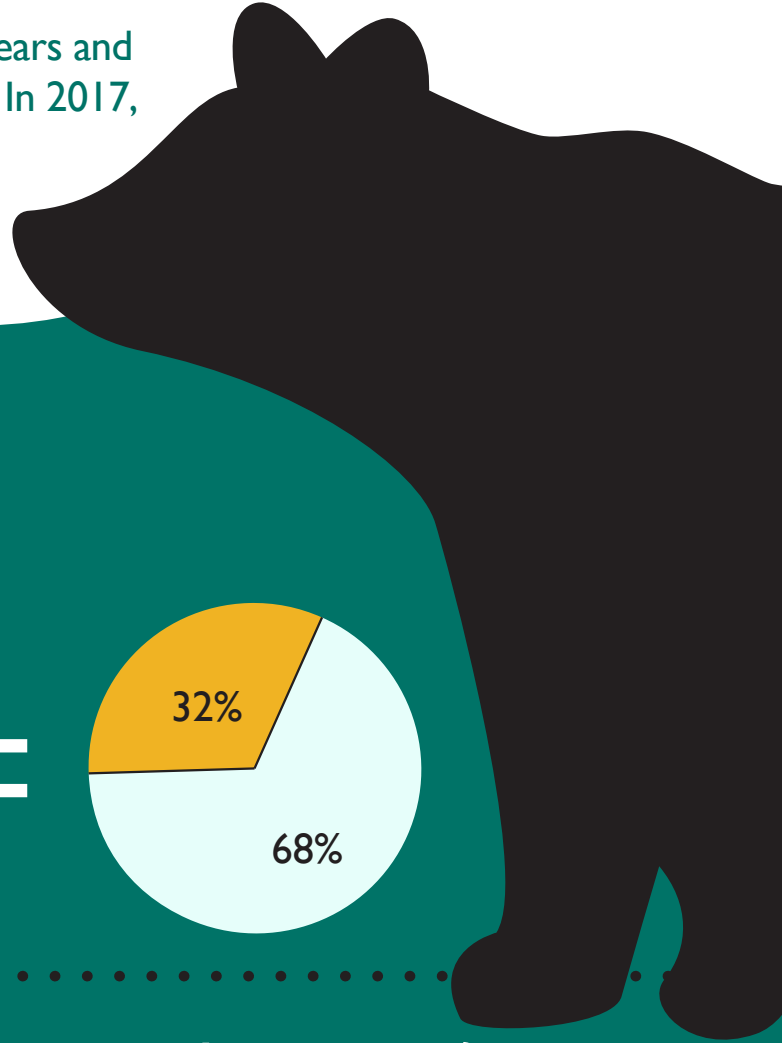


WHITEHORSE: Let's Talk Bears

Whitehorse is the Wilderness City. Residents live, work, and play where bears and other wildlife live. Reducing human-bear conflicts is a priority for the City. In 2017, with YG Conservation Officer Services and WildWise Yukon, we analyzed incident reports* to identify where incidents are occurring and what the key attractants are.

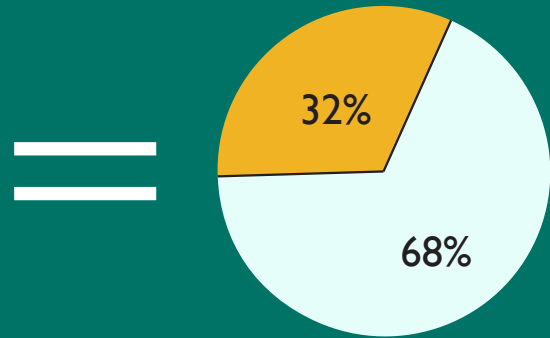


Did you know on average:

20 bear incident reports are generated in Whitehorse City limits each year. **Of this:**

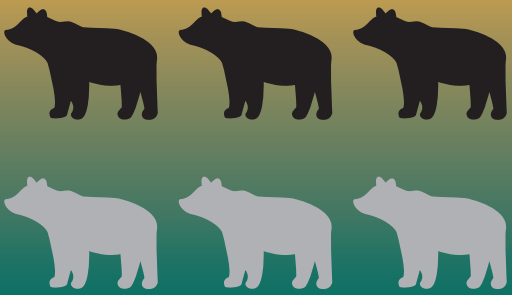
6 occur in areas **ON** City waste cart collection (ex. Copper Ridge, Porter Creek, Logan, etc.)

14 occur in areas **NOT ON** City waste cart collection (ex. Alaska Highway, Mt Sima, Wolf Creek, etc.)

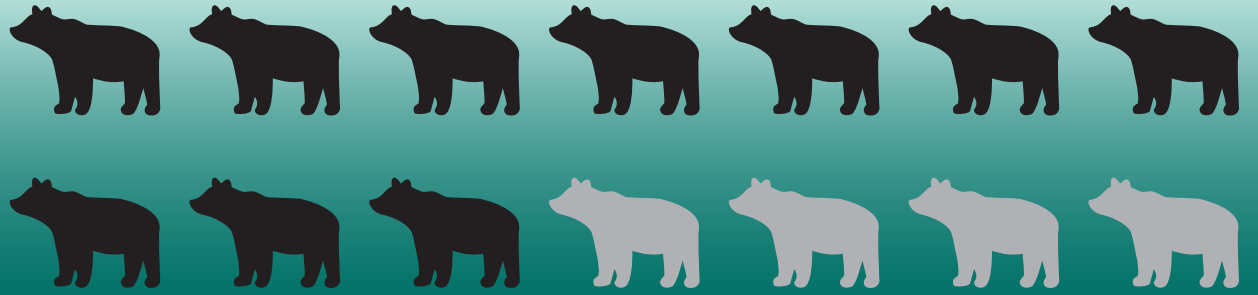


How many of these incidents are due to garbage and organics?

Areas **ON** City waste cart collection



Areas **NOT ON** City waste cart collection



Garbage, organic waste, compost attracted bears



Other reported incidents (BBQ, bird feeders, chicken coops, recycling, etc.)

What are the main attractants in City limits?



Garbage

Organic waste - includes backyard composting

Food attractants - bird feeder, cooking oil, freezers, etc.

Agriculture - Chickens, coops, sheep, goats, gardens, bees, etc.

Other - BBQ, recycling, gas/oil jugs, pets, burn barrels, etc.

* Data analyzed from 2012-2017. Data collection models have been inconsistent in past years. These are estimates, not actuals. Gaps and discrepancies exist. Not all interactions are reported by residents.

Learn more
whitehorse.ca/wildlife



Report bear incidents:
1-800-661-0525

BEARS & BINS - Reducing wildlife attractants on your property

The City of Whitehorse polycarts ARE NOT bear-resistant. Some planning is required to keep bears out of them. Following these simple steps will reduce the chance of attracting a bear to your property.

- **Keep all attractants, including garbage, compost and recycling in your garage with the door closed and locked.** This is the **best option** to reduce conflict. Use your garage to store bins even if you have purchased bear-resistant bins.
- **Find out what time the City picks up garbage on your street.** Put garbage and recycling out as close to collection time as possible. Do not leave it at the curb the night before. Bears usually try to avoid humans and are active at night. You can sign up for email or text reminders at whitehorse.ca/carts.
- **Build a bear-resistant bin enclosure.** Plywood and bungee cords will not deter a bear who wants your garbage. Plans can be found here: www.bearsmart.com/docs/GarbageEnclosurePackage-Whistler.pdf
- **Consider purchasing certified bear-resistant bins.** Contact WildWise (www.wildwise.ca) for more information about what products do work.
Note: If your home was part of the 2014 WildWise bear resistant bin project and you have bear locks on your bins, remember to use the clips at all times. They require very little effort and really work when used properly.
- **Keep your attractants out of sight.** Bears learn quickly and will look for familiar sources of food. Your driveway, curbside and front porch are all visible. Choose a spot that is out of sight of a bear who is cruising down the street or green belt.
- **Wash your bins out to reduce smells.**
- **Keep compost and meat scraps in the freezer until collection day.** This will help reduce smells that attract bears and other wildlife and reduce the need to scrub that gross bin out.

Controlling Other Wildlife Attractants on your Property:

Bird feeders & seed	Put feeders away April to late October or when the first reports of bear sightings occur. More tips can be found here: www.wildwise.ca/birds
Chicken coops & bee hives	Enclose all livestock with certified electric fencing. www.wildwise.ca/tips-and-resources/#electric-fencing
Smokers & BBQs	Clean regularly and store in a locked shed or garage.
Outdoor freezers	Keep in a locked garage, out of sight. Install padlocks on both front corners. One lock in the middle won't stop a bear.
Pets & pet food	Never feed pets outside and clean up after them regularly.

Garbage kills bears.

The majority of conflicts that humans have with bears are the result of poor or uninformed waste management. Bears regard our garbage as food and are likely to protect their food aggressively.

Bears that are aggressive to humans are a risk to you, your family, your neighbors, and themselves. They almost always end up being killed. It is impossible to tell how any individual bear will react to humans and no bear should ever be approached or fed.



Spread the word!

You CAN make a difference. We can change our waste management practices and reduce conflict with bears - one caring neighbour at a time.



Wildwise has been working on reducing human-wildlife conflict in Whitehorse and Yukon since 2012. Please visit the WildWise website for more info: wildwise.ca/tips-and-resources/#waste-management

