

## TIPS FOR CAMPER:

- Never intentionally feed bears.
- Remove potential food sources, from your area.
- Keep pet food inside or in a secured area.
- Keep garbage and odor at a minimum by removing trash & wiping down surfaces often.
- Keep garbage in a secured area or in a secured container with a metal, lockable lid until it is taken away.
- Keep grills and picnic tables clean.
- Keep your pets on leash at all times when outside.
- Carry bear spray when hiking.
- Close windows and lock your vehicle and RV when leaving the camp and before you go to sleep.

## If You Encounter a Bear that Does NOT Run Away:

Make loud noises and back away from the bear slowly, giving the bear plenty of room to leave the area.

Do not run from a black bear or play dead if one approaches.

In rare cases, black bears can attack. If they do, fight back with a stick, a backpack, similar available items, or your bare hands.



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## Be Bear Aware at Bay Mills



*Photo credit: michiganradio.org*

At times we experience issues with black bears on the Reservation. In many situations like this, bears will leave the area if food sources are removed. The Conservation and Biological Services Departments work together on this issue, but there are a few things that residents can do to help!





## You Can Help Prevent Problems with Bears

### Black Bear Facts

Black bears are Michigan's only bear species. These animals prefer large hardwood or pine forests, intermixed with wetlands, and they can be colored black, brown or cinnamon.

Males live in areas that can be larger than 100 square miles, while females — which give birth to an average of two to three cubs every other winter — stay in smaller areas ranging from 10 to 20 square miles. Adult female black bears typically weigh 100 to 250 pounds.

Bears have sharp claws on their padded feet, used for climbing trees and searching for food, like tearing open rotted stumps and trees for insects.

Black bears range in color from black to cinnamon to blonde.



Photo credit: wlf.louisiana.gov

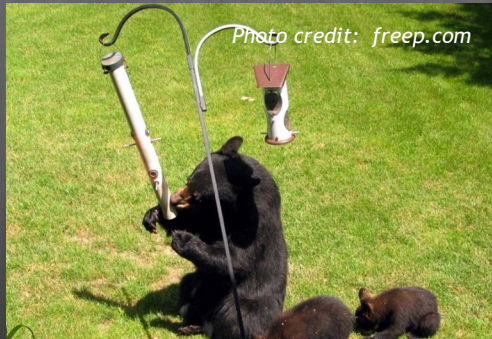


Photo credit: freep.com

### Sources

Swanson, K. and Pepin, J. "Black bears and humans: What you should know." Michigan Department of Natural Resources. 7 September 2017. [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137\\_79770\\_79873\\_80003-442214--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137_79770_79873_80003-442214--,00.html)



### TIPS FOR THE HOME:

- Never intentionally feed bears.
- Do not dispose of any food waste, food products, or meat scraps (including fish remains) in residential areas. Use garbage dumpsters or the trash compacter
- Remove birdfeeders from your yard when bears are most active.
- Keep pet food in a secured area.
- Keep garbage and odor at a minimum by removing trash often and cleaning the can.
- Keep garbage in a secured area or in a secured container with a metal, lockable lid.
- Keep grills and picnic tables clean.
- Bee hives (apiaries), fruit trees and gardens can be protected from bears by electric fencing.

*Keep Wildlife Wild!*