



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).

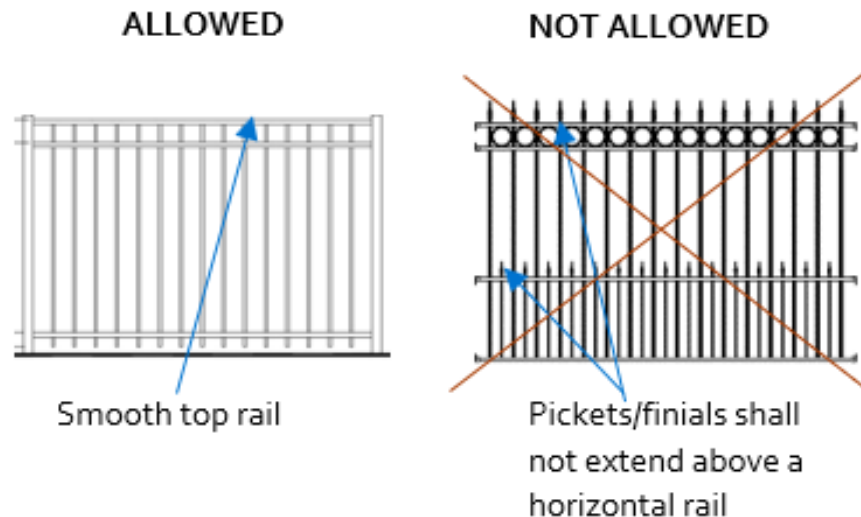


DIAGRAM 7.3

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