



Community Development Department
211 Walnut Street Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: (920) 886-6130
Fax: (920) 886-6129
Web site: www.ci.neenah.wi.us

Registration Form for Keeping of Honey Bees

The City of Neenah Municipal Code Chapter 3-40 relating to the keeping of honey bees is printed on the back of this form.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Number of hives you are proposing:
Limit is one (1) per 5,000 sq ft of lot area _____

Location of where honey bees will be kept:
Include site plan with indication of distance from lot lines _____

Signature of Owner

Date

A one-time \$25 fee is required. Please sign and return this form to the Neenah Department of Community Development. If you have any questions regarding this form, please call 886-6130.

ARTICLE IV BEE KEEPING

Sec. 3-40 Purpose

The purpose of this Article is to allow small-scale beekeeping on lots within the city and establish standards and requirements for beekeeping in order to avoid issues that might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in neighborhoods. Honeybees are critical pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables. Managed colonies of bees help to increase yields and quality of a large variety of plants commonly found in backyard gardens, parks, and natural areas. A growing interest in renewable resources has prompted more people to take up beekeeping as a way to produce their own honey, beeswax, pollen and other hive products that are high in nutritional value. Domestic strains of honeybees have been selectively bred for desirable traits so that they can be kept within populated areas and in reasonable densities, without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed. By providing a "best practices" ordinance for small-scale ("hobby") beekeeping on properties, the City can support a sustainable activity while setting standards that are practical for beekeepers and safe for neighbors.

Sec. 3-41 Registration Required

- a) *Application.* Prior to establishing any Apiary, a property owner or tenant shall register with the Department of Community Development and Assessment (the "Department"). The Department shall prescribe the form of registration required. At a minimum, the registration shall require the following information:
 - 1) Name and address of the applicant Beekeeper.
 - 2) The address of the Apiary and whether the Beekeeper owns or rents the location. If the Beekeeper rents the location of the prospective Apiary, the property owner shall sign a statement on the application indicating the owner's consent to establish an apiary on the owner's property.
 - 3) A copy of the notice required under §3-43(a) and evidence that shows the notice was provided as required.
 - 4) A diagram showing where on the property the apiary will be located.
 - 5) Such other information as the department shall prescribe to aide in the enforcement of this Article.
- b) *Inspection.* Prior to accepting registration under this section, the Department shall inspect the proposed location of the Apiary to determine if it meets the standards outlined in this Article.
- (c) *Registration Fee.* The fee for registering an Apiary shall be in the amount established by Common Council.
- (d) *List of Registered Apiaries.* The Department shall maintain a list of registered apiaries located in the City which shall be open to public inspection.

Sec. 3-42 Standards & Practices

The following criteria constitute standards and practices that, when applied to small-scale beekeeping, protect the health, safety, property and welfare of the general public.

- a) *Number of hives.* One hive or colony per 5000 square foot of lot size to a maximum of six hives allowed on any lot within the City.
- b) *Location.* Hives are allowed only within side or rear yards. In all cases, a minimum setback of 10 feet must be maintained between any property line and the closest point of any hives. Hives shall also be located at least 25 feet from any neighboring dwelling. Hives located within 25 feet of a property line must be shielded with a minimum six-foot height flyway barrier installed within ten (10) feet of the hive. The flyway barrier may consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation, or combination thereof that extends 10 feet beyond the outer edges of the hives in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly over the material to reach the colony.
- c) *Water supply.* Every beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient and constant supply of water is provided near the hives for as long as colonies remain active outside of the hives.
- d) *Best practices.* The Department shall develop suggested best practices for operation of any small-scale beekeeping operation in the City to be incorporated as part of the registration required under §3-41 of this Code.
- e) *Africanized honeybees avoidance practices.* In any instance where a colony is found to exhibit aggressive behavior, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to immediately destroy or re-queen the hive with certified European stock.

Sec.3- 43 Administration and Enforcement.

A beekeeping registration must be received and approved by the City before a property owner or tenant can begin beekeeping operations.

- a) *Neighbor notification.* Prior to registration, the applicant/beekeeper will be required to notify all neighbors whose properties share a common lot line with the property where beekeeping will take place.
- b) *City inspections.* The Department of Community Development and Assessment is authorized to make inspections, during reasonable hours, to investigate any complaints, or to determine continued compliance with the beekeeping ordinance. The Department may revoke a registration approval if there have been three or more violations of the ordinance within any six-month period.
- c) *Effect of compliance.* Compliance with this section shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given bee colony is in violation of other codes or ordinances governing public nuisances, or public health and safety. However, compliance with this section may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's efforts to abate any proven nuisance, or as evidence of the beekeeper's compliance with generally accepted standards of practice among small-scale hobby beekeepers in the State of Wisconsin.
- d) *Registration Appeal.* Abutting neighbors of a proposed or previously registered apiary may appeal to the Public Services and Safety Committee to revoke or deny a registration approval based on a documented Anaphylaxis medical condition of one or more of the occupants residing at an abutting property. In the event that the Committee finds a documented Anaphylaxis medical condition exists at an abutting property, it may revoke or refuse to register the adjoining apiary.

City of Neenah

Beekeeping Neighborhood Notification Letter

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

This notice is to inform you that as your next door neighbor, I have registered with the City of Neenah to keep honey bees on my property as allowed by City Ordinance 2017-05B. The purpose of this notification is to give the following information about the installation and contact information should you have any questions or concerns.

Date: _____

Beekeeper Name: _____

Beekeeper Address: _____

Beekeeper Phone Number: _____

Number of hives proposed: (Limit is one (1) per 5,000 sq. ft. of lot area) _____

Location of where honey bee hive will be kept: (include setback distances from lot lines and site plan)

The beekeeping ordinance is on the back of this letter. If you have questions concerning the ordinance, please contact the City of Neenah at:

Department of Community Development
211 Walnut St
Neenah WI, 54956
920-886-6130
inspections@ci.neenah.wi.us

ARTICLE IV BEE KEEPING

Sec. 3-40 Purpose

The purpose of this Article is to allow small-scale beekeeping on lots within the city and establish standards and requirements for beekeeping in order to avoid issues that might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in neighborhoods. Honeybees are critical pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables. Managed colonies of bees help to increase yields and quality of a large variety of plants commonly found in backyard gardens, parks, and natural areas. A growing interest in renewable resources has prompted more people to take up beekeeping as a way to produce their own honey, beeswax, pollen and other hive products that are high in nutritional value. Domestic strains of honeybees have been selectively bred for desirable traits so that they can be kept within populated areas and in reasonable densities, without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed. By providing a "best practices" ordinance for small-scale ("hobby") beekeeping on properties, the City can support a sustainable activity while setting standards that are practical for beekeepers and safe for neighbors.

Sec. 3-41 Registration Required

- a) *Application.* Prior to establishing any Apiary, a property owner or tenant shall register with the Department of Community Development and Assessment (the "Department"). The Department shall prescribe the form of registration required. At a minimum, the registration shall require the following information:
 - 1) Name and address of the applicant Beekeeper.
 - 2) The address of the Apiary and whether the Beekeeper owns or rents the location. If the Beekeeper rents the location of the prospective Apiary, the property owner shall sign a statement on the application indicating the owner's consent to establish an apiary on the owner's property.
 - 3) A copy of the notice required under §3-43(a) and evidence that shows the notice was provided as required.
 - 4) A diagram showing where on the property the apiary will be located.
 - 5) Such other information as the department shall prescribe to aide in the enforcement of this Article.
- b) *Inspection.* Prior to accepting registration under this section, the Department shall inspect the proposed location of the Apiary to determine if it meets the standards outlined in this Article.
- (c) *Registration Fee.* The fee for registering an Apiary shall be in the amount established by Common Council.
- (d) *List of Registered Apiaries.* The Department shall maintain a list of registered apiaries located in the City which shall be open to public inspection.

Sec. 3-42 Standards & Practices

The following criteria constitute standards and practices that, when applied to small-scale beekeeping, protect the health, safety, property and welfare of the general public.

- a) *Number of hives.* One hive or colony per 5000 square foot of lot size to a maximum of six hives allowed on any lot within the City.
- b) *Location.* Hives are allowed only within side or rear yards. In all cases, a minimum setback of 10 feet must be maintained between any property line and the closest point of any hives. Hives shall also be located at least 25 feet from any neighboring dwelling. Hives located within 25 feet of a property line must be shielded with a minimum six-foot height flyway barrier installed within ten (10) feet of the hive. The flyway barrier may consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation, or combination thereof that extends 10 feet beyond the outer edges of the hives in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly over the material to reach the colony.
- c) *Water supply.* Every beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient and constant supply of water is provided near the hives for as long as colonies remain active outside of the hives.
- d) *Best practices.* The Department shall develop suggested best practices for operation of any small-scale beekeeping operation in the City to be incorporated as part of the registration required under §3-41 of this Code.
- e) *Africanized honeybees avoidance practices.* In any instance where a colony is found to exhibit aggressive behavior, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to immediately destroy or re-queen the hive with certified European stock.

Sec.3- 43 Administration and Enforcement.

A beekeeping registration must be received and approved by the City before a property owner or tenant can begin beekeeping operations.

- a) *Neighbor notification.* Prior to registration, the applicant/beekeeper will be required to notify all neighbors whose properties share a common lot line with the property where beekeeping will take place.
- b) *City inspections.* The Department of Community Development and Assessment is authorized to make inspections, during reasonable hours, to investigate any complaints, or to determine continued compliance with the beekeeping ordinance. The Department may revoke a registration approval if there have been three or more violations of the ordinance within any six-month period.
- c) *Effect of compliance.* Compliance with this section shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given bee colony is in violation of other codes or ordinances governing public nuisances, or public health and safety. However, compliance with this section may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's efforts to abate any proven nuisance, or as evidence of the beekeeper's compliance with generally accepted standards of practice among small-scale hobby beekeepers in the State of Wisconsin.
- d) *Registration Appeal.* Abutting neighbors of a proposed or previously registered apiary may appeal to the Public Services and Safety Committee to revoke or deny a registration approval based on a documented Anaphylaxis medical condition of one or more of the occupants residing at an abutting property. In the event that the Committee finds a documented Anaphylaxis medical condition exists at an abutting property, it may revoke or refuse to register the adjoining apiary.

Why are people getting into Bee Keeping?

The fact that keeping a hive in the backyard dramatically improves pollination and rewards you with a delicious honey harvest are by themselves good enough reasons to keep bees.

But today, the value of keeping bees goes beyond the obvious. In many areas, millions of colonies of wild honey bees have been wiped out by urbanization, pesticides, and parasitic mites, devastating the wild honey bee population. When gardeners wonder why they now see fewer and fewer honey bees in their gardens, it's because of the dramatic decrease in our wild honey bee population. Backyard beekeeping has become vital in our efforts to reestablish lost colonies of bees and offset the natural decrease in pollination by wild bees.



* * Bee Buzz * *

- There are three types of bees in the hive - Queen, Worker and Drone.
- The queen may lay 600-800 or even 1,500 eggs each day during her 3 or 4 year lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
- Honey bees fly at 15 miles per hour.
- Honey bees' wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.
- Honeybees are the only insect that produce food for humans.
- Honeybees will usually travel approximately 3 miles from their hive.
- Honeybees are the only bees that die after they sting.
- Honeybees are responsible for pollinating approx 80% of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the U.S.
- Honeybees never sleep!

* * *

Backyard Bee Keeping



A Guide to Keeping Bees in Neenah



More information at
www.ci.neenah.wi.us

WHY KEEP HONEYBEES?



Raising honeybees can be a challenging, fun and rewarding pastime that provides you with all the fresh honey you can eat. Honey bees are surprisingly docile and modern beekeeping methods make the process extremely non-invasive and bee friendly.



Neenah Rules Concerning Bee Keeping

Residents keeping Honey Bees are required to register with the City Inspections Department and notify abutting neighbors prior to installation of hive. Inspections 920-886-6130
www.ci.neenah.wi.us/departments/inspections/

One hive or colony is allowed per 5000 sq. ft. of yard area. In most cases no more than one bee hive can be kept per property.

Hives are not allowed in any front yard and all hives shall be setback at least 10 feet from any rear or side lot line.

The hive shall be located no closer than 25 feet to any neighboring home.

Six foot high flyway barriers are required for any hive within 25 feet of a lot line. If required, flyway barriers must be within 10 feet of the hive.

A constant water source is required at the hive and all hives shall be kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

WEB SITES

BASIC INFORMATION

- www.abfnet.org/
- www.wihoney.org/
- <http://honeybeeware.com/wi-bee-clubs/>
- www.facebook.com/FoxValleyBees/
- www.beethinking.com/pages/beekeeping-for-beginners
- <http://www.beginningbeekeeping.com/>

