

Summary of Chickens and Bees Community Survey

For the Advisory Planning Commission - Spring 2021

Summary

Purpose: The City of Red Wing conducted this survey from April 12 to May 12, 2021. The purpose was to gather community input to inform and assist the Advisory Planning Commission on decisions regarding possible zoning change recommendations to the City Council around the topics of allowing raising chickens and/or beekeeping in the city limits.

Outreach: The survey reached the public in the following ways:

- Online survey link was sent through Facebook, Instagram, and the City Beat newsletter
- Paper survey was mailed as an insert with all City utility bills
- Article was published in the Republican Eagle newspaper
- Links to the online survey and printable paper surveys were available on the City's website and listed with an image under the "Need to Know" section of the City's website

Number completed:

787 surveys were completed. This equals 6.2% of the Red Wing population aged 18 and older. Here is the breakdown of how residents filled out the survey:

453 – online surveys
317 – mailed in from the utility bill insert
11 – sent in via a clipping from the newspaper
6 – sent in printed from website
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787 total surveys completed

Key Points from the Survey:

--23% of the respondents (185 people) desire to raise chickens, and 17% of the respondents (137 people) want to keep bees.

--Respondents were almost equally divided in terms of whether or not they have concerns about the practice of raising chickens in the city limits. (48% had concerns; 47% did not have concerns; 5% were unsure.)

--Respondents were less concerned about the practice of beekeeping (38% had concerns; 55% did not have concerns; 7% were unsure) compared to the practice of raising chickens (48% had concerns; 47% did not have concerns; 5% were unsure).

--Noise and smell were the greatest concerns to people on the topic of raising chickens (49%). Enforcement was also a high concern (38%).

--Bees escaping (35%) and the health and safety of people (35%) were the greatest concerns to people on the topic of beekeeping. Enforcement (30%) was also a concern.

--Overall, many respondents felt that strong education, strict rules, and clear methods of enforcement would be necessary.

--Some respondents felt strongly against beekeeping because of concern about bee allergies.

--People who filled out the survey online were much more likely to say they were interested in participating in the practices, and they were less likely to have concerns. People who filled out paper copies of the survey were more likely to say they did not desire a change in current policy.

Summary of Responses

RAISING CHICKENS:

Do you have an interest in raising chickens on your property in the city limits?

Yes	185 (23%)	29 (paper) + 156 (online) = 185
No	548 (70%)	287 (paper) + 261 (online) = 548
Unsure	54 (7%)	18 (paper) + 36 (online) = 54

Do you have concerns about your neighbors raising chickens on their property in the city limits?

Yes	378 (48%)	205 (paper) + 173 (online) = 378
No	370 (47%)	105 (paper) + 265 (online) = 370
Unsure	39 (5%)	25 (paper) + 14 (online) = 39

If you have concerns about your neighbors raising chickens, what are your biggest concerns?
(Mark all that apply.)

Respondents often marked more than one answer.

* Noise and/or smell	382 (49%)	206 (paper) + 176 (online)
Enforcement issues	300 (38%)	152 (paper) + 148 (online)
Health and safety of people	241 (31%)	137 (paper) + 104 (online)
Health and safety of animals	236 (30%)	118 (paper) + 118 (online)
Neighborhood relations	227 (29%)	126 (paper) + 101 (online)

Additional Themes from Written Comments on Raising Chickens:

When respondents added their own written concerns in the “Other” section, they often fell into the following themes.

- Unease about increase in rodents and predators.
- Concern that residents will not be educated on the topic enough to do it well.
- Worry that neighbors will not keep their properties clean.
- Concern that neighbors will not treat the animals well.
- City will need additional resources that they do not have in order to enforce.
- City cannot enforce current regulations already, such as barking dogs.
- Questions about where to dispose of chicken carcasses and/or feces.
- Fear of potential outbreaks of diseases like bird flu and salmonella.
- Questions about lot size.
- Distress over unsightly buildings or structures.
- Concern about excrement in the water system.
- Raising chickens should be limited to the country.

BEEKEEPING

Do you have an interest in beekeeping on your property in the city limits of Red Wing?

Yes	137 (17%)	22 (paper) + 115 (online) = 137
No	599 (76%)	298 (paper) + 301 (online) = 599
Unsure	51 (7%)	15 (paper) + 36 (online) = 51

Do you have concerns about your neighbors doing beekeeping on their property in the city limits?

Yes	303 (38%)	179 (paper) + 124 (online) = 303
No	431 (55%)	124 (paper) + 307 (online) = 431
Unsure	53 (7%)	34 (paper) + 19 (online) = 53

If you have concerns about your neighbors beekeeping, what are your biggest concerns?
(Mark all that apply.)

Respondents often marked more than one answer.

Bees escaping:	275 (35%)	166 (paper) + 109 (online) = 275
Health and safety of people:	275 (35%)	161 (paper) + 114 (online) = 275
Enforcement:	233 (30%)	140 (paper) + 93 (online) = 233
Neighborhood relations:	181 (23%)	109 (paper) + 72 (online) = 181
Health and safety of animals:	153 (19%)	85 (paper) + 68 (online) = 153

Additional Themes from Answers on Beekeeping:

When respondents added their own written concerns in the “Other” section, they often fell into the following themes.

- Strong concern from people who are allergic to bee stings – or have a family member who is allergic to bee stings
- City will need additional resources that they do not have in order to enforce.
- City cannot enforce current regulations already.
- Beekeeping should be limited to the country.