

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Tuesday, May 18, 2021



| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Subject | Discuss Minimum Lot Size for Chickens in Residential Districts | |
| Section | OLD BUSINESS | Item No: B.1. |
| Prepared By | Sharmeen Al-Jaff, Senior Planner | File No: |

BACKGROUND

The current ordinance which was adopted in 2019, allows chickens on residential property based on lot area. The breakdown is as follows:

1 to 2.5 acres: 8 chickens
2.5 to 10 acres: 16 chickens
10+ acres: no limit

The City Council received a Citizen Action Request (attached) to allow chickens on residential properties with an area of **less than** one acre. Based on this request, on April 26, 2021, the City Council discussed the Chicken Ordinance during their work session. Following is an overview of issues that were discussed:

Neighbor complaints
Attraction of predators and rodents
Potential disease
Odor
Noise

Since the Planning Commission recommended the one-acre minimum and after an in-depth discussion, the City Council recommended that the Planning Commission revisit the minimum lot size.

Attached are the summary minutes from the City Council work session as well as the Planning Commission minutes dated February 19, 2019. The city placed an ad in the *Chanhassen Villager* asking for comments on the potential lot size change. The City Council also directed staff to reach out to neighboring communities to see the impact of their ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION

After taking public comment and discussion by the Planning Commission, a recommendation to the City Council will be made as to whether or not the minimum lot size for keeping of chickens should be reduced.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ❑ Staff Report
- ❑ Citizen Action Request from Kelly Davidson dated February 10, 2021
- ❑ Letter from Linda Norderhaug dated May 10, 2021
- ❑ Email from Holly Lawson dated May 10, 2021
- ❑ Email from Laura Schuh dated May 8, 2021
- ❑ Email from Kristen Bartley dated May 10, 2021
- ❑ Email from Kelly Davidson dated May 12, 2021
- ❑ Email from Jon Gilbert dated May 13, 2021
- ❑ Email - Davidson Follow Up - Dated May 18, 2021
- ❑ Email from Alyson Duneman dated May 18, 2021
- ❑ Planning Commission Minutes dated February 19, 2019
- ❑ Chapter 5 - ARTICLE V. - CHICKENS
- ❑ City Council Work Session Minutes dated April 26, 2021
- ❑ Chicken Application & Permit Form
- ❑ City Council Staff Report dated April 26, 2021
- ❑ Survey of 14 Communities - Keeping of Chickens
- ❑ Metropolitan Council Designation of Communities



CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chanhassen is a Community for Life - Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Sharmeen Al-Jaff, Senior Planner

DATE: May 18, 2021

SUBJ: Backyard Chickens in Residential Areas

ISSUE

The city received a Citizen Action Request (attached) to allow chickens on residential properties with an area of **less than** one acre.

SUMMARY

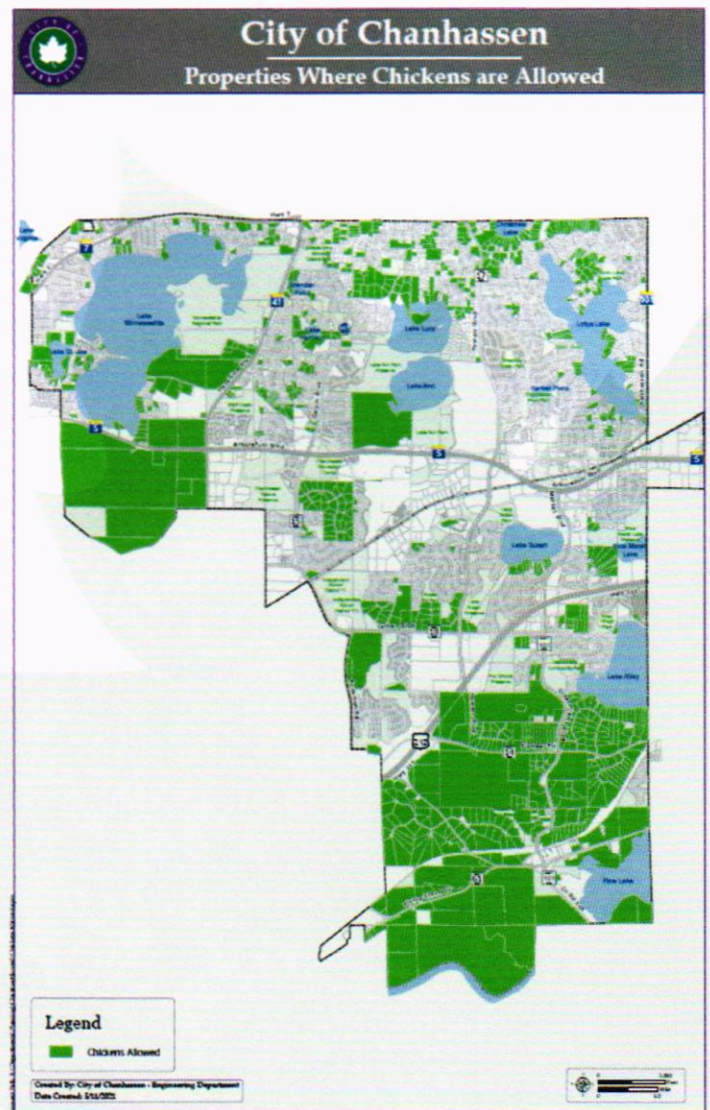
The current ordinance which was adopted in 2019, allows chicken on residential properties based on lot area. The breakdown is as follows:

1 to 2.5 acres: 8 chickens
2.5 to 10 acres: 16 chickens
10+ acres: no limit

On April 26, 2021, the City Council discussed the Chicken Ordinance during their work session. The following is an overview of issues that were discussed:

Neighbor complaints
Attraction of predators and rodents
Potential disease
Odor
Noise

The city has received feedback from residents that are against as well as for amending the



ordinance. Some Councilmembers have expressed that they are leaning towards maintaining the one acre minimum lot area.

The City Council has directed staff to reach out to neighboring communities to see the impact of their ordinances.

The Metropolitan Council has established designations for communities based on Urban or Rural characters (attached). Chanhassen is designated as an Emerging Suburban Edge. Staff contacted communities that fell under similar designations as well as neighboring cities. A survey of the communities is attached.

Staff was able to have a conversation with some of the cities on this list. The focus was on communities that allowed chickens on properties that have an area of less than one acre. The common complaint was appearance as well as setbacks. There was an average of 15 chicken permits throughout most communities. Some received complaints regarding loose chickens.

Although the ordinance addressing the keeping of chickens is in Chapter 5, which does not require Planning Commission action, the City Council wanted feedback from the Commission regarding the matter.

On February 19, 2019, the Planning Commission discussed the keeping of chickens topic (see attached minutes) and voted to limit them to properties with an area of one acre or larger.

ACTION

The City Council has requested feedback regarding the keeping of chickens on parcels with an area of less than one acre.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Citizen Action Request from Kelly Davidson dated February 10, 2021
- 2) Letter from Linda Norderhaug dated May 10, 2021
- 3) Email from Holly Lawson dated May 10, 2021
- 4) Email from Laura Schuh dated May 8, 2021
- 5) Email from Kristen Bartley dated May 10, 2021
- 6) Email from Kelly Davidson dated May 12, 2021
- 7) Planning Commission minutes dated February 19, 2019
- 8) Chapter 5 - ARTICLE V. – CHICKENS
- 9) City Council Work Session Minutes dated April 26, 2021
- 10) Chicken Application & Permit Form
- 11) City Council Staff Report dated April 26, 2021
- 12) Survey of 14 Communities – Keeping of Chickens
- 13) Metropolitan Council Designation of Communities

Print

Citizen Action Request Form - Submission #4497

Date Submitted: 2/10/2021

City Council - Citizen Action Request Form

Complete this form and submit it prior to the City Council meeting date you wish to present your request.

Select the date of the City Council meeting you plan to attend to make your visitor presentation.*

3/31/2021

NOTE: The City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month with the following exceptions in 2021:

- December 20 - Meeting CANCELLED

Printable 2021 City Meeting Calendar

[2021 City Meeting Calendar](#)

View and/or print this calendar to assist with determining when city council meetings are held in order to make your date selection above.

Resident Information

First Name*

Kelly

Last Name*

Davidson

Address1*

21 basswood circle

Address2

City*

Chanhassen

State*

MN

Zip*

55317

Phone Number*

Email*

If no email address, enter "none."

Council Action Requested*

Wanted to revisit or get more educated on the chicken ordinance and if it would be open to review in the future.

Provide a brief description of the action you are requesting from the City Council.

Summary of Information*

My name is Kelly Davidson and I moved to Chanhassen in 2019 with my family. We previously lived in Duluth and South Carolina.

I wanted to reach out to you regarding the Chanhassen Chicken ordinance. I see the ordinance was put in place in 2019 and that it doesn't allow chickens on property less than 1 acre.

When we lived in Duluth we had chickens. We did live on a larger plot of land but the city did allow them with a permit on smaller properties. I feel there were a lot of great benefits to keeping them and in Duluth it was very neighbor friendly.

Knowing that the ordinance is very new I am wondering if there would be an opportunity to talk more on the subject or what would be the process to talk more about this.

I don't want to say challenge the ordinance because that is not what I am suggesting. But I am looking at a more robust ordinance that would allow more people to allow small chickens flocks in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kelly Davidson
218-269-4262

Provide a narrative of the request including need, costs, timetable, background, etc.

What Happens Next?

Immediately upon submission of this form, staff will be notified by email and will provide copies to the City Council prior to the selected meeting date.

Questions?

Contact Deputy City Clerk Kim Meuwissen at 952-227-1107 or by [email](#).

City Council Work Session Discussion Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Action

City Council Meeting Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Action

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

- 1 -

5/10/2021

Dear Honorable Mayor of Chanhassen,
Elise Ryan

Regarding: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.
Meeting on minimum lot size for keeping
chickens in residential districts.

I will not be able to participate
in the meeting, so enclosed is my
commentary.

Thank you,

Linda Norderhaug
7603 Frontier Trail
Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317

I was not aware that in 2019,
Ordinance 639 was amended, including
Chapter 20 concerning keeping chickens.

> I completely oppose reducing the
lot size for any chickens.

> I think the lot size should be
dramatically increased.

> In fact, unless you have 10+ acres,
no one should have chickens in the
City of Chanhassen.

To my knowledge, no city adjacent
to Chanhassen allows chickens.

Why do we allow chickens?
Hopkins & South St. Paul do not allow
chickens. Wayzata & Edina do not yet have
an ordinance regarding chickens.

- 3 -

Growing up on a 3,000+ acre
ranch out west, we had chickens on
our 10+ ~~acre~~ acre ranch site.

Chickens have their place, not in
a city + not in a residential area.

Chickens are noisy, accumulate manure
+ compact the manure. They also draw
predators, (personal experience with predators
at our ranch - out west). Why draw predators
to a residential area with small pets +
small children?

Chickens are poop tornadoes!
The chickens will have a better life
if they can roam free, elsewhere, not
in Chanhassen.

In fact, I have several friends who
are not moving to Chanhassen, due to
the chicken ordinance. Plus, I know of

-4-

Several couples (two couples) are planning
on selling their homes in Chanhassen to
move to a more desirable suburb, without
chickens.

Thank you for your consideration
of a concerned citizen & taxpayer.

Respectfully,

Linda Nordenhaug

7603 Frontier Trail

Chanhassen, Minn. 55317

Al-Jaff, Sharmeen

From: Aanenson, Kate
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Al-Jaff, Sharmeen
Subject: FW: Support for Backyard Chickens in Chanhassen

From: Holly Lawson <holls9695@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Public Comments - Plan Commission <pccomments@ci.chanhassen.mn.us>
Subject: Support for Backyard Chickens in Chanhassen

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, I am writing this email to voice my full support for residents of Chanhassen to be able to raise a small flock of backyard hens. Hens do not crow like a rooster and they will not produce chicks without a rooster. They are actually very beneficial to your yard by eating disease spreading ticks and their waste converts to natural fertilizer.

I would also like to express that the requirement of 1 acre is very elitist. The great majority of lots are not 1 acre or more. Raising chickens should not be left for the wealthy residents only.

With thoughtful coop and lot line requirements most neighbors would not even notice a few hens next door.

Edina and Shakopee do not even require a permit. Eden Prairie is in their 4th year of allowing chickens and have 18 permit holders. Even though there was great support for the cause the end result of applicants was very small. I have contacted many cities animals control departments and they all said they typically get 1-3 complaints per year, and it's never because of smell or predators. Usually it is because a hen got out, much like a complaint about a loose dog which there are many more complaints of that nature. This Edina Animal Control Officer said it best when it comes to concerns over predators:

The short answer is no. Chickens, unless they are kept in large numbers will not alter the food availability or carrying capacity of an area for predator species.

The underlying worries are most likely revolving around fox and/or coyote populations. Unless you allow large numbers of chickens to be kept, it is highly unlikely that any increase in predator population will happen. It could easily be addressed in code by requiring people keeping chickens to maintain adequate housing/pens to prevent predators from taking the chickens.



Timothy Hunter, Animal Control Officer
952-826-0494 | Fax 952-826-1607
THunter@EdinaMN.gov | EdinaMN.gov/Police

Thank for the consideration of this change to the current ordinance. If there was ever time to be able to grown a little of your own (healthier) food and be more green, the time is now!

Thank you, Holly Lawson

Al-Jaff, Sharmeen

From: Aanenson, Kate
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Al-Jaff, Sharmeen
Subject: FW: Chickens

From: laura lynn <thelauralynn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Public Comments - Plan Commission <pccomments@ci.chanhassen.mn.us>
Subject: Chickens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commission,

I just wanted to write to say that I hope that all residents with lots are able to have the great opportunity to own chickens, no matter the lot size.

I sincerely hope Chanhassen approves having chickens!

Thank you,

Laura Schuh

Al-Jaff, Sharmeen

From: Aanenson, Kate
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Al-Jaff, Sharmeen
Subject: FW: Chickens in chanhassen

From: Kristen Bartley <kristen.l.bartley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Aanenson, Kate <kaanenson@ci.chanhassen.mn.us>
Subject: Chickens in chanhassen

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to take emails in regard to chicken keeping.

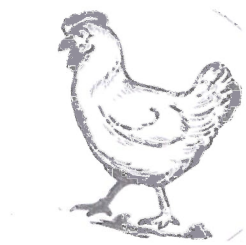
There has been great success in chicken keeping in the metro areas. Right now there are more cities that allow and don't allow. In reaching out to the cities that do you will find there are very few complaints. If done right from the beginning it can be successful! Most cities don't require a lot size restriction but do have restrictions on where coops are located on property lines which allows for most to be able to participate. There are ways to have a permitting process too. Some cities like Edina do not require this. Eden prairie has been allowing chickens since 2017 amid there are only 19 permits out there which shows not everyone is going to jump on board right away. Chicken keeping takes time and planning. Not as easy as just getting a dog or cat.

I recommend speaking with the university of mn poultry extension - either Abby or Wayne. They are a wealth of knowledge and have spoken at city council meetings and are amazing at answering questions.

Attached I have complied a list of cities that allow and don't. This is not. Completely updated as Plymouth and Hopkins recently are allowing chickens. Apple Valley, Chaska and Hastings have active initiatives to change their ordinances.

Thank you!
Kristen

| Chicken Approvals | Metro Cities with Ordinances |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| NO | 11 |
| YES | 51 |
| Grand Total | 62 |



| | |
|---------------|----|
| TOTAL NO | 11 |
| Apple Valley | 1 |
| Arden Hills | 1 |
| Brooklyn Park | 1 |
| Champlin | 1 |
| Chanhassen | 1 |
| Chaska | 1 |
| Ham Lake | 1 |
| Hopkins | 1 |
| Little Canada | 1 |
| Plymouth | 1 |
| Woodbury | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| TOTAL YES | 51 |
| Andover | 1 |
| Anoka | 1 |
| Blaine | 1 |
| Bloomington | 1 |
| Burnsville | 1 |
| Cottage Grove | 1 |
| Crystal | 1 |
| Dayton | 1 |
| Eagan | 1 |
| Eden Prairie | 1 |
| Edina | 1 |
| Falcon Heights | 1 |
| Farmington | 1 |
| Fridley | 1 |
| Hastings | 1 |
| Inver Grove Heights | 1 |
| Jordan | 1 |
| Lake Elmo | 1 |
| Maple Grove | 1 |
| Maplewood | 1 |
| Mendota Heights | 1 |
| Minneapolis | 1 |
| Minnetonka | 1 |
| Montrose | 1 |
| Mounds View | 1 |
| New Brighton | 1 |
| Newport | 1 |
| North Saint Paul | 1 |
| Oakdale | 1 |
| Osseo | 1 |
| Otsego | 1 |
| Prior Lake | 1 |
| Ramsey | 1 |
| Richfield | 1 |
| Robbinsdale | 1 |
| Rosemount | 1 |
| Roseville | 1 |
| Saint Anthony | 1 |
| Saint Michael | 1 |
| Saint Paul | 1 |
| Saint Paul Park | 1 |
| Savage | 1 |
| Shakopee | 1 |
| Shoreview | 1 |
| South Saint Paul | 1 |
| Stillwater | 1 |
| Vadnais Heights | 1 |
| Waconia | 1 |
| West St. Paul | 1 |
| White Bear Lake | 1 |
| White Bear Township | 1 |
| Grand Total | 62 |

From: [Kelly Davidson](#)
To: [Public Comments - Plan Commission](#); [Holly Lawson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Additional information regarding chickens
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 3:41:33 PM
Attachments: [PowerPoint Presentation to Sustainability Council.pdf](#)
[BackyardChickens.pdf](#)
[Working Chickens PP.pptx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Planning Commision,

I wanted to reach out and send over some information that was provided to the Mayor and City Council regarding the Chicken Ordinance lot size restriction. Please see information above.

I plan on being at the meeting to hopefully provide any answers to questions that you may have.

Thank you
Kelly Davidson
218-269-4262

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelly Davidson** <kellydavidson33@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 4, 2021 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Additional information regarding chickens
To: <council@ci.chanhassen.mn.us>, Holly Lawson <holls9695@yahoo.com>

Mayor Ryan and Council members,

I wanted to reach out after the work session to help provide more information on some of the questions that were brought up and also address some of the concerns.

I found some really great information from others who are also working on this same initiative. I hope you find it helpful and informative.

Holly who is copied on this email has also pulled together a community petition and I am providing a link to the petition here <http://chng.it/HLNWxLXX>. As of this moment 106 people have signed in favor of the change to the current ordinance. Holly also manages the Facebook Page: Chanhassen Backyard Chickens which is another great resource.

I am open to answering any questions as well. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the future.

Thank you
Kelly Davidson
218-269-4262



BACKYARD CHICKENS

“Bring Your Dreams” TO BROOKINGS, SD

Introduction

People are more concerned about the economy, the environment, food safety, emergency preparedness, and animal welfare, they're returning to the basic skills their grandparents understood well – vegetable gardening, canning food, and raising chickens.

In response to citizens' requests, many municipalities across the county have adopted ordinances allowing residents to keep a limited number of egg-laying hens as pets.



Picture Source: http://www.dadychery.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/urban_chickens.jpg

Introduction

Our request is not unreasonable or unusual. Cities across the county, large and small, allow a limited number of backyard hens. For example, chickens **are allowed** in Seattle, Chicago, Madison, Twin Cities, Fort Collins, Vancouver, New York, and yes, **SIoux FALLS, WHITE, and WASTA, South Dakota.**

In fact, according to Newsweek Magazine, more than 65% of major US cities now have chicken keeping ordinances.



Source: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2008/11/16/the-new-coop-de-ville.html>

Picture source:

<http://cmsimg.freep.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=C4&Date=20130707&Category=NEWS05&ArtNo=307070062&Ref=AR&MaxW=300&Border=0&Raising-chickens-in-residential-backyards>

Brookings Poultry Ordinance

Chickens are legally allowed already. However, the 125' coop setback limits most residents' ability to have backyard chickens. Reducing the coop setback and regulating chicken numbers, coop cleanliness, no roosters, permits, etc. makes sense.



Photo source: (left) http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-CoOA4-i_IDc/TgVpUy23iwl/AAAAAAAAACEI/i7hBBRgyxe8/s1600/anderschicks.jpg; (top) http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-hyDSv-tfsDE/UUMfjF8INsl/AAAAAAAAADz4/tYDrJZebDj8/s320/Original-Anna-Millman_Backyard-Chickens-bird-house-chicken-coop-helen_s4x3_lg.jpg; (bottom right) <http://z.about.com/d/saltlakecity/1/0/b/0/-/-/ChicksSmall.JPG>

Brookings Poultry Ordinance

Sec. 14-82. - Proximity of fowl to dwellings.

“It shall be unlawful for any person to enclose or house any guinea fowl, ducks, geese, turkeys, or other domestic fowl, except pigeons and except falcons and hawks in the possession of a state and federally licensed handler, in any house, pen, coop or enclosure or other building situated within a distance of 125 feet of any church, school or other public building or within 125 feet of any dwelling, store or other building used or occupied as a residence of any person other than that of the owner or caretaker of such fowl.” (Ord. No. 32-08, § 1, 9-9-2008)

Sec. 14-84. - Sanitary condition required.

No person shall keep or maintain any building or enclosure where livestock or domestic fowl are kept unless the building or enclosure is kept at all times in a clean and sanitary condition and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the city. (Ord. No. 32-08, § 1, 9-9-2008)



Photo source: <http://content.mindmixer.com/Live/Projects/denton/files/7321/ChickenCoop.jpg?634723658551130000>

Definition of Livestock

Chickens are a dual purpose animal – raised for profit or treated like pets. Hens are small, harmless, friendly entertaining, and easy to care for – 6 small hens aren't 'livestock' any more than a vegetable garden is a farm.

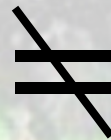


Photo source: (left) <http://www.theberkeleygraduate.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/chickencoop.jpg>; (right) http://www.livablefutureblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/florida_chicken_house.jpg

Fear not reality

Allowing residents a small number of egg-laying hens has not created a financial burden for cities that allow chickens, nor has it spurred fighting among neighbors, nor presented a noise, odor, or rodent problem, or reduced property values, or posed a public health threat!

In fact, public officials in cities where backyard chickens have been permitted for years, view it as a beneficial, community-building and self-sustaining activity that they promote and encourage.



Photo source: (top) <http://urbansprout.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/november-december-2010-114.jpg> ; (bottom) www.motherearthnews.com

Odor

Odor problems caused by backyard chickens is unwarranted. Chickens themselves do not smell. It's only their feces that have the potential to stink.

6-hens weigh less than 30-lbs and generate less waste than 1 avg. dog.

Chickens manure is a highly valued fertilizer - can be used in the garden.

Dogs/cats manure can't because of the parasites/human diseases it can harbor.



Photo source: (top) <http://www.azcentral.com/i/sized/0/0/7/e298/j350/PHP4A053802CD700.jpg> ; (bottom) <http://ksweb.gat.atl.publicus.com/storyimage/KS/20130405/blogs/130409275/AR/0/AR-130409275.jpg&MaxW=600>

Odor

Odor fears comes from limited experience with chickens (if any) usually from a farm or commercial poultry operation.

Where hundreds, if not thousands, of chickens are often kept in crowded conditions with poor ventilation/regular cleaning. As a result ammonia can build up and these facilities can stink.



Photo source: (top) http://www.texasmonthly.com/sites/default/files/styles/story_hero/public/stories/images/urbanfarming.jpg; (bottom) <https://evbdn.eventbrite.com/s3-s3/eventlogos/1943783/chickenpic.jpg>

Odor

6 small birds housed at least 20-ft from adjacent dwellings & close proximity to the owner's home are extremely unlikely to create an odor problem for neighbors.



Photo source: (left) http://blu.stb.s-msn.com/i/5A/4589E0F0CA1087106395A6DFFCC3_h316_w628_m5_cRnMRsYlu.jpg;
(right) <http://badinkadink.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/last-import-48.jpg>

Noise

Roosters crow loudly, not hens. Hens never crow, with the exception of announcing the arrival of a freshly hatched egg. This sound is short-lived, lasting a few minutes and takes place once every 24 to 36 hours, and never occurs at night.

There's no comparing the sound of a cackling hen to dog barking, power tools, lawn mowers, garbage trucks, motorcycles, wild crows, kids playing, car alarms, or trains all frequently heard in our neighborhoods.



Impact on Animal Shelters

Hens are wanted because they provide eggs, fertilizer, and are gentle creatures that make great pets. If a family can't keep them for any reason, hens are easily relocated using Craig's List, postings at local farm stores, Facebook, Newspaper Ads, etc. We are surrounded by an agricultural community!



Photo source: http://x-cdn.apartmenttherapy.com/516b3af274c5b63c080007eb_w.540_s.fit.jpg

Property Values

Declining property values is another myth!

Coops are typically small, clean, and attractive, because people love their pets and live in close proximity to them.

Urban chicken owners are so proud of their coops/hens that they hold annual coop tours to show them off!



Photo source: <http://parkwoodhomes.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/chicken-coop-garden1.jpg>

Public Health

A few hens in a backyard will not create a public health threat. If it were true, other cities wouldn't permit it!

"Bird flu has not been diagnosed in the whole of the Western Hemisphere and may not ever find its way here" and "chickens are relatively healthy animals."

- Poultry Extension Specialist, Dr. Jim Hermes.



Photo source: http://www.saltlakemagazine.com/site_media/uploads/2011/06/chickens2.jpg

Public Health

Dogs/cats spread parasites, bacteria, fungi, and viruses to humans. Thousands of ringworm cases are caused by touching stray cats fur.

Dogs/cats bring tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease and Rocky Mt. spotted fever.

Chickens actually keep your yard healthier because they eat ticks and insects.



Pests and Rodents

Chickens do not attract insects, they eat them!

Bugs, mosquitoes, and ticks and slugs that could otherwise harm your garden crops.

Rather than attract flies, they eat fly larvae before they can grow up to become adult flies.

Chickens do not attract rodents, when feed is stored properly. The same logic holds true for dog/cat food, garbage, and composters.



Pests and Rodents

Chickens are a natural extension to our gardens.

They are world-class recyclers.

In 24-hrs they turn garden scraps, bugs, and weeds into one of 2 things: eggs and fertilizer.



Sustainability

People are interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle and reducing their carbon footprint. Local governments encourage citizens to reduce their consumption of resources, use fewer pesticides, and be more self-reliant.

A small number of hens allow us the opportunity to do just that. Political obstacles should not impede the very same lifestyle local govt. promotes.



Sustainability

Chickens eat grass clippings/food scraps, thus keeping these products out of the local landfill by reusing them on site.

We are encouraged to eat locally, reducing the need to transport food long distances. What better place to start than the availability of food right in the backyard!



Sustainability

Local citizens can contribute their surplus eggs to local food banks or neighbors - feeding the hungry with healthy, locally produced food!



Food Safety & Animal Welfare

Growing desire among consumers to regain some control over the food we serve our families.

People are concerned about the welfare of animals that provide our food.



Food Safety & Animal Welfare

Home-grown eggs are fresher, tastier, and more nutritious than store-bought eggs.

Store-bought eggs are often shipped from out-of-state, and can be legally sold when they are as old as 45-d.



Economic Benefits

Many of our older family members have shared stories about how chickens saved the family during the Great Depression.

Given our current economic situation, keeping a few backyard hens has never been more practical.



Photo source: My grandmother Marie visiting, holding my son August and my daughter Phoenix as we visit our chickens!

Economic Benefits

A few hens cost very little to maintain, especially if you supplement their diet with weeds, grass clippings, bugs, and kitchen/garden scraps.

In return six hens provide 130 dozen eggs/yr for a cost of about \$2/doz. You can't beat that price for the high quality eggs in return.



Educational Opportunities

Tremendous opportunity for parents to teach young children about the responsibilities that come with caring for a pet, and where their food comes from.

My children learn about sustainability/recycling. They don't just hear "reduce, reuse, recycle" they experience it!



Water & Air Quality

An average hen produces 0.0035 CF of manure/day or 1 CF of manure/six months!

According to the FDA, an average dog generates $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of manure/day that can't be composted because of the harmful bacteria/parasites that can infect humans.



Photo source: (top) a few hens that I help care for.

Water & Air Quality

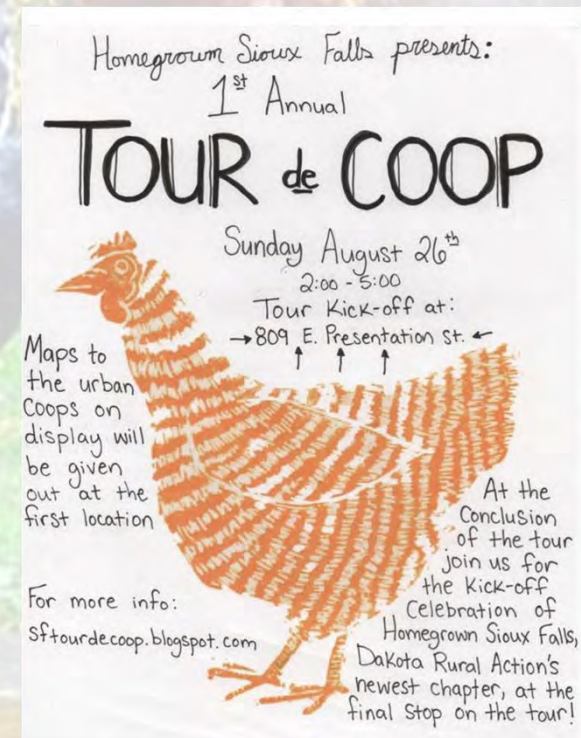
Dog waste contains higher concentrations of nitrogen/phosphorus than cows, chickens, or pigs and is a major contributor of excessive nutrients that flow into ground and surface waters through runoff from city sidewalks and lawns.



Community Building Events

People in the city who keep chickens as pets keep them in attractive enclosures they are proud of. In fact, in many chicken-friendly cities residents hold annual coop tours to show them off.

Urban chicken 101 classes/clubs offer other edu. opportunities for our community.



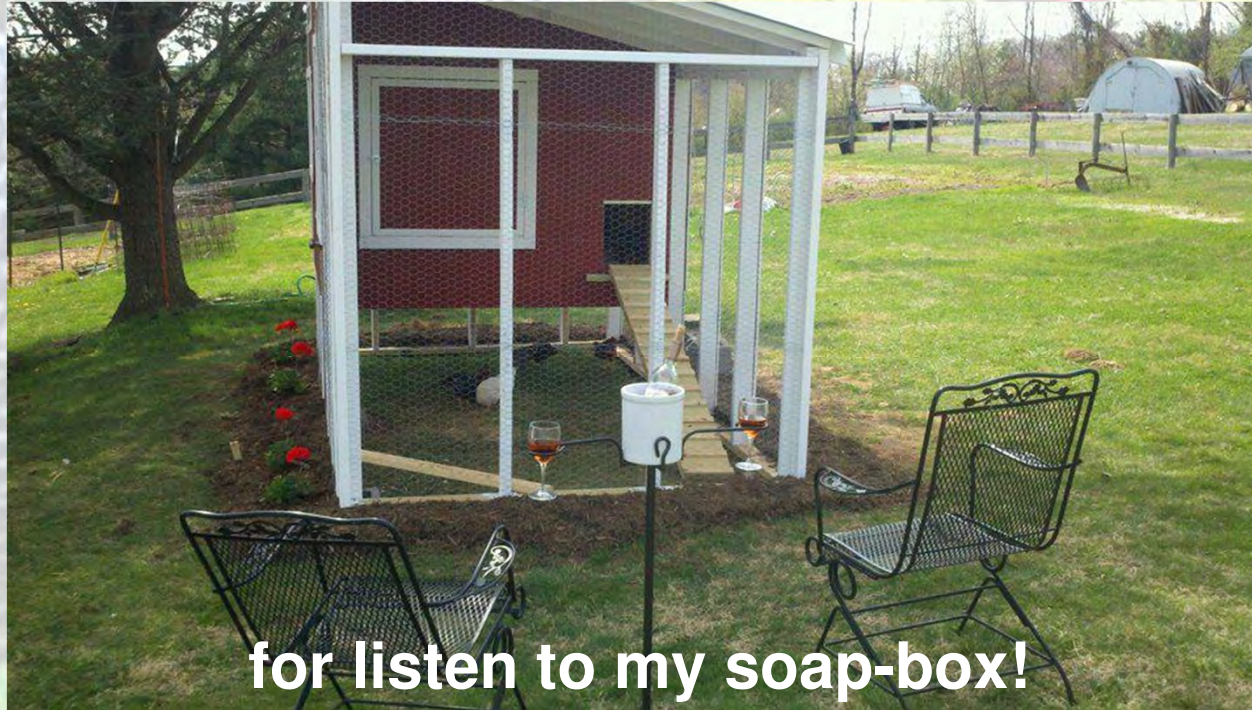
Chickens are hardy!

Running's locally supplies chicks that are perfect for South Dakota weather! Chickens are hardy animals:



Photo source: (top left) <http://urbansprout.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/january-february-2011-049.jpg>; (bottom left) http://ediblecleveland.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/trattner_chickens_065-1200.jpg; (middle) <http://cettinaworks.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/hens-in-snow.jpg>; (top right) <http://thedabblerpresents.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/first-snow-10-26-11.jpg>; (bottom right) <http://www.thegardencoop.com/images/cold-weather-chicken-coop.jpg>

Thank you



for listen to my soap-box!

Meghan Thoreau, concerned citizen, 1432 2nd Street, Brookings, SD
(605) 692-2832, meghan.thoreau@gmail.com

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are any permits, licenses, fees, or prior approvals required from the City?

No permits, licenses, fees, or prior approvals are required in order to raise backyard chickens. However, Crystal City Code Section 910 must be followed when constructing the shelter (coop) and enclosure (run). EXCEPTION: If electrical work is to be done, an electrical permit must be applied for through the City.

2. How many chickens are allowed?

Up to four hen chickens are allowed on single or two-family residential properties. Chickens are not allowed on properties with three or more dwelling units.

3. I do not own my home. May I still raise backyard chickens?

Yes, if you live in a single or two-family residential property, but only if the property owner provides a written statement to the City, confirming that the tenant may have chickens on the property.

4. Can I keep chickens in my home or garage?

Chickens over 4 weeks of age may NOT be kept inside the home or garage. They must remain in the coop or run at all times. Additionally, chickens must be secured inside the coop from sunset to sunrise each day to prevent noise and to avoid attracting predators.

5. Can I have a rooster and breed chickens?

Roosters and breeding of chickens are NOT allowed.

6. Can I build the coop or run on my property line or next to the street?

No. The coop must be situated closer to the chicken owner's dwelling than to any of the neighboring dwellings but in no case closer than 5 feet to the lot line. No coops or runs shall be located closer to an abutting street than the principal structure. Additionally, screening from abutting residences and streets in the form of a solid privacy fence of at least 4 feet in height (constructed according to the fence standards) shall be provided for the coop and run.



7. How big can the coop be?

The coop must neither exceed 120 square feet in size nor exceed 6 feet in height.

8. How big can the run be?

The run must neither exceed 20 square feet per bird nor exceed 6 feet in height and must have protected overhead netting to prevent predators.

9. Do I have to provide an outdoor run?

Yes. Chickens must have access to the outdoors.

10. What do I do with chicken feces and discarded feed?

Chicken feces and discarded feed are to be regularly collected and stored in leak-proof containers with tight-fitting covers until they can be properly disposed of. Chicken feed must also be stored in a leak-proof container with a tight-fitting cover.

11. Can I sell the eggs from my chickens?

Owners must comply with all requirements and performance standards for home enterprises in Crystal Zoning Code Section 515.33, Subd. 3b. The MN Dept of Agriculture Dairy and Food Inspection Division manages and enforces the sale of eggs. Contact them at 651-201-6027 for additional information about the selling of chicken eggs.



12. Who do I call if I want to complain about someone's backyard chickens?

Call Animal Control at 763-531-5161.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- All building, electrical, property maintenance, and zoning requirements must be followed.
- Coops and runs must be constructed in a workmanship manner, maintained in good repair, and kept clean and sanitary to deter vermin and objectionable odors. Coops and runs may be constructed with wood and/or woven wire materials to allow chickens to contact the ground.
- Chickens must be properly protected from the weather and predators in a winterized coop.
- Owners must care for chickens in a humane manner and prevent nuisance conditions. NO slaughtering or cockfighting allowed.
- Use common courtesy with respect to your neighbors to make this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Be considerate of your neighbors!



WEBSITE RESOURCES

Crystal City Code Section 910 (private kennel licenses and allowing for the keeping of chickens) & Zoning Code Section 515.33, Subd. 3b (home occupations for sale of eggs)
www.crystalmn.gov

University of MN Extension (backyard chicken basics)
www1.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics

Chicken Rescue
www.brittonclouse.com/chickenrunrescue

MDA Dairy & Food Inspection Division (sale of eggs)
www.mda.state.mn.us/en/about/divisions/dairyfood.aspx

CONTACTS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| City Hall (switchboard) | 763-531-1000 |
| Animal Control | 763-531-5161 |
| Building Official | 763-531-1146 |
| Code Enforcement Specialist | 763-531-1143 |
| Electrical Inspector | 763-390-9255 |
| Zoning | 763-531-1142 |
| MN Dept of Agriculture Dairy & Food Inspection Division (sale of eggs) | 651-201-6027 |

RAISING BACKYARD CHICKENS



CITY OF CRYSTAL

4141 Douglas Dr N
Crystal, MN 55422

Telephone: (763) 531-1000

Facsimile: (763) 531-1188

www.crystalmn.gov

Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers should contact the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 V/TTY or call 711



BACKYARD HENS IN THE CITY OF CHASKA

Current Ordinance

The current version of our city ordinance is at odds with today's understanding of the necessity of green living to make our city more sustainable.

- Section 01. "Animals" defined: The term "animals," means cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats, swine, ponies, ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens, guinea hens, dogs, cats, and all other animals and feathered fowl; provided that this definition shall extend to this article only.

(Ord. No. 281, Sec. 1, 6/18/79)

- Section 02. Keeping animals: It is unlawful for any person to keep any animal, not in transit, in any part of the City not zoned for agricultural purposes, except for household pets not otherwise prohibited by the City Code.

(Ord. No. 281, Sec. 1, 6/18/79)



Current Ordinance (cont.)

The general ordinances in place already protect neighbors against any disruptive animals:

- Section 03. Impoundment of animals authorized; costs for release. Any animal found running at large contrary to the provisions of this chapter may be impounded in a pound designated by the City, from which such animal shall not be released until the owner thereof or some person for him shall pay all fees incurred for such impoundment. (Ord. No. 281, Sec. 1, 6/18/79)

Section 24. Animal nuisances.

The owner or custodian of any animal shall prevent the animal from committing in the City any act which constitutes a nuisance. It is a nuisance for any animal to habitually or frequently bark or cry, to chase vehicles, to molest or annoy any person at a place away from the property of his owner or custodian, or to damage, defile or destroy public or private property. Failure of the owners or custodian animal to prevent the animal from committing such a nuisance is a violation of this section.



Backyard Chickens Are Not Livestock

Chickens are friendly, social, intelligent, affectionate, entertaining, low-maintenance, small, quiet, and inexpensive to keep. They are quieter and cleaner than dogs. They uniquely offer suburban and city-dwelling children the opportunity to understand a little more clearly where their food comes from. And they offer all of us the opportunity to produce a little of our own food.

Backyard Coops are Attractive and Clean

Unlike large commercial poultry operations or rural farms, people in cities and suburbs who keep chickens in their backyards tend to keep them in attractive, well maintained enclosures and treat their chickens as pets. Backyard coops are no more of an inherent eyesore than a trampoline, play structure, or hot tub.



Chickens Are Not Smelly

Chickens themselves do not smell. Any possible odor would come from their droppings, but 5 hens generate less manure than one medium-sized dog. The average chicken keeper is also a gardener, and (unlike the feces of dogs and cats, which carry pathogens and can't be composted) chicken droppings represent an excellent source of free organic fertilizer when composted. Unsanitary conditions can result in a buildup of ammonia in large-scale operations, which is why commercial poultry facilities often smell. This is not the case for small backyard flocks.

Chickens are Not Messy

Chicken enclosures used in city and urban settings tend to be attractive and are easily maintained. Small flocks are managed with a minimum of time and energy on the part of their owners.



Chickens Are Not Noisy

Hens are quiet birds. It's only roosters that are known for loud morning crowing, and roosters are not necessary for the production of eggs. The occasional clucking of hens is measured at a mere 60 decibels and generally not audible beyond 10 feet. Some hens give a few squawks while actually laying an egg, but this noise is very short-lived and much quieter than barking dogs, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, passing trucks, children playing, and other common neighborhood sounds.

Chickens Do Not Pose a Public Health Risk

Unlike cats and dogs which are prime vectors for rabies, parasites, and tick-borne diseases, backyard chickens actually keep your yard healthier for humans by eating ticks and other insects. Salmonella, which has been associated with raw eggs, is more of a problem with factory-farmed eggs, not with backyard chickens.

According to the CDC on 6/24/2020 there have been 5 cases of Salmonella in 2020. They recommend being mindful with handling of chickens – wash hands before and after handling.



Living Sustainably

- Increasing numbers of us are interested in living more sustainably, and many communities, are encouraging citizens to reduce waste and consumption of resources. Backyard chickens allow us to reduce our carbon footprint by producing some of our own food. Every food item we can produce organically and on our own property, just outside our back door, is one less item that must be shipped to us and shopped for. Every item of food we raise ourselves represents a step in living a greener, more sustainable lifestyle.
- People who have backyard chickens are less likely to use chemicals and pesticides in their yards and gardens because it's healthier for their chickens. In return the chickens eat weeds and bugs that normally plague unsprayed yards. Composted chicken manure is one of the most efficient natural fertilizers and is provided for free with no need for transport. Backyard chickens eat grass clippings which might otherwise end up in the landfills and food scraps which might end up in the garbage and sewage.



| Chicken Approvals | Metro Cities with Ordinances |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| NO | 11 |
| YES | 51 |
| Grand Total | 62 |

| | |
|---------------|----|
| TOTAL NO | 11 |
| Apple Valley | 1 |
| Arden Hills | 1 |
| Brooklyn Park | 1 |
| Champlin | 1 |
| Chanhassen | 1 |
| Chaska | 1 |
| Ham Lake | 1 |
| Hopkins | 1 |
| Little Canada | 1 |
| Plymouth | 1 |
| Woodbury | 1 |



| | |
|---------------------|----|
| TOTAL YES | 51 |
| Andover | 1 |
| Anoka | 1 |
| Blaine | 1 |
| Bloomington | 1 |
| Burnsville | 1 |
| Cottage Grove | 1 |
| Crystal | 1 |
| Dayton | 1 |
| Eagan | 1 |
| Eden Prairie | 1 |
| Edina | 1 |
| Falcon Heights | 1 |
| Farmington | 1 |
| Fridley | 1 |
| Hastings | 1 |
| Inver Grove Heights | 1 |
| Jordan | 1 |
| Lake Elmo | 1 |
| Maple Grove | 1 |
| Maplewood | 1 |
| Mendota Heights | 1 |
| Minneapolis | 1 |
| Minnetonka | 1 |
| Montrose | 1 |
| Mounds View | 1 |
| New Brighton | 1 |
| Newport | 1 |
| North Saint Paul | 1 |
| Oakdale | 1 |
| Osseo | 1 |
| Otsego | 1 |
| Prior Lake | 1 |
| Ramsey | 1 |
| Richfield | 1 |
| Robbinsdale | 1 |
| Rosemount | 1 |
| Roseville | 1 |
| Saint Anthony | 1 |
| Saint Michael | 1 |
| Saint Paul | 1 |
| Saint Paul Park | 1 |
| Savage | 1 |
| Shakopee | 1 |
| Shoreview | 1 |
| South Saint Paul | 1 |
| Stillwater | 1 |
| Vadnais Heights | 1 |
| Waconia | 1 |
| West St. Paul | 1 |
| White Bear Lake | 1 |
| White Bear Township | 1 |
| Grand Total | 62 |

Responses from Neighboring Cities



Questions asked:

Since conception of (Or past 5 years) allowing chickens I am wondering:

- The number of complaints with chickens per year
- The number of complaints with dogs and cats per year
- Does it take long to process an application to apply for a permit?
- Do you believe predators have been drawn in from the chickens?

If you have any positive aspects of owning chickens that you feel has benefited your community? All feedback welcome.

Number of chicken complaints per year: none (zero).

- **Number of Animal Complaints per Year:** Dog at Large = 379 (34% of all animal calls), Deer Issue = 180 (16%), Barking Dog = 164 (15%), Raccoon Issue = 82 (7%), Cat at Large = 80 (7%), Rabbit Issue = 48 (4%), Squirrel Issue = 37 (3%), Goose Problem = 37 (3%), Duck Problem = 30 (3%), Coyote Issue = 25 (2%), Bat Issue = 10 (0.9%), Snake Problem = 9 (0.8%), Fox Problem = 7 (0.6%), Hawk Issue = 6 (0.5%), Turtle Problem = 6 (0.5%), Owl Issue = 5 (0.5%), Horse at Large = 4 (0.4%). **Projected/Expected number of Chicken Issues per year = 0-2 (0.0-0.2%).**
- **Length of Time to Process an Application:** This will vary based upon if the applicant filled out the application correctly. Sometimes it's necessary to contact the applicant, ask questions and request them to resubmit a more accurate depiction of their property/diagram. Assuming it's filled out correctly, the processing of the application takes 10-30 minutes, and the required inspection takes 5-10 minutes or so.
- **Predators:** The City has not received any complaints regarding predators associated with chickens. One of the requirements is that the coop and run be constructed in a manner to prohibit entry of any type of predator, be it fox, coyote, hawk, etc.
- Eden Prairie began allowing residential chicken keeping in 2017 and at this point we have 15 registered chicken keeping properties. (65,000 residents)

Jim Schedin
Zoning Administrator
Police Department | City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road | Eden Prairie, MN 55344



Shakopee:

5/29/2020

Since 2017 there have been the following numbers of complaints:

Chickens (loose, rooster complaint and free roaming in yard)

2017-4

2018-1

2019-2

2020-0

All other animal-This includes all other animal related calls. I.E. Bites, loose cat/dog, welfare and found/lost animals:

2017-407

2018-372

2019-377

2020-111

There is no data that could support whether predators have been drawn in from the chickens.

Joe Alessi

Code Enforcement Specialist, Shakopee Police Department

Blaine:

5/22/2020

-The number of complaints with chickens per year zero (from the police department records)

-The number of complaints with dogs and cats per year

2020: 273

2019: 836

2018: 719

2017: 623

2016: 119

Complete applications are usually processed within 2-3 business days

Wende Ferguson

Support Services Manager

Blaine Police Department

Thank you for the inquiry about the chicken regulations. We have had a successful experience with chickens in our city. As for complaints, in the two and half years I have been in this position I have not had a single complaint about chickens in the city. The chicken program has been very successful. It does not take long to process the applications and we have not seen an increase in predators with the chickens. When I go out and talk with the owners on the inspection I talk with them about reinforcing the coop by running the coop fencing into the ground a foot or so to help with animals trying to get in. To date I have not heard of an attack on any of the chicken coops in the city.

As a whole the most of the complaints I receive are cat and dog related. I do not have an exact number of the calls that I receive but I can tell you that dogs and cats are the biggest number of calls I deal with.

From what I have seen the chickens seem to bring neighbors together as they are intrigued by them. Home owners are excited to have the opportunity to raise chickens in their yards

Jodie Opstad

Animal Control Officer

3830 Pilot Knob Rd | Eagan, MN 55122

We have probably fewer than 2-3 complaints per year regarding chickens. Most calls are more inquiries than complaints.

The number of complaints regarding dogs/cats probably range into hundreds. I'd have to run some reports to get more precise numbers.

We do not issue permits for chickens, so there is no process or waiting period.

Predators or undoubtedly drawn to chickens. We get few reports of that, but it is inevitable. They are already present in the area and chickens only provide one additional prey source if the owners do not provide adequate shelter against predators.

Chaska is just over 20,000 people versus Edina's 50,000 and is much more rural. That alone will impact the differences between the two communities. I suspect dog/cat complaints are significantly fewer in Chaska than in Edina. I also suspect that the fox/coyote population is higher. Hawks and owls can also prey on chickens, but the population density of those birds of prey are likely comparable.

My answers are listed behind your questions below. I have also included the packet of information sent to residents when requested. Because we limit the number of chickens to 4 hens and no roosters, this has limited the number of complaints. It is a positive program with families working together in raising the chickens and enjoying the eggs, if any.

- The number of complaints with chickens per year since the inception of the program:
2011, I have received only 3 complaints
- The number of complaints with dogs and cats per year: We don't receive complaints on cats or dogs, Animal Control division is within the police department.
- Does it take long to process an application to apply for a permit? It is a registration program. The only permit issued would be a zoning permit to construct an accessory structure (coop and run). On average it takes 3 days for zoning approval. Once approved, we issue the zoning permit to construct the coop/run. The resident will contact me directly to inspect the construction and issue a letter of permission to keep the chickens.
- Do you believe predators have been drawn in from the chickens? Not aware of any increase in predators.

*Ann Boettcher
Property Maintenance & Licensing Manager | City of St. Louis Park
Department of Building & Energy*

Chaska Animal Calls (2016-2020)

- Chaska does not have animal control. All calls are through the police department (similar to many cities). These calls include animals at large, assistance in relocating (alive or dead), dispatching, noise & defecating complaints
 - 1,267 dog and cat calls
 - 495 other animal calls
 - Woodchuck, turkey, opossum, wolf, pigeon, raccoon, snake, ferret, muskrat, turtle, owl, beaver, emu, squirrel, rabbit, goose, duck, deer, bat, coyote, mountain lion, horse



Response to working session 2016

There was a working session after an initial interest in changing the city ordinance. Enclosed is a rebuttal to the previous concerns.

“I also worry that it would be troublesome for the police department to keep up with,” said Rohe. “It could be very time consuming and difficult to enforce.”

“I just can’t put it in my mind that we would be putting officers out there to check on chickens,” said Windschitl.

Previous slides reflect the police/animal control responses to chickens, 0-5/year, compared to the hundreds of other animals.

Councilor Paula Geisler worried about the chickens’ well-being in extreme cold.

“Chickens are more fragile than people think ... I just wonder what would happen if we have a cold winter like we’ve had,” she said. “Would they end up freezing to death?”

Chickens have been kept in coops all over the world (Cold weather states, Alaska, etc.)

Chickens can withstand winter temperatures without supplemental heat. A

chicken's body temperature is around 106 degrees Fahrenheit, and they have their own protective layer of feathers to keep them warm.

Councilors also noted concerns about chickens attracting predators like coyotes, and the potential for disagreements among neighbors over the chickens.

Predators are already here (see previous slide regarding predators). Adhering to guidelines of keeping a proper structure that is predator proof is imperative, that goes for any domestic animal kept outside.

Many cities have spoken to believe it brings neighbors together.

Rohe said that with organic and cage-free options available in local stores, consumers have more choice than ever before, decreasing the need for backyard chickens.

As we have seen in the past few months there have been food shortages - cage free, organic or not. Being able to live sustainability has never been more prevalent and a right we should all have, especially during this unprecedented time.

Rohe responded saying there are other options for people who want to raise chickens.

“If you want to do that, buy a hobby farm or move to the country.”

We live in Chaska for so many reasons. I grew up here, I’m raising my family here. We can’t imagine raising our family in any other community. For a lot of people, picking up and moving for any reason isn’t an option. Let’s keep this community progressive and loveable.

Sample application:

<https://www.waconia.org/DocumentCenter/View/1622/571-Chickens-PDF?bidId=>

Complete ordinance (5 pages):

<https://www.waconia.org/DocumentCenter/View/1622/571-Chickens-PDF?bidId=>

Annual Chicken License Application

Date:

Applicant Name:

Address:

Email:

Home #: Alternative #:

Email Submit Print Form



Type of Residence Structure:

☐ Single Family

☐ Two Family

☐ Own

☐ Rent

List the maximum # of chickens to be kept:

Roosters are prohibited & may not be licensed.

Describe location & method of food storage:

Describe waste disposal plan:

Location of Coop

(A scaled drawing showing the location, size and dimensions of the coop and run including the distance of the coop and run from other structures on the licensed premises and neighboring property lines must be provided)

No person shall keep a chicken within the corporate limits of the City except as allowed by City Ordinance 694 or Section 710.15 of the Code. This prohibition does not apply to those portions of the City zoned for agricultural purposes.

The City may revoke a chicken license if any requirement set forth in this Chapter is violated or if the Minnesota Department of Revenue sends the City notice requiring revocation. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as preventing the City from also prosecuting any violation of the ordinance as a criminal violation pursuant Chapter 102 of the Waconia City Code.

By signing below Applicant understands the licensed premises may be inspected by the City at any time to ensure compliance and accept the conditions and requirements set forth in City Ordinance 694. The initial license fee is calculated by the date of the license application and the per diem of \$0.41.

Applicant Signature:

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall 952-442-2184.

Office Use Only

Approval Signature:

Approval Date:

License Fee Amount:

Date:

Receipt:

We, the undersigned citizens of Chaska, MN, believe that small-scale chicken keeping is a healthy, economic, and sustainable way to feed and enrich our families and our community. Besides making great pets, hens provide us with fresh eggs and encourage local sustainable living. The ability to raise chickens offers educational opportunities for our children. Chickens serve as a natural alternative to pesticides by eating bugs and insects, including fleas and disease-spreading ticks. Chickens also eat weeds, and chicken manure serves as an excellent fertilizer for lawns and gardens. Backyard chickens provide many benefits, which is why many towns and cities across the country now permit their residents to raise backyard chickens.

The backyard chicken movement has been gaining support across the nation in recent years, with over 500 cities and towns changing their ordinances to allow small numbers of chickens in residential areas. This has been motivated by a number of factors, including the public's interest in healthier, locally-sourced food, increased control over and knowledge of food sources, and a growing concern for the humane treatment of animals raised for food. Environmental factors also are a consideration for many. Other benefits for those raising a small flock include an excellent source of natural fertilizer, chemical-free pest control and low-maintenance, charming pets.

[Change.org](#) continued

Many of the fears that people have regarding allowing chickens in residential areas stem from experience with or knowledge of large-scale chicken farming, which in no way reflects small-scale chicken keeping. Hens are no more disruptive to residential tranquility than a dog that barks occasionally, and often are even less so. Just as living next door to someone with a dog is not comparable to living next door to a dog kennel, backyard chicken flocks do not pose the same nuisances as the infamous chicken farms, and on the contrary, would offer many benefits to Chaska residents. We respectfully request our leaders to act now to allow up to 5 hens (no roosters) in the backyards of residential homes, with certain restrictions as deemed necessary by the Council.

Attached to this email is the list of Chaska residents that have signed this petition

****181 Chaska residents have signed the
petition since May 22, 2020****

Proposal to City

- Allow the residents to keep and care for up to five hens.
- The hens shall be provided with a covered enclosure (coop)
- The coop shall be fully enclosed and weather and predator proof.
- All premises on which hens are kept or maintained shall be kept clean from filth.
- All grain and food stored for the use of the hens on a premise, shall be kept in a rodent proof container.
- Slaughtering of chickens shall be forbidden.
- Roosters shall be forbidden.
- Coops must be in the rear or side yard and set back at least 5ft from property lines unless permission is granted by neighboring property.
- Protection of the rights of neighbors by punishing violations of the chicken ordinance to the same degree as violations by cats and dogs.



-----Original Message-----

From: Jon Gilbert <jgilb.raca@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Aanenson, Kate <kaanenson@ci.chanhassen.mn.us>

Subject: Chickens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kate -

Happy Spring, finally.

Could you please add a tally mark to the 'yes' column for citizens supporting an amendment to the chicken ordinance: without acreage limitation, perhaps with a limit to the number of hens/acreage, e.g., 8/acre to max of 4 on less acreage, \$25 initial permit seems reasonable, enforcement discretion based upon valid complaints. It seems in this day and age that many HOA's will limit the number permit applications the City could receive for chickens, based upon ignorance on the subject, but I trust the City will look at the surrounding communities and reasonable conclude there is no significant safety issue related to this topic.

Thanks for your help, as always.

By the way, could the City please post a sign regarding leash laws and homeowner responsibilities regarding dog clean-up opposite the stop sign on Jeurissen Lane? Optimally, a sign would be useful if placed west of the sidewalk along the overlook of Bluff Creek. Far too many dog owners don't control their pets or adhere to the City's ordinances and allow their off-leash animals to chase the waterfowl living in the watershed area or take them to the area without their doggy bags. I'm hoping the signs aren't limited to Parks only as I think I have seen them along sidewalks and bicycle paths around town. Double thanks, Madame Director.

Sincerely,

- Jon

Jeurissen Lane

From: [Kelly Davidson](#)
To: [Public Comments - Plan Commission](#); [City Council](#); [Holly Lawson](#); [Aanenson, Kate](#)
Subject: Chicken Ordinance meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:11:22 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that due to a family issue I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. This is hard for me because I want to be there to answer any questions and be a part of the process to hopefully change the current ordinance.

I will however write to you why it is important to my family and to other families in this great community.

When we first received our chickens I was all about the eggs. This was a quest for what I thought was going to be self sustaining egg production. I was very wrong! From the day we got our first hens they were 100% pets. They were easy to take care of and had very unique personalities. This surprised me the most. I thought of chickens as a one note animal without much depth. There was a leader that took care of the rest of the group and even interacted with our dogs. They got to know us and just like a dog would get excited when we came out to visit them.

What they really brought us wasn't eggs, it was joy. Joy for my kids and the whole family. There were many afternoons when we just hung out as a family to watch what funny things the chickens would do. My kids were engaged and committed to the care of the pets. I truly believe that in the time we are in now that any bit of joy that families can be a part of is extremely important.

My family has made two very difficult moves in the past 18 months. We have moved across the country twice and with lock downs and trying to make new friends my kids have been resilient but have struggled. I don't think that this is an isolated case and I think many families have been put under huge stress over the past year. I am also not saying that the ability to have chickens would solve any issues but it might help just a little.

I wanted to address some of the other concerns that I had heard during the meeting. Since I have personal experience I wanted to share some history. I think you can also see my previous email on some of these items.

1. Predators-We lived on a large wooded lot in Duluth. We had a fox den and also a large female black bear. Our coop was 30 yards from the house and I have trail camera pictures of the fox trying to get into the coop on two occasions. When he found out it was locked down he moved on. I also had a raccoon take a look one night. Again once it wasn't an easy meal they moved on. Protecting the chickens is part of the care. Most modern coops have this built in protection and chickens are just fine. Predators want an easy meal and I can tell you the fox that lives near our backyard now is doing just fine. He has been gobbling up the young rabbits, squirrels and birds that he would normally eat. Just by adding a coop will not add or attract more predators. There is a natural carrying capacity to their population that can be seen specifically with rabbit and fox population cycles. The number one way to increase the predator load on your property is to put in bird feeders.

2. Noise-Hens which are only allowed make a very low cooing noise. That is all. You could hear them in your backyard but probably not further than this. I think dogs barking would be a much bigger issue.

3. Smell- This wasn't an issue as we took care of the droppings just like we pick up the dogs droppings. I can't remember a time when at any of our friends homes with chickens either where smell was an issue.

4. Unintended benefits- All three of our dogs in Duluth had either Lyme disease or anaplasmosis. Recently one of our dogs at our house near Lotus lake came down with anaplasmosis again. Ticks are becoming a bigger issue every year. I know the ordinance in Chanhassen will not allow free range chickens but in Duluth we did allow our chickens to free range. After a month I never found a tick on any of our dogs again. Chickens are grazers and eat a lot of bugs.

Chickens also help control food waste. We didn't allow the chickens to eat all of our compost but there were definitely things that they enjoyed which would take those items out of the trash cycle and would never end up in a landfill.

5. Chickens on the loose was a topic that was brought up. Although this is unfortunate that one would get out I find this to be pretty harmless compared to a dog or cat that is allowed to escape. I have a cat that patrols my lawn on a nightly basis. I also have never seen a post on any social media platform about a chicken on the loose. Yet daily we see dogs and cats that go exploring.

Again I am sad that I cannot make it tonight. Please feel free to reach on any questions you might have. Chickens have a way of building a really great culture in the community. I am also willing to volunteer my time and energy to helping this process along. That could come in working hand in hand with the city or trying to develop training so that we have a strong group of devoted chicken owners.

Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing what you decide.

Kelly Davidson
218-269-4262

From: [Alyson Duneman](#)
To: [Public Comments - Plan Commission](#)
Subject: Citizen Statement for planning meeting 5/18
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:44:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

I am another resident who wishes to include my statements on backyard chickens in Chanhassen at tonight's meeting.

Smaller lot sizes are really not an issue because chickens require very little room to be happy and content; 8 to 10 square feet per chicken. They do not like to roam and always stay very close to their home even when free. They are very unlikely to wander around even a 1 acre lot let alone .5 acres.

Not only that but chickens are very beneficial to the environment, eating beetles, wood ticks, and other bug nuisances while organically fertilizing the yard. They make almost no noise and are rarely even noticed by neighbors. Very unlike neighboring dogs who are constantly barking, getting loose or pooping in my yard. Neighboring cats are frequently wandering about in my yard as well. One would think chickens who keep to themselves and provide food would be an upgrade.

Finally, I would like to add the consideration that, given these unprecedented times that we are in, it might even be unjust not to allow people a very simple way to provide for themselves and one's personal distaste for chickens is not a sufficient reason to prevent others from utilizing this benefit.

I definitely support backyard chickens in Chanhassen.

Sincerely,
Alyson Duneman

1. Park dedication fees shall be paid for one lot at the rate in force at the time of final plat approval.

Planning:

1. An escrow of 110 percent (110%) of the estimated removal cost for the concrete pad on the interior lot line between Lot 1 and Lot 2 must be received, and the concrete pad removed within four months of the approval of the final plat.

Water Resources:

1. All permits and approvals must be received from other regulatory agencies prior to issuing permits.
2. The applicant shall pay the SWMP fee for 1.06 acres at the rate in force at the time of final plat approval.

All voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously with a vote of 5 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

AMENDMENT TO CHANHASSEN CITY CODE PERMITTING CHICKENS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.

Aller: Moving onto the amendments to the Chanhasen City Codes which have been put forward. Do you want to hit these one on one or would you like to take them as a group?

Aanenson: Yeah...

Aller: Okay so we'll hit item 2 which is an amendment to Chanhasen City Code requesting a permitting of chickens in residential districts.

Walters: Alright, so the first code before you is, and I do apologize. This is not working, there we go. Is again the question of allowing chickens. I'll maybe give it a minute until folks can. Alright the question is re-examining the City's policy on back yard chickens. Currently the City considers chickens to be farm animals. This is kind of reminiscent of if you'll remember the bee discussion we had last year. They're restricted to parcels, agricultural or 10 acres or larger. We've had a lot of people contact us express interest in having chickens on their properties. Staff looked at, I think we surveyed 62 different cities, 44 of which now allow back yard chickens. Looked at some literature and staff's belief is that they can likely be accommodated in residential districts so long as there are numbers of chickens. Limits on the number of chickens and then also some performance standards. So some stuff that we looked at, and I apologize, I put a lot of charts on this one slide but the different type of regulations that cities had. So I mentioned we looked at 62 cities. 44 of these permitted chickens to be kept in the back yard. Of those the most common limit was a limit on the number of birds. 40 of the 44 did that. About

half required that additional setbacks beyond the base zoning codes be applied to like the chicken coop or the chicken run. About half required licenses. The majority prohibited roosters. We saw that was pretty common. We looked at the maximum number of chickens. Four was the kind of the favorite number but there were a lot of different sliding scales and different systems used. What staff is proposing for the city of Chanhasen would be allowing them on any parcel. Parcels less than one acre, limiting them to 4 chickens. From the 1 to 2.5 acre range allowing up to 8 chickens. From 2.5 to 10, up to 16 chickens. If you have over 10 acres you can have a chicken farm so we didn't really see a reason to limit it at that point. Beyond that we'd like to go with a 25 foot setback from any adjacent residence not owned by the owner just to kind of minimize a chance for noise or odor impact. Standard 10 foot lot lines. Requiring that coops and runs be enclosed. That's mostly to prevent predators from eating the chickens and rodent proof food storage. Weekly waste removal again to deal with potential odor issues. Prohibiting roosters and crowing hens to prevent noise issues and no discernable odor at lot line were the performance standards and then probably requiring a permit similar to what was done with bees. \$25 lifetime permit as long as there's no violation no need to reapply every year. With that I'd be happy to take any questions. I know I through that quick and I can go into a lot more depth if you'd like.

Aller: Did we look at the, I know we use articulation in our buildings. Did we look at the type of coops? Are there differences in an open coop versus a closed coop for purposes of noise, odor and view?

Walters: Yeah we'd need, we'd require a fully enclosed coops because it allows better protection from the chickens from both predators and the elements but one of the things that folks would have to take into account as they designed them would be proper ventilation to prevent odor issues or you know disease for the chickens and also to make sure it's comfortable. But we didn't go into like super detail you know designing their coops for them. We did put a minimum of 4 square feet per chicken just to ensure the animals had room to be chickens in. That seemed to be a pretty common provision from some of the other cities we looked at.

Aller: And a coop would be considered an accessory structure.

Walters: Yes it would.

Aller: So for purposes of the code enforcement and that would limit an individual's use of their property is they decide to put in a coop for instance. That would be their accessory structure. They couldn't have another one on the other side of the property. Without acreage.

Walters: Yeah I mean they would still be, it would contribute to the 1,000 square foot accessory structure limit so if somebody already had 1,000 square foot garage they'd have to potentially choose between how to use it but that's similar to the choices they have to make for a lot of other features.

Aller: And we're talking about specifically keeping chickens outdoors versus indoors?

Walters: We did put a prohibition against having them indoors. The rationale behind that is there is some evidence that there's a lot of, there can be increased risk of transmission of illnesses from chicken to people when chickens and people live in very close confines. So just as a safety disease control we didn't necessarily think they'd be good household pets. That being said you know if someone wanted to convert a portion of their garage or something to a chicken coop, especially if it's like a detached garage I don't personally see an issue with that and we didn't address that in the code.

Aller: And then we're not looking at butchering or anything else on a property correct?

Walters: So the language that staff is proposing would say no outdoor butchering. What we, our approach was within the city of Chanhassen during a certain time of the year you can see deer hanging from trees. There's no prohibition about butchering a deer or any game animal that you may hunt. We felt the intent of like butchery bans was to avoid potentially offending the neighbors if in your garage you want to eat one of your chickens, we felt that was a choice chicken owners could make.

Aller: Alright.

Walters: Again any of these provisions could be obviously amended if the commission has different feelings on it.

Aller: Did we look at enforcement?

Walters: Enforcement would be similar to how we're planning on enforcing bees and other potential nuisances. If we receive a complaint we'll go out there. If we find that the chickens are being kept in violation of the permit it'd be grounds for revoking the permit which would prevent them from being issued a new chicken permit but yeah it's similar to any other part of the code. You know we would not be doing annual or surprise inspections. It would all be complaint response based.

Aller: And we were also looking at notification of neighbors with bees. Is that the same with chickens?

Walters: Yes it is. We actually adopted the exact same language on that again just to make sure everyone knows that there's going to be a change and has some forewarning.

Aller: Any additional questions? Commissioner Weick.

Weick: Did you, when you looked at the 62 other cities was there any information on the people that have chickens, what they're doing with them? Do they have them for eggs? Do they have them for pets? Do they have them because they're cute?

Walters: It honestly seems to be primarily eggs with a touch of good companion animals and cute. A lot of people think it's fun to watch them run around. They do also serve some ecological benefits. Their waste produces a really good compost so you know gardeners like that. They also eat a lot of garden pests so some people strategically place their coops and runs next to their garden so they eat insects before they even get to the gardens so a lot of kind of your green ecologically friendly motivations but I think egg production tends to be like the over riding factor.

Weick: And then a second question is it just, has there been any evidence of increased predator activity around chicken coops?

Walters: A lot of stuff eats chickens and if the chicken coops are not well designed and not properly enclosed your, everything from your neighbor's dog to an eagle is going to get a meal and that's one of the reasons why we adopted the provision that both the coops and the runs needed to be fully enclosed and well constructed and the hope there is if you don't have vulnerable chickens out where predators can get them hopefully they will not be attracting predators.

Weick: That's all I have.

Aller: Great. Commissioner McGonagill.

McGonagill: Question on the structures. I'm assuming the way this would work that, okay we would have a code that would approve it but they would still have to get their homeowner's association to approve it. Like for example you know patios have to be approved you know or you're painting a house sometimes has to be approved by a homeowner's association so they would have to submit, I'm assuming they'd have to submit their plan to their local homeowner's association board for approval.

Walters: If their homeowner's association had policies those policies would govern. From the city's perspective you know just with the examples you mentioned I do not ever, if someone applies for a patio and they meet the city code I issue a patio permit.

McGonagill: Right.

Walters: If their homeowner's association does not allow that that's for the homeowner's association to address and enforce.

McGonagill: Okay.

Walters: And you know most folks obviously are very good about doing their research and one of the things that the notification is hopefully it would make sure the homeowner's association knew chickens were in the plans.

McGonagill: Thank you. Thanks MacKenzie.

Aller: Additional questions or comments? Hearing none I will open up the public hearing portion of this item. So any individual wishing to come up and speak either for or against the item can do so. Seeing no one come forward I'll close the public hearing. Open it for discussion, comment or action.

Weick: I'm concerned about attracting predators. I don't know that, although we haven't heard from residents or anything I, it's just a, I mean we have issues now I think with you know putting bait in people's back yards potentially. That's my concern. I mean I don't have anything against chickens certainly and I think people will do it responsibly but that'd be my concern.

Aller: Additional comments, questions.

Madsen: I share that concern. I do like the fact that neighbors need to be notified. I do like the fact that there's a permit and so if there is an issue there's a real you know process where people can talk about it. Maybe find a solution so if there were predators, I mean I don't know what that solution would be except to remove the chickens if it was really bad but at least, and I like the requirement that it be all enclosed to keep the chickens as safe as possible so.

Aller: Well I'm not, I'm kind of on the chicken fence. I mean I'm just, I don't want to stop somebody from using their property reasonably. We do allow bees. We do allow for other pets but I agree with Commissioner Weick that we have to trust our citizens to act responsibly. I do think that as in the bees when we were looking to do a permit process that that's absolutely necessary. That there's notification to the neighbors. That there's a permit taken out so the neighbors have someone to turn to rather than creating a confrontation. You know as much as we love to have neighbors be able to talk to themselves that doesn't necessarily always happen and so this would give an opportunity for people to turn to their neighbors. I guess I have an additional question of staff. Is there any indication that this has been going on without being permitted?

Walters: I did receive a complaint about chickens in June of 2018 I believe was the date I listed. An individual was staying with their mother. Had brought their chickens. Had a kind of sub-standard fencing. Chickens got out you know. As always we find out about stuff when someone comes to us. You know if we did a proactive patrol it probably wouldn't surprise me if we found a few other properties with chickens but no I don't think there's like a huge number in the city. If that is...

Aller: Well I mean it cuts both ways. It's also telling that if we would suspect that it's out there and neighbors aren't complaining then it's kind of leads to the opinion that the neighbors don't have a problem with it so that may be an unwritten will.

Walters: In the one complaint we received the verbatim comment was I didn't care until they got in my garden which is understandable.

Aller: Based on those questions any additional comments? Questions. Concerns.

Weick: I'll probably oppose it, unless we considered maybe increasing the lot size so that it, because as I understand it there is no lot requirement so I would say if you mandated it on some lot size smaller than agricultural but you know with bigger than I don't know.

Aller: So could you put up the slide again with the different, there we go. If that will help your thought process at all.

Weick: Yeah because I'm just leaning if lot sizes are bigger there's just more space. There's more opportunity to you know create a coop or something that's, you know you're not going to have neighbors necessarily on top of you at that point. You know just thinking about the nuisance factor. Potentially smell and other stuff so if it was, I guess I'm most concerned about the you know chickens on less than an acre. I'm not sure. You know I'm just trying picturing my neighborhood right and if my neighbors had chickens I don't know if it'd really like that. I don't know.

McGonagill: I'm looking at your page 3 following up on your comment. It says that there's 7 cities that had minimum lot sizes. Do you remember what those were MacKenzie?

Walters: Not off hand. Most of them that had the minimum lot sizes did it by zoning district and I didn't necessarily cross check you know what those thresholds were.

McGonagill: Okay.

Walters: That's definitely something we could get back to you on if you wished.

Aller: My understanding is Rosemount allows for hens and no roosters and you have to get written permission from all your neighbors if that helps or perhaps taking the less than one acre and excising it and going 4 and 8 instead of 8 and 16 so something that's workable. I mean it's not that I'm pushing it at all but if you've got an idea that you want to put forward that's fine.

Weick: Yeah and you know this can certainly pass without me so you know I don't want to, I would just throw if several, I'm just trying to be open about it. If several of us are on the fence I would propose starting at one acre and then stepping it up from there. But if the consensus was

that you know to vote in favor of it I have no, you know that's perfectly fine as well. I just wanted to express my concern there that's all.

Aller: Your point's well taken. I mean people are discussing things for a reason because we have.

Weick: Right, right.

Aller: We don't want to disrupt our neighbors and our neighborhood and at the same time we want to make sure that our neighbors have an opportunity to have appropriate pets and to use their property accordingly so. Any comments or?

Undestad: I've got one more on the setbacks. So we're doing 25 feet on the sides for each residential. 10 feet from the lot line.

Walters: Yep. So the coop or run would not be able to be located within 25 feet of any of the neighbor's housing but could be 10 feet from any lot line and that was to try to guarantee that like on very close lots or lots where there wasn't a lot of space you know you couldn't put a coop right outside your neighbor's window.

Undestad: So I guess but you know looking at that too I guess I kind of agree with Commissioner Weick.

Aller: Go in the back yard.

Undestad: Yeah if you're just 10 feet, if you're in those smaller lots on there and you have you know if you don't like chickens and you've got them 10 feet away from your back yard and you've got only a 30 foot deep back yard, oh there's your chickens so. Maybe I guess that less than an acre might be a little tight for many.

Aller: So I'm hearing acreage as being the sticking point so to speak and what about any of the other conditions are concerning of anyone?

Undestad: Well I just would like on an acre or more you've got room to do this stuff with the coops and the runs and all that so.

Aller: So if that's the case would someone like to propose a motion regarding that or do you feel as though it's not worth it at this time and you want to send it back.

Weick: I'll propose it that way. I would say I'd still keep it at 8. Starting at 8.

Undestad: On one acre.

Weick: I think you put good research into that. That seems to be a good number. I mean I don't think we have to reduce the number of chickens people can have but I mean I can certainly give it a shot. I'll propose a motion.

Aanenson: Just so you can read the motion...

Weick: Okay the Chanhasen Planning Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance amending Chapters 4, 5 and 20 of the Chanhasen City Code concerning chickens with the following modifications. The lot size requirement will start at one acre with 8 chickens being the maximum and scale up from there. So we would be removing less than one acre as a possibility.

Walters: Understood.

Aller: So we have a motion. Do we have a second?

Undestad: Second.

Aller: Having a motion and a valid second any further discussion?

Weick moved, Undestad seconded that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance amending Chapters 4, 5 and 20 of the Chanhasen City Code concerning chickens with the following modifications. The lot size requirement will start at one acre with 8 chickens being the maximum. All voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously with a vote of 5 to 0.

Aller: Moving onto item 3. Item 2 having carried. Will that also be on February 25th?

Walters: No it will not. That would be March 11th.

Aller: So March 11th.

Aanenson: Can I just go back to that one because we didn't have a quorum last time we agreed to fast track the previous application because that was on last, 2 weeks ago.

Aller: So if all those that are watching at home and present would like to follow that item for final action that will be on March 11th before the City Council. Moving onto item 3.

PUBLIC HEARING:

AMENDMENT TO CHANHASSEN CITY CODE REVISITING THE COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SECTION'S FORMATTING.

ARTICLE V. - CHICKENS

Sec. 5-130. - Definitions.

In this article, the following terms have the stated meanings:

"Chicken or domesticated chicken" means a subspecies of the species *Gallus domesticus*.

"Coop" means the structure for the keeping or housing of chickens.

"Hen" means a female chicken.

"Rooster" means a male chicken.

"Run" means an enclosed and covered area attached to the coop where the chickens can roam unsupervised.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Sec. 5-131. - Purpose of ordinance.

The purpose of this article is to provide minimum standards for the keeping of domesticated chickens. This article enables residents to keep chickens on a non-commercial basis as an accessory use to a residence, while limiting the adverse effects of the activity on surrounding properties. Such adverse effects can include noise, odors, unsanitary conditions, attraction of predators, chickens running at large, unsightly conditions, and similar adverse conditions.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Sec. 5-132. - Permit required.

- (a) No person shall maintain or keep domesticated chickens without a permit issued by the city. Properties exceeding ten acres where agriculture is a permitted use are exempt from the permit requirements of this article.
- (b) Application for a permit required by article shall be made to the city upon a form furnished by the city. A nonrefundable fee in the amount established by ordinance shall be paid to the city when the application is filed.
- (c) In order to be issued a permit the applicant must:
 - (1) Have a lot one acre or larger.
 - (2) Have as the principal use of the property a single-family residential structure.
 - (3) Submit a notarized statement to the city stating that they have informed all adjoining neighbors that they intend to keep chickens.
 - (4) Not have had a prior chicken permit revoked by the City of Chanhassen.
 - (5) Meet the density and setback requirements listed in section 5-133.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Sec. 5-133. - Density and setbacks.

- (a) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of chickens on any lot within the city, based upon the size of the parcel:

- (1) Lots one acre or larger but smaller than 2½ acres: Eight chickens.
 - (2) Lots 2½ acres or larger but smaller than ten acres: 16 chickens.
 - (3) Lots larger than ten acres: No limit.
- (b) The coop and attached run must be located in the rear yard and must be set back a minimum of 25 feet from all adjacent residences that are not occupied by the applicant, and be set back a minimum of ten feet from any lot line.
- (1) On corner lots, coops and runs may not be located in any yard with street frontage.
 - (2) On double frontage lots, coops and runs may not be located in any required front yard.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Sec. 5-134. - Standards of practice.

The following standards of practice apply to all properties governed by this article:

- (1) No roosters or crowing hens are allowed.
- (2) No outdoor butchering of chickens is allowed.
- (3) Chickens must be kept in a coop or run whenever they are unsupervised; however when supervised they are allowed in a fenced area.
- (4) The coop must:
 - a. Be maintained in good condition.
 - b. Be enclosed and constructed of durable materials to prevent entry by predators or the escape of chickens.
 - c. Be built to protect the chickens from extreme heat or cold.
 - d. Provide at least four square feet per chicken.
- (5) The run must:
 - a. Be maintained in good condition.
 - b. Be attached to the coop.
 - c. Be enclosed and constructed of durable materials to prevent entry by predators or the escape of chickens.
 - d. Provide at least four square feet per chicken.
- (6) The chicken's living area must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- (7) Odor shall not be perceptible at the lot line.
- (8) All stored manure shall be placed within a fully enclosed container. All manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed weekly. The coop and run must be kept free from trash and accumulated manure.
- (9) Feed must be stored in a rodent-proof container inside of a structure.
- (10) No person may keep any chickens inside a house.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Sec. 5-135. - Revocation of permit.

A chicken permit issued under this article may be revoked by the community development director if it is determined after an inspection by city staff that the permit holder has not maintained the standards set forth in section 5-134 or that chickens are being kept in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance.

(Ord. No. 639, § 2, 3-11-19)

Secs. 5-136—5-160. - Reserved.

**CHANHASSEN CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2021**

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ryan, Councilwoman Rehm, Councilman Campion, Councilwoman Schubert, and Councilman McDonald.

Councilwoman Rehm joined via Zoom.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Laurie Hokkanen, City Manager, Kate Aanenson, Community Development Director, Charlie Howley, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Andrea McDowell-Poehler, City Attorney.

PUBLIC PRESENT: None.

DISCUSS CHICKEN ORDINANCE

Community Development Director Kate Aanenson gave an overview of the resident-requested ordinance amendment. Ordinance 639, allowing chickens on one acre or more, was adopted in 2019. The Ordinance was discussed by the Planning Commission and Council before being passed. Issues raised at those meetings included neighbor complaints, attraction of predators and rodents, potential disease, odor, and noise.

Ms. Aanenson stated that there are neighborhoods belonging to a Homeowners Association (HOA) which do not allow chickens. An applicant would have to check with their HOA to determine if chickens were allowed.

Ms. Aanenson stated that the standard lot size is 15,000 square feet with some Planned Use Developments (PUDs) averaging 11,000 square feet. Based on the current ordinance, the number of chickens allowed would be one chicken for every 5,500 square feet.

Mayor Ryan stated she has received feedback for and against an ordinance change from Chanhassen residents.

Councilman McDonald asked about the potential of attracting predators to the neighborhoods.

Councilman Campion asked for data on neighboring communities who allow chickens and if they have seen an increase in predatory animals.

Mayor Ryan added that the City of Chaska recently denied allowing chickens on less than one acre. There would have to be consideration for how chickens are housed overnight which would lead to more enforcement and inspection of enclosures and fencing.

Councilman McDonald stated that, originally, there were some complaints about the noise chickens make therefore no chickens were allowed. In 2019, the ordinance was modified to allow chickens on property of more than one acre. He wonders if complaints have gone up and where chickens are located.

Ms. Aanenson stated the City has not received many complaints. She will prepare a map showing locations of chickens in Chanhassen.

Councilwoman Rehm stated that small properties might not meet the setback requirements.

Councilwoman Schubert asked if types of chickens could be restricted to certain breeds that are less noisy. She felt it came down to personal responsibility of residents knowing if predators are common in their yard. She wonders how much staff time it would take to research the impact of reducing the property size requirement and whether it fits within the City's Strategic Plan.

Councilman Campion read the following portion of City Code regarding setback requirements.
2) The coop and attached run must be located in the rear yard and must be set back a minimum of 25 feet from all adjacent residences that are not occupied by the applicant, and be set back a minimum of 10 feet from any lot line.

- a. On corner lots, coops and runs may not be located in any yard with street frontage.
- b. On double frontage lots, coops and runs may not be located in any required front yard.

Councilman Campion added he is leaning toward keeping it at one acre. Alternatively, he feels there should be no limit on the lot size to avoid having disputes over the size of property. He does not want to specify types of chickens so that staff doesn't need to identify breeds.

Mayor Ryan felt the ordinance should be kept at one acre. Residents who did not want chickens would be faced with a potential increase in predators which may risk their pets. She encouraged more outreach to neighboring communities to see the impact of their ordinances. She also asked for visuals to show one acre and smaller lots and how the setbacks would affect chicken coops and runs.

Councilwoman Rehm questioned the \$25 permit fee and whether it is reasonable or should be increased.



CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chicken Application & Permit Form - \$25

Per City Code Section 5-132, a permit is required to keep chickens.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: (____) _____ Alternate Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Section 2: Property Information

Zoning: _____ Lot size (acres): _____

Number of chickens: _____

| Chickens Permitted | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 to 2.5 acres: 8 chickens | 2.5 to 10 acres: 16 chickens | 10+ acres: no limit |

Name of Landowner: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: (____) _____

Address of Property (if different): _____

Section 3: Supporting Documentation

The following documents **MUST** be submitted along with the application:

- ☐ Survey of property showing proposed chicken coop and run.*
- ☐ Notarized statement declaring that the applicant has informed all adjoining neighbors of their intent to keep chickens.

*Coop and run must be kept in the rear yard and be setback 25 feet from adjacent residential structures and 10 feet from lot lines.

Section 4: Notice

I have familiarized myself with the attached *Chanhassen City Code Chapter 5-130-135 Chickens* pertaining to backyard chickens and subsequent ordinance amendments pertaining thereto, and will abide by the provisions contained therein.

I hereby consent to inspection of the premises as provide by Chanhassen City Code Chapter 5-135, and understand that all facts set forth in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Failure to meet the standards described in *Chanhassen City Code Chapters 5-130-135* may result in the revocation of this permit.

Applicant's signature_____
Date

Complete and submit form with required attachments to: City of Chanhassen
Attn: Chicken Permits
7700 Market Boulevard
P.O. Box 147
Chanhassen, MN 55317

For office use only

Date Received: _____ \$25 Fee Paid: _____ Permit Number: _____

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the submitted application and find it to be in compliance with the ordinance.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Monday, April 26, 2021

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Subject | Discuss Chicken Ordinance | |
| Section | 5:00 P.M. - WORK SESSION | Item No: A.1. |
| Prepared By | Kate Aanenson, Community Development Director | File No: |

SUMMARY

A resident, via Citizen Action Request Form, requested that the City Council amend the City Code to allow chickens on smaller lots. The current ordinance, adopted in 2019, states a minimum of one acre. Staff had originally recommended a smaller minimum acreage but the Planning Commission felt strongly about a one-acre minimum.

BACKGROUND

The current ordinance was drafted in 2019 and to date there are less than five permits at the one-acre requirement. The current ordinance allows one chicken per 5,500 square feet of lot area at the one-acre minimum. Information from the Planning Commission meeting can be viewed [here](#). Prior to the 2019 modification, chickens were permitted only on parcels of 10 acres or more.

DISCUSSION

As the city reviewed its ordinances, concerns that chickens could create the following nuisances were raised, resulting in the one-acre minimum requirement in place today.

- Predator attack source of concern with neighbors
- Rodents are often attracted to coops and feed
- Odor from droppings
- Noise from hens
- Potential disease

It is important to note there are a number of neighborhood covenants/homeowner association (HOA) restrictions in many of the city's residential neighborhoods. The city is not a party to such covenants and amendments, and they are enforced privately by developers and HOA's. Many HOA's may prohibit the keeping of chickens or have more stringent standards.

RECOMMENDATION

Beside the citizen action request form, the city has received another letter requesting chickens on smaller lots. Staff recommends that the City Council discuss questions such as:

- Interest in revisiting the ordinance adopted in 2019.
- Desired changes to the approach taken to consider the issue during the recent consideration process .
- Desire for additional information or presentations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▢ [Staff Report](#)
- ▢ [Survey of Communities](#)



CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chanhassen is a Community for Life - Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: MacKenzie Young-Walters, Associate Planner

DATE: February 19, 2019

SUBJ: Backyard Chickens

PROPOSED MOTION:

"The Chanhassen Planning Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance amending Chapters 4, 5, and 20 of the City Code."

ISSUE

City staff has received numerous requests from residents asking that the city re-examine its policy of classifying chickens as farm animals and limiting them to parcels of at least 10 acres in size.

SUMMARY

The city defines chickens as farm animals and restricts them to parcels in the rural residential and agricultural estate districts with a minimum lot size of 10 acres. The recent interest in backyard chickens is due to increasing interest in locally sourced foods.

Staff conducted a review of how other cities in the area regulate chickens and 44 of the 62 cities surveyed allowed chickens in non-agricultural districts. About half of those required permits and placed restrictions on types of and numbers of chickens as well as on things like butchering and chickens running at large. Staff believes that setbacks, permitting requirements, and basic performance standards can mitigate the potential noise and odor nuisance concerns associated with backyard chickens.

RELEVANT CITY CODE

Sec. 1-2 - Rules of construction and definitions: Includes chickens under the definition of "Farm animals".

Sec. 20-1001 - Keeping: States that farm animals are allowed on farm property zoned A-2 or RR with a minimum area of 10 acres.

PH 952.227.1100 • www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us • FX 952.227.1110

7700 MARKET BOULEVARD • PO BOX 147 • CHANHASSEN • MINNESOTA 55317

BACKGROUND

The City Council last investigate the possibility of allowing backyard chickens in May of 2009. At that time, fewer cities had experience with allowing chickens in non-agricultural districts, and there had been a history of issues caused by chickens wandering from an agricultural property to an adjacent subdivision. For these reasons, the City Council elected to maintain its existing prohibition on farm animals in non-agricultural districts and passed Ordinance 480 on June 22, 2009, which further defined a farm as a tract of land more than then 10 acres in size to avoid ambiguity.

On December 14, 2015, the City Council passed Ordinance 612, which amended Sec. 20-1001 to clarify that farm animals were only allowed on A-2 or RR parcels with a minimum parcel area of 10 acres.

ANALYSIS

Issue 1: Benefits of Chickens

The recent rise in the popularity of backyard chickens is linked in part to the growing local food movement. As people have become more aware of the impact of agriculture on the environment and concerns have increased over the uses of pesticides and genetically modified organisms, GMOs, individuals have become more interested in knowing where their food comes from and producing their own produce. Many cities have responded to this trend by establishing community gardens, allowing beekeeping, and permitting residents to own chickens.

Chickens are one of the few agricultural animals that can thrive in the space provided by residential lots, and they can provide their owners with a source of eggs and meat. While egg production varies by breed, many hens can lay around five eggs per-week during their egg laying cycle. Though many people choose only to raise chickens for eggs, they can also provide a source of fresh poultry.

In addition to being a source of food, chickens can provide other ecologically friendly services. They can provide a natural means of pest control for gardeners as they eat many different types of insects and larvae. Homeowners can utilize mobile pens to allow chickens to forage in gardens between plantings or place chickens adjacent to gardens where they can eat insects before they can reach the garden. Chickens can also be fed leftover vegetables and unseasoned meat scraps, which helps to reduce the amount of food waste a household generates. Finally, chicken droppings are rich in plant nutrients and can be used for composting as part of a strategy to minimize the use of fertilizers.

Beyond their ecological benefits, chickens can also provide a mechanism to teach children about nature, animal care, and food systems. Many owners also feel that chickens make good pets, and derive a sense of companionship from them.

Issue 2: Concerns with Chickens

Chickens have been confined to agricultural districts in many cities due to concerns over noise and odor nuisances, chickens running at large, and their potential to attract pests and predators. Historically, the City of Chanhassen has received complaints when chickens have escaped from their coops and wandered onto neighboring properties. The most recent chicken-related complaint the city received was in June of 2018 when several chickens being kept on a property in violation of City Ordinance escaped from their pen and got into the neighbor's yard.

In addition to the complaints that can be generated when chickens get loose, they have the potential to violate municipal noise ordinances. This is especially the case when roosters are present since they crow loudly multiple times a day. Hens can also make noise, especially when laying an egg or if frightened, but they are significantly quieter than roosters and their clucks typically do not carry far. Some breeds of chickens are noisier than others are, and could potentially disturb nearby neighbors.

Chicken coops and waste can also be a source of noxious odors. Moist and poorly ventilated chicken coops can produce ammonia and an unpleasant smell. If owners do not regularly remove waste from coops and runs strong smells can be produced, and inadequately cleaned chicken runs may produce offensive odors after rainstorms when waste is moist.

Finally, keeping chickens can attract rodents and predators. Rodents can be attracted to chicken feed when it is not stored in properly sealed containers, and many animals including cats, dogs, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, snakes, and raptors prey on chicks, chickens, and/or eggs. The presence of backyard chickens can attract these animals to residential neighborhoods, especially if the chicken coop and run are not properly secured.

Issue 3: Survey of Minnesota Cities

Staff found a spreadsheet compiled by backyard chicken advocates that noted if various Minnesota cities did or did not allow chickens. Using this list as base, staff researched and summarized the ordinances governing chickens in 62 Minnesota cities. The tables to the right summarize the results of staff's research. Staff found that 44 of the 62 cities allowed chickens in residential areas with an additional 16 cities only permitting chickens in agricultural areas. Two cities prohibited chickens in all districts. Of the 44 cities that allowed chickens in residential districts, 26 required permits and 10 limited chickens to certain residential districts or established minimum lot sizes. Other common provisions were requiring additional setbacks for chicken coops and runs, 25 cities, and limiting the maximum number of chickens, 40 cities.

| Summary | |
|------------|----|
| Allowed | 44 |
| Ag Only | 16 |
| Prohibited | 2 |
| Total | 62 |

| Requirements for cities that allow chickens outside of Ag. | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Minimum lot size | 7 |
| Limit to specific residential districts | 3 |
| Require permit/license | 26 |
| Require additional setbacks | 25 |
| Limit number of birds | 40 |
| Total number of cities | 44 |

Issue 4: Typical Conditions/Limitations

Most cities that allow chickens in residential areas have found it necessary to establish provisions regulating the keeping of chickens in order to mitigate the concerns highlighted earlier in this report. By far the most common restriction is a limit on the number of birds that may be kept, with 40 of 44 surveyed cities establishing a maximum number of birds. Staff could not identify a universal standard for the number of birds allowed, although 16 cities have limited properties to a maximum of four chickens. The rationale behind limiting the number of chickens is to minimize the potential for the flock to generate offensive odors and excessive amounts of noise. City staff is proposing that Chanhassen limit the number of chickens based on a parcel's lot area, in recognition of the fact that the city has some large parcels that could accommodate larger numbers of chickens without negatively affecting surrounding properties. The proposed limits are listed in the table to the right.

| Maximum number of Chickens | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Limit | # of cities |
| 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 16 |
| 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 5 |
| 8+ | 4 |
| Based on lot size | 6 |
| Total | 40 |

| Proposed limits on number of Chickens | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Lot size | Number of chickens |
| less than 1 acre | 4 |
| 1 to 2.5 acres | 8 |
| 2.5 to 10 acres | 16 |
| 10 acres + | no limit |

In order to limit the potential for backyard flocks to create noise nuisances, most cities, 33 of 44, prohibit roosters, and of those that allow roosters, two require a special rooster permit. Several other cities also took the precaution of banning crowing hens. Staff is proposing that Chanhassen prohibit both roosters and crowing hens.

Other common provisions that staff identified were prohibitions on chickens running at large, breeding chickens, keeping chickens in the house or garage, and butchering chickens. Staff believes that since roosters are already prohibited and only a modest number of birds are permitted outside of agricultural areas a further prohibition on breeding chickens would be redundant. Similarly, staff is proposing that chickens be kept in enclosed coops and runs or a fenced area at all times which should address the issue of chickens running at large.

The prohibition on butchering chickens likely comes from concerns that the activities associated with killing and cleaning a chicken could offend or disturb neighbors. Staff proposes to address this concern by prohibiting the outdoor butchering of chickens. Finally, staff does not believe it is necessary to adopt the prohibition on keeping chickens in garages. If an owner wished to convert a portion of their garage to serve as a chicken coop, assuming it could meet the required setbacks, staff does not believe it would create an issue. Due to the potential for chickens to spread disease or create unsanitary conditions, staff does believe it is appropriate to prohibit them being kept as household pets.

As was noted earlier, many cities require permits for the keeping of chickens and some require that neighbors within a certain radius be notified. Several cities that require public notification also require that a certain percentage of the neighbor's consent to the presence of chickens. Staff

believes that requiring a permit is necessary to ensure that owners interested in keeping chickens are aware of and comply with the any enacted provisions governing backyard chickens, and that asking applicants to notify their neighbors of their intent to own chickens can forestall potential future issues between neighbors.

Finally, many cities, 25 of 44, also require chicken coops and runs to meet setbacks beyond what are typically required within their zoning districts. Generally, cities require these structures to be located in rear yards, be setback a minimum distance for neighboring residential structures, and be setback a minimum distance from the property line. The largest setback staff found was 110 feet from residential structures not occupied by the owner, with 50 and 25-foot setbacks being more common. Staff is proposing that a 25-foot setback from adjacent residential structures be used, as it should create a reasonable buffer while also allowing smaller lots to accommodate chicken coops. Additional proposed setbacks are limiting the coop and run to rear yards and requiring them to be setback 10 feet from the lot line. These standards are consistent with how the City Code regulates other accessory structures.

Staff is also proposing that standards be enacted requiring chickens be provided with a minimum of four square feet within the coop/run, the coop/run be enclosed and soundly constructed, coop/run be well ventilated, feed be kept in rodent-proof containers, and that waste be disposed of on a weekly basis. Staff believes that these standards will help provide for the welfare of the chickens and minimize the potential for the creation of nuisances.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Do nothing. This would limit chickens to agricultural properties over 10 acres.
- 2) Allow chickens in areas zoned RR and A2.
- 3) Allow chickens on parcels one acre or larger, and adopt general performance standards and permit requirements.
- 4) Allow chickens on all lots with single-family residential as the principal use, and adopt general performance standards and permit requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative 4. Staff believes any residential property that can meet basic setbacks can accommodate hens without creating a nuisance for surrounding properties, and that adopting general performance standards will provide a mechanism staff can use to address chickens that do become nuisances. The text of the proposed ordinance is provided below.

Sec. 4-30(b)(23)

Chicken Permit.....\$25.00

Sec. 5-126 – 129. - Reserved

ARTICLE V. – Chickens

Sec. 5-130. – Definitions.

In this article, the following terms have the stated meanings:

“Chicken or domesticated chicken” means a subspecies of the species Gallus domesticus.

“Coop” means the structure for the keeping or housing of chickens.

“Hen” means a female chicken.

“Rooster” means a male chicken.

“Run” means an enclosed and covered area attached to the coop where the chickens can roam unsupervised.

Sec. 5-131. - Purpose of Ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide minimum standards for the keeping of domesticated chickens. This article enables residents to keep chickens on a non-commercial basis as an accessory use to a residence, while limiting the adverse effects of the activity on surrounding properties. Such adverse effects can include noise, odors, unsanitary conditions, attraction of predators, chickens running at large, unsightly conditions, and similar adverse conditions.

Sec. 5-132. - Permit required

- 1) No person shall maintain or keep domesticated chickens without a permit issued by the city. Properties exceeding 10 acres where agriculture is a permitted use are exempt from the permit requirements of this article.**
- 2) Application for a permit required by article shall be made to the city upon a form furnished by the city. A nonrefundable fee in the amount established by resolution shall be paid to the city when the application is filed.**
- 3) In order to be issued a permit the applicant must:**
 - a. Have as the principal use of the property a single-family residential structure.**
 - b. Submit a notarized statement to the city stating that they have informed all adjoining neighbors that they intend to keep chickens.**
 - c. Not have had a prior chicken permit revoked by the City of Chanhassen.**
 - d. Meet the density and setback requirements listed in Sec. 5-133.**

Sec. 5-133. - Density and Setbacks

- 1) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of chickens on any lot within the city, based upon the size of the parcel:**
 - a. Lots smaller than one acre: 4 chickens**
 - b. Lots one acre or larger but smaller than two and one-half acres: 8 chickens**

- c. **Lots two and one-half acres or larger but smaller than ten acres: 16 chickens**
 - d. **Lots larger than ten acres: No limit**
- 2) **The coop and attached run must be located in the rear yard and must be setback a minimum of 25 feet from all adjacent residences that are not occupied by the applicant and be setback a minimum of 10 feet from any lot line.**
 - a. **On corner lots, coops and runs may not be located in any yard with street frontage.**
 - b. **On double frontage lots, coops and runs may not be located in any required front yard.**

Sec. 5-134. - Standards of Practice

The following standards of practice apply to all properties governed by this article:

- 1) **No roosters or crowing hens are allowed.**
- 2) **No outdoor butchering of chickens is allowed.**
- 3) **Chickens must be kept in a coop or run whenever they are unsupervised; however when supervised they are allowed in a fenced area.**
- 4) **The coop must:**
 - a. **Be maintained in good condition.**
 - b. **Be enclosed and constructed of durable materials to prevent entry by predators or the escape of chickens.**
 - c. **Be built to protect the chickens from extreme heat or cold.**
 - d. **Provide at least 4 square feet per chicken.**
- 5) **The run must:**
 - a. **Be maintained in good condition.**
 - b. **Be attached to the coop.**
 - c. **Be enclosed and constructed of durable materials to prevent entry by predators or the escape of chickens.**
 - d. **Provide at least 4 square feet per chicken.**
- 6) **The chicken's living area must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.**
- 7) **Odor shall not be perceptible at the lot line.**
- 8) **All stored manure shall be placed within a fully enclosed container. All manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed weekly. The coop and run must be kept free from trash and accumulated manure.**
- 9) **Feed must be stored in a rodent proof container inside of a structure.**
- 10) **No person may keep any chickens inside a house.**

Sec. 5-135. - Revocation of Permit

A chicken permit issued under this article may be revoked by the Community Development Director if it is determined after an inspection by city staff that the permit holder has not maintained the standards set forth in Sec. 5-124 or that chickens are being kept in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance.

Sec. 5-136 - 145. - Reserved

Sec. 20-1001. - Keeping.

The following animals may be kept in the city:

- (1) Household pets are an allowed use in all zoning districts.
- (2) Horses in the A-2, RR and RSF zoning districts in accordance with chapter 5, article III.
- (3) Honey bees in accordance with Chapter 5, article IV.
- (4) Chickens in accordance with Chapter 5, article V.**
- (5) Farm animals are an allowed use on all farm property zoned A2 or RR, which permit agricultural use, with a minimum parcel area of 10 acres, except as otherwise specifically provided in the City Code. Farm animals may not be confined in a pen, feed lot or building within 100 feet of any residential dwelling not owned or leased by the farmer.
- (6) Wild animals may not be kept in the city.
- (7) Animals may only be kept for commercial purposes if authorized in the zoning district where the animals are located.
- (8) Animals may not be kept if they cause a nuisance or endanger the health or safety of the community.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Survey of MN Cities
- 2) Chicken Essay

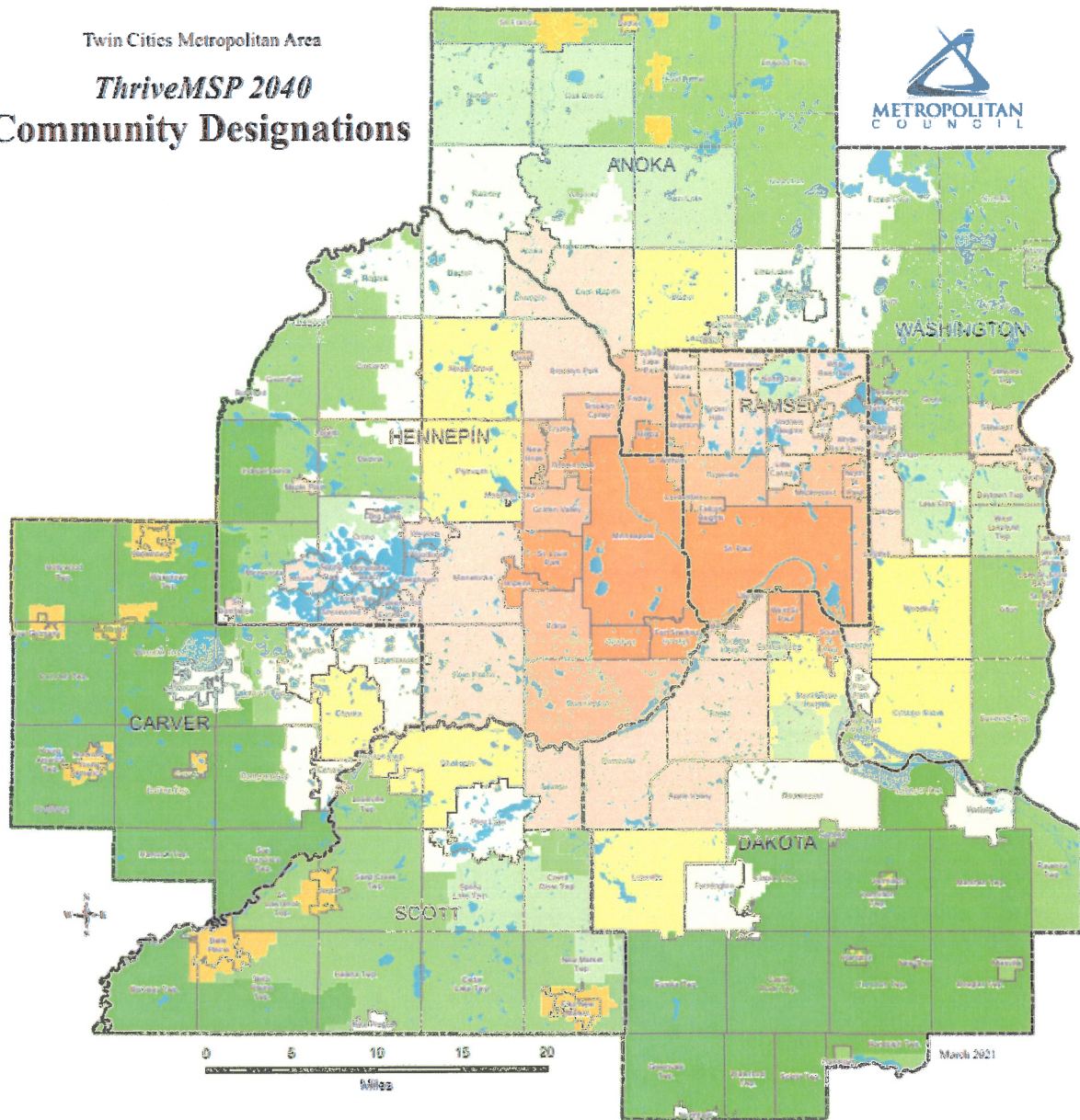
| City | Allowed | Permit Required | Min lot size | Setbacks | Bird Limit | Other Provisions |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Afton | Yes | Yes | None | 25' from res structures | 5 per .5 acres | No roosters, no commercial |
| Andover | Rural | Possible CUP | None | 100' from non-owner res | None | No sewer or water |
| Anoka | Yes | No | None | accessory building | None | 4 No rooster, not a large, right to terminate |
| Apple Valley | Ag only | No | None | None | None | None |
| Arden Hills | Ag only | No | None | None | None | Note: From March 2018 community News letter |
| Blaine | Ag only | No | None | None | None | None |
| Bloomington | Yes | No | None | 50' from non-owner res | None | 4 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage |
| Brooklyn Park | Ag only | No | 5 acres | None | None | None |
| Burnsville | Yes | Yes | None | No front/side yard | None | 4 No roosters, not at large, kill only in R1-a |
| Centerville | Yes | Yes | 10,000 sq. ft. | 25' form non-owner res, 15' lot line | 4 No roosters | 4 No roosters |
| Champlin | Ag only | No | None | None | 1 per acre | None |
| Chanhassen | Ag only | No | 10 acres | 100' from non-owner res | NA | None |
| Chaska | Ag only | No | None | None | Sliding | None |
| Columbia Heights | Silent | NA | NA | NA | NA | None |
| Coon Rapids | Yes | Yes | None | 30' from non-owner res, rear only, 10' lot line | None | 4 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage |
| Cottage Grove | Yes | Yes | 3 acres | 110' from non-owner res, rear yard, 50' property l | None | 4 Written consent of neighbors, no roosters, not at large |
| Dayton | Ag only | CUP | 90,000 sq. ft. | None | None | None |
| Eagan | Yes | Yes | None | 25' from res structures, 10' rear, 5' side | None | 5 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage |
| Edina | Yes | No | None | None | 4 | 4 |
| Elk River | Yes | No | 2.5 acres | 25' from res structures, rear yard, 10' lot line | 12 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage | 12 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage |
| Falcon Heights | Yes | Yes | None | 20' form res structures | 4 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage, leg band ic | 4 No roosters, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage, leg band ic |
| Fridley | Yes | Yes | None | 30' from lot lines | None | 6 No roosters, no killing, not at large, may impound |
| Ham Lake | Ag only | No | 5 acres | None | None | None |
| Inver Grove Heights | Yes | Yes | None | 25' from res, 10' from lot lines | None | 3 No roosters, no killing, no dwelling/garage no breeding, 350' public notice, |
| Lake Elmo | Yes | Yes | .5 acres | 20' from non-owner res, rear, gen setbacks | 4-22 (sliding) | No roosters, no at large, no dwelling/garage, 150' public notice |
| Lexington | Yes | Yes | 10,000 sq. ft. | 25' from res, rear, 15' from lot lines | None | 4 No roosters, no outdoor killing, no at large, no dwelling/garage, 150' public notice (70% consent |
| Lino Lakes | Ag only | No | None | None | Sliding | None |
| Little Canada | No | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Mahtomedi | Yes | Yes | NA | 20' from res, rear, 5' from lot lines | 6 No roosters, no breeding, need training | 6 No roosters, no breeding, need training |
| Maple Grove | Yes | No | 1 acre | None | 6 per .5 acre | 6 per .5 acre |
| Maplewood | Yes | Yes | Not ft-1s | rear/side, 5' from lot lines | 10 no roosters, no killing, 100% neighbor consent, leg band: | 10 no roosters, no killing, 100% neighbor consent, leg band: |
| Mendota Heights | Yes | Yes | No | rear/side, 10' from lot lines | 4 no roosters, no killing, | 4 no roosters, no killing, |
| Minneapolis | Yes | Yes | No | 20' from non-owner res, rear | 6 roosters need special permit, more than 6 need special permit, no killing, no at large | 6 roosters need special permit, more than 6 need special permit, no killing, no at large |
| Minnetonka | Yes | No | No | not front | 1 per .1 acre | no roosters, need fence |
| Montrose | Ag only | No | None | None | None | None |
| Mounds View | Yes | Yes | No | 20' from res, 20' from lot lines | 8 no roosters, no killing, not at large, 350' public notice w/ council approva | 8 no roosters, no killing, not at large, 350' public notice w/ council approva |
| New Brighton | Yes | No | No | 25' from res, 5' from lot lines | 6 no roosters, no killing, not at large, inform city | 6 no roosters, no killing, not at large, inform city |
| New Hope | Yes | No | None | None | 3 no roosters, can get council permit for more | 3 no roosters, can get council permit for more |
| Newport | Yes | Yes | No | 50' from res, 10' from lot lines | 4 no roosters, no breeding, consent of 75% of neighbors within 150 | 4 no roosters, no breeding, consent of 75% of neighbors within 150 |
| North Oaks | Silent | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| North Saint Paul | No | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Oakdale | Yes | Yes | No | No | None | consent of 75% of neighbors within 150' |
| Otago | Yes | Yes | No | Double setback of principal building | 1 per .1 acre | 1 per .1 acre |
| Plymouth | Ag only | No | None | None | None | None |
| Prior Lake | Ag only | No | None | None | Sliding | Sliding |
| Ramsey | Yes | No | .75 acres | 30' from res, 10' from lot lines | 16 +4 per .25 | no roosters |
| Richfield | Yes | No | No | None | 3 not at large | 3 not at large |
| Robbinsdale | Yes | No | No | None | 2 need | City Council permit for more than 2 or roosters |
| Rosemount | Yes | No | No | None | 3 not at large, may impound and kill | 3 not at large, may impound and kill |
| Roseville | Yes | No | No | Standard | None | Silent so allow, treat coup as shed. |
| Saint Anthony | Ag only | No | None | 500' from platted land | None | Council can grant special permit. |
| Saint Paul Park | Yes | Yes | No | 50' from res, rear, | 4 no roosters, no breeding, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage | 4 no roosters, no breeding, no killing, not at large, no dwelling/garage |
| Savage | Yes | Yes | No | 50' from res, 10' lot lines | 4 no roosters, not at large, may impound and kill | 4 no roosters, not at large, may impound and kill |
| Shakopee | Yes | No | No | 50' from res, 10' lot lines | 5 no roosters, not at large, may impound and kill | 5 no roosters, not at large, may impound and kill |
| Shoreview | Yes | Yes | R1, RE district | 30' from res | 4 no roosters, no killing, not at large | 4 no roosters, no killing, not at large |
| Shorewood | Yes | No | None | Buildable area | 6 no roosters, not at large | 6 no roosters, not at large |
| St. Michael | Ag only | No | None | None | Sliding | Sliding |
| St. Paul | Yes | Yes | No | Standard | 15 no roosters, two tiers of permits, for tier 2 need consent of 75% of neighbors within 150 | 15 no roosters, two tiers of permits, for tier 2 need consent of 75% of neighbors within 150 |
| Stillwater | Yes | Yes | RA, RB district | Standard | 5 no roosters, no killing, not at large, not in house | 5 no roosters, no killing, not at large, not in house |
| Vadnais Heights | Yes | Yes | No | 50' from res, 20' lot lines, rear | 5 no roosters, no killing, no dwelling/garage | 5 no roosters, no killing, no dwelling/garage |
| West St. Paul | Yes | No | No | 100' from non-owner res | 4 no roosters | 4 no roosters |
| White Bear Lake | Yes | Yes | No | 50' from res, 5' lot lines, rear | 4 no roosters, no breeding, not at large, | 4 no roosters, no breeding, not at large, |

Survey of 14 Communes – Keeping of Chicken

| | Number of Communities | City Name |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prohibited | 1 | Victoria |
| Permitted in Agricultural Districts Only | 3 | Chaska, Prior Lake and Champlin |
| Permitted on 1 Acre or less | 10 | Farmington, Minnetonka, Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights, Shoreview, Waconia, Eden Prairie, Savage, Shakopee, Shorewood |

| City | Designation | Allowed | Permit | Min. Lot Size | Setback from Neighboring Structure | Setback from Property Line | Bird Limit |
|---------------------|---------------|---------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Chaska | Suburban Edge | Ag Only | No | No | 0 Feet | 0 | Sliding |
| Prior Lake | Emerging Edge | Ag Only | No | No | 0 Feet | 0 | Sliding |
| Champlin | Suburban | Ag Only | No | No | 0 Feet | 0 | Sliding |
| Victoria | Emerging Edge | No | No | No | 0 Feet | 0 | 0 |
| Chanhassen | Emerging Edge | Yes | Yes | Yes | 30 Feet | 10 Feet | Sliding |
| Farmington | Emerging Edge | yes PH | yes | R1 | Case by Case | Case by Case | Sliding |
| Minnetonka | Suburban | yes | No | 1 Acre | 0 Feet | 0 | Sliding |
| Rosemount | Emerging Edge | yes | No | No | 0 Feet | 0 | 3 |
| Inver Grove Heights | Suburban Edge | yes | Yes | No | 25 Feet | 10 Feet | 3 |
| Shoreview | Suburban | Yes | yes | Yes | 30 Feet | 0 | 4 |
| Waconia | Emerging Edge | yes | yes | No | 35 Feet | 10 | 6 |
| Eden Prairie | Suburban | Yes | yes | Yes | 50 Feet | 10 | 4 |
| Savage | Suburban | yes | Yes | No | 50 Feet | 10 Feet | 4 |
| Shakopee | Suburban Edge | Yes | No | No | 50 Feet | 10 Feet | 5 |
| Shorewood | Suburban | Yes | No | No | Buildable Area | Buildable Area | 6 |

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
ThriveMSP 2040
Community Designations



Community Designations

Urban Service Areas

- Urban Center
- Urban
- Suburban
- Suburban Edge
- Emerging Suburban Edge

Rural Service Areas

- Rural Center
- Diversified Rural
- Rural Residential
- Agricultural

- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- Lakes and Rivers

Hanover, New Prague, Northfield, and Rockford are outside the Council's planning authority.