

BEAR ENCOUNTER PREVENTION BLUEPRINT

Safely Sharing the Landscape with Bears

BE MINDFUL

Be aware of your surroundings...

Activate your senses when recreating in bear country:

STOP - LOOK - LISTEN - REPEAT

Get unplugged and be present when using forest trails and beaches in remote and not so remote destinations.

BE INFORMED

Before you go out...

Learn about bear safety principles and procedures. Learn bear behaviour. There are two types of encounters a defensive one and a non-defensive one. How you react depends on the bear species and the type of encounter. Become familiar with the area you are exploring. Ask questions about bear activities and their location, so you can avoid these areas.

BE RESPECTFUL

We are only visitors...

Bears are focused on one thing and that is preparing for hibernation. Each time a visitor passes by interrupts a bear from doing what a bear needs to do. Give them the space they require and deserve. Never approach a bear especially to get that once in a lifetime photograph. Don't leave any food behind or garbage. Human food is very addictive to a bear.

A FED bear is a DEAD bear.

BE KNOWN

Announce your presence

Bears have very good hearing along with an exceptional sense of smell...let them know you are in the area by talking or singing. Let them know you are human. Bears will usually, but not always move away if they hear people approaching. Practice trail etiquette protocols when traveling in bear country. Hike in groups, keep dogs on their leads and keep your children close.

BE PREPARED

Always carry bear deterrent on your person...

NEVER tuck your deterrent away in your backpack or on your bike frame or in your boat or tackle box. You could become separated from your deterrent right when you need it. Keep it at the ready at all times. Decide what type of deterrent(s) you want to carry and know how and when to use them safely.