

FENCE REQUIREMENTS CITY OF ONALASKA

A permit is *not* required in order to construct a fence, but certain guidelines are to be followed.

A “fence” is defined as an enclosed barrier consisting of vegetation, wood, stone, or metal which includes plantings, such as hedges and shrubbery.

A fence may be placed *up to but not on the property line*. This rule applies to all portions of the fence, including post, concrete, and fence facing.

The exact location of the property line is not determined by the city. It is the property owners’ responsibility to know where the property line is. If help is needed perhaps the services of a private surveyor at your expense might be necessary.

As a property owner, you are responsible for the maintenance of both sides of the fence, as well as any landscaping material or grass which grows around the bottom of the fence.

A finished or good side of the fence is to face the adjoining property.

CORNER LOTS: Contact the Zoning Inspector and a site inspection may be needed to determine the vision clearance, location and height of the fence.

Refer also to City Ordinance Sec. 13.03.41 thru 13.03.45 for the fence Ordinance.

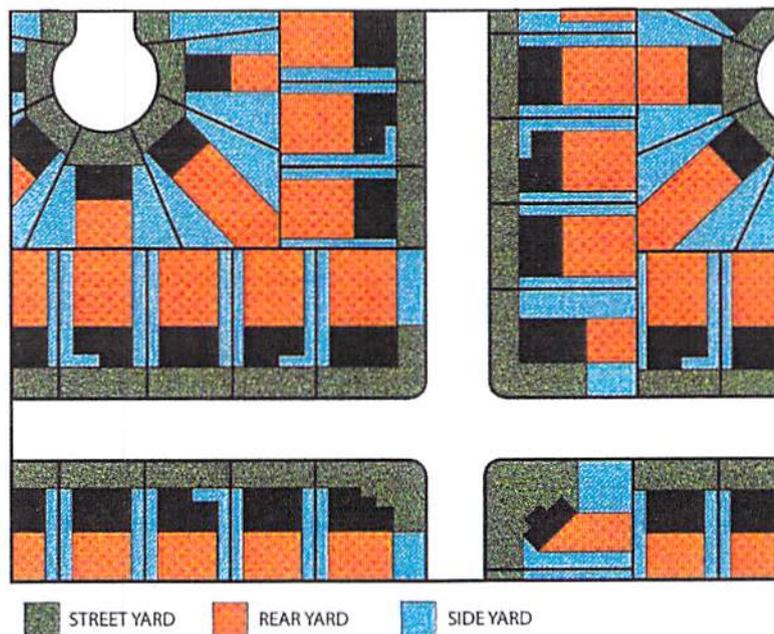
Before doing any digging, contact Digger’s Hotline for location of any unground wiring or pipes, 1-800-242-8511

Division 4 Fences and Hedges

13.03.41 General

- A. For the purpose of this Section, the term "fence" shall include any enclosed barrier consisting of wood, vinyl, composite, stone or metal intended to prevent ingress or egress.
- B. No fence shall be constructed of unsightly or dangerous materials which would constitute a nuisance.
- C. Property owners shall locate fences so that each side of the fence may be properly maintained by the owner of the fence while on said owner's property.
- D. Fence shall be limited to the following heights in the street, rear, and side yard as designated in **Figure 13.03.41-1**:
1. Residential Zoning Districts.
 - a. Fences shall not exceed a height of six (6) feet in rear and side yards.
 - b. Fences shall not exceed a height of four (4) feet in that portion of the street yard located in front of the home. For purposes of corner lots, the following shall apply:
 - i. No fences are allowed in the vision triangle;
 - ii. That portion of the yard facing the non-addressed street and beginning at the rear most corner of the residence is not considered a street yard but rather shall be considered a side yard for fencing purposes. The side yard fence may not exceed a height of six (6) feet.

Figure 13.03.41-1 Yard Designation



2. Non-Residential Zoning Districts.
 - a. Fence heights for street yard(s) shall be determined through Site Plan review and/or review by the Planning Department.
 - b. Fence heights for rear and side yards in non-residential zoning districts may not exceed eight (8) feet in height.
3. Public Zoning Districts.
 - a. Fence heights for street yard(s) shall be determined through Site Plan review and/or review by the Planning Department.
 - b. Fences may not exceed six (6) feet in height in the rear or side yard, except as needed for public safety purposes, such as a public outdoor swimming pool or tennis courts.
4. Fence heights may be measured from a point up to three (3) inches above ground elevation to the top of fence.

5. In the event that a fence is placed on top of a retaining wall or similar structure and shares a vertical support system, the height of the fence shall include the height of both structures. If the fence and the retaining wall have independent vertical support structures, the fence and retaining wall heights may be measured separately.
- E. Fences must meet the following setbacks:
1. Fences in residential districts may be placed up to the lot line in rear and side yards.
 2. Fences in residential districts shall not be closer than three (3) feet to any public right-of-way.
 3. Fences in all non-residential zoning districts adjacent to public rights-of-way shall be set back a minimum of three (3) feet or comply with the specified zoning district street yard setback; whichever is less. Fences may be placed up to the lot line in rear and side yards.

13.03.42 Prohibited Fences.

- A. No fence shall be constructed which is in a dangerous condition, or which conducts electricity or is designed to electrically shock or which uses barbed wire, provided, however, that barbed wire may be used in industrially zoned areas if the devices securing the barbed wire to the fence are ten (10) feet above the ground or height and project toward the fenced property and away from any public area.

13.03.43 Fences to be Repaired.

- A. All fences shall be maintained and kept safe and in a state of good repair, and the finished side or decorative side of a fence shall face adjoining property.

13.03.44 Temporary Fences.

- A. Fences erected for the protection of planting or to warn of construction hazard, or for similar purposes, shall be clearly visible or marked with colored streamers or other such warning devices at four (4) foot intervals. Such fences shall comply with the setback requirements set forth in this Division. Temporary fences shall not be erected for more than forty-five (45) days.

13.03.45 Nonconforming Fences.

- A. Any fence existing on the effective date of this Code of Ordinances and not in conformance with this Division may be maintained, but no alteration, modification or improvement of said fence shall occur, unless installed in conformance with this Division.