



TOWN OF WOODSIDE
FENCES & ENTRY FEATURES

Adopted, February 9, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Fences & Entry Features is an excerpt of the Town of Woodside's Residential Design Guidelines, adopted July 10, 2012.

The goals of this document is to advise homeowners and designers about ways to locate and design fences and entry features that maintain the character of the community and the natural setting.

Woodside Municipal Code Section 153.051, Fences, Walls, Gates, Pylons, and Berms, describes the quantitative development standards and permitting processes for fences and entry features; while this publication guides the qualitative aspects: siting, intensity, design, scale, and protection of wildlife corridors.

This publication provides design guidelines and visual examples. The specific development standards for fences and entry features are contained in Woodside Municipal Code Section 153.051.

The Woodside community seeks to balance the quantitative and qualitative aspects of development in a way which acknowledges that protection of the natural environment is paramount.

As with Town architectural style, the design of fences and entry features should strive for simplicity, restrain the use of excessive detail, and be compatible with the Town's rural vernacular.

FENCES

Fencing shall be open in design and compatible with the rural character of Woodside (ref. WMC 153.051).

Woodside's rural character includes views of oak woodlands, mixed evergreen forests, meadows, the Western Hills, and the valley floor. The location and design of fencing is critical in maintaining these views. Fences also impact properties as seen from public roadways. Low, open design fences contribute to the rural experience of Woodside.

2 Fences

a. Minimize fencing

Minimize fencing to the greatest extent possible.



**b. Fence siting**

Locate fencing at least the required setback from the road and blend it into the existing landscape (ref. WMC 153.051). Avoid creating fenced “tunnels”, particularly along equestrian trails.

c. Natural feature protection

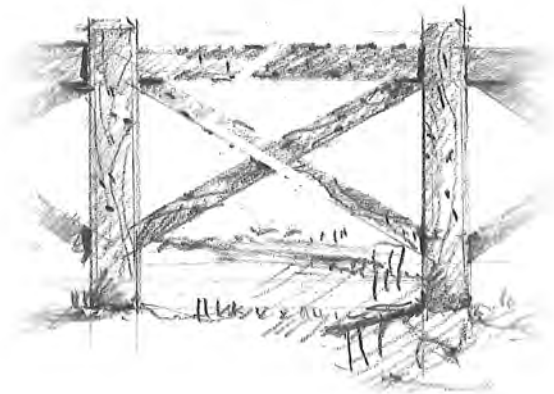
- i. Locate fencing outside of stream corridor setbacks, riparian areas, and any known wildlife habitats and migratory corridors (*ref. GP 051.2*).
- ii. Locate fencing to avoid impacts to trees and other natural features (*ref. WMC 153.170*).





d. Design

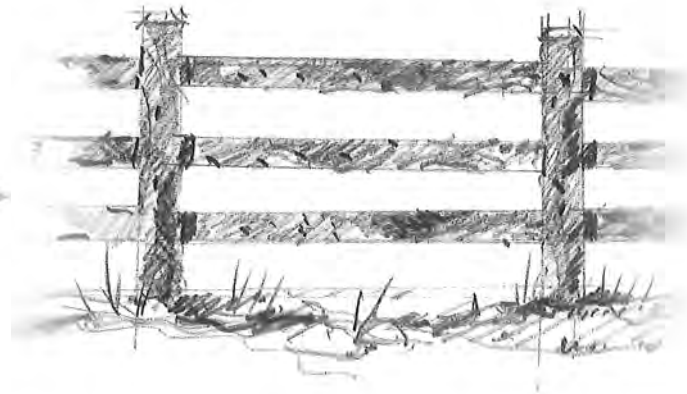
- i. Open design: Fencing should be visually open. Fencing that allows for wildlife migration, such as open rail, is preferred. Fencing that is visually open, such as wood posts and welded wire is encouraged if wildlife friendly fencing¹ is not feasible.
- ii. Fence materials: Rural styles, those that emphasize the use of natural materials such as wood, wood posts and welded wire, natural stone or brick, and which utilize natural colors, such as brown, grey, or green, are strongly encouraged. Other types of fencing, such as chain link, stucco, brick, and solid walls are strongly discouraged.



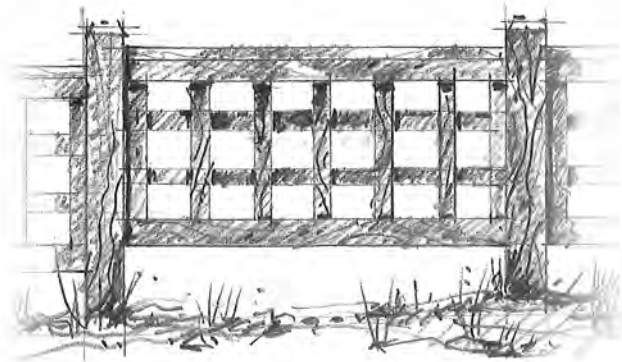
Wood "x" mesh



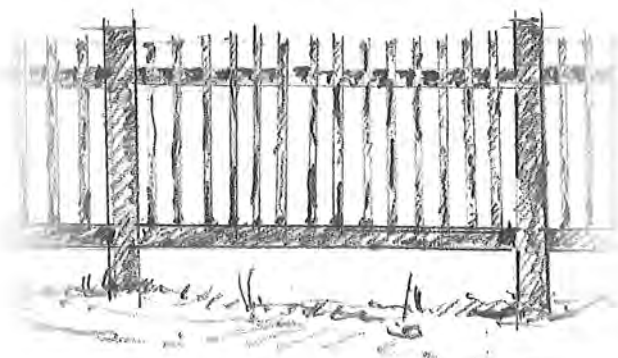
Wood post and wire



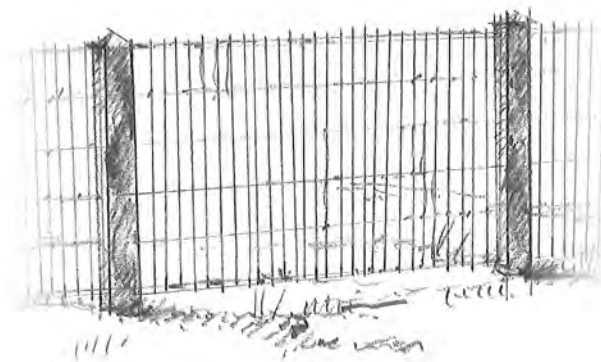
Split 3 rail



Wood post and grid



Vertical grape stake



Wood post and wire mesh



e. Perimeter fencing

Limit the use of perimeter fencing (fencing along property lines). Perimeter fencing, if used, should be low in height and wildlife friendly, such as open rail (ref. GP 051.2).



f. Enclosure fencing

- i. Locate security and garden enclosure fencing away from the property lines and minimize its visibility.
- ii. Screen sport courts from public view using landscape screening and/or fencing that blends with the natural color palette. Sport courts should be enclosed with wood and wire fencing, not chain link. Sport courts may be screened from public view with landscaping.

g. Deer fencing

The use of enclosure fencing, visually open but not wildlife friendly, may be considered for plant cultivation. This type of fencing should be limited to the area within the building setback envelope. Deer fencing around vineyards, orchards, and other agricultural uses may be appropriate outside of the building setback area (*ref. WMC 153.051*).





h. Livestock fencing

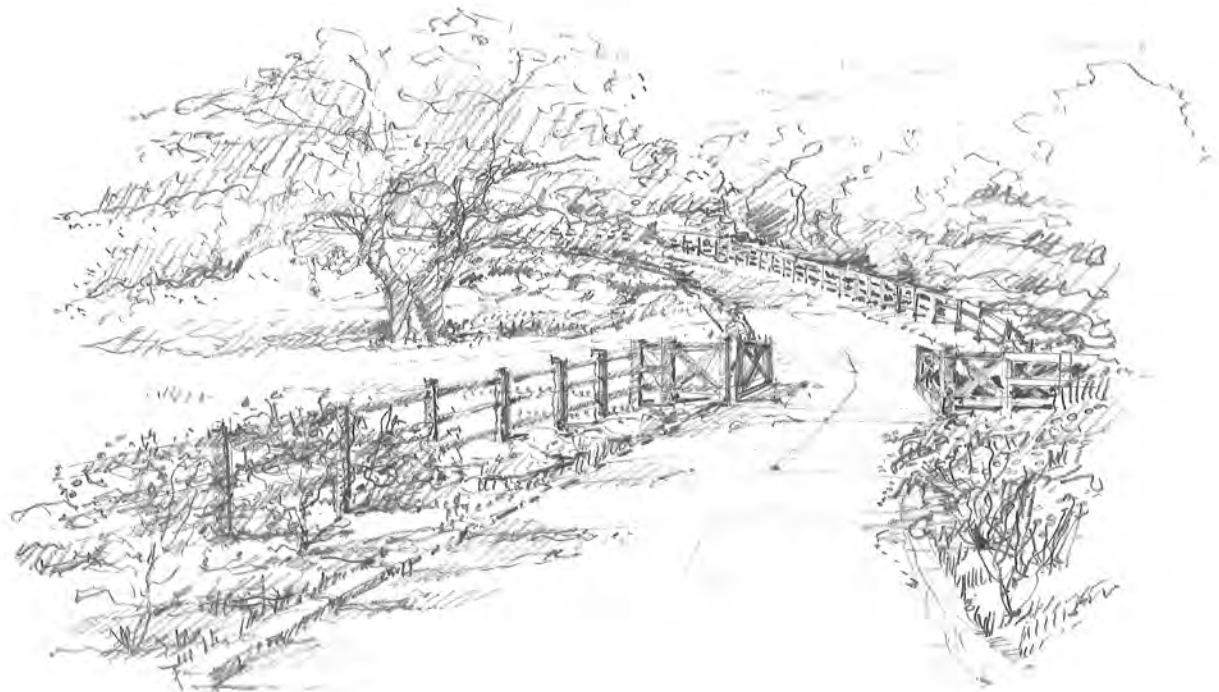
Livestock related facilities, within a portion of a property, lend themselves to the use of fencing that is simple, understated, and constructed of natural materials (*ref. WMC 153.051*).

ENTRY FEATURES

The design of entry features shall be simple, modest, and understated.

a. Siting

Locate entry features away from the road, and integrate them into the existing landscape. Locate gates and other entry features farther away from the road to reduce visibility (*ref. WMC 153.051*).



**b. Design**

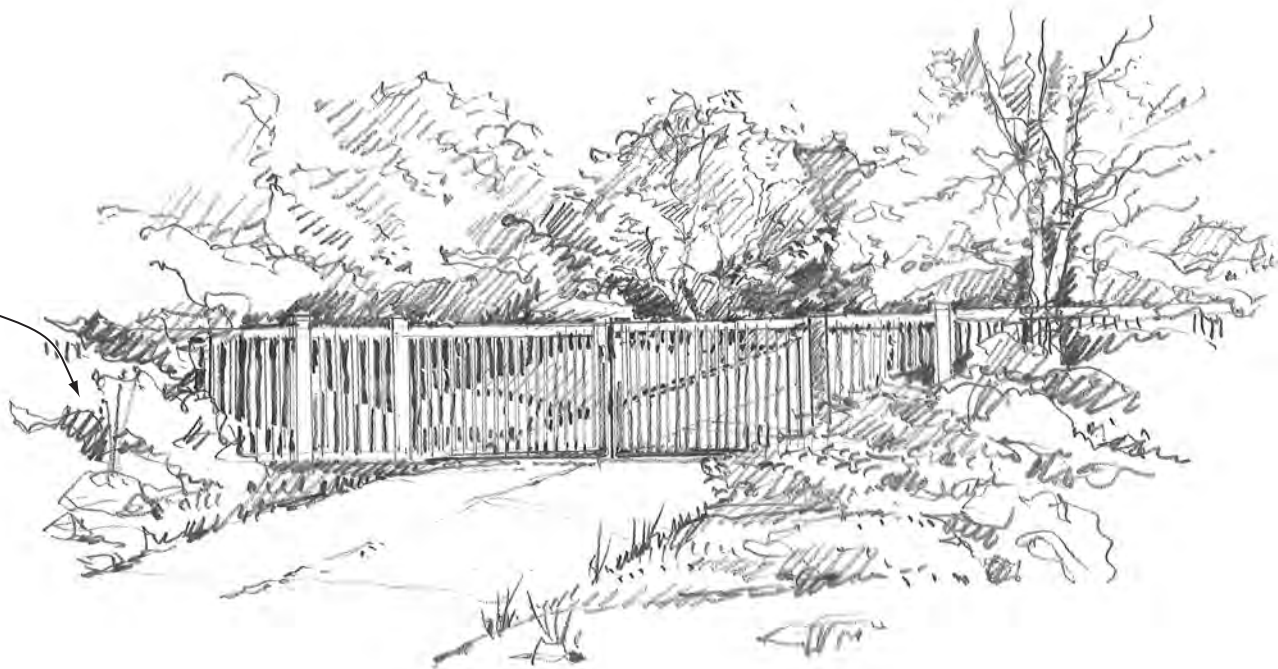
Design gates, pylons, and attached fencing as follows: *(ref. WMC 153.051)*

- i. Gates and wing walls should be open in appearance.
- ii. Rural styles, those which emphasize the use of natural materials such as wood, wood posts and welded wire, natural stone or brick, and utilize natural colors are strongly encouraged. Stucco and solid walls are discouraged.
- iii. Rural design should take precedence over elaborate entry features of a particular architectural style.
- iv. Pylons and wing walls should provide an unobtrusive transition between the adjacent fencing and the gate.
- v. Locate gate operating mechanisms to the inside of gates, whenever feasible.

Gate mechanical hidden
by landscaping.

c. Landscape screening

Screen mechanical and utility equipment by using natural groupings of native plantings. Screening is particularly important for up-sloping driveways where the view from the road has greater visual prominence (*ref. WMC 153.051 & WMC 156.050.B.3*).





1. WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCING DESIGNS:

Numerous citations in the Woodside General Plan and Municipal Code encourage wildlife friendly fencing. Some ways to accomplish this include:

- a. Limiting fence height to 4 feet (which is low enough for deer & fawns to jump);
- b. Creating breaks in fencing; and,
- c. Creating periodic openings at the bottom of wood mesh fences, or installing subterranean, small diameter culverts (i.e., 6" minimum) which allow small wildlife to pass.

FENCE / WALL / GATE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

	Height	Minimum Setbacks from Driving Surface of Road		ASRA Review Required**
		Public Road	Private Road	
Open Fences	4 feet or under	10 feet	5 feet	
	4+ feet to 6 feet	20 feet	10 feet	
Solid Fences***	4 feet or under	10 feet	5 feet	X
	4+ feet to 6 feet	50 feet (30 feet in R-1 Zone)	50 feet (30 feet in R-1 Zone)	
Walls*** (including retaining walls)	4 feet or under	10 feet	5 feet	X
	4+ feet to 6 feet	50 feet (30 feet in R-1 Zone)	50 feet (30 feet in R-1 Zone)	
Entry Features (gates must be 40% open)	Gates: 6 feet maximum	25 feet (plus length of gate if gates swing outward)	25 feet (plus length of gate if gates swing outward)	X
Athletic Court Fences	12 feet maximum	Front (or property line that is adjacent to a road): 50 feet Side/Rear: 15 feet	Front (or property line that is adjacent to a road): 50 feet Side/Rear: 15 feet	

* All fences, walls, gates, pylons, and berms must be located on private property except as allowed per WMC 153.051.B1.12, and shall not be allowed within any trail easement or other easement precluding their construction.

** Pursuant to WMC 153.221(B), the Town may send a project to ASRA or ASRB upon its judgment that the project may have a significant effect upon the aesthetic or functional character of the Town.

*** Solid fences and walls located greater than 50 feet (30 feet in the R-1 zone) from the right-of-way of adjacent roadways: Adjacent neighbors, including across the adjacent roadways, will be notified and will have 10 days to request ASRA review.