

### 3.11 KEEPING OF BEES.

1. Certain Beekeeping Permitted. It is the purpose and intent of this section to permit the keeping of honeybees as a hobby, subject to the regulations contained hereinafter. It is recognized that the ability to cultivate one's own food is a sustainable activity that can also be a rewarding pastime, and that gentle strains of honeybees can be maintained within populated areas without causing a nuisance if carefully managed. It is the purpose and intent of this section to permit the keeping of bees in such ways that is not a nuisance or detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare.
2. Permit Required: No person shall keep, maintain, or otherwise care for bees within the City without first obtaining a beekeeping permit.
3. Conditions. The keeping of honeybees is permitted, pursuant to a permit issued under this section, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. No more than four (4) colonies may be kept on any one property.
  - b. Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition. Each hive structure shall not exceed twenty (20) cubic feet in volume.
  - c. A convenient source of water shall be available within ten (10) feet of the hives at all times that the colonies remain active outside of the hive. An adjacent lake or pond shall not constitute an acceptable convenient source of water.
  - d. No wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees shall be left exposed outdoors. Such materials shall be stored in sealed insect-proof containers or placed within a building.
  - e. Beekeeping equipment shall be maintained in good condition and unused beekeeping equipment shall be protected to prevent occupancy by swarming honeybees.
  - f. Hives shall be continuously managed to provide adequate living space for their resident honeybees to control swarming.
  - g. In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive behavior, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to promptly take appropriate action to address the behavior.
  - h. No honey may be sold from the property where the hives are located unless a home occupation permit has been issued for the property.
  - i. Hives must be located at least ten (10) feet from all property lines and at least twenty-five (25) feet from a principal building on an abutting lot or a public sidewalk. Hives may not be located in a front yard.

- j. A flyaway barrier shall shield any part of a property line that is within twenty (20) feet from a hive. The flyaway barrier shall be six (6) feet in height and shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof such that the bees will fly over, rather than through it to reach the hive. If the adjoining property is undeveloped, with no trails or sidewalks located within twenty (20) feet of the property line, a flyaway barrier is not required.
- k. Each hive shall be posted with a "Warning: Bee Hive" sign consisting of letters at least four (4) inches tall.

4. Permit Process:

- a. An applicant shall complete an application form provided by the City. The application shall include a site plan depicting the property and showing the location, size and type of the hives.
- b. Applicants shall complete a beekeeping training course prior to issuance of a permit. Proof of completion of the required training course shall be provided at the time of permit application. The curriculum of the beekeeping course shall be similar to that of the beekeeping courses offered by the University of Minnesota, Century College, or the Three Rivers Park District
- c. Permit holders shall submit a new application to the City following issuance of a beekeeping permit if the permittee proposes to increase the number of colonies located on the property.
- d. Applicants who are not the owner of record of the property where honeybees will be kept shall provide evidence of the property owner's consent to the beekeeping activity on the property.
- e. Notice that an application for a beekeeping permit has been submitted shall be mailed to all record owners of property located within three hundred fifty (350) feet of the property lines of the property where the beekeeping is proposed to occur. If there are no objections received within ten (10) days of mailing the notices, the permit application will be processed by City Staff. If written objection to the issuance of the beekeeping permit is received by the City within ten (10) days of the mailing of the permit application notice, the City Administrator shall hold an informal hearing with the applicant and objector pursuant to the City's beekeeping permit policy prior to issuing or denying the permit application. Any person who wishes to appeal the issuance or denial of a beekeeping permit may appeal the issuance or denial of the permit pursuant to the process outlined in Section 11.01, subd. 8.24 of the City Code.
- f. Beekeeping permits shall expire five (5) years after issuance unless sooner revoked.

- g. A beekeeping permit is non-transferable and shall only permit the keeping of bees by the permit holder at the location listed on the permit.
- 5. Right of Entry for Inspection: City Staff may enter and inspect any property for which a beekeeping permit has been issued following notice to the property owner at any reasonable time for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this section.
- 6. Violation and Penalties: If a violation of the terms of this Section or the beekeeping permit is found, the City shall give written notice thereof to the permit holder. If the violation is not remedied within ten (10) days of the date of the notice, a misdemeanor citation may be issued and/or the beekeeping permit may be revoked following notice and a hearing before the City Administrator.