

**City of Chilliwack**

**Bylaw No. 4680**

**A bylaw to permit Beekeeping within urban areas**

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The Council of the City of Chilliwack in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw shall be known and may be cited for all purposes as the “**Urban Beekeeping Bylaw 2019, No. 4680**”.
2. The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate the keeping of Bees within urban areas.

**DEFINITIONS**

3. In this bylaw:

“Act” means the *BC Ministry of Agriculture Animal Health Act – Bee Regulation*, as amended;

“Apiary” means a place where Bees, hives, or Beehive Equipment are regularly kept;

“Bee” means the insect *Apis mellifera*;

“Beehive” or “Colony” means an enclosed structure which holds up to 20 frames, in which honeybees live and raise their young;

“Beekeeping” means one or more of the regulated activities prescribed under the Act;

“Beekeeping Equipment” means:

- (1) new or used Beehive Equipment; and,
- (2) any equipment, clothing, or device used for handling Bees or in connection with Beekeeping;

“City” means the City of Chilliwack;

“Community Garden” means a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people;

“Nucleus Colony” means a Colony of not more than five removable frames primarily used for rearing and storing Queen Bees;

“Queen Bees” means an adult, mated female that lives in a Beehive or Colony;

**DEFINITION** (continued)

“Urban Beekeeper” means a person who is registered to engage in Beekeeping as prescribed under the Act, and keeps, owns, controls, or maintains Beehives on property located outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve in accordance with this Bylaw.

**REGISTRATION OF APIARIES**

4. A person that keeps Bees must register with the BC Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with requirements of the Act.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS**

5. Urban Beekeepers shall:
  - (1) manage Beehives to promote Bee health, prevent swarming and aggressive behaviour;
  - (2) comply with City bylaws and other regulations that are related to the installation of Beehives and Beekeeping Equipment;
  - (3) complete a recognized course in Beekeeping and seek membership in a local Bee Club. Information regarding local Bee Clubs is available through the City or from the BC Ministry of Agriculture; and,
  - (4) notify the owners of all adjacent properties about the installation and location of Beehives.
6. The City may rely upon the expert advice from the BC Ministry of Agriculture or from other outside sources to determine compliance with the regulations of this Bylaw.

**LOCATION**

7. An Urban Beekeeper shall be permitted to keep or harbour Bees on:
  - (1) any parcel of land that permits a single family or a two family dwelling, provided the parcel of land on which the Beekeeping is situated is equal to, or greater than, 300 m<sup>2</sup>;
  - (2) any parcel of land that is associated with a Community Garden; or,
  - (3) any parcel of land that permits an educational institution where Bees are kept for the purpose of educating the public in Urban Beekeeping, as part of an approved educational program.

**LOCATION** (continued)

- 8.** The maximum number of Beehives or Colonies and Nucleus Colonies permitted are:
- (1) two Beehives or Colonies and two Nucleus Colonies on any parcel of land equal to 300 m<sup>2</sup> and less than 500 m<sup>2</sup>;
  - (2) four Beehives or Colonies and four Nucleus Colonies on any parcel of land equal or greater than 500 m<sup>2</sup> and less than 2000 m<sup>2</sup>; or,
  - (3) six Beehives or Colonies and six Nucleus Colonies on any parcel of land equal to or greater than 2000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 9.** In the case of residentially zoned properties, Beehives shall be located at the rear of the principal building on the lot as follows:
- (1) Beehives shall be situated behind a solid fence or hedge that is no less than 1.8 m in height running parallel to the adjacent property line unless the underside of the Beehive is raised a minimum of 2.5 m above ground level;
  - (2) the distance between the entrance to the Beehive and any property line is a minimum of 6 m, to provide for a clear flight path straight ahead from the front of the Beehive to any property line; and,
  - (3) the distance between the side and rear of the Beehive is a minimum of 3 m to adjacent property lines ;
- 10.** An Apiary located in a Community Garden or in conjunction with an educational institution providing an educational program shall comply with the following regulations:
- (1) written consent is provided by the property owner;
  - (2) a maximum of two Beehives shall be permitted and two Nucleus Colonies;
  - (3) a Beehive entrance shall be directed away from pedestrian pathways;
  - (4) a Beehive shall be located no less than 3 metres away from adjacent properties and children’s play areas;
  - (5) a Beehive shall be located within a secure enclosure no less than 1.8 metres in height; and,
  - (6) a sign shall be posted at the Apiary with contact information of the Beekeeper.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

- 11.** A Beekeeper and any person who allows, permits, or establishes the keeping of Bees on their property shall:

**RESPONSIBILITY (continued)**

- (1) maintain or ensure the maintenance of Bees, in such a condition as will reasonably prevent swarming or aggressive behaviour by the Bees; and,
- (2) be responsible for any liability arising out of Beekeeping in urban areas.

**PROVISION OF WATER**

- 12. A Beekeeper and person who allows, permits, or establishes Beekeeping on their property shall ensure that the Bees have sufficient water available on the property upon which the Apiary is located, to prevent Bees from seeking water from other sources, such as neighbourhood swimming pools, birdbaths, ponds, or other bodies of water.

**ENFORCEMENT**

- 13. A City Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or other municipal employee, or agent authorized to enforce municipal bylaws may enter upon any property to ensure compliance with this Bylaw.

**OFFENCE AND PENALTY**

- 14. Any person who violates or breaches, or who causes or allows to be violated or breached, any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be guilty of an offence against this Bylaw and each day that such violation is caused or allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offence.
- 15. Any person guilty of an infraction of this Bylaw shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000.00 or to imprisonment, or to both a fine and imprisonment, not exceeding the maximum allowed by the *Offence Act*, as amended.

**SEVERABILITY**

- 16. If any portion of this Bylaw is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then that invalid portion shall be severed and the remainder of this Bylaw shall be deemed to have been adopted without the severed portion.

Received first and second reading on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019.

Received third reading on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019.

Received adoption on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

“Ken Popove”

Mayor

“Jacqueline Morgan”

Corporate Officer