

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

URBAN BEAR MANAGEMENT AREA ORDINANCE

1) What does this Ordinance require?

- The Ordinance requires refuse to be secured at all times except those days that refuse is picked up by trash haulers. On scheduled garbage pick-up dates, refuse is required to be secured in a trash can and cannot be moved from the secure area to the curb for pick-up until 5am (or after). Once emptied, trash containers are required to be moved back to the secure location as soon as possible (ideally, by 8pm).
- The Ordinance also requires that other bear attractants be secured. Attractants include: bird feeders, pet food, unclean grills, fruit trees, and other food items.

2) What is an Urban Bear Management Area?

- An area identified as having a high incidence of bear conflicts.

3) How do I know if I live within the Urban Bear Management Area?

- Our website has a link with the Urban Bear Management Area map, as well as a tool called UBMA Address Look Up. You may also call customer service at 407-665-2260.

4) When is this Ordinance effective?

- Within 30 days of adoption of the Ordinance. The Ordinance was adopted on December 8, 2015. So, the Ordinance goes into effect on January 8, 2016.

5) Do I have to purchase a bear resistant trash container in order to comply with the Ordinance?

- No, the Ordinance does not require residents to purchase a bear-resistant container. However, all residents are required to secure other bear attractants (pet food, grills, bird feeders, etc.).

6) If I currently use a bear resistant trash container, do I have to comply with the set hours for trash pick-up?

- Residents who utilize a bear-resistant trash container are not required to comply with the hours for trash pick-up. However, all residents are required to secure other bear attractants (pet food, grills, bird feeders, etc.).

7) My trash is picked up early in the morning. Can I put my trash out for hauler pick-up by my hauler the night before?

- You can put your trash out the night before pick-up by your hauler if you utilize an approved bear resistant container. However, trash cannot be put

out the night prior to pick-up if you are not utilizing a bear-resistant container.

8) What if I live within a city located within the urban bear management area?

- This is a comprehensive bear management Ordinance. Under the County Charter, cities can opt out of the Ordinance or adopt their own bear management Ordinance. The City of Longwood and the City of Sanford have not adopted a different Ordinance at this time.
- Please note, although this Ordinance is applicable to City of Altamonte Springs refuse collection customers, any bear-resistant refuse containers must be consistent with the City's collection guidelines with respect to size and type.

9) How can I purchase a bear resistant container that is approved by my hauler?

- Residents who wish to utilize a bear-resistant trash can should contact their trash hauler.

10) Will the County mandate bear resistant trash containers?

- The County recognizes that bear management will be an ongoing issue. We will continue to monitor the success of current bear mitigation efforts to determine if bear resistant trash containers, or other abatement efforts, are necessary.

11) Who do I contact if have issues with compliance in my community?

- Please call customer service at 407-665-2260.

12) How can I manage other bear attractants at my home?

- About 50% of the bears in our area will go to-and-from the forest to urban areas to seek food. Once the main food attractant is secured (trash), bears will seek out other food options. It is important residents secure all attractants, not just garbage. These include:
 - Pet food;
 - Fruit bearing trees;
 - Food left on patio;
 - Dirty grills; and
 - Bird Feeders.

13) How will County Code Enforcement monitor unclean grills, citrus trees, bird feeders, pet food, and other bear attractants?

- If there is an issue with bear activity or conflict, the County will look to manage the attractant. However, code enforcement will not be actively seeking out unclean grills, bird feeders, etc. Rather, code enforcement will be managing issues that are reported as bear attractants.

14) How can I learn more about bear management in Florida?

- Visit MyFWC.com for more information.

15) Who do I call if I have an issue or concern about a bear in my area?

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is best suited to address your bear issues, visit MyFWC.com or call (850) 488-4676.

16) What will Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission do when I contact them about a bear conflict in my area?

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission follows a policy that includes several steps towards managing bear conflicts. Bear encounters are managed on a case-by-case basis, however there are several options that Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission follows in order to manage a bear-related matter.