RESIDENTIAL VISION CORNERS & STREET TERRACES

What is a vision corner?  
*Vision corner* means triangular approach zones at street and/or driveway intersections intended to allow visibility of approaching traffic, pedestrians and bicycles.

What are the rules of vision corners?  
Vegetation or structures on private property:

- 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) feet setback from street property 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 center line elevation of the abutting pavement to ten (10) feet above the center line elevation. 23-174(g).

Can I plant in the terrace?  
Yes, if the planting conforms to the following City Policy:

The following conditions are not acceptable uses of street terraces unless a street occupancy permit request is approved by the Municipal Services Committee and Common Council:

1. Plants in excess of 3 feet in height.
2. Hedges.
3. Traffic hazards such as rocks, railroad ties, etc.
4. Loose stone, mulch or sand surfaces.
5. Vegetable gardens.
6. Trees (without Park & Recreation Department's prior approval).

All other uses of street terraces are acceptable contingent upon the following:

1. Compliant with Weed Control Ordinance.
2. Elevation flush with sidewalk.
3. City's restoration cost to work in the terrace limited to cost of typical terrace.
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.

Shrubs & other low plantings must be trimmed to a maximum height of (3) feet.

Trees must be trimmed to 10 ft or greater.