


City of Fort Dodge—Fence & Hedge Regulations

This fence information is a summary of the Supplementary District regulations of the City of Fort Dodge's Zoning Ordinance. You can view the full Supplementary District regulations on the City's website at <https://www.fortdodgeiowa.org/departments/division.php?structureid=47> (see Section 17.08.01.1 of the Zoning Ordinance). If you have fence/hedge height or zoning district designation questions for a specific property in Fort Dodge, please contact the Business Affairs & Community Growth Office at bacg@fortdodgeiowa.org or at (515) 576-4551.

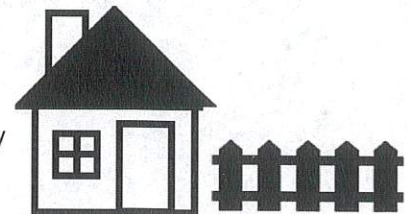
General Regulations

1. Barbed wire is prohibited, unless the following apply: 
 - ⇒ It is required by State or Federal law;
 - ⇒ The property is zoned Light Industrial, Heavy Industrial, or Agricultural **AND** the property is situated outside of the Overlay District **AND** there is no residential use/district adjacent **AND** the barbed wire portion is installed to a height of at least 6' above ground.
2. Manmade earth berms, terraces, and retaining walls that elevate a fence shall be considered as part of the fence and hedge height.
3. If you live on a corner lot, please contact the Business Affairs & Community Growth Office to determine allowable fence and hedge height requirements near your intersection. Driver visibility is important! The Business Affairs & Community Growth Office will use AASHTO's *Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* to make a height determination near the intersection.
4. A Building Permit is only required for fencing that is taller than 7' — see applicable fence height requirement sections.
5. All fencing and hedges installed must be placed back on private property. No portion is allowed to project into public right-of-way areas.
6. The finished side of the fence must face the exterior of the lot for which the fence is being placed.
7. Confirming property lines, buried utilities, easements, and private restrictive covenants is strictly the responsibility of the owner and/or contractor. Prior to the placement, please check all private restrictive covenants to verify the size, type, and intended materials are acceptable and allowed for your property.

Residential Fence and Hedge Requirements

Allowable fence and hedge height requirements in residential districts:

- ⇒ Up to 4' in front yard areas (unless more restrictive corner property visibility requirements apply—see #3 above).
- ⇒ Up to 7' tall in secondary front yards **ONLY** if situated behind the rear plane of the house **AND** only if there is no building situated on the lot adjacent to the fencing.
- ⇒ Up to 7' tall in side and rear yards.
- ⇒ Up to 7' tall in rear frontages of through lots only if the majority of the homes on the same block have rear frontages facing the same street as your property.
- ⇒ See illustrations on the following page for yard determinations and fence/hedge height requirements.

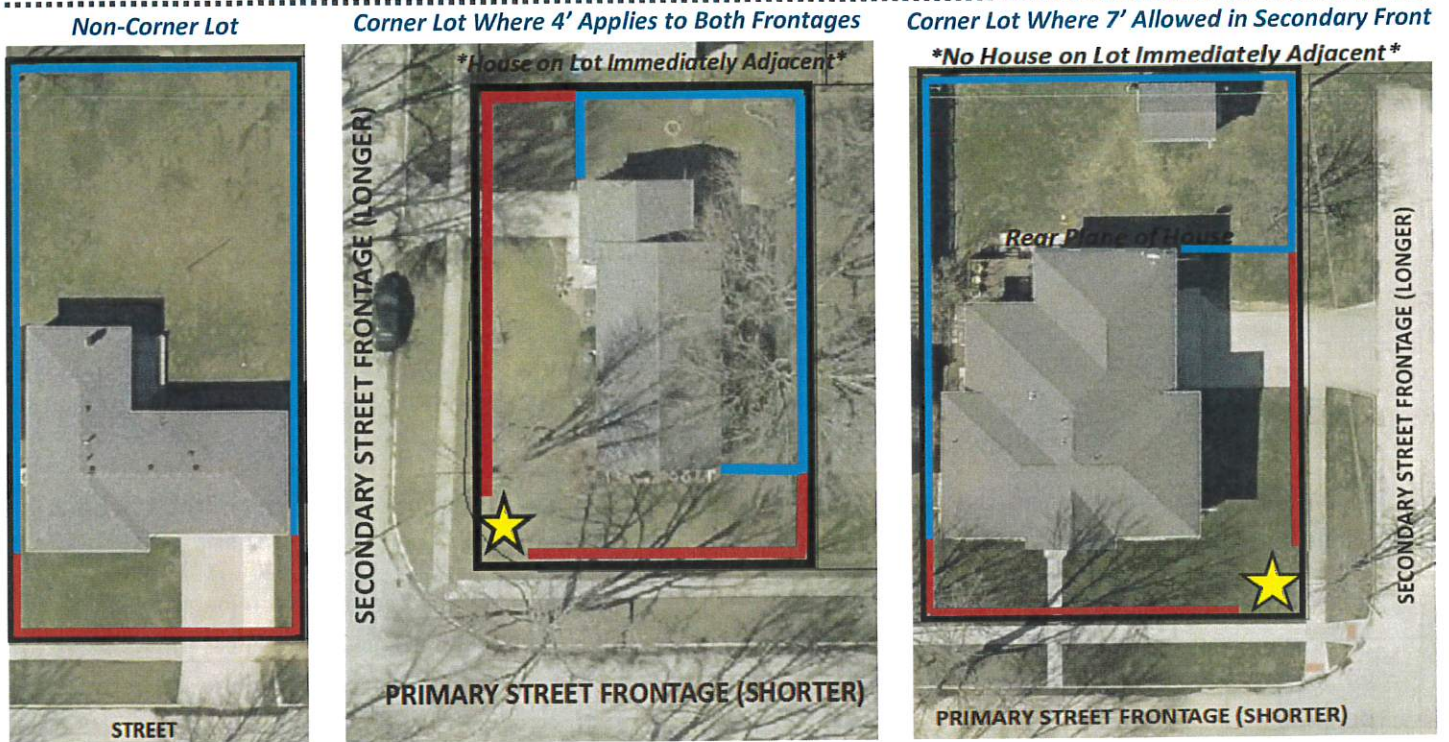


Before you dig, please call 1-800-292-8989 (Iowa One Call) for locates. It typically takes 24-48 hours to be completed. Required by State Law.

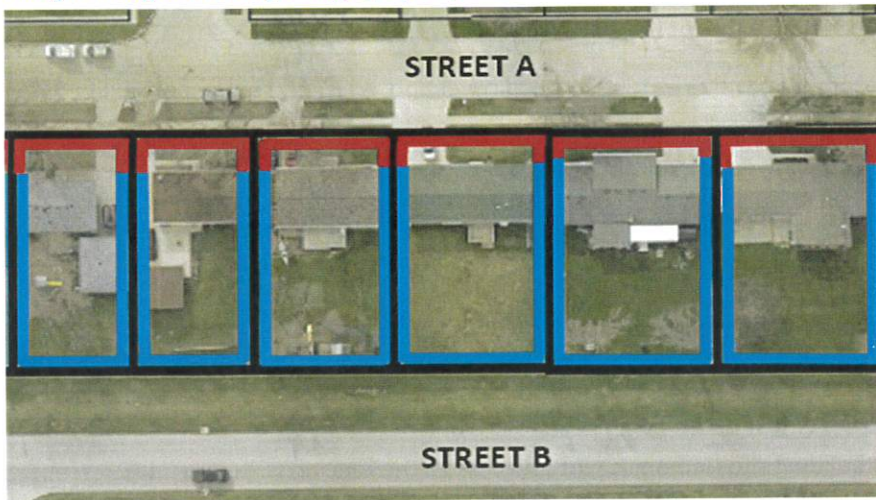


Residential Fence and Hedge Requirements—Illustrations

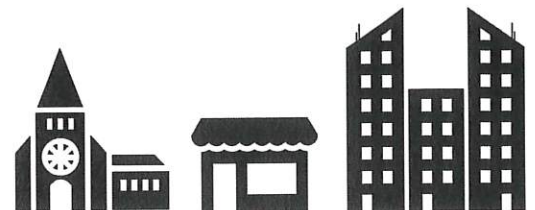
Key: █ = Maximum Height is 4'; █ = Maximum Height is 7'; ★ = Street Intersection Area—Contact City Hall for Height
All fencing and hedges must be placed back on private property.



Through Lot—a through lot is a lot having a pair of opposite lot lines along two parallel streets. Below is a through lot scenario where all front doors of houses face Street A—because of this, homes are allowed to have up to 7' tall fencing/hedges along their rear frontage property lines.



My property sits on a corner lot. How do I know which one of my street frontages is considered the secondary frontage vs. the primary frontage? The secondary frontage is always the property line adjacent to the longest street dimension, unless your lot is square or almost square. If your lot is square or almost square (dimensions of 4:3 to 4:4), then the front or secondary front yard area may face either street. The Business Affairs & Community Growth Office can help in determining whether or not a lot is square/almost square.



Non-Residential Fence and Hedge Requirements

Commercial and industrial uses may have up to 10' tall fencing/hedges in side and rear yard areas. These same uses may have up to 7' tall fencing/hedges in front, secondary front, and rear frontage areas, unless located in an Overlay District—if located in an Overlay, then the maximum front yard height allowed is 4'. Schools, civic uses, and places of religious assembly may have up to 7' tall fencing/hedges in front, secondary front, rear, and rear frontage areas, unless located in an Overlay District—if located in an Overlay District, then the maximum front yard height allowed is 4'. Corner visibility height requirements explained under General Regulations on the previous page apply to all residential and non-residential uses. A building permit is required for all fencing taller than 7'.