

FENCE PERMIT ZONING CODE: 153.129

Property owners planning to install a new fence will need to first obtain a permit/Certificate of Compliance from the City. Existing fences that are substantially altered (relocated, change in height or change in materials, etc.) may also require a permit. Permit applications are available at City Hall or can be found on the city website at www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us.

1. Fence Application. The following information will need to be submitted along with a fence permit/Certificate of Compliance application:

a. *Fence Details.* Applicants must indicate specific details including location, height and type of materials.

The following are allowable materials for residential fences:

- i. Treated wood, cedar, or redwood
- ii. Simulated wood
- iii. Decorative brick or stone
- iv. Wrought iron or aluminum designed to simulate wrought iron
- v. Coated or non-coated chain link
- vi. Split rail; and
- vii. Other materials as approved by the City. Alternative forms of fencing in commercial areas may be allowed when safety or security is an issue.

b. *Fence Height Requirements* (as measured from the fence owner's yard grade to the top of the fence):

- i. Fences greater than six (6) feet in height may require a building permit and must conform to all setback and yard regulations in the same manner as building walls, unless located in a commercial or industrial district and approved by the City with a conditional use permit.
- ii. Fences 5' – 6' in height may be placed anywhere on a lot but not in the required front yard setback (see image for clarification).

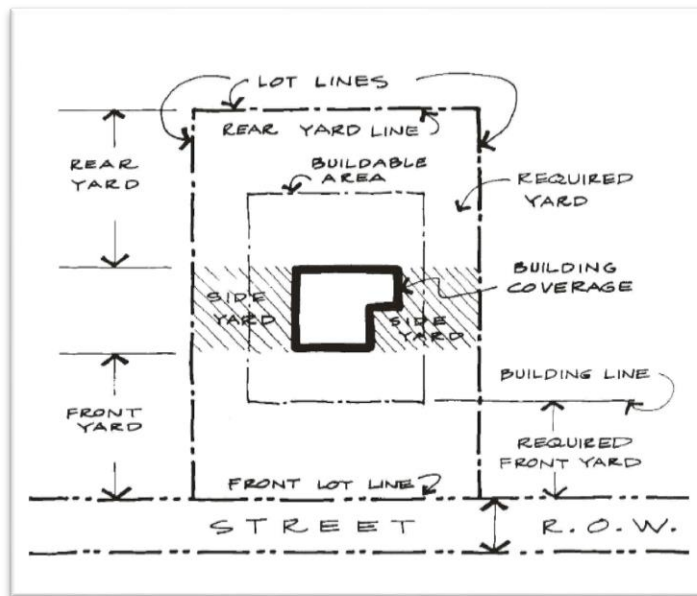


Image clarifying setbacks

iii. Fences 4' in height or less may be placed anywhere on a lot, provided they comply with traffic visibility and are not lakeshore lots where no fence may be constructed in the required shoreline setback.

c. *Survey/Site Plan.* Applicants must submit a property survey or site plan that shows where proposed fences will be located on the property. Submitted site plans must be scaled drawings. Proposed fences must be accurately shown on the survey/site plan where they are intended to be constructed.

d. *Locate Property Corners.* Applicants will need to locate and expose the iron property corner markers (pins) prior to applying for fence permits. The city does not locate them for you. Metal detectors can be useful when locating iron property pins. Applicants may need to contact a land surveyor to re-establish or locate property pins if they cannot be located.

2. Fence location

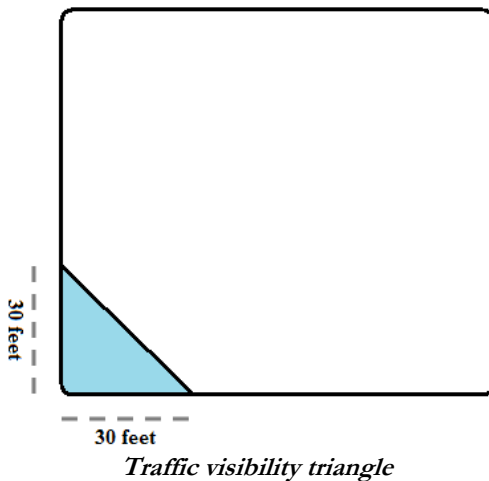
a. Fences may be placed along a property line, without crossing the property line, if there is no physical damage of any kind to the abutting property.

b. The installer of a fence on or within 3 feet of the property line must give consideration to the maintenance of the fence and yard. Unless given permission, the fence owner does not have the right to enter a neighbor's yard to conduct fence or landscaping maintenance.

c. Fences shall not restrict drainage or be placed in a public right-of-way or in a public easement.

d. *Traffic visibility.* On a corner lot, no fence or landscaping shall be placed in such a manner so as to pose a danger to traffic by obscuring the view of approaching vehicular traffic or pedestrians from any driveway or street right-of-way. Visibility shall be unobstructed

between a height of 3 and 10 feet above the center line grades of the intersecting driveways and/or streets within a triangular area described as follows:



3. Fence appearance

- a. The finished side of fences shall face the neighboring property.

City Review

City staff make every effort to review fence permit applications as quickly as possible. However, please be advised that reviews often take a few days and fence construction cannot start until a permit/Certificate of Compliance has been paid for and issued by the City.

Approved Permits Issued

The fence permit/Certificate of Compliance application fee is \$50 and an issued permit will be mailed or emailed to the applicant. City staff can be reached at (651) 464-3550 if you have any questions regarding fence regulations or the fence permit application process.