



Bear-Wise Outdoor Safety Tips

Black Bears have been sighted at Long Sault Conservation Area, so be sure you're Bear-Wise.

WHEN HIKING:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise periodically so if there are bears in the area, they can avoid you.
- Keep dogs leashed at all times, or leave them at home.
- Double bag your food and pack-out all food and trash.

Leaving scraps, wrappers or even “harmless” items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails with food. Black bears are seldom aggressive and attacks are rare.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

Stop. Do not panic. Remain calm.

DO

- Slowly back away while keeping the bear in sight and wait for it to leave.
- If the bear does not leave, throw objects, wave your arms and make noise.
- Prepare to use bear spray.
- If you are near a building or vehicle get inside as a precaution.
- Drop any food you may be carrying and slowly move away.
- If a bear is in a tree, leave it alone. Leave the area. The bear will come down when it feels safe.

DO NOT

- Run, climb a tree or swim.
- Kneel down.
- Make direct eye contact.
- Approach the bear to get a better look.
- Attempt to feed a bear.

Who to Contact

Emergency situations:

Call 911 or your local police if a bear poses an immediate threat to personal safety and exhibits threatening or aggressive behaviour.

Non-emergency encounters:

Call the toll-free **Bear Wise** reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 (TTY 705-945-7641). *This line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from April 1 to November 30.*