



WHAT YOU NEED WITH YOU

- ▶ Quick Permit Application
- ▶ Permit fee. Please refer to the building permit fee chart.
- ▶ Plat of survey showing the locations, dimensions, and set backs of all existing improvements and the proposed hive(s), flyway barrier/fencing, and water source.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ▶ Beekeeper: The person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
- ▶ Hive: A structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.
- ▶ A City permit, approval, and inspection are required prior to a beekeeper acquiring bees. Contact the City of Elgin to schedule the inspection.
- ▶ A permit for beekeeping shall not be transferable or run with the land and shall terminate and become invalid upon the permit holder no longer occupying the property for which the license and permit were issued.
- ▶ Many subdivisions have private covenants and restrictions which supersede City zoning requirements. The City does not enforce covenants and restrictions. It is recommended that property owner's check with the homeowner's association prior to considering keeping bees.
- ▶ Complete permit requirements are provided within [Section 7.10 of the Elgin Municipal Code](#).

REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Number of Hives (the number of hives is based on the characteristics of the property)**
 - a. Hives are not permitted on any lot with a multi-family dwelling (i.e. an apartment or condominium building);
 - b. Any other lot < ¼ acre may have up to 2 hives;
 - c. Any other lot > ¼ acre may have up to 4 hives; and
 - d. And other lots > 1 acre and zoned in the CF Community Facility district may have up to 8 hives.
- 2. Location of Hives**
 - a. Hives shall be located on a rooftop, or in a rear yard, maintained at least 25 feet from any occupied residential structure other than that of the owner and setback at least 10 feet from all property lines of an adjacent property.

(Continued on the next page)



REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. Fencing/Screening

- a. For hives within 20 feet of a property line, a flyway barrier or screen shall be provided. A flyway barrier can be a solid fence or dense vegetation/landscaping that at least 6 feet high. The flyway barrier can be close to the hive or at the lot line. All fencing shall be installed in conformance with regulations of this Code.

4. State Registration

- a. All bee colonies shall be registered annually with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) by the beekeeper as required in the Bees and Apiaries Act (510 ILCS 20/1, et seq.) as amended. Beekeepers shall maintain bee colonies and allow for inspections of bee colonies as provided in the Bees and Apiaries Act. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition. Beekeepers shall be required to post his or her registration number in a prominent place within each apiary under his or her control.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. Beekeepers shall ensure that a convenient and adequate source of fresh water is maintained within ten feet (10') of the hive at all times to prevent bees from straying from the property in search of water. Examples of sources of water beekeepers can provide include: a) a tub of water with wood floats to prevent the bees from drowning, b) a faucet in the apiary that is left to drip steadily, or c) entrance feeders (quart jars with holes in the lids) filled with water and placed on the colony(ies). If using tubs of water, beekeepers shall change the water periodically to avoid stagnation and mosquito breeding.
- b. A small sign to announce "Bees on Premises" shall be posted by beekeepers at walkway or gate area entrances to the rear of the premises to warn visitors to the property of the presence of bees on site. The sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet. Signs are not required for rooftop hives.
- c. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive, which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned, neglected, or mismanaged by the beekeeper, is unlawful.
- d. All bees, colonies, or items of bee equipment, where bee diseases, bee parasites or exotic strains of bees exist; or hives that cannot be readily inspected, or colonies that are not registered with the State or have not been issued a permit by the City, are declared to be nuisances and shall be unlawful for any person to allow such nuisance to exist.