

Bears Live In YOUR Neighborhood!

In North Georgia, black bears often are sighted in neighborhoods such as yours. Please be a good neighbor and follow these steps:

- NEVER feed bears. One person feeding bears intentionally or unintentionally can create a problem bear that may affect the entire neighborhood.
- Store garbage in bear-proof containers OR containers in secure areas such as a garage, basement, or shed. Be sure to bag trash so there are fewer odors.
- Put garbage out the day of disposal, not the night before.
- Discontinue feeding birds between April and November.
- Take pet food indoors at night.
- Clean and store grills when not in use.
- If necessary, install electric fences around beehives, gardens, or compost piles.

Black bears symbolize the wild qualities of the North Georgia Mountains. Those same qualities are why many people live in the North Georgia. As more people move into bear areas (and *vice versa*), these wild creatures become accustomed to people and houses and will ignore their traditional diet (berries, insects, grasses, and meat) to obtain easy-to-get non-natural foods such as garbage, pet food, and birdseed. In time, bears will learn to associate these non-natural foods with people, losing their natural fear of humans and leading to a potentially dangerous situation. Keep the “WILD” in wildlife by NOT feeding bears and following the listed steps.

Bear Sightings

If you see a bear, there is no need to panic. Most bears are simply moving through neighborhoods to find food. If no food is found, it will simply move on. If you are outside and see a bear, make sure the bear is aware of your presence by yelling or making noises—this should frighten the animal and encourage it to leave. If you encounter an aggressive or non-yielding bear, notify authorities immediately.



A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR
www.georgiawildlife.com



For more information, visit the Wildlife Resources Division website at www.georgiawildlife.com or call the WRD Game Management office at (770) 535-5700.