

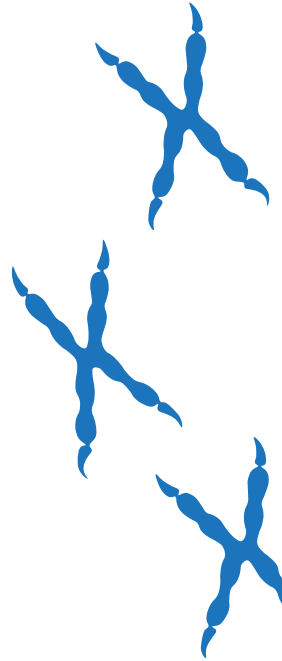


Summer ACTIVITY #1

## wildlife attractant scavenger hunt

### your mission

You will be investigating the biggest cause of human-wildlife conflict in BC: unnatural food or wildlife attractants. Wildlife attractants are human-related things like garbage and birdseed that can attract wildlife into our backyards. When wild animals find these foods in a town, it often results in conflict with people. For instance, imagine a black bear finds a bag of garbage full of tasty leftovers in your backyard. That bear will learn that your yard is a good place to find food and may return again and again to find more. This can create a dangerous situation for you and your family, but also for the bear!



**YOUR MISSION:** for this activity, you will head out on a scavenger hunt, looking for the wildlife attractants listed on the next page. Start in your backyard and then head around the block, trying to find as many wildlife attractants as you can and filling out the worksheet as you go. You might be surprised by the amount of unnatural food available to wildlife in your neighbourhood!

As WildSafe Rangers, we know that we can prevent conflicts by keeping all wildlife attractants securely stored out of wildlife's reach. By locking up our garbage, we can keep wildlife wild and our community safe!

### what you will need:

- A printed copy of this Activity Guide
- Pencil
- Clipboard or something hard to write on
- An adventure partner (a parent or friend)



### before you go:

Keep in mind that different wildlife species will be attracted to different food items, a flower garden might not be of much interest to a bear, but what about a deer? Think about the diets of different wild animals as you work through this activity.



**Safety first!** Be sure to bring a trusted adventure partner with you (parents are great for this!). Do not go onto your neighbours' properties- you can do the whole activity from the sidewalk!



## wildlife attractant scavenger hunt

WildSafe Ranger Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Check all of the animals that you think live near your neighbourhood:

**black bear   Coyote   deer   Cougar   Elk   raccoon   Skunk   Mice**

2. Complete this table as you explore your backyard and neighbourhood. You can look for these attractants as you walk past your neighbours' yards, but **stay on the sidewalk!** Complete the middle column for every item (even those you don't see today).

attractant	Name at least one animal that might be attracted by this item	Seen? (Yes / No)
Garbage can		
Litter		
Unlocked dumpster		
Fruit tree		
Barbeque		
Pet food bowls left outside		
Backyard chickens		
A flower garden		
Backyard compost		
Birdfeeder		
A cat		
Goldfish pond		
Outdoor freezer		
Other:		

3. What surprised you most about the wildlife attractants found in your neighbourhood?

4. What is wrong with wildlife finding these foods in town?

5. What is one thing your neighbours could do to reduce wildlife attractants in your town?