



Dear local community members,

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) is reaching out to local homeowner's associations and community groups in the Quad-City area in preparation of the upcoming spring and summer season. The Department has seen an increase in human-wildlife interactions over the last few years due to drought, expansion and other factors.

Your community is near public land where wildlife such as bears naturally live. In the spring, bears emerge from hibernation and are extremely food-oriented. They are drawn into areas where food and water are readily available. Our mission is to manage the state's wildlife and reduce human-wildlife conflict. We hope to reduce conflict bears in your community by encouraging residents to remove any attractants and discourage bears from staying in human-populated areas or consuming human-related food sources. **It is incumbent upon the community to remove any and all attractants to bears.** Bears will frequently visit neighborhoods targeting trash bins, bird seed, hummingbird water, suet, barbecue grills, pet food, etc. It is important to understand that even if unintentional, leaving these attractants out is considered feeding wildlife once it has been shown to have attracted them.

In December 2025, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance making it illegal to feed wildlife, except birds and tree squirrels, **in Yavapai County** (Yavapai County Ordinance NO. 2025-14). If found guilty, the fine can be up to \$300. This ordinance will be strictly enforced by local law enforcement. In order to protect your community, wildlife and to stay within the new law, take the following actions:

- Place trash on curb for pickup the morning of collection (not the night before)
- Secure trash in a building, trash enclosure, or with bear-resistant straps and latches
- Consider attracting birds without food: supply shelter, water, and natural food sources like seed-producing flowers
- Bird feeders should be elevated and at the end of a long branch that is not accessible by bears
- Pet food or water should not be left outside and accessible to wildlife
- Clean and securely store grills after every use, ensure all fat and food particles are removed
- "Scare the bear" whenever it is near human-related food sources and you are in a safe position to do so

Feeding causes wildlife to lose their natural fear of people as they become accustomed to people and the food/water they provide. Our Department often must euthanize or relocate wildlife that has been fed because of human safety concerns, and research shows relocation is seldom successful. When we reduce and eliminate attractants, wildlife must return to more natural habitats to forage for food.

For additional resources, visit Living with Wildlife: <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/living-with-wildlife/>

Please help us protect Arizona's wildlife by not feeding.

Sincerely,

Samantha Martin, Wildlife Manager GMU 20A

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