

## **SECTION 14 FENCES AND WALLS.**

### **14.1 Fences and Walls - Standards**

- 1) Preserve and maintain historic fences and walls.
- 2) Preserve and maintain all historic features and details of fences and walls, including gates, decorative pickets, posts, pillars, steps, and other elements that contribute to the character of historic fences and walls.
- 3) Retain and preserve historic fence and wall material wherever possible. If replacement is necessary, use new material that matches the historic material in composition, size, shape, color, pattern, and texture.
- 4) Design new fences that are compatible with the associated building, site, and streetscape in height, proportion, scale, color, texture, material, and design. Synthetic fence materials, such as vinyl, are not appropriate in the historic district.
- 5) Fences shall not exceed a height of four feet in front yards and other areas of primary visual concern. Fences at rear yards and other areas not readily seen from the public view may be up to six feet high. The transition between low front fences and higher rear fences should be made as far to the rear of the enclosed structure or yard as possible, and no more than half the depth of the yard forward of the principal structure. Any fence that meets a structure should join the building at an architectural feature on the structure, such as a cornerboard, break, or other appropriate junction point.
- 6) Historic retaining walls should be preserved. New low walls are appropriate only where a sharp change in grade exists, and shall not exceed a height of two feet. Such walls should be constructed of brick or concrete block covered with a true sand-finish stucco.
- 7) The use of false historical details or other non-original architectural embellishments on existing fences is not appropriate.
- 8) Contemporary or utilitarian fence materials are not appropriate for fences in the public view. Inappropriate materials include: plastic, vinyl, chain link, wire, and all other modern materials. The use of modern fencing is permitted for rear yards only, in areas not seen from the public view, using vinyl-coated chain link (dark green or black), standard chain link, or heavy wire ("hog wire"). Use plantings such as ivy, climbing roses, jasmine, or other vines to hide wire fences.
- 9) Use a combination of fences and plantings to screen parking lots. To provide adequate visibility for drivers entering and leaving, the fence should not exceed a height of three (3) feet at the street/sidewalk edge. (See the Off-Street Parking guidelines for more details, § 152.296(H), Swansboro Unified Development Ordinance.)

(Ord. 2005-O3, passed 3-15-2005; Am. Ord. 2021-O3, passed 5-24-2021)