

Residential Fencing Requirements

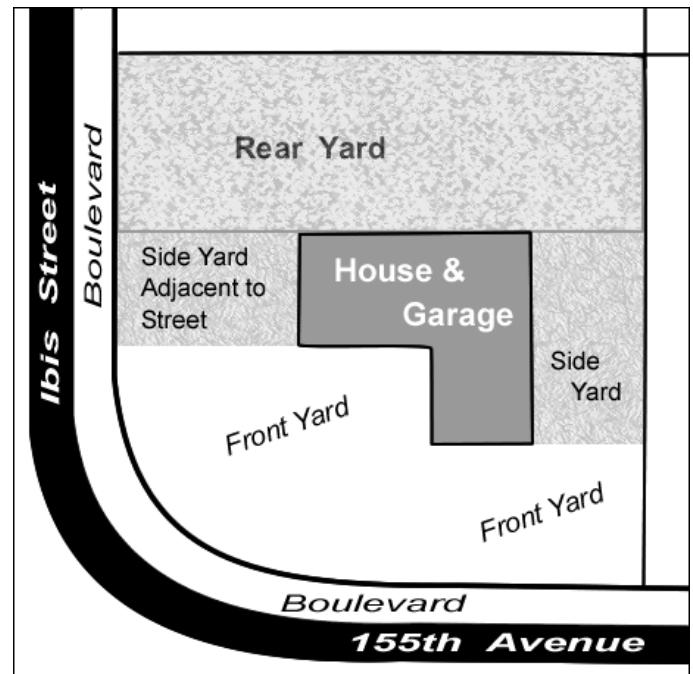
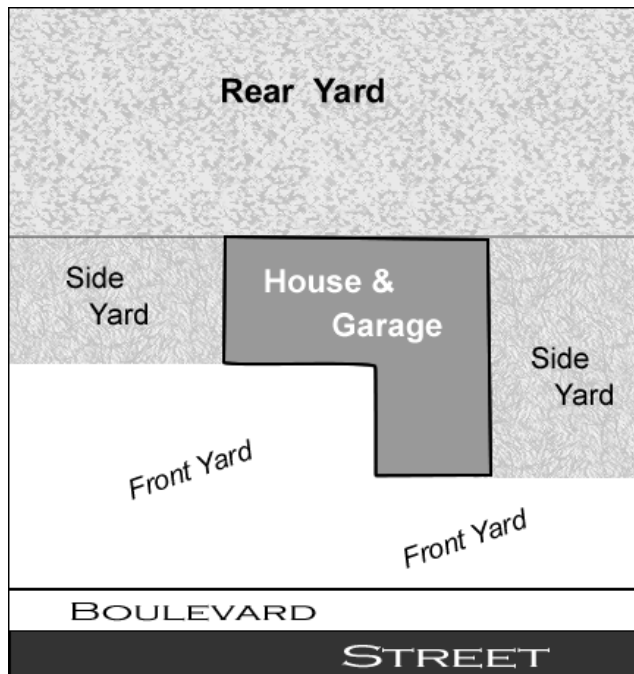
This handout is provided to assist property owners in the process of constructing a fence on their property. It is important to become familiar with the standards for fences to ensure that they are properly located. If you have any questions related to fence location or construction, please contact City Hall.

BEFORE YOU START:

- **Permits-** A permit is required to build a fence or retaining wall that is in, on, or near any property line, easement or wetland. The fence/retaining wall permit application is available at City Hall or on the City's website under the links "City Departments" "Engineering." Contact the City Engineering Department for details.
- **Covenants-** The City of Andover does not enforce private fence covenants. You should contact your homeowners association or the developer to determine if there are private covenants regulating fencing in your neighborhood.
- **Property Lines-** It is the property owner's responsibility to determine property lines prior to installing a fence. You can locate your property lines using a Certificate of Survey of your property and a metal detector (if necessary) to find your property irons, or a private surveyor can locate them for you.
- **Gopher State One Call-** Before you start digging, you must contact Gopher State One Call to determine if there are any underground utilities or private utility easements on your property. This can be done on the web at www.gopherstateonecall.org or by calling 651-454-0002.

MAXIMUM FENCE HEIGHT:

- Rear and side yard-6 feet.
- Front yard-4 feet (ornamentals up to 6 feet may be allowed in certain zoning districts; see City Code 12-7 (Fences and Walls) for details)).



Where you CAN place your fence:

- On your property up to the property lines, except as listed below.

Where you CANNOT place your fence:

- In drainage and utility easements where utilities are located or where access is needed by the City (Vehicle Maintenance Access); (see the "Easement Restrictions" handout for more information).
- In wetlands, ponds or open water; for lots 2.5 acres or greater, encroachment into these areas may be allowed; see City Code 12-7 for details.
- In the City boulevard, County right-of-way and in the case of corner lots, inside the **CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLE**. To find the sight triangle, locate your property pins at each end of the radial curve and measure two feet back along your property line; connect these two points. (See the "Boulevard Restrictions" handout for more information).

CONSTRUCTION:

- All fences must be constructed in a workmanlike manner.
- All posts and braces must face inward, with the "finished" side facing adjoining property or streets.
- All fences must be constructed of materials widely accepted in the fencing industry. No plywood, canvas, plastic sheeting, metal sheeting, barbed wire, chicken wire or similar material shall be used for any fence construction. No fence shall have planks, panels or boards wider than twelve inches (12"). If you are unsure, please call the City and ask.
- Chain link fences must be constructed so as to have the barbed end at the bottom of the fence.

MAINTENANCE:

- All fences must be maintained in good condition and vertical position. Any missing, incomplete or deteriorated sections of fencing material or structural elements must be replaced in a timely manner with the same material and workmanship.
- All wood surfaces, other than decay resistant woods, must be protected from the elements and decay by a protective covering or treatment. If 25% of the surface is peeling, cracked, chipped, blistered, grayed or weathered beyond effectiveness, the exterior surface must be refinished. (This applies to both sides of the fence- if this means going on someone else's property, be sure to get their permission first!)

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- This handout is a summary of the City Code. For complete regulations, please see City Code 12-7 (Fences and Walls).
- If you fail to meet the requirements for fence construction or maintenance, you may be required to remove your fence at your cost.
- You must submit a fence permit application and receive approval BEFORE you begin work on your fence. Please call City Hall if you have any questions.