

# Shared Boundary Fencing Guidelines

## Fencing Act 1978



This application will assist you in building a fence which shares a boundary with one of Waikato District Council's parks or reserves.

### Introduction

Waikato District Council's aims to ensure our parks and reserves are easily accessible to the public. However, if a fence is required between a reserve and a private property, it should be constructed so it presents a consistent appearance when viewed from the reserve. Council approved standard fences are described in the next section of this form (Page 2). Please note we will not usually contribute to the cost of replacing an existing fence considered adequate as defined by the Fencing Act 1978. Adequate means a fence that is reasonably satisfactory for the purpose it serves. Section 2, Fencing Act 1978.

### Giving Notice

Please complete the electronic Notice of Intent Form found on Waikato District Council's website and supply a quote, if you would like Council to contribute to the cost of a common boundary fence. Council will reply within 21 days of receiving your application.

### Work Completion

If you serve the first Notice, you have to do the work or arrange for it to be done. Work must commence within 90 days from the Notice start date. The entire arrangement will lapse if the job is not completed within 90 days of the Notice starting date. Council deals with the adjoining property owners and not their agents or representatives. Council will not contribute to the cost of any fence built before Notice has been given, or which has been started inside 21 days from the notice being lodged, unless the Council has given approval within that period.

### Access To Council Reserve

If you need access over the reserve to build the fence, you must receive permission from the Community Connections Team. A monetary bond will be required to cover repair of any damage to the park that may result. You will be informed of the bond amount by Council staff.

### Financial Contribution

The fences described in the following section are examples of standard fence types. The financial contribution by Council, will be limited to a maximum of:

- 50 per cent of the cost of a standard 1.8 m high, three rail, solid timber Standard Paling Fence, or
- 50 per cent of the actual cost of an agreed alternative, whichever is less.

This amount will be payable on completion of the fence. The market value of this standard fence will be reassessed annually, in January. Council believes either of the above fences or walls will serve most needs, but may approve other types, as long as the appearance fits with the neighbouring park. The Council will never pay more than half the cost of the standard fence type, except where it is in the public interest. Council will not approve hedges or any other form of living fence due to the high cost of maintenance.

### Payment

Council's contribution will be made upon the following conditions:

- That a confirmed quote of the work is included with the Notice of Intention to Fence (estimates will not be accepted).
- The fence is erected in accordance with the Fencing Application, and to the satisfaction of the Community Connections Team.
- Copies of all original receipts are forwarded for materials where you have erected the fence yourself, or for materials and/or services where a contractor has been engaged to do the work.
- Part B is filled out and sent to Council, with all invoices.
- If the company or owner is registered for GST, please supply an original Tax Invoice for the agreed amount of reimbursement, so Council can claim the GST back.
- When approval to proceed is issued, a purchase order number will be issued.

Please supply a copy of your bank deposit slip or an online bank statement which includes the number and name of owner, so council can make a direct payment into your bank account (unfortunately, hand written account details will not be accepted).

## Fence Style Options

- **OPEN PANEL:** Panels shall be robust enough to cope with sitting on the boundary of a public park or reserve. Steel panels and posts shall be hot-dip galvanised and may be powder coated black or green. However, Council will not be responsible for damage caused to the powder coat finish by park users or age. All posts must be capped to exclude water and be securely concreted in position. All fastenings shall be galvanised. Open panel fences are less prone to graffiti than paling fences.
- **STANDARD PALING:** A paling fence at least 1 metre high with posts 100 x 75mm and placed not more than 2.75 metres apart. There should be two rails (three if the fence is higher than 1 metre), with sawn timber palings placed upright and well nailed to both rails. Palings may be close butted or with a gap of no more than 40mm between palings. All rails and palings should be tanalised and the posts ground treated.
- **SEVEN WIRE:** A seven-wire fence, properly strained, the wire to be 12.5 H.T. galvanised or similar. The posts are to be concrete or treated timber placed no more than 4m apart, and the battens or droppers should be of treated timber, metal or plastic, evenly spaced and at least 3 between posts. The top wire is to be at least 1000 mm from ground level and no barbed wire is to be used.
- **MESH FENCE:** Similar to the seven wire fence, but without battens and all wires except the top, middle and bottom ones replaced by galvanised chain link mesh fixed to the wires at every second mesh row.
- **COMPLIANCE WITH CONSENT CONDITIONS:** If a particular design is stipulated in a sub-division consent this must be abided by.



## Approved Height

Up to a maximum 1.8 metres and compliant with the relevant District Plan rules and standards. Any fence above 2 metres requires prior building consent from the Council Building Team on (07) 824 8633

## Gates

You are welcome to build one gate for foot traffic (no wider than 1 metre and opening away from the reserve) onto the park or reserve but must be approved by Council. Council does not contribute to the cost of gate construction or installation, which can be removed by Council at any time without prior notice.

## Mowing Strip

Council does not object to a mowing strip but will not contribute to the cost of its construction.

## Painting & Maintenance

Generally Council does not require the park facing side to be painted, however if you would like to paint this side you must receive a written agreement from the Community Connections Team for the colour scheme. Council is not liable for any initial painting or repainting. We will not pay a share of the maintenance or removal costs of a boundary fence or hedge. If you remove a boundary fence without permission we will require that you replace it at your expense.

## Boundaries

If you do not want to fence the whole boundary you will have to describe what you want in your notice to the Community Connections Team. However, unless there are very good reasons, we are unlikely to pay any part of the cost of a fence which does not extend the full length of the boundary. Council will not pay for a fence which is not exactly on the boundary. However, if there are problems fixing the location of the boundary and a surveyor has to be engaged, we will regard that as a part of the cost of the fence and you will have to meet an equal share of the fee. We would of course discuss the matter with you before engaging a surveyor.

## Changes To Ground Levels Or Shape

Sometimes earthmoving work may go right up to a boundary and may result in a bank at the common boundary. The Council will not meet any of the costs of earthmoving, bank retention, or drains, and such work can only go ahead after written approval from the Community Connections Team.

## For More Information or Assistance

- Contact the Community Connections Team on 07 824 8633 or 0800 492 452
- Send an email to the Community Connections Team at [shared.fences@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:shared.fences@waidc.govt.nz)
- Review the Fencing Act 1978 at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)

Please return the **Notice of Intention to Fence** form, and **quotels**, to:

Post: Waikato District Council  
Community Connections Team Administrator  
Private Bag 544  
Ngaruawahia 3742

Email: [shared.fences@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:shared.fences@waidc.govt.nz)  
All enquiries to: Customer Delivery Team  
0800 492 452