



FENCES & WALLS

Design and Approval Process

Fence permits are issued by the Department of Public Works, fifth floor, City Hall, 100 North Appleton Street, Appleton, WI 54911. Inspectors are available for permits between the hours of 8:00-9:30AM and 12:30-1:30PM Monday through Friday, or by appointment. Bring a drawing of your lot showing where the fence will be located. A fence permit costs \$40.00.

Sec. 23-22. Words and terms defined.

Fence means any partition, structure, wall or gate erected as a divider, marker, barrier or enclosure and located along the boundary, or within the required yard. Fences are further defined as to their general purpose as follows:

- (a) **Boundary fence** means a fence placed on or near the boundary lines common with adjacent properties to indicate the location of such boundaries.
- (b) **Sound barrier fence or berm** means a fence or berm constructed to decrease the noise levels along an abutting major roadway.

Sec. 23-44. Fences and walls.

(a) **Fences and walls.** Fences and walls are subject to the provisions of this section.

(1) *Height*

The height of fences and walls shall be measured at grade.

- a. **Boundary fence.** A boundary fence or wall shall not be more than six (6) feet in height in residential districts and not more than twelve (12) feet in commercial and industrial districts, except that hedges may be permitted to grow to their natural height. No boundary fence or wall, including a hedge or row planting, shall be permitted in excess of three (3) feet in height between the front yard setback line and the abutting lot lines.
- b. **Sound barrier/privacy fence or wall on an arterial/ collector roadway.** A sound barrier/privacy fence or wall constructed in a board-to-board or stone, masonry or brick and mortar style may be erected that prevents sound penetration and decreases the noise levels along the back or side lot line of a residential property abutting an arterial or collector street that has access restrictions and that is posted at no more

than forty-five (45) miles per hour, shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.

- c. *Sound barrier fence or wall on a freeway roadway.* A sound barrier fence, wall or combination of fence and berm or wall and berm constructed in a board-to-board or stone, masonry or brick and mortar style may be erected that prevents sound penetration and decreases the noise levels along the back or side yard abutting a highway that is posted with a speed greater than forty-five (45) miles per hour shall not be less than fourteen (14) feet nor more than twenty (20) feet in height, as measured from the grade of the adjacent major roadway. Plans from a state certified engineer/architect that assure structural integrity may be required by the Planning Director for fences higher than eight (8) feet

(2) *Materials.*

- a. Barbed wire fences, electrical fences, and single, double and triple strand fences are prohibited except in the AG agricultural, M-1 and M-2 industrial districts.
- b. For all zoning districts other than AG, fence material must be either naturally resistant or treated wood board, vinyl, galvanized and/or vinyl coated chain link material, wrought iron, brick, natural stone, masonry, or other material as approved by the Planning Director. Chain link fence slats are subject to provisions of this ordinance.
- c. Fences and walls located in the front yard must be made of natural materials such as wood, brick, vinyl or stone.
- d. The finished side of the fence shall be erected to face the adjoining property. The side with protruding studs or posts shall face the building of the lot responsible for the erection of the fence.
- e. Fences used for screening purposes for non-residential uses shall be subject to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards. CPTED standards are reviewed and are available through the Appleton Police Department.

(3) *Exceptions.*

Protective security and boundary fences on industrial sites, publicly owned lands or semi-private lands such as places of worship, educational institutions, utility substations, etc. are excluded from the provisions of this section, except that where such fences incorporate the use of barbed wire, such barbed wire shall not be less than seven (7) feet above the ground level, and except such fences shall be a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) open to vision equally distributed throughout the fence length, and maintain allowable height when located within the defined vision corner.

- (4) *Setback.* No fence shall extend closer than five (5) feet from the right-of-way line of an improved public alley.

- (5) *Vision corner.* Fences and walls shall comply with vision corner requirements of §23-50(f), Vision corner. [Reprinted below]
- (6) *Maintenance.* Both the fence and the property surrounding both sides of the fence shall be properly maintained at all times.

Planned Development Zoning

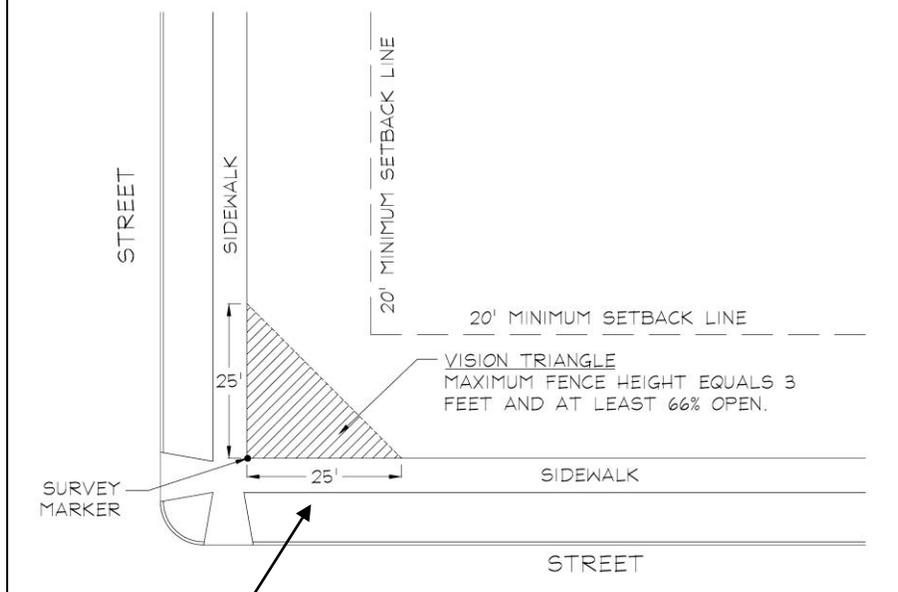
Note: A fence or wall permit for a property zoned PD [Planned Development] cannot be issued until the proposal is reviewed and approved by the Planning Department.

Sec. 23-50. Vision Corner

Vision corner means triangular approach zones at street and/or driveway intersections intended to allow visibility of approaching traffic, pedestrians and bicycles and as regulated in Chapter 19, Traffic and Vehicles.

- (1) No owner or occupant of any property abutting a public street shall permit any trees, shrubs, bushes, weeds, signs, structures, walls or fences on his property to be so placed and maintained as to obstruct the vision of a user of the street at its intersection with another street or public thoroughfare.
 - There shall be a vision corner on all corner lots located in zoning districts that require a minimum twenty (20) foot setback from street property lines. [R-1A, R-1B, R-2, R-3 and M-1]
 - The vision corner is described as the triangular area enclosed by a straight line connecting a point on each street right-of-way line, which point is twenty-five (25) feet from the intersection of the right-of-way lines.
 - Fences, walls, signs or structures erected in such vision corners shall not exceed three (3) feet in height. The fence, wall, sign or structure shall be a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) open to vision, equally distributed throughout the fence length and height located within the defined vision corner.
 - Plantings in such vision corners shall be maintained in such a fashion as to provide unobstructed vision from three (3) feet above the centerline elevation of the abutting pavement to ten (10) feet above the centerline elevation.
- (2) The provisions above also apply to those corner lots located in zoning districts that require a ten (10) foot setback from street property lines [R1-C & C-2], except in those cases the vision corner is described as the triangular area enclosed by a straight line connecting a point on each street right-of-way line, which point is twenty (20) feet from the intersection of the street right-of-way. [CBD & M-2]

VISION TRIANGLE AT STREET CORNER



Note: This 25' dimension may be reduced to 20' in some commercial districts. See text above.