

FENCE PERMIT APPLICATION

Planning Department, City of Grand Haven
519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: (616) 935-3276 Email: zoningpermits@grandhaven.org

JOB ADDRESS _____ ZONING DISTRICT: _____

OWNER'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE # _____

OWNER'S ADDRESS _____

OWNER'S EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CONTRACTOR'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE # _____

CONTRACTOR'S ADDRESS _____

CONTRACTOR LICENSE # _____

CONTRACTOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

DESCRIBE FENCE (Height, Type, Location) _____

REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ **Site Plan Drawing** of the lot showing all buildings lot lines and the location of the street or streets and where the fence will be installed shall be submitted with this application. If fence is not being installed on the lot line, please show the distance the fence will be from the lot line.
- ☐ **Permit** will be issued only after receipt of all required paperwork and after a proper plan review is completed by the zoning administrator.
- ☐ **Permit fee: \$50.00**

By signing below, applicant agrees to perform the described work in accordance with all applicable sections of the City of Grand Haven Code of Ordinances. *Signer will insure that all inspection requests are made a minimum of 24 hours prior to the requested time.*

SIGNATURE _____

☐ Contractor ☐ Owner ☐ Agent

Office Use Only

Permit #: _____ Date Received: _____ Fee: _____

Date of Approval: _____ Date of Denial: _____ Approved by: _____



FENCE REQUIREMENTS *(Section 40-327 of the Grand Haven Zoning Ordinance)*

Fences, walls, and decorative fences shall require a Fence Permit issued by the Zoning Administrator and shall comply with the following regulations and requirements:

Location

1. Front Yard. Fences in a front yard or corner front yard shall be limited to decorative fences, as defined herein, in all districts except the TI and I districts.
2. On a waterfront lot no fence shall be located in the rear yard except that in a residential district, a fence may be approved in the rear yard by the Planning Commission.
3. Fences shall be located so as to not obstruct the clear vision corners as regulated in Section 40-307.
4. No fence shall be placed closer than one (1) foot to a public sidewalk.

Height and Opacity

1. Total fence height shall be measured from the grade to the top of the fence. Posts may extend a maximum of 6 inches above the fence.
2. In all districts, except I and TI, and as further regulated elsewhere in this ordinance, fences and walls in any side or rear yard shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
3. Fences in a required front yard or corner front yard shall not exceed four (4) feet in height, except where otherwise permitted in this section, and shall not obstruct vision to an extent greater than fifty (50) percent of their total area.
4. "Living" fences, such as hedges, in required front yards need not meet the opacity standards of **Sections 40-327, B, 2 and 3**, but shall not exceed three (3) feet in height and shall comply with the clear vision corner requirements of **Section 40-307**.
5. The Planning Commission may approve a greater fence height in the TI and I Districts if the increased height will better screen a use from the roadway or adjacent residential uses.
6. Fences which enclose public or institutional parks, play-grounds, or public landscaped areas, situated within an area developed with recorded lots shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height measured from the surface of the ground, and shall not obstruct vision to an extent greater than thirty-five (35) percent of their total area.
7. Fences may be placed on retaining walls, berms or similar features, if the combined height of the fence, and the retaining wall, berm or similar feature does not exceed the maximum permitted height set forth in this section. Provided, however, a fence and retaining wall with a combined height in excess of the standards of this section, may be permitted when the Zoning Administrator determines that the additional combined height is necessary for the stabilization of a naturally-occurring bank or dune and/or the fence on the retaining wall is necessary for appropriate screening between uses or for safety of persons or property.

Design and Type

1. Unless otherwise specified in this section, all residential fences shall be designed and constructed of materials commonly used in conventional fence construction. Acceptable materials include wood product, composite wood, rigid vinyl, wrought iron, or chain link. The use of scrap materials, doors, shutters, pallets, paneling, or other materials not ordinarily used as fencing is prohibited.
2. All fences shall be constructed with the finished side exposed to neighboring properties, the support posts placed on the inside, and in a manner which serves to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood or surrounding area.
3. Decorative fences shall be constructed, by way of illustration, in a style similar to split rail, picket, or wrought iron fences. Decorative fences shall be designed to incorporate no more than fifty (50) percent opaque surface area.
4. Except in the I Industrial District, and where required by Local, State or Federal law enforcement authorities, no fence shall contain electric current, charge of electricity, broken glass caps or chain link type fences with sharp wire edges exposed.

Maintenance

Fences shall be maintained to retain their original appearance, shape and configuration. Elements of a fence that are missing, damaged, destroyed or deteriorated shall be replaced and repaired to maintain conformity with the original fence appearance and design.

