

# Cedar Rapids

Are bees allowed?

Beekeeping is permitted in all zone districts under the new code, but requires a Special Use Permit. In addition, use-specific standards apply to beekeeping to prevent beekeeping from negatively impacting surrounding areas.

There is no minimum lot size for beekeeping. However, there is a maximum number of hives per lot size and other requirements indicate how far hives must be from property lines, other structures, and the right of way.

Contact the Development Services Department to apply for a Special Use Permit for beekeeping. This permit must be renewed annually and has a fee of \$25.

[Click HERE and go to pages 104-106 to view information about bee keeping in Cedar Rapids.](#)

[Click HERE for Special Use Permit Application Packet and Fact Sheet about beekeeping](#)

## Beekeeping Requirements

- Must obtain a Special Use Permit
- No more than 1 hive per 5,000 square feet of lot area. A single hive may be located on a lot smaller than 5,000 square feet, provided that they meet all other requirements.
- Up to two additional hives may be provided on a temporary basis to rescue a swarm or accommodate the division of a bee colony.
- No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume.
- Ground-level beehives must be elevated at least 5 inches off the ground and screened to exclude pests.
- No hive shall be located closer than 3 feet from any property line.
- Hives are not permitted in the front setback.
- No hive shall be closer than 10 feet from a public sidewalk or 25 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot.
- A constant supply of water shall be provided for all hives.
- A flyaway barrier at least 6 feet in height and located within 3 feet of the entrance shall shield any part of a property line that is within 25 feet of a hive. This may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation, or a combination of these elements.

## Overview

Beekeeping is defined as the keeping and maintenance of honey-producing bees in hive and the collection of honey and other products created by the hive such as beeswax, propolis, or royal jelly.

Beekeeping is permitted as an accessory use in all zone districts, but is subject to use-specific standards, found under Sec. 32.03.04.C.3. A fact sheet on beekeeping is included in this packet that details requirements for beekeeping.

A Special Use Permit is required to engage in Beekeeping in any zone district. This permit can be obtained by a property owner, tenant, or operator.

### **How to Apply**

Special Use Permit Applications should be submitted electronically via the City of Cedar Rapids Request Portal, found at [rrrequest.cityofcr.com](http://rrrequest.cityofcr.com). Those unable to access the online portal may email application materials to [developmentervices@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:developmentervices@cedar-rapids.org) or apply in person at the City Services Center, 500 Fifteenth Ave SW. Electronic submittals are highly encouraged and preferred.

Special Use Permit application are administratively approved by the Development Services Department. A Special Use Permit is issued subject to compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and all other chapters of the City Code. A Special Use Permit may be denied for properties or operators which are in violation of the City Code.

A Special Use Permit is issued to the applicant and may not be assigned, transferred, or sold. If the special use is site-specific and the applicant sells the property, the special use shall be discontinued unless the new owner obtains a new special use permit that is valid at the time of property transfer.

Contact: Zoning Department

Development Services

City of Cedar Rapids, 500 15th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Office: 319-286-5836

E-mail: [zoning@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:zoning@cedar-rapids.org)

Web: [www.cedar-rapids.org](http://www.cedar-rapids.org)

County: Linn