
ARTICLE X. FENCES

Sec. 18-371. Purpose, intent.

It is the intent and purpose of this article to assure to occupants of all properties adequate light and air adjacent to structures and in yard areas, effective and desirable sight distance from the front of all structures in all directions, the right to provide for their own privacy within their properties, to protect plantings from damage by trespass, and to prevent such construction related thereto as would be hazardous.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.21), 8-16-82)

Sec. 18-372. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Border means a planting area composed of shrubs, trees, etc., which is utilized as a part of the landscaping of a lot.

Decorative fence means a permanent barrier not used for enclosure. Any such fence shall be a part of the overall landscape plan and shall be composed of natural materials such as wood (i.e., split rail fence, picket, etc.) or a decorative metal construction (i.e., aluminum, wrought iron, etc.).

Fence means a permanent barrier enclosing a plot of land or portion thereof composed of manmade or processed materials erected on posts, for the purpose of preventing or controlling entrance or to confine within or to mark a boundary.

Gutter grade means the lowest point of integral curb and gutter down which water flows, or, when no curb or gutter exists, is the lowest point between the street and sidewalk down which water will flow or drain.

Picket fence means a permanent barrier enclosing a plot of land or portion thereof composed of manmade or processed materials erected on posts, for the purpose of preventing or controlling entrance or to confine within or to mark a boundary. A picket fence shall have spaced uprights connected by two or more horizontal rails. The uprights shall not exceed 4 inches in width. The space between uprights shall be a minimum of 2.5 inches and must not exceed 4 inches.

Sidewalk line means the edge of the constructed public sidewalk that is adjacent or closest to the lot line.

Wall means a barrier constructed of masonry or other solid materials on a continuous concrete footing for the purpose of controlling entrance, sound and/or view.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.22), 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2011-02, § 1, 1-17-11)

Cross reference(s)—Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 18-373. Prevention of hazards.

(a) No fence, border or wall shall have exposed beneath a height of eight (8) feet any sharp protrusions which would be likely to cause physical or material damage to persons or clothing passing by the fence, border or wall.

(b) Any wall shall be capped with a peaked coping of sufficient pitch to discourage walking.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.26), 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2011-02, § 1, 1-17-11)

Sec. 18-374. Line fences and walls.

All fences and walls must be located entirely on the private property of the person constructing the same; provided, however, that if adjoining property owners jointly apply for and sign a permit to erect a

fence upon their common property line, such fence may be so erected. No temporary type of barrier or temporary fence of any type shall be permitted in the front yard areas.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.27), 8-16-82)

Sec. 18-375. Electric fences.

It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or maintain, or to allow to be constructed or maintained upon property owned or occupied by such person, any fence charged or connected with an electrical current in such manner as to transmit such current in the form of shock to persons or animals which might come in contact with such charged fence. This shall exclude underground electric pet containment fences.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.28), 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2011-02, § 1, 1-17-11)

Sec. 18-376. Appeals.

If there is believed to be a conflict between the stated intent and any specific provisions of this article, the zoning board of appeals may, in accordance with established procedures, permit modification of such specific provision, while retaining the intent, in such appealed instance.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.29), 8-16-82)

Sec. 18-377. Permits.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, or cause to be constructed, any fence or wall upon any property within the city without first having obtained a permit therefor.
- (b) Any person desiring to construct, or cause to be constructed a fence or wall upon property in the city shall first apply to the building department of the city for a permit, for which there shall be a fee, the amount of which shall be set by resolution of the city commission. Such permit shall be issued by the building inspector upon a written application, and shall contain such information as may be required by the inspector in order to determine that such fence or wall will not violate any provision of the city Code or state law.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.23), 8-16-82)

Sec. 18-378. Establishing lot lines.

The building inspector may require the owner of property upon which a fence is to be constructed to establish lot lines upon such property, through the placing of permanent stakes located by a licensed surveyor. Such lot line shall be established before such fence shall be erected, and the building inspector may withhold the issuance of the required permit until the lot lines are established and permanent stakes are placed.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.30), 8-16-82)

Sec. 18-379. Borders.

Borders may be planted in any yard area subject to the following provisions:

- (1) Borders shall not be located nearer than two feet to any drive or walkway. Borders are also subject to additional restrictions as specified in this section.
- (2) No border shall obscure visibility within the triangular area formed at the intersection of any street right-of-way lines by a straight line drawn between the right-of-way lines at a distance along each line of 25 feet from their point of intersection. Shrubs or hedges or other plantings (excluding trees) in this area shall not exceed 30 inches in height above the average gutter grade adjacent to this area. Trees planted within this same area shall not have branches lower

than eight feet above the average gutter grade. Sight visibility shall be in accordance with Section 78-207 of the Zoning Ordinance.

- (3) Similar restrictions as above shall be required in a 15-foot corner triangle formed at the intersection of any driveway and alley or any driveway and street right-of-way line.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.24), 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2011-02, 1-17-11)

Sec. 18-380. Fences and walls.

- (a) All posts thereof shall be of materials designed to withstand rusting, rotting and other weather-related deterioration for a period of not less than ten years.
- (b) ~~No fence or wall shall be constructed along the street line of a lot closer than one foot from the established sidewalk line. Fences shall be setback a minimum of 1-foot away from the sidewalk line.~~
- (c) Solid masonry walls shall be erected on continuous foundations at least 42 inches below grade.
- (d) Fences or walls within a required front yard area shall be decorative style only consisting of wrought iron, metal, or pickets ~~fences~~ and masonry or stone walls. Decorative fences or walls placed within a front yard shall not exceed 30 inches in height. A decorative fence or wall shall contribute to the identification and beauty of the principal building. Chain link fences are not allowed within a required front yard area.
- (e) Fences on all lots of record in all residential districts which enclose property and/or are within a required side or rear yard shall not exceed six and one-half feet in height, measured from the surface of the ground, and shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the front of the house or the required minimum front yard setback, whichever is greater (see Figure 1). In the case of a rear yard abutting a side yard, the side yard abutting a street shall be a continuation of the required front setback on the lot to the rear, and a 48-inch-tall picket fence may project into this area but shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the front of the house (see Figure 2).

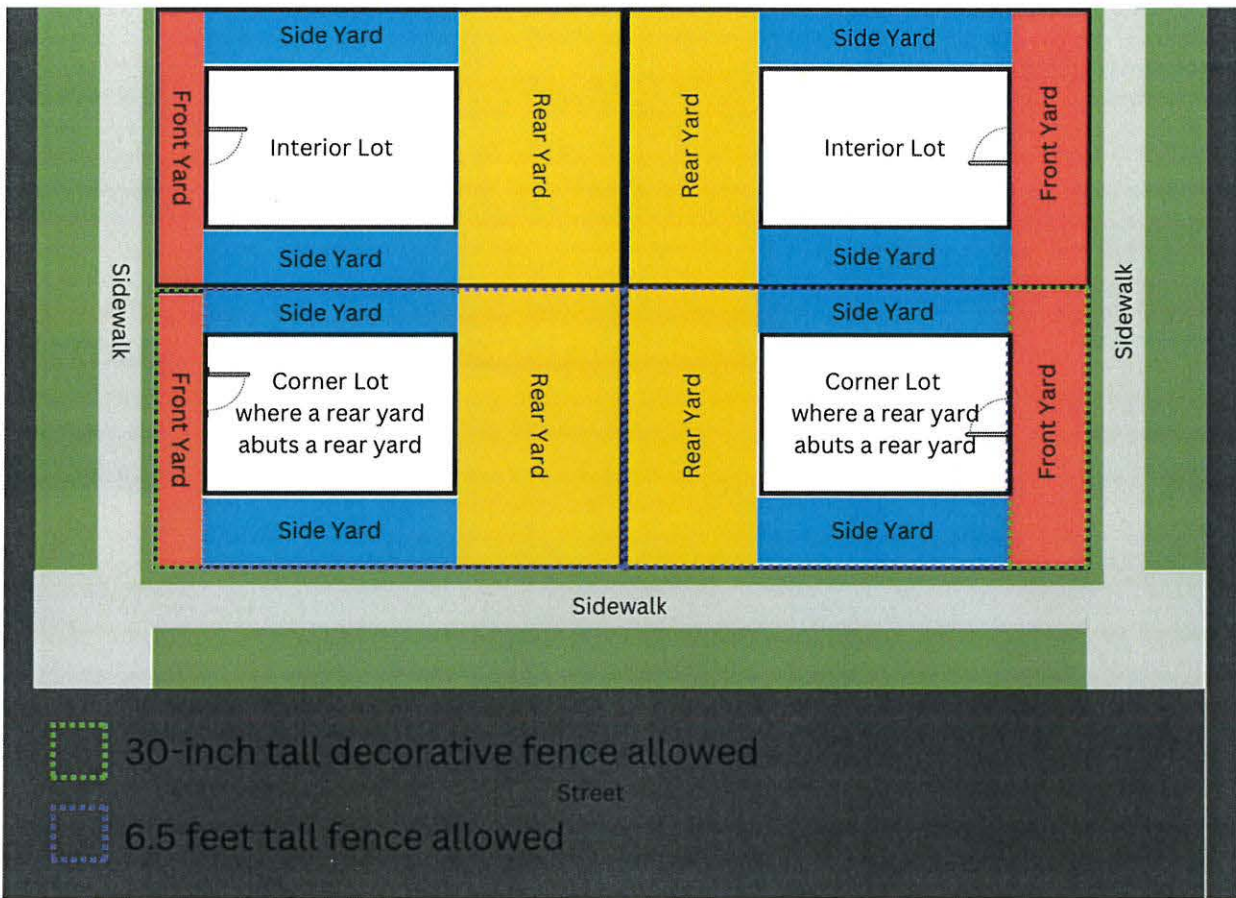


Figure 1.

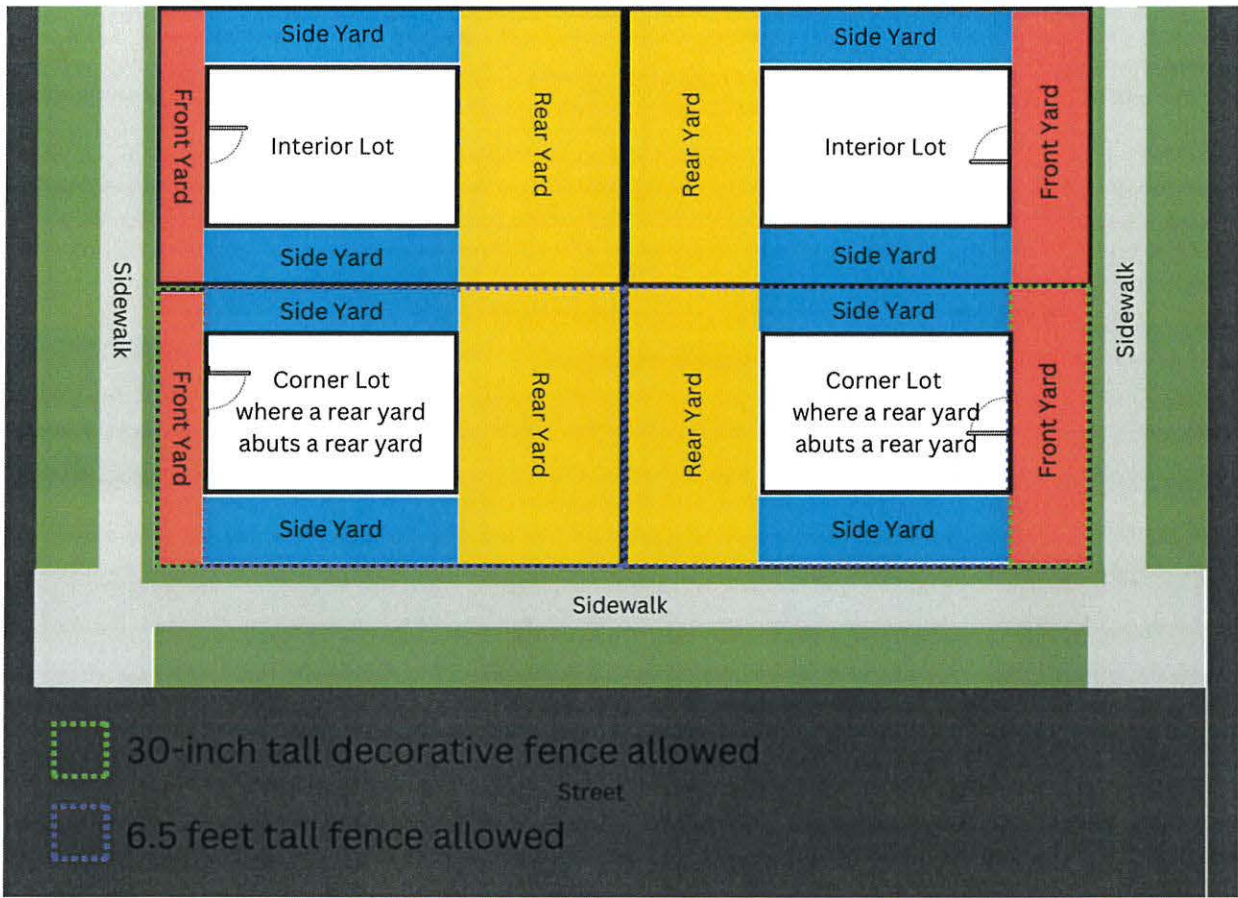


Figure 2.

In residential zoned areas, fences and between lots shall not exceed a height above ground level of more than six and one-half feet, and shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the front of the house or the required minimum front yard, whichever is greater. In the case of a rear yard abutting a side yard, the side yard abutting a street shall be continuation of the required front setback on the lot to the rear, and no fence shall project into this area. When side yards abut on frontages across a common street, the side yard abutting a street shall not be less than the required front yard of the district and no fence shall project into this area (see Figures 1, 2 and 3).

Figure 1. Fence Location

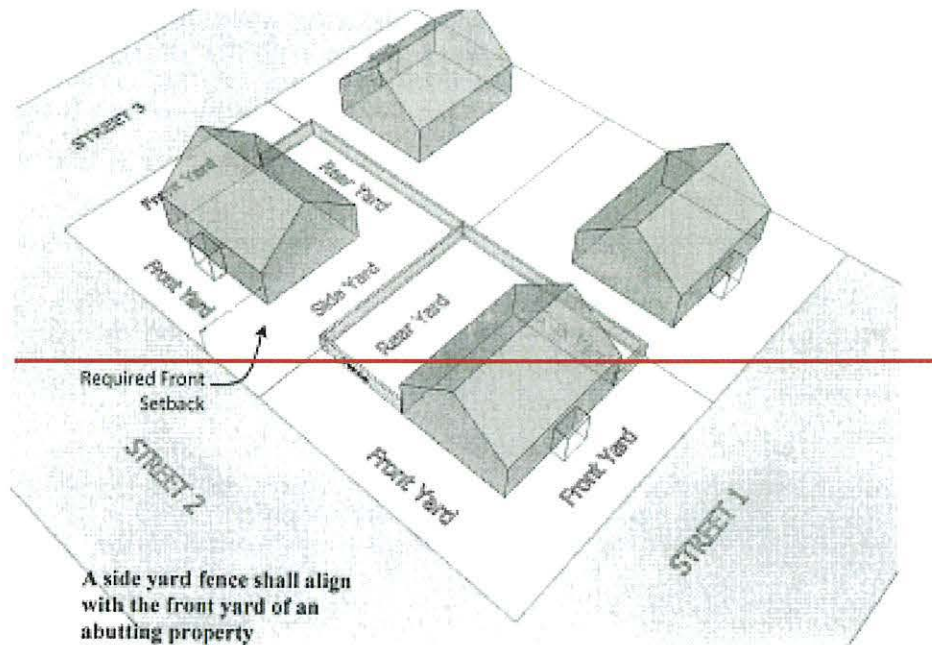


Figure 2.— Fence Location

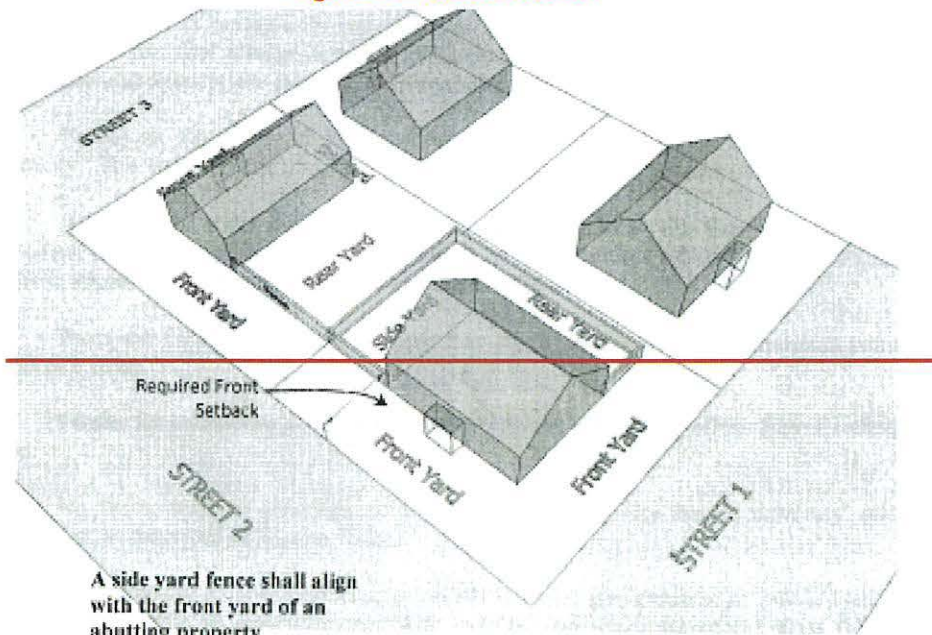
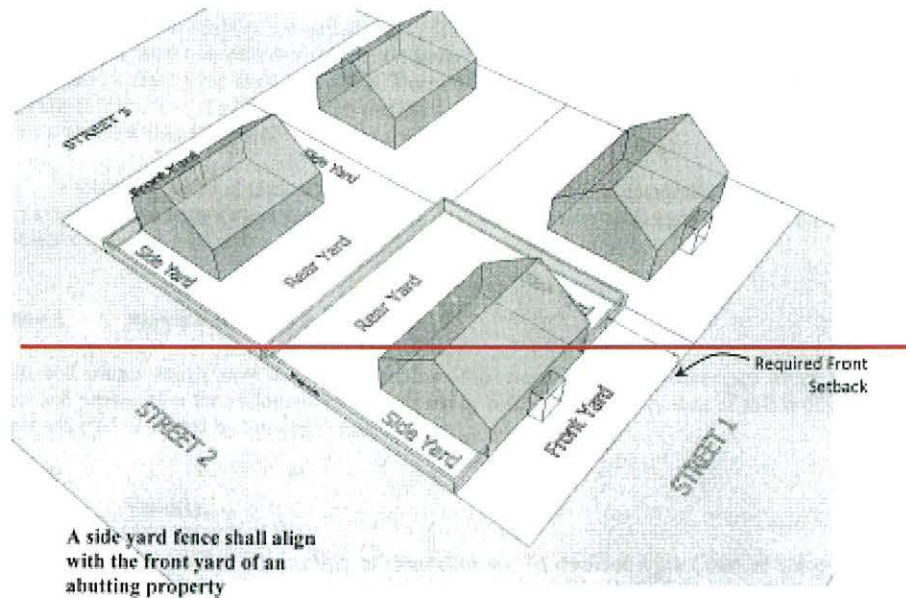


Figure 3.— Fence Location



- (f) ~~for those properties having side yards abutting upon streets, a fence may be constructed from the front building line to within one foot of the front sidewalk line, not to exceed 30 inches in height above gutter grade.~~
- (gf) In business zoned areas, fences and walls should not exceed a height above ground level of more than six and one-half feet. On corner lots, no fence, wall, shrubbery or other obstruction to vision above a height 30 inches from the established street gutter grades shall be permitted within the triangular area forward at the intersection of any street right-of-way lines by a straight line drawn between such right-of-way lines for a distance along each line of 25 feet from their point of intersection.
- (hg) In industrial zoned areas, fences and walls may be constructed up to eight feet in height. On corner lots, no fence, wall, shrubbery or other obstruction to vision above a height of 30 inches from the established street gutter grades shall be permitted within the triangular area formed at the intersection of any street right-of-way lines by a straight line drawn between such right-of-way lines for a distance along each line of 25 feet from their point of intersection. Barbed wire may be installed on the top of such fences on arms or supports over the private property of the owner of the fence at least eight feet above the adjacent grade level.

(Ord. No. 82-11, § 1(8.25), 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2011-02, § 1, 1-17-11)

Secs. 18-381—18-400. Reserved.

Sec. 78-208. Residential fences.

Fences or walls are permitted, subject to the paramount provisions of the City of Plymouth Fence Ordinance (Chapter 18, Building Regulations Article X, Fences 18-371—18-380) and subject to the further provisions of this section. If any of the provisions of this section should conflict with the City of Plymouth Fence Ordinance, ~~the stricter provision shall prevail~~~~such provisions shall be controlling on the question of fences.~~ It is the intent, however, that the following provisions be construed harmoniously with the fence ordinance where possible.

- (1) Fences on all lots of record in all residential districts which enclose property and/or are within a required side or rear yard shall not exceed six and one-half feet in height, measured from the surface of the ground, and shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the front of the house or the required minimum front yard, whichever is greater (see Figure 1). In the case of a rear

yard abutting a side yard, the side yard abutting a street shall be a continuation of the required front setback on the lot to the rear, and a 48-inch-tall picket fence may ~~no fence shall~~ project into this area but shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the front of the house (see Figure 2).

Figure 1.

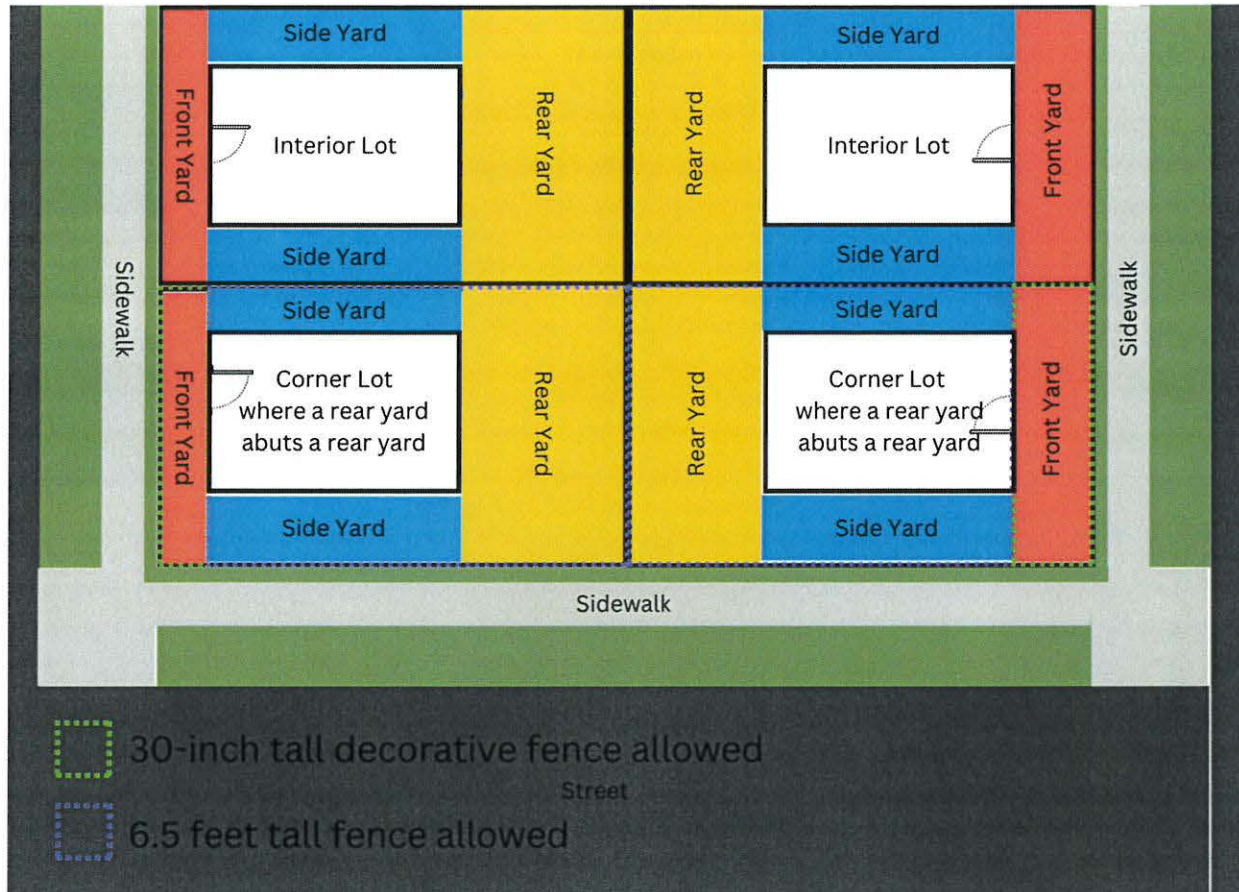
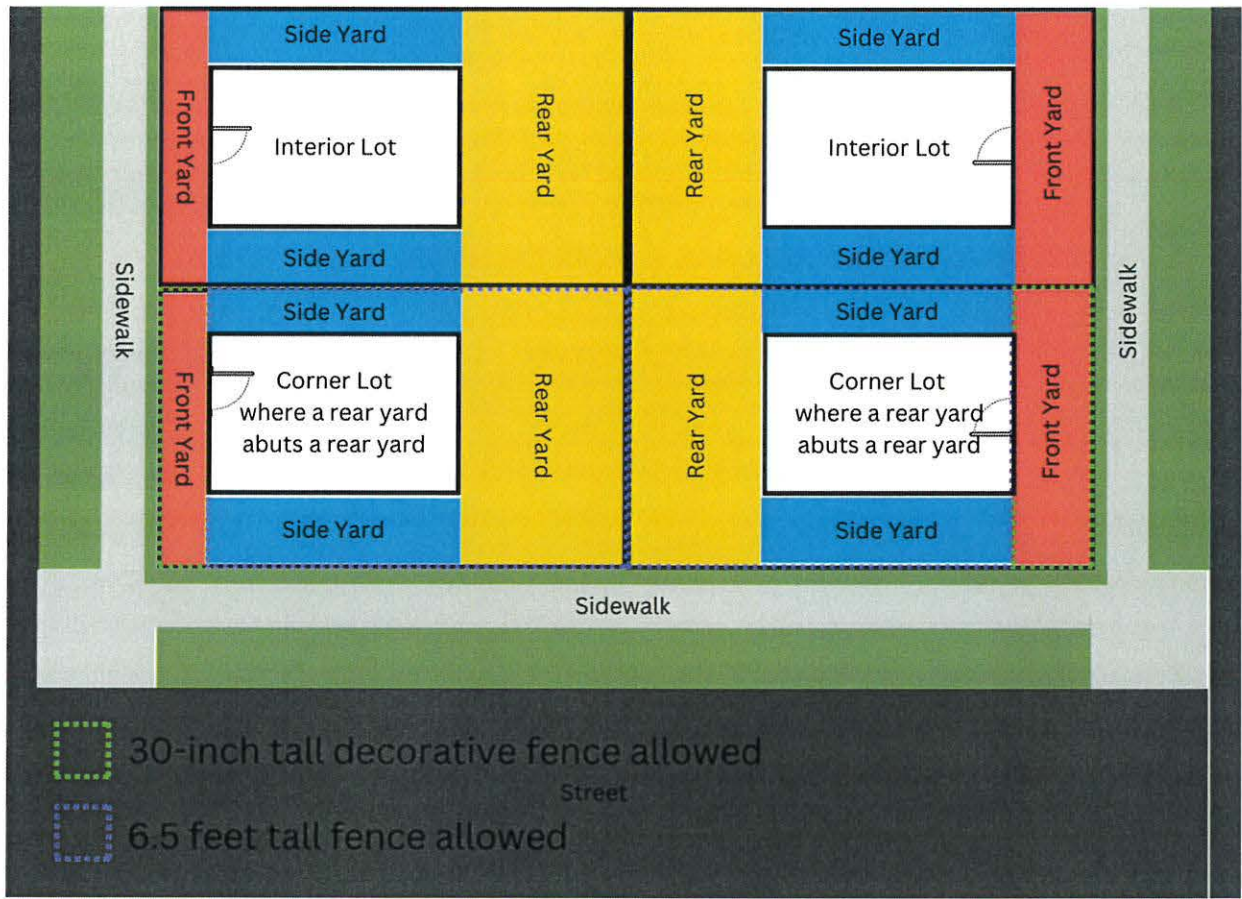


Figure 2.



When side yards abut on frontages across a common street, the side yard abutting a street shall not be less than the required front yard of the district and no fence shall project into this area. (See Figures 1, 2, and 3)

Figure 1. Fence Location

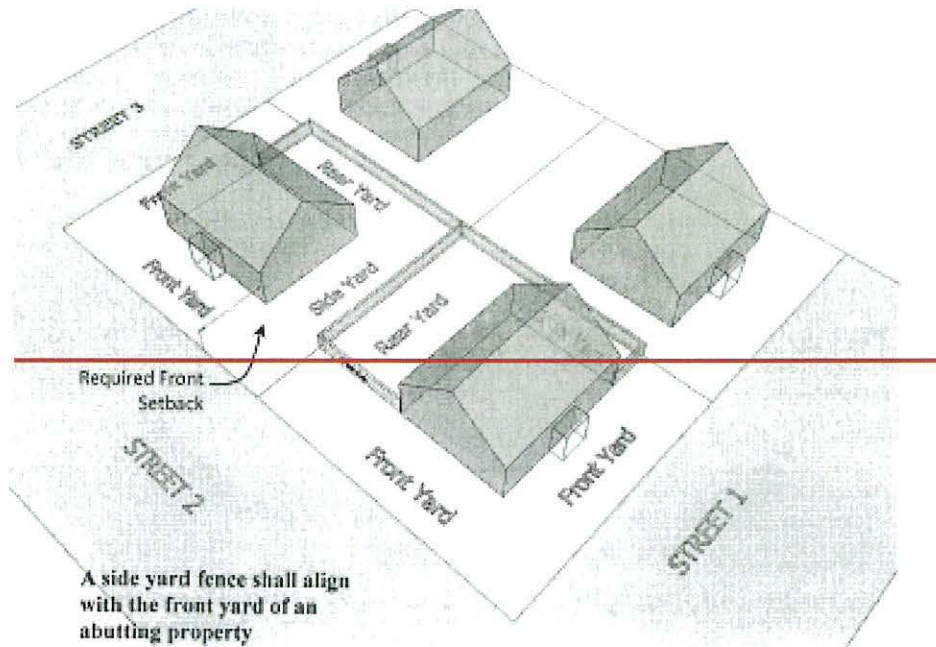


Figure 2. Fence Location

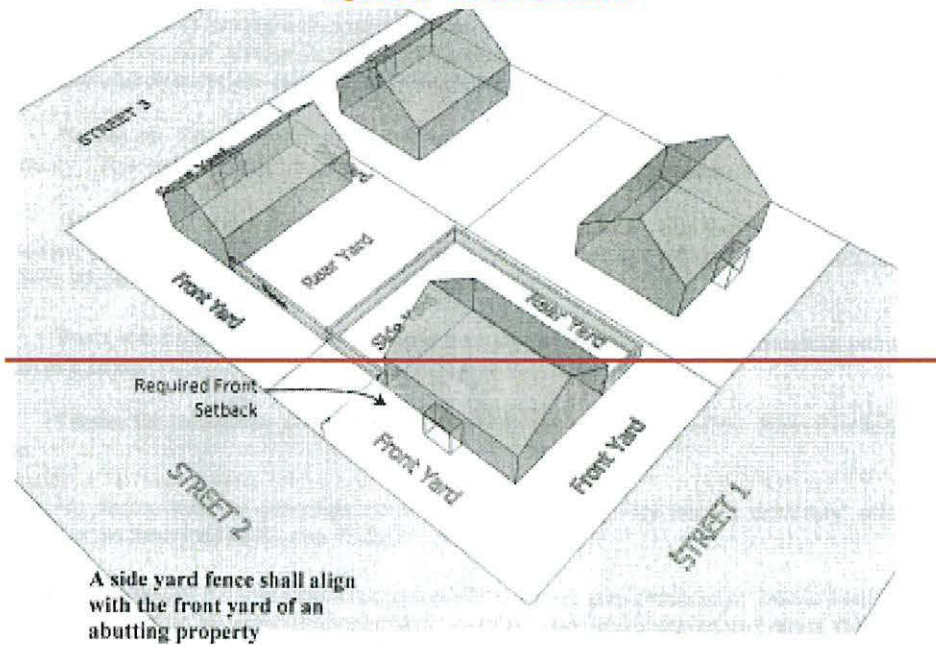
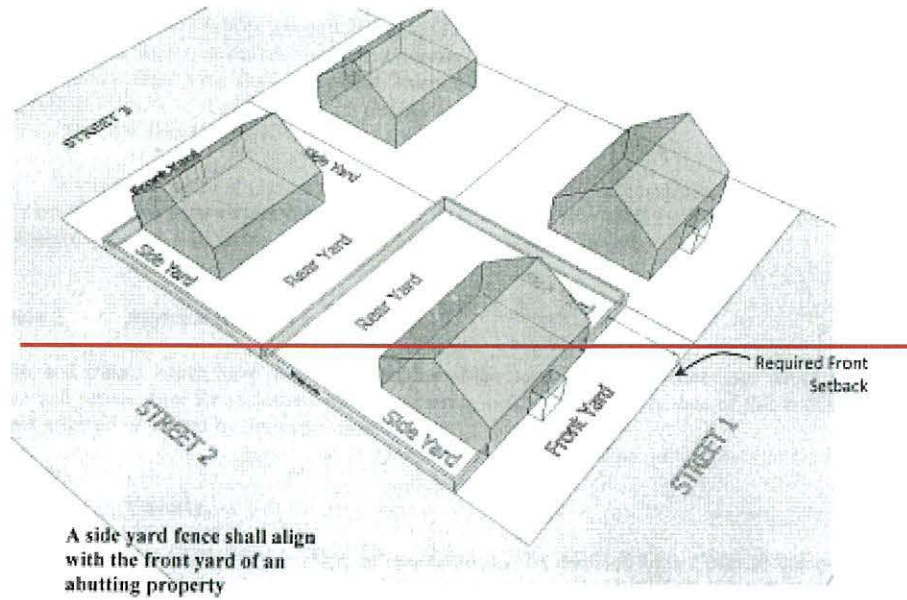


Figure 3. Fence Location



- (2) ~~Recorded lots having a lot area in excess of two acres and a frontage of at least 200 feet, and acreage or parcels not included within the boundaries of a recorded plat, in all residential districts, are excluded from these regulations.~~
- (23) Fences on lots of record shall not contain barbed wire, electric current, or charge of electricity. This shall exclude underground electric fences used for pet containment.
- (34) All fences or walls shall be constructed with the finished side exposed to neighboring properties, the support posts placed on the inside, and in a manner which serves to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood or surrounding area.
- (45) Posts and finials may extend no more than six inches above the maximum permitted height of a fence.
- (56) Fences for swimming pools shall comply with the regulations of the state construction code.
- (67) No fence, wall, or plantings shall interfere with visibility from a driveway, alley or intersection. All fences, walls, or plantings shall comply with the corner clearance requirements of section 78-207.
- (78) Fences which enclose public or institutional parks, playgrounds, or public landscaped areas, situated within an area developed with recorded lots, shall not exceed eight feet in height measured from the surface of the ground, and shall not obstruct vision to an extent greater than 25 percent of their total area.
- (89) Fences or walls within a required front yard area shall be decorative style only consisting of wrought iron, metal, or pickets fences and masonry or stone walls. Decorative fences or walls placed within a front yard shall not exceed 30 inches in height. A decorative fence or wall shall contribute to the identification and beauty of the principal building. Chain link fences are not allowed within a required front yard area.
- (910) Walls constructed of masonry, stone or pre-cast materials and constructed within a side or rear yard shall have a maximum height of 30 inches. This shall exclude screening walls constructed between conflicting land uses as specified in section 78-206.

(Ord. of 10-6-03; Ord. No. 2011-03, § 2, 1-17-11)

Sec. 78-209. Industrial fences.

Fences are permitted in industrial districts as follows:

- (1) Fences shall not be allowed within the front yard of any industry on sites of less than ten acres in size. Fences may be allowed in front yards of sites of ten acres or more after review and approval of the planning commission.
- (2) Fences not to exceed eight feet in height shall be permitted in side and rear yards. Barbed wire shall be allowed on fences not less than eight feet in height in not more than three strands mounted in a "Y" at the top of the fence and shall be permitted provided such "Y" is located to project over the property being fenced.

(Ord. of 10-6-03)