

## “What’s the Buzz?”

### *Raising Bees in the City of Minneapolis*

The City of Minneapolis allows residents to apply for a permit to keep bees on their property. Bees play a vital role in our food system by pollinating fruits, vegetables, flowers, and nuts. Keeping bees helps your home garden and surrounding ecosystem to thrive. You can even learn to extract your own honey and beeswax!

This fact sheet summarizes city policy related to beekeeping. The complete list of rules and regulations are located in the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances (Title 4, Chapter 74, Section 74.80). Before applying for a permit, you are advised to read the full ordinance language (<http://bit.ly/1qJLDNo>)



### ***What are the application requirements?***



**Take a Class:** Provide a certificate of completion of a honeybee keeping course from one of the following:

- University of Minnesota ([http://www.beelab.umn.edu/Education/Public\\_Courses/index.htm](http://www.beelab.umn.edu/Education/Public_Courses/index.htm))
- Century College
- Three Rivers Park District



**Provide Details:** Specify the location and number of hives, colonies and/or facilities where honeybees will be kept. [Minneapolis Animal Care and Control \(MACC\)](#) is required to inspect the location.



**Notify Neighbors:** Show proof that you have notified all your immediate neighbors that you plan to keep bees on your property. Your notification method must be approved by MACC. If you are a renter, you will also need approval from your property owner.



**Pay a Fee:** The beekeeping permit application fee is \$100 and annual renewals are free. All permits expire on January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### ***I have my beekeeping permit! What are the rules?***



Make sure to provide a water source while the colony is active outside the hive.



Maintain beekeeping equipment – keep hives painted and secure unused equipment from weather, potential theft, or occupancy by swarms.



Notify MACC **immediately** if you are no longer able or willing to maintain your beehives. MACC will make the hives available to an approved honeybee rescue entity or dispose of them if necessary. There is a fifty dollar (\$50.00) hive disposal fee.



Colonies must be located at least 20 feet away from neighbors' homes.



The apiary property must be enclosed by a latching fence.



If a colony is less than 25 feet from your property line, a flyway barrier (wall, fence, dense vegetation, or combination) must be installed. The flyway barrier must be at least six feet tall and must continue 10 feet along the lot line in each direction from the hive.



All other sides of the area around the colonies shall have a barrier (wall, fencing, dense vegetation, or a combination) at least four feet tall.



No barrier is required if adjoining property is undeveloped, zoned for agriculture/industry, or is a wildlife management area with no horse and foot trails within 25 feet of the apiary lot line. No barrier is needed on rooftop hives if they are at least 5 feet from the side of the structure and at least 15 feet from adjacent occupied structures.

For further information please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals/licenses/multiple-animal-permits#honeybee>

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**Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods. Homegrown Minneapolis brings together key partners from local government, area businesses, community organizations, non-profits and residents to build a healthy, local food system.**