

Trustee Matters



Fences

Depending on location, a fence in the wetlands may not be permitted. If a need for a fence is proven, the code requires that the fence be perpendicular to the water line and that it does not extend to the water's edge. Public access to the shoreline must be kept free of obstacles. Town code states that fences cannot be closer than 10' from the mean high tide mark, a mark determined by the NYDEC for a 19 year cycle. Only split rail fences are allowed and signs no larger than 12"x12" are permitted with one sign for every 100 linear feet of fence.

Split rail fence is required to allow for wild life corridors, "instinct highways" that animals use to forage and go from place to place. The success of animal ecology is dependent on specific natural areas for food and laying eggs, or birthing young. Blocking corridors can be very detrimental to our local wildlife's success. Split rail allows for passage over, under or through, while meeting the needs of the property owner.

Fences on the beach are not allowed to the edge of the water so that the right of "Public Domain" is maintained. This right allows everyone to enjoy and walk along the water's edge up to the mean high water mark. Homeowners have "riparian rights" that provide them with the right to access the water on their property however; these riparian rights do not supersede the public's right to access the foreshore. Each "right" must be respected.