

Deer Fencing Regulations

Public Hearing and 3rd Reading

Deer in Esquimalt



- Columbia Black Tailed Deer are native to Vancouver Island
- They can jump over 2m in height
- Deer can pass through holes smaller than 0.2m (20cm)
- Deer can become entangled if they can fit their legs or snouts through a fence

Chronology / Timeline

- Oct 18, 2021 – Council receives report outlining potential changes to Zoning Bylaw on Deer Fencing
- Jun 2025 – Deer Fencing becomes a “Council Priority”
- Jan 26, 2026 – Council receives report of latest research and directs staff to use the Saanich Bylaw as a model, while allowing for front yard Deer Fencing
- Apr 21, 2026 – Advisory Planning Commission recommends approval of Bylaw
- May 25, 2026 – Council gives 1st and 2nd Readings of Bylaw

Zoning Bylaw amendments

Woven wire mesh
with openings of
5x10cm or less:

durable material
and safe for deer

Add 2 new Definitions:

- “Deer Fence”:
 - see-through Fence made of posts and woven wire mesh with openings of 5cm x 10cm or less
- “Deer Fence Extension”:
 - see-through barrier made of posts and woven wire mesh with openings of 5cm x 10cm or less, used to increase the height of a Fence

Zoning Bylaw amendments

Limit height to 2.5m

Only in residential
zones with 6 or
fewer dwelling units

Add new Regulations to “Fences and Retaining Walls” section:

- Deer Fences not exceeding a height of 2.5m are permitted on all residentially zoned parcels containing six or fewer Dwelling Units
- Only where Deer Fence Extensions are located, Fences with Deer Fence Extensions not exceeding a combined height of 2.5m are permitted on all residentially zoned parcels containing six or fewer Dwelling Units

Zoning Bylaw amendments

Prohibit elements that could injure deer

Add new Regulations to “Fences and Retaining Walls” section:

- Deer Fences and Fences with Deer Fence Extensions, exceeding a height of 1.2m, must not have finials, protrusions, or other elements that could impale or injure a deer attempting to jump over it

Deer Fencing example



Questions on Deer Fencing

