

URBAN BEEKEEPING REGULATIONS



Urban Beekeeping in St. Albert is enforced under the Urban Beekeeping Bylaw 34/2017. The regulations are based on best practices with the intent to minimize potential incidents between surrounding neighbours, bees, and beekeepers.

1. General Regulations

- Urban beekeeping regulations is for the keeping of honey bees and hives.
- Beekeeping in public parks operated by the City is not permitted under Bylaw 34/2017.
- Residential beekeeping for the purposes of Bylaw 34/2017 is for personal use only.
- A Beekeeping Business Licence is required for the commercial sale of bee products (all hives on non-residential sites).

2. Hive and Site Requirements

- A hive must include a bottom board, a hive cover, and a maximum of four (4) supers.
- The hive must not measure more than 127 cm (50 in.) x 51 cm (20 in.) x 51 cm (20 in.).
- Hives are restricted to the rear yard of a property.
- Hive entrances are to be directed away from adjoining properties.
- Hives are to be located a minimum of three metres from all property lines OR within a rear yard enclosed by a solid fence or hedge a minimum of 1.8 metres in height.
- Properties located adjacent to pedestrian walkways must ensure that the hives are a minimum of three metres from the property line adjacent to the pedestrian walkway AND within a rear yard enclosed by a solid fence or hedge 1.8 metres in height.

Residential Properties:

- A maximum of two (2) hives on one parcel of land.

Non-Residential Properties:

- A maximum of two (2) hives on one parcel of land with an area less than 929 m² (10,000 ft²).
- A maximum of four (4) hives on one parcel of land with an area equal to or greater than 929 m².
- Hives located within open spaces, without defined rear yards, must be located a minimum of three metres (10 feet) from all property lines and are located within a secure enclosure a minimum of 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height.

3. Neighbourhood Notification

- Applicant must submit written permission from all Adjoining Neighbours to install Hives on the property.

4. Registration and Premises Identification

- A property owners must register annually with the provincial apiculturist as per the Alberta *Bee Act*.
- A Premises Identification (PID) number must be obtained under the Alberta *Animal Health Act*.

5. Training

- Proof of success in an urban beekeeping course from an accepted organization or association is required. See the list of acceptable Urban Beekeeping Courses.

6. Liability Insurance

- Property owners may consider obtaining liability insurance. Liability insurance protects the property owner if someone gets stung or if someone eats their honey and blames them for getting sick.

7. Responsibilities of the Urban Beekeeper

- Ensure good husbandry practices and maintenance to prevent swarming, aggressive behaviour, and disease.
- Adequate water must be provided to deter the bees from seeking water from alternate sources.

8. Inspections

- Property owners shall make themselves and the hive(s) available for inspection on reasonable request of a Licensing Authority or a Peace Officer.

9. Revocable Permissions

- Should a Licensing Authority or Peace Officer find a beekeeping site, hive, or beekeeper to be non-conforming to Bylaw 34/2017, the beekeeping licence may be revoked. Relocation of hives and bees; plus, the associated costs are the responsibility of the property owner.

10. Licence Application Requirements and Process

- Written permission from all Adjoining Neighbours
- Complete the application form and pay the required Licence Fee
- A drawing of hive location and the appropriate setbacks
- Beekeeping course certification from accepted organization/association
- Proof of support and assistance of an accepted mentor for the first year
- Swarm and disease control plan
- Premises Identification (PID) number
- Certificate of registration with the provincial apiculturist
- Must be age 18 years or older
- A Business Licence for hive(s) located on a non-residential property

Visit the City of St. Albert webpage for information and forms:

<https://stalbert.ca/city/approvals/>

If you have questions about beekeeping in St. Albert email bees@stalbert.ca or call 780-459-1642.

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