

Recommendations July 24, 2024 – Finalized at the October 2 Committee Meeting

1. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS that Council:
 - a. ESTABLISH a City staff position with a focus on sustainable waste management that includes achieving Provincial Bear Smart Status and reducing human-wildlife conflict; and
 - b. COMMITTS to sustained financial support for this position for each year of the 2025 to 2030 5-Year Operational Financial Plan.

2. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS Council DIRECT Administration to establish a Bear Aware Technical Committee that meets regularly with membership to include at least:
 - a. a City staff whose operational focus is related to the Bear Smart Program and bear awareness; and
 - b. one (1) member of each of the following stakeholders:
 - i. Northern Bear Awareness Society;
 - ii. University of Northern British Columbia;
 - iii. Lheidli T'enneh First Nation;
 - iv. British Columbia Conservation Officer Service;
 - v. Regional District of Fraser-Fort George;
 - vi. Wildlife Biologist from Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship;
 - vii. Other City staff members as required.

Recommendations: July 25, 2024

3. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS that Council:
 - a. DIRECTS Administration to incorporate multiple automated bear-resistant solid waste garbage bins based off industry standards as a two-year pilot project to select a brand compatible with City operations and to be established in areas known to have high-bear encounters;
 - b. DIRECTS Administration to return a report to Council within two months following the end of the ~~two-year~~ pilot project advising on the results and budget implications for implementing bear-resistant bins city-wide, with a priority roll-out on high bear conflict areas. The report should also propose incentives for bear-resistant bins and consider allowing temporary opt-out provisions for homeowners/tenants with secure garbage storage, with the end goal of all residents having bear-resistant bins that are always secure, including on pick-up days of the pilot project and to provide Council with budget implications for a city wide roll out of the chosen bins with consideration given to an opt-out provision for homeowners/tenants who can provide proof of secure garbage storage.
4. That the Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS to Council that bear-resistant solid waste receptacles continue to be phased in to public spaces, including parks and bus stops.

Recommendations: August 22, 2024 – Finalized #5 at the October 2 Committee Meeting

5. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS to Council that the city consider the following tools to address bear-related issues:
 - a. actively participating in and supporting programs aimed at reducing bear attractants through initiatives such as bear-resistant garbage bins, fruit gleaning and harvest sharing, and public education.

Combining support for these programs with the enforcement of section 11 in the City of Prince George Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 8425, 2012, would effectively mitigate human-bear conflicts. Additionally, this approach offers an opportunity to foster community engagement and enhance local food security.

6. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS that Council DIRECTS Administration to consider amending the City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, and any other applicable bylaws, to permit electric fencing to secure wildlife attractants specifying requirements for voltage, installation, and maintenance. such as beehives and fruit-bearing trees and bushes during harvest season.

Recommendation September 4, 2024

7. The Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS that Council ADOPT a new bylaw specific to wildlife attractants and solid waste. The proposed bylaw should:
 - a. Use section 11 from City of Prince George Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 8425, 2012, which addresses "Feeding Wildlife and Control of Wildlife Attractants."
 - b. Use Section 6 from City of Prince George Garbage Collection Regulation Bylaw No. 7661, 2004, which pertains to "Garbage Containers and Locations."
 - c. Implement a progressive increase in fines for infractions related to wildlife attractants and solid waste, along with offering alternative payment options.
 - ~~d. Define wildlife attractants to include:
 - ~~i. Bird feeders, with specific attention to hummingbird feeders;~~
 - ~~ii. Fruit trees; and~~
 - ~~iii.i. Sources of solid waste.~~~~
 - e.d. Establish requirements for the maintenance of fruit trees and bushes, specifically the need to manage fruit before it falls to the ground.
 - f.e. Mandate the securement and/or enclosure of wildlife attractants to prevent access by wildlife.
 - ~~g. Permit and regulate the use of electric fencing to secure wildlife attractants, specifying requirements for voltage, installation, and maintenance.~~

Recommendation September 18, 2024 – Finalized at the October 2 Committee Meeting

8. That the Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness RECOMMENDS that Council
 - a. DIRECT Administration to include educational materials regarding human-bear interactions with the City's utility bills for the spring and fall billing cycles; and
 - b. DIRECT Administration to continue incorporating bear awareness information on the garbage collection schedule, social media platforms, and website.