

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH  
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-04**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE PLYMOUTH CITY CODE,  
ZONING ORDINANCE, REGARDING TRAFFIC SIGHT VISIBILITY  
AS RELATES TO FENCING AND PLANTINGS (2020 094)**

THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** Amendment. Section 21005.02 of the Plymouth City Code (RULES AND DEFINITIONS—DEFINITIONS) is amended by changing the following definition as follows:

Fence Related:

(a) “Fence” shall mean a partition, wall, hedge, row(s) of continuous plantings, or gate erected as a dividing marker, visual or physical barrier, or enclosure.

(1) “Man made fence” shall mean a partition or wall constructed of wood, metal, masonry, brick, stone, concrete, and the like.

(2) “Natural hedge or planting” shall mean a divider or barrier comprised of vegetation materials.

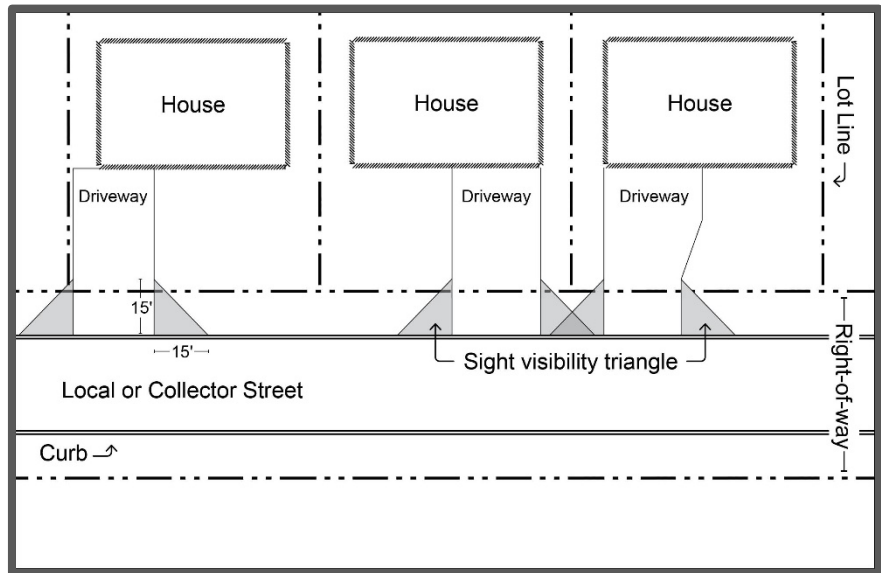
(b) “Fence height” shall mean the distance from the adjacent finished grade to the highest projection of a fence structure **including support posts.**

**Section 2.** Amendment. Section 21105.05 of the Plymouth City Code (GENERAL BUILDING AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS—Traffic Sight Visibility) is amended as follows:

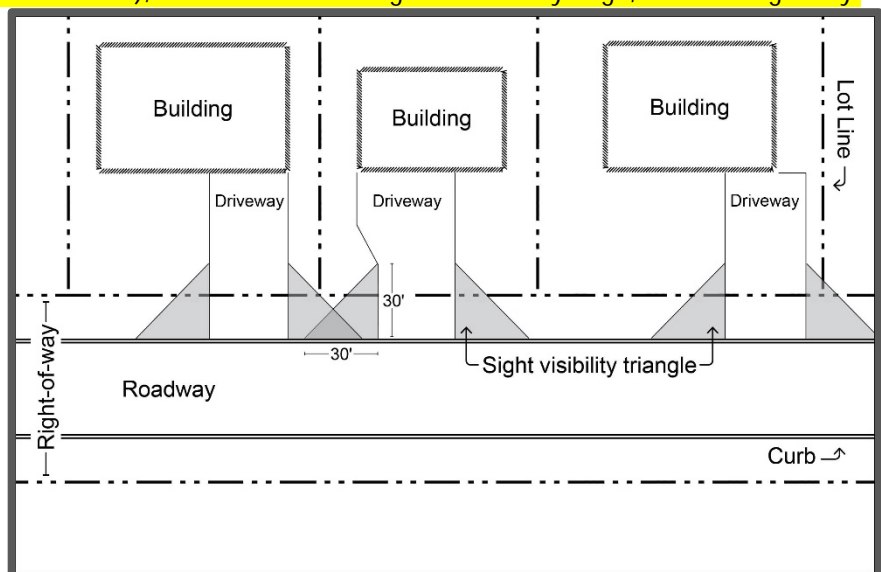
21105.05. TRAFFIC SIGHT VISIBILITY: **Fencing, walls, trees, shrubs, vegetation, and other structures or obstructions shall not be placed upon, or extend into, any yard areas or rights-of-way as follows:**

**Subd. 1. Visibility Triangles – Driveways for Single- and Two-Family Uses.**

(a) Visibility from driveways to a local or collector street, as identified on Figure 6-1 of the Comprehensive Plan, shall be unobstructed between a height of 3.5 feet and 8 feet above grade (as measured along the driveway elevation), within triangular areas described as beginning at the point where driveway edges meet the street curb (or street pavement in the absence of a curb), thence 15 feet along the driveway edge, thence diagonally to a point 15 feet from the point of beginning along the street curb (or edge of street pavement in the absence of a curb). The owner of the property where any fence, wall, tree, shrubbery, vegetation, or other feature is proposed shall keep such obstructions out of the visibility triangles for their driveway and out of the visibility triangle for driveways on directly-abutting properties. The exception to the regulations in this subsection shall be where there is a mailbox and/or plantings within the visibility triangle that do not result in obstructions totaling more than three feet in width. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of public right-of-way for installation of fencing, walls, or plantings. The regulations contained in this Section shall not apply to conditions that legally existed prior to the effective date of this Chapter unless the City determines that such conditions constitute a traffic safety hazard.



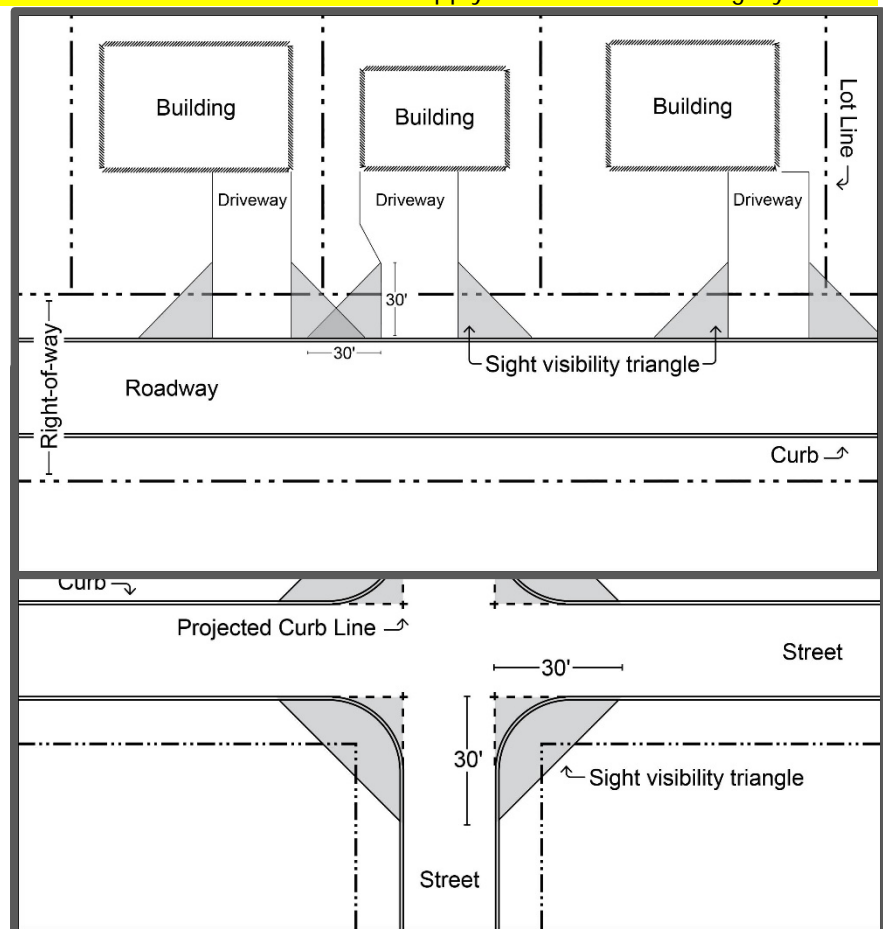
(b) Visibility from driveways to an arterial roadway, as identified on Figure 6-1 of the Comprehensive Plan, shall be unobstructed between a height of 3.5 feet and 8 feet above grade (as measured along the driveway elevation), within triangular areas described as beginning at the point where driveway edges meet the street curb (or street pavement in the absence of a curb), thence 30 feet along the driveway edge, thence diagonally to a point 30 feet from the point of beginning along the street curb (or edge of street pavement in the absence of a curb). The owner of the property where any fence, wall, tree, shrubbery, vegetation, or other feature is proposed shall keep such obstructions out of the visibility triangles



for their driveway and out of the visibility triangle for driveways on directly-abutting properties. The exception to the regulations in this subsection shall be where there is a mailbox, plantings, or other features within the visibility triangle that do not result in obstructions totaling more than three feet in width. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of public right-of-way for installation of fencing, walls, or plantings. The regulations contained in this Section shall not apply to conditions that legally existed prior to the effective date of this Chapter unless the City, or the County or State transportation department, determines that such conditions constitute a traffic safety hazard.

Subd. 2. Visibility Triangles – Driveways for Uses Other Than Single- or Two-Family Use. Visibility from driveways to any street/roadway shall be unobstructed between a height of 3.5 feet and 8 feet above grade (as measured along the driveway elevation), within triangular areas described as beginning at the point where driveway edges meet the street/roadway curb (or road bed including any shoulder in the absence of a curb), thence 30 feet along the driveway edge, thence diagonally to a point 30 feet from the point of beginning along the street/roadway curb (or edge of road bed including any shoulder in the absence of a curb). The owner of the property where any fence, wall, tree, shrubbery, vegetation, or other feature is proposed shall keep such obstructions out of the visibility triangles for their driveway and out of the visibility triangle for driveways on directly-abutting properties. The exception to the regulations in this subsection shall be where there is a mailbox, plantings, and/or other features within the visibility triangle that do not result in obstructions totaling more than three feet in width. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of public right-of-way for installation of fencing, walls, plantings, or other features. The regulations contained in this Section shall not apply to conditions that legally existed prior to the effective date of this Chapter unless the City, or the County or State transportation department, determines that such conditions constitute a traffic safety hazard.

Subd. 3. Visibility Triangle -- Street/Roadway Intersections. Except for a governmental agency for the purposes of screening or noise attenuation, visibility at corner lots where two or more streets/roadways intersect shall be unobstructed between a height of 3.5 feet and 8 feet above grade (as measured along the elevation of the lowest abutting segment of street/roadway), within a triangular area described as



beginning at a point where the projected curb lines (or projected road bed lines including any shoulder in the absence of curbing) intersect, thence 30 feet along one street/roadway, thence diagonally to a point 30 feet from the point of beginning along the other street/roadway. The exception to the regulations in this subsection shall be where there are plantings and/or other features within the visibility triangle that do not result in obstructions totaling more than three feet in width. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of public right-of-way for installation of fencing, walls, plantings, or other features. The regulations contained in this Section shall not apply to conditions that legally existed prior to the effective date of this Chapter unless the City, or the County or State transportation department, determines that such conditions constitute a traffic safety hazard.

**Section 3.** Amendment. Section 21130.01, Subd. 5 (e) of the Plymouth City Code (FENCING/SCREENING/LANDSCAPING—FENCE/WALL REGULATIONS) is amended as follows:

(e) No fence or wall shall be located within a traffic sight visibility triangle for a driveway or street intersection unless it complies with the sight clearance regulations set forth in Section 21105.05 of this Chapter.

**Section 4.** Amendment. Section 21130.01, Subd. 5 (f) of the Plymouth City Code (FENCING/SCREENING/LANDSCAPING—FENCE/WALL REGULATIONS) is amended as follows:

(f) There is no height restriction on plantings, except that any plantings located within or near a traffic sight visibility triangle shall comply with the sight clearance regulations set forth in Section 21105.05 of this Chapter.

**Section 5.** Amendment. Section 21130.03, Subd. 2 (e) (1) of the Plymouth City Code (FENCING/SCREENING/LANDSCAPING—REQUIRED FENCING, SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING) is amended as follows:

(1) Plant material centers shall not be located closer than three feet from the fence line or property line, and any plantings located within or near a traffic sight visibility triangle shall comply with the sight clearance regulations set forth in Section 21105.05 of this Chapter.

**Section 6.**            Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its passage.

APPROVED by the City Council on this 23rd day of February, 2021.

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Jeffry Wosje, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sandra R. Engdahl, City Clerk