

Waste Disposal in Colorado Springs Bear Management Area

August, 2019

What is the proposed ordinance and who would be impacted?

The ordinance that would regulate how waste that attracts bears can be stored at businesses and residences in the bear management area west of I-25. Waste that will attract bears must be kept secure until at least 5 am on day of trash pickup. Composting is allowed.

Why is this ordinance necessary?

Unfortunately, bears have become increasingly dependent on our trash as a reliable food source and this often leads to aggressive bear behavior and a potential death sentence for the bears. In order to reduce human/bear conflict and keep both people and bears safe, we need reduce bear access to waste. 30 habituated trash-seeking bears were euthanized in El Paso and Teller Counties in 2017. In 2018, 15 bear cubs were orphaned by adult bears being euthanized or hit by cars. There have already been 300 calls regarding bears in the Colorado Springs area since April.



Will residents and businesses be required to buy bear resistant trash cans?

No, buying a bear resistant cart/can is one option, but there are other acceptable ways to properly manage waste. Options include:

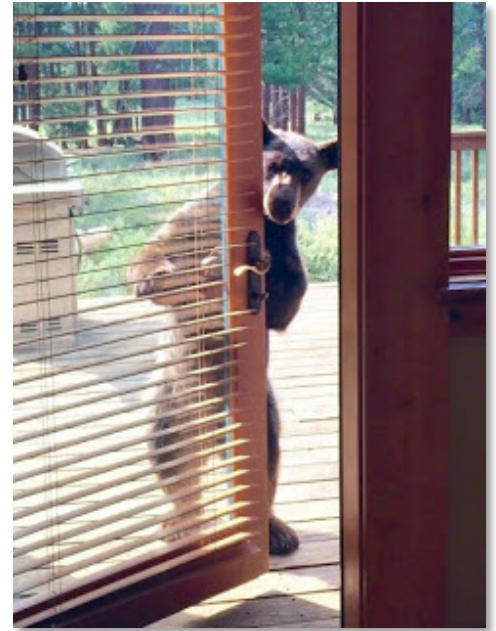
1. Bear attractant waste can be contained in a garage or wildlife secured enclosure.
2. Food scraps can be frozen and disposed of day of waste pick up.
3. IGBC Certified Bear Resistant trash cart can be provided by trash hauler
4. Residents can purchase their own IGBC Certified Trash cart. See the full list of certified products at: <http://igbconline.org/certified-products-list/>

Bears have never gotten into my trash, so why is this necessary?

The only effective way to address this is as a community. If one neighbor secures waste and another doesn't, the bears will simply find the unsecured trash.

Is this being done in other Colorado cities?

Yes, many Colorado communities including Manitou Springs, Steamboat Springs, Durango, Boulder, and others, already have similar ordinances in place. A study in Durango showed that human/bear conflict can be reduced by 50% if bear resistant carts are used and bear attractant waste is managed properly.



When does this ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance effective date is March 1, 2020.

What happens if someone doesn't follow the ordinance?

Property owners may be fined for any violations. Fees include: \$100/first offense; \$250/second offense; \$500/third offense.

What waste attracts bears?

Bear attractant waste includes:

- All human food
- Unrinsed food containers
- Pet food and livestock feed
- Cooking oils
- Fuel for stoves & lanterns
- Unopened canned beverages
- Cosmetics, insect repellents, lotions, toothpaste
- Bird seed & feeders, including hummingbird feeders
- Uncleaned BBQ grills

Who is on the Bear Smart Task Force?

The Colorado Springs Bear Smart Task Force is made up of representatives from Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, City of Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO), as well as many neighbors and volunteers.

Where can I get more information?

Colorado Springs Bear Smart Task Force: <https://springsbeartaskforce.blogspot.com>

City of Colorado Springs: <https://coloradosprings.gov/bears>

Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeWildBears.aspx>