



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3b

Title: Presentation regarding Beekeeping in Residential Districts in St. Charles

Presenter: Rita Tungare-Director of Economic & Community Development
Mim Evans- NIU Center of Governmental Studies (facilitator)
Bob Vann – Building & Code Enforcement Div. Manager

Meeting: Planning & Development Committee

Date: April 10, 2017

Proposed Cost: \$ N/A

Budgeted Amount: \$

Not Budgeted:

Executive Summary (if not budgeted please explain):

In response to concerns from residents, the topic of beekeeping in residential areas was discussed at Planning & Development Committee meetings in August, September, and October of 2016. The Committee postponed consideration of an ordinance and directed staff to further research the subject and engage experts and stakeholders to contribute to the educational component. A Focus Group of selected individuals and experts were assembled representing a couple of local residents living adjacent to beehives: School District and Park District representatives; an insurance agency professional; a master gardener, and a representative from the Fox Valley Beekeeping Association. Two 2-hour long Focus Groups sessions were held in January and March 2017. The meetings were facilitated by Mim Evans from the NIU Center for Governmental Studies.

Mim Evans will be presenting the findings of the Focus Group discussion. Based on the group’s discussion and report, staff is proposing standards that the Committee may consider for the adoption of a Residential Beekeeping Ordinance. The standards are:

1. Owner occupied – Single family zoning districts.
2. Maximum of 2 hives per property. Minimum distance of 25 feet from lot lines – permitted in the rear yard only.
3. Registration with the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture required.
4. Rear yard shall have a 6 ft. high solid fence and/or approved equivalent.
5. Water source at hives.
6. Written notice to abutting neighbors on all sides.
7. Approved training in beekeeping.

A permit shall be required with a proposed fee of \$65.00 to verify compliance.

Staff is also seeking direction on whether the Committee would wish to consider a deadline for the existing beehives in residential areas to come into compliance if a new ordinance is adopted or wish to grandfather the existing beehives.

State records show there are 6 licensed Beekeepers within the City limits and 3 are registered in residential areas.

Attachments (please list):

Beekeeping in St. Charles Summary Report by Center for Governmental Studies

Recommendation/Suggested Action (briefly explain):

Review findings of report and provide direction on the standards for regulating beekeeping as recommended by staff. Staff will then work with the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for consideration at a subsequent Planning & Development Committee or City Council meeting, per the Committee’s desire.

Beekeeping in St. Charles, IL Summary Report

Prepared for:
City of St. Charles, IL
March 31, 2017

Prepared by:
Center for Governmental Studies
Northern Illinois University



Introduction & Background

Introduction

The City of St. Charles was approached by residents living adjacent to a back yard containing honey bee hives. The residents requested assistance in dealing with the presence of the hives. State records indicate that there are six licensed beekeepers within the city limits. Three of these beekeepers are operating in residential areas. St. Charles does not currently have an ordinance addressing beekeeping in residential areas.

A study group was formed to research and discuss how the City might address this issue. The group consisted of 7 members representing different points of view on beekeeping. The members were:

- Pam Otto, Manager, Nature Program and Interpretive Services, St. Charles Park District
- Mark Bozik, ROE Schools Facilities Coordinator, St. Charles CUSD 303
- Carol Schreiber, Neighbor adjacent to existing backyard bee hives
- Angelika Masnica, Neighbor adjacent to existing backyard bee hives
- Thomas Mollenhauer, Owner, TGM Insurance Agency
- Sarah Fellerer, U of I Extension Horticulture Program Coordinator
- Tom Luppino, Fox Valley Beekeeping Association

Additional participants were Director of Community & Economic Development Rita Tungare and Building & Code Enforcement Division Manager Bob Vann.

Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies was retained to facilitate the group discussions and prepare a report and presentation summarizing their findings. The group met twice. During these meetings, information about beekeeping was shared, concerns were raised and discussed, other communities' approach to beekeeping was presented, and guidelines for the City were developed. The findings of the group are presented in this report.

The report is organized into three sections:

- General information on backyard beekeeping
- Overview of how communities have addressed this issue
- Guidelines for the City to consider in deciding how to address backyard beekeeping in residential neighborhoods within the St. Charles city limits.

Backyard Beekeeping

Honey Bee Basics

An understanding of honey bees is helpful in considering how to address honey bee hives located in residential areas. Key points regarding honey bees are discussed below.

Domestic honey bees live in colonies. The colonies are housed in hives that consist of multiple stacked boxes. The bees leave the hive and travel up to several miles to obtain nectar and pollen from plants. In

the process of doing so, they also pollinate the plants. They return to the hive where the nectar is converted to honey. At certain times in the life of the colony, the bees will swarm. This occurs when the bees are forming a new colony or looking for a new location for their nest.

Honey bees are part of the natural environment and will exist in St. Charles whether domesticated or not. They perform the valuable function of pollinating plants. They also provide many products used by humans, honey being the best known. Honey bee populations have been declining. While there is disagreement as to why is occurring, it is having a significant impact on agricultural food production.

Bees vs. Wasps

Distinguishing bees from wasps can be difficult. They look similar and often are found in the same general area. Both can sting. However, there are significant differences, as described below. A chart summarizing the differences can be found in the appendix.

Appearance

Honey bees are a single type of bee. They are brown, yellow or orange with black stripes. Some are mostly black. They appear fuzzy. They have pollen baskets on their rear legs. The legs are difficult to see when flying.

There are several different types of wasps including yellow jackets, paper wasps and hornets. While they each have a unique appearance, there are some common elements among all wasps. They have a more distinct waist. They are not fuzzy and may be shiny in appearance. The colors may be brighter than honey bees. Wasps do not have pollen baskets and their legs often can be seen when in flight. Some are considerably longer than honey bees.

Nests

Wild honey bees live in a single large nest made of waxy material and hanging vertically. There is no exterior covering on the nest allowing the bees and their activity can be seen. However, the nest is most often inside a cavity in a tree or in a manmade structure.

Wasp nests vary in construction and location. They have a paper type covering over the nest. The nest may be located underground or attached to a tree or building. Some are quite large while others are very small.

Food

Honey bees feed on nectar and pollen. They are not interested in human food or garbage and they do not eat other insects. Wasps are attracted to sweet or rotting food. Wasps also eat other insects.

Aggressiveness

Honey bees are less likely than wasps to bother humans for several reasons. Perhaps most importantly, honey bees can only sting once and then they die. This is because they have a barbed stinger which they cannot disengage from their victim without mortally damaging their own body. Therefore, a honey bee is very reluctant to sting. On the other hand, wasps can sting an infinite number of times without any damage to their own body, making them much more willing to do so. Additionally, because honey bees are not interested in human food, they are less likely to come into close contact with humans. Wasps are attracted to human food and therefore can often be found in a soda can or hanging around a picnic or meal site, leading to conflicts with humans.

Circumstances that can cause honey bees to become aggressive include disturbance of the hive, and warm, humid weather.

Life span

Honey bee colonies can survive for multiple years while the lifespan of individual honey bees varies depending on their role in the hive. Wasp nests are used for a single warm weather season. The wasps will die after a second frost, leaving the nest unused going forward.

Usefulness

Honey bees pollinate all types of ornamental and food producing plants, playing a critical role in our food system. It is estimated that one third of our food plants are pollinated by insects, and honey bees may be responsible for up to 80% of that third. Honey bees also produce honey for human consumption along with other food and nonfood products.

Wasps are useful in helping to balance undesirable insect populations. However they do not pollinate plants or produce honey.

Backyard Beekeeping Concerns

While honey bees are beneficial to the environment and indirectly or directly produce food for human consumption, there are concerns when they live in residential areas. These are described below.

Attractive Nuisance

Hives can be an attractive nuisance for people. Decorating hives can increase interest in people to investigate them. Signs also can have the unintended effect of attracting attention. The close proximity of homes in suburban neighborhoods can make it difficult to have hives not be visible and attract attention. There is particular concern that children or uninformed adults may approach or disturb hives in an effort to get a close look. A visual barrier or fence and educational material can discourage people from approaching hives.

Disruption of Backyard Activities

Neighbors are concerned that typical outdoor recreation activities such as swimming in backyard pools, playing ball games, and mowing the lawn may upset the bees and cause them to sting people. Children may accidentally kick a ball into the yard where the hives are located or hit the hive with something and anger the bees. The keepers state that an angry reaction can occur from a disturbed bee hive but it is more likely from wasps than bees, and that often when people are stung they mistake the culprit for bees when it was wasps. A barrier such as a high fence can help reduce the chance of children or objects disturbing the hive. Some garden plantings can attract bees and others do not. Education on what to plant can help keep bees out of a yard. A list of plants that are attractive to bees can be found in the appendix.

Health Concerns

Allergic reactions are a serious concern for people with allergies and neighbors who may have guests with allergies. Epi pens are available by prescription only so it is not possible for a beekeeper or neighbor to keep one on hand. If someone has never been stung, they may not know that they are allergic to

stings. Life threatening allergic reactions are relatively rare. More common are localized reactions which can be painful, itchy and swell.

Hives Attracting Undesirable Wildlife

Accessible hives may attract nuisance animals such as skunks or wasps. It is possible that bees and wildlife will be found in the same area because they are attracted to some of the same things.

Swarms

Swarms occur when a large group of bees gather together someplace other than their hive often because the bees are looking for a new nest location. This generally occurs once a year or less. When the bees swarm they are full of honey which makes them unlikely to sting. However, swarms are a nuisance and frightening to neighbors whether they sting or not. Help is available at no cost to remove swarms by contacting local beekeepers. Contact information for help with swarm removal can be found in the Appendix.



How Have Other Communities Addressed Backyard Beekeeping?

As interest in backyard beekeeping has grown, many cities have considered whether or not regulations are warranted, and if so, what should the regulations include. Communities can be divided into three groups with relation to backyard beekeeping:

1. Communities banning backyard beekeeping-These communities have generally regarded beekeeping as an agricultural activity similar to keeping of livestock and banned it on these grounds.
2. Communities specifically allowing beekeeping-These communities have developed a set of regulations to enable beekeepers to raise bees while minimizing inconveniences and risks to neighbors.
3. Communities that have not addressed beekeeping-These communities allow beekeeping by default. While there is not an ordinance, there sometimes are suggestions and guidelines for getting along with neighbors.

It should be noted that some communities have established designated bee gardens where beekeeping is allowed. The St Charles Park District does not plan to have a public beekeeping garden for two reasons. First, they do not have a park with the needed acres of forage plants that a dense population of honeybees would require. Second, having a number of hives maintained by different keepers with varying levels of experience in close proximity can lead to increased incidences of disease and parasite transmission.

City staff surveyed 19 suburban Chicago cities about how they addressed backyard beekeeping. Eight specifically allowed beekeeping and provided an ordinance or guidelines for doing so. Ten did not allow backyard beekeeping. One city had not formally addressed the issue but requested that hives be placed near the center of the lot.

Communities with Regulated Beekeeping

Communities that have an ordinance allowing beekeeping generally include some or all of the elements discussed below.

Process

These are the steps that an applicant must complete in order to have a backyard honey bee colony. They can include training, licensing, permit, notice, inspections, and other requirements.

- **Training:** Some communities require beekeepers to show proof of knowledge of good beekeeping practices. This can include safety precautions, avoiding annoying neighbors, and maintaining a healthy colony. Training can be obtained from a beekeepers association, educational institution or public agency.
- **Application and fee:** An application begins the process of allowing a person to keep a hive and also gathers much of the information that will be needed to provide notice to neighbors, inspect the hive, and maintain a record of where hives are located and who can be contacted in case of questions or issues regarding a hive. Fees can be collected to cover expenses incurred by the city in administering the process.
- **Permit:** A permit is issued once all requirements have been met. The permit can be a one-time requirement or need to be renewed on a set schedule if there is concern that circumstances surrounding hives may change.
- **Licensing:** Licensing is currently required at the state level by the Department of Agriculture. Obtaining a state license should be a prerequisite for securing a local permit.
- **Notice to neighbors:** Neighbors can be informed when an application is received for a hive to be located within a certain distance. The boundaries of the notice area will have to be decided. Notice can be the responsibility of the applicant or the city and can include the proposed location, information on what is allowed according to city ordinance, and educational material on bees.
- **City inspection:** The city may want to physically inspect the site to be sure that all installation requirements have been met.
- **Handling complaints:** It should be decided who will handle complaints regarding an existing colony. This information should be readily available on a city website and could be included in the notice to neighbors.

Characteristics

These points address how the hive is constructed and physical elements required in the yard.

- **Hive construction:** Domestic colonies live in multi-tiered hives made up of separate boxes. The lower boxes are called brood boxes and are where the immature bees are raised. The upper boxes are where the honey is made and stored. A single hive can have over half a dozen boxes. The number of boxes can be specified in the ordinance.
- **Water source:** The bees need a clean source of water. Locating it onsite will discourage the bees from looking for water in other yards that may have pools, bird baths, etc.
- **Flyway barrier:** a barrier at least six feet high will encourage the bees to fly above people's heads as they leave the yard. They are likely to maintain that height for some distance reducing the likelihood that they will intersect humans. The barrier can be a solid fence or heavy plantings. The barrier can be around the hives or around the yard.
- **Signage:** While there is some thought that signs attract attention to the hives which may lead to curious people investigating them, other opinions are that signs can warn people of the hives' presence and tell them to stay away. Signage may also include contact information in case of a problem with the hive.
- **Location:** Where the hives are located in the community and within the yard is the most detailed and variable issue addressed by ordinances. A discussion of all the points that may be covered with regard to location follows.
 - **Zoning districts allowing beekeeping:** Some ordinances have blanket statements that allow beekeeping in certain zone classifications
 - **Number of colonies per lot:** Some ordinances do not specify how many colonies may be on a lot as long as all other requirements are met. Others limit the number to as few as one or two regardless of lot size.
 - **Number of colonies per neighborhood:** Some ordinances limit the number of hives that can be located within a single neighborhood. This requires defining neighborhood boundaries and keeping track of whether hives from past years are still active.
 - **Required lot sizes:** Many ordinances specify a minimum lot size.
 - **Number of dwelling units on the lot:** Most ordinances only allow beekeeping in single family areas with one dwelling unit per lot. However, some allow beekeeping where there may be more than one dwelling unit per lot.
 - **Distance of hives from lot lines or neighboring homes:** The distance required between hives and lot lines varies. While some ordinances only address lot size, this does not ensure that a hive will not be close to a neighboring yard.
 - **Owner on site:** Some ordinances require that the owner of the hives live on-site.



Miscellaneous items

There are several additional points occasionally included in ordinances.

- Nucleus colonies: A nucleus colony is a small separate hive where the beekeeper can raise a small group of bees to replenish the main hive or start an additional hive.
- Wax and comb storage: There is some concern that if bees wax and honey combs are not stored properly they may attract undesirable insects and wildlife. Where these items are stored can be specified in the ordinance.
- Maintenance of hives and equipment: The ordinance may include requirements for maintenance of the hives, surrounding area and equipment.
- Assistance in swarm removal: The ordinance may include procedures for removing swarms from neighboring property.
- Liability insurance: Beekeepers may be required to show that they have liability insurance covering any damages or injuries as a result of the hive.

Summaries of ordinances from communities in the Chicago metropolitan area and Minnesota can be found in the appendix and contain details on how each of the above items have been addressed.

Guidelines for Considering a St. Charles Ordinance Regulating Beekeeping

The study group's mission was to provide the City with guidance to assist in deliberations regarding whether St. Charles should regulate beekeeping and, if so, how. While the group was not asked to arrive at a consensus, there was general agreement on many issues. Below are the points the group thought should be considered by the City. The group agreed that the four main elements of ordinances in other communities could form the basis of St. Charles' ordinance as well. Therefore, their comments are organized into the four components of process, characteristics, location, and miscellaneous issues. Each is discussed below.

1. Process: There should be a clear process to follow in order to keep a bee hive in a residential area.

- Training: A City-approved training program should be completed with a certificate of completion issued at the end. The certificate would have to be presented to obtain a permit. The Geneva Park District and some bee clubs offer training. Online training is not considered adequate. The training should include both how to be a good neighbor and how to raise healthy bees. The City should investigate how often the training program is offered and whether or not that will be adequate. Perhaps several different programs could be approved providing more options regarding timing and location. Information on existing training programs in the area can be found in the appendix.
- Permit: A permit would provide the City with a record of ownership and neighbors with contact information. It could be posted at the site where neighbors could see it. Obtaining a permit would be a one-time requirement rather than annual. A site plan

indicating compliance with all physical aspects of the ordinance would have to be submitted to the City before a permit would be issued.

- Application fee: The fee amount should equal the costs incurred to administer.
- State license: An Illinois beekeeping license should be submitted with the application.
- Notice to neighbors: The burden should be on the applicant to notify neighbors of his/her request to keep bees on a property. An affidavit should be submitted with the application. All applicants must include the same information in their notice to neighbors. This should include education material and how to get help if a swarm is in their yard.
- City inspection: City staff should conduct an on-site inspection of the colony to ensure that all requirements have been met. The application/permit fee should cover the cost of inspection.
- Complaints: Neighbors should have information on how to notify the City of a complaint. Objective criteria should be established for determining a legitimate complaint.

2. Location: The City should determine where hives can be located. This information should be readily available to both prospective bee keepers and neighbors.

- Lot size: While many cities regulate lot size, this is not really the issue. The important factor is how far the hives are from the lot lines. If this criteria is met, then lot size does not matter.
- Number of colonies per lot: Opinions range from 1 to 3-4.
- Location within the lot: Both distance to lot line and distance to neighbor's homes could be considered. It was decided that distance to lot line was more relevant because outdoor activities were the concern and that could be anywhere in the neighbor's lot. Opinions ranged from 25 feet to 35 feet. There was a question regarding locating hives on a roof.
- Number of housing units: It was decided that hives could only be kept on single family detached lots.
- Owner on site: The owner of the hives must live on-site.
- Commercial locations: It was decided that the issue at hand is hives on residential lots so commercial lots will not be addressed.

3. Characteristics: The elements of the hive and site can affect whether or not the hives and neighbors coexist well.

- Hive type/construction: Hives consist of a number of boxes. The bottom layers are brood boxes. Two brood boxes was an agreed upon number to allow. In addition to the brood boxes, up to six upper boxes can be allowed.
- Water: There must be a source of clean water on-site.
- Flyway barrier: Either a fence or heavy vegetation barrier (6 feet high) is required between the lot with the hives and all neighboring lots. Some neighbors would like the

lot to be fenced and other prefer the look of vegetation. If there is a public space adjacent such as a school or park, a fence is required.

- Hives vs. Houses: This is a domestic honey bee ordinance only and does not apply to bee houses for wild bees or other kinds of insects.

4. Miscellaneous

- Nucleus colony: A nucleus colony is a hive where immature bees are raised in order to maintain the hive. A nucleus colony can be kept on site in addition to the permitted hives.
- Hives cannot be kept in a residential area for commercial purposes.

Appendix

Honeybees compared to Yellow Jackets, Paper Wasps and Hornets				
	Honeybee	Yellow Jacket	Paper Wasp	Hornet
				
Color	Varies but generally amber to brown translucent alternating with black stripes; some are mostly black	Black and opaque bright yellow stripes	Dusty yellow to dark brown or black	Black and ivory white markings
Size	½ inch	½ inch	¾ to 1 inch	¾ inch
Legs	Not generally visible while flying; pollen baskets on rear legs can be seen while walking	Two long legs are visible hanging down during flight; no pollen baskets	Long, no pollen baskets	No pollen baskets
Behavior toward humans and animals	Gentle unless hive is threatened	Aggressive	Gentle	Aggressive
Preferred Food	Nectar and pollen from flowers	Other insects, overripe fruit, sugary drinks, human food, particularly meat	Other insects	Other insects
Stinger	Barbed, kills bee when used	Smooth, retracts and can be used indefinitely	Smooth, retracts and can be used indefinitely	Smooth, retracts and can be used indefinitely
Lives in	Large colonies of flat wax-based honeycomb hanging vertically	Ground, small cavities or semi-open structures	Small umbrella-shaped papery combs hanging horizontally in protected spaces; attics, eaves	Large paper nest shaped like inverted pear, usually hangs from branches or eaves

Beekeeping in Suburban Chicago Communities

TOWN	ALLOWED	REQUIREMENTS	OTHER INFO
Bartlett	Yes - Bee hives are allowed as part of an agricultural use.	Property must be zoned ER-1 and a minimum of 10 acres. The hives must be 100 feet from the nearest lot line and at least 100 feet from the street.	Found in FAQ
Batavia	? - Animal Raising, Non-Commercial	Minimum 2 acre lot size	Chapter 2.1: Single Family Residential Districts / Table 2.103: Land Use Regulations – Single Family Residential Districts
North Aurora	No - No person shall own, keep or harbor within the village any dangerous animal, bees , farm animal, insect, or other animal which is feral natural in the eyes of the law.		Title 6 - Animals. 6.08.060
Warrenville	Yes - along with the selling of honey and related products on lots of 20,000 square feet or more.	The number of colonies shall not exceed 4 for the first 20,000 square feet of lot area and 2 colonies for each 10,000 square feet thereunder; register with IL Dept. of Agriculture; must provide water source; must be kept at least 10 feet from all property lines at all times and may not be located in side, corner side or front yards.	Section 10.A.2.A.9 - Accessory uses and yards - home occupations
Hanover Park	Yes - only at HP Community Apiary.	Permit required. Limited to 2 hives. Register with the IL Dept. of Agriculture. Must provide \$1M in public liability insurance, automobile liability insurance, and source of water. Must have Village approved beekeeping skills.	Permit application
Wilmette	Not permitted		

Glen Ellyn	No ordinance - only as personal hobby. Cannot be home occupation.	Have guidelines in place for residents who are interested in beekeeping. No more than 3 hives. Must be minimum of 25' from the side and rear lot lines. Water source. Written notification must be submitted to all adjacent neighbors.	
Oak Park	Yes	Permit required. Limited to 2 hives that meet Village code requirements; register with IL Dept. of Agriculture.	Chapter 20 - Public Health, Article 20
Schaumburg	Yes - at the Community Bee Garden or at home. •Beehives are currently allowed in the A and R-1 residential districts. Lots in the "A" (Agricultural) zoning district are a minimum size of 5 acres, and lots in the R-1 (Single Family Rural) zoning district are a minimum size of 2.5 acres. •Beehives are permitted as a "special use" in R-4, R-6, R-6C, and R-7 residential districts. The R-4, R-6, R-6C, and R-7 residential districts are comprised of lots ranging in size from 8,750 – 20,000 square feet. Special Use review fee \$603.	For Community Bee Garden: Limited to 3 hives. Register with the IL Dept. of Agriculture. Completed application, certificate of insurance, and hold harmless agreement. Must demonstrate beekeeper knowledge. At home, must go through a village review and approval process.	POLICY STATEMENT 5.76 TITLE: - COMMUNITY BEE GARDEN
Palatine	Yes	IL beekeepers permit required. 25 ft. from property line. Fence required.	Chapter 5 - Article IV. Beekeeping
Elmhurst	Not permitted		
Evanston	Yes	No more than 8 apiaries in each ward. City license required; \$25 fee; register with IL Dept. of Agriculture; fence and signage required; source of water	Title 9 - Public Safety (9-4-19)
Geneva	Not regulated	Request hives be placed as close to the center of the yard as possible.	
Elburn	Only in agricultural district		Article VI

South Elgin	Only in F-1 farming district - categorized as an agricultural use		
Wheaton	No ordinance or procedures.		
Aurora	No - No person shall own, keep or harbor within the village any dangerous animal, bees, farm animal, insect, or other animal which is feral natural in the eyes of the law.		Chapter 9 - Animals. Sec. 9-15
West Chicago	No information on website and no response from staff.		
Elgin	No information on website and no response from staff.		

Compiled by City of St. Charles staff

Minnesota Beekeeping Ordinances

Information current as of date shown.

City	County	Ordinance Citation	Ordinance Language	Contact Information	Date
Andover	Anoka	Title 5, Chapter 1, Section (d)	Must be zoned R1, R2, or R3 and have at least two acres.	(763) 755-5100	8-1-13
Anoka	Anoka	Section 10-2	Bees are not mentioned in the city code, but the city planner said she would consider honey bees to be "non-domesticated" animal. The code prohibits non-domesticated or farm animals within City limits.	(763) 576-2700	8-1-13
Apple Valley	Dakota		Currently, no ordinance on bees. However, code prohibits non-domestic animals, and City interprets bees as non-domestic. City is revising the ordinance to expressly prohibit bees.	(952) 953-2500	8-1-13
Arden Hills	Ramsey	Chapter 13, 25.07	Bees are considered farm animals and are allowed within city limits as long as the lot meets the setback requirements (which depend upon how the hive is constructed).	(651) 792-7800	8-1-13
Bayport	Washington	Section 14	Honey bees are not allowed within City limits.	(651) 275-4404	8-1-13
Blaine	Anoka	Section 14-225	Areas zoned residential may not have honey bees. Areas zoned agricultural may have honey bees.	(763) 785-6122	8-1-13
Bloomington	Hennepin	Section 12.116(a)(2)	Owners of bees, shall have at least one acre per bee hive not exceeding twenty-four (24) cubic feet in size. Farm poultry, farm animals and bees are not allowed on properties with three or more dwelling units. The owner of the farm poultry, farm animals and bees		8-1-13

			shall live in the dwelling on the property.		
Brooklyn Center	Hennepin	Section 1-101	No mention of bees in ordinances, so honey bees are permitted.	(763) 569-3300	8-1-13
Brooklyn Park	Hennepin	Section 92.50	Honey bees are permitted in lots over 5 acres. Other require registration.	(763) 424-8000	11-24-15
Burnsville	Dakota	Section 6-2-20	Honey bees are prohibited in all parts of Burnsville.	(952) 895-4400	2-8-17
Carver	Carver	Section 1005.02	Codicil 1 allows animals not listed under Section 1005.02 in city limits as long as they are not a nuisance. Therefore, honey bees are allowed as long as they are not a nuisance.	(952) 448-5353	8-1-13
Centerville	Anoka	Chapter 90.02(B)	"Licensing Honey Bees. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, a person may keep honey bee colonies on any premises after first obtaining a license as provided in this subsection. No license shall be issued except in compliance of this section. (1) Lot size shall be a minimum of one-half acre; (2) No more than two honey bee colonies shall be allowed; (3) Hives shall be setback from property lines a minimum of 25 feet; (4) Applicant must document at least 16 hours of training in beekeeping, and (5) the colony shall be maintained in good order and not be a nuisance to any member of the public."	(651) 429-3232	8-1-13
Champlin	Hennepin		Honey bees are not mentioned within Champlin's ordinances. The City would allow honey bees as long as they were not a nuisance and the neighbors were on board.	(763) 421-8100	8-1-13

Chanhasen	Hennepin and Carver	Chapter 20	Bees are considered a farm animal and are allowed on properties of 10 acres or more.	(952) 227-1100	8-1-13
Chaska	Carver	Chapter 5, Section 82	The Chaska Police Department is in charge of code enforcement. Police officer told me they would allow a honey bee hive as long as it didn't bother the neighbors.	(952) 448-9200	8-1-13
Circle Pines	Anoka	Section 320.02(B)	"Licensing Honey Bees. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, a person may keep honey bee colonies on any premises after first obtaining a license as provided in this subsection. No license shall be issued except in compliance of this section. (1) Lot size shall be a minimum of one-half acre; (2) No more than two honey bee colonies shall be allowed; (3) Hives shall be setback from property lines a minimum of 25 feet; (4) Applicant must document at least 16 hours of training in beekeeping, and (5) the colony shall be maintained in good order and not be a nuisance to any member of the public."	(763) 784-5898	8-1-13
Coon Rapids	Anoka	6-502(2), (5)	"Non-domestic animals are defined as ... bees. It shall be unlawful to keep, maintain, harbor, or feed any non-domestic animal within the City except where permitted elsewhere in this Chapter."		8-1-13
Corcoran	Hennepin		Section 1020.020: bees are agricultural use. Allowed in areas zoned for agricultural use.	(763) 420-2288	8-1-13
Cottage Grove	Washington	Section 11-3-7	Bees are considered a farm animal and are allowed on properties of 5 or more acres.	(651) 458-2800	8-1-13

			Section defining "farm animal" is 11-1-3.		
Crystal	Hennepin		City ordinances do not cover bees. Therefore, bees are allowed.	(763) 531-1000	8-1-13
Dayton	Wright and Hennepin	Section 1001.42 subd.8(1)(e)	Honey bees are prohibited in areas zoned residential - Old Village, residential - mobile home, industrial and business, unless you have a conditional use permit.	(763) 427-4589	8-1-13
Duluth	St. Louis	1959-6-80	Ok in areas zoned rural;. Others require license.		11-23-15
Eagan	Dakota	Section 10.12	Honey bees may be kept on properties in areas that are zoned agricultural and have a minimum of five acres. Or by permit.		3-6-15
Edina	Hennepin	Section 300.11	Bees are allowed with permit. ordinance link		10-1-15
Elko New Market	Scott	Section 6-4-5	Section 6-4-2 Honeybees are considered a farm animal. Section 6-4-5 states, "Farm animals shall be kept only in areas approved under the city zoning ordinance."		8-1-13
Excelsior	Hennepin	Section 6-4	Ordinance defines "undomesticated animal" as "any animal, mammal, amphibian, or reptile, which is of a species which is wild by nature or of a species which due to size, vicious nature, or other characteristics is inherently dangerous to human beings." "Any person may own, keep, harbor, or maintain any non-domesticated animal, provided that it weighs less than 50 pounds."		8-1-13
Falcon Heights	Ramsey	Section 113-3	Honey bees are defined as a farm animal. Farm animals are not allowed to be harbored within the city. The Falcon	(651) 792-7600	8-1-13

			Heights City Council looked into a honey bee ordinance last year but ultimately did not pass it.		
Forest Lake	Anoka	Chapter 99	Bees are defined as a farm animal. City code allows farm animals in areas zoned for agricultural use and if the property is five acres or more.	(651) 464-3550	8-1-13
Fridley	Anoka	Section 101.03(2)	"Livestock" is defined as "horses, cattle, goats, rabbits, sheep, swine, fowl, and other animals used for utility." Provides instructions for written license application and annual fee.	(763) 571-3450	8-1-13
Golden Valley	Hennepin	Section 10.32	Honey bees are defined as a farm animal. Farm animals are not allowed to be harbored within the city.		8-1-13
Hastings	Dakota and Washington	Chapter 91.01	Bees are not mentioned in the city code, so they are permitted. City planner warned that if the bees stung people or upset the neighbors, they could be removed through the public nuisance ordinance (Section 95.20).	(651) 480-2350	8-1-13
Hibbing	St. Louis	Section 10.23	Honey bees are defined as a farm animal. Farm animals are not allowed to be harbored within the city.		2-8-17
Hopkins	Hennepin		Hopkins Code of Ordinances does not address honey bees, so they interpret that to mean they are not permitted.	952-548-6303	2-8-17
Hugo	Washington		Although not expressly listed in the ordinance, honey bees are considered "farm animals," so they are allowed in areas zoned agricultural and on lots of five or more acres.	(651) 762-6300	8-1-13
Independence	Hennepin	510.05 subd. 46	Defines bees as "livestock." Bees are allowed in areas which are zoned agricultural.	(763) 479-0527	8-1-13

Inver Grove Heights	Dakota	Section 10-2-2	Bees are allowed in areas zoned agricultural or estate.	(651) 450-2500	8-1-13
Jordan	Scott		No ordinance, so bees are not allowed. Perhaps could apply for a conditional use permit stating beekeeping as a home occupation.	(952) 492-2535	8-1-13
Lake Elmo	Washington	Title 9, Chapter 95.71	Honey bees are allowed on property five acres or more. Permit required for under 5 acres.	(651) 747-3900	10-1-15
Lake St. Croix Beach	Washington	No online ordinances	No one from the City returned my messages.	(651) 436-7031	8-1-13
Lakeville	Dakota	title 11-35-3	Bees are classified as farm animals and are not allowed on residential property,		2-8-17
Lauderdale	Ramsey	Section 5-3-1	Bees are defined as a farm animal. City ordinance 5-3-4-1 requires a permit to have a farm animal.	(651) 792-7650	8-1-13
Lilydale	Dakota	Section 801.01	It's unclear if bees are allowed or not in the ordinances, and no one at the City returned my phone messages.	(651) 457-2316	8-1-13
Lino Lakes	Anoka	Zoning	Restricted to agricultural zoned land		11-23-15
Long Lake	Hennepin		Honey bees are not mentioned in the Code. City of Long Lake's general position is if it is not expressly allowed, it is prohibited.	(952) 473-6961	8-1-13
Mahtomedi	Washington	Chapter 3.02	"No person may keep within the City any of the following: any hive or other facility for the housing of bees."	(651) 426-3344	8-1-13
Maple Plain	Hennepin		Honey bees are not mentioned in the Code. City of Maple Plain's general position is that they are allowed, but are subject to the nuisance ordinance.	(763) 479-0515	8-1-13
Maplewood	Ramsey		Considering an urban agriculture ordinance, but so	(651) 249-2000	8-1-13

			far no actual ordinance. Bees are allowed unless they become a nuisance.		
Marine on St. Croix	Washington	Chapter 5	City of Marine on St. Croix does not have an ordinance about honey bees. The City's position is that they are allowed unless they are a nuisance.	(651) 433-3636	8-1-13
Medicine Lake	Hennepin	Section 200.2(7)(b)	Bees are classified as farm animals. Must get a conditional use permit to have bees.	(763) 542.9701	8-1-13
Mendota Heights	Dakota	Ordinance 448, not yet codified	Brand new ordinance: Bee keeping is allowed on properties of fifty (50) acres or more.	(651) 255-1153	8-1-13
Minneapolis	Hennepin	Section 74.80	Must get a permit from Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.		8-1-13
Minnetonka	Hennepin		No ordinance on bees, so bees are allowed unless they are a nuisance.	(952) 939-8200	8-1-13
Village of Minnetonka Beach	Hennepin	Section 508(C)(28)(b)	"No person shall keep or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of honeybees."	(952) 471-8878	8-1-13
Minnetrista	Hennepin	Section 1110.09	Bees are considered farm animals. "Farm animals may only be kept in A or AP zoning districts, or in a residential lot of at least ten acres in size provided that farm animals on said residential lots are not sheltered within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property."	(952) 446-1660	8-1-13
Moundsview	Ramsey	Title 700 Chapt 701	Bees allowed by permit. Link to permit		9-25-15
New Brighton	Ramsey		Honey bees require permit link to permit	(651) 638-2100	6-1-15
Newport	Washington	Section 600.21	Honey bees are considered a farm animal. Must have a permit from the City Council. Lot size must be at least four	(651) 459-5677	8-1-13

			acres. Must provide written notification to occupied property owners situated within 250 feet from the hive. Additional standards of practice listed in Section 600.21 subd. 3(F)(4).		
North St. Paul	Ramsey	Section 95.23	Honey bees are classified as a farm animal. No farm animals are allowed within city limits.		8-1-13
Oak Park Heights	Washington	Section 602.02(B)	Honey bees are classified as a farm animal. Farm animals are only permitted in areas zoned O - Open Space Conservation District and also need a conditional use permit.	(651) 439-4439	8-1-13
Oakdale	Washington	Section 4-18	"No person shall keep or allow to be kept any man-made or manufactured hive or other facility for the housing of bees within the city without a permit."	(651) 739-5086	8-1-13
Orono	Hennepin	Section 62-1	Honey bees are classified as a farm animal and are allowed in areas zoned for agriculture.	(952) 249-4600	8-1-13
Osseo	Hennepin	Chapter 93.18(z)	City code states that any caring for any non-domestic animal is a public nuisance, so beekeeping currently is not allowed. However, City Attorney said the City might be open to a resident asking for a variance or trying to change the ordinance.	(763) 425-2624	8-1-13
Plymouth	Hennepin	Zoning Ordinance 21170.01 subd.3	Bees are only allowed in areas zoned future restricted development (rural).	(763) 509-5080	8-1-13
Prior Lake	Scott		No ordinance, so bees are allowed unless they are a nuisance.	(952) 447-9800	8-1-13
Richfield	Hennepin	Section 905.41	Bees are considered non-domestic animals. All non-domestic animals are prohibited.	(612) 861-9702	8-1-13

Robbinsdale	Hennepin	Section 915.37	"It is unlawful to keep or maintain roosters or bees, without first having obtained a permit therefor."	(763) 537-4534	8-1-13
Rogers	Hennepin	Section 125-1	Bees are classified as a farm animal and are allowed in areas zoned agricultural.	(763) 428-2253	8-1-13
Rosemount	Dakota		No ordinance on honey bees, so they are allowed.	(651) 322-2022	8-1-13
Roseville	Ramsey		No ordinance on honey bees, so they are allowed. The City reserves the right to regulate location and fencing in the future.	(651) 792-7000	8-1-13
Sauk Rapids	Benton	Section 4.10, Subd.22(C)	Permits beekeeping limited to six hives.	(320) 258-5300	
St. Anthony Village	Hennepin		No ordinance on honey bees, so City of St. Anthony Village's position is that they are not allowed.	(612) 782-3301	8-1-13
St. Francis	Anoka	Section 8-3-5	"Bees shall not be kept on parcels smaller than five (5) acres in size. No parcel shall have more than one hive or colony housing structure not to exceed three (3) feet in size in any dimension unless it is an agricultural use. All hives shall be of the removable frame type. All hives shall be kept one hundred (100) feet from any property line."	(763) 753-2630	8-1-13
St. Louis Park	Hennepin		Bees are not addressed in city ordinance, so they are allowed as long as they are not a nuisance.	(952) 924-2500	8-1-13
St. Paul	Ramsey	Chapter 198.02(d)	"No person shall keep or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of bees within the city without a permit."	(651) 266-8989	8-1-13
St. Paul Park	Washington	Ordinance #694	Honey bees are allowed; must get a permit and obey set back ordinance.	(651) 459-9785	8-1-13

Savage	Scott	Section 91.01(2)	Bees are classified as a farm animal. Under Section 91.04, farm animals are "allowed only as a legal non-conforming use where a similar use occurred before the most recent change in the Zoning Code and continues consistently thereafter."	(952) 882-2660	8-1-13
Shakopee	Scott	Section 11.02(5)(B)	Bees are classified as an "agricultural use" and allowed in areas zoned rural residential or agricultural.	(952) 233-9300	8-1-13
Shoreview	Ramsey	Section 601.010(4)	Bees are classified as a non-domestic animal. Non-domestic animals permitted on lots that are two or more acres and are zoned detached residential or residential estate.	(651) 490-4600	8-1-13
Shorewood	Hennepin	Section 705.09	Bees are classified as an "urban farm animal." Section 705.09 subd 2(h) states, "The number of bee hives shall not exceed four."	(952) 960-7900	8-1-13
South St. Paul	Dakota	Section 15-1(3)	Bees are listed as a farm animal. Section 15-3 states, "It shall be illegal for any person to own, possess, harbor, or offer for sale, any farm animals within city limits..."	(651) 554-3200	8-1-13
Spring Park	Hennepin		Bees are not allowed in city limits.	(952) 471-9051	8-1-13
Stillwater	Washington	Section 27-3	Bees are allowed in city limits with a permit. The ordinance sets forth rules and regulations.	(651) 430-8800	8-1-13
Sunfish Lake	Dakota	Section 1225.01	Bees are considered farm animals. Only farm animals expressly listed (such as bees) are allowed in the City of Sunfish Lake with a permit.	(763) 231-2555	8-1-13
Victoria	Carver	Chapter 30, Article VIII, Section 30-313(13)	Bees are only allowed in areas zoned agricultural and if you get a conditional use permit.	(952) 443-4210	8-1-13

Virginia	St. Louis		Honey bees are defined as a farm animal. Farm animals are not allowed to be harbored within the city.		2-8-17
Waconia	Carver	Section 710.15 subd. 1	Bees are considered farm animals, so they are allowed in areas zoned agricultural.	(952) 442-2184	8-1-13
Wayzata	Hennepin		No ordinance, so bees are allowed unless they are a nuisance.	(952) 404-5300	8-1-13
West St. Paul	Dakota	Section 905.15 subd. 3	Bees are allowed. The only requirement is that the hives are at least 100 feet from neighboring houses. Some lots are too small to comply with this requirement.	(651) 552-4100	8-1-13
White Bear Lake	Ramsey and Washington	Section 702.045	Bee keeping is allowed in City limits with a license.	(651) 429-8526	8-1-13
Woodbury	Washington	Section 24-4	Bees are considered "livestock" and are allowed on property of five or more acres in areas zoned rural residential or existing farmstead.	(651) 714-3500	8-1-13

[Department of Entomology](#)

**College of Food, Agricultural
and Natural Resource Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

219 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108© 2017
Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. The University of
Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

MODEL BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

February 22, 2007

Page 1 of 5

Prepared by the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association

This model ordinance is not intended to be adopted without legal review by counsel representing the jurisdiction considering it. Like any proposed ordinance, it must be reconciled with existing ordinances and may be revised to fit community standards and needs. Our purpose in advancing the model ordinance is to offer a document with the apicultural framework we believe will enable hobbyist and sideliner beekeepers to safely and successfully pursue this pleasurable and economically, culturally and agriculturally critical activity in urban and suburban areas.

WHEREAS, honey bees (*apis mellifera*) are of benefit to mankind, and to Minnesota in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, and other useful products; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota is among the leading states in honey production and agricultural by products associated with beekeeping throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, tendency not to swarm and non-aggressive

behavior, characteristics which are desirable to foster and maintain; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by _____:

Section 1. Preamble Adopted.

That the findings contained in the preamble of this ordinance are hereby adopted as a part

of this ordinance.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed in

this section unless the context of their usage indicates another usage.

2.1 "Apiary" means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.

2.2 "Beekeeper" means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.

2.3 "Beekeeping equipment" means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.

2.4 "Colony" means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.

2.5 "Hive" means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.

2.6 "Honey bee" means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

2.7 "Lot" means a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

2.8 “Nucleus colony” means a small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.

2.9 “Undeveloped property” means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

Section 3. Purpose of Ordinance.

3.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to establish certain requirements for beekeeping within the City, to avoid issues which might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.

3.2 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony constitutes a nuisance, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper’s efforts to abate any proven nuisance.

3.3 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony violates applicable ordinances regarding public health, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper’s compliance with acceptable standards of practice among hobby beekeepers in the State of Minnesota.

Section 4. Standards of Practice.

4.1 Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

4.2 Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.

4.3 Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insectproof container.

4.4 For each colony permitted to be maintained under this ordinance, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one nucleus colony in a Model Beekeeping Ordinance February 22, 2007

hive structure not to exceed one standard 9-5/8 inch depth 10-frame hive body with no supers.

4.5 Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall not be a defense to this ordinance that a beekeeper’s unused equipment attracted a swarm and that the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping bees.

Section 5 Colony Density.

5.1 Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, in each instance where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier

at least 6 feet in height. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination there of, such that bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be 4 feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches 6 feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for 10 feet in either direction from the hive, or contain the hive or hives in an enclosure at least 6 feet in height. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line (1) is undeveloped, or (2) is zoned agricultural, industrial or is outside of the City limits, or (3) is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within 25 feet of the apiary lot line.

5.2 No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the City, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:

- a. One half acre or smaller lot 2 colonies
- b. Larger than 1/2 acre but smaller than 3/4 acre lot 4 colonies
- c. Larger than 3/4 acre lot but smaller than 1 acre lot 6 colonies
- d. One acre but smaller than 5 acres 8 colonies
- e. Larger than 5 acres no restriction

5.3 Regardless of lot size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least 200 feet from any hive, measured from any point on the front of the hive, remain undeveloped, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.

5.4 If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honey bees from locations where they are not desired, the beekeeper shall not be considered in violation the portion of this ordinance limiting the number of colonies if he temporarily houses the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice set out in this ordinance for no more than 30 days from the date acquired.

Model Beekeeping Ordinance February 22, 2007

Section 6. Inspection.

A designated City official shall have the right to inspect any apiary for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this ordinance between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. once annually upon prior notice to the owner of the apiary property, and more often upon complaint without prior notice.

Section 7. Presumed Colony/Hive Value.

For the purpose of enforcing City ordinances against destruction of property, each colony/hive shall be presumed to have a value of \$275.

Section 8. Compliance.

8.1 Upon receipt of credible information that any colony located within the City is not being kept in compliance with this ordinance, [the designated City official] shall cause an investigation to be conducted. If the investigation shows that a violation may exist and will continue, [the designated City official] shall cause a written notice of hearing to be issued to the beekeeper, which notice shall set forth:

- a. The date, the time and the place that the hearing will be held, which date shall be not less than 30 days' from the date of the notice;
- b. The violation alleged;

c. That the beekeeper may appear in person or through counsel, present evidence, cross examine witnesses and request a court reporter, and
d. That if [the designated City official] finds that they have been kept in violation of this ordinance, and if the violation is not remediated within the time allowed, the bees may be ordered removed and/or destroyed.

Notices shall be given by certified US Mail return receipt requested or personal delivery. However, if the beekeeper cannot be located, then notice may be given by publication in a legal newspaper for the county in which the apiary property is located, at least seven days before the hearing.

8.2 The hearing shall be conducted by [the designated City official]. The burden shall be on the City to demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that the colony or colonies have been kept in violation of this ordinance. If [the designated City official] finds a violation, then he/she may order that the bees be removed from the City or such other action as may address the violation, and that the apiary lot be disqualified for permitting under this ordinance for a period of 2 years from the date of the order, the apiary lot ownership changes, in which case the prohibition shall terminate. If the order has not been complied with within 20 days of the order, the City may remove or destroy the bees and charge the beekeeper with the cost thereof. Upon destruction of bees by the City, all equipment shall be returned by the City to the beekeeper, with expenses of

Model Beekeeping Ordinance February 22, 2007

transportation to be paid by the beekeeper. The City's destruction of the bees shall be by a method that will not damage or contaminate the equipment, include wax foundation.

8.3 The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed by the beekeeper as provided in the City's rules and procedures. If no provision for appeal exists, then the beekeeper may file a notice of appeal with the City secretary within 15 days of the date the order is placed in US Mail to the beekeeper, or 10 days if the decision is announced at the hearing by [the designated City official]. An appeal shall not stay [the designated City official]'s decision, and the beekeeper shall be required to comply with such order pending the outcome of the appeal.

8.4 No hearing and no order shall be required for the destruction of honey bees not residing in a hive structure that is intended for beekeeping.

Section 9. Savings Clause.

In the event any part of this ordinance or its application to any person or property is held to be unenforceable for any reason, the unenforceability thereof will not affect the enforceability and application of the remainder of this ordinance, which will remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective on _____, 20_____.

Beekeeping Training Programs

Provided by Fox Valley Beekeepers

Anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper or improving their beekeeping skills will have the opportunity to enroll in one of two courses in the west-suburban area. Both courses are 8 weeks in length, starting late January and running through Mid-March.



[Geneva Park District](#) class on beekeeping will start on Tuesday, January 31 (through March 21) at Stephen Persinger Recreation Center at Peck Farm Park, 3507 Kaneville Road, Geneva, IL. This course is 8 weeks and will provide you with the information and skills needed to start and manage your own bee hive. Learn how to start raising honey bees, seasonal management of hives, and the use of bees for pollination and honey production. The class will learn the parts of the bee hive and how these social insects work within the hive. The book,

First Lessons in Beekeeping, will be available for purchase at the first class meeting. 7 - 9 p.m. Contact Trish Burns at 630 262-8244 to register.

[Wheaton Park District](#) class on beekeeping will start on Wednesday, February 1 (through March 22) at Wheaton North High School in Wheaton, IL. Contact Matt Wrobel, Adult Education Coordinator, at the Wheaton Park District - 630 510-5131 for more information.

Farther West

Check <http://www.belfrybees.com> as well for classes starting in January for both the beginner and experienced.

Ongoing classes

[Honeybeesonline.com](http://www.honeybeesonline.com) holds multiple classes throughout the season in Fairmount, IL. <http://www.belfrybees.com> also hold periodic classes through the year. Check the website for schedule.



Bee-ing a Good Neighbor



Good-neighbor Beekeeping Practices and Your Whitewater City Ordinance Requirements

1. Review the local city ordinance on keeping honeybees for details not covered in this document
 - ☞ Beekeeping is allowed in our community, but requires a permit and certain restrictions to minimize the potential for nuisance issues and to promote good beekeeping practices
 - ☞ Your permit application requires a one-time fee and must include a site plan. See attached example permit application and site plan: consider a Google satellite map screenshot or visit <http://gisinfo.co.walworth.wi.us/map3x/> to take screenshot of your property. A well-drawn sketch of your property, approximately to scale, may suffice. Photos can be useful but do not substitute for a site plan
 - ☞ Although beekeeping is allowed by local ordinance, if ordinance requirements are not being followed, the City may require you to remove the beehives from your property

2. Although not required by the ordinance, it is a good practice to inform your neighbors of your intent to raise honeybees
 - ☞ You can alleviate fears by educating your neighbors of the docile nature of honey bees and the benefits of having honey bees in the neighborhood
 - ☞ Describe the difference between honey bees and the more aggressive wasps and hornets
 - ☞ Honey bees will pollinate vegetables, flowers, trees, and bushes
 - ☞ Find out if any neighbors have serious allergies to bee stings. Be respectful and place your beehive further away from allergic neighbor's property lines
 - ☞ Encourage neighborhood children and your own children to wear shoes around your beehive and blooming plants in your lawn
 - ☞ Discuss bee swarm behavior, so neighbors understand that swarms may be cast from your hive and that they should not be alarmed, but should inform you if they see a swarm or swarm cluster
 - ☞ Have neighbors notify you if they plan on pesticide applications
 - ☞ SHARE your honey crop with your neighbors
 - ☞ Get them involved if they appear interested – invite them over for a colony inspection

3. Be discreet about the placement of your beehives

- ✿ Consider a rooftop if possible, out of the way of human activity
- ✿ You may keep a maximum of 3 colonies on your property with 1 additional temporary nucleus colony for purpose of swarm collection or splitting of colonies. Properties greater than 1 acre in size may keep additional colonies (2 additional colonies for each additional acre)
- ✿ City Ordinance requires that your beehives be placed in your back or side yard only and no closer than 5 feet from your property line. Entrances must face away from adjacent neighbor lot lines
- ✿ For beehives within 30 feet of a lot line you must establish a 6-foot tall flyway barrier that extends 10 feet on either side of the nearest beehive. The flyway barrier can be a solid or closely slatted fence, wall, dense line of vegetation, or combination thereof. The purpose of the flyway barrier is to raise the flight path of bees leaving the beehive, thereby limiting their interactions with nearby residents. (see example diagram below)

✿ Honey bees must be maintained in beehives with removable combs for inspection purposes. Both langstroth and top bar beehives are acceptable structures

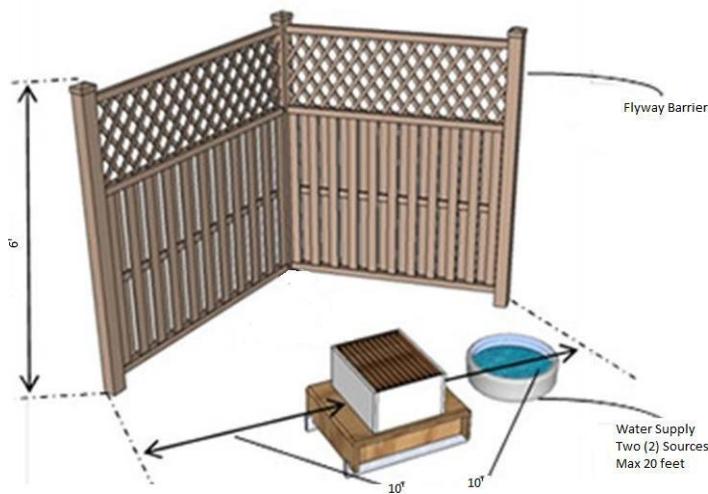


Diagram noting flyway barrier requirements. Flyway barrier must extend 10 feet to each side of the nearest beehive if beehive is within 30 feet of a property line. Also note 2 water sources are required to be continually filled with water except during winter months

4. Provide water sources for your bees to keep them out of neighbor's pool, bird baths, pet watering bowls and water spigots
 - ✿ Because the most common nuisance complaint of urban honey bees is bees congregating at nearby water sources, City Ordinance requires that you maintain 2 water sources on your property (1 within 20 feet of beehives) and each water source shall be continually filled with water when the bees are active outside the hive (water source may cease in the winter months).
 - ✿ Suggested water sources would include a bird bath that is regularly filled with water and/or a chicken waterer – each filled with stones to allow bees to perch near the water.

5. Minimize the potential for robbing behavior
 - ☞ Beekeepers are required to ensure that no empty beehives, bee comb, or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the property
 - ☞ No open feeding of honey bees is allowed

6. Learn to work your beehives at appropriate times
 - ☞ Sunny days between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when most of the field bees are foraging, is an excellent time to examine your hives. Use smoke appropriately when inspecting hives
 - ☞ Avoid working your bees when there is threatening or inclement weather
 - ☞ Respect your neighbors and DON'T work on your colonies when neighbors have activities going on in their yard.

7. Promote the benefit of urban beekeeping
 - ☞ Backyard gardens often lack sufficient number of pollinators
 - ☞ Some of the best honey can be produced in city areas without the harmful pressure of chemical sprays often used in heavily farmed areas
 - ☞ Cities often have an abundance of nectar sources such as basswood, black locust, and maple trees

Name:

Phone:

Applicant Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Rental Property: Yes or No

(If yes, property owner's signature and information required)

Property owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail: _____ phone number: _____

Requirements:

1. A \$10.00 application fee

2. Site Plan (Please draw dimensions, note number of intended beehives, site location, water sources, and flyway barriers)

Please see attached site plan

- *2-3 langstroth beehives are intended with 1 of these being a rooftop hive (currently 2 beehives)*
- *All beehives will be in the backyard no closer than 5 feet to the lot line. The backyard is entirely enclosed by an existing 6 foot tall fence along with dense vegetation as a flyway barrier*
- *2 sources of water include a chicken waterer and a bird bath*

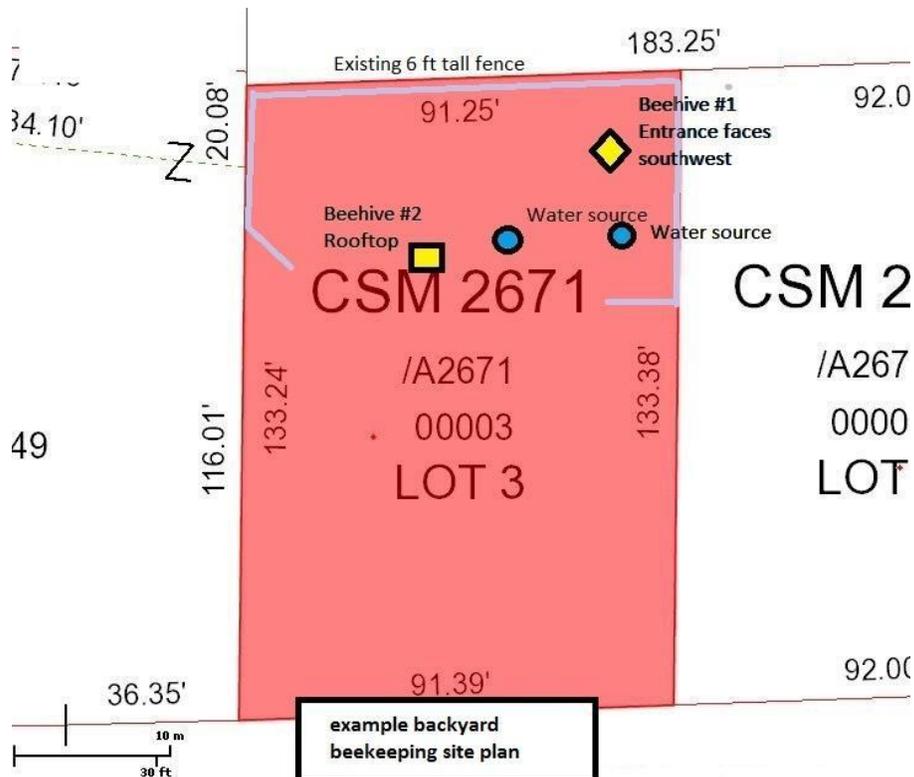
Neighborhood Services Director approval: Yes No

Date _____ Signature _____

Date issued: _____

Fee Paid: Yes No





Beehive #1:



Beehive #2 Rooftop (exit of observation hive maintained indoors):



Plants That Don't Attract Bees

Certain flowers are more attractive to bees than others.

Bees help pollinate many types of plants, including garden plants like cucumbers, but for people who are allergic or do not want to attract bees to their yard, they can be a nuisance. While many flowering plants attract bees, you can choose flowers -- based on certain characteristics, such as scent, color or bloom shape -- that do not attract bees.

Blooms

Bees are attracted to tubular-shaped flowers that they can crawl into, or small, flat flowers that they can walk on. They like blooms with abundant nectar. To find plants that do not attract bees, look for those with the opposite bloom characteristics and avoid planting flowering fruit trees, poppies and roses. Instead opt for plants that flower at night, produce inconspicuous blooms or are wind-pollinated plants. Some examples include evening primrose (*Primula alpicola*) and pussy toes (*Antennaria dioica*).

Color

Bees are attracted to a variety of bright colors, but blue, yellow and purple flowers are the most attractive to bees. Avoid flowers with those bloom colors and opt for flowers with red blooms. Bees do not see red -- it appears black to them -- so red flowers do not attract bees. Choose from the vast variety of red flowers available to avoid bees.

Scent

Bees are attracted to flowers that emit a pleasant scent, and this is why they seem to follow people wearing perfume, cologne or hairspray. Some plants act as a natural insecticide and repel insects. For this reason, planting flowers such as Mexican marigolds (*Tagetes lucida*) and chrysanthemums will not attract bees and can also detour other insect pests.

What to Plant

Bees are not attracted to many types of trees, such as elm, birch and oak, or to conifers, ground covers or shrubs. Ornamental grasses are an excellent choice if you do not want to attract bees to your yard, as bees are not attracted to them and they add beauty to the landscape. Sedges (*Carex* spp.) make striking additions to water gardens, rock gardens, and as borders while producing insignificant flowers that are not attractive to bees.

Source: sfgate.com

Swarm Control Contacts

MEMBER NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT	SERVICE
Carol Lussky	Big Timber Road Elgin, 60124	Carol Lussky 847-888-0142 carol@sheepwreckfarm.com	Local Honey Provider Swarm Retrieval
Brian Olson	Geneva, 60134	630-277-7285 bikupabees@gmail.com	Swarm Retrieval
Larry Geddes	Geneva, IL, 60134	630-208-1660 lgamy@aol.com	Local Honey Provider Swarm Retrieval
Jim Blough	512 Meadowwood Lane Oswego, 60543	815-419-8445 jimmybeeshoney@gmail.com	Local Honey Provider Swarm Retrieval
Reid Root	1422 Quincy Bridge Court Bartlett, il 60103	847.812.8927 reidroot1@gmail.com	Local Honey Provider Swarm Retrieval
David Hornor	Bartlett, il 60103	David Hornor 630-432-1641 dhornor@sbcglobal.net	Swarm Retrieval
Mark Schmidt	Batavia, IL	Mark Schmidt 630-390-8019 schmidt3113@sbcglobal.net	Swarm Retrieval
Bob McDonell	Carol Stream, IL 60188	Bob McDonell 630-668-6687 Beekeeperbob@gmail.com	Swarm Retrieval
Ryan Purmann	Elburn, IL 60119	Ryan Purman 224-234-8713	Swarm Retrieval
Honey Oaks	Elburn, IL 60119	Angela Nelson (630) 405-3801	Local Honey Provider Swarm Retrieval
Glenn Mize	Geneva, IL 60134	Glenn Mize 630-338-2119	Swarm Retrieval
Beth Mankowski	Geneva, IL 60134	Beth Mankowski 6302479177 bmankowski@hotmail.com	Swarm Retrieval
Michael Ream	Hampshire, il 60140	Michael Ream	Swarm Retrieval

		847-271-5438 mbream@sbcglobal.net	
Marks Bee Bizz	Montgomery, il 60538	Mark Kirshner 630-636-8148 markk1975@sbcglobal.net http://www.marksbeebizz.net	Swarm Retrieval
Donna Childs	Sandwich, Il 60548	Donna Childs 815-786-4876 DonnaJimChilds@comcast.net	Swarm Retrieval
Jane Ranney	St. Charles, IL 60174	Jane Ranney JFR811@AOL.COM	Swarm Retrieval
Reader Apiaries	Streamwood, IL 60107	Jeff Reader 630-289-4870 jereader@att.net	Local Honey Provider Pollen or Propolis provider Swarm Retrieval
Steve King	Winfield, IL 60190	Steve King	Swarm Retrieval
Michael Mealman	Elburn, Illinois 60119	Michael Mealman 630-768-8432 Muskyfishingbricky@att.net	Swarm Retrieval