

Get Your "BEARings"!

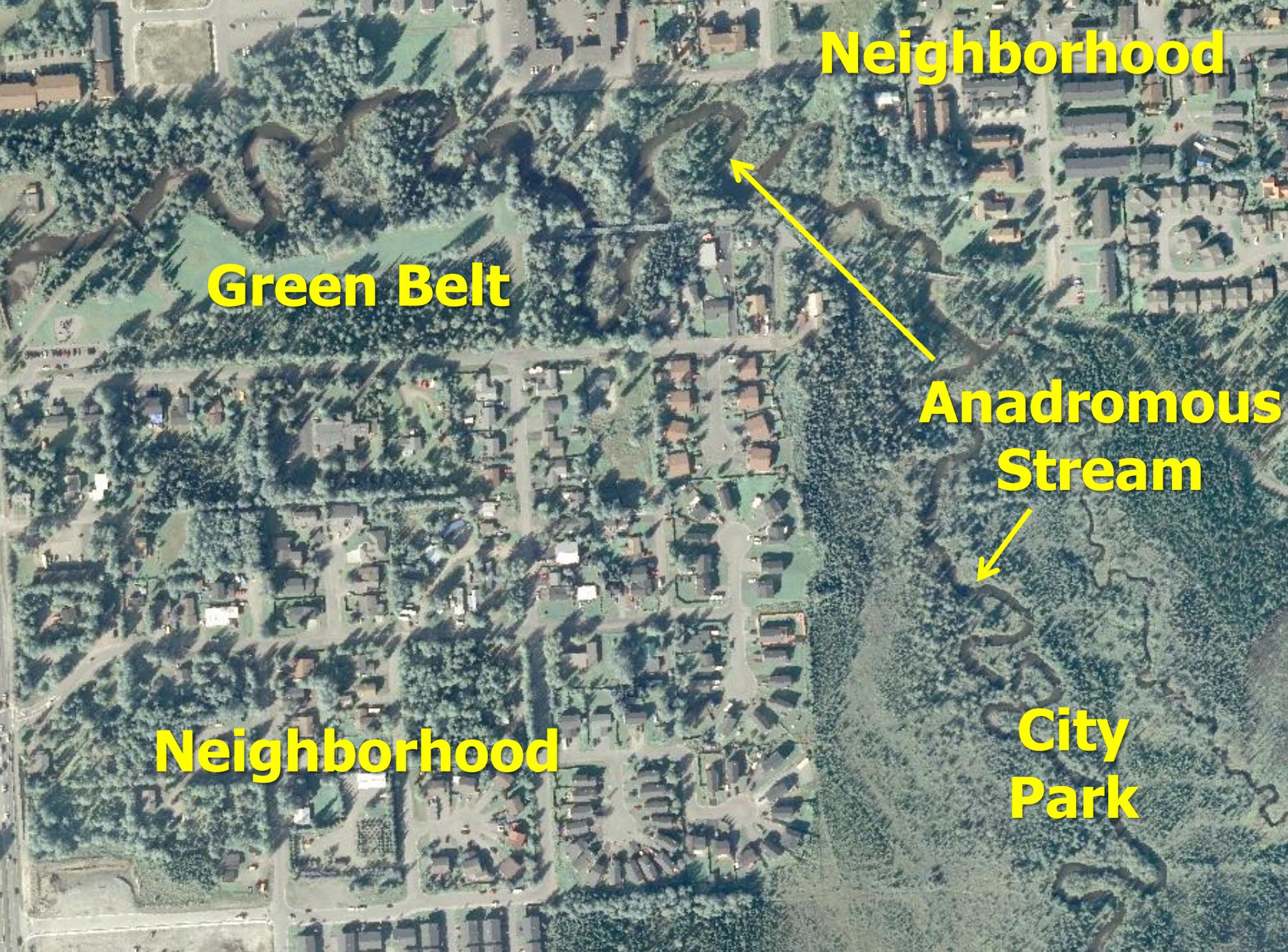
Living and recreating among
bears and other wildlife in Alaska

Dave Battle, Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Photo Credit: Marc Lester, Anchorage Daily News, Mayor's Marathon, 2008





Neighborhood

Green Belt

**Anadromous
Stream**

Neighborhood

**City
Park**

Salmon Streams in Anchorage

Eagle River: Wild runs of all five species of Pacific salmon

* **Ship Creek:** Pinks (wild), coho and chinook (both stocked)

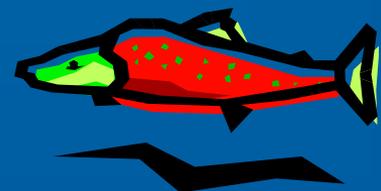
Chester Creek: Wild coho

* **Campbell Creek:** Wild sockeye, wild chinook, both wild & stocked coho

Rabbit Creek: Wild runs of all five species of Pacific salmon

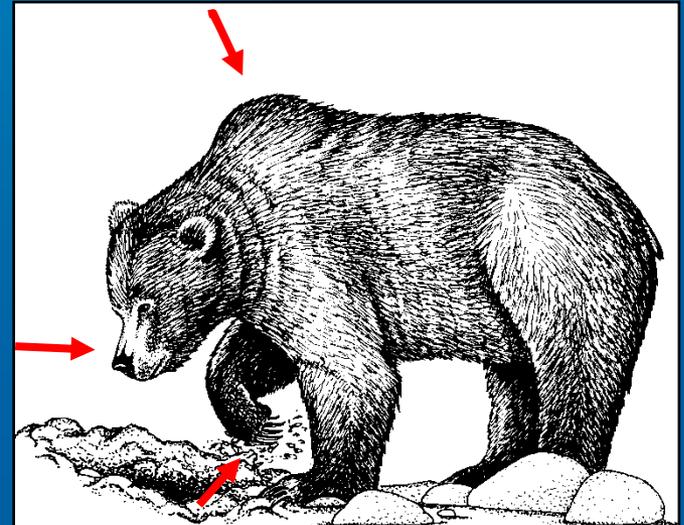
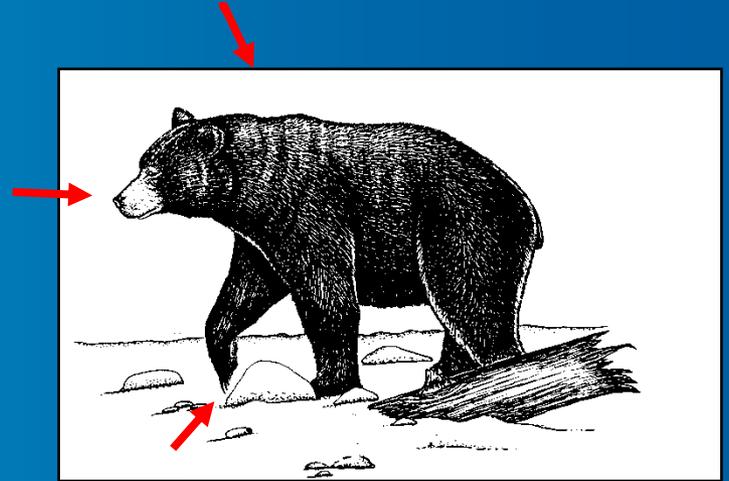
* **Bird Creek:** Wild chinook, wild chum, wild pinks, stocked coho

Glacier/California Creeks: Wild runs of all five species of Pacific salmon



About Bears: Black vs. Brown?

- ▶ Black Bears: Adapted to life in forests. If threatened, they typically flee, hide or climb trees.
- ▶ Brown Bears: Evolved in treeless habitats. If threatened, they are more apt to defend.



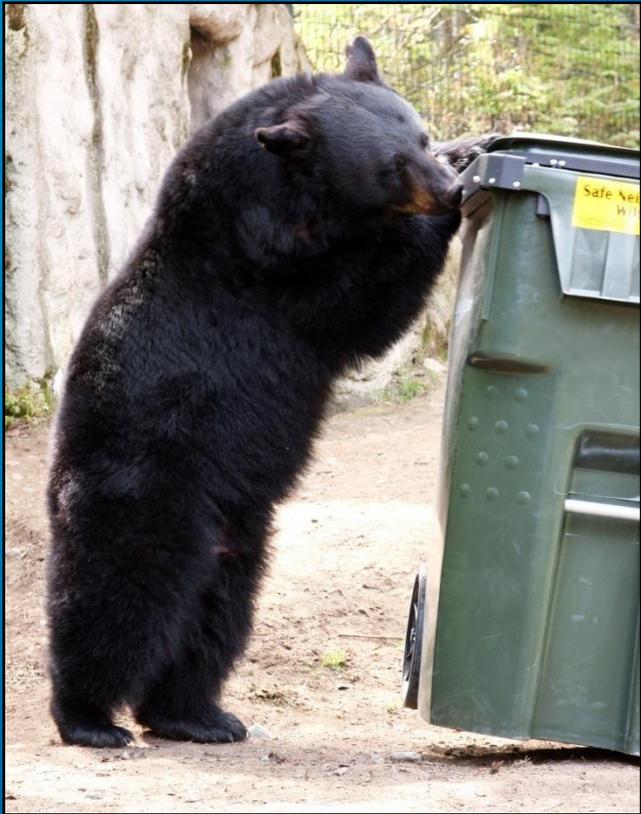
About Bears: Natural Bear Foods



Natural Food Examples



Safety Around Our Homes and Neighborhoods



Keep all bear attractants out of reach of bears

Keep Alaska's Bears Wild & Help Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

Be Responsible With Your:



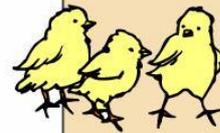
Pet Food:

Store pet food inside or in a bear-resistant container. Bring food bowls in as soon as pet is finished



Bird Seed:

Don't feed birds during active bear season (Late March to early November). Birds don't need supplemental food at this time.



Livestock:

Install electric fences to keep bears out of corrals, chicken coops and rabbit hutches.



Garbage:

Use bear-resistant trash containers. Otherwise, keep your garbage airtight and odor free, and store inside until pick-up day or dispose of it immediately.



Fish Carcasses:

When you return from fishing, keep all fish waste inside a cooler or freezer until garbage pick-up day or take the fish waste to a landfill. Store fishy nets and line indoors and out of reach from bears.

For more information, go to
www.alaskabears.alaska.gov

Brought to you by: Kenai Brown Bear Committee

From a bear's view...

Recreating in Bear Country

- ▶ **Make noise** so you don't surprise a bear!
- ▶ **Buddy Up** You are safer in a group
- ▶ **Use your senses** to stay aware. No headphones!
- ▶ **Carry bear spray** Have it handy
- ▶ **Move cautiously**, especially along creeks, on blind corners and in heavily vegetated areas
- ▶ **Leash your pet** or leave it home
- ▶ **NEVER RUN FROM A BEAR!!!!**



Be Alert for Bear Signs



Encounters: At a distance

- ▶ Never approach a bear!
- ▶ Use a telephoto lens for photography
- ▶ If the bear does not notice you, quietly leave the way you came



Encounters: Closer Range

- ▶ Stay calm. Don't panic. Never run from a bear!
- ▶ If the bear **does not** notice you, move away quietly, keeping eyes on the bear
- ▶ If the bear **does** notice you, face the bear, talk to it calmly. Group together.
- ▶ If the bear is not approaching, try to increase your distance
- ▶ If a bear approaches, stand your ground. Group together.



Defensive vs. Predatory?

- ▶ **Defensive** attack:

Bear is trying to remove a threat.

- ▶ **Predatory** attack:

Bear is intent on eating you.

- ▶ Your **initial response to an approaching bear** should be the same... **stand your ground!**



Defensive Encounters

- ▶ Bear perceives you as a threat
- ▶ A defensive bear is a stressed bear
- ▶ Defensive bear behavior is:
 - A reaction to you**
 - You entered a bear's personal space
 - You surprised a bear
 - You were crowding a bear



Predatory Encounters

- ▶ A bear that deliberately approaches you
- ▶ Shows little or no stress
- ▶ Intensely interested and focused on you as a potential meal
- ▶ Will have its head up and ears erect
- ▶ **Exceedingly rare**



Summary: Defensive vs. Predatory?

- ▶ If you are **unable to deter the bear** before it physically makes contact, **your response** to these two types of serious attacks are **different**.
- ▶ **Defensive** attack...stay face down on ground, protect head and neck, move as little as possible
- ▶ **Predatory** attack... fight back!



Summary: Defensive vs. Predatory?

- ▶ Brown bears: more often defensive
- ▶ Black bears: more often predatory



Moose Safety



When do I call?

- Always dial 911 if human life is threatened by wildlife.
- Anytime you see a brown bear in neighborhoods or any other populated area of Anchorage.
- Any wildlife getting into trash (or other human provided foodstuffs), breaking into a building, or acting aggressive or odd, and
- Any wildlife that injures a person or domesticated animal.



Who do I call?

ADF&G Contacts

• Dave Battle, 267-2185
david.battle@alaska.gov

Cory Stantorf, 267-2811
cory.stantorf@alaska.gov

• Wildlife Information, 267-2257



- ▶ Always dial 911 if human life is threatened by wildlife
- ▶ M-F 8 am – 5 pm ADF&G biologists
- ▶ Alaska State Trooper Dispatch for after-hours wildlife issues, 907-352-5401



More Resources

- ▶ ADF&G “Living with Bears”:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.main>

- ▶ Staying Safe in Bear Country Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-zkGuh42l4>

- ▶ Urban Bear Storymap:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm%3Fadfg%3Dlivingwithbears.anchorageurbanbearstorymap>

The End Thank You!

