



# Beekeeper Registration Application City of Richfield

**FEE: \$30.00**

**Directions:** Print legibly in blue or black ink. Answer all questions and indicate not applicable if appropriate. Any falsification of answers may result in denial of the registration. **Please complete both sides of the form.**

**Return to Richfield Business Licensing – 6700 Portland Avenue, Richfield MN 55423.**

## Section 1: Applicant

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Full Middle Maiden Name
2. Permanent Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State County Zip
3. Apiary Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State County Zip
4. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Email Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Beekeeping Education / Experience

6. Do you have formal education (courses) or prior hands-on beekeeping experience/  Yes  No

If yes, please describe and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 3: Acknowledgements

Please **check each box** and then sign and date indicating that you have read and agree with the following:

- Copies of city code 906 (the Beekeeping ordinance) and city code 509.21 (the Home Occupation ordinance) are attached to this registration form. I acknowledge that I have read, understand and will comply with all the requirements of both ordinances.
- City code 906 requires that the Richfield Public Safety Department shall send notice to all owners of lots adjacent to any lot line of the apiary site. I acknowledge and understand that the City will send notice to all owners of lots adjacent to any lot line of the apiary site.
- I understand and agree that I may not engage in the practice of beekeeping within the City of Richfield until I have received notification from the Public Safety Department that my beekeeping registration has been approved.
- I understand that any person may object to a registration at any time within thirty (30) days of approval of an initial or updated registration by addressing to the City Manager a written request for a hearing, and will then have the right to a hearing within 30 days of the written appeal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

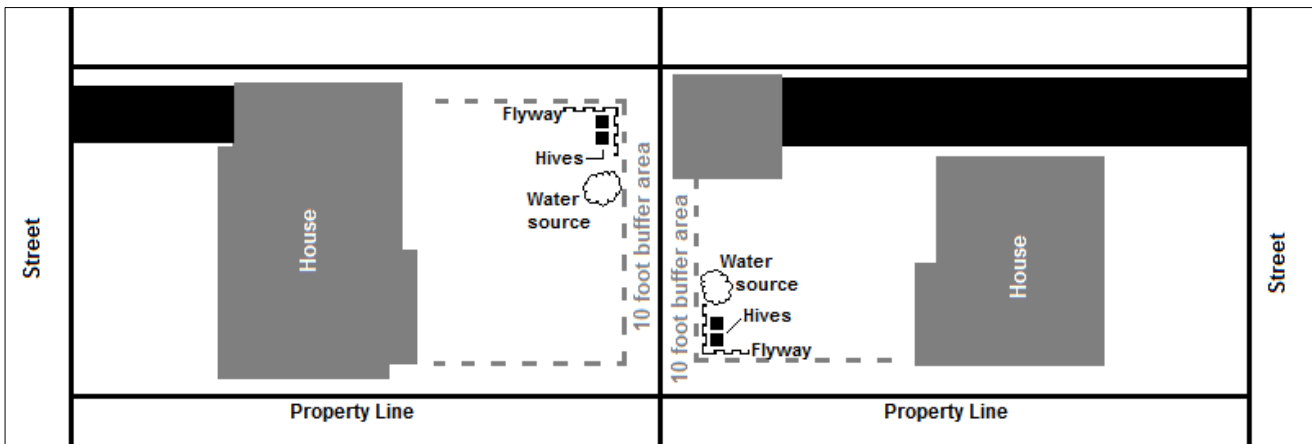
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## Section 4: Property & Apiary Diagram

***Please supply a scaled sketch of your property and apiary.***

The sketch must include the location of your house, accessory structures, your lot lines, all honeybee colonies, the required water source and the location of any required flyway barriers.

**EXAMPLES:**



**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

District: _____	Hives Permitted: _____	Received: _____	Notices Mailed On: _____
Lot Size: _____	Acreage: _____	Appeals Filed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date: _____
Flyway Req'd: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Registration Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date: _____

THE CITY OF RICHFIELD DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Subsection 509.21 of the Richfield Zoning Code relating to home occupations and prohibited activities, is amended as follows:

Subd. 11. Specific activities prohibited. The following activities shall not be allowed as home occupations:

- i) Sale of honey produced by hives located within the city regulated under section 906 of the city code.

Section 2. Subsection 512.03 of the Richfield Zoning Code relating to permitted uses, is amended as follows:

512.03 Permitted uses in all districts.

- f) beekeeping subject to the inspection and licensing requirements and limitations outlined in Section 906.

SECTION 906 – BEEKEEPING

**906.01. – Definitions.**

**Subdivision 1.** “Accredited institution” means an educational institution holding accredited status which has been licensed or registered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education at the time the registrant obtained their certificate.

**Subd. 2.** “Apiary” means the AP assembly of one or more colonies of bees on a single lot.

**Subd. 3.** “Apiary site” means the lot upon which an apiary is located.

**Subd. 4.** “Beekeeper” means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of honeybees or a person who owns or controls a lot on which a colony is located whether or not the person is intentionally keeping honeybees.

**Subd. 5.** “Beekeeping equipment” means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.

**Subd. 6.** “Colony” means an aggregate of honey bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs and honey.

**Subd. 7.** “Flyway barrier” means a barrier that raises the flight path of bees above six feet from the ground as they come and go from a hive.

**Subd. 8.** “Hive” means the receptacle inhabited by a colony.

**Subd. 9.** “Honey bee” means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera*. This definition does not include wasps, hornets, African subspecies or Africanized hybrids.

**Subd. 10.** “Nucleus colony” means a small quantity of honey bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose, and containing no supers.

**Subd. 11.** “Registrant” means any registered beekeeper and any person who has applied for approval of a beekeeping registration.

**Subd. 12.** “Rooftop” means the uppermost section of a primary or accessory structure of at least one full story and at least twelve feet in height. Areas including but not limited to decks, patios and balconies shall not be considered a rooftop.

**Subd. 13.** “Super” means a box that holds the frames where bees will store the honey.

**Subd. 14.** “Swarming” means the process where a queen bee leaves a colony with a large group of worker bees in order to form a new honey bee colony.

**Subd. 15.** “Unusual aggressive behavior” means any instance in which unusual aggressive characteristics such as stinging or attacking without provocation occurs. Provocation is an act that an adult could reasonably expect may cause a bee to sting or attack.

### **906.03. – Purpose.**

The purpose and intent of this Section is to permit and establish requirements for the keeping of honey bee colonies, hives, and equipment within the City and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section. The City of Richfield recognizes that honey bees are an asset to our community, important in the pollination of plants and in the production of honey and other products.

### **906.05. – Beekeeping Limited.**

No person shall keep, harbor, maintain or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of honeybees on or in any property within the City of Richfield without an approved registration unless otherwise exempted by subsection 906.09 or 906.13.

### **906.07. – Colony Location.**

**Subdivision 1.** Hives cannot be located in the front yard and must be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from the rear or side property lines and 20 feet from public rights-of-way unless further restricted elsewhere in this Code. A corner lot shall be considered to have two front yards.

**Subd. 2.** Hives must be located a minimum of ten feet from any dwelling unit.

**Subd. 3.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section, in each instance where any part of a hive is kept within twenty-five feet of a lot line of the apiary site, a flyway barrier of at least six feet in height must be constructed and must comply with the following:

- (a) The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination there of, such that honey bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony.
- (b) If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be four feet in height, so long as the vegetation reaches a height of at least six feet within two years of installation. Vegetation must be maintained so that it thrives and continues to meet these standards. If the vegetation dies or is not maintained so that it will comply, the vegetation must be replaced.
- (c) If the flyway barrier consists of a wall or fence, the materials must be decay resistant, and maintained in good condition.
- (d) The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the lot line of the apiary site for ten feet in both directions from the hive, or contain the hive or hives in an enclosure at least six feet in height.

- (e) A flyway barrier is not required if the hive is located on a rooftop.
- (f) Flyway barriers are subject to all other applicable City regulations, including, but not limited to, fence height limitations.

**Subd. 4.** Hives located on any rooftop are subject to annual inspection and permitting by the City. No colony shall be placed upon a rooftop until the Building Inspector or their designee has determined that the location poses no health or safety risks and that it is structurally sound to hold a hive and associated equipment and activities. If the Building Inspector at any time determines that the hive and/or building conditions pose a risk to public health or safety, the deficiency must be repaired or removed by the Registrant within ten (10) days' written notice. If the deficiency is not repaired or removed, the hive must be removed, at the Registrant's sole expense, within fifteen (15) days of notice from the building inspector of the unsafe condition.

**906.09. – Colony Density.**

**Subdivision 1.** Every lot or parcel of land in the City shall be limited to the following number of colonies based on the size of the apiary site:

- (a) One half acre or smaller is allowed one colony;
- (b) More than one half acre to three quarters of an acre is allowed two colonies;
- (c) More than three quarter of an acre to one acre is allowed three colonies;
- (d) More than one acre to five acres is allowed four colonies;
- (e) More than five acres, there is no restriction on the number of colonies.

**Subd. 2.** If any beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honeybees from locations where they are not desired, that person shall not be considered in violation of the colony density restrictions in this section if the following conditions are met:

- (a) The person temporarily houses the honeybees at an apiary site of a beekeeper registered with the City,
- (b) The bees are not kept for more than thirty days, and
- (c) The site remains in compliance with the other provisions of this section.

**906.011. – Required Conditions.**

**Subdivision 1.** Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and useable condition.

**Subd. 2.** Each colony on the apiary site shall be provided with a convenient source of water which must be located within ten feet of each active colony.

**Subd. 3.** Materials from a hive such as wax combs or other materials that might encourage robbing by other bees shall be promptly disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee and vermin proof enclosure.

**Subd. 4.** For each colony permitted to be maintained, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one nucleus colony in a hive structure not to exceed one standard nine and five-eighths (9-5/8) inch depth box, ten frame hive body with no supers.

**Subd. 5.** Beekeeping equipment must be maintained in good condition, including keeping the hives free of chipped and peeling paint if painted, and any unused equipment must be stored in an enclosed structure.

**Subd. 6.** Hives shall be continuously managed to provide adequate living space for their resident honeybees in order to prevent swarming.

**Subd. 7.** In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusual aggressive behavior, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to promptly re-queen the colony.

**906.13. – Registration Required.**

**Subdivision 1.** The application for registration must be upon a form provided by the City. All required information must be complete.

**Subd. 2.** Each apiary site must apply for registration and receive approval prior to bringing any honeybees into the City.

**Subd. 3.** If the beekeeper relocates a hive or colony to a new apiary site, the beekeeper shall apply for an updated registration, prior to the relocation, on the form provided by the City.

**Subd. 4.** The beekeeping registration shall be valid until March 31 of each calendar year following initial issuance and must be renewed by the registrant prior to expiration each year by submitting a renewal form to the City on the form it provides.

**Subd. 5.** Upon receipt of an application for an initial or renewal registration, the City will send notice to all property owners within 100 feet of the property line of the parcel upon which the apiary site(s) is located. Any property owner who objects to the registration must submit objections in writing to the City Manager within ten (10) days of the date of the notice. If the City Manager receives any written objections relating to an application, the City Manager will act on the application. If a written objection relating to an initial registration application includes evidence that a property owner, or a person residing at the property, within the 100-foot notice area, has a verifiable, documented medical allergy to bees, the City Manager shall deny the application. Such basis for denial shall not apply to objections submitted related to a renewal application.

**Subd. 6.** Beekeeping training and education is required for the beekeeper prior to the issuance of the initial beekeeping permit by the City. At the time of application for registration, the beekeeper must submit a certificate of completion of a honeybee keeping course from an accredited Minnesota institution.

**Subd. 7.** The fees for the registration will be determined by the City Council in the City's fee schedule (Appendix D).

**Subd. 8.** The property must be in compliance with all other applicable City regulations in order to receive approval and renewal.

**Subd. 9.** If the required conditions outlined in section 906.11 are not maintained subsequent to issuance of a beekeeping permit, the permit may be revoked by the City Manager.

**Subd. 10.** Beekeepers operating in the City prior to the effective date of this Section will have until March 1, 2016 to apply for registration.

**Subd. 11.** The registration requirement under this subsection does not apply to The Woodlake Nature Center.

**906.15. – Inspection.**

**Subdivision 1.** Upon initial registration, annual renewal or any updated registration, each beekeeper must allow for an inspection of the site.

**Subd. 2.** Upon prior notice to the owner of the apiary site, City staff shall have the right to inspect any apiary.

**Subd. 3.** In the case of a complaint regarding the apiary, the apiary site may be inspected upon reasonable notice to the property owner and/or registered beekeeper.

**906.17. – Appeal and Hearing Procedure.**

**Subdivision 1.** Notice of denial, revocation or non-renewal must be made in writing to the registrant specifying the reason(s) for the action. The registrant may request, in writing, a hearing within fourteen (14) days of the date of the notification letter.

**Subd 2.** A hearing officer shall hold hearings on contested denials, revocations, and non-renewals. The hearing officer shall be a person appointed by the City. At the hearing, the applicant may speak on his or her behalf and may present witnesses and other evidence he or she deems necessary. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision that includes findings of fact. The City shall provide the registrant with a copy of the hearing officer's decision. The registrant may appeal the hearing officer's decision to the Minnesota Court of Appeals by writ of certiorari.