

Introduced: 2/20/24  
Adopted: 2/20/24

CODE

**CITY OF REDMOND  
ORDINANCE NO. 3151**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,  
WASHINGTON, AMENDING SECTION 7.04.154  
BEEKEEPING OF THE REDMOND MUNICIPAL CODE,  
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE

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WHEREAS, the City of Redmond periodically updates the Redmond Municipal Code (RMC) to correct non-substantive errors such as those resulting from outdated or incorrect references, to reflect changes to names and terminology, and to ensure the code is clear; and

WHEREAS, the City received a request to amend section 7.04.154 Beekeeping of the Redmond Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, Redmond Municipal Code section 7.04.154 Beekeeping allows beekeeping to occur in residential zoning districts R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, and R-6; and

WHEREAS, the request will expand the allowance of beekeeping to include nonresidential and mixed-use zoning districts as

defined by Redmond Zoning Code (RZC) 21.04.030 Comprehensive Allowed Use Chart; and

WHEREAS, the expanded allowance will be supported by criteria and requirements including those that assure public notice of beekeeping activities and those that provide guidance of best management practices; and

WHEREAS, state agencies received 60-day notice of the proposed amendments on August 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist was prepared, and a Determination of SEPA Exemption was issued on August 1, 2023, for the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendments and on August 30, 2023, made a recommendation for approval of the amendments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held public meetings on December 5, 2023; January 16, 2024; January 23, 2024; and February 20, 2024, to consider the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council requested, in addition to the recommended amendments, posted notification by sign of beekeeping activities; and

WHEREAS, notice of City Council action on this proposed amendment was provided on January 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond desires to amend portions of the Redmond Municipal Code as set forth in this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Redmond Municipal Code.

Section 2. Amendments to Redmond Municipal Code (RMC)  
Section 7.04.154 Beekeeping. The provisions of RMC section 7.04.154 Beekeeping are hereby amended to read as follows:

RMC 7.04.154 Beekeeping.

Beekeeping, pursuant to chapter RCW 15.60 Apiaries and its definitions, is subject to the following requirements:

A. No more than four hives per lot shall be allowed in areas zoned R-1, R-2, or R-3, and no more than two hives per lot shall be allowed in areas zoned R-4, R-5, [~~R~~] R-6, or Nonresidential or Mixed Use zones, per RZC 21.04.030 Comprehensive Allowed Uses Chart; provided, that a beekeeper

who picks up a swarm of bees may hold them for a period of no more than two weeks, notwithstanding the provisions of this section.

B. Colonies shall be maintained in small movable frame hives.

C. Adequate space shall be maintained in the hives to prevent overcrowding and swarming.

D. Colonies shall be requeened with a young hybrid queen annually, or as often as necessary to prevent any swarming or aggressive behavior.

E. All colonies shall be registered with the Washington State Department of Agriculture in accordance with apiary law, RCW 15.60[~~-030~~] Apiaries.

F. Hives shall not be located within twenty-five feet of any property line, except under the following conditions:

1. When situated eight feet or more above adjacent ground level; or

2. When there is a solid fence at least six feet high separating the hive from the property line, extending at

least twenty feet from the hive along the property line in both directions; or

3. When hives are located indoors such as during inclement weather.

G. Bees living in trees, buildings or any other space (except in movable frame hives), abandoned colonies or diseased bees shall constitute a public nuisance and shall be abated, in accordance with the Washington State Department of Agriculture Managed Pollinator Protection Plan and protocols as set forth in this chapter.

H. Written approval by the owner of the underlying parcel shall be provided for the siting and maintenance of the hives in nonresidential and mixed use zones.

I. One sign, providing notification of beekeeping activities, shall be installed and maintained, in accordance with all of the following:

1. The sign shall be visible and oriented toward people walking on or adjacent to the property upon which the hives shall be maintained; and

2. Sign lettering for the following shall be a minimum of two inches in height:

a. Caution; and

b. Active Beehive Area; and

c. Keep Clear of the Hives; and

3. Additional information shall be provided on the sign to include, at minimum, the owner's name, state issued identification number, and telephone number.

J. Other information may be included on the required sign, such as for educational purposes.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective five days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the city's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this 20th day of February,  
2024.

CITY OF REDMOND

  
ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK (SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DANIEL P. KENNY, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: February 6, 2024  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: February 20, 2024  
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR: February 23, 2024  
PUBLISHED: February 26, 2024  
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 2, 2024  
ORDINANCE NO. 3151

YES: ANDERSON, FIELDS, FORSYTHE, KRITZER, NUEVACAMINA, SALAHUDDIN,  
STUART

NO: NONE