



The Municipality of Bethel Park

Permit Procedure for Beekeeping

The following information, where applicable, is required to be submitted when applying for a Permit for Beekeeping:

- The Beekeeping Permit application filled out in its entirety
- The Zoning Permit application filled out in its entirety
- A certified copy of the property survey marking the location of the hive(s), water source, and flyaway barriers if applicable.
 - *Please see attached ordinance 69.35.8.d.1 for location information*
- Written evidence of completion of a beekeeping educational course/program with a minimum of eight hours of instructions or a letter of validation from an officer of the State of Pennsylvania.

Costs:

- \$10 – Beekeeping Permit Application
- \$50 – Zoning Permit Application

All Bee Hives shall comply with Bethel Park Municipal Ordinance 7-12-93A as-well-as all other applicable codes, laws and regulations.

Ordinance 69.35.8 Specific standards for beekeeping. [Added 8-10-2020 by Ord. No. 8-10-20B]

- a. Intent. It is recognized that honey bees are beneficial to humankind and to Pennsylvania in particular by providing both home garden and agricultural pollination services as well as furnishing honey, beeswax, and other useful products. It shall be unlawful to keep any bees in the Municipality except as provided herein.
- b. 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 clearly indicates another meaning:
 - [1] APIARY — Any place where one or more colonies of bees are kept at a single location.
 - [2] AFRICANIZED HONEY BEE — Hybrids of the African honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) with various European honey bees that are aggressive compared to the European subspecies.
 - [3] BEEKEEPER — A person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of honey bees.
 - [4] BEE — Any stage of the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*).
 - [5] BEE DISEASE — Disease such as American Foulbrood or other actionable disease as determined by the Department of Agriculture.
 - [6] BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES — The policies, procedures, and methods contained in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's compliance agreement for beekeepers.
 - [7] COLONY — An aggregate of honey bees consisting of workers, drones and a queen.
 - [8] HIVE — A receptacle or container, that includes modern moveable frames or combs, in which an active colony inhabits and exceeds a volume of 50 liters (i.e., a single standard Langstroth nine-and-five-eighths-inch deep body with 10 frames plus one additional hive body).
 - [9] DEPARTMENT — Refers to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry.
 - [10] NUCLEUS COLONY — A hive that does not exceed the volume of 50 liters (i.e., a single 10-frame standard nine-and-five-eighths-inch deep body or less).
 - [11] HONEY BEE — All life stages, of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis mellifera* species ("European" honey bee).
 - [12] FLYWAY BARRIER — A wall, fence, vegetation, hedge or combination thereof that forces bees to fly at a higher elevation above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.
- c. Standards of practice. Honey bee apiaries are permitted by right in all zoning districts when in compliance with the Pennsylvania Bee Law (3 Pa.C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended) and subject to the following regulations:
 - [1] Registration, certification and permits.
 - [a] No beekeepers may own or maintain an apiary within the Municipality without first registering and maintaining a current permit for all apiaries with the Department as required by the Pennsylvania Bee Law, 3 Pa. C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended.
 - [b] A beekeeper owning or maintaining an apiary in the Municipality shall promptly notify the Code Enforcement Officer or appropriate office within 72 hours if the Department revokes said apiary registration or if said registration has lapsed.
 - [c] No beekeeper shall own or maintain an apiary within the Municipality without first obtaining a permit from the Zoning Officer. An application for a permit shall be made in writing and upon such form or in such format as established by the Municipality, and shall be accompanied by the prescribed permit fee in the amount established from time to time by resolution of Municipal Council. The application shall be accompanied by a lot plan that includes the size of the lot, the location and number of hives, the location of each

- [b]** All beekeepers shall maintain their colonies consistent with the Voluntary Best Management Practices for Maintaining European Honeybee Colonies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as established by the Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board.
- [c]** Hive entrances shall face away from the closest neighboring property and in such a direction that the bees fly across the beekeeper's property at sufficient distance to gain a height of at least six feet at the property line. The use of barriers may be employed to redirect the bees' flight pathway and establish bee flight pathways above six feet. A flyway barrier at least six feet in height shall be placed alongside of the hive(s) that contains the entrance to the hive(s), shall be located within five feet of the hive(s) and shall extend at least two feet on either side of the hive(s). A flyway barrier shall consist of a solid fence, dense vegetation, hedge, or a combination thereof. No flyway barrier is required for hive(s) that are located greater than 10 feet from property lines.
- [d]** Exceptions to flyway barrier. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line is:
 - i.** Undeveloped; or
 - ii.** Zoned agricultural or industrial; or
 - iii.** Is a state game land, state park, national forest, state forest, natural park, or conservation area and has no preexisting human or horse trails located within 25 feet of the property line.
- [3]** All beekeepers shall ensure that a convenient source of fresh water is available to the bees from April 1 through November 1 each year, with such water source being located closer to the apiary than any other water source.
- [4]** All beekeepers shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that attract honeybees are left upon the ground of the apiary site. Upon removal from the apiary, all such materials shall be properly maintained in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure, so long as bees are kept on the property.
- f.** Inspection. If an inspection is required as a result of a nuisance complaint or otherwise as deemed necessary by the Municipality, the designated municipal Code Enforcement Officer will inspect the property to ensure compliance with applicable Zoning Ordinance provisions.
- g.** Nuisance. It shall be unlawful for any beekeeper to keep any hive in such a manner as to cause any unhealthy condition or that interferes with the normal use of adjoining properties, including but not limited to:
 - [1]** The use of receptacles for honeybees that does not comply with the Pennsylvania Bee Law, 3 Pa. C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended.
 - [2]** Hive placement and related bee movement such that the bees interfere with the reasonable freedom of movement of persons in a public right-of-way, or the location of bees has a proven negative impact to the general safety, health, and welfare of the general public.