

Wildlife and Waste Information Session Q&A

Q1: What type of cart system will be in place for the next curbside collection contract?

The City is exploring switching to a cart-based collection system for recycling and garbage, similar to the current green cart style, and the grey bin for glass will remain the same. The City is also exploring different options for wildlife resistant containers for hillside residents such as the carts that City of Abbotsford currently uses with clips for their containers.

Q2. How many bears were euthanized in Chilliwack in 2023?

The Conservation Officers explained it has been less than previous years but cannot provide the exact number of bears but it is less than 5 as noted by WildSafeBC from last year's Wildlife and Waste Information Session.

Q3. Are there any educational materials that can be provided for the residents to post on social media?

WildSafeBC can provide educational materials to residents to post on their social media that can be shared in their neighborhoods. There are brochures and door hangers available through WildSafeBC that can be used if residents would like to help canvas their area for more awareness. Please email fraservalley@WildSafebc.com to receive more information.

Q4. How to properly freeze food scraps to avoid wildlife in green carts?

Use newspaper or brown paper bags to wrap food scraps and place in the freezer until the day of your collection. Also, laying yard waste in between will reduce food waste smells and prevent maggots. For more green cart tips please visit [Green Carts and Container Requirements Information - City of Chilliwack](#).

Q5. How to reduce wildlife in your compost?

If composting is done correctly there should not be attractants for wildlife because there should be no smell. Layering food scraps between yard waste and aerating your pile every week to ensure it is getting enough oxygen to reduce smell. Avoid placing meat or dairy products in backyard compost bins. For more composting tips please visit [Composting - City of Chilliwack](#).

Q6. Is there signage in all hillside areas?

There are permanent bear awareness signs in all hillside areas and there are currently two temporary digital message signs displayed in one of the hillside neighbourhood. The digital message boards will be rotating in different areas as needed to help bring more awareness to the neighborhood about the requirements of curbside collection to prevent wildlife accessing curbside materials.

Q7. Is Indigenous land providing the same information as the City of Chilliwack regarding Wildlife education and do they follow the same City bylaws?

If the First Nations Land is located in the FVRD region, our regional representative from WildSafeBC will provide the same free program like City of Chilliwack has. WildSafeBC can provide outreach to the indigenous community, schools and businesses. The City of Chilliwack's bylaw doesn't apply to the First Nations Land, but some of the communities have used our bylaw as examples when creating their own bylaws. Our current wildlife issues areas are on the hillside and there are no indigenous communities in these areas.

Q8. How high of an elevation are the bears denning? What does a den look like?

Bears will den in areas that are quiet and secluded in higher elevations with more trees. A den is a hole underneath a tree stump or in a rock grove, anywhere a bear can get themselves into for hibernation.

Q9. Is the bylaw fine written somewhere that residents can find?

Residents who have received their first warning letter will be notified that any additional observations of curbside materials left at the curb overnight may result in fines. The City wants to provide the residents an opportunity to comply before a final notice is given and a \$200 fine is issued. The bylaw fine can be found on our [Wildlife website](#) and also in the [Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw](#).

Q10. Is the green cart only required to be set out the day of collection?

All curbside materials such as green cart, yard waste paper bags, recycling, garbage and glass containers must be set out after 5am on the day of your collection. All the curbside containers are to be stored in an enclosed structure after collection by 10pm on collection day. Recycling can contain food residue and become an attractant for wildlife and therefore still require to be set out only on the day of your collection.

Q11. Should residents report bear sightings to the Conservation Office Service?

We encourage residents to report sightings of bears behaving aggressively to the Conservation Office Service so that data can be collected of their whereabouts. Residents believe the bears will be euthanized if they report to the COS but that is often not the case. The data collected helps COS track where the bears are located and especially bears that have been tagged. The information can be transferred to WildSafeBC and the City, so they know the problem areas to address the issues by providing outreach education to the community and also the City can properly manage waste and attractants from residents. Report to the Conservation Officer Service RAPP line - 1-877-952-7277.

Currently there are three Conservation Officers that manage communities from Richmond to Boston Bar and their primary focus is for public safety such as bear bluff charging people and bears entering inside buildings such as sheds and homes. There has been overwhelming reporting with bears accessing garbage and Conservation Officers may not have the resources to attend to those calls. Therefore, the Conservation Officer Service has been forwarding calls regarding bears accessing curbside materials to WildSafeBC and the City so that we can perform audits and bring more awareness to those residents in

problem areas. It is encouraged that residents report sightings of bears accessing waste to both WildSafe BC and City of Chilliwack directly to receive a faster response:

- WildsafeBC – fraservalley@WildSafebc.com or 604-217-9772
- City of Chilliwack – curbside@chilliwack.com or 604-793-2787