The Process for Urban Chickens

If you are interested in obtaining a permit for urban chickens in Buffalo, follow the simple checklist below:

1. Obtain a complete copy of the urban chicken ordinance and read it thoroughly.
2. Do your own research on raising urban chickens.
3. Apply for permit and pay the $25.00 fee
4. Construct and place a coop that meets all code requirements
5. Schedule an inspection with City Hall
6. Wait for approval in the mail
7. Place chickens on property

It is important to note that it is possible that neighborhood covenant and restrictions may prohibit this activity. You are encouraged to check with your subdivision or Homeowner’s Association before applying for a permit from the City. The City cannot enforce homeowner association rules.
Urban Chicken Ordinance:

The City of Buffalo allows residents to keep chickens in Single Family districts following issuance of a permit from City Hall.

Where permitted:

The keeping of domestic chickens, except roosters, is permitted in single family residential properties lying within residential zoned districts as shown in the City of Buffalo official Zoning map.

Applying for an Urban Chicken Permit:

The urban chicken ordinance allows Buffalo residents to keep chickens in their backyard upon applying and receiving a permit. In order to receive a permit the following criteria must be met.

- You must be in good standing with any amounts owed to the city and the property must not be in violation of any city ordinances.
- The tract of land must be a single family dwelling occupied by the permittee unless written permission is given by the property owner.
- You may have a maximum of six (6) female chickens (hens).
- Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. They must be secured within an enclosure during non-daylight hours. Chickens are not allowed in the front yard at any time.
- Enclosure must be a minimum area of four square feet per bird, enclosed on all sides. Materials used in construction must be uniform and constructed in a good workmanlike manner.
- Enclosures must be 10 feet from the property line, 15 feet from the main structure, and 25 feet from any neighboring principal structure.
- Chickens must be kept in a clean environment and cared for.
- If in violation of any portion of the Code at any time may be grounds for your permit to be revoked.

What you need to know:

It is the responsibility of the owner to rid all dropping and body excretions in a timely fashion if not used as a fertilizer. The City is not liable for the injury or death of the chickens, as it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure the coop and chicken feed are designed to prevent entry of any sort of animal.

Dangers of Floodwaters

Permits will cost $25.00 and be valid for (1) one year from the date of issuance. Fees will not be refunded if chickens are removed from the premises in the middle of the year. Or if the applicant or applicants tract of land becomes non compliant with all city codes.