

# ALTOONA

## FENCES, WALLS & HEDGES

### General Regulations

1. Barbed wire or similar product shall not be constructed, placed, or maintained in a residential zoned district.
2. Electric Fence/Fencing shall not be constructed, placed, or maintained.
3. Every fence shall be done as follows: posts, supporting rails, and other such supporting elements when located shall be on and face the property on which the fence is located. \*Alternating pickets are allowed as well as design fences.
4. In any zoned district, a fence, wall or hedge shall provide a 3-inch clearance between the bottom of such structure and the final grade when such structure is located in an overland flowage easement.
5. The information herein is not intended for swimming pool requirements.
6. It is encouraged that the affected neighbor(s) be consulted if the fence will be placed directly on the property line or if two or more fences will be joined structurally.
7. **Note:** Confirming property lines, buried utilities, easements, restrictive covenants or association requirements is strictly the responsibility of the owner and/or contractor. Prior to the placement of a fence, please check all covenants to verify the size, type, and intended materials are acceptable and allowed for your property.



### Before You Construct

1. A building permit is required. The permit fee for a residential fence is \$25.00.
2. A building permit can be obtained at 900 Venbury Dr, Ste A in Altoona or on our website at [altoona-iowa.com](http://altoona-iowa.com). We will also need the fence location drawn on an aerial site plan. An aerial site plan can be obtained online through the [Polk County Assessor](#) or [Polk County GIS](#). Questions? Call 515-957-5128.
3. Before you dig please call 1-800-292-8989 (Iowa One Call) for locates. Typically it takes 24 to 48 hours to be completed. Required by State Law.

### Allowable Fence Heights

A wall or fence in a rear yard shall not exceed 6 feet in height when located in a residential district. A wall or fence in a rear yard shall not exceed 10 feet in height when located in a commercial or industrial district.

The maximum height for a fence, wall, and/or hedge located in the **front yard** or the **street side yard** of a corner lot is 4 feet. This applies to residential zoned districts only.

### Through Lots

Any lot within a subdivision or plat of survey recorded after February 7, 2003 (except corner lots) shall not have a fence closer than 15 feet from a major street and/or highway right of way. The yard between the major street and/or highway right-of-way and the 15' setback shall contain several plantings. One hardwood, deciduous tree of at least 1 ½" in caliper and three shrubs at least 18" to 24" in height must be planted for every 25 linear feet or major fraction thereof of lot width along the major street and/or highway right of way. The trees must be from the tree list approved by City Council. A copy of the approved tree list can be found on the City website. The property owner is required to maintain trees and shrubs on the property.

## Fence Location

A fence can be located on the property line, even if your property line extends into an easement. No portion of a fence is allowed to project onto a public right of way.

This office does not verify or locate property lines and/or property pins/markers.

### TYPICAL CORNER LOT

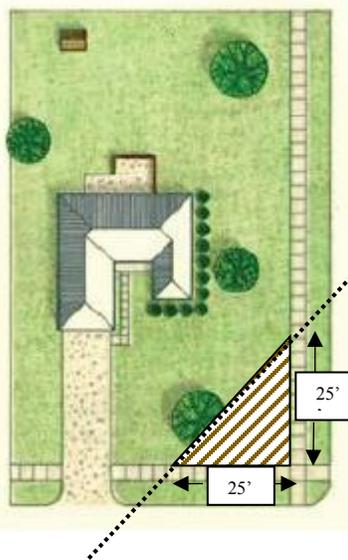


### TYPICAL NON-CORNER LOT

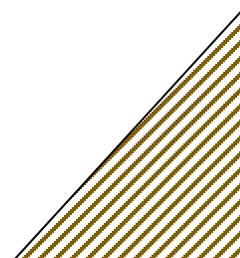


## Corner Visibility

On residentially zoned corner lots nothing can be located, planted, erected, placed, or allowed to grow as to materially impede vision between a height of 2 ½ and 10 feet above the centerline grades of the intersecting streets in the area bounded by the street lines of such corner lots and a line joining points along said street lines 25 feet from the point of intersection of right of way lines.



Visibility Triangle



Anything with a height between 30" & 10' above center of street is considered a violation.