

# DISCUSSION DRAFT

## Historic Review Board Policy #6 Fences and Walls

Includes Definitions and Photo Examples  
of Fence and Wall Types

2019

Suggested text changes are shown in red underline and strikethrough.

Yellow boxes indicate items for consideration.

## HRB Policy #6 (First Adopted 9/88; Revised 6/91) - Fences and Walls

The following policy is hereby adopted by the Oregon City Historic Review Board regarding the construction or alteration of fences and walls within Historic Districts, on designated sites in Conservation Districts, or on individual sites designated as landmarks.

Fences and walls are an extension of the architecture of the house. The right fence design can unite the building and landscape while enhancing privacy, establishing property boundaries, and protecting children and pets. According to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, additions such as fences "should be compatible with the size, scale, material and character of the property, neighborhood or environment." Fences in the front yard are typically more decorative, while fences in the side and rear yards are more utilitarian.

Front yard fences or walls and corner side yard fences or walls should be no more than 42 inches in height and shall not create a traffic sight obstruction (as defined in Chapter 10.32 of the Oregon City Municipal Code). Along rear yards and interior side yards (~~beyond the front yard setback~~beyond the front building line), fences or walls may be up to six (6) feet in height.

Keep corner side yard height restriction, or revise to include only front yard?

Fences or walls that are listed in the "ACCEPTABLE" category may be reviewed and a decision made by staff. The primary criterion to be used by staff shall be compatibility of the proposed fence or wall with the style and period of the designated structure. If the proposal is within a historic district not on a designated property, the primary criterion shall be compatibility with surrounding historic structures. Either staff or the applicant shall have the option of referring the plans to the Historic Review Board for resolution of doubtful or contested application of standards. Fences or walls that are not listed, or that are specifically listed under the "NOT ACCEPTABLE" category must be submitted for review and decision by the Historic Review Board.

Hand rails on stairs within a yard, planter boxes, and raised garden beds are subject to this policy. Repair and maintenance of existing fences is not subject to this policy.

# Fences and Walls in Front Yards and Corner Side Yards

- Include as acceptable?
- Basalt stone
  - Basalt Veneer
  - Poured Concrete
  - Steel/aluminum
  - Wood lattice

## ACCEPTABLE FENCE AND WALL TYPES

### **Iron Picket**

Includes wrought iron picket fences with simple or ornate designs



### **Ornamental Cast Iron**

Victorian-inspired cast iron fences and gates



### **Brick**

Includes bricks of any color or size. Allowed in combination with other masonry types



### **Combinations of Iron and Masonry**

Brick, stone, or concrete with iron fencing atop or integrated into the wall



### **Wood picket ~~–flat boards or square~~ vertical**

Wood fence with pickets spaced at least one inch apart to six inches apart. Pickets may be pointed or straight, and boards may be flat or square. Includes traditional white painted (preferred); unpainted or different color paint is also acceptable. May be scalloped or straight on top.



- Is picket spacing appropriate? Should this be defined to include solid wood as well? Vertical boards versus horizontal boards?

### **Woven wire ~~if installed according to height Available from manufacturer and~~ with wood posts and rails**

Decorative woven wire with loop top design



# Fences and Walls in Front Yards and Corner Side Yards

## **NOT ACCEPTABLE FENCE AND WALL TYPES**

### **Chain-link**

Consists of steel wire woven to form a diamond-shaped mesh. Includes uncoated, powder coated, with or without slats.



Add hedge slats here as well?

### **Post and rail/split rail**

Also known as a log fence, zigzag fence, worm fence or snake fence, made out of timber logs, usually split lengthwise into rails. Uses two to four rails and is divided into sections with wood posts.



### **Concrete Block**

Includes pre-cast panels, CMU, hollow or solid blocks. Both split faced and smooth.



Add recycled concrete here as well?

### **Stockade**

Wood fence with vertical boards and no spacing. Includes good neighbor fence and stockade fence. May be topped with lattice or other wood design. May have a scalloped or straight top.



Revise as needed based on decision regarding solid wood in front yards.

### **Plywood/Hardboard or asbestos Panel**

Plastic, vinyl, fiber cement or asbestos panels. Includes solid fences/walls or those designed to look like wood picket fences.



### **Hollow, Twisted Wrought Iron**

????

### **Mixed Material Diagonal Board (e.g. brick/wood/vinyl)**

????

# Fences and Walls in Interior Side Yards, Alleyways and Rear Yards

## ACCEPTABLE FENCE AND WALL TYPES

All that are acceptable ~~above~~ in front yard

### Concrete Block

Includes pre-cast panels, CMU, hollow or solid blocks. Both split faced and smooth.



Add recycled concrete here as well?

### Horizontal Board

Wood fence with horizontal boards. Boards may be spaced or have no spacing. May be topped with lattice or other wood design.



### Staggered Vertical Board (~~good neighbor~~)

Wood fence with vertical boards staggered on either side of a horizontal rail. Also known as good neighbor fence.



### Solid Wood ~~—flat topped, clipped top or capped vertical~~

Wood fence with vertical boards and no spacing. Includes good neighbor fence and stockade fence. May be topped with lattice or other wood design. May have a scalloped or straight top.



Add any of the following?

- Split rail
- Poured concrete
- Wood lattice
- Non-basalt stone

## NOT ACCEPTABLE FENCE AND WALL TYPES

All that are not acceptable ~~above~~ in front yard, unless explicitly listed as acceptable fence and wall types in interior side yards, alleyways, and rear yards.

## Fences and Walls Not Addressed in Current Policy

### **Gabion Wall**

Consists of rocks or stones enclosed in a metal wire basket



### **Chicken Wire**

Unframed fence of thin, flexible metal wire with varied pattern including hexagonal or rectangular shapes. Known as chicken wire, hog wire, or welded wire. May include repeating wood or metal posts.



### **Recycled Concrete**

Irregularly sized concrete pieces or chunks stacked like stones.



### **Non-basalt stone**

May include sandstone, limestone, lavarock, or other rock that would not have been quarried locally and used in the historic era.



### **Poured Concrete**

Poured concrete wall with smooth or textured finishing



### **Wood Lattice**

Diagonal or vertical/horizontal pattern of wood panels with spacing.



These materials are subject to HRB review because they are not addressed in the policy. The Board may choose to add these to the acceptable or not acceptable lists, or keep them off the lists and require HRB review.