Parks & Community Enrichment Committee

JANUARY 14, 2026

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Public Forum

Subcommittee Updates

PACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subcommittee Updates

- Policy and Project Subcommittee
- Education and Outreach Subcommittee

BearWise Presentation

ASHLEY HOBBS – NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Implementing BearWise© in Local Municipalities



Ashley Hobbs
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
BearWise Coordinator

BearWise

- BearWise is a regional program that:
  - Shares ways prevent conflicts,
  - Provides resources to resolve problems, and
  - Encourages community initiatives to keep bears wild
    - **Community recognition!**



bearwise.org



The Six BearWise Basics

- Never Feed or Approach Bears
- Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling
- Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active
- Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors
- Clean & Store Grills
- Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity

BearWise®
www.bearwise.org

Don’t Give ger In Your

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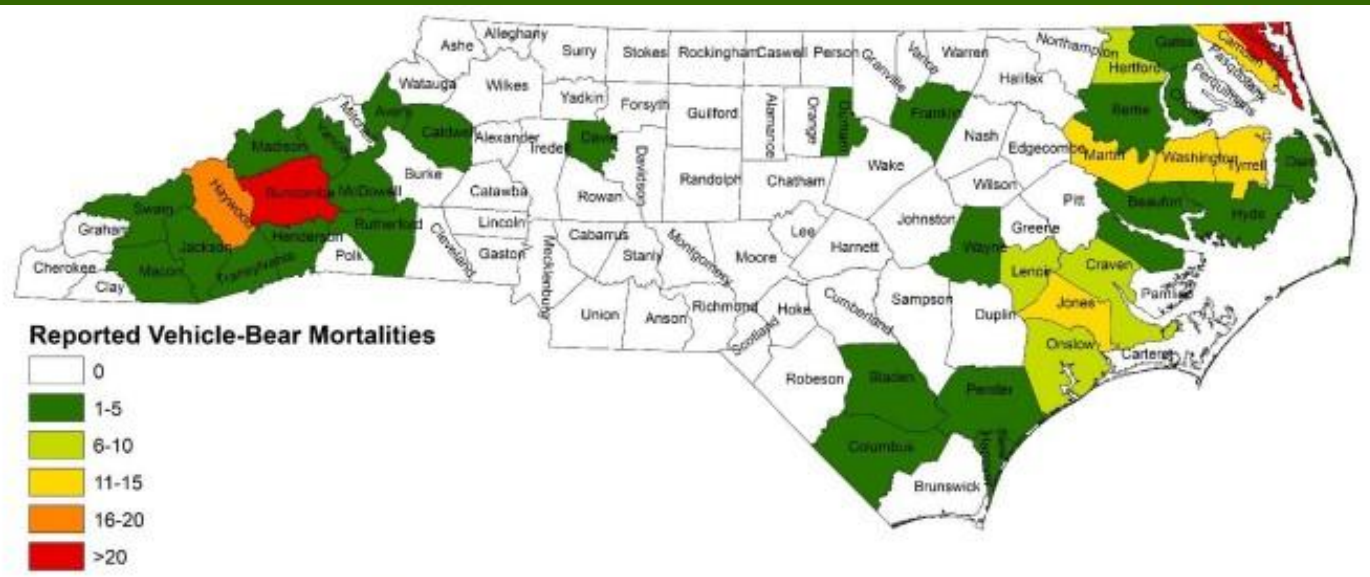


Figure 67. Number of vehicle-caused bear mortalities in North Carolina in 2020.

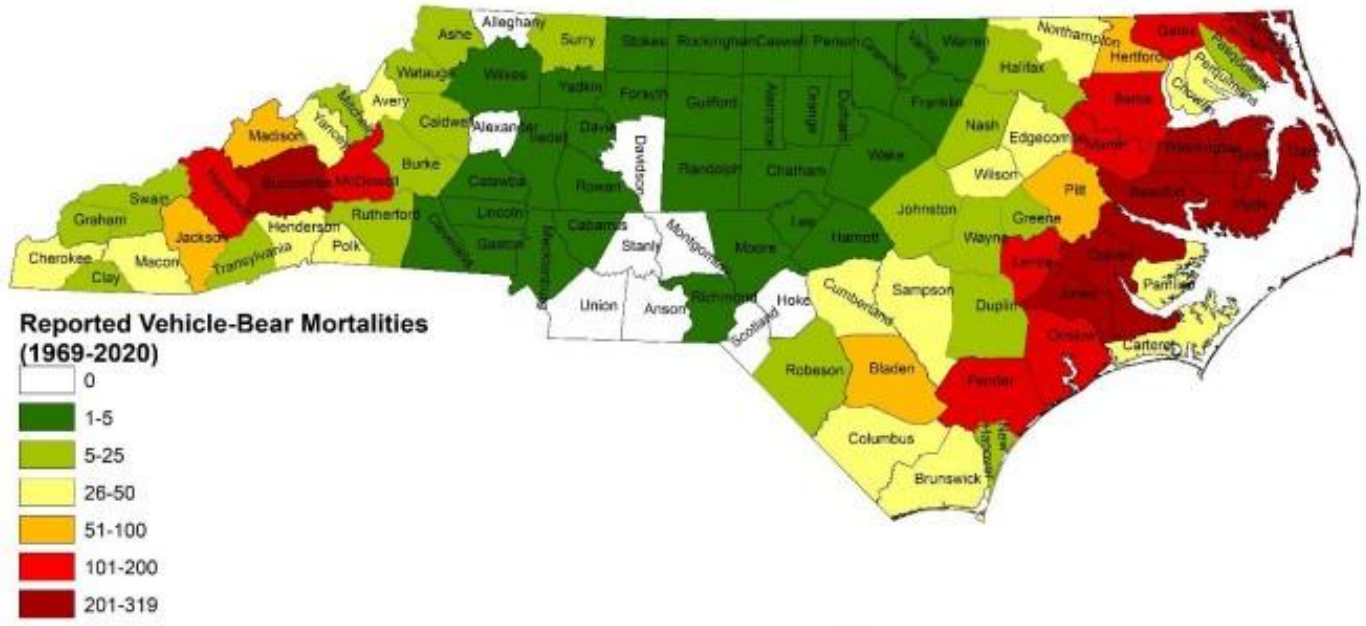
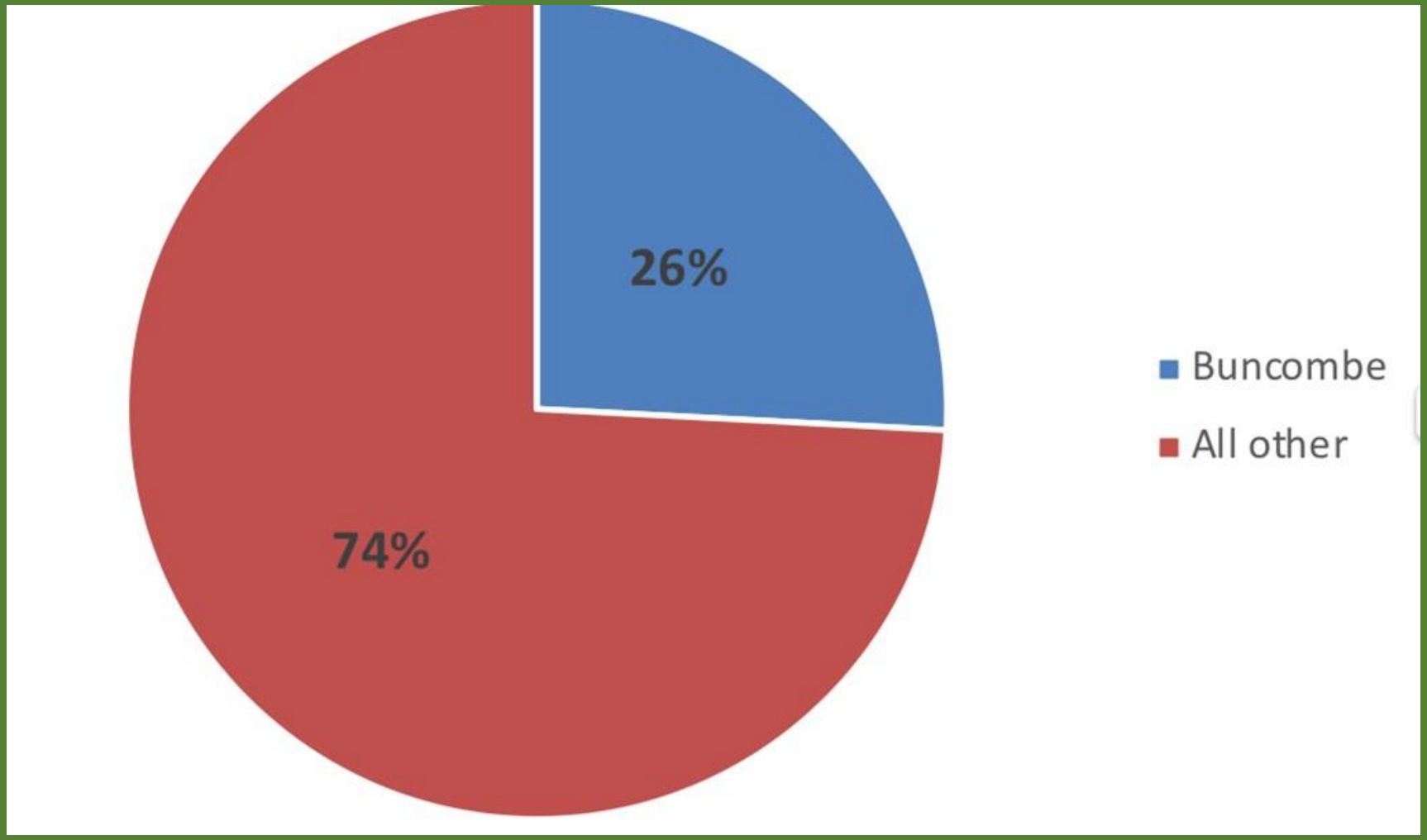


Figure 68. Number of vehicle-caused bear mortalities from 1969 through 2020.



2024 Black Bear Observations & Complaints in NC

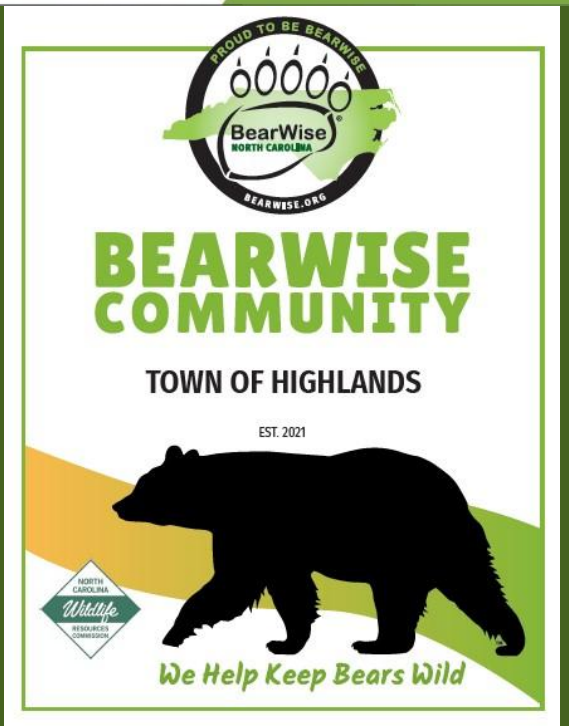


How can a community become recognized?

1. Reach out to state agency
2. Meet with biologist to define action items
3. Establish method to enforce changes & report activity
4. Serve as BearWise ambassador
5. Meet with state agency annually to check-in







highlandsnc.org/information/page/bearwise

Google Drive | PAWS | Google Maps | Works | CMDE Project Requ... | Beacon 2 | Inside WRC | Go Outdoors | Spectrum.net Home... | Grainge | Adobe Acrobat | SharePoint

- 2022 Comprehensive Plan
- BearWise
- Code of Ordinances
- Community Design Standards
- Forms and Applications
- Service / Fees
- Unified Development Ordinance



Reporting Bear Activity +

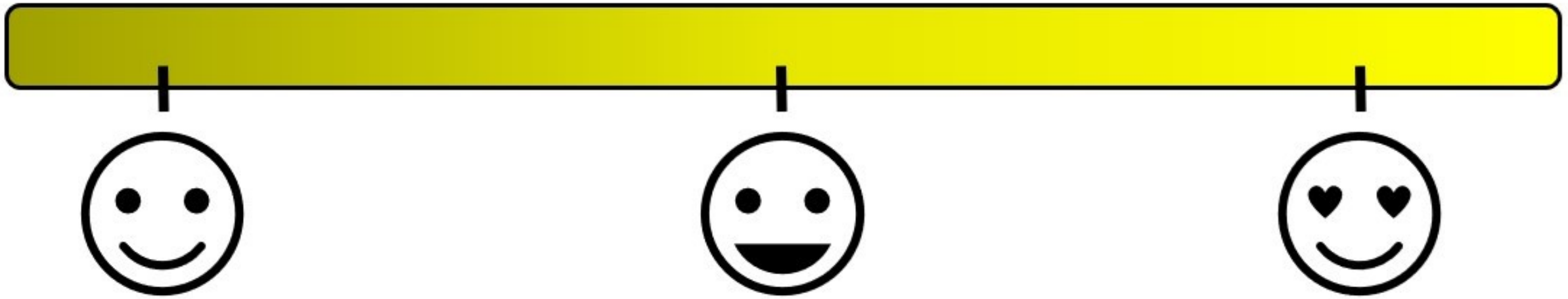
BearWise Basics +

Attract Birds not Bears +

Local Ordinances +

More Information on Black Bears +

Establishing Requirements for Becoming a Recognized BearWise Community



- Store trash carts in bear-resistant location on non-collection day
- Place carts at curb after 6am collection day
- Bring in wildlife feeders for 2 weeks after experiencing bear activity

- Store trash carts in bear resistant location on non-collection day
- Place carts at curb after 6am collection day
- Only use wildlife feeders when bears are less active (Thanksgiving-Easter)
- Bring in wildlife feeders for 2 weeks after experiencing bear activity

- Require residents to use a bear-resistant or retrofitted trash cart through bylaw/ordinance
- Prohibit the use of wildlife feeders through bylaw/ordinance

bearwise.org/community-resources/implement-effective-bear-ordinances/

Google Drive PAWS Google Maps Works CMDE Project Requ... Beacon 2 Inside WRC Go Outdoors Spectrum.net Home... Grainge Adobe Acrobat SharePoint

Effective Bear Ordinances / Regulations

Garbage isn't the only thing that attracts bears. Creating ordinances and bylaws that address community issues will set standards and make it easier for communities and agencies to make sure everyone does their part to protect people, property and bears.

Most towns / counties can enact ordinances anytime; annual changes are common. HOAs have a process for changing or passing bylaws. Bring leaders a well-crafted sample and show how it will help save money, reduce conflicts and property damage, and make the community safer.

Examples of Ordinances/Bylaws That Create Lasting Change

- Store trash and garbage in bear-resistant containers or enclosures or inside a sturdy building until the morning of pick-up (for residents and businesses).
- Don't feed birds (seeds, nectar, suet, other foods) during months when bears are active.
- Feeding wildlife or feral cats, or using other attractants to attract wild animals, including bears, deer, turkeys and raccoons, is not allowed at any time.
- Small backyard livestock (i.e. chickens, goats), beehives, and fruit trees must be protected by electric fencing.

"Garbage, bird feeders, fruit trees and backyard small livestock are universally what brings bears near people."

Richard Beausoleil, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife



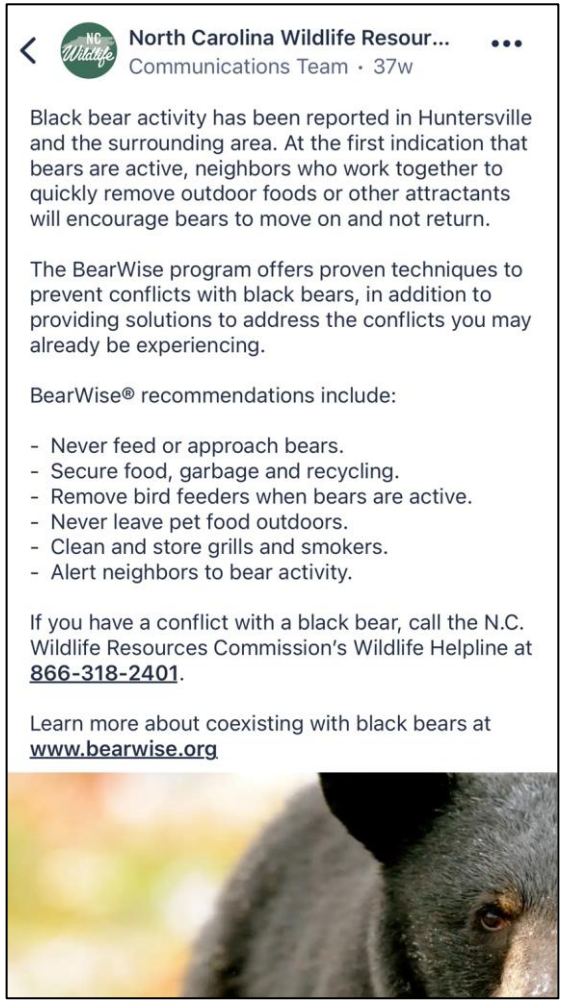
RBWCs in North Carolina

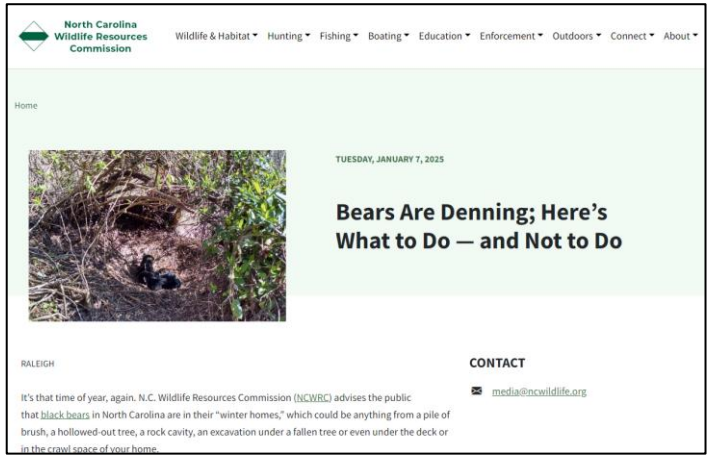
Community Name	Community Type	Bear-resistant carts required?	Securing trash required?	Wildlife feeding ordinance?	Securing feeder after activity required?
Mountain Meadows I	Neighborhood				
Mountain Meadows II	Neighborhood				 
Highlands	Town				
Black Mountain	Unincorporated				
Mountain Vista Estates	Neighborhood			 	
Montreat	Town				
Craggy Cottages	Neighborhood				

How does NCWRC promote BearWise?

Communications Division

- Social Media
- Press releases & blog posts
- NextDoor
- Video Campaign





NC WILDLIFE HELPLINE
HELPING PEOPLE SOLVE WILDLIFE PROBLEMS

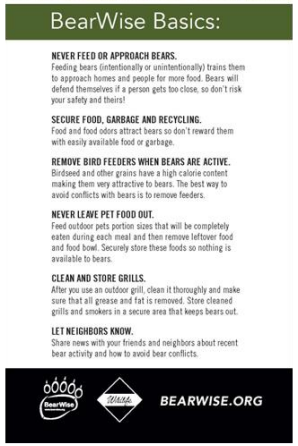
Swag, Flyers & Signage

- Designs for NC BearWise materials can be provided at request
- Request materials through bearwise@ncwildlife.gov
- Print free flyers from either website (Spanish versions available)





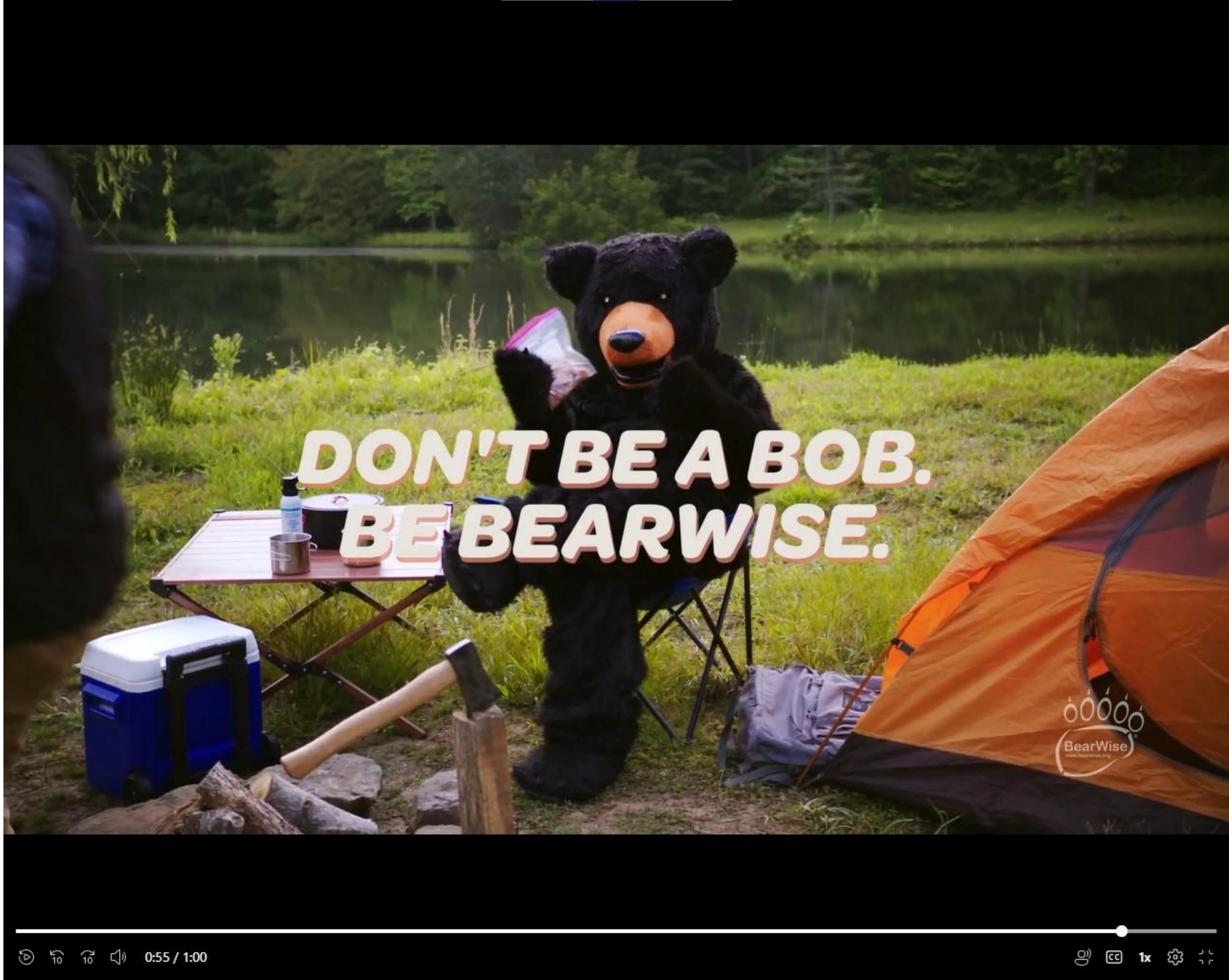




Door Hanger



NCWRC Spring 2024 Social Media Campaign





Questions?

NC WILDLIFE HELPLINE
HELPING PEOPLE SOLVE WILDLIFE PROBLEMS

Call 866-318-2401

Monday- Friday 8am- 5pm

HWI@ncwildlife.org

BearWise® NORTH CAROLINA

Ashley Hobbs
Assistant State Black Bear & Furbearer Biologist
ashley.hobbs@ncwildlife.gov

Solid Waste Policy Review

ADRIENNE ISENHOWER, PROJECT AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Who gets trash service?

Single-family residences

Multi-family residences and manufactured home parks with 4 units or less

Small businesses

- 10 or fewer employees
- Location has fewer than 5 businesses
- Collection on Mondays

Trash Containers

All trash must be contained in hard-sided containers (no loose bags)

Containers do not have to be stored indoors, but…

- Must be removed from roadside same day as collection

Town issued cans are not bear proof

- Residents may purchase and use their own bear proof can
- May also purchase and use after market securing system, such as straps
- Town provided all weather decal must be placed on side of can

Special Accommodations

Assistance offered if physically unable to transport cans to street

Submit application document with doctor's note

- Application available on website or at Town Hall

May request accommodation without physician approval

- Submit application and $300 annual fee

Bulky Item Pick-Up

Free bulky item pickup twice each year (spring and fall)

Outside of free events, fee of $20 per item required

- Complete form and submit fee (online or at town hall)

Items not accepted include:

- Hazardous materials
- Building materials
- Paint, chemicals or batteries
- Tires
- Any items prohibited by landfill

Trash and Recycling

For garbage schedules, to request new service below. You will also find frequently asked ques at the bottom of this page.

Helpful Links

- Trash - Special Accommodation Service
- Trash - Extra Trash or Recycling Can Request Form
- Garbage Collection Schedule
- Worker Safety in Solid Waste Collection
- Curbside Management (Curbie)
- Recycling - Accepted Items
- Buncombe County Landfill
- Buncombe County Transfer Station
- BearWise Program & Information

Town of Woodfin
2026 Holiday Trash & Recycling Collection Schedule

Holiday	Normal Collection Date	Modified Collection Date
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026	Friday, January 2, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr.	Monday, January 19, 2026	Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026	Thursday, April 2, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2026	Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19, 2026	Thursday, June 18, 2026
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2026	Thursday, July 2, 2026
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2026	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026	Thursday, November 12, 2026
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26, 2026	Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27, 2026	Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Christmas	Thursday, December 24, 2026	Tuesday, December 22, 2026
Christmas	Friday, December 25, 2026	Wednesday, December 23, 2026
Christmas	Monday, December 28, 2026	Tuesday, December 29, 2026
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027	Thursday, December 31, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I place bags out at the curb?
- How should I store my cans?
- Can I leave my cans out at the end of my driveway?
- What are the dimensions of the 96-gallon cans?
- Can I get more than one can?
- What is my collection day?
- I am a small business, will I receive collection services?
- Are the towns cans bear proof?
- I am disabled and cannot physically manage wheeling a can to the collection point, what should I do?
- I live at end of a long gravel driveway (or at the end of a steep private driveway), where am I supposed to put my cans?
- I need special service but I'm not disabled and I can't afford the fee. What are my options?
- I don't need/want a large recycling container – what other options do I have?
- What items can be recycled?



https://www.woodfin-nc.gov/departments/environmental_services/index.php

Solid Waste Complaints and Concerns



Storing garbage in a manner that allows for harborage of rodents



Depositing/storing bulky waste outside dwelling for more than 30 days



Dumping/throwing garbage anywhere other than approved containers



Leaving containers at street anytime other than collection day



Allowing garbage displaced because of animal activity to remain loose on ground

Reporting Sanitation Issues

https://www.woodfin-nc.gov/departments/administration/citizen_request_center.php

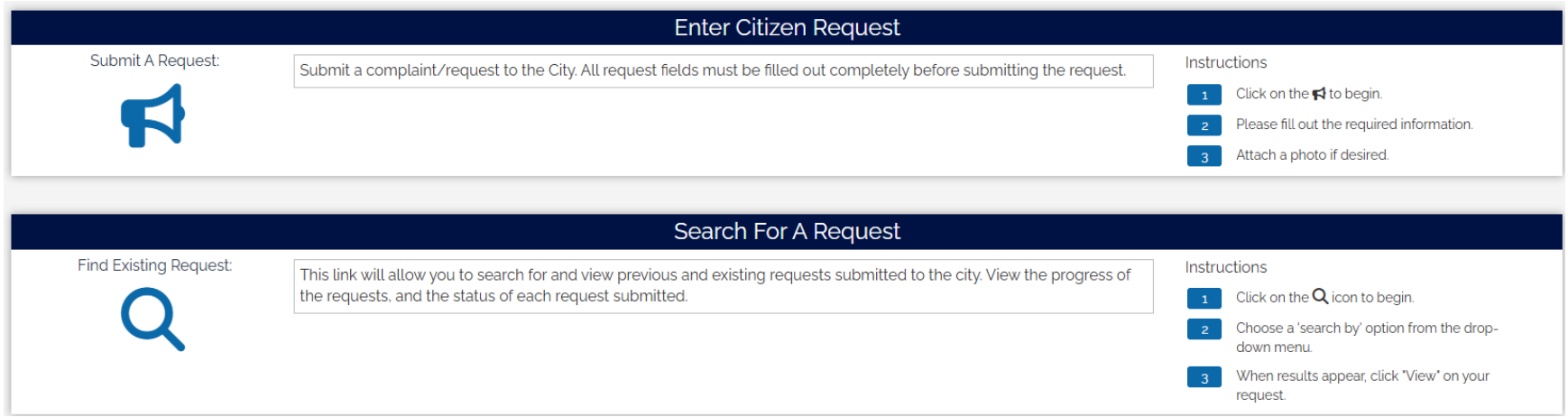
Report a Problem in Your Neighborhood

👉 Submit a Request

For neighborhood or property-related issues that may require field staff.

- Potholes
- Missed trash or bulky item pickup
- Drainage or flooding issues
- Street signs, sidewalks, lighting

You can also call Town Hall at 828-253-4887



Future Projects

PACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

What should we focus on next?

Stormwater?

- Public education and engagement activities
- Adopt-a-Stream or Adopt-a-Storm Drain

Special events?

- Prepare for park and wave events
- Assist with updates to special event policy
- Assist council with special event initiatives

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

- Gather information about wildlife corridors
- Seek funding opportunities for clean water initiatives, septic repair programs, etc.

Other ideas?

Staff Reports

ADRIENNE ISENHOWER

Silver-Line Park

Bid opening scheduled for December 22nd

- Only two bids received; must receive three based on state law
- Readvertised and held second bid opening on January 9th

Two bids received: Red Shed Woodworks and B.H. Graning

- Large difference in bid amounts
  - Low bid = $814,310
  - High bid = $1,665,717

Reviewing to ensure bids are both responsive and responsible

Hope to make a decision by end of January

Riverside Park and Taylor's Wave

Received executed right of entry from NFS

- Scheduling onsite meeting with flaggers in the next couple of weeks

Planned to set wave plates and begin moving coffer dam by end of this week

- Increased river levels resulted in breach of lower part of coffer dam
- Will have to restore and drain work area to complete first section
- Limited impact to timeline



Greenways

Amendment to alignment at Riverside Park still under review

- Expect to have final decision from NCDOT by March

Expect 60% design completed by summer

- ROW acquisition to begin at that time

Buncombe County drafted updated cost estimates to 251 segment

- Increase in construction costs, decrease in right-of-way acquisition costs
- Additional cost amendments expected after 60% design completed
- Construction costs still include Mill at Riverside segment

Town reviewing options to amend Riverside Park plans

- Costs may offset based on removal of riverbank repair already completed
- Original plan connected greenway to existing 8’ pathway

Adjourn