



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 to issue permits between 8:30 am and 9:30 am. 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.** Fence height may be measured two (2) inches above grade to allow for proper drainage and prevent rot of materials, when deemed appropriate by the Inspections Supervisor or designee. Berms may not be used to increase grade directly under a fence, unless otherwise stated in this chapter. Posts and post caps may project a maximum of four (4) inches above required
 - 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, unless otherwise stated in this chapter.

- b. **Sound barrier fence or wall on an arterial/collector roadway.** A sound barrier fence or wall may be erected on a residential property, along the access-restricted lot line abutting an arterial or collector street. It shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height for double frontage lots and not exceed six (6) feet for corner lots, except in the vision corner.
- c. **Sound barrier fence or wall on a freeway.** A sound barrier fence, wall or combination of fence and berm or wall and berm may be erected along the yard abutting a freeway. It shall not be more than twenty (20) feet in height, as measured from the grade of the adjacent freeway. Plans from a state certified engineer/architect that assure structural integrity may be required 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.

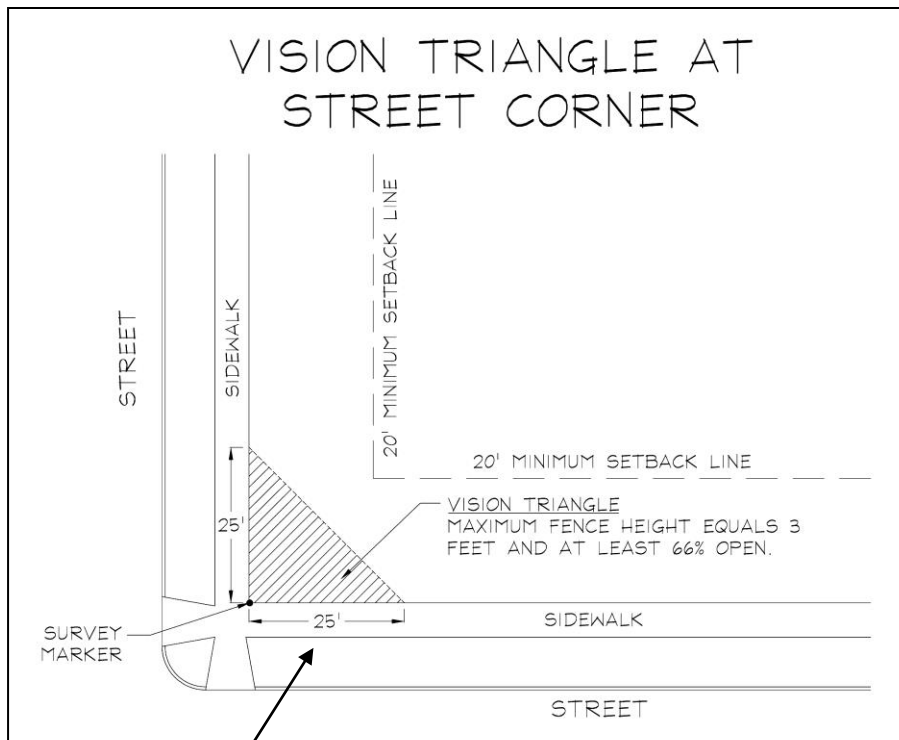
Sec. 23-50. Vision Corner

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) **Street corner.** 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/her 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. 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. Plantings in such vision corners shall be maintained in such a fashion as to provide unobstructed vision from three (3) feet above the adjacent property line elevation to ten (10) feet above the adjacent property line elevation.
- (2) **Private Driveway.** 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 driveway, street, or public thoroughfare. There shall be vision triangles on all driveways located in zoning districts that require a minimum ten (10) foot setback from street property lines. The vision corner is described as the triangular area enclosed by a straight line connecting the point ten (10) feet from the intersection of the street-right-of-way and private driveway. Fences, walls, signs or structures erected in such vision corners shall not exceed three (3) feet in height. Plantings in such vision corners shall be maintained in such a fashion as to provide unobstructed vision from three (3) feet above

the adjacent property line elevation to ten (10) feet above the adjacent property line elevation.

- (3) The provisions above also apply to those corner lots located in zoning districts that require a ten (10) foot setback from street property lines, 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.



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