

## 6.8 FENCES

- A. General. Fences greater than thirty six (36) inches in height require a building permit. Fences shall be maintained so as not to become unsightly, hazardous, or less opaque than when originally constructed. The fence shall be constructed in such a manner as to be capable of resisting the design wind loads for structures as defined by the state building code.
- B. Location. Fences may be located up to the property lines. No damage of any kind should occur to abutting properties. Pedestrian trails adjacent to any hazardous fences allowed by ordinance shall maintain a minimum five (5) foot setback from the edge of the trail surface. Any hazardous fences allowed by ordinance and placed adjacent to a pedestrian trail shall maintain a minimum five (5) foot setback from the edge of the trail surface.
- C. Materials. All fences built or maintained shall be constructed of materials capable of providing a finished appearance on the outward side visible to the public. All materials used to construct the fence shall be sound materials, resistant to rot, and capable of accepting and maintaining a visually attractive appearance. Exceptions to the fence materials are indicated in this section. Fences shall be constructed of the following materials:
1. Wood
  2. Simulated wood
  3. Chain link
  4. Decorative brick or stone
  5. Wrought iron or aluminum designed to simulate wrought iron
  6. Split rail
  7. Other materials or fence types as approved by the city
- D. Temporary Fences. Temporary fences such as snow fence or silt fence are allowed without a permit and shall meet the following:
1. For the purpose of reducing or eliminating run-off, or as otherwise required by city ordinance, a temporary silt fence shall be installed and constructed as described by the Chisago City Standard Plate.
  2. For the general purpose of reducing or eliminating snow drifts a snow fence maybe installed and maintained during October 1 through May 1.
- E. Prohibited Fences. Fences such as barbed wire, electric, chain link with barbs exposed, and walls with protruding sharp edges thereof, and other fences and walls designed for or likely to cause harm to persons are declared hazardous and are prohibited in the city with the following exceptions:
1. Barbed wire, single strand wires, electric, chain link with barbs exposed may be used to confine livestock, protect crops or as otherwise allowed by ordinance.
  2. Electrified fences shall use a UL approved for agricultural uses and shall be installed so as to not have current going through said fence except on an intermittent basis. Current shall not remain on longer than three (3) seconds. Electrified fences adjacent to a pedestrian trail

or residential subdivision shall be clearly designated as an electrified fence by the installation of one by one (1x1) square foot sign stating “this fence is electrified”.

- F. Agricultural Uses. Fences may be located on any lot line up to a height of six (6) feet for the purpose of confining livestock or protecting crops.
- G. Residential Districts. Fences may be located on any lot line up to a height of four (4) feet in the front or the front one-half of the side yard. A fence up to six (6) feet may be constructed in the rear yard or the rear one-half of the side yard.
- H. Commercial and Industrial Districts. Fences may only be located on the rear and rear one-half (1/2) of the side yard; the fence may be up to eight (8) feet in height.
- I. Public/Semi-Public Districts. Height restrictions are exempt for the following:
  - 1. In public parks, schools, or other educational facilities, public and private, fences for playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor swimming facilities, and other similar uses
  - 2. Cemeteries, public utilities, and holding ponds.
- J. Swimming Pool. Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over twenty-four (24) inches deep shall install a fully enclosed fence as required in the municipal code Section 70.00.
- K. Special Purpose Fences. A conditional use permit may be granted by the City for special purpose fences and fences differing in construction, heights or location for the following:
  - 1. Any variations in height in all zoning districts to add architectural design, confine livestock, protect crops or provide additional security.
  - 2. In commercial, industrial and Public/Semi-Public – Facility districts the use of barbed wire on the top one (1) foot of any fence along side or rear lot lines may be constructed of barbed wire. Barbed wire may also be placed on the top one (1) foot of fences in the Industrial or Public/Semi-Public – Facilities districts when fronting a public street and placed five (5) feet off the public right-of-way. Barbed wire shall not be permitted adjacent to any residential districts.

*(Amended: January 11, 2011)*