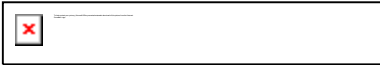


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Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 4:20 PM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

Categories: Green Category

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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 07/08/24 4:20 PM

Meeting Date:	07/09/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Karen Rugg
Organization:	
Address:	122 W GEORGE ST Itasca, IL 60143
Daytime Phone:	(630) 285-0844
Subject:	
Comment:	I wish to make my comments at the meeting

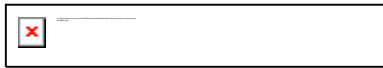
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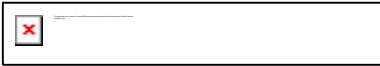
Submitted at 08/08/24 3:00 PM

Meeting Date:	08/08/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Claudia Borowski
Organization:	Darien Environmental Committee
Address:	7929 Knottingham Circle, Apt B DARIEN, IL 60561-4967
Daytime Phone:	(630) 427-1148
Subject:	BeeS are important.....
Comment:	I'm concerned about the declining populations of native bees. The rusty-patched bumble bee has been listed as endangered since 2017 and four species are currently being considered for listing. Each honey bee hive adds thousands of bees who compete with native bees for the already limited supply of nectar and pollen that is available. Increasing beehives on county property increases the threat to native bees. Please protect native bees by keeping the current ordinance requiring five acres of property for a residential beehive.

Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Saturday, August 10, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/10/24 10:43 AM

Meeting Date: 08/13/24

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Larry Larson

Organization:

Address: 1433 Carleton Ave
Naperville, IL 60565

**Daytime
Phone:**

Subject: Vote NO on Beekeeping in Unincorporated DuPage County

Comment:

The Development Committee voted to approve an amendment to the zoning ordinance that allows beekeeping operations on residential properties in unincorporated DuPage County. The only bees permitted for beekeeping operations are non-native European honeybees.

Beekeeping honeybees may adversely affect native bees, including the endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebee, in their habitats, such as our protected forest preserve prairies and undeveloped areas.

We must safeguard native bees from all threats: including honeybees and their diseases and parasites.

Vote NO and do not approve beekeeping in unincorporated DuPage County.

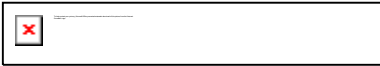
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Submitted at 08/10/24 12:59 PM

Meeting Date:	08/10/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Janice Kingman
Organization:	
Address:	320 Hudson Ave. Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
Daytime Phone:	(630) 654-4534
Subject:	Bee ordinance
Comment:	Please vote NO on the honey bee ordinance.

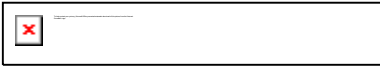
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Submitted at 08/10/24 3:15 PM

Meeting Date:	08/10/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Sara Anschuetz
Organization:	
Address:	566 N Lincoln St Hinsdale, IL 60521-3447
Daytime Phone:	(630) 789-8057
Subject:	beekeeping ordinance
Comment:	<p>Please vote NO on the upcoming beekeeping ordinance allowing beekeeping on residential properties.</p> <p>Along with concern from the Sierra Club, it is bad policy to preferentially provide non native species with food resources and crowd out our own native species.</p> <p>And I do not want to live next door to a beekeeping operation.</p>

Thank you.

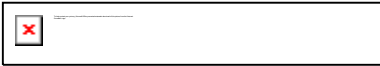
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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/10/24 4:17 PM

Meeting Date: 08/13/24

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Cathy Streett

Organization: Darien Garden Club

Address: 18W152 Willow Ln
Darien, IL 60561-3651

Daytime Phone: (630) 253-2125

Subject: beekeeping ordinance

Comment: I am writing regarding the Development Committee's vote to approve a text amendment to the zoning ordinance that allows beekeeping operations on residential properties. I see that the issue will come before the board on Tuesday and want to let you know that I am against this change.

Honey bees are NOT native and should be considered livestock, their purpose is to pollinate crops. Residential bees compete with our native bees for limited

resources. If you look around your garden or in pollinator gardens and take notice of what species is visiting the blooms you'll notice that many times it is overrun with honey bees not native insects and bees such as bumble bees. I plant specifically for struggling native insects and wildlife in my DuPage Co parcel and have an abundance of honey bees in my garden already, please do add more stress to the struggling insects that require this habitat.

I help educate many folks via Darien Garden Club's outreach programing for all ages. We have an annual pollinator week celebration and oaktober celebration that dispenses information on the native species that need our help as gardeners, homeowners and steward for the land we care for. Many do not understand the difference and importance of native pollinators vs. honey bees. We need to focus our energy on things that will right this sinking eco-ship we live on. MORE honey bees is NOT the right choice.

Here is more info that is helpful if you are not knowledgeable on the subject:

Differences between honey and bumble bees:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKihtly7SVg>

We're Saving the Wrong Bees:

https://youtu.be/l6K8x_8YXlM?si=nb9Q2rqvtMvdevxS

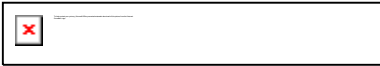
Please vote NO on this new ordinance.

Sincerely,
Cathy Streett

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From: noreply@formstack.com
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To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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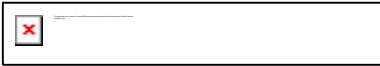
Submitted at 08/10/24 4:59 PM

Meeting Date:	08/10/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Lynda Ley
Organization:	
Address:	1609 Claremont dr Darien, IL 60561
Daytime Phone:	(630) 205-8543
Subject:	Honeybees
Comment:	Hello, I'm writing to ask you to please vote NO on residential European Honeybee keeping. The honey bees are non native, and are foraging for food that our NATIVE bees need. As you know, our native pollinators are in danger. Thank you so much. Lynda Ley

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Submitted at 08/10/24 8:06 PM

Meeting Date: 08/13/24

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Marilyn Schweitzer

Organization:

Address: 710 S Charles
Naperville, IL 60540

Daytime Phone: (630) 961-0885

Subject: Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping

Comment: I support the amendment. My rationale is:
1) The biggest risk on native bees is other human controlled activities such as pesticides, habitat loss, food source loss, and climate change.
2) Those human activities are severely impacting insect populations in general, not just native bees.
3) Honeybees, as one of the very few domesticated insects, act as emissaries between humans and their insect brethren. Were it not for that relationship

and their use in commercial pollination, I suspect people would care not so much about dramatic declines in insect populations. (Monarchs butterflies are similar non-domesticated emissaries.)

4) The Morton Arboretum, Forest Preserves of DuPage County, and other local forest preserves keep honeybee hives and offer classes.

5) While the National Wildlife Society recognizes the potential impact of honeybees on native bees, they also conclude raising them as a hobby or teaching/learning experience is okay. See

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Gardening/Honey-Bees>

6) The proposed amendment is limited to 4-H projects, not general hobbyists or commercial enterprises. This to me is an good example of a teaching/learning experience. The hives must be maintained by a resident of the permitted property. Based on the comments by staff in the Development Committee meeting, it seems the number of potential applicants will be small.

7) The proposed amendment adds better controls on beekeeping for 4-H projects in general. For example, by requiring State of Illinois Department registration, 4-H projects can now be fined for violations such as abandoning hives, illegally transporting bees, or properly maintaining them.

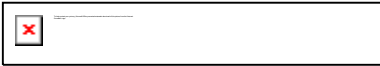
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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/11/24 10:09 AM

Meeting Date:	08/11/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	John Cebula
Organization:	
Address:	606 High Road Glen Ellyn , IL 60137
Daytime Phone:	(630) 640-2721
Subject:	Bee Keeping Proposal
Comment:	I would advise the County Board to vote AGAINST the proposal to increase the number of honey bee hives in DuPage County. Increasing the number of managed hives poses an existential threat to the 90 native bee species found in the county, including the state and federally-listed endangered Rusty-patched Bumble Bee. There is science, including work published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and other organizations, documenting the importance of native bees, the threats posed by the nonnative honey bee to

native bees, and the resulting threats to horticulture and agriculture. Some of the highlights of my own research show:

Honey bees have led to the decline of native bee species, placing some native species on the threatened and endangered red lists of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. ("Decline in Wild Bee Species . . .")

The federally and Illinois endangered Rusty-patched Bumble Bee is found in DuPage County and is just one of DuPage's 90 native native bee species threatened by an increased number of managed hives. ("Rusty-patched Bumble Bee")

Density of honey bee populations increases competition among native bees, putting more pressure on species already in decline ("The Problem with Honey Bees")

Bumble bees and honey bees are not interchangeable as pollinators for some plant species. ("Bumble Bees as Pollinators")

Bumble bees are important pollinators of native plants that honey bees avoid; as such, bumble bees are very important in maintaining native ecosystems [such as the ones found in DuPage's forest preserves and other natural areas] (Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States)

Bumble bees are able to forage and pollinate under cold, rainy, and cloudy conditions--honey bees are not (Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States)[Bumble bees also start earlier in the day than honey bees: Personal observation]

Bumble bees pollinate tomatoes and eggplants (honey bees cannot), as well as peppers, raspberries, blueberries, chives, cucumbers, apples, strawberries, apricots, plums, sunflowers, cherries, peaches, and many other fruits and vegetables (Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States)

Honey bee does not pollinate tomato and eggplant flowers; it does poorly compared to native bees with pumpkins, cherries, blueberries, and cranberries, which are native plants (Bee Basics)

A single blueberry bee pollinates enough blueberry flowers to produce \$20 (2011 dollars) worth of blueberries (Bee Basics)

Native squash bees are the most effective and efficient pollinators of plants such as cucumbers, squash, pumpkin, and zucchini (Bee Basics)

Honey bees are effective pollinators based on the number of visits they make, but they are rarely as effective as native pollinators. ("How Effective Are Honey

Bees . . . ?")

Bumble bees pollinate about 95% of the flowers they visit; honey bees only about 5% (Our Native Bees)

All bees have "pollen baskets" in which they collect pollen, but because bumble bees also use "buzz pollination" (they shake flowers and coat their bodies in pollen), they are more effective pollinators. (Forest Wildlife)

On a per-forager basis, honey bees are less effective pollinators than bumble bees and mason bees, especially with fruit crops [e.g., apples, strawberries, blackberries] ("Catch the Buzz")

Research suggests it takes about 100 honey bees to do the job of one mason bee. ("Honey Bee Vs. Mason Bee")

Pollination in agricultural crops increases significantly with pollinator diversity and abundance; the presence of bumble bees improves honey bee pollination. ("Bumble bee abundance . . . ")

My sources are listed below. Again, I think the DuPage County BOard needs to vote AGAINST increasing the number of honey bee hives in the county.

SOURCES:

"Catch the Buzz--Comparative Pollination Efficacies of Five Bee Species" Bee Culture: The Magazine of American Bee-Keeping, Oct. 4, 2018.

Colla, Sheila, and Leif Richardson and Paul Williams. Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 2011.

Eeraerts, Maxime, and Guy Smagghe and Ivan Meeus. "Bumble Bee Abundance and Richness Improves Honey Pollination Behaviour in Sweet Cherry." Basic and Applied Ecology, March 2020.

Embry, Paige. Our Native Bees. Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2018.

Featherstone, Nicky. "What's the Difference Between Bumblebees and Honey Bees?" Forest Wildlife, June 21, 2022.

Hood, Wm. Michael. "Bumble Bees as Pollinators." Clemson University, College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, [No date].

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "Rusty-patched Bumble Bee." Springfield, IL: Illinois Dept. of

Natural Resources. [No date]

Koch, Jonathan, and James Strange and Paul Williams. Bumble Bees of the Western United States. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2012.

MacInnis, Gail, and Etienne Normandin and Carly D. Ziter. "Decline in Wild Bee Species Richness Associated with Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) Abundance in an Urban Ecosystem." National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information: 2023 Feb. 3. doi: 10.7717/peerj.14699.

McAfee, Alison. "The Problem with Honey Bees." Scientific American Unlimited, Nov. 4, 2020.

Moisset, Beatriz, and Stephen Buchmann. Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 2011.

University of California--Davis. "How Effective Are Honey Bees as Pollinators?" Phys.org, Dec. 6, 2021.

Wetli, Patty. "American Bumble Bee Could Be Next on Endangered Species List, and Honey Bees Could Be Part of the Problem. WWTTW News, Sept. 30, 2021.

Wood, Prudence. "Honey Bee Vs. Mason Bee--Comparison Guide." Bee Professor, Aug. 2, 2022.

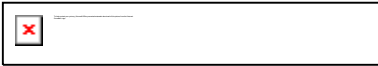
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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/11/24 10:16 AM

Meeting Date:	08/13/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Connie Schmidt
Organization:	River Prairie Group of Sierra Club and resident of DuPage
Address:	3S501 Landon Ave Warrenville, IL 60555
Daytime Phone:	(630) 234-3029
Subject:	Please vote no to a change in permitting for bee hives (Item 12F
Comment:	I am sad that I am out of town and unable to address you in person on the very important issue of bee keeping in unincorporated DuPage County. As a resident and the chair of the River Prairie Group of Sierra Club, I am concerned that healthy native habitats are dwindling and as a result many species are in remission as well. You as County Board members can act in such a way to reduce human interference and therefore protect the very food chain that we rely on with your vote today.

I understand that you are considering changes to the permit requirements for keeping honeybee hives on unincorporated properties in DuPage Co. The current policy of 5 acres for a hobbyist, is appropriate. The reason a change would be a problem is that honeybees are a threat to our native bee population.

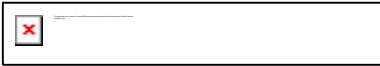
- Honeybees are an introduced species and a managed livestock. They are not endangered, they are tended and cared for by their owners.
- The current zoning is appropriate. It recognizes bees as a farm animal, like chickens.
- Unlike chickens, the 30,000 worker bees per hive, leave their "enclosure" and forage widely. They are capable of foraging two miles from the hive which creates a 12 sq mile forage zone. They are gathering food on public and private land that would otherwise be consumed by native bees.
- The Xerces Society has stated that "One study calculated that over a period of three months a single hive collects as much pollen as could support the development of 100,000 native solitary bees".
- Recent research shows that native bee populations are declining due to loss of available food and disease. The honeybees are known for the spread of diseases and parasites.
- The rusty-patched bumble bee is listed as endangered, and others are under consideration for listing.
- Native bees are effective crop pollinators. For example, bumble bees can buzz pollinate and honeybees cannot. Buzz pollination is required for tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- Our largest agricultural crops here in IL are soybeans and corn, neither are pollinated by bees.
- Bee hives are not allowed on Forest Preserve property except Kline Creek Farm as an educational exception.

I am not against honeybees and in appropriate settings they can be an important feature, however our native bees need your consideration. I suggest you keep the zoning as it is currently stated protecting one specie from overpowering the other. Please vote no on the change in zoning for bee hives (Item 12F),

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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/11/24 7:14 PM

Meeting Date:	08/13/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Keith Meiser
Organization:	Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association
Address:	2906 Wake Island Dr. Joliet, IL 60435
Daytime Phone:	(312) 307-4522
Subject:	Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping.
Comment:	IN FAVOR of the Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b). I am representing DuPage County beekeepers. The argument that competition from honeybees is a cause of decline of Native Bees in DuPage County (or anywhere in North America) is not proven nor is competition by any means the greatest threat to Native Bees. By far, by orders of magnitude, the greatest threat to Native Bees in DuPage County is LOSS OF HABITAT. Without proper habitat for nesting sites and specific floral sources. Native Bees need undisturbed soil and many require

specific species of flowers not available from commercial native plant nurseries. Beekeepers are good stewards of nature and, in my experience, most are very interested in preserving and nurturing Native Bees. Much is made of Rusty Bumble Bees, but there are hundreds of species of less flashy Native Bees, many as small as a gnat, that also need habitat and must burrow for nests within 200 meters at most from their floral source to survive. Little known fact: Bumble Bees almost always nest in abandoned rodent nests. Less nesting sites, less Bumble Bees.

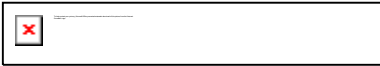
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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/11/24 9:38 PM

Meeting Date: 08/11/24

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Karen Kay

Organization:

Address:

**Daytime
Phone:**

Subject: In favor

Comment:

IN FAVOR of the Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b). I am representing DuPage County beekeepers, as a member of the Will County Beekeepers. The argument that competition from honeybees is a cause of decline of Native Bees in DuPage County (or anywhere in North America) is not proven nor is competition by any means the greatest threat to Native Bees. By far, by orders of magnitude, the greatest threat to Native Bees in DuPage County is LOSS OF HABITAT. Without proper habitat for nesting sites and specific floral sources. Native Bees need undisturbed soil and many require specific species of flowers not available from commercial native plant nurseries. Beekeepers are good stewards of

nature and, in my experience, most are very interested in preserving and nurturing Native Bees. Much is made of Rusty Bumble Bees, but there are hundreds of species of less flashy Native Bees, many as small as a gnat, that also need habitat and must burrow for nests within 200 meters at most from their floral source to survive. Little known fact: Bumble Bees almost always nest in abandoned rodent nests. Less nesting sites, less Bumble Bees.

As a beekeeper in Will County that moved out of Shorewood and to Minooka, partially for the ability to keep bees, I'm extremely concerned with regulation. As a beekeeper, I restrict chemical and pesticide use along with working to plant numerous native plants to provide food and nesting areas for many species of bees. Education, not regulation is the best path forward to protecting all bee species, as well as the natural world we all depend on.

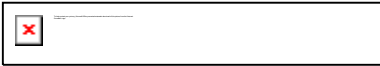
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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/12/24 7:29 AM

Meeting Date:	08/12/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Charleen Vuillaume
Organization:	Darien Garden Club
Address:	7025 Bentley Ave., Darien
Daytime Phone:	
Subject:	
Comment:	

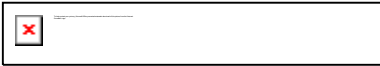
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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/12/24 7:32 AM

Meeting Date:	08/12/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Charleen Vuillaume
Organization:	Darien Garden Club
Address:	7025 Bentley Ave Darien, IL 60561
Daytime Phone:	(630) 699-2733
Subject:	Bee keeping
Comment:	Please vote NO for allowing more honey bees in our county. The native bees need help and honey bees are technically a farm animal. Please vote NO!

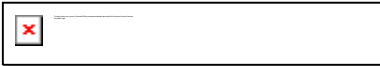
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Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/12/24 8:18 AM

Meeting Date:	08/13/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Richard Benson
Organization:	
Address:	228 N Prairie Batavia, IL 60510
Daytime Phone:	(630) 514-2271
Subject:	Beekeeping square footages restrictions
Comment:	I am in support of changing the ordinance to lessen square footage restrictions on beekeepers..

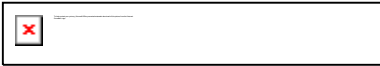
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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/12/24 8:36 AM

Meeting Date:	08/12/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Mary Lou Salato
Organization:	Will County Beekeepers
Address:	18 Salatolane Minooka, IL 60447
Daytime Phone:	(815) 693-6106
Subject:	Beekeeping Ordinance
Comment:	I am in favor of the new proposed Ordinance to reduce the square footage needed for beekeeping.

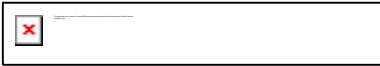
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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/12/24 9:15 AM

Meeting Date:	08/12/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Sherri Benson
Organization:	
Address:	228 N Prairie St Batavia, IL 60510
Daytime Phone:	(630) 878-2023
Subject:	Beekeeping square footage restrictions
Comment:	I am in support of changing the ordinance to lessen the square footage restrictions on beekeeping.

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Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment

Submitted at 08/12/24 9:43 AM

Meeting Date:	08/13/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Katharine Hart
Organization:	Fox Valley Beekeepers
Address:	28w016 Timber Ln West Chicago, IL 60185
Daytime Phone:	(331) 428-9771
Subject:	Beekeeping square footage proposal
Comment:	Greetings, I am voicing that I am IN FAVOR of changing the ordinance to lessen square footage restrictions on beekeepers. Thank you!

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Blakely, Heidi

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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/12/24 11:25 AM

Meeting Date:	08/13/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Wendy Vernon
Organization:	
Address:	819 Thunderbird Trl Carol Stream, IL 60188
Daytime Phone:	(630) 641-9217
Subject:	Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Allowing Beekeeping Operations on Residential Properties
Comment:	I strongly believe that DuPage County should not amend the current zoning ordinance to increase the number of honey bee hives allowed on residential properties, as this may negatively impact our native bee populations. Honey bees are not native to North America and are not endangered, while some of our over 3,600 native bee species are at serious risk of extinction. For example, 28 percent of bumble bee species are considered threatened, including the Rusty-patched bumblebee, which is native to DuPage County.

Introducing additional honey bee hives could mean adding 15,000 to 50,000 more bees per hive, putting further strain on areas that may already lack sufficient flowering plants. Moreover, honey bees can transmit diseases to native bees, further threatening their populations.

I also believe it's important to educate the public in DuPage County about the potential impact of raising honey bee hives. While producing honey may benefit the beekeeper, it does not necessarily help the overall bee population. A more effective way to support bees is by planting native plants. Native plants are easy to grow, beautiful, and immediately attract native bees to your yard. I have planted native species in my yard and have a large number of native bees, which are a joy to watch. Most native bees are docile, many are stingless, and they are generally reluctant to sting unless they feel threatened.

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Blakely, Heidi

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Formstack Submission For: [PublicComment](#)

Submitted at 08/12/24 1:24 PM

Meeting Date:	08/12/24
Meeting:	DuPage County Board
Name:	Richard Whitney
Organization:	Retired
Address:	1S775 Conifer Ct Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Daytime Phone:	(630) 940-5279
Subject:	Bee Keeping Ordinance
Comment:	Please vote NO on the change to the Bee Keeping Ordinance. I live in unincorporated DuPage County and see honeybees in my native-plant garden. Honeybees compete with bees that are native to DuPage County. The population of native bees is drastically declining. Many people do not know this. Most people are aware of the 85% decline in songbird population. Native bee populations are in similar decline. It does not make sense to pass an ordinance that would encourage an increase in honeybees.