



Standards for Fencing in a Floodplain



Planning and Development Services Unit

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

734-794-6265

For floodplain questions contact:
Jerry Hancock

Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Coordinator
(734) 794-6430 Ext. 43709
JHancock@A2Gov.org

FLOODPLAIN FENCE REQUIREMENTS

In some cases, fencing is not permitted in the floodplain. Fences may be permitted in the floodplain 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 and Development Services Unit, and may require a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The orientation of the proposed fence to the flood flow affects the State's ability to permit a fence.

See Chapter 104 (Fences) of the Ann Arbor City Code for fence height opacity and placements requirements by zoning district.

Link to the City of Ann Arbor Fence Guidelines and Zoning Compliance Permit Application: www.a2gov.org/FenceGuideApp

For more information about fence requirements, please contact the City of Ann Arbor Planning and Development Services Unit at 734-794-6265.

Link to MDEQ "Fences in floodplains" guidance: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/lwm-031-05-02_304372_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)	Allowed only with MDEQ Permit	Allowed
50% opaque (e.g. wood or metal picket)	Allowed only with MDEQ Permit	Allowed
80% opaque (e.g. alternating board/shadow box)	Allowed only with MDEQ Permit	Allowed
Solid board Fence (e.g. wood or vinyl)	Not Allowed	Allowed only with MDEQ Permit (Hydraulic Analysis may be required by MDEQ)