



The Municipality of Bethel Park

Permit Procedure for Chicken Coops

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

- The Chicken 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 coop
 - *Setbacks for the structure are 10' from the back and 10' from the side property line*
- A picture/drawing of the coop showing the measurements
- Page 2 of the **Manure Management Plan**

Costs:

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

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

Ordinance 69.35.4.7 Specific standards for chickens. [Added 9-10-2018 by Ord. No. 9-10-18]

- a. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:
 - (1) CHICKEN RUN — An enclosed area in which chickens are allowed to walk and run about. A securely fenced yard may also be permitted. Chickens are only permitted to access the chicken run during daylight hours.
 - (2) CHICKEN COOP — A structure for sheltering of female (pullets or hens) chickens. An existing shed or garage may be used for this purpose, provided that it meets the standards for chicken coops set forth in this article. A new and permanent chicken coop shall be considered an accessory structure and shall require a separate permit.
 - (3) RESIDENTIAL CHICKEN PERMIT — A permit issued under the provisions of this article for the keeping of chickens as accessory to the primary residential use of a property.
- b. The keeping of chickens shall be permitted only in the R-1, R-2 and R-3 Zoning Districts as a use accessory to a dwelling.
- c. Number. The number of chickens authorized shall comply with the following:
 - (1) For the first 3,000 square feet of a lot, up to four chickens.
 - (2) For each additional 1,000 square feet of a lot, one additional chicken up to a maximum of 15.
- d. No roosters may be kept or harbored within the Municipality.
- e. All chickens must be contained within the owner's property boundary.
- f. All feed must be kept in a vermin proof, airtight container.
- g. No hens or chicks may be slaughtered in the Municipality.
- h. Chickens shall be kept for personal use only. The selling of chickens, chicken manure, chicken eggs or the breeding of chickens for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- i. Coop. A chicken coop is required for the keeping of any number of chickens. Any coop or enclosure for the chickens must be covered, predator-proof and thoroughly ventilated and be of a sufficient size to admit free movement of the chickens. Chicken coops shall be kept clean.
 - (1) Any chicken coop must be located a minimum of 10 feet from any side lot line and at least 10 feet from any rear lot line and cannot be located in any front yard.
 - (2) Chicken coops shall be at least three square feet in size for one chicken plus a minimum of two additional square feet per additional chicken.
 - (3) All chickens must be kept in a chicken coop or chicken run at all times. The chickens shall be secured within the coop during nondaylight hours.
- j. Waste storing and removal. Anyone keeping and raising chickens pursuant to this article must safely dispose of all waste products through on-site composting. A manure management plan will be required as part of the permit application and may be subject to the review of the Allegheny County Conservation District. The manure management plan shall include actions to be taken to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and to prevent the infestation of insects and parasites. Under no circumstances shall chicken manure be placed into the sanitary sewer system.
- k. Permits.
 - (1) A residential chicken permit is required in order to keep or harbor any chickens within the Municipality. An application for a permit shall be made in writing to the Zoning Officer on such forms 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.