manager, or the Manager's designee, such fence may be made to conform with the requirements of this chapter, or removed within 90 days of the closing or transfer or declaration of the fence as a nuisance or hazard.

Any non-conforming fence may be repaired like-for-like in height, location and material, up to 75% of the overall linear footage of any the total non-conforming section. A section shall be defined as that portion of the fence or wall located on a given property line. The City Manager, or the Manager's designee, can approve repair to a non-conforming fence under that criteria.

#### Maintenance

- Maintenance of fences and walls shall comply with the following:
  - Fences and walls shall be maintained in good order and repair.
  - Painted surfaces of fences, walls, and other surfaces associated with fences and/or walls shall not be faded and shall be free of discoloration, staining, or peeling.
  - Surfaces of a wall or fence shall be cleaned or repainted if either of the following occurs:
    - When 20% or more of the surface is stained or discolored; or
    - When 15% or more of the paint is peeling off the surface.
- All fences, walls or other similar structures erected in any residential district shall be maintained by the property owner. Property owners shall be responsible for maintaining the appearance of the fence, wall, or other similar structure in a manner that there are no missing boards or slats, cracks, open gaps, leaning sections, crooked

posts, missing blocks or bricks, cracked or crumbling blocks or bricks and to maintain the structural integrity of the fence, wall or similar structure. Any broken, missing, deteriorated, dilapidated, or otherwise damaged portion of a fence, including boards, posts, slats, rails, stiles, structural members or elements, or fittings and any broken, chipped, missing, deteriorated, dilapidated, or otherwise damaged portion of walls shall be replaced.

- Fences and walls shall be maintained in an upright and vertical position, shall not be allowed to lean or to otherwise be out of plumb, and not have the hedge and vegetation material support the fencing. Fence rails and posts shall be structurally sound and shall not be bent, twisted, warped, or otherwise misshaped. Fences shall not be propped up to prevent the fence from falling.
- A building permit shall be required for repair to a fence or wall when the damage exceeds 25%, or more, of the length of the fence or wall section. A section shall be defined as that portion of the fence or wall located on a given property line. The replaced section of the fence or wall shall match the color and material of the existing fence or wall.
- The finished side of all fences shall face the street or adjacent property.

Fence height shall be measured from highest elevation of the ground on either side of the fence. There shall be no more than a 2-inch gap between the ground and the bottom of the fence section.

Civil disputes over the location of a fence or wall at adjoining private properties are not within the enforcement authority of the City to resolve.

### **Front Yard Types and Materials**

1. Front yard fences shall be see-through type fence to avoid vision obstructions. The maximum opacity for fencing in the front yard is 75% (25% of fence must be open, meaning the gaps between boards)
2. Fences may be wood, vinyl or decorative metal
3. Chain-link fences are not permitted in the front yard
4. Front yard fences and walls shall not exceed a height of four feet, except as described in Section \_\_\_\_ above.
5. Fences, if located on a side yard line in the front yard, shall be no more than 4 feet high.

*If the changes are adopted, recommend that diagrams be added to the code for clarity, such as:*

