

CODE

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,  
WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 7.04 OF THE  
REDMOND MUNICIPAL CODE TO ACCOUNT FOR NEW  
ZONING DESIGNATIONS CREATED AS PART OF THE  
REDMOND 2050 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE,  
UPDATING CODE REFERENCES, PROVIDING FOR  
SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE

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WHEREAS, the City adopted new residential zoning districts on  
November 19, 2024 (Ord. No. 3186), as part of the Redmond 2050  
Comprehensive Plan update; and

WHEREAS, Redmond Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 7.04 Animal  
Control contains references to zoning districts that were repealed  
by Ord. No. 3186; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of updating RMC Chapter 7.04 is to update  
zoning district terminology and code references; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020, the City of Redmond issued  
determination of significance for Redmond 2050 under the State  
Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond issued a Draft Environmental  
Impact Statement (EIS) on June 16, 2022, a Supplemental Draft EIS  
on September 20, 2023, and a Final EIS on December 15, 2023, for  
Redmond 2050; and

WHEREAS, between April 22, 2025, and June 3, 2025, the City Council received committee briefings on this topic; and

WHEREAS, having considered the recommendations and community input, the City Council desires amend RMC Chapter 7.04.

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

Section 1.        Classification.    This is a code ordinance.

Section 2.        RMC 7.04.154 Beekeeping, amended.        RMC  
7.04.154 Beekeeping, is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.04.154 Beekeeping.

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

A.    **Maximum number of hives allowed.**

1.    **In the Neighborhood Residential zone, no** ~~[NO]~~  
more than four hives per lot shall be allowed **on lots 12,000**  
**square feet or greater in size.** ~~[IN AREAS ZONES R-1, R-2, OR~~  
~~R-3, AND NO]~~ **No** more than two hives per lot shall be allowed  
**on lots between 4,000 and 11,999 square feet in size. No hives**  
**are allowed on lots smaller than 4,000 square feet.** ~~[IN AREAS~~  
~~ZONED R-4, R-5, R-6, OR NONRESIDENTIAL OR MIXED USE ZONES,~~  
~~PER RZC 21.04.030 COMPREHENSIVE ALLOWED USES TABLES;~~  
~~PROVIDED, THAT A BEEKEEPER WHO PICKS UP A SWARM OF BEES MAY~~

~~HOLD THEM FOR A PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN TWO WEEKS,  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.]~~

**2. No more than two hives per lot shall be allowed  
on lots zoned Nonresidential or Mixed Use.**

**3. A beekeeper who picks-up a swarm of bees may  
hold them for a period of no more than two weeks,  
notwithstanding the provisions of RMC 7.04.154.A.1 and RMC  
7.04.154.A.2.**

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

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

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

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

F. Hives shall not be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any property line, except under the following conditions:

1. When situated eight (8) feet or more above adjacent ground level; or

2. When there is a solid fence at least six (6) feet high separating the hive from the property line, extending at least twenty (20) feet from the hive along the property line in both directions; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. Caution; and
- b. Active Beehive Area; and
- c. Keep Clear of the Hives; and

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

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

Section 3. RMC 7.04.156 Small domestic animals, amended.

RMC 7.04.156 Small domestic animals, is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.04.156 Small domestic animals.

A. *Types.* Small domestic animals (mammals and fowl) include rabbits, ducks, geese, swans and other similar animals unless otherwise specified. Chickens, mink, hogs, large domestic animals and household pets are excluded.

B. *Limitations.* In the Neighborhood Residential [~~SINGLE-FAMILY~~] and Urban Recreation zones, no more than ten small domestic animals may be kept on a minimum lot size of one-half acre. On publicly-owned park properties, there shall be no limit on the number of small domestic animals kept provided that RMC 7.04.151, Animal structures and runs requirements are met.

C. *Shelter*. Small domestic animals shall be sheltered in a clean structure which shall be located at least thirty feet away from any property line.

D. *Repealed by Ord. 2640*.

E. On publicly-owned park properties, there shall be no minimum setback for existing structures provided that RMC 7.04.151, Animal structures and runs requirements are met.

F. *Confinement*. Adequate measures shall be taken to provide safety for the animals and to prevent them from straying onto adjacent property.

G. *Animal Waste*. Adequate measures shall be taken to properly dispose of animal wastes. Accumulation of animal waste shall be prohibited from being stored within the required thirty-foot animal shelter setback.

Section 4.      RMC 7.04.157 Chickens, amended.      RMC

7.04.157 Chickens, is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.04.157 Chickens.

A. *Types*. Female chickens, pullets, or hens. Water fowl including ducks, geese, and swans, and other fowl are excluded from this section.

B. *Limitations*.

1. Female chickens, pullets or hens, hereby referred to as chickens, are allowed in the Neighborhood

**Residential zone** [~~SINGLE-FAMILY ZONES~~], the Urban Recreation zone, **RA-5 zone**, and on publicly-owned park properties.

2. In **Neighborhood Residential, RA-5**, [~~SINGLE-FAMILY~~] and Urban Recreation zones, the following maximum number of chickens may be kept on an individually-owned property:

<b>Zoning Designation</b>	<b>Allowed maximum number of chickens</b>
UR	10
RA-5	10
<b><u>NR lots 18,000</u></b> <b><u>sq. ft. or</u></b> <b><u>greater</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>
<b><u>NR lots</u></b> <b><u>12,000-17,999</u></b> <b><u>sq. ft.</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>
<b><u>NR lots 7,000-</u></b> <b><u>11,999 sq. ft.</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>NR lots 5,500-</u></b> <b><u>6,999 sq. ft.</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>

Zoning Designation	Allowed maximum number of chickens
<u>NR lots 4,000- 5,999 sq. ft.</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>NR lots less than 4,000 sq. ft.</u>	<u>0</u>
[R-1]	[10]
[R-2]	[10]
[R-3]	[8]
[R-4]	[7]
[R-5]	[6]
[R-6]	[4]
[R-8]	[0]
[RIN]	[BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE LOT AND CORRESPONDING DENSITY:]



Zoning Designation	Allowed maximum number of chickens
	<del>A. LOTS BELOW 30,000 SQUARE FEET SHALL BE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF SIX (6) CHICKENTS. B. LOTS GREATER THAN 30,000 SQUARE FEET SHALL BE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN (7) CHICKENS.]</del>

3. On publicly owned park properties, there shall be no limit on the number of chickens kept provided that RMC 7.04.151, Animal structures and runs requirements are met.

C. *Chicken Husbandry Registration.* Approval of a Chicken Husbandry registration is required to house chickens

on any property. The property owner(s) shall complete a Chicken Husbandry registration confirming that:

1. The property owner has read and understands RMC 7.04 Animal Control.

2. The property owner agrees to maintain the subject property and chicken husbandry activity in a manner that complies with RMC 7.04 Animal Control.

3. Property owners who housed chickens prior to December 6, 2011 are permitted to maintain chicken husbandry activities consistent with the RMC 7.04 Animal Control in effect as of December 6, 2011.

D. *Shelter and Run.*

1. Chickens shall be sheltered in a clean structure which shall be located no less than fifteen feet from any property line.

- a. The shelter shall provide protection from the following:

- i. Weather by providing a fully enclosed structure including walls, roof, floor, and securable door.

- ii. Predators by being made of sturdy material such as plywood.

- iii. Rodents by limiting small points of uncontrolled access, no larger than one-half inch.

2. On publicly owned park properties, there shall be no minimum setback for existing structures provided that RMC 7.04.151, Animal structures and runs requirements are met.

3. Chicken shelter, run, and other structures such as feed storage shall not be located in the front yard and shall be screened at a minimum of Type II - Visual Screen (RZC 21.32 Landscaping) from adjoining streets and access corridors.

4. RZC **21.04.1120** [~~21.08.230~~] Accessory Structures shall apply to chicken shelter, run, and other structures. In addition, the shelter shall be limited to no greater than 200 square feet in gross floor area and shall be no greater than eight feet in height.

5. A chicken run is an enclosed outside yard, no greater than six feet in height, for keeping chickens.

a. A run shall provide protection from the following:

i. Weather by providing a covered portion of run space that allows chickens to escape rain and snow.

ii. Predators by being made of sturdy, small gauge animal fencing such as chain link or chicken wire

along the entire perimeter of the run. Floor fencing should also be installed. The top of the run shall be covered with additional similar fencing or netting in a manner that helps prevent chickens from straying.

6. The setback required for a chicken shelter and run may be reduced to five feet from any property line provided that the property adjacent to the proposed location of the chicken shelter and run is either:

a. Occupied primarily by a nonresidential use such as church, school, or park;

b. A permanently dedicated easement or tract such as a native protection growth easement or open space tract that is at least 10 feet in width; or

c. A street or permanent trail or access corridor that includes a right-of-way at least 10 feet in width.

E. *Confinement*. Adequate measures shall be taken to provide safety for the chickens and to prevent them from straying onto adjacent property.

F. *Animal Waste*. Adequate measures shall be taken to properly dispose of animal wastes. Accumulation of animal waste shall be prohibited from being stored within the required fifteen-foot animal shelter setback.

G. *Slaughter.* Slaughter is intended only for personal consumption and no more than one chicken may be slaughtered on any property located in a residential zone within a twenty-four-hour period. Adequate measures such as arrangement with a mobile slaughter unit or veterinary service shall be taken to slaughter any more than one chicken within a twenty-four-hour period outside of any City of Redmond Residential zone.

Section 4.      Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 5.      Effective date. This ordinance shall become effective five days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the city's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this 17th day of June,  
2025.

CITY OF REDMOND

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ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DANIEL KENNY, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:  
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR:  
PUBLISHED:  
EFFECTIVE DATE:  
ORDINANCE NO.