
APPLICATION FOR REARING BEES

(PROPOSED INFORMATION HANDOUT AND APPLICATION)

(PCDC Final Version, Recommended: 2021 03-04)

The City of Olivette permits beekeeping on a single-family residence. Below are the steps to follow if you would like to bee-keep:

- a. Request application packet from the Department of Planning and Community Development.
- b. Review application packet.
- c. Hives. Placement of hive structures must be in conformance with Section 400.1592 of the City's Zoning Regulations. Said section permits:
 - Number: Three (3) hives per lot.
 - Area: Each not to exceed twenty (20) cubic feet.
 - Height: Not to exceed five (5) feet.
 - Setback:
 - (1) Front yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure. Screened from any adjacent street.
 - (2) Side yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure and screened from view.
 - (3) Rear yard: Ten (10) feet from rear lot line.
 - Exterior finish: Materials shall be compatible with the character of the residence located on the lot and in keeping with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood.
- d. Variations. Any request for more than three (3) hives or to exceed the hive standards under Section 400.1592, are subject to the review and approval of the City's Planning and Community Design Commission.
- e. Submit application along with the \$25.00 fee and drawing of rear yard showing proposed placement of beehive body frames.
- f. Your proposed placement will be reviewed and if in compliance, approved.
- g. Locate and build your frames.
- h. Schedule inspection for placement review.
- i. Permit issued.

Common courtesies:

- Your subdivision may have indentures, by-laws, and/or covenants that limit, restrict, or prohibit the harboring of bees. These indentures are legally binding, recorded documents recognized by the State of Missouri and recorded with the St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds Office. Please review indentures governing your subdivision and discuss with the appropriate trustees.
- Beyond the impact of necessary work conducted on your property for harboring bees, the next impacted property is your neighbor's. The actions you take, and activities of your bees may unintentionally impact your neighbor. Please make sure to reach out to your neighbor, keep them informed of your activities, and mediate concerns and issues to the best of your abilities.

If you have any questions, please call the Department of Planning and Community Development at 314-993-0252.

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APPLICATION FOR BEEKEEPING

Note: Only allowed in the SR Single Family Residential District

I. Applicant acknowledges that they understand:

The keeping of up to **3-bee hive body frames**, each not exceeding 20-cubic feet, shall be permitted as provided in this section only in the SR Single Family Residential Zoning District and only if a permit has been issued by the Department of Planning and Community Development.

a) Limitations:

- No more than 3-bee hive body frames may be kept on a single lot.

b) Operations.

- A defined water source shall be provided within ten (10) feet of the frames.

b) Housing:

- The bee hive body frames may not exceed an enclosed are of 20-cubic feet.
- The bee hive body frames may not exceed a height of five (5) feet.
- The frame shall be maintained in a ventilated, safe and sanitary condition, which has adequate space for humane treatment and free from predators.

Number: Three (3) hives per lot.

Area: Each not to exceed twenty (20) cubic feet.

Height: Not to exceed five (5) feet.

Setback:

- (1) Front yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure. Screened from any adjacent street.
- (2) Side yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure and screened from view.
- (3) Rear yard: Ten (10) feet from rear lot line.

Exterior finish: Materials shall be compatible with the character of the residence located on the lot and in keeping with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood.

c) Other Requirements:

- Subdivision Indentures. As is the case with many regulations, when applicable, subdivision indentures may be more restrictive than City ordinances; therefore, it is recommended that the applicant seek subdivision approval prior to filing this application.
- Rental Property. If the applicant is not the owner of the property on which such activity is proposed, written authority from the owner must be provided.
- Other Code regulations. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to preclude the enforcement of any violation of any City ordinances committed in connection with the keeping of bees, notwithstanding the issuance of such permit.
- Inspections. By applying for a permit under this section the property owner authorizes City officials at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner to enter upon and inspect the property with respect to which such permit is applied for to determine whether the keeping of chickens violates this section or any other applicable ordinances.
- Annual fee. The annual fee for a permit shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to help defray costs of inspection and enforcement, payable on issuance of the permit and on January 1st of each year.
- Non-transferability of permit: A permit issued hereunder shall be nontransferable. It is unlawful to keep, harbor, maintain, possess, or otherwise control any bees on property that is not identified on the permit.

Upon termination of a permit, the applicant shall remove all associated structures utilized for harboring bees and restore the grounds to reflect the adjacent yard area.

CERTIFICATION BY PETITIONER(S)

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have a legal interest in the hereinabove described property and that all information given herein is true and a statement of fact.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

CERTIFICATION BY OWNER(S)

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have a legal interest in the hereinabove described property and that all information given herein is true and a statement of fact.

Signature: _____

Printed Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

BEEKEEPING TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Moneen M. Jones
Research Entomologist, Division of Plant Sciences
College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

For a beginning beekeeper, between two and five hives is ideal. Olivette limits the number to three hives, not to exceed 20-cubic feet each. This size apiary is small enough for a beginner to manage but still provides enough bees to allow for winter losses. Once a hive has become established, it can produce 50 to 100 pounds of surplus honey each year.

Take a beginning beekeeping class before you invest in bees and equipment. Between varroa mites and colony collapse disorder, knowledge of beekeeping management practices is essential. Check with your local MU Extension center about upcoming classes.

Join local and state beekeeping associations for additional information and guidance. Attend any seminars or meetings that are offered to expand your education and to meet other beekeepers, who can provide valuable help. For additional information, check with your local MU Extension for some of the many good reference books on apiculture.

When you are ready to buy supplies, you will have many beekeeping supply companies to choose from; a few are listed with your local MU Extension. You can buy prebuilt hive kits that include all necessary hive components, or you can build your hive boxes from scratch. You can also order all the parts ready to be assembled, in which case all else you will need are a hammer, some nails and any color of exterior latex-based paint.

Order your bees early for the next year. Suppliers of bees commonly take orders for nucleus colonies, called nucs for short, or package bees in November and December, for delivery in April or May. If you wait too long to order, you will pay a premium or they may not have any bees to sell you. Several months before your colonies arrive, buy your hive components and other equipment. Have the hives assembled and placed on your selected site 30 days before your bees are scheduled to arrive.

Apiary location. Place the apiary near an abundant source of nectar and pollen. A good supply of water is essential. The apiary should face east or south with a northern windbreak. Deciduous trees that partially shade the colony in summer afternoons and allow the sun to penetrate in winter are desirable.

Water source. Like all animals, honey bees need a dependable source of water year round. The best water sources for bees are ones that won't go dry in the summer, won't drown the bees, and won't be shared with livestock or pets.

Biologists believe that bees probably find most of their water by scent rather than sight, so a water source with a smell will be more attractive. While that may be good for the bees, it may be frowned upon by your neighbor.

Honey bees can travel long distances to find the resources they need. Bees are creatures of habit and once they find a reliable source they will return again and again. Since getting your bees to change their source is nearly impossible, it is best to establish a source for them before they find one by themselves.

Placement. Hives should be level from side to side but should be tilted slightly forward to prevent water from accumulating inside. Ventilate the hive through the top by propping open the telescoping lid with a stick to reduce humidity inside the hive. Moist conditions inside promote diseases.