

Urban Beekeeping Survey Responses

The Urban Beekeeping survey was available to fill out at the TD Clean and Green RiverFest event on an iPad (through Survey Monkey) or on paper. The public also had the option to take the comment card with them to fill out and return at a later date, or to visit the urban beekeeping webpage, where a link was provided to fill out the survey via Survey Monkey. The survey was available to complete from May 11 to May 27, 2017. Fifty-five (55) respondents completed the survey.

Urban Beekeeping Survey:

Bylaw Information

St. Albert Administration is preparing an Urban Beekeeping Bylaw to allow a maximum of two honeybee hives per residential lot and a maximum of one solitary bee house, not measuring more than 6,452 cm² (1,000 in²) or 5 solitary bee houses, not measuring more than 625 cm² (97 in²) on an area equal to or less than 929 m² (10,000 ft²).

General Regulations:

- Residential Beekeeping is for personal use only
- Register with Provincial Apiculturist
- Obtain Premises Identification (PID) number
- Apply for Urban Honey Beekeeping Permit from the City of St. Albert
- Hive shall include a bottom board, a hive cover, and a maximum of 4 supers, not measuring more than 51 cm (20 in.) x 43 cm (17 in.) x 25 cm (10 in.).

Honey bee hives, located in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional areas:

- Restricted to the rear yard/rear of building.
- Hives are to be located a minimum of 3 metres (10 feet) from all property lines; or a minimum of 2.4 metres (8 feet) above ground; or within rear yards enclosed by a solid fence or hedge a minimum of 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height.

This survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers; the survey is all about your preference. Have fun and thank you for your participation!

Question 1: Do you support urban beekeeping? Yes/No

Response to Question 1:

Yes – 85.45% (47/55)

No – 14.55% (8/55)

**Question 2: If your neighbour had a bee hive or bee house would you support it?
Yes/No**

Response to Question 2:

Yes – 81.82% (45/55)

No – 18.18% (10/55)

If you answered no, please explain why.

1. Beehive will attract wasps and bee mites, inexperienced people will not know how to deal with this or to stop this and will cause bigger problems for commercial beekeeping.
2. For a society that is concerned about allergies and the like, it is amazing that you forget that there are plenty of people allergic to bee stings.
3. Kids don't need greater risk of being stung.
4. Do not like this idea.
5. Major/fatal anaphylactic reaction. Home should be a safe haven from bees and wasps for those with this condition.
6. Am severely allergic to bee stings.
7. Adds to biodiversity of the neighbourhood – great pollinators – we all need bees!!
8. Bees do leave the hive and will be in closer proximity to it meaning there will be numerous bees in and around my yard where my family and pets play.
Thankfully with no bee allergies, but others could have.
9. Highly allergic.
10. Pollination, improve biodiversity, help save the bees – no bees, no people.
11. Why even ask?

Question 3: Do you feel that urban beekeeping in St. Albert would benefit the community? Yes/No

Response to Question 3:

Yes – 85.45% (47/55)

No – 14.55% (8/55)

Question 4: Do you see any challenges with the proposed regulations, which are noted at the beginning of the survey? Yes/No

Response to Question 4:

Yes – 21.82% (12/55)

No – 78.18% (43/55)

If you answered yes, please explain what the challenges are.

1. Animals are for the farm bees are for the farm.
2. We should not have bee hives inside city limits.
3. People shouldn't have bees in town.
4. It's another stupid initiative.
5. What rights will be granted for by-law enforce regs... it is in a person's yard which makes enforcement difficult.
6. Need disclosure to prevent health impacts and injury. Limit hives to non-residential areas or require approval of neighbours within specified radius (like urban chicken pilot) to prevent conflict with those people who have major/fatal anaphylactic reaction.
7. Policing of the regulations and the consequences of not following the regulations.
8. Allergies.
9. Neighbours.
10. A waste of time and money for maybe 20 people out of 60,000+people...give your head a shake!
11. Another stupid idea.
12. How will the city deal with irresponsible beekeepers?

Question 5: Please indicate the amount of knowledge you have of bees: no knowledge, some knowledge, strong knowledge, expert knowledge.

Response to Question 5:

No Knowledge – 1.82 % (1/55)
Some Knowledge – 63.64% (35/55)
Strong Knowledge – 34.55% (19/55)
Expert Knowledge – 0% (0/55)

Question 6: Please fill in the circle that applies:

I would be interested in keeping honey bees – 32.73% (18/55)
I would be interested in keeping solitary bees – 14.55% (8/55)
I would be interested in keeping both honey bees and solitary bees – 20% (11/55)
I would not be interested in keeping bees – 32.73% (18/55)

67.28% (37/55) of those who completed the survey would be interested in keeping either honey bees, solitary bees, or both.