# City of South San Francisco
# Beekeeping Regulations


Photo: Candace LaCroix, March 27, 2024

Beekeeping is permitted as an accessory use citywide subject to all applicable requirements in South San Francisco Municipal Code (SSFMC) Section 20.350.007 ("Animal Keeping").

This guide explains how to safely establish and maintain hives while protecting neighbors, pets, and our native pollinators.

Please contact the Planning Division at planning@ssfca.gov or (650) 877-8535 if you have questions about beekeeping regulations, application, or fees.

## General Requirements

San Mateo Agricultural Commission Registration: All beehives require Planning Division approval and registration with the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner. Changes to the number or location of hives on a lot require Planning Division approval and must be reported to the San Mateo Agricultural Commissioner.

Neighbor notification: Applicants shall notify neighboring properties of all proposed hive locations before submitting an application to the City.

Pollinator-friendly vegetation: Pollinator-friendly plants and water must be provided onsite to support honeybee colonies. For plants suited to South San Francisco's climate, visit the California Native Plant Society's Pollinator Hub.

## Residential District Requirements


Photo: Candace LaCroix, January 9, 2024

- Hives are restricted to rear yards.
- Hives must be located a minimum of 25 feet from the property line.
- A flyway barrier, such as a hedge or fence, must be between 6-8 feet in height.
- The flyway barrier must be parallel to the property line and between 3-5 feet from the hive's entryway.

## Non-Residential District Requirements




- Hives must be at least 25 feet from all property lines, public seating areas, and pedestrian paths.
- Hives must be screened. Acceptable screening includes a flyway barrier such as a hedge, fence, or lattice, between 6-8 feet in height.
- Flyway barriers must be parallel to the property line and between 3-5 feet from the hive's entryway.
- Rooftop hives must be at least 8 feet above grade.

## Resources

### San Mateo Beekeepers Guild

Offers community education, beginner beekeeping resources, events, literature, and information on hive installation services and where to purchase equipment.

sanmateobeeguild.org

learnaboutbees@sanmateobeeguild.org

### San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control

Manages invasive insect and rodent species for San Mateo County. Requests for service can be submitted through the website.

www.smcmvcd.org

Phone: 650-344-8592

### NorCal Bees

Provides 24/7 emergency bee, wasp, hornet, and yellow jacket removal, hive installation and maintenance, and bee sales.

norcalbees.com

alvaradojosman1@gmail.com

Phone: (415) 525-9126