

Welcome to Bear Country

The North Shore Black Bear Society is here to support the coexistence of people and wildlife



Welcome to the North Shore, a diverse ecosystem rich with wildlife. We share the North Shore with a variety of species, large and small. One of the largest animals you may encounter across all 3 municipalities is the black bear. Black bears are the only bear species that call the North Shore's dense, vast forests home. Bears must travel great distances in search of natural foods in order to survive, and often have no choice but to travel through our neighbourhoods. Our responsibility as residents of bear country is to make sure we do not invite bears to stay in the community. If bears find easily accessible food sources close to our homes, they will keep returning. Relocation is not an option for most bears, and all too often, a fed bear becomes a dead bear.

With a few simple actions, we can dramatically reduce human-bear conflict across the North Shore. Here are some of the most frequently reported bear attractants and some preventative practises:

- **Garbage and organics:** Keep your garbage in a secure location. Lockable carts are bear resistant, *not* bear proof. Keep your organic carts clean by wrapping organics in newspaper, and ideally, freeze all odorous food scraps. Clean carts regularly with a water and vinegar solution. **Never** put your garbage or organics carts at curbside until the very morning of collection, **as per bylaw in the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver.**
- **Bird food:** Bird seed and suet are a great source of calories for a bear. Take bird feeders down during bear season, March-December, or feed very small quantities when you are home to enjoy the birds.
- **Recycling:** Bears have a keen sense of smell and are attracted to unwashed recycling. Wash milk jugs, food containers, cans and jars, and rinse beverage bottles and cans. Store all recyclables in a secure area until the morning of collection. For more information, visit recyclebc.ca.
- **Pet food:** Pets should be fed inside. Excess pet food should be stored inside or in a secure area.
- **Garage doors:** Bears may enter an open garage in search of food. Keep garage doors closed at all times, unless you are in the immediate area.
- **Other attractants**, such as beehives and backyard chickens, may require a permit, inspection and electric fencing. Visit your municipal website for further information.

EVERY YEAR BEARS ARE KILLED FOR ACCESSING FOOD IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS.
FEEDING BEARS, EVEN UNINTENTIONALLY, IS AGAINST THE LAW.



Bears can be active year-round on the North Shore, especially if they have access to unnatural food sources. Be prepared to see a bear on the trails or on your property and:

- Use your voice to alert wildlife of human presence when travelling on trails between houses. Be louder when travelling by creeks and rivers and on corners and narrow trails. This allows bears to climb to the safety of a tree or hide until you have passed.
- If you encounter a bear that has not noticed you, quietly and slowly retreat backwards and change your route.
- If you encounter a bear: stay calm, speak calmly to the bear and slowly back away.
- For the safety of people, pets and wildlife, keep your dogs on-leash, especially in the forest.
- If a bear is spending time on your property, remove any food sources.
- Bears remember where they find food rewards and may return for a few days after you have secured any attractants. From the safety of an open window or deck, give the bear a negative experience on your property by making loud noises (shouting, banging pots and pans) and by shining a flashlight on them at night.

Visit northshorebears.com, email nsbbsociety@gmail.com or phone 604 317 4911

Thank you for helping us to help people and bears!