

**Share Your Thoughts at www.playyourpart.org
Summary of Web entries
Received between March 25, 2010 and August 12, 2010**

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
Seventeen emails submitted through the website commented on this topic. Below are highlights from the entries received.**

"I think a set number of chickens should be allowed in residential areas. We live in 2-R in a rather large lot and would love fresh eggs that are without chemicals and raised humanely. I also think bees should be allowed."

"I would like to encourage Lakewood in zoning for chickens and bees. Owning these creatures is beneficial in so many ways. Having food in your backyard is a wonderful teaching tool for kids as well as self sustaining."

"I like the rules limiting pets to 5 total."

"I really would like to see more properties that allow horses as that is part of our history and also something that I and many others look for in a house. Some areas where I looked for homes have horses on the same street and yet the other houses in the neighborhood are not zoned for it and that seems a bit strange and is very inconvenient."

"We want chickens. All the progressive cities like Portland, Seattle, Austin, Lakewood in Washington and Gumpville in Louisiana allow 3-4 hens in dense urban areas. Adopt the Portland chicken rules in Lakewood."

"A chicken in every pot."

"No urban agriculture. Only personal family gardens should be allowed in back yards only. I oppose bee keeping, as well as chicken farming or any other manner of farm animal in suburban neighborhoods. They were not designed for it. I don't want farm animals in the neighborhood. ESPECIALLY in high-density condos and town homes.

"I attended the meeting this evening on urban-suburban agriculture and would like to come out strongly in favor of allowing the keeping of poultry, beehives, sheep and goats on 2-R zoned properties and the sale of domestically-grown and cultivated food on 1-R properties. I also believe that permitting such use on an individual basis would be redundant to making zoning changes. Violations to such zoning such as inhumane animal treatment and insufficient accommodation should be addressed in much the same way as it is currently for other domestic animals. In addition, I believe the city should support the use of local park space for occasional neighborhood markets retailing produce grown in Lakewood neighborhoods."

"I propose a comprehensive look at existing land that could be used for urban farming. Some cities have identified vacant land buildings roofs and less grass more food campaigns. First, I suggest getting data on how much is 20 per cent of fruits and vegetables and meat we eat in

Lakewood in a year. Then, how much land would it take to grow 20 percent of our requirements by 2020? We must become more food secure. We must become more sustainable in huge leaps not dribbles. There is more demand for local food than supply. Look at Boulder they are way ahead of us. Farmers get an acre of land from Boulder County for 100 a year. We need acres of land for bigger production of food and free land. We need bluegrass to take a back seat to green beans. We need farm stands zoned in areas where people want to veggies. More open zoning is needed. Think like farmers and you will get the vision. Think like if trucks stopped running due to disaster we would only have a day and a half worth of food. You must go out to the community to educate them more or you will only have a small number of people advising you. We should vote on this matter...this means jobs...more self sufficiency as a community...and I have a masters in international business...we need hundreds of greenhouses growing year round in Lakewood.”

“I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about urban agriculture. I am very much in favor of extending the right to keep chickens, bees and small animals to as many residents as possible. I am also very much opposed to any permitting and inspection process. It is enough to post the regulations and only respond if there are specific complaints for non-compliance.”

”Although I am surrounded by stables and horse boarding farms, I cannot have a couple of hens in my back yard. I see that many other community members have commented on this. I am so happy to see that so many of my neighbors who are interested in farming. Let’s change that zoning law as soon as possible.”

“I like that Lakewood is always improving and asking residents for their thoughts and opinions! I like Belmar Park and all the fun things that happen there. The cool use of Belmar, like the skate rink/common area and the solar panels! Not so excited about the Best Buy going in. I’ve always thought that Lakewood is a cut above other suburbs and Best Buy and other large chain stores make it feel cheap. I’d like to see less chain restaurants and more individual ethnic type places to eat...not always wanting to drive to Denver for good food. I’ve seen wild life around quite a bit recently. With the large undeveloped piece of land that is now the hospital, I image animals are relocating and it would be nice to keep them in mind when you plan making sure they have a route to and from natural areas. I enjoy seeing wild life in this city. Makes it feel less city. I would love to see a community garden (Belmar, perhaps?) for community to come together and to support a move toward more local food growing. I’ve seen what Kipp Nash is doing in Boulder and I think this is cool (attached website), and a community garden would help those of us to connect with each other locally and support each other. <http://www.communityrootsboulder.com/>”

”I would also like to enthusiastically suggest or vote for a change in zoning to allow people to have bees and chickens in their yards much like Denver does. I understand we need rules around numbers and no roosters and following guidelines for bees to keep them from interfering with neighbors. Especially with the conscious wave of energy moving toward more localization of our food, I would love to be able to have 6 chickens or so to supply my family with our egg use. I would also love to keep bees. I have planted many fruit trees and an herb garden and we grow vegetables. I have taken many courses on bee keeping and would love to have two or three hives on my 1/3-acre plot. Especially with the bee population dwindling as it has been in the past decades I would love to do my part and provide a loving place for bees. In turn they would pollinate my gardens and trees. I currently live in a planned development south of Mile Hi Church. Thanks for being open to our opinions. I love Lakewood!!!”

"I live on the north side of 6th Ave on Carr St. and I would really like to have chickens and think that my zone should be allowed to do so."

"Please no chickens. Especially roosters."

"I read all the comments and am a little concerned that livestock including bees, horses, and chickens will be regulated to the point that keeping them will be cost prohibitive or will come with regulations that are impossible to comply with. The City should listen to input but not try to impose a more restrictive agenda by using ordinances inappropriately. Nuisance dog barking is a problem in Lakewood. I doubt that a rooster would be as intrusive. Removing manure from livestock weekly can be impossible in the winter months when we have heavy snowfall. It would be very easy for a person to be in violation of a 7-day manure removal requirement by 1 or 2 days and they could end up being fined continuously by an aggressive code officer. Commercial removal only picks up every two weeks. Neighborhoods with horses and livestock have a barnyard odor. There are so many more neighborhoods that do not allow livestock and only a few that do. People who don't want to live around livestock have so many more neighborhoods to choose from than do livestock owners. Why move into a neighborhood zoned for livestock and then complain?"

"I moved here because I liked the suburban atmosphere i.e. because it was a well settled bedroom community. In the last ten years, the city has decided it wants to be a crowded, busy, profitable urban core with almost no residential support and plenty of commercial. It enacted laws that permit it to plop down a development or a string of townhouses or apartments pretty much anywhere it likes. Stop rezoning established neighborhoods to include planned urban developments. It's going to be a long, long time if ever again before we see a return of the housing boom your rezoning strategy counted on. We are looking at decreased water, more expensive materials, and environmental challenges. In short, we stop trying to grow Lakewood by adding population."

Parking Standards

Three emails submitted through the website commented on this topic. Below are highlights from the entries received.

"You need to change the codes for RV vehicles. If you would visit W. Mexico Avenue just west of W. Alameda and between S DeFrame St. and South Cole St, you will see the eyesore that the City has allowed. If you are an owner of an RV, it is your responsibility to house it not all other taxpayers. It is hurting the value of the homeowners around the area and I don't appreciate it. An RV owner should unload or load and not be able to park them on the street no matter what size it is. They have RV lots for that not the public street or you could buy a private home and drive it back in your yard to enjoy the view. The eyesore is hurting the City of Lakewood. It shows we have no pride."

"This is a good idea Storage of RVs and trailers on city streets for loading and unloading only. That is how it was in the city I used to live in so I stored my RV and trailer at a storage facility until such time as I could level an area behind my fence to create a parking pad."

“The allowed number of vehicles on private property in 1-R is currently 10 not including vehicles in garages or on the street. A considerable number of residents who have discovered this allowed limit are very surprised and disturbed by the number. We believe this is too large a number of vehicles to be allowed in what is supposed to be a residential neighborhood. Please consider lowering the allowed vehicle limit in 1-R and possibly in all zones. Thank you for your consideration.”

Home Child Care

The website collected one email that commented on this topic. Below is a highlight from the entry received.

”I like the way you present information to the community. I like that you are interested in how we view our community. I love the friendly helpful people who work for our city. I am interested in having zoning more neighborhood friendly as I have seen it in Wheat Ridge and Golden. I have a little preschool in my home a few hours a week after 30 years of large schoolwork. I would like the option to have 8 children instead of the 6 that I am now allowed. I would be happy to discuss the benefits of this with you. Thank you for this opportunity.”