



## **BEEKEEPING PROTOCOL**

### **OVERVIEW**

Mountair Park Community Farm is an educational urban farm in Lakewood, CO established in 2014. The farm is operated by Sprout City Farms in partnership with the City of Lakewood to provide high quality produce and education to the surrounding neighborhood.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Sprout City Farms has identified the following objectives of the Beekeeping Program:

1. To provide outreach to the local community to promote interest in honeybees and beekeeping;
2. To provide educational opportunities to learn about honeybees and beekeeping;
3. To disseminate information on honeybees and beekeeping;
4. To maintain beehives that will promote the pollination of Mountair Park Community Farm;
5. To maintain beehives that will enhance the propagation of native plants and crops in the local community.

### **COMPLIANCE**

Mountair Park Community Beekeeping Program complies with the current and approved City of Lakewood Code Ordinance 17.4.3.E: Beekeeping. All Sprout City Farms beekeepers must comply with the protocol outlined in this document. Terms of this document supersedes all prior negotiations, agreements and understandings with respect thereto.

### **COMMERCIAL USE**

All beehives within Mountair Park Community Farm are for educational purposes and maintained by hobbyist beekeepers or nonprofits. Hives housed at Mountair Park Community Farm are not to be used by Beekeepers as an alternate location for commercial enterprise.

### **BEEKEEPERS**

Any person desiring to participate as a Mountair Park Community Beekeeper must submit a completed Volunteer Community Beekeeper Application, signed Agreement to Beekeeping Protocol, and signed Release of Liability to Sprout City Farms. Sprout City Farms will review all applications and interview the qualified applicants. Upon approval, the applicant will be



notified. If accepted, the period of commitment is one year, renewable annually. If denied, the applicant will be notified and will be provided with the reason for denial.

Approval as a Mountair Park Community Beekeeper (“Beekeeper”) does not guarantee perpetual allotment of space in Mountair Park Community Farm. Approval of new applicants will be based on availability of hive locations within the farm as well as congruence between the objectives of the Beekeeping Program and those stated by the applicant.

Approval for maintaining hives at Mountair Park Community Farm beyond one year will be determined by each Beekeeper’s history of active participation in Mountair Park’s Beekeeping Program as well as availability of hive locations within the farm. Active participation in Mountair Park Community Beekeeping Program includes but is not limited to: teaching or assisting with workshops, volunteering at the farm, and community outreach

#### PREREQUISITES

Beekeepers must have at least two full seasons of experience. Beekeepers who lack two seasons of experience but have completed beekeeping courses may be approved at Sprout City Farms’ discretion.

#### MANNER

All beekeepers are representatives of Sprout City Farms and are expected to conduct themselves in a fashion that reflects the positive reputation that Sprout City Farms has worked to develop and maintain. Any incidents should be immediately reported to the Farm Manager. Infractions of this policy will not be tolerated and any offending Beekeeper will be removed from the program.

#### HIVE LOCATIONS

The Farm Manager will assign all hive locations. The number of hives that each beekeeper can have will depend on available space and is at the discretion of Sprout City Farms. No new hive stands may be set up or hives moved to an alternate location without the approval of Sprout City Farms.

In the case that a Beekeeper is asked to move his/her hives out of Mountair Park Community Farm for any reason, he/she must move all hives and equipment in a mutually acceptable timeframe. If the Beekeeper does not comply, all beehives and equipment become the property of Sprout City Farms.

#### APPROVED HIVES

Approved hives include top bar and Langstroth-style hives. All hives must allow for regular maintenance.

All hives must be placed on hive stands, which may be constructed of cinder blocks. Alternate hive stands may be approved at the discretion of Sprout City Farms.



## APPROVED HONEYBEES

Africanized honeybees are not permitted.

If a hive is identified as being aggressive, Sprout City Farms may require that the hive owner remove or re-queen the aggressive hive.

## HIVE MANAGEMENT

Beekeepers are expected to visit their hives regularly during the months of April through October to ensure active management of each hive. Visitation will be monitored by the Farm Manager. Beekeepers are to maintain the hives in a manner that preserves the aesthetics of the park. This includes keeping the area around the hive tidy and weeds below 12 inches in height as well as keeping the hive structure well maintained. Following each apiary visit, it is strongly recommended that Beekeepers submit post-action reports to the Farm Manager detailing the maintenance performed and state of the hive.

If the Farm Manager suspects an issue with a hive, he/she will contact the hive owner.

If hives are not properly maintained as determined by the Sprout City Farms, the owner of the hives will be asked to remove his/her hives from Mountair Park Community Farm. If the Beekeeper does not remove his or her hives in the requested timeframe, the hives will be considered abandoned and become property of Sprout City Farms.

All Mountair Park Community Beekeepers must support Sprout City Farms' natural beekeeping initiative by using and teaching natural integrated pest management methods, which minimize the use of chemical agents in the management of honeybees. All hive management methods must be minimally invasive, chemical free, and non-toxic. Beekeepers shall not use equipment at Mountair Park Community Farm that has been used in conjunction with chemical management methods.

Beekeepers will actively manage their hives using methods that discourage swarming. If a swarm is observed at Mountair Park Community Farm, all Beekeepers will be simultaneously notified via email and the swarm is available for collection on a first-come, first-served basis. If the swarm remains after 24 hours, Sprout City Farms will notify other parties who can collect the swarm. Guest inquiries regarding swarming will be directed to the Colorado State Beekeepers Association Swarm Hotline or alternative swarm hotline.

## ACCESS

Upon acceptance into the Mountair Park Community Farm Beekeeping program, each Beekeeper may access the property via the unlocked pedestrian gates. Use of drive gates may be permitted by the Farm Manager with prior notice. The access gates must remain closed at all times.

## VISITORS

Mountair Park Community Farm is a public space and the pedestrian gates are always unlocked. Members of the community may walk through the farm at any time. Beekeepers may not store equipment at the farm for this reason.



## APIARY MAINTENANCE

Beekeepers are responsible for keeping weeds under 12 inches tall within a 5-foot radius of their hives. Adornments to the farm are not permitted without prior approval from Sprout City Farms. The surrounding perimeter fence may not be altered or adorned in any way.

## OUTREACH

Providing outreach services for visitors of Mountair Park Community Farm is mandatory for all Beekeepers. Sprout City Farms will establish a minimum number of outreach requirements that must be satisfied by all Beekeepers each year, such as 4 hours of outreach time in 2017. Outreach includes but is not limited to: teaching or assisting with a beekeeping workshop, teaching or assisting with a beekeeping program or activity for farm visitors/volunteers, and tabling at community events. If beekeepers are unable to provide outreach services, they may pay a fee of \$100 to Sprout City Farms. The fee may be waived or lowered at Sprout City Farms discretion.

## CONTACTS

All beekeepers must submit full contact information to Sprout City Farms. The Farm Manager shall also distribute his/her direct contact information to all Beekeepers. All Sprout City Farms staff members reserve the right to contact Beekeepers regarding questions or concerns.

Contact information for Sprout City Farms is as follows:

Sprout City Farms PO BOX 181396 Denver, CO 80218

Farm Manager: Katie Huszcza

Phone: (970) 541-4873

Email: [info@sproutcityfarms.org](mailto:info@sproutcityfarms.org) or [katie@sproutcityfarms.org](mailto:katie@sproutcityfarms.org)

Website: [www.sproutcityfarms.org](http://www.sproutcityfarms.org)