

# A1.5 Fences and Walls

## Fences

Fences can define private open space and should enhance the streetscape adjacent to residential developments. The three types of fences allowed at the Atlas Development Area:

- Front yard fencing
- Alley fencing
- Privacy fencing

Fences placed in the development shall adhere to city code and shall not be placed within the traffic vision triangle. Where fences are placed on a transitional slope or sloped wall, the top of fence panels shall be stepped rather than sloped. Front yard fences must be more visually transparent than opaque when located adjacent to public streets. Fence designs should consider a horizontal orientation when used with contemporary architecture and vertical when used with traditional architecture.

**Front yard fences** are not required but may be used to better define the private area in front of a home. These fences may be particularly suitable where houses face a parking space or public walkway. Although they are used to delineate spaces, these fences should be of a design that accommodates social exchanges and maintains visibility between the front yard and the street or other public space. They are not intended for privacy or to create a visual buffer. Front yard fences shall be no more than 4' tall. Reference appropriate colors and materials below. It is acceptable for overhead or trellised entries to exceed the maximum height, however only at the entry location.

**Alley fences** are low fences that serve a purpose not unlike that of the front yard fence, though they are used to delineate the more private back yard. They afford greater social interaction between neighbors in chance meetings by the car or in taking out the garbage, and they allow sightlines between individual units and the alley to be maintained. Alley fences are to be located where back



Example of acceptable, stained front yard wood fence.



Example of acceptable, stained front yard wood fence.



Example of acceptable, front yard, steel fence combination.



Example of acceptable, front yard, masonry and wrought iron fence.

yards abut the alley ROW or where they adjoin other more public walkways. Alley fences shall be no more than 6' tall. It is acceptable for overhead or trellised entries to exceed the maximum height, however only at the entry location. Reference appropriate colors and materials below.

**Privacy fences** are taller and less transparent than alley fences and are to be used only for private back yards. They are intended to create a visual buffer separating more privately used back yards spaces from other, neighboring yards and adjacent, more public areas. They may be used where back yards are adjacent public rights-of-way or streets and sidewalks to provide privacy for the outdoor space. Privacy fences may also be located at side lot lines separating adjacent lots, particularly at the top of the yard nearest the housing unit. These may be used in setback areas between homes to separate rear yards from front yards. Fences should be set back from gates or thresholds leading to more public areas to maintain comfortable sightlines. Privacy fences shall be no more than 6' tall. It is acceptable for overhead or trellised entries to exceed the maximum height, however only at the entry location. Reference appropriate colors and materials below.

**Appropriate Materials** – Acceptable fencing materials include wood, steel cables, tube and flat steel, durable aluminum, wrought iron, and solid compressed vinyl, and composite wood/plastic products. Welded wire mesh may be used when paired with a wood frame and the welded wire is of a sturdy gauge. The welded wire also shall be painted black. Fencing materials may be paired with masonry or concrete walls where applicable. Vegetative screens may take the place of fences where applicable. Concrete walls should have a smooth form, or sack finish where used in combination with fencing. Where wood fences are used, lumber shall be surfaced on all four sides (S4S), with no rough-cut edges, and shall be stained or painted.

**Appropriate Colors** – In general fencing should consist of dark colors. Blacks, dark greys, dark olive, and dark browns are appropriate for use in the development. White and beige colored fences are generally discouraged. However, white walls are acceptable when combined with a contrasting, colored cap or railing.



Example of acceptable, front yard, concrete and steel fence.

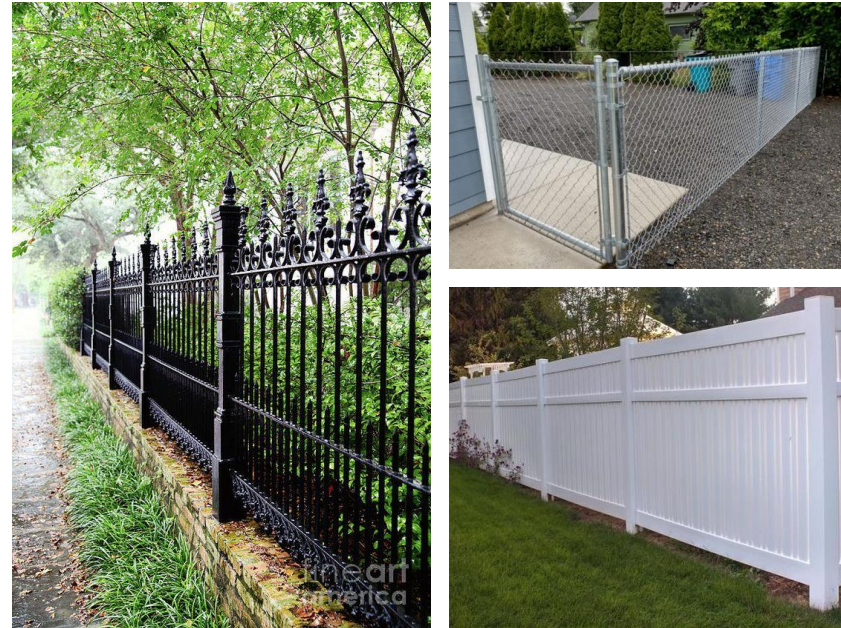


Examples of acceptable alley and privacy fences.

Fencing colors should consider the architectural character and color and work to complement building components. Untreated, light-colored wood are prohibited.

**Lighting in Fences** – Incorporation of lighting into fences is acceptable. When incorporating lighting consider placement at post locations. Lighting must be oriented downward, unobstructive, and secured in place.

**Not Appropriate** - It is not appropriate to use chain link fencing in any location except in rear yards that face another rear yard where fencing is not visible from the public right-of-way. Where chain link fence is use, the fence fabric must be PVC coated and all uprights, hardware and fasteners must be powder coat painted to black or another dark color approved by the board. It also must be paired with a vegetative barrier to soften the appearance of the fence. No galvanized chain link products shall be used. Other industrial, wire fencing is prohibited. Split rail fences are also prohibited. In no location within the development is it appropriate to use hollow core vinyl fencing. Wrought iron fences that are ornate in nature shall not be used.



Examples of unacceptable fencing types.

## Walls

**Walls** – Solid walls are acceptable alternatives to fencing for privacy and may be used for retaining situations. Solid walls shall consist of concrete or masonry. Concrete walls shall be smooth or sack finish and avoid board form or rough surfaces. Where walls abut a walking surface with a drop on one side over 30” a guardrail must be installed. When constructing solid walls for privacy, consideration for column placement, scoring patterns, or combination with other materials, such as wood, should be given to soften the massing of such structures. Wall materiality and construction should complement the adjacent architecture. Concrete walls may be stained but should avoid bright colors. Walls shall be no more than 6’ tall.



Examples of acceptable walls.