

Be a Bear Smart HOA

Black bears have an extraordinary sense of smell and can be attracted to many things in residential communities. Having bears around increases both the risk of damage to property and the odds of something unfortunate happening. Residents and Homeowner's Associations can take proactive measures in keeping both their neighbors and bears safe.

- Encourage your neighbors to follow Bear Smart practices. Make homebuyers new to the neighborhood aware of bear issues. Establish a neighborhood phone or email tree to notify residents about bear activity and the need to remove attractants.
- Most importantly, talk to your HOA about establishing Bear Smart bylaws relating to trash, bird feeders and other bear attractants - and establish a mechanism requiring compliance! Establish an internal bear aware team to educate residents on bear issues and enforce Bear Smart regulations.
- Consider eliminating curbside trash collection in favor of centrally-located bear-resistant dumpsters. Encourage residents to promptly report bear and trash incidents to Central Dispatch at 970-385-2900.
- Discourage bears from your property by removing all attractants. Never leave food or beverages in vehicles. Keep garage doors and other bear-accessible windows and doors tightly closed and locked. Make Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-247-0855 aware of bears accessing vehicles or structures.
- Establish centralized food-growing areas that can be bear-proofed to replace individual plots.
- Be aware that water features attract bears.
- Use bear deterrents such as unwelcome mats or electric fencing to discourage bears from your property, especially when you are away for extended periods.
- Immediately make Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-247-0855 aware of potentially dangerous, aggressive or food-conditioned bears. After hours, call 911.
- If a bear enters your home or garage, make sure you don't block the way it came in. Never trap or corner a bear. Give the bear other exits and space by opening other doors or windows. Call Colorado Parks and Wildlife immediately at 970-247-0855, or 911.

*Learn more about best practices in being
Bear Smart at: www.bearsmartdurango.org*

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