

**Share Your Thoughts at www.playyourpart.org
Summary of Web entries
Received between January 13, 2011 and July 20, 2011**

The following is a summary of the citizen comments received on the LAKEWOOD! Zoning Improvement website, www.playyourpart.org. The summary is organized by the topics that were covered by respondents when asked, "When thinking about land use in Lakewood, what do you like? What could be better?"

**Urban agriculture/Keeping of chickens/Keeping of horses/Keeping of Bees
Sixteen emails submitted through the website commented on this topic. Below are highlights from the comments we received.**

- "I'm in 2R zoning and would like to be able to keep chickens, bees, rabbits, and maybe goats. Many of the other cities in the Denver metro area are ahead of Lakewood and already allow the keeping of chickens. I love living in Lakewood but this issue is very important to me."
- "My family and I live in a PD zone and actively looking to raise 2-3 chicken hens for eggs. Our lot is more than large enough for this endeavor and it would allow us to minimize our carbon footprint by locally growing a portion of our food supply complimenting our garden. PLEASE reconsider the ban of chickens in areas zoned PD"
- "I would like to be able to raise chickens in PD zoning. Why are we thinking about allowing chickens in only R2 and not PD? My back yard is just as large."
- "We live in Lakewood and are in a Planned Development District with plenty of room in our yard and would love to be able to have a few chickens, Hens to get their eggs as it would potentially benefit my family by providing fresh food at minimum cost to us while at the same time positively impacting the environment. Our yard is large enough where it wouldn't impact our neighbors other than providing fresh eggs for them."
- "It seems that every TV station newspaper and magazine in Denver has recently run stories on chicken ownership or other forms of urban agriculture. The desire for greener, more sustainable lives has gained momentum with fears from the unstable economy and learning where much of our food comes from. One way cities support this movement is by reconsidering their stance on chicken ownership. How would the city benefit by allowing residents to raise chickens?"

People are drawn to cities that are forward-thinking, most of which have become chicken-friendly. Seattle, Washington's successful standards regarding chicken ownership has set the bar for others nationwide. I have included a copy of section SMC 23.42.052 C of their Municipal Code to review. In an effort to reduce waste removal costs the municipality of Diest in Flanders Belgium gave 3 chickens to 2000 homes. In one month a single chicken can consume up to nine pounds of kitchen garbage and yard waste which would otherwise end up at the curb on garbage day. Why would someone like me want to raise chickens? Chickens eat slugs, grubs, fleas, ticks, flies, stink bugs, and countless others. They have even been known to get rid of mice and rats by consuming their food source. No need for chemical fertilizer, chickens help create some of the best compost. They are natural weed killers who eat weed seeds and the weeds

themselves. Chickens provide a supply of delicious fresh eggs. When raised properly chickens can be wonderful loving pets.”

- “I am fully in support of the potential new ordinance to allow chickens, goats, bees, and food production. It is one of the healthiest things that we can be encouraging in our community. It helps to teach our children about how things grow, how to do some work... not always sitting with the computer tech world and encourages the use of all of this for healthy food to fight the horrible obesity problem that we have in this country. It is a world that is coming around again and SOOO needed. Please know how much we support you. The only thing is that roosters should probably not be allowed as that will discourage many neighbors from supporting the plan. The rest of the animals are quieter than the neighborhood dogs.”
- “I was at the open house on Saturday and have a comment about something I saw in one of the handouts. It mentioned livestock for the new R-1-9 zoning and it listed llamas but not alpacas. Since alpacas are similar to llamas but are actually smaller and take up less space it would be nice to see them on the list.”
- “We would love to have 2-3 chickens in our backyard but are not allowed in our zone of Lakewood. Please re-look at that law that lumps all farm animals in one. Even Denver allows chickens.”
- “I would really like to see the residents of Lakewood be allowed to keep hens on their property. This would enable parents to teach their children nature and where their food really comes from before it arrives at the super market and also options to factory farming.”
- “I would like for Lakewood to amend city ordinance to allow for the keeping of a small number of chickens as Denver has done.”
- “I do not like the idea of my neighbors having chickens and goats in their back yards in residential areas like where I live. My neighbor behind me already has chickens and a rooster that wakes us up at 6am most mornings and crows all day long. I have dogs and they keep trying to get through the fence because the chickens run loose in the yard. I don't like the fact that if my dogs got through and killed one of the chickens then I would have to put my dog down. My dogs are doing what comes natural to them. It's not fair to me or my dogs. If you have 4 or 5 acres or more of land then that's a different story. I have talked to Code and Compliance about the chickens in my neighbor's yard. I explained my reason for calling and complaining. I agree the part of Denver's proposal that if it does pass then if a neighbor is against it they can't have them. I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THE CHICKENS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. I shouldn't have to put up with being disturbed every morning by the sound of a rooster crowing and my dogs shouldn't have to be in jeopardy of being put down because of chickens. The idea of using abandoned land for community gardens is a good idea but why not take it one step further. Those that want chickens can rent a part of the land and put their chickens there instead on in their back yard and disturbing their neighbors.”
- “Allowing TMU and other residential areas in Lakewood to have chickens and ducks can only be good for the community. It encourages the growth and sharing of fresh healthy

foods and teaches our children how to relate to food and food production in a healthier way. Please allow it”

- “I am in favor of urban agriculture in respect to allowing the raising of honey bees on what is now 2-R zoned properties in the City of Lakewood. In addition to strengthening the hurting honey bee population I would like to list some other thoughts I have:

1. According to the beekeepers in Lakewood that I have talked to most of the honey bees re-hived in Lakewood are here to start and are not brought in from somewhere else. They are hives that have split off from other established hives.

2. In 2000, the most recent year for which data has been reported to the World Health Organization, 54 people were reported as having died in the USA due to encounters with any type of stinging insect wasps, bees, hornets, yellow jackets-- you-name-it. In Canada two people were reported as having died in 2000 from insect stings. Canada has no Africanized bees but has about the same percentage of their population keeping bees in suburban and urban areas as in the U.S.

<http://beequick.com/reprints/stingdeath.pdf>

3. According to the National Jewish Hospital Web Site about 50 people in the United States die from stings every year. They also state about one million people in the country report being allergic to bee stings. Tips to Avoid and Treat Insect Stings - National Jewish Health

With 308.7 million people reported by the 2010 census that is a 16174000 chance of dying from a bee sting. You have almost twice as much chance of winning 200,000 dollars in the Colorado Lottery.

For comparison The National Weather Service Web site says According to the NWS Storm Data over the last 30 years the U.S. has averaged 55 reported lightning fatalities per year. Due to under reporting, the figures are more realistically at least 70 deaths per year. Only about 10 of people who are struck by lightning are killed leaving 90 with various degrees of disability. NWS Lightning Safety Medical Information There is a better chance of dying from a lightning strike.

4. The nurses at National Jewish have told me that if I eat local within 50 miles raw honey it contains enough pollen from local plants that it can help with seasonal allergy symptoms. Kind of like getting an allergy shot.

5. Honey Bees do not stick close to home. One hive will work over 6000 acres of land. Beekeeping for Dummies, 2009.

6. Healthy kept hives are a safe controlled remedy to wild farel hives that may take up residence in someone’s rafters or wall.

7. The garden stores in my area tell me the reason that my fruit plants, grapes, cherries do not produce like they used to is that they are not getting pollinated. I get many flowers but less actual fruit. Honey bees in my yard would be great for this.”

- “I think it is an excellent idea to allow residents to keep a limited number of chickens goats and bees for food production.”
- “I would urge you NOT to allow farm animals, goats, chickens, etc within the city limits. There are already enough issues for neighborhood conflict e.g. dogs noise yard maintenance, etc. Farm animals are not appropriate for a suburban setting...will increase conflicts between neighbors.”
- “Please make it possible for homeowners to keep honey bees. It would mean so much to all of us.”
- “I am in full support for allowing a limited number of chickens no roosters in neighborhoods for a family food source and children’s’ pets. I am zoned Planned Development District of single family homes and living by standards based in the 1970s or earlier. Unlike Belgium which gives chickens to residents within the city limits we do not understand how they help in removing the burden of ever-filling landfills by eating more than their share of table waste.

In smaller numbers they have less noticeable smell than the gas grill burning or a neighbor’s truck which has not been tuned based on collector car standards, etc.

Just as a traditional pet responsibility belongs to the owner for care and protection.

Chickens are a wonderful bonding opportunity with their gentle natures. Plus they add food to a family needing all the help they can find in these economic times.”

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

Two emails submitted through the website commented on this topic. Below are highlights from the comments we received.

- “I live in an R-1 neighborhood and am strongly opposed to the contemplation of adding any possible accessory dwelling units. Having additional apartments on my residential street was not part of my life plan when I made a significant investment in my home and on-going home improvements.”
- “I attended the meeting at the Clement Center on April 12, 2011. My first comment is that I am certainly NOT a fan of the proposal to allow ADUs in the single-family residential districts. This could lead to undesirable rental units in our established quiet neighborhoods. Another observation is that I find it odd that building heights are measured by side-wall height rather than the highest point on the building. I can see the potential for a property owner to take advantage full advantage of the roof height to minimize the effectiveness of the proposed setback requirements. To avoid this potential abuse, I would suggest that a formula be implemented wherein any proposed outbuilding that exceeds a height of 10 feet would require that the setback must be increased proportionately.

When it comes to dwelling units, I think the rear setback requirement should be the same as the established front setback. One last item I would like to see written into the code an article that prohibits any regulation variance which would create a new non-conforming property.”

*** Public Engagement Process for Quasi-judicial Proceedings**

One email submitted through the website commented on this topic. Below are highlights from the comments we received.

- “Enabling citizens to talk to their elected representatives. This is a fundamental right of citizens to speak their viewpoint. They have a constitutional right to seek redress of grievances. That does not apply under current Lakewood restrictions on citizens”. *

** These topics are not directly determined by the zoning ordinance. The comment was noted and passed on to the appropriate City Department to address this comment.*