Standards for Fencing in a Floodplain

Planning Services

301 E. Huron Street
Larcom City Hall - First Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

734-794-6265
planning@a2gov.org

For floodplain questions contact:
Jerry Hancock
Stormwater and Floodplain
Programs Coordinator
(734) 794-6430 Ext. 43709
JHancock@A2Gov.org

Floodplain Fence Requirements

Fencing is not permitted in the floodway, per the City's Floodplain Management Overlay Zoning District. Fences may be permitted in the flood fringe depending on the type and location of fence. Any proposed fence in a floodplain requires floodplain review, issuance of a zoning compliance permit for fences from the City of Ann Arbor Planning Services Unit, and may require a permit from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The orientation of the proposed fence to the flood flow affects the State's ability to permit a fence.

City of Ann Arbor Zoning Administration webpage for Fence Guidelines and Fence Permit Application: a2gov.org/zoning

See Section 5.26 of the Ann Arbor Unified Development Code for fence height, opacity, and placements requirements by zoning district.

For more information about fence requirements, please contact the City of Ann Arbor Planning Services at 734-794-6265 or planning@a2gov.org

Link to EGLE "Fences in floodplains" guidance: https:/www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-policy-033-fences-in-floodplains_454386_7.pdf

For floodplain maps and more information about floodplains in Ann Arbor: www.a2gov.org/floodplains

The following table is provided for assistance with understanding and selecting appropriate fencing in the floodplain.

Fence Type	Floodway	Flood Fringe
Open wire, chain link, pipe, or wood rail fencing (e.g. field fence, post and rail)	Not Allowed	Allowed
50% opaque (e.g. wood or metal picket)	Not Allowed	Allowed
80% opaque (e.g. alternating board/shadow box)	Not Allowed	Allowed
Solid board Fence (e.g. wood or vinyl)	Not Allowed	Allowed only with EGLE Permit (Hydraulic Analysis may be required by EGLE)