

Backyard Pilot Program Application

Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois



General Information

Lake Bluff recently approved pilot programs that will allow residents to keep chickens and bees on residential property. A limited number of permits will be issued, following a review by the Village's Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee ("SEC") and an inspection by Village staff. The pilot program is intended to be of limited scope and duration, and may be amended or terminated at any time.

A list of applicable requirements is attached, starting on Page 3. Note that, as a pilot program, the SEC is committed to selecting those applicants most likely to succeed as participants. A full list of the criteria the SEC will consider is attached to this application.

Process Overview

- **> 14 days before meeting:**
Applicant submits application and \$50 fee. Staff reviews for completeness.
- **14 days before meeting:**
Applicant mails certified notice in a form prescribed by the Village to adjoining owners of record and residents. (*These parties may not be the same.*)
- **Day of meeting:**
The SEC meets at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Ave.) Applications are generally considered in the order they were first received. Staff will provide an overview of the request, and the Applicant will give a brief presentation. Members of the public will be invited to comment, and then the SEC will discuss the application's merits under the standards. The SEC may recommend approval or denial.
- **After meeting:**
Village Administrator makes final decision on application.
If approved, Applicant may construct (e.g. hives, coops). (*A building permit is required.*)
Staff inspects structures and issues permit, which authorizes start of animal keeping.
- **Ongoing basis:**
The Village may inspect the property from time to time if there are complaints or reason to believe that the Municipal Code or provisions of the pilot program are being violated.
Permits expire March 1 each year – no matter when first issued – and must be renewed by repeating this process.

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Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Site Address: _____

Site PIN: _____

Animal requested (select one):

Chickens

Bees

Attach, at a minimum, the following:

- _____ A statement (one page or less) describing why you wish to pursue this activity; how you will ensure that adjacent properties are not inconvenienced; and describing any relevant experience or training you have. *Refer to the Criteria for Applicant Review on the next page.*
- _____ A site plan showing where the shelter, fencing, signage, etc. will be erected. Note the distances separating these structures from rear and side lot lines. (You may use a survey of your property, or refer to [Lake County Maps](#) for a map to sketch upon.)
- _____ Attach a drawing of any shelter you plan to build, or a catalog page of any pre-fabricated shelter you intend to purchase.

My initials on each line indicate that I understand and agree to abide by the following conditions:

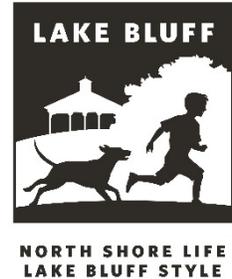
- _____ I authorize Village officials to inspect the shelter and living conditions of these animals.
- _____ I will ensure that the animals will be kept and maintained at all times in a safe and sanitary manner and will not, at any time, constitute or contribute to a public nuisance.
- _____ I will ensure that the animals do not violate the animal control ordinances of Lake Bluff. I will not allow them to run at large, emit disturbing noises or odors, or otherwise disturb the peace.
- _____ I will notify the Village if there are substantial changes to the shelter arrangements described herein.
- _____ If my property is subject to private deed restrictions, covenants, or conditions, said documents do not prohibit the activities allowed by this permit.

In accordance with the Lake Bluff Municipal Code, I will continue to meet all of the foregoing conditions and requirements. I hereby swear or affirm that all information in this application is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct.

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

SEC's Criteria for Applicant Review

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General Standard: The extent that the application demonstrates the applicant will provide adequately for health, shelter, food, water, and yard conditions.

Compliance with the Regulations: The extent that the application demonstrates that the applicant and the proposed activity will comply with all additional standards imposed on it (see subsequent page of Chicken-Specific or Bee-Specific Regulations).

Lot Size and Situation: The shape, size, and location of the lot, principal structure, and keeping area; and the extent that these conditions tend to mitigate or exaggerate the potential that an adjoining property owner or others may be negatively affected by the proposed keeping. The advisory body shall show preference to those applications which demonstrate large lot sizes, screening, or other unique conditions which minimize the aforesaid potential.

Prior Violations: If the applicant has been the subject of any valid complaint documenting a violation of the program or any nuisance, property maintenance or animal control regulations contained in the Lake Bluff Municipal Code.

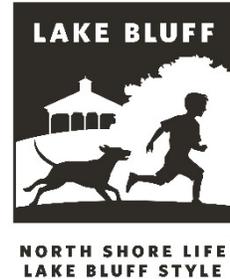
Experience or Training: The applicant's training, education, or prior experience in keeping the animal requested.

Unique Health Circumstances: If residents of adjoining or nearby property present evidence that they suffer from a health condition whereby the proposed keeping may pose a unique risk to their health.

Public Testimony: Testimony and other evidence received from the public during the advisory body's consideration of the application, to the extent that such testimony concerns the specific circumstances of the application and not the general propriety of the proposed activity.

Chicken-Specific Regulations

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Eligibility: Only residents of single-family dwellings may apply. No permit shall be issued for a lot smaller than 7,000 square feet in area. No more than two (2) permits shall be issued to lots less than 10,000 square feet in area.

Limit Upon Number: No fewer than two adult chickens, and no more than six, adult chickens may be owned by any permittee at any one time.

Female Chickens: Only female chickens may be owned or maintained on a permittee's property.

Sale of Eggs Prohibited: The permittee shall not sell eggs produced upon the property.

Slaughtering: No slaughtering of chickens shall occur in public view.

Chicken Enclosure:

- i. Chickens shall be kept in a pen, coop, run, or chicken tractor.
- ii. No chicken enclosure shall be erected or maintained within 10 feet of any occupied residence other than that of the permittee.
- iii. Chicken enclosures shall only be erected or maintained in the rear yard and behind the principal structure on the permittee's lot.
- iv. Chicken enclosures shall provide at least four square feet of area for each chicken housed.
- v. Chicken enclosures must be maintained in a sound and useable condition.
- vi. Chicken enclosures must be constructed of sturdy and weather-resistant materials, such as, without limitation: wire, wood, hardware cloth.
- vii. Chicken enclosures shall be resistant to predators. All access doors must be able to be shut and locked. All opening windows and vents must be covered with predator-proof wire with less than one-inch openings.

Open Space: Chickens shall be provided with adequate open space in the form of either an enclosed chicken run or a yard fully enclosed by a fence.

Sanitation: The enclosure and open space must be kept clean and sanitary at all times.

Rodent Protection: All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected from or to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with the feed.

Nuisances: No permittee shall permit:

- i. Noxious or offensive odors from chicken-keeping, including the odor of chickens or manure, to be perceptible at or beyond the boundary of the permittee's property;
- ii. Offensive noise from chickens that disturbs the peace at any time; or
- iii. Any other public or private nuisance resulting from the permitted activity, whether by litter, droppings, feathers, waste, or attraction of pests or rodents.

State Registration: The permittee's premises upon which chickens are kept shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and proof of registration shall be maintained on-site; unless the Department shall stop accepting residential hive registrations.

Bee-Specific Regulations

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Eligibility: Only residents of single-family dwellings may apply. No permit shall be issued for a lot smaller than 7,000 square feet in area. No more than two (2) permits shall be issued to lots less than 10,000 square feet in area.

Limit Upon Number: No more than three hives may be kept upon a property except where approved by resolution of the Village Board of Trustees.

Hives:

- i. No hive shall be erected or maintained within five feet of any property line, or within 10 feet of any sidewalk, path, or residence.
- ii. Hives must have removable combs that can be inspected.
- iii. Hives must be maintained in a sound and useable condition.
- iv. Hives shall only be erected or maintained in the rear yard and behind the principal structure on the lot.

Fences and Barriers:

- i. **Enclosure:** Except where a residential rear yard is fenced, an area no less than 20 feet by 25 feet (20'x25') shall be enclosed by fencing or a hedge with a secure gate.
- ii. **Flyway Barrier:** A flyway barrier shall be maintained at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends 10 feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet above ground level over the property lines.
- iii. A single structure may satisfy both the enclosure and flyway barrier requirements.
- iv. Signage shall be provided warning of the presence of a bee hive on the property.

Water: Each permittee must ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

Queens: 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, the colony shall be re-queened. Queens must be selected from stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.

State Registration: The hives maintained by the permittee shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and proof of registration shall be maintained on-site; unless the Department shall stop accepting residential hive registrations.

State Inspection: The permittee shall request that a State apiary inspector inspect the hives within a reasonable period of time after the establishment of the hive.