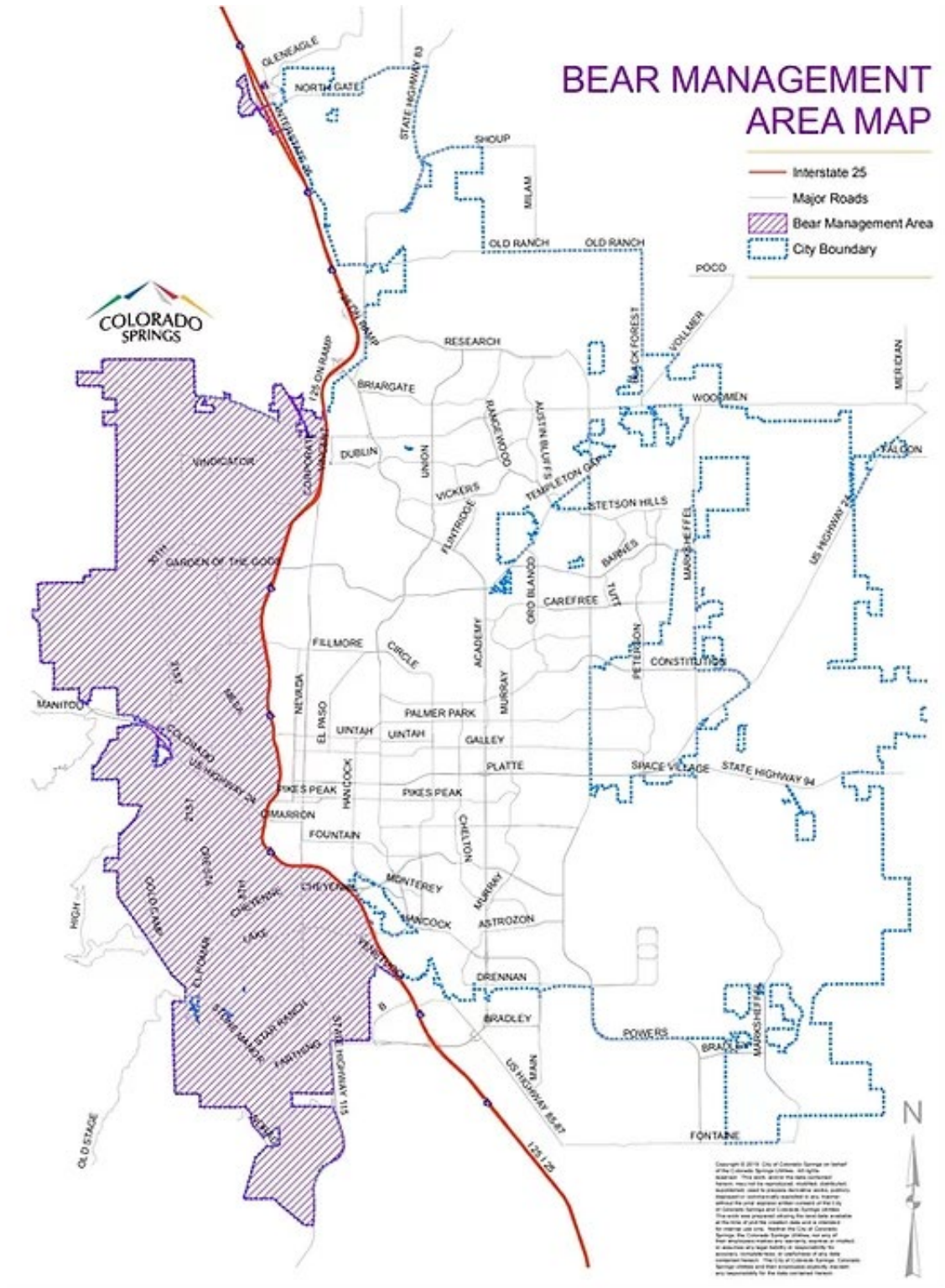


## COLORADO WILDLIFE & YOUR TRASH





## BEARS AREN'T THE ONLY CRITTERS WE SEE!

Raccoons, birds, squirrels, deer...One of the greatest reasons to live in Colorado Springs is for the beauty and native ecosystem; when it comes to trash our worlds collide! High winds can contribute to trash ending up in the street and attracting critters. The aroma of hot trash on a blistering summer day is an irresistible fragrance to the local wildlife. Non-agricultural (neighborhoods, cities, towns, etc.) conflicts center around high-calorie human food sources, primarily trash, but this also includes bird seed, pet food, fruit trees, landfills, and other organic food sources. Bears are highly intelligent creatures, and once they find a honey pot, just like Winnie the Pooh, they will be back for more! It is very hard to detour a bear once it has been "food conditioned" to find an easy meal. This usually results in hundreds of dollars in property damage, close encounters that become *too close*, or ends in the ethnicization of the bear. Best practice is to keep your containers indoors in a secure location, remove or place bird feeders in an area that is unreachable to bears, keep grills in the garage, never feed your pets outside, harvest fruit from trees often, and make sure you practice proper recycling and rinse all food and drink containers of remnants before putting them in the recycling bin ([CPW - Human-Bear-Conflict](#)).

## BEAR MANAGEMENT & TRASH RESISTANCE ORDINANCE

Effective March 1, 2020, [Bear Management and Resistant Trash Ordinance](#) requires residents and businesses within the bear management area, mainly areas west of I25 within the city limits, to secure their trash or use bear-resistant trash containers. Please click on the map to see if you are within the purple shaded areas on the Bear Management map.

What does this mean for you? If your address falls west of I-25 in the purple shaded area you have two choices:

1. Keep your trash containers secure in your garage/ shed or home until trash pickup day or
2. Use a bear resistant container for your trash



This practice applies to all properties and zoning designations within the Bear Management Area to include single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Recycle bins do not have to be bear-resistant.

**Cost for noncompliance:**

- First violation – \$100
- Second violation – \$250
- Third and subsequent violation – \$500

**Lid Secure Option:**

We offer a lid secure option for your complementary tote provided by Carefree Disposal. Let's face it if a bear wants in... it's going to get in. One big pounce and your container is demolished. Bear-resistant approved containers are steel reinforced with heavy lids. Our 95 gallon rolling totes are not reinforced, and though they are sturdier than most, they do not qualify as a certified bear-resistant container. By securing the lid for a **one-time fee of \$10**, we hope to add a little extra deterrent when it comes to wildlife. The side release buckle keeps your lid secure and locked down, so that you don't need to worry that things will litter the ground when you set your trash on the curb for pickup on a windy day. If a critter does happen to come knockin' when your trash is out, we hope the resistance to getting in your can sends them on their way with disappointment.

**We Now Have Options for Bear-Resistant Containers:**

Many of our suppliers are on back order, but we do have access to limited supplies. You may have to pre-order your bin in some cases. To purchase a Bear-resistant container please contact us. Bear-resistant containers are \$325 each.