

LEARN TO BE BEAR SMART

DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year an average of **35 bears** are destroyed in Prince George when they become used to eating unnatural food sources like garbage and fruit from gardens.
- Often these bears cannot be successfully relocated and must be destroyed for public safety.
- Hibernation can also be delayed if garbage or other unnatural food sources are available.



Black bears in Prince George.

Source: Northern Bear Awareness Society

REGULATIONS AND FINES



You can use a flat hook tie-down strap rated at 1,000 lbs to secure a cart, but it's less effective than a locked garage or shed.

- **SET YOUR GARBAGE CART** at the curb no earlier than 4:00am on collection day and remove it no later than 7:00pm that day.
- **LOCK YOUR GARBAGE CART** and other items that may attract bears in an enclosed and locked structure like a garage or shed.
- **REMOVE ITEMS** that may attract bears from your property such as fruit, bird feeders from spring to fall, and BBQ grease.

The B.C. Conservation Officer Service can also issue tickets through the Provincial Wildlife Protection Act for attracting or intentionally feeding wildlife with fines **up to \$340**.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR

- To report a bear accessing garbage/fruit or an injured bear, phone the 24-hour B.C. Conservation Officer hotline at **1-877-952-RAPP (7277)**.

REPORT A BYLAW VIOLATION

- Contact the City by phone at **311** or by email at **311@princegeorge.ca**.

For more information on how to be Bear Smart visit:

<https://princegeorge.ca/wildlife>



BEARS IN PRINCE GEORGE

Prince George is prime habitat for bears since the city is situated along two major rivers and surrounded by forests. Bears spend much of their time searching for food, especially in the spring - when they emerge from hibernation - and in the fall when they can consume up to 25,000 calories a day.

Unfortunately, more bears are destroyed in Prince George than any other community in British Columbia given the easy access to unnatural food sources like garbage or fruit. If these unnatural food sources are not carefully managed, another bear may move into the area once a bear is destroyed. You can prevent this and help your community stay safe by following the regulations.

For Bear Smart programs and tips, visit: <https://www.northernbearawareness.com/>

BEAR SMART COMMUNITY

Prince George is working to become a provincially-designated Bear Smart Community. We've partnered with the Province of B.C. (Conservation Officer Service and Omineca Fish & Wildlife), the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, and the Northern Bear Awareness Society to reduce human-bear conflicts. Some of the things we're doing include:

- Adding more bear-resistant garbage carts in parks in addition to the residential pilot project in the Hart.
- Expanding Bear Smart education.
- Implementing strategies for Bear Smart garbage management.



STAY SAFE IN BEAR COUNTRY

- Make noises and speak loudly when hiking or biking to alert bears in the area.
- Travel in a group whenever possible.
- Use officially marked trails and only hike or bike during daylight hours.
- Keep pets on leashes at all times, even in off-leash areas if they are not under control.
- If you meet a bear unexpectedly, maintain a safe distance especially with a mother bear and her cubs. Stop, remain calm, and do not face away, scream, or run. Slowly back away and leave the area. Carry bear spray and know how to use it.