Beekeeping

Where can I keep bees?

Beekeeping is permitted in all zone districts under the new code, but requires a Special Use Permit. In addition, use-specific standards apply to beekeeping to prevent beekeeping from negatively impacting surrounding areas.

There is no minimum lot size for beekeeping. However, there is a maximum number of hives per lot size and other requirements indicate how far hives must be from property lines, other structures, and the right of way.

Contact the Development Services Department to apply for a Special Use Permit for beekeeping. This permit must be renewed annually and has a fee of $25.

About Beekeeping

- **Bees are pollinators. They keep your garden and other plants in the area healthy.**
- **Keeping bees allows you to harvest your own local honey and beeswax.**
- **Bee populations have been decreasing over recent years raising bees can help increase numbers of these pollinators that are essential to food production and ecosystem health.**

If you're interested in learning more, the Indian Creek Nature Center offers an eight session course that introduces beginners to the annual cycle of beekeeping. See *https://indiancreeknaturecenter.org/public_programs/beekeeping/* for more information.



Beekeeping Requirements

- Must obtain a Special Use Permit
- No more than 1 hive per 5,000 square feet of lot area. A single hive may be located on a lot smaller than 5,000 square feet, provided that they meet all other requirements.
- Up to two additional hives may be provided on a temporary basis to rescue a swarm or accommodate the division of a bee colony.
- No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume.
- Ground-level beehives must be elevated at least 5 inches off the ground and screened to exclude pests.
- No hive shall be located closer than 3 feet from any property line.
- Hives are not permitted in the front setback.
- No hive shall be closer than 10 feet from a public sidewalk or 25 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot.
- A constant supply of water shall be provided for all hives.
- A flyaway barrier at least 6 feet in height and located within 3 feet of the entrance shall shield any part of a property line that is within 25 feet of a hive. This may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation, or a combination of these elements.