



CITY OF PARK RIDGE
Community Preservation and Development Department
Zoning Division

505 Butler Place, Park Ridge, IL 60068 | Tel 847-318-5291 Fax 847-318-6411
www.parkridge.us

Fence Guidelines

No fence shall be erected or replaced in the City of Park Ridge without first obtaining a building permit. This handout provides information regarding the application of building permits for fences. This handout is for general information purposes only, and is not a substitute for the actual text of codes. If discrepancies arise, the code shall govern.

PERMIT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following documents and information must be provided at the time of submittal for a fence permit. Failure to submit the appropriate information could result in application not being accepted and/or delay in the issuance of the building permit. ***All documents should be submitted in triplicate.***

_____ **City of Park Ridge Building Permit Application.** Please ensure the form is signed by the applicant and has all information filled in, including the list of contractors.

_____ **Plat of Survey.** The following information must be indicated and/or annotated on the plat (a separate scaled site plan may also be submitted):

- **Highlight the proposed location** of the fence on the property
- Minimum distances from the proposed or replacement fence to the property's rear and side lot lines
- Easements

_____ **Certification of Plat Accuracy.** If a Plat of Survey is required, submit one of the two following certifications:

- **Property Owner's Certification of Present Accuracy of Attached Survey.** This certifies that the survey submitted with the application accurately depicts the current conditions on the property.
- **Property Owner's Certification Regarding Attached Survey.** This must be submitted if changes to the property, e.g. addition of patio, enlargement of driveway, have been made since the date of the survey. Such additions should be annotated on the survey. Failure to accurately reflect the conditions on the property could result in delay in the permit being issued or stop-work orders being issued after work starts.

- _____ **Proof of ownership.** Provide copy of the deed, recorded by Cook County, showing current ownership of the subject property.
- _____ **Contractor list.** Provide a list of all contractors who will be involved with the project.
- _____ **Fence materials.** Provide a description of all materials, to include posts and pickets that will be used on the proposed or replacement fence. Manufacturer brochures that clearly indicate materials may be submitted to fulfill this requirement.
- _____ **Fence height and length.** Provide information regarding the fence height and length. This may be fulfilled by either an illustration or statement, e.g. "maximum height of fence to top of poles and pickets shall be five feet zero inches."

FENCE REQUIREMENTS

The following general guidance on fences is provided. For additional guidance please consult the Article 15, Chapter 12 of the Municipal Code and Section 11.4.e of the Zoning Ordinance.

- **General Guidance**
 - Fence height is measured from existing grade; exceptions may apply.
 - Fence, including posts, bases and other structural parts, shall be located completely within the boundaries of the applicant's lot.
 - The finished side of fences shall face away from the lot on which it is located.
 - Both sides of the fence shall be of similar design, construction and appearance.
 - Fence posts shall be placed on the inside of the fence, and post height, including post cap, may extend a maximum of 4 inches above the fence.
 - Existing fences that do not conform to current zoning standards may be repaired or reconstructed. However, any change to fence style or material, height or length shall not be permitted without a zoning variance.
 - Electric wire is prohibited.
- **Fences in residential districts.**
 - Prohibited in front yards
 - Maximum height:
 - Interior or corner side yard, rear yard = 5 ft., 2 in.
 - Corner side yard on reverse corner lot = 4 ft., open fence
 - If lot abuts major thoroughfare, fence along rear lot line may be 6 ft.
 - If lot abuts an alley, fence along alley may be 5 ft., 6 in.
 - If lot abuts a railroad ROW, fence may be 7 ft., except if ROW is below grade of lot
 - If lot abuts commercial district or use, or parking lot, fence may be 6 ft. in rear or side yards
 - When intended to screen a patio that does not exceed 25 ft. in length, fence may be 6 ft.; fence must be within 3 ft. of patio.
 - When a fence is constructed on a deck, fence may be 5 ft.
- **Fences in non-residential districts.**
 - Prohibited in front or corner side yards
 - Maximum height:
 - Along rear or interior side yard = 6 ft.

- When abutting a residential district, required with a height of 6 ft.
- **Fences for public utility or public recreation uses.**
 - Public utility uses shall be fenced.
 - Fence is required for lot lines abutting a residential district, or when such use fronts on a public ROW. Additionally, shrubs a minimum of 5 ft. in height shall be planted along the fence.
 - Barbed wire/razor wire is permitted on lots used for public utility facilities; such wire cannot exceed 7 ft. above grade and shall extend inward. Total maximum height of fence with such wire may be 8 ft.
- **Fence materials permitted.** Fences shall be constructed only of the following materials:
 - Treated wood, cedar or redwood
 - Simulated wood
 - Decorative brick or stone
 - Wrought-iron or aluminum designed to simulate wrought-iron
 - Coated chain-link, if brown, black or green in color
- **Construction requirements**
 - All fences shall be designed and constructed to resist and withstand a wind pressure from any angle of approach of not less than 15 pounds per square foot of gross protected area of fence less openings.
 - All posts, anchors and bracing of wood shall be treated to protect them from deteriorating when they rest upon or enter into the ground.

