

**TITLE 10**  
**CHAPTER 34**  
**LANDSCAPING**

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**10-34-1: PURPOSE:** The purpose of Chapter 34 is to promote community health, safety, and welfare by protecting natural vegetation and setting development standards for landscaping, street trees, fences, and walls. Together, these elements of the natural and built environment contribute to the visual quality, environmental health, and character of the community. Landscaping plants and materials are intended to conserve, enhance and be compatible with the coastal village character of Florence, with liberal use of evergreens and native species. The Chapter is organized into the following sections:

**10-34-2: Landscape Conservation** encourages the incorporation of existing native vegetation in landscaping and provides incentives for the preservation or replacement of particularly significant vegetation.

**10-34-3: Landscaping** sets standards for and requires landscaping of all development sites. This section also requires buffering for parking and maneuvering areas, and between different land use districts. Note that other relevant standards are provided in each land use district for specific types of development.

**10-34-4: Street Trees** sets standards for planting of street trees for shading, water quality, and aesthetic purposes.

**10-34-5: Fences and Walls** regulate the design of fences and walls, including allowable height and materials, to promote security, personal safety, privacy, and aesthetics.

## 10-34-2: LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

**10-34-2-1: Applicability.** Except for single family homes and duplexes the provisions of this Section are applicable to all development sites which contain stands of Native Vegetation or specific Significant Vegetation, as defined below. "Development sites" do not include any street, alley, or public right-of-way.

**10-34-2-2: Native Vegetation.** "Native vegetation" means those plant species native to the Florence region that are listed as native on the suggested *Tree and Plant List for the City of Florence*, such as Shore Pine, Fir, Hemlock, Spruce, Native Rhododendron, Wax Myrtle, Kinnikinnick, Huckleberry and Salal. Preservation of existing native vegetation is strongly encouraged and preferred over removal of vegetation and re-planting. Existing native vegetation may be credited toward the landscape requirements of Section 10-34-3-3 if it is preserved in accordance with the following standards:

- A. Living plant material covers a minimum of 70 percent of the area proposed for preservation;
- B. Preservation area(s) are a minimum of 30 square feet for any one area with dimensions a minimum of 5 feet on any side to ensure adequate space for healthy plant growth;
- C. Preservation area(s) are setback from new construction areas a minimum of 10 feet from new structures, and a minimum of 5 feet from new hard-surface areas (e.g. parking lot, walkways), and replanted with native vegetation if damaged during construction;
- D. The preservation area is clearly marked and identified for protection on the landscaping plan as well as on-site (e.g. construction fencing) prior to site disturbance.
- E. Existing noxious weeds<sup>1</sup> within the preservation area are removed prior to approval of the installed landscaping; and
- F. Preservation areas with grade changes around the perimeter are addressed with appropriate transition or stabilization measures (e.g. retaining wall) to avoid erosion.

**10-34-2-3: Significant Vegetation.** "Significant vegetation" means:

- A. Native vegetation, or
- B. Plants within designated sensitive land areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and slopes steeper than 40%, or
- C. Trees having a DBH of four (4) inches or larger measured 4½ feet above ground.

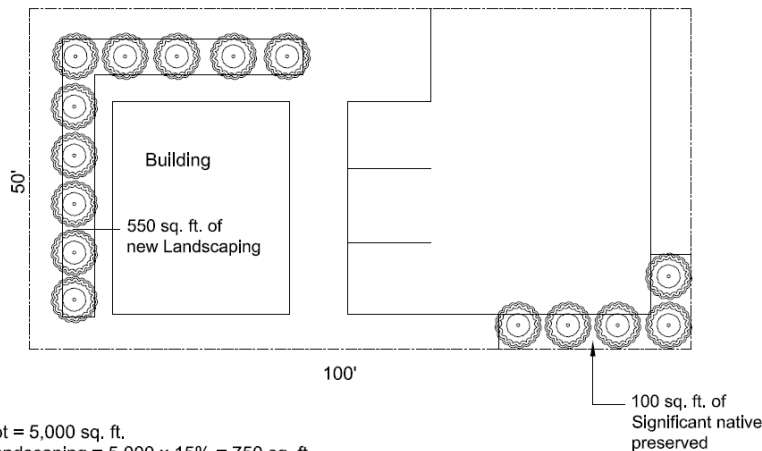
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<sup>1</sup> Noxious and invasive weeds are those identified by the current Lane County Public Works "Noxious and Invasive Weed Management List," with additional City of Florence footnotes. If a current county list is not available, the list in the current Oregon Department of Agriculture in "Noxious Weed Policy and Classification System" will be used. Noxious weeds common to the area are Scotch Broom, English Ivy, Gorse, and Himalayan (Armenian) Blackberry.

**10-34-2-4: Preservation Credit.** The City may grant a “Preservation Credit” if existing significant vegetation on the site is preserved, in the form of a reduction of the overall landscape area and planting requirements of Sections 10-34-3-3. The City may authorize credits which effectively reduce the required landscaping if the following standards are met:

- A. Significant vegetation species and areas to be preserved shall be mapped and flagged in support of the site development application. Significant trees shall be mapped individually and identified by species and diameter. Wetland resources shall have a current delineation approved by the Department of State Lands. Appropriate protection from construction damage shall be in place prior to site disturbance. For a “Burn to Learn” site, significant vegetation that can be saved shall be protected.
- B. Native vegetation, wetland, riparian, and steep slope vegetation shall meet the standards set forth in Section 10-34-2-2 subsections A through F above.
- C. Dead or diseased vegetation and split, leaning, or unstable trees shall not qualify as preserved vegetation.
- D. Mature vegetation shall be trimmed and pruned as appropriate by qualified personnel to form a long-term element of the site landscaping.
- E. Landscape credit for preserved significant vegetation areas shall be granted at the ratio of 2 to 1 (e.g. every one square foot of preserved significant vegetation shall be counted as two square feet in meeting the total specified landscape area for a site). However, in no case shall the requirement for actual landscaped area be reduced below 2/3 of the area that would be required with no credit.
- F. Landscape credit for preserved trees shall be granted at the ratio of one less new tree planting for every two (2) inches diameter of preserved significant trees (e.g. a preserved tree of six inch diameter counts as three newly planted trees). This credit can be applied against required front yard, parking island, buffer, and/or street trees. However in no case shall this credit reduce the requirement for newly planted trees below 2/3 of the number that would be required with no credit. All preserved trees shall be protected from construction compaction or grade changes of more than six inches on the surface area in relation to the crown of the tree canopy.

**G. Figure 10-34(1): Native Preservation Credit Trade-off**



Lot = 5,000 sq. ft.  
 Landscaping = 5,000 x 15% = 750 sq. ft.  
 100 sq. ft. of significant native preserved = 200 sq. ft. Landscaping  
 New Planting = 750 sq. ft. - 200 sq. ft. = 550 sq. ft. new Plantings.  
 Actual landscaped area coverage = 650 sq. ft./5,000 sq. ft. = 13%

### **10-34-3: LANDSCAPING**

**10-34-3-1: Applicability.** Except for single-family and duplex dwelling uses, this Section shall apply to all new development as well as changes of use and expansions as described below, and shall apply in all districts except where superseded by specific zoning district requirements. These provisions shall be in addition to the provisions of FCC Title 9 Chapter 5 and where there are conflicts, the provisions of Title 9 Chapter 5 shall prevail.

- A. For new developments, all landscaping shall meet current code requirements. (Ord. 4, 2011)
- B. For modifications or additions to existing development, landscaping shall be brought up to current code requirements in the same proportion as the increase in use and/or building size. (Ord. 4, 2011)

**10-34-3-2: Landscaping Plan Required.** A landscape plan is required. All landscape plans shall include the following information:

- A. The location and height of existing and proposed fences and walls, buffering or screening materials.
- B. The location of existing and proposed terraces, retaining walls, decks, patios, shelters, and play areas.
- C. The location, size, and species of the new proposed plant materials (at time of planting).
- D. The location(s) of areas where existing vegetation will be cleared and the location(s) of areas where existing vegetation will be preserved, delineated on a recent aerial photo or site plan drawn to scale.
- E. Existing and proposed building and pavement outlines.
- F. Specifications for soil at time of planting, irrigation and anticipated planting schedule.
- G. Other information as deemed appropriate by the City Planning Official.

**10-34-3-3: Landscape Area and Planting Standards.** The minimum landscaping area is 15% of the lot area, unless specified otherwise in the applicable zoning district<sup>2</sup> for the proposed use. This required minimum landscaping area may be reduced if preservation credits are earned as specified in Section 10-34-2-4.

- A. Landscaping shall include planting and maintenance of the following:
  - 1. One tree per 30 lineal feet as measured along all lot lines that are adjacent to a street.
  - 2. Six shrubs per 30 lineal feet as measured along all lot lines that are adjacent to a street.
  - 3. Living plant materials shall cover a minimum of 70 percent of the required landscape area within 5 years of planting.

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<sup>2</sup> Mainstreet District (FCC 10-27) and Old Town District, Area A and B (FCC 10-17A and 10-17B) require 10% of the gross lot area to be landscaped.

4. Except for preservation of existing significant vegetation, the required plant materials on-site shall be located in areas within the first 20 feet of any lot line that abuts a street. Exceptions may be granted where impracticable to meet this requirement or the intent is better served. Required trees may be located within the right-of-way and must comply with Section 10-34-4. Plant materials may be installed in any arrangement and do not need to be equally spaced nor linear in design. Plantings and maintenance shall comply with the vision clearance standards of FCC 10-35-2-13.
  5. Pocket-planting<sup>3</sup> with a soil-compost blend around plants and trees shall be used to ensure healthy growth.
- B. Noxious Weeds shall be removed during site development and the planting of invasive or noxious weeds is prohibited.

**10-34-3-4: Landscape Materials.** Permitted landscape materials include trees, shrubs, ground cover plants, non-plant ground covers, existing native vegetation, outdoor hardscape features and storm water features, as described below.

- A. Plant Selection. A combination of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and ground covers shall be used, consistent with the purpose of this Chapter. A suggested *Tree and Plant List for the City of Florence* and the *Sunset Western Garden Book* are available at City Hall. The selection of plant and tree species shall be based upon site conditions such as wind and sun exposure, space limitations, water availability, and drainage conditions. The use of indigenous plants is encouraged, and may be required where exposure, slope or soil conditions warrant.
1. Ground Cover. Ground cover may consist of separate plants or mowed grass turf. Ground cover plant species shall meet the following minimum standards: plants from 4-inch pots shall be spaced a maximum of 18 inches measured on center, and 1-2 gallon size plants shall be spaced a maximum of 3 feet measured on center.
  2. Shrubs. Shrub plant species shall be planted from 3 gallon containers unless otherwise specified in the *Tree and Plant List for the City of Florence*.
  3. Trees. Evergreen and deciduous tree species shall meet the following minimum standards: deciduous trees shall be a minimum of 1 ¾ inch caliper (diameter) measured 6 inches above grade, and evergreen trees shall be a minimum of 5 feet tall (Nursery Grade 5/6).
  4. Non-plant Ground Covers. Bark dust, chips, aggregate, or other non-plant ground covers may be used. Non-plant ground cover located adjacent to pedestrian ways shall be confined to the material within the planting bed to avoid safety hazards by edging 4 inches above-grade or recessing from grade. Non-plant ground covers cannot be a substitute for ground cover plants.
- B. Existing Native Vegetation. Preservation of existing native vegetation is encouraged and preservation credits in accordance with Section 10-34-2-4 may be used to meet the landscape requirements of this Chapter.

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<sup>3</sup> Pocket-planting is used in conjunction with sandy soils by removing existing sand approximately twice the width and the same depth of the pot, and replacing it with a soil-compost blend.

- C. Hardscape features, such as plazas, pathways, patios and other pedestrian amenities may count toward ten (10) percent of the required landscape area, except in the Old Town and Main Street districts where hardscape features may count toward 50 percent of the landscape area, provided that such features conform to the standards of those districts. Swimming pools, sports courts, decks and similar facilities may not be counted toward fulfilling the landscape requirement in any zone.
- D. Storm Water Facilities. Storm water facilities, such as detention/retention ponds and swales shall be landscaped. Landscaped bio-swales are encouraged and shall count toward meeting the landscaping requirement of this section if they are designed and constructed in accordance with the standards specified in Title 9 Chapter 5, and approved by the Public Works Department. Storm water facilities shall be landscaped with water-tolerant, native plants.

**10-34-3-5: Irrigation.** Permanent, underground irrigation is required for all landscaping, except existing native vegetation that is preserved in accordance with the specifications of Section 10-34-2-2 and new drought tolerant plants which must have temporary irrigation for plant establishment. All irrigation systems require an irrigation permit and shall be installed with a backflow prevention device per FCC 9-2-3-5.

**10-34-3-6: Parking Lot Landscape Standards.** All parking lots shall meet Parking Area Improvement Standards set forth in FCC 10-3-8. Parking areas with more than twenty (20) spaces shall include interior landscaped "islands" to break up the parking area. Interior parking lot landscaping shall count toward the minimum landscaping requirement of Section 10-34-3-3. The following standards apply:

- A. For every parking space, 10 square feet of interior parking lot landscaping shall be provided;
- B. Parking islands shall be evenly distributed to the extent practicable with a minimum of one tree selected from the *Tree and Plant List for the City of Florence* installed per island;
- C. Parking island areas shall provide a minimum of 30 square feet of planting area and any planting area dimension shall be a minimum of 5 feet on any side (excluding curb dimensions), unless reduced by the Planning Commission where a lesser distance will provide adequate space for healthy plant growth;
- D. Irrigation is required for interior parking lot landscaping to ensure plant survival;
- E. Living plant material shall cover a minimum of 70% of the required interior parking lot landscaping within 5 years of planting; and
- F. Species selection for trees and shrubs shall consider vision clearance safety requirements and trees shall have a high graft (lowest limb a minimum of 5 feet high from the ground) to ensure pedestrian access.

**10-34-3-7: Buffering and Screening.** Buffering and screening are required under the conditions listed below. Walls, fences, and hedges shall comply with the vision clearance requirements and provide for pedestrian circulation, in accordance with FCC 10-35-2-13. (See Section 10-34-5 for standards specific to fences and walls.)

- A. Parking/Maneuvering Area Adjacent to Streets and Drives. Where a parking or maneuvering area is adjacent and parallel to a street or driveway, a berm; an evergreen hedge; decorative wall (masonry or similar quality material) with openings; arcade; trellis; or similar partially opaque structure 3-4 feet in height shall be established between street and driveway or parking area. See also FCC 10-3-7-D for standards specific to parking lots adjacent to the street. The required screening shall have breaks or portals to allow visibility (natural surveillance) into the site and to allow pedestrian access to any adjoining walkways. Hedges used to comply with this standard shall be a minimum of 36 inches in height at maturity, and shall be of such species, number, and spacing to provide year-round screening within five (5) years after planting. Vegetative ground cover is required on all surfaces between the wall/hedge and the street/driveway line.
- B. Parking/Maneuvering Area Adjacent to Building. Where a parking or maneuvering area or driveway is adjacent to a building, the area shall be separated from the building by a curb and a raised walkway, plaza, or landscaped buffer not less than five (5) feet in width. Raised curbs, bollards, wheel stops, or other design features shall be used to protect pedestrians, landscaping, and buildings from being damaged by vehicles.
- C. Screening of Mechanical Equipment, Outdoor Storage, Service and Delivery Areas, and Other Screening When Required. All mechanical equipment, outdoor storage and manufacturing, and service and delivery areas shall be screened from view from all public streets and adjacent Residential districts. When these or other areas are required to be screened, such screening shall be provided by:
  - 1. a decorative wall (i.e., masonry or similar quality material),
  - 2. evergreen hedge,
  - 3. opaque or sight-obscuring fence complying with Section 10-34-5, or
  - 4. a similar feature providing an adequate screen.
- D. Abutting Land Use Buffers. When a commercial, industrial, or other non-residential use abuts a residential district or residential land use, a visual and noise buffer shall be established and maintained immediately adjacent to the residential property line, consistent with the standards listed in the table below. In no case shall the buffer strip be less than 15 feet in width unless reduced by the Planning Commission where a lesser distance will provide adequate buffering. The buffer strip may include existing vegetation, landscape plantings, evergreen hedge, berm, fence, and/or wall components. Fence and wall structures shall be not less than 6 feet and no more than 8 feet in height (see also Section 10-34-5). The landscaped buffer shall effectively screen at least 70 percent of the view between districts within five (5) years. Significant vegetation in these buffer strips may be preserved in accordance with Section 10-34-2, and replanting of local native vegetation is encouraged.

Adjoining Land Use / Zoning	Landscaped Buffer and/or Fence or Wall
Abutting single family Zoning or use	15 foot buffer with 6' solid wood fence or block wall or 35 foot landscaped buffer
Abutting Duplex, triplex or townhouse zoning or use	15 foot buffer with 6' solid wood fence or block wall or 25 foot landscaped buffer
Abutting multiple family or condominiums	15 foot buffer with 6' solid wood fence or block wall or 15 foot landscaped buffer

**10-34-3-8: Maintenance.** If the plantings fail to survive, the property owner shall replace them with an equivalent specimen (i.e., native Rhododendron replaces native Rhododendron, evergreen shrub replaces evergreen shrub, deciduous tree replaces deciduous tree, etc.) within six (6) months of their dying or removal, whichever comes first. All man-made features required by this Code shall be maintained in good condition, or otherwise replaced by the owner within six (6) months of any such feature being removed or irreversibly damaged (whichever comes first).

**10-34-4: STREET TREES:** Street trees are trees located within the right-of-way.

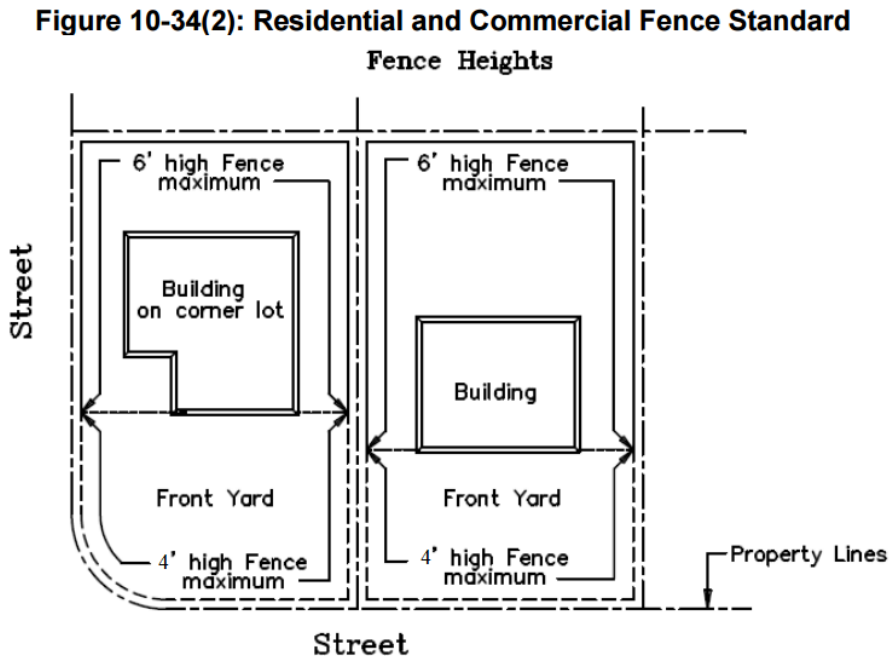
- A. **Street Tree List.** Trees shall be selected from the *Tree and Plant List for the City of Florence* based on climate zone, growth characteristics and site conditions, including available space, overhead clearance, soil conditions, exposure, and desired color and appearance. Other tree species are allowed with City approval.
- B. **Caliper Size.** The minimum diameter or caliper size at planting, as measured six (6) inches above grade, is one and one half (1 ½) inches with a high graft (lowest limb a minimum of 5 foot high from the ground) to ensure pedestrian access.
- C. **Spacing and Location.** Street trees shall be planted within the street right-of-way within existing and proposed planting strips or in sidewalk tree wells on streets without planting strips, except when utility easements occupy these areas, in accordance with the requirements of FCC 10-35-2-3 and 10-36-2-16. Street tree spacing shall be based upon the type of tree(s) selected and the canopy size at maturity and, at a minimum, the planting area shall contain sixteen (16) square feet, or typically, a four (4) foot by four (4) foot square. In general, trees shall be spaced no more than thirty (30) feet apart, except where planting a tree would conflict with existing trees, retaining walls, utilities and similar physical barriers. All street trees shall be placed outside utility easements, and shall comply with the vision clearance standards of FCC 10-35-2-14.
- D. **Soil Preparation, Planting and Care.** Street trees shall be planted with root guards to preserve the physical integrity of sidewalks and streets. Pocket-planting with a soil-compost blend around trees shall be used to ensure healthy growth (see footnote to FCC 10-34-3-3-A-5). The developer shall be responsible for planting street trees, including soil preparation, ground cover material, staking, and temporary irrigation for three years after planting. The developer shall also be responsible for tree care (pruning, watering, fertilization, and replacement as necessary) during the first three years after planting, after which the adjacent property owners shall maintain the trees.



**10-34-5: FENCES AND WALLS:** Construction of fences and walls shall conform to all of the following requirements:

- A. **General Requirements.** All fences and walls shall comply with the height limitations of the respective zoning district and the standards of this Section. The City may require installation of walls and/or fences as a condition of development approval, in accordance with land division approval, approval of a conditional use permit, or design review approval. When required through one of these types of approvals, no further land use review is required. (See also, Section 10-34-3-6 for landscape buffering and screening requirements.)
- B. **Dimensions.**
  - 1. Residential Zones: Except as provided below, the height of fences and walls between the building and the front lot line shall not exceed four (4) feet as measured from the grade and no greater than 6 feet in height in rear and side yards unless the front door is located on the longer side of the lot, in which case the fence shall not exceed four (4) feet in height or taller fences or walls are allowed through a Type II or III Design Review approval. (See Figure 10-34(2))
  - 2. Commercial and Industrial Zones: Except as provided below, the height of fences and walls in any required front yard shall not exceed four (4) feet as measured from the grade and no greater than eight (8) feet elsewhere on site.

**Figure 10-34(2): Residential and Commercial Fence Standard**



**C. The following exceptions may be allowed through Type I, II or III Review.**

1. Specifically for RV parking in residential zones, the height of fences and walls shall not exceed eight (8) feet in the rear and side yards.
2. A retaining wall exceeding four (4) feet in height within a front yard setback which is necessary for site grading and development (see also FCC 10-34-5-D-3).
3. One arbor, gate, or similar garden structures not exceeding eight (8) feet in height and six (6) feet in width is allowed within the front yard, provided that it is not within a required clear vision area. Courtyard walls up to 6 feet in height may also be allowed in the front yard.
4. Walls and fences for swimming pools, tennis courts, and other recreational structures may exceed six (6) feet provided they are not located in the front yard.
5. Walls and fences taller than otherwise allowed if needed for screening, safety or security purposes.

**D. Specific Requirements**

1. Walls and fences to be built for required buffers shall comply with Section 10-34-3-7.
2. Fences and walls shall comply with the vision clearance standards of FCC 10-35-2-14.
3. Retaining walls exceeding four (4) feet in height and freestanding walls or fences greater than seven (7) feet in height require a building permit
4. Sheet Metal Fencing (as permitted) shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. Must have appropriate weatherization coating to address vulnerability to rust in Florence's coastal climate.
  - b. Must be installed and maintained as per warranties to ensure longevity. Warranty documentation must be submitted to the Planning Director before approval.
  - c. Shall be maintained in good condition (rust and hole free, non-peeling, and absent of similar signs of disrepair), or otherwise replaced by the property owner.
  - d. Sheet metal fencing, due to its manufacturing design, will be either horizontally or vertically dominant depending on the manner of installation. To break up the dominant vertical or horizontal orientation, the fence design along streets shall incorporate variable architectural detail. This can be accomplished through one or more of the following a minimum of every eight (8) feet;
    1. Addition of vertical siding trim strips and cap trim of colors different yet complimentary to the fence color.
    2. Change in orientation of sheet metal.
    3. Vertical offsets (staggered fence line).

E. **Maintenance.** For safety and for compliance with the purpose of this Chapter, walls and fences required as a condition of development approval shall be maintained in good condition, or otherwise replaced by the property owner.

F. **Materials.**

1. Permitted materials: wood; chain-link steel, iron, bricks, stone; stucco, or similar masonry, and non-prohibited evergreen plants.
2. Materials permitted with Administrative Design Review: Sheet metal is permitted within the Limited Industrial District with Administrative Design review Approval.
3. Prohibited materials: unfinished concrete blocks; straw bales; electric or razor wire; scrap lumber or other scrap materials; sheet metal; and hedges taller than eight (8) feet. Sheet metal is prohibited within all districts except the Limited Industrial District.
4. Barbed wire fencing may be permitted only within commercial and industrial zones or on public property subject to the criteria in FCC 6-1-7-14.

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Created by Ord. 9, Series 2009

Section 10-34-3-7-D amended by Ord. No. 4, Series 2010 (effective 4/5/10)

Sections 10-34-3-1-A, 10-34-3-1-B, 10-34-3-4-A-1, 10-34-5-B-1, and 10-34-5-B-2 amended by Ord. No. 4, Series 2011 (effective 4/22/11)

Section 10-34-3-1 amended by Ord. No. 18, Series 2011 (effective 9/19/11)

Section 10-34-3-4 amended by Ord. No. 3, Series 2013 (effective 7-31-13)

Section 10-34-5-D and F amended by Ord. 4, Series 2013 (effective 1-8-14)

Sections 10-34-4 and 10-34-5 amended by Ord. 11, Series 2016 (effective 11-16-16)