Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

37-36 - Special Requirements for Blank Walls

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37-36 - Special Requirements for Blank Walls

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

Where visual mitigation elements are required on a blank wall along the #ground floor level# #street wall# in accordance with other streetscape provisions in this Resolution, such blank wall shall be covered by one or more of the following mitigation elements set forth in this Section.

37-361 - Blank wall thresholds

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

The height and width of blank walls and the applicable percent coverage of mitigation elements are set forth in this Section. Blank wall surfaces shall be calculated on the #ground floor level# #street wall# except in the #flood zone#, blank wall surfaces shall be calculated between the level of the adjoining sidewalk and the level of the #first story above the flood elevation# as defined in Section 64-11 (Definitions).

The different types of blank walls are established below and the type of blank wall that applies is determined by the provisions of each applicable Section.

(a) Type 1

Where Type 1 blank wall provisions apply, a “blank wall” shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous

width of at least 50 feet.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section 37-362 (Mitigation elements).

The maximum width of a portion of such blank wall without visual mitigation elements shall not exceed 10 feet. In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 50 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 50-foot interval.

(b) Type 2

Where Type 2 blank wall provisions apply, a "blank wall" shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous width of at least 25 feet.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section 37-362. In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 50 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 50-foot interval.

(c) Type 3 or Type 4

Where Type 3 or Type 4 blank wall provisions apply, a "blank wall" shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous width of at least 15 feet for Type 3 or for a continuous width of at least five feet for Type 4.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section 37-362. In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 25 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 25-foot interval.

37-362 - Mitigation elements

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

The following mitigation elements shall be provided on the #zoning lot#, except where such elements are permitted within the #street# under other applicable laws or regulations.

(a) Surface treatment

Where utilized as a visual mitigation element the following shall apply:

(1) Wall treatment

Wall treatment, in the form of permitted #signs#, graphic or sculptural art, decorative screening or latticework, or living plant material shall be provided along the #street wall#. Each linear foot of wall treatment shall constitute one linear foot of the mitigation requirement.

(2) Surface texture

Surface texture that recesses or projects a minimum of one inch from the remaining surface of the #street wall# shall be provided. The height or width of any individual area that recesses or projects shall not be greater than 18 inches. Each linear foot of wall treatment shall constitute one linear foot of the mitigation requirement.

(b) Linear treatment

Where utilized as a visual mitigation element the following shall apply:

(1) Planting

Planting, in the form of any combination of perennials, annual flowers, decorative grasses or shrubs, shall be provided in planting beds, raised planting beds or planter boxes in front of the #street wall#. Each foot in width of a planting bed, raised planting bed or planter box, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, shall satisfy one linear foot of the mitigation requirement. Such planting bed, or planter boxes shall extend to a depth of at least three feet, inclusive of any structure containing the planted material. Any individual planted area, including planters spaced not more than one foot apart, shall have a width of at least five feet.

(2) Benches

Fixed benches, with or without backs, shall be provided in front of the #street wall#. Unobstructed access shall be provided between such benches and an adjoining sidewalk or required circulation paths. Each linear foot of bench, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, shall satisfy one linear foot of the mitigation requirement. Any individual bench shall have a width of at least five feet and no more than 20 feet of benches may be used to fulfill such requirement per 50 feet of frontage.

(3) Bicycle racks

Bicycle racks, sufficient to accommodate at least two bicycles, shall be provided in front of the #street wall# as follows. No more than three bicycle racks may be used to fulfill such requirement per 50 feet of frontage.

(i) Where bicycle racks are oriented so that the bicycles are placed parallel to the #street wall#, each bicycle rack so provided shall satisfy five linear feet of the mitigation requirement.

(ii) Where bicycle racks are oriented so that bicycles are placed perpendicular or diagonal to the #street wall#, each bicycle rack so provided shall satisfy the width of such rack, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, of the mitigation requirement.

(4) Tables and chairs

In #Commercial Districts# and M1 Districts, fixed tables and chairs shall be provided in front of the #street wall#. Each table shall have a minimum diameter of two feet and have a minimum of two chairs associated with it. Each table and chair set so provided shall satisfy five linear feet of the mitigation requirement.