

Sec. 17-5.8 Fences and Walls

(a) Purpose

The purpose and intent of this Section is to regulate the location, height, and appearance of fences and walls to:

- (1) Maintain visual harmony within neighborhoods and throughout the City;
- (2) Protect adjacent lands from the indiscriminate placement and the unsightliness of fences and walls;
- (3) Ensure the safety, security, and privacy of land; and
- (4) Ensure that fences and walls are subject to timely maintenance, as needed.

(b) Applicability

(1) General

Unless exempted in accordance with (2) below, the standards in this Section apply to any construction or replacement of fences or walls.

(2) Exemptions

The following fences and walls are exempt from the standards of this Section:

- a. Fences and walls required for support of a principal or accessory structure;
- b. Temporary fences and barricades around construction sites;
- c. Fences for tree protection (temporary and permanent);
- d. Landscaping berms installed without fences; and
- e. Fences and walls necessary for soil erosion and control.

(3) Timing of Review

Review for compliance with the standards in this Section shall occur during review of a development application for a site plan (major or minor) (Sec. 17-2.5(i)) or zoning permit (Sec. 17-2.5(q)), as appropriate.

(c) General Standards

- (1) Fences and walls that comply with the standards in this subsection are allowed anywhere on a lot, or on a property line between privately-owned lots.
- (2) A fence or wall shall not unreasonably impede visibility of street traffic from vehicles or exiting driveways.
- (3) Gates shall not swing outward over a sidewalk or into the right-of-way.
- (4) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the installation of temporary fencing to protect existing trees, limit sedimentation, or control erosion.

(d) Height

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision in this subsection, a fence or wall shall not extend into a street intersection sight area (see Sec. 17-9.4, Definitions).
- (2) A fence or wall located in a required yard shall comply with the height standards in Table 17-5.8(d)(3): Maximum Fence or Wall Height in Required Yards.

TABLE 17-5.8(D)(3): MAXIMUM FENCE OR WALL HEIGHT IN REQUIRED YARDS	
REQUIRED YARD	MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF FENCE OR WALL
Side or rear yard	8 feet
Second front yard on corner lot	6 feet
Front yard	4 feet

- (3) Fence posts and wall columns may extend above the maximum fence heights established in Table 17-5.8(d)(3): Maximum Fence or Wall Height in Required Yards, by 36 inches, provided no part of a fence or wall shall have a height greater than eight feet.

(e) Materials

Hazardous fences, except in accordance with Sec. 8.1 of the Code of Ordinances, and fences constructed of fabric materials, fiberboard, garage door panels, plywood, rolled plastic, or vinyl or plastic tarps are prohibited.

(f) Maintenance

Fences and walls and associated landscaping shall be maintained in good repair and in a safe and attractive condition. Maintenance of fences and walls shall include, but not be limited to, the replacement of missing, decayed, or broken structural or decorative elements and the repair of deteriorated or damaged fence materials, including, but not limited to, weathered surfaces visible from the public right-of-way, sagging sections, and posts that lean more than ten degrees from vertical.