

**ORDINANCE 2025-002 OF THE TOWN OF LAWRENCE, WISCONSIN
TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ORDINANCE SECTION 300-14– Fence, Walls and Berms**

Purpose: The purpose of this Ordinance is to repeal and replace the current code regarding fences.

The Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Lawrence do ordain as follows:

Section 1: Town of Lawrence Ordinance Section 300-14 is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows:

§ 300-14. Fences, walls and berms.

A. Fence permit.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, or replace a fence in the Town without first obtaining a fence permit and complying in all respects with the terms and conditions of this section.

(2) To obtain a permit required, the applicant shall first file an application for permit on a form furnished by the Building Inspector.

(3) A set of plans and such other data as deemed necessary by the Building Inspector shall be submitted with each application for a permit. Plans shall be drawn to scale and shall include the following:

- (a) Building locations and area to be fenced.
- (b) Height of fence and type of materials to be used.
- (c) Intersections of streets, roads, highways, alleys and driveways.
- (d) Corner visibility range shall be shown when required.

(4) The application, plans and other data filed by an applicant for a permit shall be reviewed by the Building Inspector. If the work described in a permit application conforms to all the requirements of this section and all other pertinent laws and ordinances, and the fees specified in the Town Fee Schedule have been paid, the permit shall be issued to the applicant.

(5) Every permit issued by the Building Inspector shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the authorized work is not commenced within 60 days from the date of permitting or if the authorized work is not completed for a period of 60 days.

(6) The Building Inspector may suspend or revoke a permit under the provisions of this section whenever a permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect information supplied or in violation of any code or ordinance of the Town.

A fence permit is not required for the following, provided that said fence does not in any way interfere with traffic visibility or block, redirect or cause a drainage problem for the adjacent or downstream properties:

(a) Fifty percent or less of an existing fence is being replaced and no changes are made to the fence size or materials.

(b) A snow fence, provided that it is removed between May 1 and November 1 of each year. No snow fence shall extend into the street right-of-way without approval from the Town of Lawrence Board of Supervisors.

(c) Agricultural/farm fences limited to agricultural zoned properties.

(d) Decorative fences not exceeding two feet in height.

(e) Underground electrical fences or invisible fencing.

(f) Garden fences.

B. Location and height restrictions.

(1) A fence or wall may be erected, placed, or maintained along a lot line on residentially zoned property or adjacent thereto to a height not exceeding six feet above the ground level. No fence or wall which is located in a required front or corner side yard shall exceed a height of three feet. In a required rear yard, the height of fences or walls shall not exceed six feet.

(2) No fence or wall shall be erected, placed, or maintained along a lot line on any non-residentially zoned property, adjacent to residentially zoned property, to a height exceeding six feet.

(3) In any district, no fence or wall shall be erected, constructed, maintained or grown to a height exceeding three feet above the street grade nearest thereto within 25 feet of the intersection of any street lines or street lines projected, or to any height of less than three feet if it is determined by the Town's Building Inspector that such a height interferes with safe, clear visual distance along any roadway.

Electrically charged fence. No fence erected or constructed shall be electrically charged in any manner on any property with the exception of property located in the Agricultural or Agricultural-Farmland Preservation Zoning District unless approved by the Town of Lawrence Planning and Zoning Board and the Town Board. Exception: An electrically charged fence is allowed for the purpose of fencing in a garden to keep out wild animals, provided that the fence is a minimum of five feet from the lot line.

D.

Use of barbed wire.

(1) No fence shall be constructed of barbed wire in any zoning district except for the following:

(a) On property zoned A-1 Agricultural or AG-FP Agricultural-Farmland Preservation.

(b) On property zoned ER Estate Residential in conjunction with a conditional use permit.

(c) On property used for outside storage, zoned B-1 Business/Commercial, LI Limited Industrial, GI General Industrial or PD Planned Development and with approval from the Planning and Zoning Board and Town Board.

(2) In A-1 Agricultural, AG-FP Agricultural-Farmland Preservation, B-1 Business/Commercial, LI Limited Industrial, GI General Industrial or PD Planned Development Zoning Districts, fences six feet or greater in height may be constructed with angle arms at the top and such angle arms may be armed with barbed wire. Such arms shall not extend over adjacent property, including public or private property, Town, county or state rights-of-way, or on private or public easements.

E. Fence gate. All fences shall have a minimum of one gate for emergency ingress/egress. The minimum width of such gate shall be three feet.

Fence materials.

(1) All fence material shall be of new material. Fence materials permitted are wood, metal tubing, wrought iron, stone, masonry, and chain link. Vinyl or fiberglass composite materials may be utilized if the material is listed, designed and constructed for fencing materials. Metal posts will be allowed on wood fences.

(2) No person shall use rope, string, wire products, including but not limited to chicken wire, hog wire, wire fabric, barbed wire (except as allowed in other subsections of this section), razor ribbon, wire and similar welded or woven wire fabrics, chain, netting, cut or broken glass, paper, metal panels, corrugated metal panels, galvanized sheet metal, plywood, fiberglass panels or plastic panes in any fence or any other materials that are not manufactured specifically as fencing materials. The Building Inspector may require the applicant to provide the manufacturer's standards to establish the intended use of a proposed fence material.

(3) No person shall construct a fence of wood, metal, or plastic products that are designed specifically for other than fence construction.

(4) No person shall construct a fence of damaged, used or unsafe materials. Used fencing material may be used if it is determined by the Building Inspector that the material meets the requirement of new material.

(5) No person shall weave or use slats of any material, including but not limited to metal, fiberglass, or bamboo, through a chain link fence to create a blind fence, screening fence or any other type of fence addressed in this section unless approved by or required by the Town Planning and Zoning Board and Town Board.

(6) There shall be no fence painted or made with bright or fluorescent-type colors.

G. Swimming pools. Swimming pools shall have a fence which complies with § 300-23 of this chapter.

H. Installation. Fences shall be installed with the finished side facing the adjacent property or public right-of-way, and the fence posts must be located on the inside of the fence facing the property on which the fence is located, except when the style of fence commonly described as a "good neighbor fence" is installed.

I. Maintenance.

(1) All fences, both existing and new, and all parts thereof shall be maintained in a safe and aesthetically pleasing condition. Every fence shall be constructed in a straight and true, substantial workmanlike manner. Fences shall be erected and constructed in a uniform fashion with uniformity in material use, application, and construction. Fences shall be constructed so the bottom side of the fence follows the contour of the land with any space between the bottom of the fence and grade maintaining a uniform height above grade for the length of the fence. There shall be no messages or words allowed on the fence. Graffiti shall be removed immediately upon recognition and/or notification.

(2) The owner or his/her designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of the fence. Every fence shall be maintained free of structural impairment and major surface defects or shall be corrected or removed at the owner's expense within 90 days from the date of such damage. The Building Inspector shall determine compliance with this section and may cause any fence to be reinspected.

J. Berms. A berm (earthen wall) of any type of construction is not allowed in any zoning district without approval by the Town Building Inspector. The following information will be required.

- (1) An accessory building permit application will be required for all berms.
- (2) A site plan noting all elevations and easements. Information must include engineered plans showing elevations, grades, drainage swales, and easements.
- (3) All plans must show compliance with Town of Lawrence Stormwater Management Plans and Best Management Practices.

Section 2: Severability

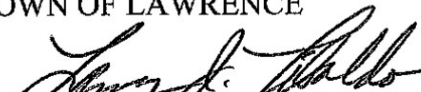
If any provision of this ordinance is found invalid or unconstitutional, or if the application of this Ordinance to any person or circumstances is invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Section 3: This amendment to existing ordinances shall be effective upon passage and publication as provided by Law.

Passed by the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Lawrence, Wisconsin on this 9th day of June, 2025.

Introduced by: Supervisor Frigo
Seconded by: Supervisor Bain
Vote: 5 -ayes, 0 -nays

TOWN OF LAWRENCE


Town Chairman, Lanny Tibaldo

Attest:


Town Clerk, Cindy Kocken

