

Beekeeping is Allowed

The City of Ramsey allows residents to keep honeybees without a permit. Recently, the City Council adopted a new ordinance eliminating zoning permit requirements for beekeeping. However, the following rules for beekeeping still apply:

- Hives may only be located on lots that have homes on them.
- The number hives is based on property size:

LOT SIZE	NUMBER OF HIVES
0.25 acres or less	Up to 4 hives
0.25 – 0.99 acres	Up to 8 hives
1.00 – 1.99 acres	Up to 20 hives
2.00 – 3.99 acres	Up to 40 hives
4 acres or larger	No limit of hives

 - o Up to 5 frame Nucleus colonies do not have quantity limits.
- No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume.
- No hive shall be located closer than 3 feet from any property line or within any easement, whichever is more restrictive.
- No hive shall be located closer than 10 feet from a neighboring inhabited structure (house).
- A constant supply of water shall be available to all hives.
- A flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within 25 feet of a hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of 100% opaque fencing, dense year-round (coniferous) vegetation and/or existing structures, extending at least 25 feet beyond the hive.
- Colonies shall be maintained in movable frame hives with adequate space and management techniques to prevent overcrowding and swarming.
- In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.

Chickens

Residents who would like to try their hand at raising poultry can do it. The total number of poultry or fowl (including chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks) allowed is based on property size. For example, a quarter-acre lot (0.25 acres) can have up to six chickens. Roosters are not permitted on properties under 2.5 acres in area.

There are several important rules to follow regarding the keeping of chickens:

- Provide a fenced enclosure and run area in the side or rear of your yard.
- The enclosure and fence must be located at least 10 feet away from all property lines and at least 30 feet from any houses.
- Ensure that the enclosure and fence are constructed in accordance with the Ramsey Zoning Code and the Minnesota State Building Code.
- Maintain the enclosure and fenced run area in a clean, sanitary condition and keep it in good repair.
- Keep chickens within the fenced area at all times; they are not permitted to roam freely.



More Information

To determine the acreage of your property, please visit the Anoka County Parcel Viewer at <https://gis.anokacountymn.gov/propertysearch/>. For the complete City Code (Chapter 10) and the rules regarding animals, please refer to https://library.municode.com/mn/ramsey/codes/code_of_ordinances.

If you have any questions about animal regulations, feel free to contact Adam Martin, City Planner, at amartin@cityoframsey.com or call 763-433-9860.