



Fences on Lakeshore Property

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952-249-4620

Location

No fence may be erected within the required lakeshore setback. The setbacks are:

- 75 feet from Lake Minnetonka and Forest Lake;
- 100 feet from Long Lake, Mooney Lake and Tanager Lake; and
- 150 feet from Lake Classen, Dickey Lake, French Lake (South Basin only) and Lydiard Lake

Fences are permitted up to a property line. The fence owner is responsible for locating property lines before construction of any fence.

Height

Height limitations apply to fences located within required yards:

- Between the required lake setback and the average lakeshore setback line no fence may exceed 42 inches in height. For the purpose of determining fence height "average lakeshore setback line" means a line drawn between the most lakeward projection of the fence owner's house and the most lakeward projection of the adjacent house.
- No fence within the required rear street yard may exceed 42 inches in height. The required street yard setbacks are:
 - 50 feet in the LR-1A and RR-1B districts and
 - 30 feet in the LR-1B and LR-1C districts

Exceptions: The top rail of a three-rail, split rail fence may be up to 48 inches high.
A fence along a County Road or State Highway may be up to six feet high.

- No fence within a required side street yard may exceed 42 inches in height. The required street yard setbacks are:
 - 50 feet in the LR-1A and RR-1B districts;
 - 30 feet in the LR-1B; and
 - 15 feet in the LR-1C districts

Exception: The top rail of a three-rail, split rail fence may be up to 48 inches high.

- No fence within a required side yard may exceed six feet in height. Required side yards setbacks are:
 - 30 feet in the LR-1A and RR-1B districts and
 - 10 Feet in the LR-1B and LR-1B districts

- On a corner lot no fence may exceed 36 inches in height within the sight triangle. The sight triangle is defined as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the projected curblines of two intersecting streets; thence 30 feet along one curblineline; thence diagonally to a point 30 feet from the point of beginning on the other curblineline; thence to the point of beginning.

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To determine the zoning of your property check the zoning map under Maps – City of the City’s web page or contact the Planning and Zoning Department.

The zoning code defines yards in a way that may be different from your definition. If you wish the Planning and Zoning Department will prepare a drawing of your property indicating maximum fence heights.

Yards are measured from the property line. The property line is not the curb or edge of the road surface. The property owner is responsible for locating this property line.

Fence height is measured from existing ground level to the top of the fence panel or fabric.

Exception: Along a County Road or State Highway, the combined height of both fence and fill shall not exceed six feet above the road or highway.

Materials and Maintenance

Fences must be installed with the finished side facing neighboring properties or the street. The term "finished side" means that side having no structural supports

The fence owner must maintain it in a condition of reasonable repair and appearance and not allow it to become or remain in disrepair or in a dangerous condition.

Fire Hydrant Access

No fence may obstruct free access to a fire hydrant.

Swimming Pool Fences

The City does not require fences around swimming pools.

Permits

A building permit is required for a fence if it is over six feet in height as measured from the ground to the top of the fence panel or fabric. Permits are not required for fences less than six feet in height but they still must comply with the height and location restrictions. For information on obtaining a building permit contact the Building Department at 952-249-4600.

For More Information

Contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 952-249-4620 or planning@ci.orono.mn.us. If you wish, staff will prepare a drawing of your property indicating maximum fence height.

Reference: City Code Section 78-1404(7)
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