

# Fences, Gates, and Walls

## Definitions

For the purposes of these "Guidelines," the front yard is defined as that portion of the parcel adjacent to the street associated with the address of the primary occupant of the property. For the purpose of locating a front yard type of fence, the front yard is considered to extend back from the street a minimum of ten (10) feet back from the front corners of the structure—porches being excluded. If there is a door or window at this point, the front yard shall be extended back at least six inches (6") behind the window or door at this location. A corner lot parcel is considered to have two front yards—each fronting a street.

In the event that adjacent homes are less than six (6) feet apart, the minimum ten (10) foot setback may be reduced for fences connecting the two structures, provided the following conditions are met:

- a. Both homeowners agree regarding fence placement and style.
- b. Fence styles are consistent with zoning regulations as well as Historic Commission "Guidelines" for back front and back yard fences.
- c. The minimum setback shall be no less than the distance between the two structures.
- d. Where the two structures are set back from the street at unequal distances, the structure farthest from the street shall be used to determine the setback measurement.

## Staff Letter - No Certificate Necessary:

1. Removal of any non-historic fence, provided the fence is not specifically required in an issued Certificate of Appropriateness.
2. Repair of existing fences, provided that:
  - a) There is no alteration in material, height, color, or location.
3. Additional fencing within an area enclosed by a backyard privacy fence, provided it reaches no higher than the privacy fence.

## Staff Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Back yard fences that are:
  - a) Not more than 6 feet in height,
  - b) Not louver, basket weave, chain link, masonry, lattice, or stockade,
  - c) On lots that are not situated on street corners, not farther forward than a point midway between the front and back facades of the primary structure, and;
  - d) Not obscuring the view at an intersection of streets and/or alleys.

## Commission Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Fences not qualifying for Staff Approval.
2. Construction or removal of masonry walls.
3. Any action deemed inappropriate by Staff.
4. Removal of any historic fence or wall that is original to the site.

## **For Front Yard Fences:**

### **Recommended:**

1. Consistent with the zoning regulations, front yard fences should be no taller than four feet (4') from the ground on the inside of the fence except on corner lots, where front yard fences should be no taller than three feet (3') from the ground on the inside of the fence.
2. Open in style—such as picket. **All fences here shall permit a minimum of 50% visibility between individual components. If wooden, the wood shall be painted or stained an appropriate color. If metal, the fence shall give the impression of period wrought iron fences and have posts a minimum of three (3) inches wide.**
3. Does not obscure the view at an intersection of street and/or alleys.
4. Is stylistically appropriate to the architectural style of the primary structure.

### **Not recommended:**

1. Antique fence sections connected by masonry piers.
2. Plastic or vinyl fence or lattice.
3. Chain-link, louvered, basket weave, lattice, stockade, or split-rail fencing
4. Removing or altering a fence that is a factor in screening a feature that would be a violation of these "Guidelines."

## **For Back Yard Fences:**

### **Recommended:**

1. Consistent with zoning regulations, back and side yard fences should be no taller than six (6) feet from the ground on the inside of the fence.
2. Removing or altering a fence that is a factor in screening a feature that would be a violation of these "Guidelines."

### **Not Recommended:**

1. Chain-link, louvered, basket weave, lattice, stockade, split-rail, livestock fencing, or vinyl fencing.

## FENCE HEIGHT AND SETBACK

Backyard privacy fence setback from street: 10' from front corner of the house, excluding porch.  
If there is a door or window at this point, backyard fence shall be no further forward than 6" from back side of this opening.

- A. Backyard Privacy Fence: Maximum Height 6'
- B. Front Yard Fence: Maximum Height 4'
- C. Corner Lot Front Yard Fence: Maximum Height 3'

