



## Pilot Project Guide

Urban backyard beekeeping will be permitted through the granting of a Beekeeping Licence. These requirements ensure best practices and compatibility within an urban context. Council has approved the pilot project for a 2 year period. The project is for property owners who live in low-density residential areas. First time beekeepers are strongly encouraged to have an experienced mentor to provide support and assistance.

### Training

Completion of an accredited beekeeping course is required. See webpage for details.

### Provincial Registration

All beekeepers are required to register with the [provincial apiculturist](#) as per the [Alberta Bee Act](#) and shall comply accordingly. A [Premises Identification \(PID\)](#) must be obtained and provided under the Premises Identification Regulation in the [Animal Health Act](#).

### Hive and Site Requirements

- ✓ Only honey bees are allowed (*Apis mellifera* L.)
- ✓ Applies to residential properties (backyards)
- ✓ 2 hives per site
- ✓ Minimum 25 metre setback from community facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields and schools
- ✓ Hives shall be located in rear yards and located a minimum of 2 metres from abutting residential property lines
- ✓ Property is to be separated by a solid fence or hedge at least 1.5 metres high
- ✓ Hive entrances shall be directed away from abutting residential properties

### Notification

All abutting neighbours shall be notified in writing of the proposed hives by the applicant. This requirement is for the notification to neighbours, not a request for neighbour permission. The City may refuse to issue a licence upon confirmation that a bee allergy is present within an abutting household.

### Application Requirements and Process

- ✓ Complete application form
- ✓ Confirmation of proposed hive location (site plan drawing/sketch)
- ✓ Beekeeping course certification
- ✓ Copy of provincial registration
- ✓ Confirmation of neighbour notification

### Responsibility and Care

- ✓ Beekeepers shall follow good hive management and husbandry practices
- ✓ Measures to prevent swarming, aggressive behavior and disease are to be taken
- ✓ Municipal Bylaw Enforcement shall be notified of any swarms, disease or any situation not in keeping with these requirements
- ✓ Sites with hives are subject to inspections

### Revocable Permission

The Beekeeping Licence can be revoked at any time should the City deem a site, hive, or beekeeper to be unsuitable or not in keeping with municipal, provincial or federal requirements. All costs associated with relocating the hives and bees will be the responsibility of the property owner.

For more information, check out:

[fortsask.ca/forthoneybee](https://fortsask.ca/forthoneybee)

or contact



CITY OF  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Planning and Development  
fortplanning@fortsask.ca  
780-992-6198