



CITY OF PONTIAC BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICE
115 WEST HOWARD ST.
PONTIAC, IL 61764
815-844-1038

zoning@pontiac.org

Backyard Chickens – Information Sheet

1. The number of chickens shall be limited to no more than six (6) female birds. No male chickens/roosters, ducks, geese, turkeys, peafowl, or any poultry or fowl are allowed.
2. Free-range chickens shall not be permitted. Chickens shall be kept in a coop providing for the free movement of chickens. The coop must have a roof and be completely secured from predators, including all openings, ventilation holes, doors and gates. No more than one coop allowed per parcel.
3. The coop shall not exceed 100 square feet.
4. The chicken coop shall be kept in the rear yard. The chicken coop shall be situated a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest neighbor's residence and at least five (5) feet from all property lines.
5. Persons wishing to have chickens in residential districts shall be subject to a compliance inspection after permit issuance. Accessibility and allowable entry shall be required for such inspection.
6. The coop shall provide a minimum of four (4) square feet per chicken and provide nesting boxes (one box per 2-3 hens). Roosting areas must be of sufficient size to permit free movement of the chickens. The coop may not be taller than six (6) feet measured from the natural grade. The coop must be easily accessible for cleaning and maintenance.
7. The coop and surrounding area shall be kept clean, sanitary and odor-free at all times.
8. Chickens shall not be permitted to create a nuisance consisting of odor, noise or pests, or contribute to any other nuisance condition.
9. All stored feed must be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container.
10. The chickens shall be for personal use only, and there shall be no sales of products from the residence. Breeding of chickens for commercial purposes shall not be allowed.
11. A City-issued permit shall in no way negate or override private restrictions on the use of property. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium Master Deed restrictions, neighborhood association bylaws and deed covenants. Any permit issued contrary to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens and large animals shall be declared void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.
12. Failure to comply with these standards or any other standards imposed by the conditional use permit shall result in the permit being revoked by the Director of Building & Zoning.



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Backyard Chicken Ownership Application

Applicant Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____
Property Owner: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

*Backyard chickens shall be permitted **only** in a single-family residential zoning district.

The following items must also be attached:

- **Diagram of property showing location of coop and distance from property lines.**
- **Picture and/or plans of coop structure and specifications**
- **\$50 permit fee**

Please initial to acknowledge the following provisions:

_____ I understand that if the I understand that if the requirements of Ordinance 2023-O-002 are not complied with, the City may revoke any permit granted and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation.

_____ I understand that private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over this permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, neighborhood association bylaws, and deed covenants.

_____ I understand that the chicken coop shall be situated a minimum of 25' from the nearest neighbor's residence and at least 5' from all property lines.

_____ I understand that the issuance of this permit is subject to inspection by the Building and Zoning Department. By initialing this provision, I am allowing accessibility and allowable entry for such inspection.

Applicant Signature

Date

PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT (if different from Applicant)

I, owner of the property listed above, agree to assume responsibility for any legal issues associated with the raising of hens on my property and am familiar with the attached regulations.

Owner Signature

Date