

Section 86-162 Yard Modifications

Measurements shall be taken from the nearest point of the wall of a building to the lot line in question, subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) Cornices, awnings, marquees, eaves, pergolas, and balconies may extend into the required front yard a distance not exceeding four feet, and the required side yard distance not exceeding two feet.
- (b) Fire escapes may extend into the required front yard a distance not exceeding five feet. Basement egress window wells may extend into required front and side yards a distance not to exceed three feet.
- (c) A landing or deck may extend into the required front yard to a distance not exceeding eight feet, if they have the floor no higher than the main floor of the building, except a landing installed at the main entrance of existing residential structure and projecting no more than four feet from the structure may extend 15 feet into required front yard. A four-foot square landing, not including stair, or a five-foot square landing serving a ramp, shall always be permitted at the main entrance of existing residential structures if replacing an existing landing. An open railing no higher than three feet may be placed around such structures.
- (d) A bay window having a bow, or angled sides, with windows on all faces projecting no more than two feet from the building wall may extend 20 feet into required front yard.
- (e) The architectural features listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) may also extend into the required rear yard to the same extent as permitted for extension into the required front yard. If an easement coincides with, or is wider than, a required yard, architectural features listed in paragraphs (1) and (2) may extend into such easement not more than two feet with written approval of the city engineer.
- (f) Retaining walls, fences, and other similar structures located in any yard shall not exceed seven feet in height in any of the classes of residential and business districts, unless required by a condition for a variance adjustment or conditional use permit granted for unrelated issue. Barbed wire or electrical fencing materials are prohibited in these locations.
- (g) Retaining walls, fences or any other structures, both permanent and temporary, located in the front yard of a corner lot at the intersection of streets, except pilon signs, shall not exceed three feet in height as measured above the curb within a 25-foot visibility triangle of the property corner at such intersection and within a ten-foot visibility triangle adjacent to alleys and driveways.
- (h) On double frontage lots, the required front yard shall be provided on both streets. On corner lots, the required front yard shall be provided on all streets. [On curved portions of cul-de-sac lot frontages, the required front yard may be reduced to 15 feet.](#)
- (i) In determining the depth of rear yard for any building where the rear yard opens into an alley, one-half the width of the alley, but not exceeding ten feet, may be considered as a portion of the rear yard.
- (j) Any structure, including fences, built in the rear or side yard that opens into an alley, must not be placed less than three feet from the property line defining this alley. Any garage with overhead door facing, and having a direct vehicle access from, an alley must not be placed less than 18 feet from the alley.
- (k) No front, side or rear yard shall be required in the downtown district, except single family houses and duplexes.
- (l) On a corner lot fronting two intersecting streets, either yard opposite the street may be designated the rear yard; in case of a triangular corner lot, the yard not adjacent to streets shall be designated the rear yard but shall meet the setback requirements of a side yard. On a corner lot fronting three streets, the yard opposite the front yard located between two other front yards shall be designated the rear yard but shall meet the setback requirements of a side yard.
- (m) On a flag lot, the lot side, which faces the street that this lot has an access from, shall be designated the front yard. For such lots, the lot depth calculations shall not include the length of the narrow access portion of the lot.
- (n) On a lot that faces, and is exclusively accessed from, a public roadway easement or recorded access easement providing access to at least one other property beyond said lot, the lot side facing the easement shall be designated the front yard.

(o) On an interior triangular lot, no rear yard shall be required.

(Code 1976, § 11.19(4)(B); Ord. No. 374 2nd series, § 1, 8-4-1997; Ord. No. 699 2nd series, § 1, 9-9-2015; Ord. No. 725 2nd series, § 1, 1-23-2018; Ord. No. 750 2nd series, § 1, 6-23-2020; Ord. No. 21-002, § 1, 4-27-2021)