



City of Kelowna
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Council Policy

Fencing Adjacent to City Owned Land

Approved: June 25, 2012

Contact Department: Civic Operations

Guiding Principle

The placement and cost sharing of fencing adjacent to City owned land will balance user safety, crime prevention, and protection of private property with available fiscal resources and maintenance considerations.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address fencing needs and maintenance between the boundary of City owned land and private property.

Application

This policy applies to all City owned land. This policy does not apply to fencing adjacent to a road right-of-way, with the exception of City owned walkways or beach accesses that are dedicated as road.

Definitions

Beach Access – a road right-of-way providing pedestrian access to Okanagan Lake.

City – The City of Kelowna

Fence – shall include any structure used as a barrier, enclosure or boundary, or for noise attenuation purposes, and usually composed of metal (chain link), wood or concrete.

Walkway – a City owned pathway for public access; usually a walkway provides pedestrian access between two streets in a neighborhood and is not adjacent to a road.

Policy Statements

- For new public land or walkways created by development, or existing public lands bordered by a new development, fencing to delineate borders is paid for and installed by developers if it is a condition of development.
- The minimum standard for fencing between city owned land and private property is black vinyl chain link, 1.2m tall. This fencing is chosen because it is long lasting and durable, and meets Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals, as it is difficult to vandalize and does not hinder sightlines into public spaces.
- Fencing that is required solely for the benefit of the City (e.g. to protect user safety) will be fully funded by the City, whereas fencing that is required for the security or privacy of a private property will not be funded by the City and will be fully funded by the private property owner.
- Cost sharing of a new or replacement fence adjacent to residential properties may occur at the sole discretion of the City if the fencing is in need of repair or replacement, if it provides mutual benefits, and funding is available.
- Any new or replacement fence must meet the minimum standard to be eligible for cost sharing (e.g. wooden fences will not normally be eligible). Where an adjacent property owner requests a City-funded fence to be built to a higher standard, the private property owner will be responsible to build the fence but will only be compensated to 50% of the minimum standard (as determined through three quotes obtained by the property owner), provided that the fence meets the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and CPTED principles.
- The provision of access gates or locks is the sole responsibility of the property owner.
- Fencing that borders City and private properties shall be placed 15 cm (6 inches) inside private property lines, except where it is in the City's interest to own the fence. Fencing on private property remains the property of the private property owner, who is solely responsible for replacement, repair and maintenance. Fencing is not permitted in a road right-of-way.

- If a fence directly adjacent to a City walkway is damaged or vandalized by the public, the City will pay the private owner 50% of the cost of repair to the minimum fencing standard, as determined through three quotes.

Amendments

R944/16/12/05 – reformatted to new template

R602/12/06/25