



Development Services Department • 200 South Hough Street, Barrington, IL 60010  
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## Fence Guidelines

### A. Permitted Height of Fences in R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8 and B-R Districts

1. Front Yards. In R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8 and B-R Districts, fences located between the front property line and front face of the primary structure shall not exceed three (3) feet in height, as measured from the ground adjacent to the top horizontal elements of the fence. Pickets, posts, and other vertical elements may exist beyond the top horizontal element by no more than six (6) inches.
2. Corner Side Yards. Fences in required corner side yards shall be required to meet the above height requirement under 4.5(A)(1) for front yards.
3. Rear and Side Yards. In R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8 and B-R Districts, rear and side yard fences shall be a maximum of six (6) feet in height, as measured from the grade at the base to the top of the fence.
4. Lots Abutting Arterial Roads. In R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8 and B-R Districts on the affected property line(s) only:
  - a. Where the subject property directly abuts an arterial road, as defined by the Village's Development Regulations, such fences and walls in rear yards and/or corner side yards shall be permitted up to a maximum of six (6) feet in height, as measured from the grade at the base to the top of the fence. Corner side yard fences shall not extend past the front face of the primary structure. However, the appearance, structure and design of such fences shall be compatible and in harmony with the neighborhood and adjacent and contiguous property, subject to the approval of the Zoning Official.
  - b. Where the subject property directly abuts a Strategic Regional Arterial route, as defined by the Illinois Department of Transportation, such fences and walls in rear yards and corner side yards shall be permitted up to a maximum of eight (8) feet in height, as measured from the grade at the base to the top of the fence. Corner side yard fences shall not extend past the front face of the primary structure. However, the appearance, structure and design of such fences shall be compatible and in harmony with the neighborhood and adjacent and contiguous property, subject to the approval of the Zoning Official.
5. Lots Directly Abutting Railroad Property. In R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8 and B-R Districts, where the subject property directly abuts railroad property in the rear and/or side yard, such fences and walls, on the affected property line(s) only:
  - a. Shall be permitted up to a maximum of eight (8) feet with no variance required.
  - b. Shall be permitted to reverse the more finished appearance as otherwise required, to construct the more finished side on the inside.

### B. Permitted Height of Fences in B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 A-1, M-A, M-1, O-R, P-L, O-S, R-C Districts

1. Front Yards. In B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, A-1, M-A, M-1, O-R, P-L, O-S, R-C Districts, decorative fences or screen walls in front yards shall not exceed three (3) feet in height, unless increased height is required by a special use or planned development ordinance, to ensure adequate screening.
2. Corner Side Yards. Fences in corner side yards shall be required to meet the above height requirement under

4.5(B)(1) for front yards.

3. Rear and Side Yards. In B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 A-1, M-A, M-1, O-R, P-L, O-S, R-C Districts, rear and side yard fences and walls shall be a maximum of six (6) feet in height.
4. Lots Directly Abutting Railroad Property. In B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 A-1, M-A, M-1, O-R, P-L, O-S, R-C Districts, where the subject property abuts a railroad property in the rear or side yard, such fences and walls, on the affected property line(s) only, shall be permitted up to a maximum height of eight (8) feet with no special use or planned development ordinance required.

**C. Location, Construction, and Maintenance of Fences, Walls, and Hedges**

1. All fences shall be constructed of wood, brick, stone, stick built solid core vinyl, stick built solid core composite, wrought iron or similar decorative material. Chain link, fences shall not be permitted in any zoning district with the exception that fences located on railroad rights-of-way may be chain link and fences located in the P-L or R-C District may be chain link provided they are black in color. All chain link fences are subject to the maximum height regulated in Section 4.5-B above except existing chain link fences used as sports field fencing may be replaced in the same location and at the same height as the existing sports field fence.
2. Fences located within the Historic Preservation Overlay District shall be wood or wrought iron and are also subject to the Historic District Design Guidelines.
3. In front and corner side yards in residential districts, fences shall be open a minimum of thirty-three (33) percent across the gross surface area from one end of the fence to another.
4. In front yards, an opening or gate not less than two and one-half (2.5) feet in width shall be provided to permit access to the front yard.
5. In front yards, the fence shall be parallel to the front and side lot line of the front yard, except where such placement would create a safety hazard, as reasonably determined by the Zoning Official.
6. Fences may be constructed up to the property line.
7. If the fence is designed so that one (1) side has a more finished appearance, the more finished side shall be constructed on the outside, and if a screen fence is designed with posts, the posts shall be placed on the inside of the fence or centered on the plane of the screening; except as specifically permitted in Section 4.5-A.5.B.
8. No wire or barbed wire fences shall be permitted in the Village, unless approved by special use or planned development ordinance.
9. No fence, wall, or hedge shall be erected or planted within a public right-of-way.
10. All hedges shall be planted and maintained so as not to overhang or interfere with the use of the public way such as a sidewalk, alley or street.
11. All fences, walls, or hedges shall be maintained in good, structurally sound repair and in a neat, clean and attractive condition.
12. For aesthetic purposes, as well as to maintain property values, it is desirable that the appearance, structure and design of front yard fences shall be compatible and in harmony with other front yard fences in the Village, particularly in the neighborhood and on adjacent and contiguous property. The Zoning Official may suggest changes or recommendations to achieve that objective, upon review of a fence permit application.