

# WE LIVE IN BEAR COUNTRY

Bears are becoming an increasingly common sight in Front Royal. Black bears can coexist with humans if we take the simple steps to reduce the things that attract them to our community.

## **DON'T ATTRACT BEARS**

- The Town can retrofit your Town issued garbage can to make them more bear resistant
- Place garbage and recycling curbside the morning of pickup
- Keep garbage cans clean and deodorize them with bleach or ammonia
- Don't leave pet food outside
- Harvest fruit off trees as soon as it is ripe
- Do not feed birds seed between November and March
- Keep barbecue grills clean

If you encounter an aggressive bear, please contact the Town's Police Department at **(540) 635-2111**



# COMMONWEALTH INFORMATION

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has established guidelines that promote public safety, protect property, and conserve black bear populations. Whenever possible VDGIF's approach to manage bears is to encourage the coexistence of bears and humans. Information and videos about living with urban black bears can be found at their website.



**VIRGINIA DEPT OF  
GAME & INLAND FISHERIES**  
(855) 571-9003

[DGIF.VIRGINIA.GOV/HUNTING/  
URBAN-ARCHERY-SEASON/](http://DGIF.VIRGINIA.GOV/HUNTING/URBAN-ARCHERY-SEASON/)



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# URBAN BLACK BEARS

## *A Guide to Living with Black Bears in the Town of Front Royal*



[FRONTROYALVA.COM](http://FRONTROYALVA.COM)

# URBAN BLACK BEARS IN FRONT ROYAL



Black bears are becoming an increasingly common sight in Front Royal. As the Town is located adjacent to the National Park and the Shenandoah River, the natural setting that attracts residents and visitors to Front Royal is a perfect habitat for the North American Black Bear.

Black bears are highly adaptable and intelligent animals. Though typically active at dawn, bears can be active at any time of the day. Bears have a home range that can vary from 1 square mile to 300 square miles depending upon their food source. In their natural habitat, bears will feed on plants, fruit, terrestrial insects, small mammals and amphibians, and dead animals. Bears are omnivorous and opportunistic feeders, but are typically not active predators.

Depending upon the availability of natural foods, bears will seek food in urban settings like the

Town. Low or late availability of berries or nuts will cause bears to seek alternative food source locations. Bears will typically seek alternative food sources in an urban setting: bird feeders; pet food bins; and garbage cans. The best way to prevent bears from visiting your property is to remove all outdoor food sources.

Bears are attracted to the odor from garbage. Double bag your garbage and secure your can when you are aware of the presence of bears. Routine cleaning of your garbage can with bleach or ammonia will reduce the odor.

The Town can retrofit your Town issued garbage can to make them more bear resistant. This process involves the installation of two sets of chains to lock the lid to the body of the container. When used, the chains will limit access to the bags contained in the can. Please regularly check the

nuts securing the eye bolts to your garbage can to make sure that they are tight. If the chains need repair, please let us know. To request retrofitting of your garbage can or to report maintenance issues, please contact the **Department of Public Works at (540) 635-7819**.

Typically, bears are skittish of humans and will run away when you turn on lights or make noise. Do not approach a bear; make noise to cause it to leave. If the bear remains, please contact the Police. If a bear has regularly obtained food from the same location, other harassment techniques may be needed.

If you report a bear incident to the Police Department, the Town will determine if a threat is posed by the bear. If there is a threat, a Police Officer will investigate and attempt to coerce the bear to move from your property. Please contact the **Town Police at (540) 635-2111**

