



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: BLACK BEARS



WHY THE FOREST CAN'T BEAR TO BE WITHOUT BLACK BEARS

- By digging for insect larvae, they accelerate the decomposition of logs to enrich soil nutrients.
- By carrying and dispersing seeds on their fur when foraging, they are '**Nature's Gardeners**', encouraging plant regeneration.
- By cleaning up dead carcasses, they prevent the spread of diseases and keep our Wisconsin forests healthy.
- Their scat acts as a natural fertilizer.

BEARS ARE NOT BEARY SCARY

No human has **ever** been killed in Wisconsin by a Black Bear. According to the Wisconsin DNR (WDNR), **bears are generally shy and avoid humans.**

BEARS HAVE BEEN TEXTING LONG BEFORE CELL PHONES

How? By rubbing the back of their necks and heads on trees, they leave their signature message for other bears. The message may say, "**This is Bob. Just passing through.**"

10 BEARLY KNOWN BLACK BEAR FACTS

1. Will most likely retreat before you are even aware of their presence.
2. Can smell food from miles away.
3. See in color and have exceptional night vision.
4. Can have brown, cinnamon or blonde fur.
5. Do not have sweat glands, so they alternatively pant, seek shade, and/or submerge in water to cool down in the heat of the summer.
6. Eat fruits, berries, dead animal carcasses, insects and larvae, small mammals, and fish.
7. Have a lifespan of up to 39 years in the wild.
8. Stand on hind legs to see, smell, or hear better, as they are curious, intelligent animals with excellent long-term memory.
9. Adult males average between 250-350 pounds.
10. Adult females average between 120 – 280 pounds.

BEAR IN MIND COEXISTENCE TIPS

- If we eliminate human-provided food sources, we can keep bears in the woods where they belong.
- Tightly secure your garbage cans and BBQ lids at **ALL** times.
- Remember to bring in bird feeders **EVERY** night.
- **DO NOT** leave any type of food outside.
 - Bears can smell empty cans, coolers, scented candles, toiletries like lip balm, soap, lotion, and even candy wrappers!



Printable Resources



Visit WI Black Bears