



Seminole County's incredible wild animals are a treasure, but encounters with bears, bobcats, coyotes, raccoons and other critters are a daily occurrence and require caution.

Since food odors attract bears, keeping garbage and recycles secure is the most important way to reduce bear activity in our community. Eliminating trash as a bear attractant helps keep both bears and humans safe. Forest Edge covenants require all garbage, recycle and lawn waste containers to be stored out-of-sight from common areas and neighboring lots, but in Bear Country, we have to take it a step further.

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## Urban Bear Management Area

Altamonte Springs is within Seminole County's Urban Bear Management Area. All residents must follow these solid waste management ordinances:

- Secure garbage and recycling inside an enclosed area such as a garage or shed until at least 5am on designated collection days.
- Placing containers out-of-sight behind a fence does not meet this requirement.
- Seminole County may issue a penalty of \$100 per violation.

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## Tips for Living with Bears

In addition to securing garbage and recycling, remember these tips:

- **Never feed or approach bears.** Allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food alters their behavior. It teaches them to approach homes and people and see us as a source of food.
- **Remove or modify bird feeders.** Remove or modify bird and wildlife feeders to prevent bears from reaching them.
- **Never leave pet food outdoors.**
- **Pick up fallen fruit.**
- **Clean and store grills.** Remove grease and food particles from grills after each use. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area.
- **Report bear activity.** Report human-bear conflicts to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at [352-732-1225](tel:352-732-1225) or online at [myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com) as soon as possible.

*Thank you for helping to protect neighbors, pets and wildlife!*