

Beekeeping in Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BEEKEEPING REGULATION PUBLIC FORUM

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Policy Goals: Urban Agriculture

Build a framework for beekeeping, keeping hens, and growing produce for sale in the City. Beekeeping is the first topic being considered for Cambridge.



Benefits of Urban Agriculture

Nutrition and Food Security

- It is a strategy to encourage healthy food choices and support access to healthy food

Social Integration

- Promotes community cohesion, connection, and engagement in healthy, active recreation

Resiliency

- Supports citywide sustainability and climate change adaptation planning

Beekeeping in Context of Urban Agriculture

Nutrition and Food Security

- Honeybees pollinate crops that contribute to a healthy food supply

Social Integration

- Connects people to nature and where food supply comes from

Resiliency

- Promotes local honey production and educational opportunities

Cambridge Outreach and Partners

Stakeholder Engagement

- City agencies and programs (CPHD, CDD, ISD, DPW, Animal Control, Conservation Commission)
- Local experts (beekeepers, entrepreneurs, academics, clinicians)
- State agencies (MDAR, MDPH)
- Nonprofits and Community Organizations
- Residents



Comprehensive City Policy: Beekeeping

Public Health Regulations

- Beekeeping
- Permit applications and forms

Zoning Ordinance

- Allowable land uses, setbacks, and dimensions

Guidance Documents

- Best management practices
- “Plain Language” guide for navigating permit process



Public Health Regulations



Public Health Regulations

- Sections 1 & 2
 - Purpose and Regulatory Authority (M.G.L. c.111§31)
- Section 3
 - Definitions
- Sections 4, 5, & 6
 - Requirements & Standards
 - Includes adoption of Massachusetts Beekeeper's Association Best Management Practices
 - Sale of Honey
- Section 8
 - Permit Application Requirements



Public Health Regulations

- Sections 9 & 10
 - Variance Requests & Permit Renewals
- Section 11
 - Abutter Notification
- Section 12
 - Public Hearings
- Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17
 - Enforcement, Inspections, Violations, Imminent Health Hazards, & Penalties





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