



## City of Fitchburg Beekeeping on Residential Lots

The rules and regulations detailed in this pamphlet are from the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance (see section 22-56(14)). Some Fitchburg subdivisions may have rules or “deed restrictions” which go beyond these regulations, or which may not allow chickens or bees on residential lots. You should have received a copy of your subdivision’s “deed restrictions” when you purchased your property.

The keeping of honeybees (*apis Mellitera*) in the yard of single family residences or duplexes is allowed in the R-L, R-LM and R-M zoning districts. Such beekeeping shall comply with the following:

### **Numbers & Size of Beehives:**

- No hive shall exceed twenty (20) cubic feet in volume.
- Beekeeping shall be an accessory use and shall not be a commercial operation.

<b>Beehive Number</b>	
<b>Lot Size</b>	<b>Number of Beehives Allowed</b>
Up to 2 acres	Six (6) hives
2 to 5 acres	Eight (8) hives
5 acres or more	No limit on hives

### **Location & Setbacks:**

- Hives shall be only on lots with single-family or duplex residential as the primary use.
- Hives shall not be in the front yard and the hive entrance shall face away from the nearest property line.

<b>Required Setbacks</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Setback Distance</b>
From Property Line	3 feet
From Public Sidewalk or Public Path	25 feet
From Principal Building on Abutting Property	25 feet

- If a property line is located within 25 feet of a hive, a 6 foot tall flyway barrier, comprised of a wall, fence or dense vegetation, or combination, is required. The flyway barrier shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex at the hive to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded.

### **Management Practices:**

- Beekeepers shall utilize best practices to avoid creating nuisances.
- A sufficient supply of on-site water is required to be provided for all hives.
- Any hive that is abandoned or discontinued for 12 consecutive months shall be removed.
- All honeybees shall be kept in hives with removable combs which shall be kept in good repair and usable condition.

### **Permit Required:**

- A permit is required for the keeping of honeybees. See Planning/Zoning for permit application and process.

Source: City of Madison  
Modified for Fitchburg's regulations

A flyway barrier shall shield any part of a property line that is within **25** feet of a hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof and it shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex at the hive to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded.

