



# FENCE HANDOUT

## City of River Falls Inspection Department

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### Municipal Code Section 17.08.030

**Building Permit:** Building permit is not required for fence construction but home owner must comply with codes.

#### **Fence & Wall Height**

- A fence or wall up to six feet in height may be erected **within** the rear lot line, side lot lines and return to the front corner of the principal building.
- A fence or wall not exceeding three feet may be erected within the side lot lines and across front yards forward of the front corners of the principle building in residential areas.
- No fence or wall shall be closer than five feet from the rear lot line where an alley exists.
- Any wall retaining more than three feet of earth shall not be allowed unless certified computations prepared by a professional engineer are provided to the city engineer.
- A terraced wall retaining no more than six feet of earth may be erected without providing engineering computations if the height of any individual wall does not exceed three feet and individual walls are spaced one and one-half the height of the highest individual wall.
- If a retaining wall exceeds three feet, a three-foot barrier fence shall be placed along the top of the wall, excluding low density residential.

#### **Fence Maintenance & Construction**

- Fences may be wood, concrete, block, stone, steel, chain link or plantings or other ornamental materials **with the finished side facing out**. Such fences shall be **kept in** good repair, painted, trimmed and well maintained.

#### **Vision Clearance Triangle**

- A vision clearance triangle shall be established at each corner of intersection streets in order to provide adequate sight distance. See Figures 1 thru 3 in Municipal Code Section [17.08.030\(D\)](#).
- The vision clearance shall be considered three-dimensional beginning thirty (30) inches above the top of curbs and ending nine feet above the top of curbs.

#### **Access and Use of Utility Easements**

- No fence or hedge shall interfere with the free access and use of any utility easement. A gate opening for utility and emergency personnel shall be provided where no other reasonable access is provided.  
**Note:** Fences in drainage easements may be allowed with approval from the Engineering Department, 715-426-3412.

**Call Digger's Hotline at 1-800-242-8511 at least three working days prior to beginning any digging. This list is not all inclusive.**

**If you have any questions, please call the Zoning Administrator at 715-426-3424.**