



BEAR SAFETY PLAN FOR BLPA EVENTS

Bears are unpredictable and should always be treated with respect. There are ways to make you and your group less of a threat to the bear by giving it space and ensuring participants do not feed the bears.

BLPA Event Leader

- At the start of the event, the BLPA Event Leader will remind the participants of their safety.
- The BLPA Event Leader will be on the lookout for bears and other wildlife activity.
- The work party leader will be carry their Bear spray in for use in the case of an emergency only situation.

Participantd

- Participants will stay together as a group and follow behind the Event Leader.
- If attending a work party, volunteers will be assigned a work area and they will remain there until it is safe to take a break, or finish and depart the work party.
- At no point will any participant will feed wildlife or leave food behind. Everything must be packed out including the garage, and green waste. (This includes apple cores and orange/banana peels.)
- No dogs are allowed at volunteer work parties. Off leash dogs have been known to aggravate bears.

If a bear is encountered:

- Participants will be asked to not approach the bear (no selfies or feeding it).
- It is recommended to give the bear at least a hundred metres of space (approximately a football field).
- The work party location or activity will be moved to a different area if the bear is not leaving.
- Often a bear is just passing through and the participants will make sure they are at a safe distance as the bear passes by.
- In extremely rare cases, bear spray may have to be used if an aggressive bear close encounter happens. This is best to be avoided by following the protocols above.
- Any use of bear spray will be reported to Metro Vancouver staff.

Report all wildlife **conflicts** to the BC Conservation Officer Service RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.

Encounters can be recorded online at <https://warp.wildsafebc.com/>

You and the public can also create their own account and enter their own reports. However, these reports are not sent to the Conservation Officer Service as no action is required.

Participants and the public can be provided with Metro Vancouver's brochure: *What About Bears? A Guide to Coexisting with Bears*

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/Bears_in_Metrovancouver.pdf