

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. Homeowner's Associations and Metro Districts can often do the best job in keeping both residents and wildlife safe in their communities by taking proactive measures.

- Encourage all residents to follow Bear Smart practices. Make homebuyers new to the neighborhood aware of bears and best practices in mitigating human-bear conflict.
- Establish a neighborhood phone or email tree to notify residents about bear activity and the need to remove attractants and include notices in centralized locales, newsletters or utility bills.
- Most importantly, consider establishing Bear Smart bylaws relating to trash, bird feeders and other bear attractants - and establish a mechanism requiring compliance! Consider establishing an internal bear aware team to educate residents on bear issues and/or enforce community wildlife-related regulations.
- Consider eliminating curbside trash collection altogether in favor of centrally-located, all-metal bear-proof dumpsters or enclosures that can be locked and monitored.
- Encourage residents to promptly report bear and trash incidents to Central Dispatch at 385-2900.
- Someone in the community needs to make Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 247-0855 aware of bears accessing vehicles or structures, acting in an aggressive manner or causing property damage. After hours, call 911- ***emergencies only***.
- Consider establishing centralized food-growing or composting areas that can be bear-proofed.
- Remind residents to discourage bears from their properties and to remove all attractants, to never leave food, beverages, pet food or trash in vehicles and to keep garage doors and other bear-accessible windows and doors tightly closed and locked.
- For more information, including bear deterrents such as unwelcome mats or electric fencing to discourage bears from properties, visit our website.

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

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