

Tips

1. Remove bird feeders March-November. If a bear visits the feeder in Winter, remove it entirely.
2. Do not leave pet food outside.
3. Clean/cover outdoor grills and store away from decks, patios or your entry ways
4. Do not put sweet smelling fruit in compost piles. Use lime to decrease attractive odor.
5. Use exterior lighting.
6. Place garbage cans in shed or outbuilding, or secure tightly and place away from home entry.
7. In the event of a close encounter with a bear, wave your arms and make loud noises. Walk away slowly while facing the bear and **STAY CALM**. Do **NOT** run, do **NOT** climb a tree. Yell at the bear to go away, and retreat slowly.



Bloomfield Police
Department

Black bears in Bloomfield



Bloomfield Animal Control
860-242-5501 x 5450

Living with Black bears



The black bear is an intelligent animal with keen senses of smell and hearing. It

can detect the slightest aroma of food, which often leads bears into human occupied areas. Black bears travel and feed primarily at night, but can be active during any time of the day.

Although black bears are generally shy and secretive by nature, a regular food source near humans can decrease their natural fear of humans. Bird feeders, outdoor grills, fruit trees, berry bushes and easily accessible garbage cans all provide bears with a steady and attractive diet. Black bears are omnivorous, which means they will eat pretty much anything, including small mammals such as rabbits, and insects such as ants and bees.

Mating and Young

Breeding occurs during late June into July, and young are born in the den in January-late February. Litter size averages 1-4 cubs, with weaning occurring at 7 months. The cubs will stay with the mother for the first year and half of their life. Once evicted from the family unit, young male bears will travel great distances to find their own territory and are often forced into less than preferable locations. These situations typically end badly for the bear who has mistakenly chosen a path through heavily human occupied areas.

Much of Connecticut is forested and suitable for black bears. As both bear and human populations expand, our encounters with bears will increase. People should learn what to do if they see and bear, and how to decrease the likelihood of a conflict.



Males typically weight 150-450 pounds, females 110-250, and yearlings 45-100 pounds. Coloration range from brown to black, sometimes with tan around the muzzle.

Bears are often seen walking on all fours, and can run speeds up to 30 mph. Bears are very adept and focused when presented with a food source, and can unlatch and open most bird feeders with ease.

Bears are also incredibly strong, and when traveling with her young, a female can and will protect her cubs from any perceived threat, despite having never displayed aggression previously.



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