

BE BEAR AWARE

It's springtime, which means bears are now crawling out of hibernation dens in search of food. Many areas within the RMWB are in bear territory, so we need to be aware. Below are a few key safety points to keep in mind:

- Never feed wildlife.
- Dispose of waste in proper waste receptacles.
- Make noise so bears can hear you coming – talk, sing or give a shout out when approaching a blind corner.
- Don't wear headphones or anything that will interfere with your ability to detect nearby wildlife.
- Be aware of your surroundings (situational awareness).
- Watch for signs of bear activity such as tracks or scat.
- Consider carrying air horn or bear bells.
- Do not take pictures.
- Refrain from picking garbage in areas that have had recent bear sightings.
- Be extra aware during early morning and evening hours.
- Leash your dogs.

If you encounter a bear,

- Back away slowly and cautiously, but do not turn your back
- Stay calm
- Do not run
- Give the bear space
- Use an air horn, whistle or other bear deterrents
- Stay close to those you are with
- Talk calmly
- Wave arms slowly
- Avoid eye contact
- Leave the area

Situational awareness is not a skill; it's a mindset of being aware of your surroundings.

**Bear
aware** 