



TA20-0014

# Fencing Regulation to Reduce Injury and Mortality to Deer and Other Wildlife

Zoning Bylaw Update



# Purpose

- ▶ To consider an application to amend the Zoning Bylaw to introduce fencing requirements that would reduce injury and mortality to deer and other wildlife.

# Background

- ▶ Conservation Officers are called out to approximately 20 deer/wildlife fence impalements per year.
- ▶ These incidents are traumatic for homeowners, the community and for the officers involved.
- ▶ Subsequently, the Provincial Conservation Officer Service collaborated with City Staff to develop an amendment to the fencing bylaw.

# Objectives

- ▶ Create a bylaw to prohibit metal (wrought iron) fencing from having pointed pickets/finials rising above a top or mid rail of a fence to prevent deer, moose or other wildlife from being impaled or injured.



# Proposed Amendment

## 7.5.3 Landscape and Screening – Fencing and Retaining Walls:

- ▶ No metal **fence** shall allow the ends of **fence pickets** or **finials** to extend above a horizontal rail (see diagram 7.3).

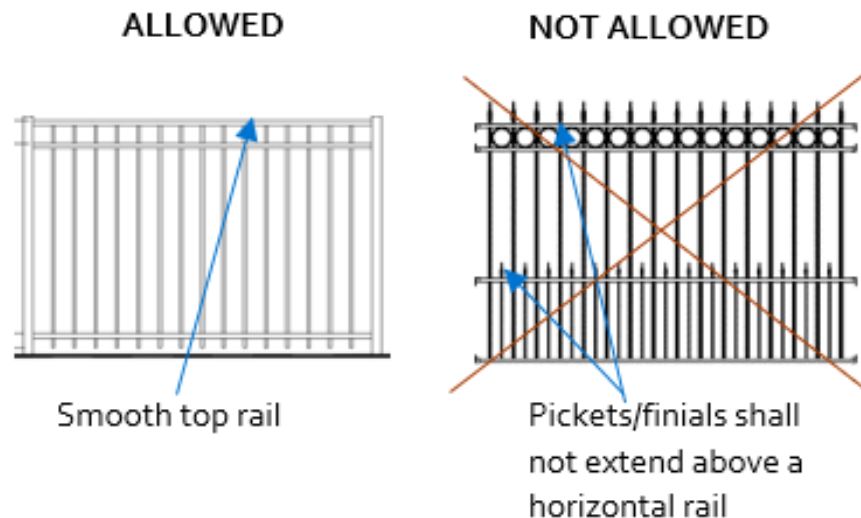


DIAGRAM 7.3

# Supporting Policy

▶ Kelowna Official Community Plan (OCP)

*Chapter 6: Environment*

In an effort to optimize environmental benefits, the City of Kelowna will take a precautionary, integrated ecosystem management approach and ensure that the environment is afforded a high priority in all land use related decision making.

*Chapter 12: Natural Environment Development Permit Guidelines*

The objective of Natural Environment Development Permit Areas is to ensure that negative impacts (disturbance) on environmentally sensitive areas are minimized by: Protecting biological diversity, wildlife and important wildlife habitats, features and functions.

# Staff Recommendation

- ▶ Staff are recommending support for the proposed fencing regulation that would prohibit metal fencing from having pointed pickets/finials rising above a top or mid rail of a fence.

# Education and Outreach

- ▶ Staff will formulate an education and outreach program to inform the community about fencing retrofit tips and wildlife safe fencing options (i.e. News Releases, Brochures, Website, etc.).
- ▶ A bulletin will be developed to inform fencing companies, hardware stores, landscapers, builders and the Urban Development Institute of recent changes to the Landscape and Screening section of the Zoning Bylaw.





## *Conclusion of Staff Remarks*