



## BEEKEEPING PROTOCOL

### OVERVIEW

The King C. Hudson and Evelyn Leigh Hudson Foundation, Inc., a private non-profit corporation and public charity, manages and operates The Hudson Gardens & Event Center (Hudson Gardens). Hudson Gardens is owned by the South Suburban Park & Recreation District and is located at 6115 South Santa Fe Drive in the City of Littleton, Arapahoe County in the state of Colorado.

### OBJECTIVES

The Hudson Gardens 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 The Hudson Gardens;
5. To maintain beehives that will enhance the propagation of native plants and crops in the local community.

### COMPLIANCE

Hudson Gardens' Beekeeping Program complies with the current and approved City of Littleton Code Ordinance under Title 10: Zoning Regulations, Chapter 4: Supplementary Standards, number 10-4-14: Beekeeping. All Hudson Gardens' Beekeepers must comply with the protocol outlined in this document, which contains the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter of this document, and supersedes all prior negotiations, agreements and understandings with respect thereto.

### COMMERCIAL USE

All beehives within Hudson Gardens Community Apiary ('Apiary') are for educational purposes and are maintained by hobbyist beekeepers. Hives housed at Hudson Gardens are not to be used by Beekeepers as an alternate location for commercial enterprise.

### LEAD BEEKEEPER

The Education Department at Hudson Gardens shall recommend a Lead Beekeeper or Lead Beekeepers, who will be appointed by Hudson Gardens' Chief Executive Officer.

The responsibilities of the Lead Beekeeper(s) are as follows:

1. Serve as the central point of contact between Hudson Gardens and all Beekeepers at Hudson Gardens.
2. Perform mentorship duties for novice beekeepers.
3. Promptly alert Hudson Gardens to any concerns regarding the Beekeeping Program.
4. Enforce this protocol with Hudson Gardens' Beekeepers and public constituents.

## OTHER BEEKEEPERS

Any person desiring to participate as a Hudson Gardens Community Beekeeper must submit a completed Volunteer Community Beekeeper Application, signed Agreement to Beekeeping Protocol, and signed Release of Liability to Hudson Gardens. The Lead Beekeeper(s) and Hudson Gardens' designee 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 Hudson Gardens Community Beekeeper ("Beekeeper") does not guarantee perpetual allotment of space in Hudson Gardens' apiary. Each Beekeeper must submit a new beekeeping application annually. Approval of new applicants will be based on availability of hive locations within the apiary as well as congruence between the objectives of the Beekeeping Program and those stated by the applicant.

Approval for maintaining hives at Hudson Gardens beyond one year will be determined by each Beekeeper's history of active participation in Hudson Gardens' Beekeeping Program as well as availability of hive locations within the apiary. Active participation in Hudson Gardens' Beekeeping Program includes but is not limited to: attending and facilitating "Meet the Beekeeper" and "Mentor Me" sessions, assisting with instruction during beekeeping classes, mentoring and assisting novice Beekeepers, and performing required community outreach activities.

## PREREQUISITES

Beekeepers with less than two full seasons of beekeeping experience must take a minimum of four beekeeping classes offered by Hudson Gardens prior to maintaining hives on the property. The required courses are *Beekeeping Basics*, *Hive Startup: Installing Nucleus Hives and Package Bees*, *Hive Management Systems*, and *Honeybee Hive Inspections*. Alternately, Beekeepers may take *Beekeeping Express* which covers all topics in the introductory series of beekeeping classes. Hudson Gardens and the Lead Beekeeper(s) may waive or alter the course requirements for experienced beekeepers at their discretion.

## MANNER

All beekeepers are representatives of Hudson Gardens and are expected to conduct themselves in a fashion that reflects the positive reputation that Hudson Gardens has worked to develop and maintain. Any incidents should be immediately reported to the Lead Beekeeper(s) and Community Programs & Outreach Department. Infractions of this policy will not be tolerated, and any offending Beekeeper will be removed from the program.

Hudson Gardens will provide credentials to all Beekeepers to identify their status as approved Beekeepers. Such identification must be worn at all times when performing beekeeping activities at Hudson Gardens.

## HIVE LOCATIONS

Hudson Gardens will assign all hive locations. Each Beekeeper will be allotted a maximum of one hive location per year in the Community Apiary. No new hive stands may be set up or hives moved to an alternate location without the approval of Hudson Gardens. Hive entrances will face the direction that ensures the flyway is not directed towards any adjacent property. Beehives must be located at least five feet from property lines and hive entrances must be a minimum of 25 feet from property boundaries.

Hudson Gardens reserves the right to freely allocate the space at its discretion including additional hive locations per beekeeper for educational purposes. In the case that a Beekeeper is asked to move his/her hives out of Hudson Gardens 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 Hudson Gardens.

## APPROVED HIVES

Approved hives are Langstroth-style hives, both eight and ten-frame. All hives must use standard removable frames that allow for inspections.

All hives must be placed on hive stands, which may be constructed of cinder blocks or an alternative approved by Hudson Gardens. The Lead Beekeeper(s) and Hudson Gardens will designate two layers of cinder blocks for hive stands.

Hive modifications are not permitted unless explicit approval is granted by both the Lead Beekeeper(s) and Hudson Gardens. Hive body colors must be non-obtrusive and present a pleasing appearance in keeping with the display garden nature of Hudson Gardens. The preferred color palette is white, very light grey, pastel, or natural wood-colored stain. All hive colors are subject to prior approval by the Lead Beekeeper(s) and Hudson Gardens.

The use of frame rests is acceptable if they are removed immediately after each use.

## APPROVED HONEYBEES

All beekeepers shall notify the Lead Beekeeper(s) of the genetics of their installed honeybee colonies and in the case of changes to the genetics of their honeybee colonies (e.g., in the case of installing a new queen). Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to install marked queens from known genetic sources.

If a hive is identified as being aggressive, the hive owner and Lead Beekeeper(s) will inspect the hive to determine the level of aggression. If necessary, Hudson Gardens may require that the hive owner remove or re-queen the aggressive hive.

Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to install marked queens from known genetic sources. Africanized honeybees are not permitted.

## HIVE MANAGEMENT

Beekeepers are expected to visit their hives at least every other week during the months of April through October to ensure active management of each hive. Visitation will be monitored by Hudson Gardens and all Beekeepers must sign in at the Welcome Center to record his/her apiary visitation. Following each apiary visit, it is strongly recommended that Beekeepers submit post-action reports in the manner prescribed by the Lead Beekeeper(s).

The Lead Beekeeper(s) reserves the right to conduct routine hive inspections of all hives on Hudson Gardens' property to ensure that hives are healthy and are not a hazard to others in the area. If the Lead Beekeeper(s) suspects an issue with a hive, he/she will make efforts to conduct the inspection in the presence of the hive owner.

If hives are not properly maintained as determined by the Lead Beekeeper(s), the owner of the hives will be asked to remove his/her hives from Hudson Gardens. If the Beekeeper does not remove his or her hives in the requested timeframe, the hives will be considered abandoned and become property of Hudson Gardens.

All Beekeepers must carry either an EpiPen or anti-histamine when working hives on Hudson Gardens' property. Beekeepers may be asked to furnish proof of such when working hives at Hudson Gardens. Failure to present such proof in two or more instances may result in loss of beekeeping privileges at Hudson Gardens. Each Beekeeper must also carry a method of communication, such as a cell phone, in case of emergency.

All Hudson Gardens Beekeepers must support Hudson Gardens' 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 minimize usage of equipment at Hudson Gardens that has been used in conjunction with chemical management methods. All chemical pest controls must be approved by the Lead Beekeeper(s) prior to use. When necessary, Hudson Gardens reserves the right to require that all Beekeepers conduct mite checks and provide treatments within a determined timeframe for purposes of maintaining the health of hives within the apiary.

Beekeepers will actively manage their hives using methods that discourage swarming. Open feeding is not allowed at any time. If a swarm is observed on Hudson Gardens' property, 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, the Colorado State Beekeepers Association Swarm Hotline or alternative swarm hotline will be notified by Hudson Gardens. Guest inquiries regarding swarming will be directed to the Colorado State Beekeepers Association Swarm Hotline or alternative swarm hotline.

## ACCESS

Upon acceptance into the Hudson Gardens' Beekeeping program, each Beekeeper may access the property with a vehicle via the southeast corner perimeter road access gate. Beekeepers are to use only this gate to access the property. The access gate must remain closed and locked at all times. The keys for the access gate are stored in a coded lockbox attached to the gate. The code for the lock box will be made available to Community Beekeepers during the new Beekeeper Orientation.

Driving a vehicle on Hudson Gardens' property is permitted in order to access and manage the beehives. Vehicles are only allowed on the perimeter road and the speed limit is 5 MPH at all times. If driving to the apiary is required, Beekeepers are to park at the Barn or along the edge of the gravel driveway. Vehicles should not block access to the apiary during "Meet the Beekeeper" sessions. Hudson Gardens reserves the right to restrict vehicular access at its discretion.

Beekeepers are required to maintain their hives during business hours, which are 9 AM-5 PM Monday through Sunday, during the peak season (April-October). Vehicular traffic (including that of beekeepers) is not permitted during events (e.g., concerts, special events, etc.). Beekeepers must identify themselves at the Welcome Center and sign in before entering Hudson Gardens to inquire about daily events and may not drive vehicles inside property boundaries should vehicular traffic disturb a wedding or other event. Beekeepers may also call the Welcome Center in advance at (303) 797-8565 ext. 389 for this information. On dates when concerts are scheduled (generally, Sundays in June, July and August), vehicular access to the apiary is prohibited and beekeepers are asked to select alternate days to conduct hive management. Conducting hive management during off-business hours is discouraged and must be approved in advance by Hudson Gardens.

## VISITORS

All persons entering the apiary must be accompanied by Hudson Gardens' Beekeeper(s), who are responsible for enforcing this protocol. All visitors, including minor children (under the age of eighteen) are required to submit a signed Hold Harmless Agreement to Hudson Gardens prior to such entrance. A separate Hold Harmless Agreement governs apiary access for minor children and must be signed by each child's legal guardian.

## APIARY MAINTENANCE

All beekeepers are responsible for proper apiary maintenance. Beekeepers are responsible for mowing the area and maintaining a proper presentation as determined and assigned by Hudson Gardens and the Lead Beekeeper(s). The Lead Beekeeper(s) reserve the right to assign necessary maintenance tasks to Beekeepers.

Adornments to the apiary are not permitted without prior approval from The Hudson Gardens. The surrounding perimeter fence may not be altered or adorned in any way.

## OUTREACH

Providing outreach services for visitors of Hudson Gardens is mandatory for all Beekeepers. Hudson Gardens and the Lead Beekeeper(s) will establish a minimum number of outreach requirements that must be satisfied by all Beekeepers each year. Outreach includes but is not limited to: attending and facilitating “Meet the Beekeeper” and “Mentor Me” sessions, assisting with instruction during beekeeping classes, assisting with instruction during youth field trips, and performing other outreach activities as requested. Hive management and maintenance should be minimized during “Meet the Beekeeper” sessions and other outreach events.

## CONTACTS

All beekeepers must submit full contact information to Hudson Gardens’ Community Programs & Outreach Department. Both the Lead Beekeeper(s) and Hudson Gardens’ staff reserve the right to contact Beekeepers regarding questions or concerns.

Contact information for Hudson Gardens’ Education Department is as follows:

Community Programs & Outreach Department  
The Hudson Gardens & Event Center  
6115 South Santa Fe Drive  
Littleton, CO 80120  
Phone: (303) 797-8565 ext. 306 Email: [education@hudsongardens.org](mailto:education@hudsongardens.org)