

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

RULES FOR BEEHIVES

Can we have Beehives in P-Patches?

Beekeeping is permitted outright as an accessory use, when registered with the State Department of Agriculture

Do we have to register the hives?

All colonies shall be registered with the Director of Agriculture pursuant to RCW 15.60.030 prior to April 1st of each year. <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=15.60.021>

How many hives?

No more than four (4) hives, each with only one (1) swarm, shall be kept on lots of less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet.

Where should we locate the hives?

Hives shall not be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any property line except when situated eight (8) feet or more above the grade immediately adjacent to the grade of the lot on which the hives are located or when situated less than eight (8) feet above the adjacent existing lot grade and behind a solid fence or hedge six (6) feet high parallel to any property line within twenty-five (25) feet of a hive and extending at least twenty (20) feet beyond the hive in both directions.

How can we minimize people bee interaction?

Fencing must go around the hives at ground level.

Fencing must be at least 6' in height to force the bees to fly up first this will help avoid conflict with folks. (placement inside: Do not forget to place the front of your hives towards the barrier and to set them back approximately 3 to 4 feet to allow the bees room to maneuver and land, thus keeping them from flying into the fencing material)

We require education and notification signage around how bees work and you can add the environmental information you have learned to the signage. Along with signage notifying folks there are hives so that folks who may have issue with bees are alert from the beginning.

What are the regulations around maintaining hives?

Must have a knowledgeable beekeeper to care for the hives, that beekeeper must share and mentor folks in the garden for the long term sustainability of the hives

Colonies shall be maintained in movable-frame hives

Adequate space shall be maintained in the hive to prevent overcrowding and swarming

Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior

Can we sell honey?

Yes, if the money earned goes back into the upkeep of the bees/hives and/or as a fundraiser for the garden.

No, for personal profit.

For more information and Contact information goes here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Publications/CAM/cam244.pdf> SMC 10.36.010 Maintenance and registration of colonies

<http://pugetsoundbees.org/resources/beekeeping-laws/>



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