

Keeping People Safe and Black Bears Wild



Secure Trash



Keep Black Bears in the Wild



Remove Bird Feeders Seasonally

Conflicts with Connecticut's black bears may arise when bears make a habit of foraging in areas where human-provided food is readily available. Solutions exist to avoid these problematic encounters, as proven by programs which focus on attractant removal and public education.

Hunting Black Bears Won't Reduce Interactions and is Unsafe

- A bear killed far away in the woods is unlikely the same bear in your neighborhood.
- Hunting is not safe near residential areas where most interactions occur.
- Studies show that hunting does not reduce human-bear interactions. Conflicts decline when food attractants are removed.
- It is counterproductive to kill bears exhibiting normal behaviors in their natural habitat (i.e., eating native foods and teaching their cubs to do the same).
- CT law already allows qualified state agents to capture or kill a bear when there is a public health or safety threat.
- Hunting will lead to more orphaned cubs, which are unlikely to survive on their own. State officials have not allowed CT wildlife rehabilitation facilities to take in orphaned bear cubs even though some are equipped to raise them properly for release back to the wild.

Proven Strategies to Keep Black Bears Wild and People Safe Depend on Removing Food Attractants

- Never intentionally feed bears. Remove bird feeders from March through November. Bird baths, native flowering plants and nesting boxes are alternative ways to attract birds without enticing bears.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can and/or store your trash cans in a garage or shed until the morning of pick-up.
- Don't leave unsecured food attractants such as garbage, pet food and greasy grills in screened areas in or around your home.
- Make bears feel unwelcome around your home by making loud noises with a whistle, air horn, hand-clapping or yelling until they leave. A negative experience (aversive conditioning) plus no food teaches bears to avoid that area.
- Protect attractants, such as bee hives and chicken coops, with electric barriers. Keep pets in enclosed areas.
- If you do see a bear from afar, enjoy the moment! Never approach a bear, not even to get a photo.
- If a bear is acting aggressively, don't run; make yourself tall and large, and back away slowly.
- Keep a whistle or bear spray on hand if you live or hike in bear territory. When hiking, keep dogs on a leash.

More info at ctbears.org

The CT Coalition to Protect Bears is dedicated to ongoing educational outreach and legislative advocacy. Our goal is to promote proven, non-lethal strategies that allow people and Connecticut's native black bears to co-exist peacefully. Members include:

