

Fences



As of June 16, 2017, the City of Manistee no longer requires permits for fences. While a permit is not needed, fences need to be constructed in compliance with the requirements of [Section 508 Fences](#) of the Zoning Ordinance. A building permit is not required for residential fences in the City of Manistee.

Remember the “good side” of the fence must face the neighbor’s property.



Support posts must be placed on the inside

Finished side faces the neighbor’s property



For any questions regarding the regulation of fences, please contact the Zoning Administrator:
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SECTION 508 FENCES

Fences, walls, and decorative fences shall comply with the following regulations and requirements:

A. Location:

1. Fences, walls and decorative fences shall not be located outside or beyond the property or lot lines of the lot upon which said improvement shall be placed.
2. Decorative Fences, as defined herein, may be placed in any location on a parcel, provided that on a waterfront lot in the R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 Districts, no portion of such fence shall constructed in the waterfront setback. [Annotation: Section 508.2 was changed by amendment 07-05, effective 5/29/07]
3. Fences, other than decorative fences as defined herein, shall not be located in the front setback of any lot in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 or C-2 Districts.

B. Height:

1. Fences and walls shall not exceed six (6) feet in height in any district, unless such fences are constructed in conformance with the setback restrictions in the district. However, the Planning Commission may approve a greater height in the L-I and G-I Districts if the increased height will better screen a use from the roadway or adjacent residential uses.

C. Design and Type:

1. All fences shall be constructed with the finished side exposed, the support posts placed on the inside, and in a manner which serves to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood or surrounding.
2. Decorative fences shall be constructed, by way of illustration, in a style similar to split rail or wrought iron fences. Decorative fences shall be designed to incorporate no more than fifty percent (50%) opaque surface area.
3. Except in the G-I District, no fence shall include barbed or razor wire strands or electrification.

[Annotation: the requirement for a zoning permit was deleted by amendment, Z17-04, effective 6-16-17]