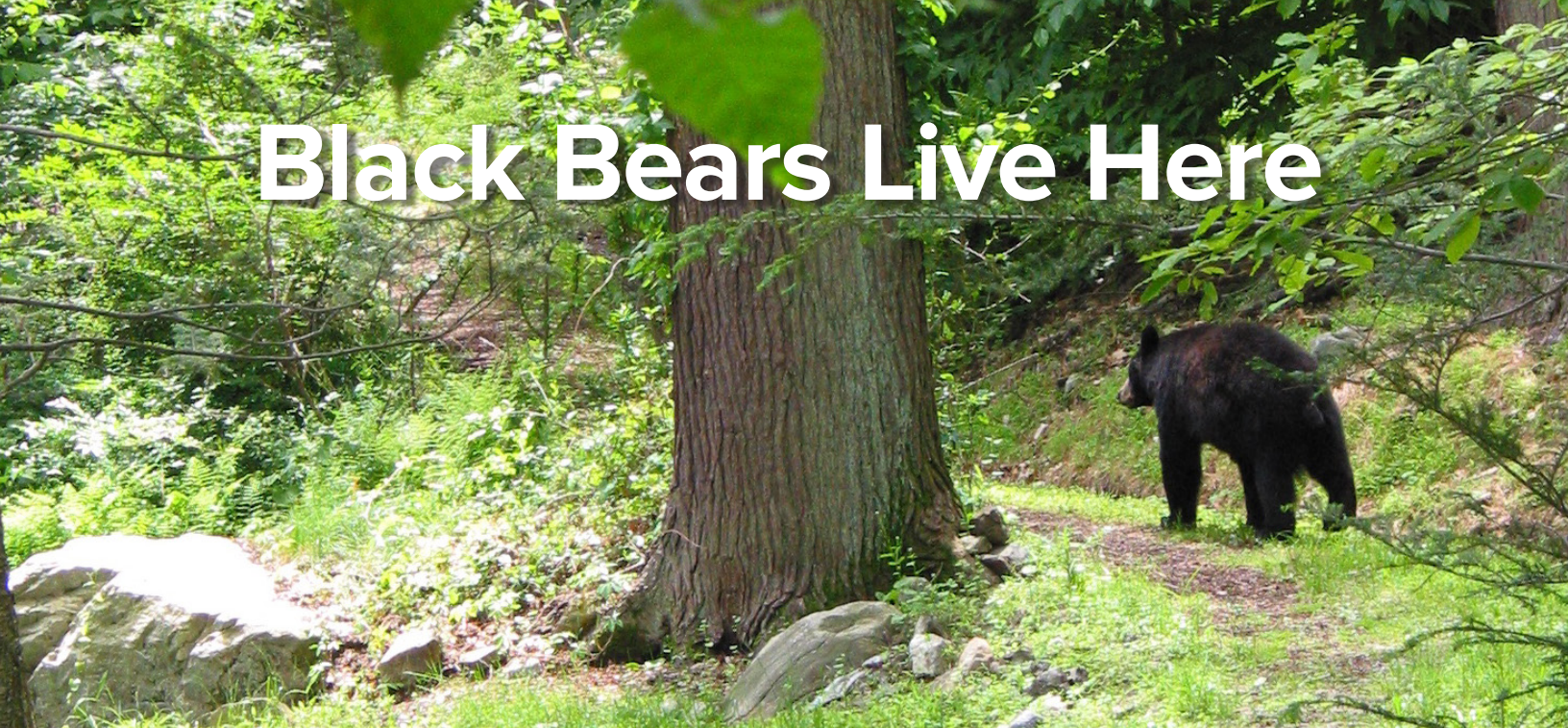


# Black Bears Live Here



Black bears are an important and natural component of New York's ecosystem. For many, black bears symbolize wilderness and wildness. The black bear population in New York State is growing and expanding, increasing opportunities to observe bears but also increasing the potential for human-bear conflicts. While the opportunity to view black bears in State Parks can be a memorable experience several important facts need to be recognized and remembered.

## Bear Facts

**Black bears are large** - They have erect, rounded ears; a long, narrow, brown muzzle; and a short tail. An average adult male weighs about 300 pounds while females average about 170 pounds.

**Bears eat nearly anything** - They are omnivorous; eating grasses, berries, fruit, nuts, seeds, insects, grubs, and carrion, as well as human sources of food like corn, honey, bird seed, trash, and pet food when available.

**Bears are curious** - They spend a great deal of time exploring for food, and this can bring them close to humans.

**Bears have an acute sense of smell** - Bears have good eyesight but rely on their sense of smell. They will often stand up to get a better smell.

**Bears are timid and will generally run away or climb a tree when threatened.**

**Never approach, surround or corner a bear. Bears will aggressively defend themselves when they feel threatened and cannot get away.**

## Bear encounters

### If you encounter a bear on the trail.

- If you are in a group stay together.
- If there are cubs nearby do not get between the mother and the cubs.
- Let the bear know you are there by making noise (talking, singing, banging sticks).
- If the bear does not respond to your noise by moving away from you, you should move away from it.
- **DO NOT RUN** – Make yourself look as large as possible and back away slowly while continuing to make your presence known.
- Return to your vehicle and report the incident to the park office.

## Bears and Campgrounds

It is illegal to feed or leave food for bears. Please help maintain and protect the bears, and at the same time protect yourself and your property by not feeding bears and by reducing bear attractants.

- Bears are attracted to campgrounds because of the presence of food.
- Properly secure your food at campsites at all times.
- Do not leave pet food outdoors overnight.
- Dispose of all garbage in proper receptacles.

From: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html>



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