

CITY OF BOULDER & COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
**BLACK BEAR EDUCATION AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM  
2012 FINAL REPORT**



# **Bear Education and Enforcement Pilot Program Final Report May 2013**

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# I. Background

The City of Boulder has a history of black bears foraging on trash, fruit trees, bird feeders, pet food, and other unintentional attractants in the urban area. These food sources encourage bears to be in town and increase the risk of conflict with humans. Though there are many bear attractants in urban areas, trash is the primary attractant (representing 75 percent of sightings with known attractants in 2011), and the most harmful to the animals. Trash that is easily accessible invites bears to forage in town as opposed to adjacent natural areas. Trash consumption by bears results in cellophane, foil, and other non-digestible materials being ingested by bears with food waste. Ingesting these materials is harmful to bears. In addition, bears that are repeatedly a nuisance, or pose a direct threat to public safety in the city, are destroyed. Since 2003, seven bears have been destroyed in the City of Boulder. Securing trash helps protect the overall health and lives of bears.

State law and city code require securing trash in a way that is accessible to bears. However, the existence of these regulations has not prevented bears from regularly accessing trash.

## A. City of Boulder Urban Wildlife Management Plan Black Bear Component

On October 18, 2011, council accepted the Black Bear and Mountain Lion Component of the Urban Wildlife Management Plan (UWMP) which identifies an adaptive management approach to reducing the accessibility of trash to bears in Boulder (to view the plan visit: [www.boulderwildlifeplan.net](http://www.boulderwildlifeplan.net)). The approach includes a three-year monitoring and evaluation cycle and involves the following three steps:

Step 1: Monitor the issue and build community education and awareness (2012 & 2013)

Step 2: Evaluate results and success (2014)

Step 3: Make changes to approach based on evaluation results (2014)

Specific UWMP implementation actions identified for 2012 included:

- Increase outreach and education to residents about living with bears and the availability and benefit of bear-resistant trash containers,
- Increase staff monitoring of bear activity related to trash, and
- Continue to target education and outreach with use of bear volunteers in areas where bear activity is high.

## **B. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Education and Enforcement Program**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has experience in other parts of the state with education and enforcement programs. In 2009 CPW instituted a non-scientific approach to human-bear conflict through education and law enforcement in Perry Park, Douglas County. Perry Park is a sub-division of approximately 700 homes at the base of the foothills five miles west of Larkspur. In 2008 there were several bear home intrusions and approximately 200 reports of bear activity ranging from sightings to property damage. Wildlife officers and three volunteers from the Perry Park community attempted to contact every homeowner in the community. Approximately three quarters of the community was contacted. During the education effort residents were warned that law enforcement action could be taken if efforts to reduce attractants were not implemented. Wildlife officers found improved compliance with trash storage regulations, and considerably fewer resident calls for bears in trash.

## **II. Bear Education and Enforcement Pilot Program**

### **A. Introduction**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and City of Boulder education efforts have been utilized in Boulder for years to educate homeowners about how to minimize human-bear conflicts. Based on the historic high concentration of bears in trash in the western urban interface between Baseline and Arapahoe roads, and success with a focused bear-trash conflict program in Douglas County, CPW approached the city with a pilot proposal to reduce bear-trash conflicts through a Bear Education and Enforcement Program (BEEP).

In 2012 the City of Boulder partnered with CPW to conduct an Education and Enforcement program. The program consists of increasing education on bear activity, behavior and trash regulations, followed by increased enforcement of trash ordinances. The question being asked through the program is: *Is education coupled with enforcement of existing trash ordinance an effective strategy to improve the way trash is stored, making it less accessible to bears?* The program also explores the trash storage regulation compliance, and potential educational needs of owner verse renter occupied dwellings.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this partnership program is to explore the effectiveness of education, followed by law enforcement of an existing trash ordinance, in improving the way trash is stored in western Boulder, making it less accessible to bears.

### **Guiding Questions**

There are five guiding questions the program seeks to address:

- 1. Does education alone change trash storage behavior?**
- 2. Does education followed by law enforcement change trash storage behavior?**

3. **Is there a significant difference in the proportion of trash violations at rental versus owner occupied dwelling units?**
4. **If education and law enforcement do positively impact behavior, is the change significant enough to merit continuing with the approach as the primary strategy to address the problem of trash as an attractant to bears?**
5. **Do current trash regulations adequately address the availability of trash to bears?**

### **Program Objectives**

The above questions guided the following program objectives:

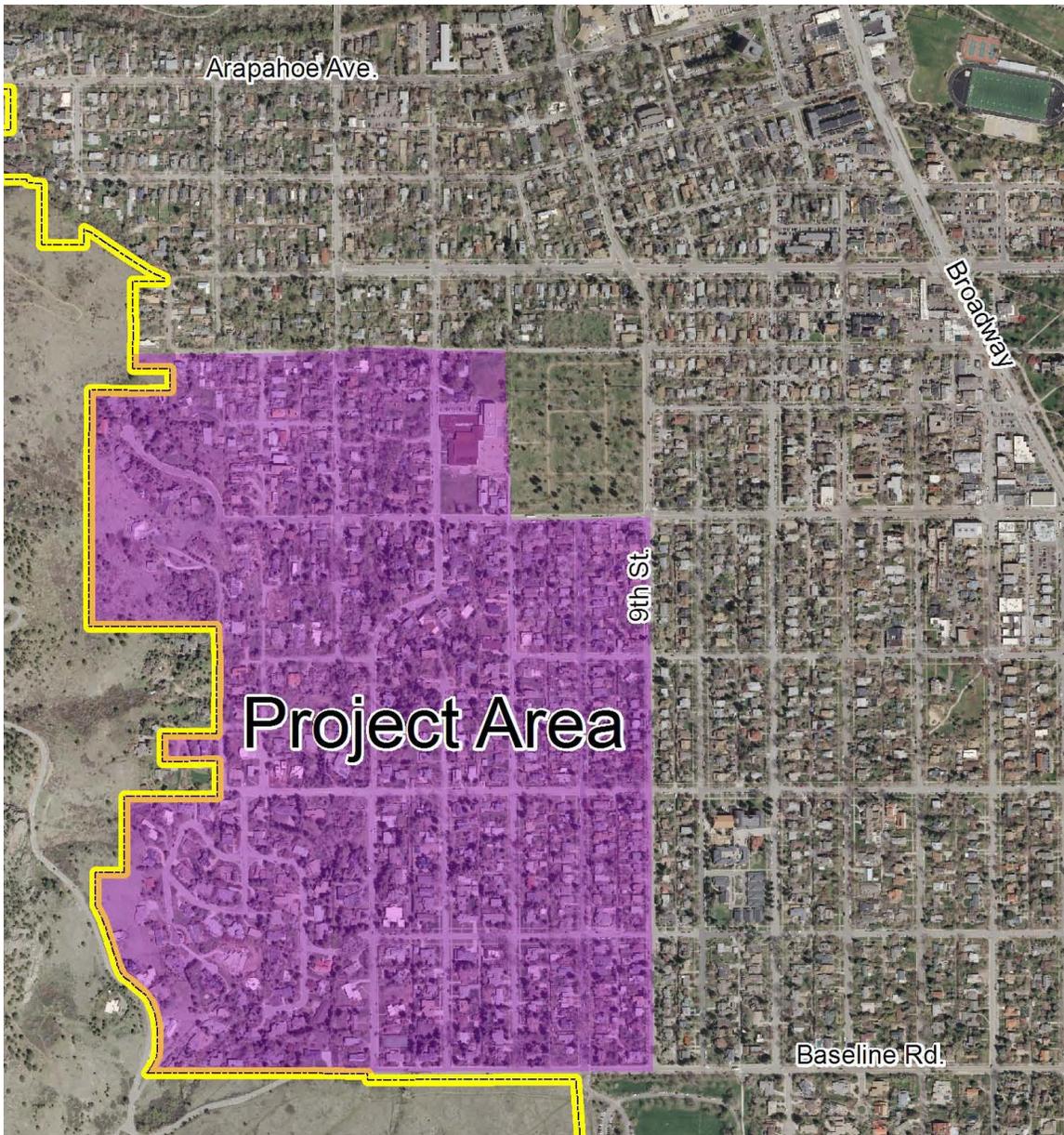
- In Spring of 2012, focus education in a limited residential area that experiences bears in trash,
- Contact residents individually at every home and provide information on trash storage regulations and options, particularly as it pertains to the impacts of improper trash storage on bears and the community,
- Track home visits, information provided and compliance,
- Increase code enforcement in focus neighborhood, and
- Evaluate cost and effectiveness.

Implementation of this partnership program is in keeping with the City of Boulder Urban Wildlife Management Plan (UWMP) implementation actions identified for 2012.

#### Program Area

The program area was selected based on geographic location, size, history of bear activity, and proportion of single family residents that are owner occupied.

- *Location*  
The program area is adjacent to the foothills and contains creeks, ditches and greenways that provide habitat and travel corridors from the natural areas west of town into the city. The area includes homes south of Pleasant Street, east of Ninth Street and north of Baseline Road (see **Figure 1**).



**Figure 1.** Bear Education and Enforcement Program area highlighted in pink, and Boulder city limits to the west identified by a yellow line.

- *History of bear activity in trash*  
The pattern appears to be concentrated in the western urban interface (see **Exhibit A**). In the summer and fall of 2011, there were daily reports of bear sightings south of Arapahoe Avenue and north of Baseline Road. The primary attractant noted by City of Boulder Code Enforcement officers and rangers, CPW staff, volunteers, and residents was human trash sources. Many residents put out their trash the night before trash pick-up or left their trash outside unsecured all the time. By the end of the bear season (early December), hundreds of trash

containers were knocked over by bears. It was also noted that some residents were using bear resistant containers to secure their trash. According to Western Disposal, 24 residences in the pilot area were leasing bear-resistant containers at the start of the program (April 2012).

- *Neighborhood with majority owner occupants*  
The program area contains primarily single family residences, the majority of which are owner occupied (79 percent of dwelling units in the area are owner occupied according to City of Boulder Rental License database). An area with high owner occupancy, and a prevalence of single residence dwellings was preferred for the pilot to simplify challenges of providing educational information to a neighborhood with high turnover, and challenges of determining the cause of trash violations in multi-unit complexes that share trash dumpsters.
- *Manageable size*  
Though a much larger area of the city experiences high bear traffic and activity in trash containers, the program area was limited to approximately 500 homes to make it manageable.

## **B. Methods**

CPW and the city designed the program for the 2012 bear season (April-November), with the ability to extend the program additional years. Though both education and law enforcement are ongoing, the focuses on education and law enforcement in the program area had discrete time periods, with the education mainly occurring in the spring, and law enforcement in the summer and fall.

### *Education and Outreach*

The first part of the program consisted of using various methods of informing the program area residents of bear behavior and local activity, trash storage requirements of the City of Boulder and State of Colorado, and increased law enforcement for trash storage regulations. In April 2012, information about the program was also posted on the city website.

- **Door to door education April 28-June 15**  
A door-to-door education team was assembled in spring of 2012. The team included 22 staff and volunteers from the City of Boulder and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. A full day training was required of volunteers participating in the program. The training was also attended by City of Boulder Code Enforcement staff. The training provided information on bear biology, urban bear attractants, and how to make urban properties less inviting to bears. Each team member was given a map with a subsection of the program area and was instructed to attempt to make contact with a resident in each dwelling in their assigned grid. Team members were requested to make several attempts at contacting residents at different times of day. Once contacted, residents were provided printed materials (**Exhibit B**) and information with the follow key points:

- Bears are active in their natural habitat typically between March and November (when not in hibernation), and are drawn into town by food attractants,
- Trash is the primary attractant in Boulder,
- Trash must be secured from bears, and
- The city will increase enforcement of trash ordinances. Residents may receive a citation if trash is not stored in a way that is secure from bears, or is put out for curbside pick-up prior to 5:00 a.m. the morning of collection.

Team members were also instructed to record:

- The date they made contact with a resident
- The name of the person they contacted,
- Whether resident rented or owned their residence, and
- Any differences between “official” dwelling units they had been provided on their map, and “actual” units they encountered in the neighborhood.

- **Public meetings and educational programs**

Staff from the city and CPW held public meetings and an educational program to provide residents with information on: what to expect from the program; the status of the program; black bear biology, and behavior; and how residents can reduce attractants at their home.

- **Media**

Local media, including the City of Boulder Channel 8, and Daily Camera and Boulder Weekly journals, were provided information about the program to further educate and inform the public.

- **Informational Mailings**

In September, each residence in the pilot program area was mailed information on a public meeting, requirements on securing trash, what to do if you see a bear, and a survey and request to complete it (see **Exhibit C**).

Law Enforcement July- November

Officers conducted focused law enforcement of trash storage requirements in the pilot area from July to Nov. 2012. The City of Boulder trash ordinance **B.R.C 6-3-5 Storage, Disposal and Screening of Trash, Recyclables, Compostables and Specified Other Materials** describes trash storage requirements. The elements of the ordinance enforced were those specifically tied to making trash less accessible to bears. These elements included the requirements that trash, recyclables, and compostables must be:

- stored in containers in a manner that they are not overflowing, and their contents are not scattered by animals; and
- put out to the street, from behind the front yard setback, after 5:00 am the morning of curbside pick up (alley trash pickup exempted).

Additional elements of the trash ordinance are not being addressed through this program. For example, the ordinance requires all trash, compostable and recyclable containers to be stored on the property in a way that containers are “screened” from view from the street. This component of the ordinance was not considered in the focused enforcement effort. Similarly, recycling and curbside compost, or any bear-resistant containers that were set out the night before curbside pick-up were not contacted even though prohibited by the ordinance. Focusing code enforcement efforts on trash containment (unsecured trash containers that had: been put out to the street the night before pick up; or their contents strewn by bears) was the priority of this program and kept enforcement manageable for current staffing levels.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and City of Boulder Code Enforcement Unit (CE) officers worked in partnership to enforce the trash code. Code Enforcement staff shifts are between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Generally the bear activity and trash violations occurred outside the CE shifts between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. To support enforcement of city code, CPW officers conducted weekly “off-hour” patrols to detect and identify violations of city trash ordinances. CPW officers conducted patrols between the hours of 8:00 p.m. the night before curbside trash pickup to 5:00 a.m. the morning of pickup. CPW officers took pictures of all trash cans that were in violation of city ordinance. After completing the patrol, CPW officers submitted reports to CE officers which included the violation date, time, address, type, and picture. CE officers used the reports to issue warnings and citations to home owners in violation of city code.

In addition to the violations reported to CE by CPW officers, trash violations were also observed directly by CE officers and reported by City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks rangers, and the public.

Upon receiving reports of violations, CE officers would issue a notice for first time offences and attempt to serve a summons for properties that had been previously warned. CE officers would make three attempts to contact residents during business hours should a summons need to be issued. If unable to contact residents during business hours, the summons would be forwarded to the night shift City of Boulder Police officers to be issued.

State CPW officers did not attempt to issue citations for violations they observed. State violations and fine amounts differ from those of the city. In order to present a unified, consistent message to the public, this program only focused on city code, and was enforced by city officers.

### **C. Results**

The parcel counts are from City of Boulder maintained parcel mapping showed 518 dwelling units in the program area; however, during the door-to-door education effort staff and volunteers identified additional dwellings (i.e. accessory dwelling to a main residence). The additional dwellings observed are being considered in this analysis, bringing the total number of dwelling units in the program area from 518 to 535.

### Education and Outreach

- **Contact with residents through door to door education April 28- June 15**  
Out of the 535 homes that are within the pilot area, volunteers and staff were able to make contact with and provide information to 334 residents, 62 percent of the total number of homes.

Most of the residents contacted provided information as to whether they rented their residence or owned it. Of those that answered the question (302 total), 77 percent stated they owned the residence and 23 percent stated they rented.

- **Attendance and feedback from public meetings and educational programs**
  - A public open house to provide information and answer questions about the *Black Bear Education and Enforcement Program* was held at Flatirons Elementary School (1150 Seventh St.) 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 30, 2012. The meeting was:
    - announced in the Sunday printing of the Daily Camera's *News from City Hall* for two weeks prior to the meeting, and in a City of Boulder press release on April 26; and
    - attended by one member of the public.
  - A public presentation on the *Status and Updates on the Black Bear Education and Enforcement Program* was held at Flatirons Elementary School (1150 Seventh Street) 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 9, 2012. The meeting was:
    - announced in the Sunday printing of the Daily Camera's *News from City Hall* for two weeks prior to the meeting. In addition, meeting information was mailed to the 518 residents comprising the program area on September 20; and
    - attended by six members of the public (see **Exhibit D** for public feedback provided during the meeting).
  - A public education program titled *Urban Black Bear Biology, Behavior and Attractants: What you can do to reduce attractants on your property* was held at Flatirons Elementary School (1150 Seventh St.) 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sept. 6, 2012. The meeting was:
    - announced in the Flatirons Elementary "Friday Folder"; and
    - attended by approximately 10 adults and 40 children.
- **Information on the program provided by local media**
  - Boulder Daily Camera and Boulder Weekly published articles about the program in April.
  - City of Boulder Channel 8 coverage included spring and fall reports:
    - *Inside Boulder News* – [Black Bear Enforcement](#) (May 4, 2012),
    - *Inside Boulder News* - [Bear Activity](#) (Sept. 21, 2012), and

- *A Boulder View* – [Greenways and Bears](#) (Oct. 8, 2012).

- **Informational Mailings**

Of the 518 mailings sent out to residences, 25 were returned as “undeliverable”.

Law Enforcement

Seventeen percent (89 residences out of 535) of the program area had trash violations observed by a law enforcement officer (CPW or CE) for putting out trash the night before pick up, and/or for bear scattering trash after the education efforts. The determination that a bear scattered trash was based on observation of the state of the container and waste. Bears generally knock over containers and strew trash. If plastic trash bags were used in the container, the bag will be ripped with chew marks and/or claw marks.

From these reports, and reports from Open Space and Mountain Park rangers, and the public, CE investigated 10 percent of residences (53 residences), for at least one trash violation. Within these 53 residences, CE officers:

- Issued 45 warnings,
- Issued 17 summonses (to residents that had previously received warnings),
- Found that 3 reports were not substantiated, and
- Could not make contact in 2 cases.

Behavior Change

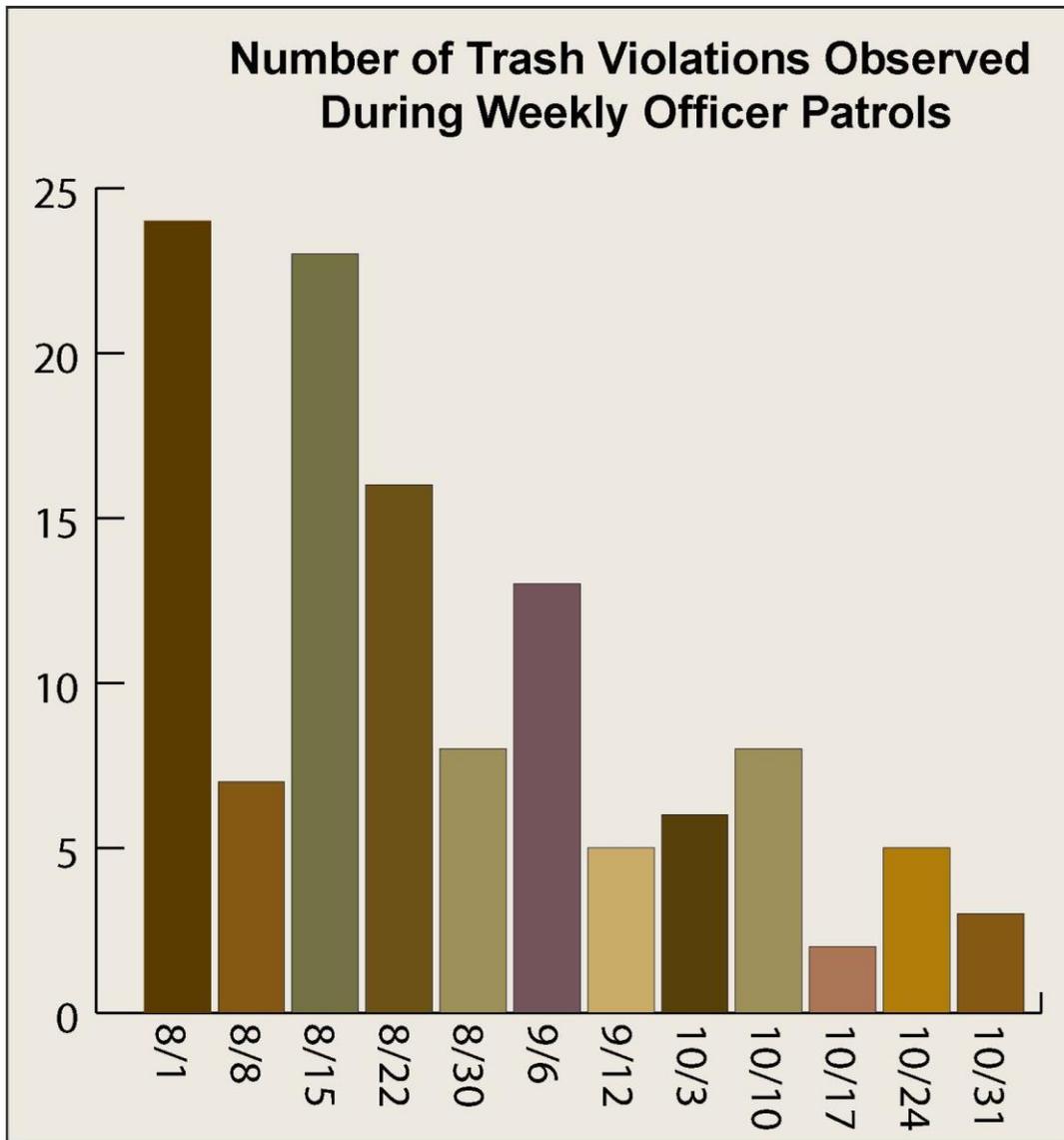
Weekly observations of total trash violations by wildlife officers (including containers set out prior to 5:00 a.m. the morning of pick up, and containers that had contents scattered by bears) indicated a general trend of fewer violations over time (see **Figure 2**).

Warnings seem to positively impact the behavior of putting trash on the curb the night before pick-up. Of 24 warnings issued, ten of those residences (42 percent) were observed repeating the same behavior. Of the repeat offenders, eight received summonses.

Summonses appeared to be much more effective in positively impacting behavior (100% effective). None of the residences that received summonses putting trash out the night before pick up (8) were observed repeating the same behavior.

Violations Observed at Rentals verse Owner Occupied Dwellings

There was a marginal difference in the percentage of renters verse owners who had trash violations. Trash violations were observed by officers at 21 percent (24 violations) of rental units (114 units identified as such through the city Rental Licensing program). Trash violations were observed at 15 percent (65 violations) of owner occupied units (421 units).



**Figure 2.** Number of trash violations (vertical axis) observed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers during weekly “off-hour” (between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.) patrols. Observations shown by date (horizontal axis), from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, 2012.

*Education and Law Enforcement*

Making contact with residents through the door-to-door effort and providing information on bear behavior, attractants, trash storage requirements, and upcoming increased enforcement of trash ordinance did not significantly lessen the probability of a resident violating the trash ordinance. Fifteen percent of residents (49) contacted through the door-to-door education (336) violated the trash ordinance, as opposed to 20 percent of residents (40) who had not been contacted (199).

## D. Analysis

### **Is education alone an effective strategy to positively impact how trash is stored?**

**No.** Time invested attempting to contact each resident for educational purposes (estimated 324 hours of primarily volunteer time) was significant. As there was little difference between the number of violations at residences that had been contacted versus residences that had not been contacted (five percent difference in number of violations between the two groups), door-to-door education is not considered an efficient use of time. Similarly, the low attendance at public meetings may indicate that meetings are not an effective way to communicate information, and ulterior methods (i.e. school groups, website, social media... etc.) need to be utilized.

### **Does education followed by law enforcement positively impact trash storage behavior?**

**Yes.** Behavior change was detected in three different aspects of the program:

#### **1. *Voluntary increase in use of bear-resistant containers***

There was a significant increase in voluntary use of bear-resistant containers. Bear-resistant trash container use by Western Disposal customers increased from 24 in the beginning of the program (April 2012), to 40 at the end of the program (October 2012). In April, the program area represented 29 percent of the 83 bear-resistant containers in use city-wide. At the end of the program (October 2012) the demand for bear-resistant containers surpassed Western Disposal's supply, and 40 Western Disposal customers in the program area were using bear-resistant containers. At the end of the program, 39 percent of bear-resistant container use city-wide, were in the program area. This change represents a higher proportion of residents in the program area voluntarily requesting bear-resistant containers. Additionally, in 2012, 80 percent of the 20 total requests for bear-resistant containers came from within the program area. Although bear-resistant trash containers reduce the likelihood of bears foraging on garbage (many bear-resistant containers had been knocked-over in areas where bears had been foraging on trash, but none had been opened), the trash cans may still act as an attractant.

#### **2. *Change in pattern of putting out the trash the night before pick up***

Most residents that received warnings from law enforcement officers (58 percent) and all residents that received summonses (100 percent) did not repeat the behavior of putting their unsecured trash out the night before pick up.

#### **3. *Appearance of fewer violations over time (and during peak urban bear activity)***

Throughout the focused law enforcement period (July to Nov.) there was a general decrease in violations over time (see **Figure 2**). The apparent pattern of fewer violations is not likely associated with less bear activity in town. Urban bear activity in Boulder typically, as was the case in 2012, peaks from late August to late October.

### **Is there a significant difference in the proportion of trash violations at rental versus owner-occupied dwelling units?**

**No.** Though there was a difference detected (six percent difference in number of violations between the two groups) with violations at rentals occurring in a slightly higher proportion than owner-occupied dwellings, it was not significant. The rental units as defined in this analysis, are units registered with the city's Rental Licensing Program. It is possible that rental units are under reported, or that the data base is not current at the time of this program.

**If education and law enforcement do positively impact behavior, is the change significant enough to merit continuing with the approach as the primary strategy to address the problem of trash as an attractant to bears?**

**Maybe.** Despite high levels of awareness and compliance by a majority of residents, unsecured trash of a minority of residents creates a significant attractant to bears. Approximately 20 percent of homes were not in compliance with current trash laws that specify trash must be secured from bears. Though that percentage is relatively low, the number of residents that need to be contacted by law enforcement is significant: there are an estimated 9,572 residences in the area of Boulder that is frequented by bears (west of Broadway Avenue, south of Wonderland Lake, and north of Table Mesa Avenue). Extrapolating the percentage of residences that experienced bear/trash conflicts in the pilot area to the area of the city frequented by bears, 1,914 residences would need to be contacted.

This program focused on a small section of the city and was time consuming. Boulder Police Department Code Enforcement Unit officers spent approximately 240 hours in the program area contacting, or attempting to contact residents for education and law enforcement purposes. In addition, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers spent approximately 300 hours on the program conducting violation patrols, report writing, and on education events including door-to-door efforts. This program model would be impractical to employ on a larger scale.

**Do current trash regulations adequately address the availability of trash to bears?**

**No.** There are two major limitations of current trash regulations:

**1. *The current trash ordinance is reactive and not proactive***

The current city ordinance requires trash, recyclables, and compostables to be stored in a manner that they are not overflowing, and their contents are not scattered by animals; and prohibits containers being put out prior to 5:00 a.m. the morning of pick up. Residences that have alley trash pickup are exempted from the latter. The ordinance does not provide guidance on how trash must be stored as to not be scattered by animals, and can only be applied after trash has been disturbed.

**2. *Enforcement of the trash ordinance requires an officer to serve a summons for the observed infraction directly to the resident or land owner.***

The limitations of this "direct serve" requirement is contact may not be made if residents are not home during contact attempts, or, residents do not come to the door when contact is being attempted. Also, for multi-family units, it was difficult to determine which residents were in violation of the ordinance.

## **E. Next Steps**

At the end of 2012 the decision was made to extend the program an additional year, through 2013. Program changes for 2013 include:

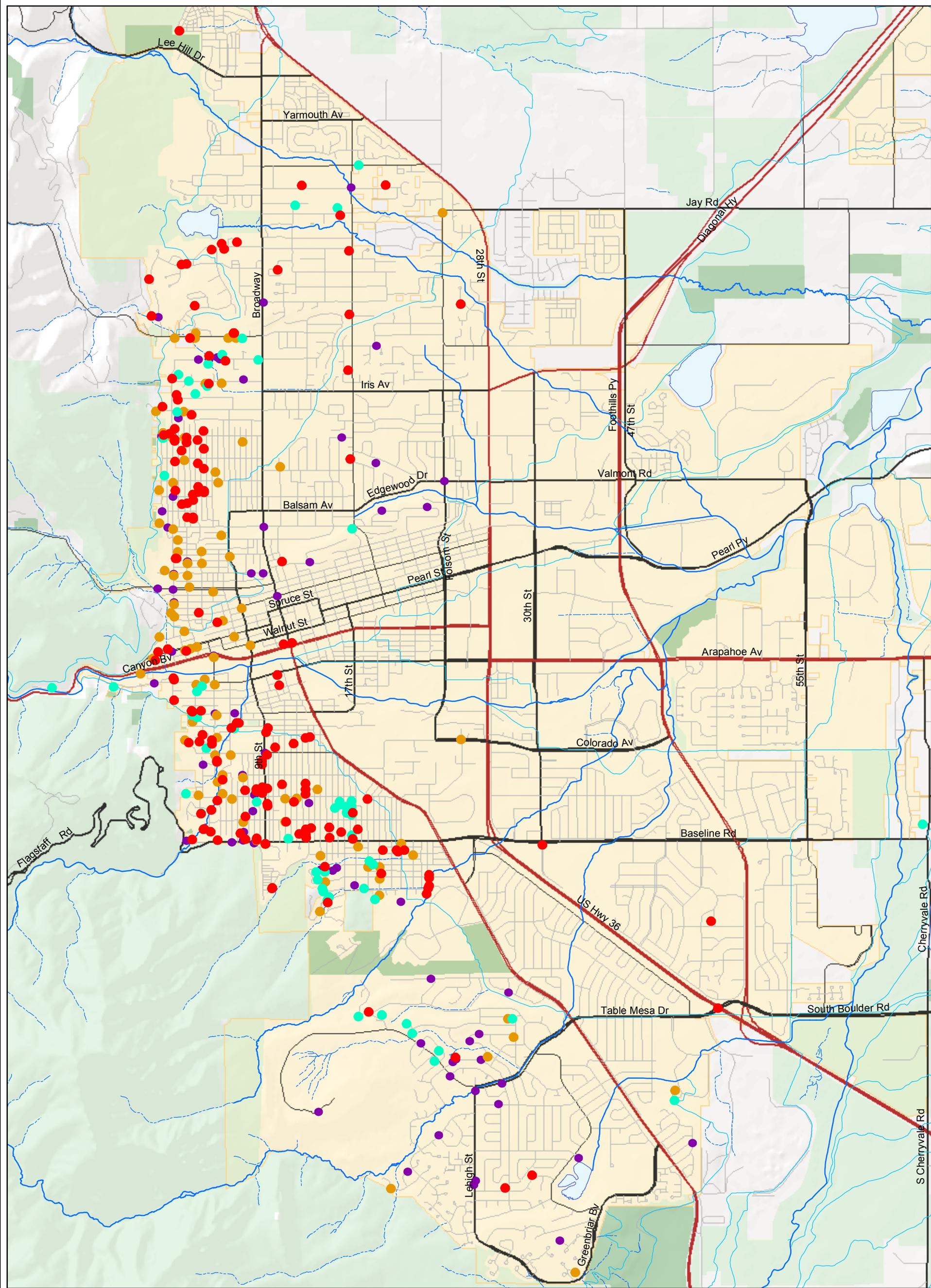
- Discontinue door-to-door education,
- Increase informational mailings,
- Explore administrative changes to trash violation enforcement, and
- Shift education and enforcement efforts from resident toward property owner.

Enforcement efficiency is being explored in 2013 by changing the required “direct serve” of summonses to an administrative citation, which does not require making personal contact to serve the citation. A long-term policy adjustment to consider in the future includes changing the ordinance from reactive (a violation has occurred after the trash has been strewn by a bear), to proactive (specified requirement of how trash must be stored that prevents a bear from getting into it).

# Reported Bear Sightings 2009 - 2012

Within City of Boulder Limits

Exhibit A



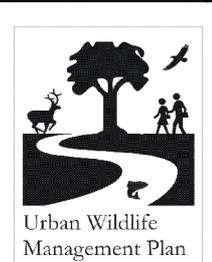
**Sightings by Year**

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012

**Open Space and Mountain Parks Property**

- Conservation Easement
- Fee Property
- Miscellaneous Easement

- Major Lakes
- City Limits
- Highway
- Local Street
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Creek
- Creek, Intermittent
- Ditch





# Be Bear Aware!

For more information on the Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement Project in your neighborhood, staff from the City of Boulder and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife will be on hand to answer your questions at the following public meeting:

## Neighborhood Meeting on the Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement Project

Monday, April 30, 2012

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Flatirons Elementary School

1150 7<sup>th</sup> St.

You may also visit the following web site for more information and to take a survey:

[www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) > City A-Z > Urban Wildlife Management Plan

### What To Do If You See A Bear

- Stay Calm** – If the bear finds no food, it will usually leave.
- Stay Away** – Bears rarely attack, but keep a safe distance so the bear doesn't feel threatened.
- Warn Others** – Bring kids and pets indoors. Remind others to keep their distance.
- Scare That Bear** – Make sure the bear has a clear escape path. Make lots of noise, turn on lights, bang pots. Don't let the bear become comfortable around your home.
- Remove Attractants** – After the bear has left, be sure your home is bear proof.

### Who to Call

**Life-threatening emergency** Call 911

**Bear activity** that may require a response to the area (such as a bear currently in your yard)  
Police Non –Emergency Number: **303-441-3333**

**General questions** or to report bear activity that will help future wildlife management of wildlife:  
Urban Wildlife Coordinator **303-441-3004**

## **Trash Haulers in Boulder**

The following companies provide recycling and compost collection services to residential areas in Boulder. The Boulder Revised Code requires all residential waste haulers to provide recycling and compost

**Western Disposal** – 303-444-2037

[www.westerndisposal.com](http://www.westerndisposal.com)

**One-Way Disposal** – 303-823-0556

[www.onewaytrash.com](http://www.onewaytrash.com)

**Green Girl Recycling** – 303-442-7535

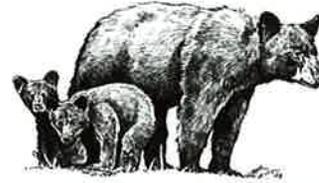
[www.greengirlrecycling.com](http://www.greengirlrecycling.com)

\*Green Girl only provides recycling for multi-family communities

**Republic Services** – 303-287-8043

[www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com)

# BE BEAR AWARE - BOULDER



Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the City of Boulder are asking you to take these preventive measures.

Please do your part to protect your community and your wildlife.

- Store trash indoors and secure until collection day
- Store bird feeders inside at night and clean up fallen seed
- Keep garage doors closed
- Supervise pets
- Store pet food and water inside
- Keep BBQ grills clean and store inside
- Keep doors closed and secure

If you experience problems with bears or other wildlife, please call:

**CPW Dispatch: 303-291-7227**

**City of Boulder Dispatch: 303-441-3333**



## CITY & STATE REGULATIONS REGARDING TRASH

Unsecured trash subjects the property residents and/or landowners to a \$100 fine.

Boulder Revised Code (B.R.C.) states no person shall store trash, recyclables and compostables except in containers in a manner so that they are not overflowing, their contents are not scattered by animals, wind or other elements and so that the containers remain closed except when being filled or when opened in order to allow for collection B.R.C. 6-3-5(a)(1). Section 6-3-5(a)(9) prohibits placing trash, recyclables, and compostables out for collection before 5 a.m. on collection day and requires that containers be removed by 9 p.m. the same day. This section includes an exception for public alleys.

Wildlife Commission Regulation (WCR) 021(D) No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid contact or conflict with black bears, coyotes or fox, which may include the securing or removal of outdoor trash, cooking grills, pet food, bird feeders or any other similar food source or attractant, after being notified by the Division that black bears, coyotes or fox are in the area and advised to undertake such remedial action. Further, after an initial contact or conflict with a black bear, coyotes or fox, no person shall continue to provide, or otherwise fail to secure or remove, any likely food sources or attractants, including but not limited to, outdoor trash, grills, pet food or bird feeders.

Please help us develop a strategy for keeping bears out of trash by completing a community survey at: [www.boulderwildlifeplan.net](http://www.boulderwildlifeplan.net)

# Bearproofing Your Trash

Help Keep Bears Wild



## Garbage Kills Bears

Allowing bears to use trash and garbage as a food source creates serious problems for both people and bears. Because the food reward is so great, bears are willing to work hard to get at trash and garbage, and return often in hopes of finding more. These food-conditioned bears sometimes enter homes, garages or even vehicles in search of an easy meal. Bears in pursuit of such a good source of calories can do a lot of property damage, and even become aggressive. Allowing bears to get into the garbage is one of the leading causes of human-bear conflicts. Being smart about how you handle and store your trash can protect your home and property, and help keep bears alive and wild.



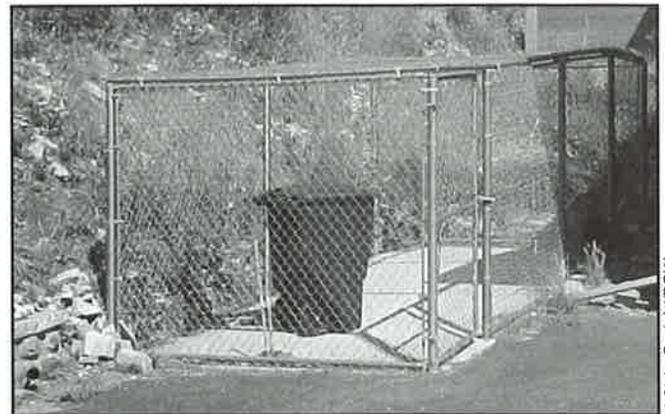
© Michael Seraphim/DOW

## Lock it Up

Keep trash and recyclables safely locked inside your home or a sturdy, locked garage or outbuilding constructed of heavy wood or metal. Don't leave any trash outside overnight; even empty bottles, cans, packages and recyclables have odors that attract bears. Don't store trash on your deck or screened in porch, and don't stash your trash in your car, truck or camper. If you keep trash in your garage or an outbuilding, it should have sturdy doors and windows that lock. Put trash out the morning of pick up only.

## Use a Bear-Resistant Enclosure

Ordinary chain link, wood or vinyl fencing won't keep out bears. Bears are great climbers, and can easily scoot up and over fencing if there's something on the other side they really want. Black bears are also good diggers, and can tunnel underneath fencing as well.



© Claire Sechtst/DOW

If you can't store your garbage inside a sturdy locked building, a heavy duty chain link fenced enclosure with a chain-link "roof" and a concrete pad bottom and a locking (not latching) gate can help keep out your average bears. Just remember that garbage in an enclosure still gives off odors that attract bears and other wildlife, so it's very important you always remember to lock the enclosure, and check your home and property often to make sure there's nothing else for bears to explore after they give up on the trash. See our brochure on Living with Bears and our fact sheet on bear proofing your home for more information.

In areas with high bear activity, it's better to secure trash inside the house, or a sturdy locked garage or specially constructed outbuilding with concrete or cinder block construction with heavy duty wood or steel doors and roof. Sides need to be flush with the ground, with no more than a 2" gap at the bottom of the doors. Ventilation holes should be kept to a minimum and covered with heavy gauge steel mesh.

## Freeze It

You can reduce odors that attract bears by keeping smelly items out of the trash until pick up or you're ready to take it to the dump. Keep a bag or container in your freezer for any bits of food, meat, bones, fruit or anything else that's likely to give off odors. Then just throw out the bag the morning of pick up, or when you take your trash to the dump.



© DOW

## Keep it Clean

Clean your trash containers frequently with ammonia or bleach solutions, or use a heavy-duty pine-scented cleaner. Avoid using anything with a fruity or lemony scent to clean trash cans or anything else outside. You can use a heavy duty air freshener designed to remove odors on the inside of the lid to help cut down odors. Double-bagging trash or using special bags that eliminate or contain odors can help as well. Just remember never to leave plastic bags of trash outside of the container. Of course, don't mix ammonia and bleach; doing so produces dangerous fumes that can be deadly for both people and bears.

## Use a Bear Resistant Container



© Bear Smart Durango

Even sturdy metal or plastic trash containers with snap-on lids are not bear resistant. Bears use their paws much like people use their hands, and can often just pop off or unlatch the lid.

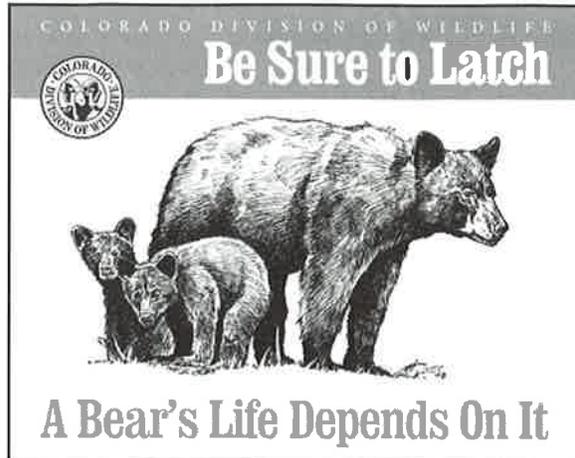
Bears are also very strong, so if the lid doesn't pop off, it's not much effort for a bear to dent, crack or split an ordinary can. There are a wide variety of bear resistant containers available,

from your typical 35-gallon household container to dumpsters. For a complete review of bear resistant options, visit the Living with Wildlife Foundation's Web site at [www.lwwf.org](http://www.lwwf.org).

This non-profit organization tests and certifies containers for the International Grizzly Bear Committee. There's also a comprehensive list of containers on our Web site at [www.wildlife.state.co.us/bears](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/bears) - just scroll down under **Living with Bears**.

If you have curb side pick up, check with your trash collection service to make sure they'll service bear-resistant containers. If they won't, you can do the bears, yourself and your neighbors a favor if you encourage the company to do the wildlife-friendly and responsible thing, and service containers that don't put bears at risk.

## Central Trash Collection



This weather-resistant sticker is a great way to remind people that a bear's life could depend on them taking the time to latch the dumpster. You can get free stickers at your local Division of Wildlife office.

If you take your trash to a dumpster, please do your part to avoid attracting bears, and never leave trash outside the dumpster. Make sure the lid is securely closed and latched. If your dumpster doesn't have a latching lid, or has a flimsy plastic lid bears could easily peel back, ask your trash hauler to provide a bear-resistant dumpster. Some homeowners associations and neighborhoods that want to help prevent problems for themselves and the bears have worked with their trash companies to replace plastic lids with sturdy metal ones that chain and lock, which can be a cost effective alternative to a new dumpster.

### PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP BEARS WILD

Visit [www.wildlife.state.co.us/bears](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/bears) for more information or call your local Division of Wildlife office.

# BE BEAR AWARE - BOULDER

**Name**  
**Address**  
**Address**

The City of Boulder has a history of black bears foraging on trash, fruit trees, bird feeders, pet food, and other unintentional attractants in the urban area. These food sources encourage bears to be in town and increase the risk of conflict with humans. Though there are many bear attractants in urban areas, **trash is the primary attractant**, and the most harmful to the animals.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the City of Boulder have partnered on a pilot program designed to build awareness on how to live with bears, and to increase law enforcement of trash storage ordinances in your neighborhood. The **purpose** of Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement pilot program **is to explore the effectiveness of education and law enforcement in improving the way trash is stored** in an area of the urban interface that experiences high human/bear conflicts.

State law and **city code prohibit maintaining trash in a way that is accessible to bears.**

If you set out your trash for curbside pickup before 5 a.m. the morning of collection, OR your trash is scattered by a bear, you may get a \$100 summons. Repeated violations increase in fine amount with a maximum fine amount of \$1,000. Please see the enclosed postcard for specific trash storage requirements.

For more information on the Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement Project staff from the City of Boulder and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife will provide a brief presentation and be on hand to answer your questions at the following public meeting:

## **Neighborhood Meeting on the Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement Project**

**Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2012**

**5:30 – 7 p.m.**

**(Presentation at 6:00)**

**Flatirons Elementary school, Computer Lab**

**1150 7th Street, Boulder**

Please take the enclosed **survey** to help us better understand your experience and views on urban bears by **October 15**. The information you provide will help develop a program that improves the way trash is secured from bears. Completed surveys can be return it in the postage paid envelope provided. You may also take the survey online, and get additional information on the following web site:

[www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) > City A-Z > Urban Wildlife Management Plan

## What To Do If You See A Bear

- Stay Calm** – If the bear finds no food, it will usually leave.
- Stay Away** – Bears rarely attack, but keep a safe distance so the bear doesn't feel threatened.
- Warn Others** – Bring kids and pets indoors. Remind others to keep their distance.
- Scare That Bear** – Make sure the bear has a clear escape path. Make lots of noise, turn on lights, bang pots. Don't let the bear become comfortable around your home.
- Remove Attractants** – After the bear has left, be sure your home is bear proof.

## Who to Call

**Life-threatening emergency**      Call 911

**Bear activity** that may require a response to the area (such as a bear currently in your yard)  
Police Non –Emergency Number: **303-441-3333**

**General questions** or to report bear activity that will help future wildlife management of wildlife:  
Urban Wildlife Coordinator **303-441-3004**

## Trash Haulers in Boulder

The following companies provide recycling and compost collection services to residential areas in Boulder. The Boulder Revised Code requires all residential waste haulers to provide recycling and compost. If you can not store trash in a garage or enclosed area, you can inquire about bear resistant trash containers.

**Western Disposal** – 303-444-2037

[www.westerndisposal.com](http://www.westerndisposal.com)

**One-Way Disposal** – 303-823-0556

[www.onewaytrash.com](http://www.onewaytrash.com)

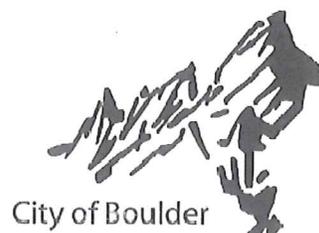
**Green Girl Recycling** – 303-442-7535

[www.greengirlrecycling.com](http://www.greengirlrecycling.com)

\*Green Girl only provides recycling for multi-family communities

**Republic Services** – 303-287-8043

[www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com)



# BE BEAR AWARE - BOULDER

## Bears in Boulder - Community Survey

The City of Boulder is partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (formerly Colorado Division of Wildlife) to help Boulder residents determine effective strategies to prevent bears from disturbing trash in the community.

Please complete this brief survey to help us to better understand your experience with bears and known attractants in the community, like trash.

**1. What neighborhood do you live in? Please circle one:**

- |                 |                     |                  |                         |                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chautauqua      | Dakota Ridge        | Devil's Thumb    | East Chautauqua         | Flatirons        |
| Forest Glen     | Foothills Community | Grant            | Hartford/Yale           | Juniper/Kalmia   |
| Kendall         | Mapleton Hill       | Newlands         | Northbriar              | North Wonderland |
| Poplar          | Shanahan Ridge      | Table Mesa South | Table Mesa North        | Telluride        |
| University Hill | West Pearl          | Wonderland Hills | Other (please specify): |                  |
- 

**2. How long have you lived in the neighborhood? Please circle one:**

less than one year    one to four years    five to nine years    ten years or more

**3. Do you rent or own your residence? Please circle one:**

Rent    Own

**4. Do you consider bears to be a problem in your neighborhood?**

Yes    No

**5. Please explain why you answered "Yes" or "No" to the previous question**

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**6. How many times has your trash been disturbed by a bear or other wildlife during:**

the past year? \_\_\_\_\_ the past five years? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Pick the following statement that best describes your opinion on bears in Boulder.**

- a. I was not aware that bears ever came into the city.
- b. I know bears come into the city occasionally but I do not think it is a problem.
- c. I know there is a problem with bears coming into the city but I do not have an indoor place to store my trash.
- d. I know I should be doing more to protect my property from bears but I am not aware of a convenient way to do so.
- e. I secure my trash and remove attractants from my property but none of my neighbors do.
- f. I secure trash and remove attractants and know that my neighbors do too.
- g. None of the above. Please explain why you chose "None of the above"

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**8. What do you think should be done about bears coming into Boulder?**

**(Circle all that apply)**

- a. Nothing, there is not a problem, bears should be left alone.
- b. People should take action to secure their trash from bears and encourage neighbors to do the same.
- c. People should be educated about bears and encouraged to secure their trash.
- d. People should be educated about bears and fined if they do not secure their trash.
- e. Everyone on the west side of town should be required to get bear-resistant containers.
- f. The city is responsible for securing trash from bears.
- g. Other (please specify)

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**9. Which of the following ways have you taken action to secure your home from bears?**

**(Circle all that apply).**

- a. I put my trash outside on the morning of collection day.
- b. I have a bear-resistant trash container or enclosure.
- c. I store food waste inside until the morning of collection day.
- d. I do not leave pet food, bird seed or livestock feed outside.
- e. I clean my barbecue grill and/or store it inside after each use.
- f. I pick fruit before it ripens and pick up fruit that falls to ground.
- g. I have not taken action to secure my home from bears.
- h. Other (please specify)

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10. Why is it important to keep bears from accessing trash in Boulder? Rate the following reasons on a scale from 1-10, with 10 being "Extremely Important" and 1 being "Not Important."

Sanitation issues with trash containers being knocked over and strewn about

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Aesthetic issues of having trash knocked over and strewn about

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Time loss while picking up trash that has been disturbed by bears

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Human safety issues associated with bears in Boulder

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Harm to bears (from ingesting trash, or by being killed due to public safety concerns or nuisance behavior)

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

11. In your household, what time does the first person typically wake up in the morning on trash collection day? \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

12. Are you aware of the city and state laws that require trash to be secured from wildlife?

Yes

No

13. Would you be willing to secure your trash or get a bear-resistant trash container to avoid a \$100 fine each time your trash containers are disturbed by wildlife?      Yes      No

14. I would be willing to pay extra for my trash collection service if the additional cost was:

- a. No maximum amount
- b. No more than \$25-\$35 per month
- c. No more than \$20-25 per moth
- d. No more than \$15-\$20 per month
- e. No more than \$10-\$15 per month
- f. No more than \$5-\$10 per month
- g. I am not willing to pay extra for my trash service.

**15. What do you think Boulder residents should do to protect bears?**

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**16. What do you think the City of Boulder should do to protect bears?**

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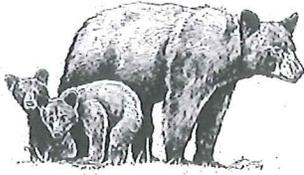
**17. What do you think Colorado Parks and Wildlife (formerly Division of Wildlife) should do to protect bears?**

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# BE BEAR AWARE - BOULDER



Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the City of Boulder are asking you to take these preventive measures. Please do your part to protect your community and your wildlife.

- Store trash indoors and secure until collection day
- Store bird feeders inside at night and clean up fallen seed
- Keep garage doors closed
- Supervise pets
- Store pet food and water inside
- Keep BBQ grills clean and store inside
- Keep doors closed and secure

If you experience problems with bears or other wildlife, please call:

**CPW Dispatch: 303-291-7227**

**City of Boulder Dispatch: 303-441-3333**



## CITY & STATE REGULATIONS REGARDING TRASH

Unsecured trash subjects the property residents and/or landowners to a \$100 fine.

Boulder Revised Code (B.R.C.) states no person shall store trash, recyclables and compostables except in containers in a manner so that they are not overflowing, their contents are not scattered by animals, wind or other elements and so that the containers remain closed except when being filled or when opened in order to allow for collection B.R.C. 6-3-5(a)(1). Section 6-3-5(a)(9) prohibits placing trash, recyclables, and compostables out for collection before 5 a.m. on collection day and requires that containers be removed by 9 p.m. the same day. This section includes an exception for public alleys.

Wildlife Commission Regulation (WCR) 021(D) No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid contact or conflict with black bears, coyotes or fox, which may include the securing or removal of outdoor trash, cooking grills, pet food, bird feeders or any other similar food source or attractant, after being notified by the Division that black bears, coyotes or fox are in the area and advised to undertake such remedial action. Further, after an initial contact or conflict with a black bear, coyotes or fox, no person shall continue to provide, or otherwise fail to secure or remove, any likely food sources or attractants, including but not limited to, outdoor trash, grills, pet food or bird feeders.

Please help us develop a strategy for keeping bears out of trash by completing a community survey at: [www.boulderwildlifeplan.net](http://www.boulderwildlifeplan.net)

## Exhibit D

### Public comments and Feedback from 10.9.2012 Urban Black Bear Education and Enforcement Program Update Public Meeting

- Issues are greater in rental units; the city needs to enforce bear resistant containers in rentals.
- The city should subsidize the cost of bear resistant containers for residents because they are expensive.
- The city should require Western Disposal to use bear resistant containers.
- The two hour timeframe (between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.) is too tight and difficult to get trash out the morning of pick-up.
- The city could buy bear resistant containers in bulk in order to make the price more reasonable.