



FENCES



While fences do not require permits, they are regulated by the Maple Grove Zoning Ordinance. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances fall on the owner or contractor. For additional information or questions, please contact the Community Development Department at 763-494-6040.

LOCATION

All fences shall be located within your property.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

1. Every fence shall be constructed in a professional, workmanlike manner.
2. Chain link fences, wherever permitted, shall be constructed in such a manner that no barbed ends shall be at the top.
3. Electric fences shall only be permitted in the “R-A” District when related to farming and on farms in other districts when related to farming, but not as boundary fences.

RESIDENTIAL FENCES

In all parts of Maple Grove zoned residential and not a farm, fences no more than six (6) feet in height may be erected or maintained on a lot subject to the following:

1. No fence on a corner lot shall be erected within the triangular area described below: “Traffic Visibility: On corner lots in all districts, no structure or planting in excess of thirty (30) inches above the street center line grade shall be permitted within a triangular area defined as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the projected property lines of two intersecting streets, thirty (30) feet along one property line and diagonally to a point thirty (30) feet from the point of beginning on the other property line.”
2. No fence may extend closer to the street than the front yard setback line, except as follows:
 - a. Decorative fencing is allowed in the front yard if no higher than three and one-half (3 ½) feet and not designed as an enclosure. Decorative fencing includes such things as split rail, picket, and brick fences, but not such things as chain-link fences.
 - b. A fence may be placed in the front yard of a corner lot which abuts an arterial street, but not within the triangular area described above under “Traffic Visibility”.
3. Shoreland District fences or fences which are located within any portion of the seventy-five (75) foot lakeshore setback shall not exceed five (5) feet in height and maintain a see-through visibility equal to that of a chain-link type fence. All fence materials must be treated so as to blend with the natural surroundings, i.e. brown or green in color.
4. A minimum of one four-foot wide gate is required for accessibility to the rear yard from the front yard. The location of the gate must be parallel to the front lot line positioned at any point paralleling the front lot line, between the side lot property line and the principle structure.
5. Every fence shall be maintained in a condition of reasonable repair and shall not be allowed to become and remain in a condition of disrepair or danger, or constitute a nuisance. Any fence that is, or has become, dangerous to the public safety, health, or welfare, is a public nuisance and the Zoning Administrator shall commence proper proceedings.

It should be noted that protective covenants on a lot might have different location and design requirements. Covenants are not enforced by the City of Maple Grove. Contact your homeowners association regarding rules specific to your property.

Sec. 36-816. - Fences.

- (a) **Location on property division line.** Any fence shall be located entirely upon the private property of the person constructing or causing the construction of such fence unless the owner of the property adjoining agrees, in writing, that such fence may be erected on the division line of the respective properties. The director of fire and building inspection services may require the owner of the property upon which a fence now exists, or may require any applicant for a fence permit, to establish the boundary lines of his property by a survey thereof to be made by any registered land surveyor.
- (b) **Construction and maintenance.**
- (1) Every fence shall be constructed in a substantial, workmanlike manner and of substantial material reasonably suited for the purpose for which the fence is proposed to be used.
 - (2) Every fence shall be maintained in a condition of reasonable repair and shall not be allowed to become and remain in a condition of disrepair or danger, or constitute a nuisance, public or private. Any such fence which is, or has become, dangerous to the public safety, health, or welfare is a public nuisance and the zoning administrator shall commence proper proceedings for the abatement thereof.
 - (3) Link fences, wherever permitted, shall be constructed in such a manner that no barbed ends shall be at the top.
 - (4) Electric fences shall only be permitted in the R-A district when related to farming and on farms in other districts when related to farming, but not as boundary fences.
 - (5) Barbed wire fences shall only be permitted on farms, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section.
- (c) **Residential districts.** In all parts of the city zoned residential and not a farm, one or more fences no more than six feet in height may be erected or maintained on a lot subject to the following:
- (1) No fence on a corner lot shall be erected within the triangular area described in [section 36-818](#)
 - (2) No fence may extend closer to the street than the front yard setback line, except as follows:
 - a. Decorative fencing is allowed in the required front yard if no higher than 3½ feet and not designed or serving as an enclosure. Decorative fencing includes such things as split rail, picket, and brick fences, but not such things as chainlink fences.
 - b. A fence may be placed in the front yard of a corner lot which abuts an arterial street, but not within the triangular area described in [section 36-818](#)
 - c. A fence may be erected along any portion of a side lot line which also serves as the rear lot line of a corner lot.
 - (3) In those instances where a fence exists as an enclosure which restricts access from the front to the rear yard, a gate, identifiable collapsible section, or other such means of recognizable ingress shall be provided. Such ingress points shall be unobstructed and a minimum of four feet in width. The location of such ingress points shall be positioned at any point paralleling the front lot line, between the side lot property line and the principal structure.
 - (4) Public park properties shall be exempt from the requirements contained in this subsection, except for subsection (c)(1) of this section.
- (d) **Business and industrial districts.** Fences in all business and industrial districts shall not exceed eight feet in height, except that:
- (1) Boundary line fences abutting R districts shall conform to those conditions applying to the R district.
 - (2) Fences which are erected primarily to secure a particular given area may have arms not to exceed 36 inches in length located a minimum of seven and a maximum of eight feet above the ground surface, on which barbed wire may be placed.
 - (3) Fences erected within the required front yard shall not be over six feet in height and shall be of a chainlink construction permitting maximum visibility.
- (e) **Special purpose fences.** Fences for special purposes and fences differing in construction, height or length may be permitted in any district in the city by issuance of a conditional use permit approved by the planning commission and city council. Findings shall be made that the fence is necessary to protect, buffer or improve the premises for which the fence is intended.
- (f) **Fences in shoreland district lakeshore setback.** Fences to be located within any portion of the 75-foot lakeshore setback area of a shoreland district lot must comply with the special provisions of this subsection. Fences constructed within the lakeshore setback area shall not exceed a maximum of five feet in height and shall maintain a see-through visibility level equal to that of a chainlink type fence. All fence materials must be treated so as to blend with the natural surroundings of the setback area.