



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

Pools Guidelines

All construction shall meet:
Illinois State Plumbing Code
2014 National Electric Code
2015 International Residential Code
2015 International Mechanical Code
2015 International Fuel Gas Code
2015 International Energy Conservation Code

Submittal Requirements:

All pools manufactured/created to hold over 24" in depth or water surface exceeding 250 sf., and electrical alteration-involving pools require a permit.

- Plat of survey
- Detailed sit plan showing all setbacks, ladder locations, apparatus location, and screening details of the equipment.
- Pool details including depth, height size.
- Provide complete details of the pool separation to the electric service wires AND the Com-Ed electric wires.
- Manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Drainage plan (see article 15, chapter 8)

Regulations:

- No wiring shall be above the pool within 10', measured horizontally, or under a pool within 5', measured horizontally.
- At least one GFCI outlet must be installed min. 6' and not more than 20' from the pool.
- Switching devices cannot be located within 5 feet of the pool.
- All electric shall be GFCI protected.
- Provide correct bonding and grounding in compliance with the National Electric Code and the International Residential Code. Bond motor to pool to heater.
- One or more means to simultaneously disconnect all underground conductors for all utilization equipment other than lighting shall be provided.
- Gates shall be a minimum of 5', swing outward, self closing and latching.
- Pool heaters shall be equipped with an on/off switch and a time switch.
- Pool heater cannot have a continuous burning pilot.

- Heated pools 90 degrees or greater shall have a vapor-retardant pool cover, valued at R12.

Commonwealth Edison Regulation(s)

- No wiring shall be above the pool within 10', measured horizontally from the Com Ed power lines, 5' from underground lines, or 25' at an angle measured from the pool's edge to the power lines, and 17' from the power lines to a pool deck. See stricter regulation pertaining to HIGH VOLTAGE lines. REFER TO COM ED RED BOOK.

Zoning Code Section 11.4

- NOTE: Pools/decks shall be considered accessory structures to the principal structure (the house), therefore must be a minimum of 10' away from the home. OR if the pool/deck is attached to the principal structure the deck/pool and principal structure is considered one, therefore must comply with all required setbacks for the principal structure.
- All approved ground-based mechanical, including, but not limited to, HVAC units, shall be completely screened from public view. Screening materials may be masonry, wood, landscaped hedges or other opaque material, and shall effectively screen mechanical equipment so no portion is visible from a street or adjoining lot. Color and texture of a masonry screen wall shall be compatible with the color and texture of the principal building on the site.

Section 11.4 Q. Swimming pools and hot tubs, location

- Swimming pools and any related equipment are permitted only in the rear yard and must be located no less than eight (8) feet from any lot line, except when located within a shed provided the shed meets the setback requirements of Paragraph A above
- Hot tubs are permitted only in the rear yard and must be located no less than eight (8) feet from any lot line. A hot tub may be located on a deck, as defined by this Ordinance. If a hot tub is located on a deck, such deck must comply with all requirements of this Ordinance, including the maximum ten (10) foot rear yard encroachment. In no case, shall the hot tub be located in a side yard.

Walkways

- A grade-level walkway or deck surrounding a pool must be located no less than five (5) feet from any lot line in the rear yard. An elevated walkway or deck surrounding a pool must be located no less than twelve (12) feet from any lot line in the rear yard. Pool decks are not subject to the ten (10) foot rear yard encroachment applicable to other decks.
- A walkway surrounding a hot tub and constructed at grade level must be located no less than five (5) feet from any lot line. An elevated walkway or deck surrounding a hot tub may not encroach into the required side yard. Hot tubs located on decks, as defined by this Ordinance, are subject to the ten (10) foot rear yard encroachment applicable to decks.
- An elevated walkway or deck surrounding a pool shall comprise no more than sixty percent (60%) of the total pool area. This restriction shall not apply to hot tubs located on decks.

- An elevated walkway or deck surrounding a pool or hot tub shall be no higher than six (6) inches above the rim of the pool or hot tub.

Fencing

- All pools shall be enclosed by a five (5) foot fence, which shall enclose the entire yard, or the pool or the pool and deck area. All fence openings shall have a five (5) foot gate at the opening, with self-closing/self-latching device located at the top of the gate. Where the pool is surrounded by an elevated deck of more than three (3) feet, but less than four and one-half (4½) feet in height, such fence shall be a maximum of three (3) feet in height.
- All hot tubs shall be enclosed by a five (5) foot fence, which shall enclose the entire yard, or the hot tub or the hot tub and deck area. All fence openings shall have a five (5) foot gate at the opening, with self-closing/self-latching device located at the top of the gate. Where the pool is surrounded by an elevated deck of more than three (3) feet, but less than four and one-half (4½) feet in height, such fence shall be a maximum of three (3) feet in height.

Swimming Pool Depth

- No aboveground pool shall exceed a depth of five (5) feet as measured from the top rim of the pool to the pool floor. An aboveground pool may be no more than one (1) foot below grade. No pool shall exceed four (4) feet as measured from the top rim of the pool to grade.

Water Features and Man-Made Ponds

- Water features and man-made ponds shall not be design for nor shall any owner allow any swimming, wading or recreational use.
- The maximum depth of the water feature or pond shall be limited to three and one-half (3½) feet.
- The maximum size of a single container feature shall be limited to one hundred (100) square feet. The maximum size of a multiple container feature shall be limited to two hundred and fifty (250) square feet total.
- No water feature or pond shall be located within the front, corner side or interior side yard. No water feature or pond shall be located in front of the front building line.

Municipal Code Chapter 15

Private Residential Swimming Pools

15-15-1 General provisions for in-ground and above ground swimming pool installation

- **Compliance Required:** Every private residential swimming pool constructed, installed and maintained hereafter shall comply with all applicable provisions of this Chapter and Article 5, Chapter 10 of the Park Ridge Municipal Code.
- **Definition:** The term "private residential swimming pool: is hereby defined as a receptacle for water, or an artificial pool of water having a depth at any point of more than two feet (2'), intended for the purpose of immersion or partial immersion therein of human beings, and including all appurtenant equipment, constructed, installed and maintained in or above the ground; provided further, that such private residential swimming pool is maintained by a person or persons primarily for the sole use of members of dwelling units or guests and not for the purpose of profit or in connection with any business operated for profit. Private residential swimming pools shall be permitted in residential districts only.
- **Building Official Approval:** All plans and specifications for the construction, installation, enlargement or alteration of any private residential swimming pool and appurtenances for

which a permit is required shall first be presented to the Building Official for examination and approval as to proper location, construction and use.

- **Plans and Specifications:** All plans and specifications shall be drawn to scale of not less than one-eighth of an inch to the foot ($1/8" = 1'$). All distances and dimensions shall be accurately figured and drawings made explicit and complete, showing the lot lines, and including information pertaining to the pool, walk and fence construction, water supply system, drainage and water disposal systems, and all appurtenances pertaining to the swimming pool, indicating depth, shall be included.
- **Deviation From Plans:** All private residential swimming pools, appurtenances, water supply and drainage systems shall be constructed in conformity with the approved plans. If any deviations from such plans are desired, a supplementary plan covering that portion of the work involved shall be filed for approval and shall conform to the provisions of this Chapter.
- **Health Officer Approval:** The Building Official shall refer all plans and specifications to the environmental health officer for review in order to determine whether they comply with health, safety and sanitation requirements. If the health officer determines that such plans and specifications are satisfactory, his approval shall be marked thereon prior to the issuance of a permit.

Setback Area:

- **Side and Rear Yards:** No portion of a private residential pool, or any of its equipment or appurtenances, shall be located at a distance less than eight feet (8') from any side or rear property line. The outer edge of elevated platforms, decks or walkways will be considered as an appurtenance. Platforms, decks or walkways constructed at grade level may encroach three feet (3') into the eight-foot (8') side and rear yard setback.
- **Front and Corner Side Yards:** No portion of a private residential swimming pool and its appurtenances may encroach into a front yard or a corner side yard.
- **Pool Area:** The inside swimming area of a private residential swimming pool shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the rear yard area.
- **Elevated Platforms, Decks and Walkways:** An elevated platform, deck or walkway shall not be erected more than six inches (6") above the pool rim nor exceed sixty percent (60%) of the pool area, but must have a minimum area of not less than one hundred twenty (120) square feet.
- **Materials:** Private residential swimming pool walls and floor shall be constructed of any impervious material, which will provide a tight tank with light colored, easily cleaned surfaces. The floor or bottom surface of the pool shall have a non-slip finish as smooth as possible. The side and the end walls of a pool shall present a smooth finish.
- **Electrical Requirements:** All electrical installation provided for, installed and used in conjunction with private residential swimming pools shall be in conformance with the National Electrical Code, as amended.

15-15-2 In-ground private residential swimming pool regulation

- **Structural Design:** In-ground residential swimming pools shall be designed to withstand the water pressure from within, and to resist the pressure of the earth when the pool is empty.
- **Wall Slopes:** To a depth up to five feet (5') from the pool top, the wall slope shall not be more than one unit horizontal in five (5) units vertical (1:5).
- **Floor Slopes:** The slope of the pool floor on the shallow side of the transition point shall not exceed one unit vertical to seven (7) units horizontal (1:7). The slope of the pool floor on the deep side of the transition point shall not exceed one unit vertical to three (3) units horizontal (1:3). The transition point between shallow and deep water shall not be more than five feet (5') deep.
- **Diving Boards:** No diving board shall be more than three (3) meters above the water

surface. International Building Code, as amended, shall determine minimum water depths and distances when diving boards are proposed.

- **Walk Areas:** Unobstructed walk areas not less than thirty-six inches (36") wide shall be provided to extend entirely around the pool. The walk area shall be constructed of impervious material, and the surfaces shall be of such as to be smooth and easily cleaned and of non-slip construction. The slope of the walks shall have a pitch of at least one-fourth inch (1/4") to the foot, designed so as to prevent back drainage from entering the pool.
- **Steps or Ladders:** Two (2) or more means of egress in the form of steps or ladders shall be provided. The means of egress shall be located at both the deep end and shallow end of the pool. Treads of steps and ladders shall be constructed of non-slip material and shall have a handrail on both sides.
- **Fences:** All in-ground swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a fence five feet (5') in height above the existing grade. The fence shall enclose either the periphery area of the pool walks or the entire yard where the pool is located. The finished side of all pool fences shall face the abutting properties. All fence openings shall be equipped with gates five feet (5') in height, having self-closing and self-latching devices placed at the top of the gate. The Building Official shall approve all fencing material. Dense planted shrubs, bushes or any other living screening shall not be construed as meeting the requirements of this Chapter.

15-15-3 Above ground private residential swimming pool regulations

- **Structural Design:** All above ground pools shall be designed to withstand the water pressure from within.
- **Diving Boards:** Diving boards for above ground pools are prohibited.
- **Steps and Ladders:** All above ground swimming pools shall have one or more means of egress in the form of steps or ladders; except pools with an area exceeding four hundred (400) square feet shall provide two (2) means of egress. Such means of egress shall be located on opposite sides of the pool. Treads of steps, ladders or step holes shall be constructed of non-slip materials. All steps, ladders or step holes shall have a handrail on both sides.
- **Fences:** All above ground swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a fence five feet (5') in height above the existing grade. The fence shall enclose either the immediate pool area or the entire yard where the pool is to be located. The finished side of all pool fences shall face the abutting properties. All fence openings shall be equipped with gates five feet (5') in height, having self-closing and self-latching devices placed at the top of the gates. Whenever a pool has an attached raised deck or walk area not less than three feet (3'), nor more than four and one-half feet (4-1/2) feet above grade, a deck fence may be installed. Said deck fence shall be three feet (3') above the deck level.
- **Maximum Depth:** No above ground pool shall exceed five feet (5') in depth measured from the top rim of the pool to the pool floor. The top of the pool floor cannot be inserted more than one foot (1') below the finished grade. No pool shall exceed four feet (4') in height measured from the top of the pool rim to the approved grade. And pools and ponds now require a permit

Contact the City of Park Ridge upon completion for all rough and final inspections including footings at 847-318-5291.

Review the City Ordinances at www.parkridge.us

To purchase code books, contact ICC at:800-214-4321 / www.intlcode.org

Construction Documents (approved SITE copies) shall be available at all times at the job site. Any alterations to the approved SITE copies must be submitted to the City of Park Ridge in triplicate for review and approval.

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