



## BEEKEEPING PERMIT

**Purpose:** The purpose of the beekeeping regulations is to allow beekeeping in a manner that is respectful of the safety of persons that may be in close proximity to the apiary. Beekeeping can contribute to pollination and better harvests in gardens. By contributing to pollination, urban beekeeping is an important complement to urban food production and to the City's Sustainability goals stated in the Draft General Plan Update 2030.

Beekeeping applications are reviewed using standards set forth by the City of St. Helena's Municipal Code. Beekeeping shall only be permitted as specifically allowed within the regulations pertaining to the established zoning districts. Chapter 17.190 can be viewed in its entirety on the City's website: [cityofsthelema.org](http://cityofsthelema.org) under Municipal Code/Zoning/Beekeeping and the application submittal form is located under Planning/Beekeeping. Questions regarding the application process can be addressed to the Planning Department at (707) 968-2749.

**Procedure:** The applicant shall submit and a planner shall review plans for compliance with the standards of Municipal Code Section 17.190.040 (attached). (1) The applicant shall submit plans indicating the location of the Apiary and a signed statement showing and agreeing to compliance with all obligations imposed by Section 19.190.040 and holding the City harmless if said owner does not so comply. (3) If the applicant wishes to receive notification of pesticide applications, register the Apiary with the County of Napa Agricultural Commissioner, pursuant to Section 29101 of the California Food & Agricultural Code.

### APIARY REGISTRATION

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (if different from applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Beehives on property: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sketch or attach a Site Plan of where beehives are to be located:

In the event the City is required to take legal action to enforce any of the terms and conditions of this permit application, Applicant and Property Owner agree to pay to City reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in such action.

We, the owner and the applicant, will defend, indemnify and hold the City, its agents, officers, and employees harmless from any claim, action or proceeding to attack, set aside, void or annul an approval of the City concerning the project, as long as the City promptly notifies the applicant of any such claim, action or proceedings and the City cooperates fully in the defense.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Property Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## BEEKEEPING STANDARDS

### 17.190.040 Standards

- A. It shall be the duty of every person on whose property bees are kept to adhere to good management practices and maintain bees in a condition that will reasonably prevent swarming and aggressive behavior.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the person on whose property the bees are kept to provide adequate water for the bees to prevent bees from seeking water in neighboring swimming pools, birdbaths, ponds or other community bodies of water.
- C. A maximum of two (2) beehives per lot on a parcel of land less than 10,000 square feet.
- D. A maximum of four (4) beehives per lot on a parcel of land with an area over 10,000 square feet.
- E. Beehives are restricted to rear yards.
- F. In order to ensure the appropriate height of the honeybee flight path:
  - 1. The beehive entrance will be directed away from the neighboring property and situated behind a solid fence or hedge that is six (6) feet in height running parallel to the property line; or
  - 2. A beehive will be located a minimum of 25 feet away from the neighboring property line.

### 17.190.020 Definitions

**Apiary:** A place where one or more honeybee colonies are kept.

**Beehive:** A beehive is made up of a series of rectangular boxes stacked one on top of the other, which house a colony. Standard dimensions of these boxes are 20 x 16.5 x 9.5 inches.

**Honeybee colony:** A cluster of worker-bees with a queen and drones.

**Swarming:** The natural method of honeybee colonies to reproduce, resulting in the departure of part of the bee population with a queen to create a new honeybee colony.

The terms apiary, beehive and colony are used interchangeably. For additional information on beekeeping, there is a manual located on-line which may be downloaded at: <http://www.beekeepercenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Beekeeping-Made-Easy-By-Marcus-Williams.pdf>