

Definitions

- **Fence:** Any structure used to restrict access or obstruct visibility.
- **Fence Height:** The vertical distance measured from the mean elevation of the proposed finished grade to the highest point of a structure, sign or its supporting structure, whichever is higher.
- **Front Yard:** The front of a lot shall be that boundary of the lot along a public street having the least dimension.

General Standards – Residential Districts

1. Fences located within a front yard shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.
2. Fences erected in rear or side yards shall not exceed six (6) feet in height. The maximum height may be increased to eight (8) feet upon approval by the City staff, provided the additional height is justified and meets all applicable standards and requirements.
3. Fences shall not encroach into any public right-of-way or easement.
4. On corner lots, both street-facing yards shall be considered front yards and shall comply with front yard fence requirements.
5. Fences located in front yards shall be decorative or ornamental in design (e.g., picket, split rail, wrought iron, masonry) and shall not obstruct visibility by more than fifty (50) percent.
6. Chain link or similar woven wire fences are prohibited within front yards.
7. Fences proposed within a Historic Residential Overlay District shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) prior to the issuance of a fence permit.

General Standards – Commercial and Industrial Districts

1. Fences used for screening shall be constructed of durable materials and designed to be compatible with adjacent properties.
2. Fence height shall be a minimum of six (6) feet and shall not exceed eight (8) feet.
3. The use of barbed wire, razor wire, or similar fencing materials is prohibited in all zoning districts; however, such materials may be permitted in M-1 (Light Industrial) districts upon approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.
4. Fences proposed within any Historic Overlay District shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) prior to the issuance of a fence permit.

Maintenance

All fences shall be maintained in a safe, upright, and structurally sound condition. Fences shall not be allowed to deteriorate, lean, or otherwise present a hazard to adjacent properties or the public. Failure to maintain a fence may constitute a nuisance and shall be subject to enforcement action.

Permits

A permit shall be required for the construction, installation, or alteration of any fence. The Building Official shall review all applications for compliance with this section and all applicable City regulations.

Nonconforming Fences

Any fence lawfully existing prior to the adoption of this ordinance that does not conform to the provisions herein may continue to exist; however, such fence shall not be expanded, altered, or replaced except in compliance with this section.

Enforcement

Any fence may be prohibited or required to be modified if, in the determination of the Code Enforcement Officer or the Chief of Police, the fence obstructs visibility for motorists along public rights-of-way, creates a hazardous condition, or otherwise endangers public safety or welfare.

Violations of this section shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with the City's code enforcement procedures and may be treated as a nuisance where applicable.