COS Bear Smart Taskforce

Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs Bear Smart Taskforce Members

- City of Colorado Springs Neighborhood Services/Code Enforcement
- City of Colorado Springs Staff
- El Paso County Staff
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Concerned Citizens
- Broadmoor
- Old Broadmoor Neighborhood Association
- Apartment Association of the Pikes Peak Region
- Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO)
- El Paso County Community Services
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Mission

- Reduce human/bear conflict by restricting access to waste, foster a better understanding of black bears for citizens, and significantly reduce the number of bears euthanized in Colorado Springs due to human/bear interaction.

Photo: Steve Uffman, BearWise

Goals

- Increase public safety
- Reduce property damage
- Provide public education & awareness
- Seek funding for grants, education and marketing
- Reduce euthanasia of black bears in El Paso County
- Reduce waste pollution

Strategies for humans and bears to coexist

- Activate PLAN COS (Colorado Springs Comprehensive plan) and become stewards of our environment
- Interface wildlife and urban boundaries
- Modify waste habits to reduce human/bear conflicts

Bear resistant waste container at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Public Education Action in 2018

- Distribute educational materials via newspapers, magazines, handouts, libraries, HOA's & associations
- Host interactive booths at community events
- Utilize CPW bear aware volunteers
- Provide articles and photos for traditional news articles
- Message on social media sites and blogs

Continued Public Education

- Volunteers post BEAR AWARE signs in neighborhoods with significant bear activity
- Citizens may request signs through blog site
- springsbeartaskforce.blogspot.com

Why take action?

- Excessive waste leads to high bear activity
- Bears become habituated
- CPW study to reduce conflict
- Reducing conflict requires ALL residents and businesses to participate

5-Year-Old Girl Attacked, Dragged By Black Bear In Colorado

GRAND JUNCTION, CO -- A 5-year-old girl is recovering Sunday after she was attacked and dragged by a black bear in Grand Junction. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials said the incident happened overnight in East Orchard Mesa, above the Colorado River

Patch.com

May 13, 2018

Waste Containment Service

Springs Waste

Cart rent $5/month or $60/year

Bestway

1x fee of $40 dumpster bar/lids $300

Purchase Bear resistant cart -$245

Ace Hardware

Toter Bear tough 96 gal Cart $229

- Waste haulers can provide bear resistant containers for sale or a small monthly fee
- Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee approved products
- Competitive market will drive change

Waste Containment Options

- Residents may keep trash in suitable enclosure until day of pickup
- Residents may freeze waste until trash day
- Residents may rinse trash containers to remove attractants.

Ordinance Components

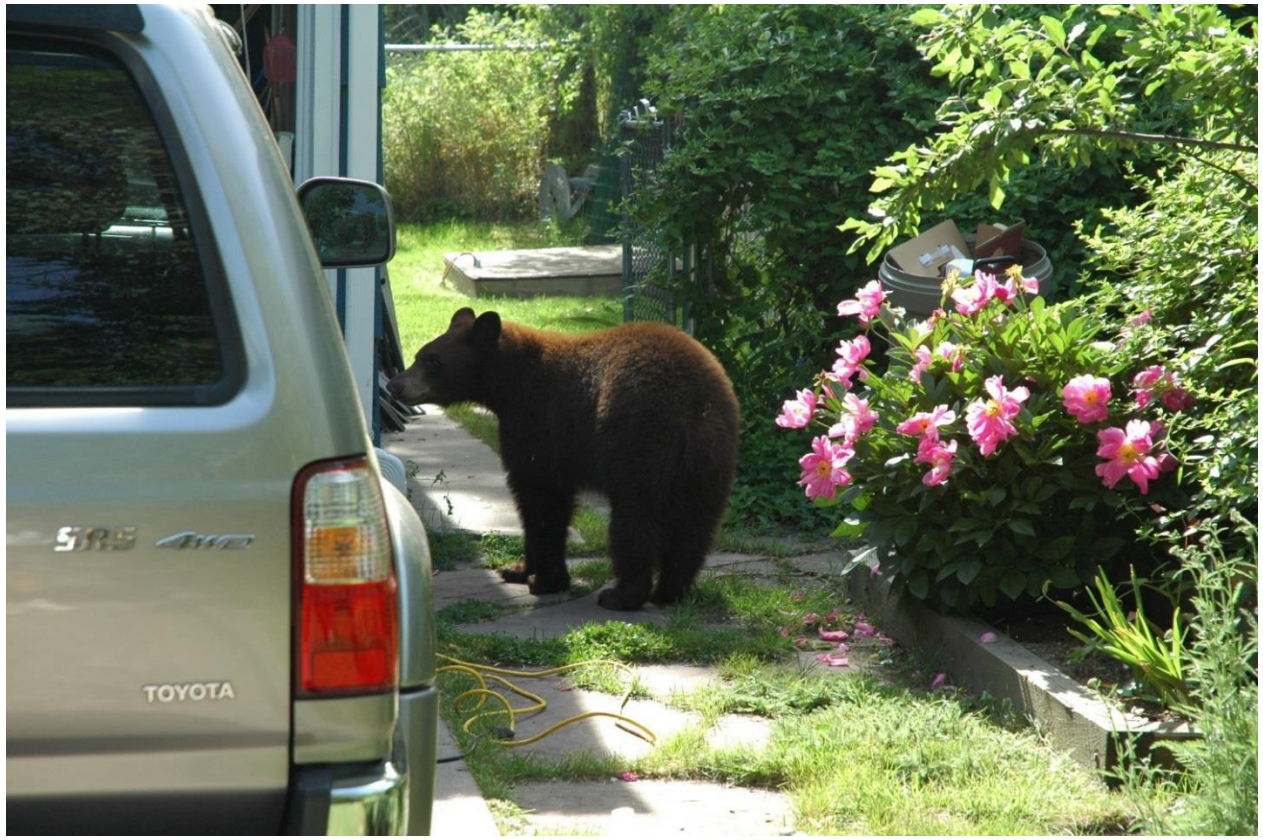
- Ordinance enforced west of I-25
- Waste secured in bear resistant container

or

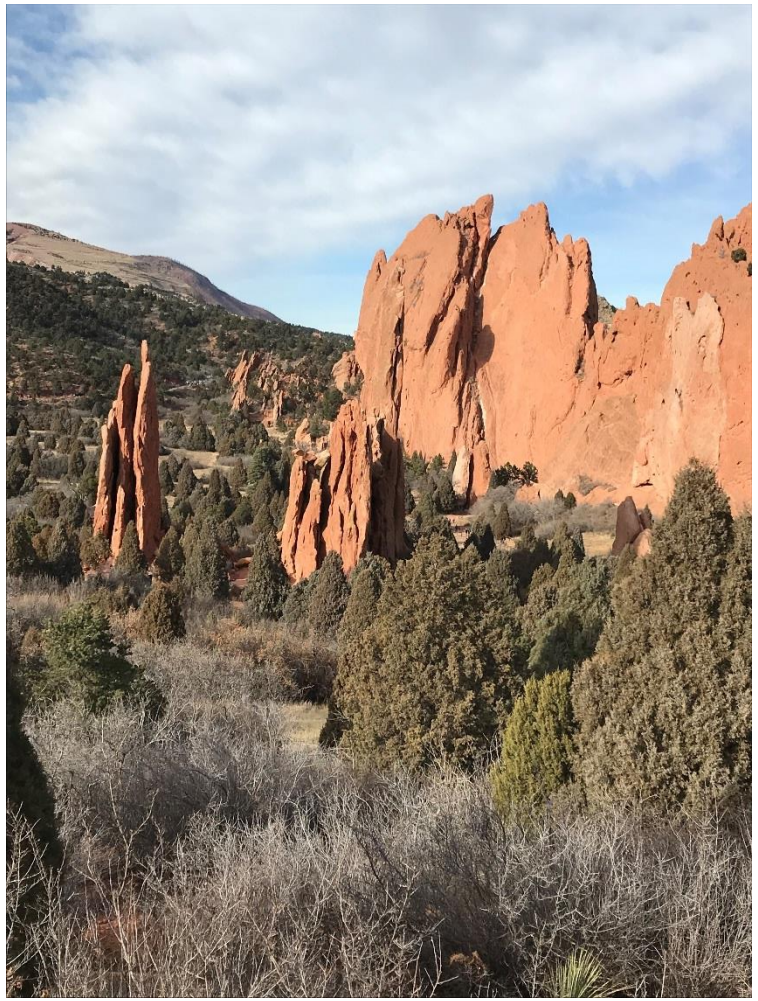
- Waste secured in suitable enclosure until 5:00 a.m. on trash pickup day
- For commercial establishments, waste secured in bear resistant container or secured dumpster enclosure
- Ordinance enforced by Code Enforcement on complaint basis

Manitou Springs

- Bear ordinance enacted January 1, 2018
- Enforced by Code Enforcement
- 106 Calls made to Code Enforcement
- 95 warnings issued
- Six fees assessed; average $140.00
- Response to complaints is approximately 10% of annual workload



Colorado Springs
Gateway to the Rocky Mountains

- Colorado Springs is the Gateway to the Rocky Mountains, and its natural beauty, nature and wildlife must be preserved. As well, we must protect our residents, tourists, and visitors. With strategic effort and planning, we can protect people and wildlife

#cosbearsmart