Arbors and Pergolas

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Below are amendments to the Zoning Code that permit certain exceptions to setback and/or floor area ratio (FAR) requirements for arbors and pergolas. If you propose a structure that does not fit these exceptions, you may still design an arbor or pergola but it will be required to meet zoning setback and floor area ratio requirements.

Arbor: “A structure used as a decorative element or for the display or support of climbing vines, flowers or other plants as a complementary use to a residential structure.”

(14) Arbors. Arbors are permitted in the Residential Districts. An arbor will be exempt from the regulations in the Zoning Code, and will not be included in the floor area ratio calculations for a residential structure, if the arbor complies with all of the following conditions:

a. Only one arbor is located on the zoning lot;
b. No part of the arbor is located closer than two feet from the front lot line, corner side lot line, or side lot line of any adjacent property;
c. The arbor is no more than nine feet in height, six feet in width, and three feet in depth;
d. The top and sides of the arbor are no less than 50 percent open and the front and rear of the arbor are no less than 100 percent open; and
e. Any gate or fence attached to or incorporated into the arbor complies with all of the Village’s fence regulations as set forth in Article XI of Chapter 9 of the Village Code.” 12-2011

Pergola: “A structure attached to a residential structure at ground level usually consisting of parallel colonnades supporting an open roof of girders and cross rafters.”

(15) Pergolas. Pergolas shall be permitted in the Residential Districts. A pergola will be exempt from the regulations in the Zoning Code, and will not be included in the floor area ratio calculations for a residential structure, if the pergola complies with all of the following conditions:

a. Only one pergola is located on the zoning lot;
b. The pergola is no more than 12 feet in height and no more than 250 square feet in area.
c. Open Top and Sides. Those portions of the pergola that are not comprised of the walls of the residential structure or the support columns for the pergola must each be no less than 100 percent open and unscreened. The roof of the pergola must also be no less than 50 percent open and unscreened.
d. The pergola must comply with all applicable setback requirements.