

Did you know that a BLACK BEAR was recently spotted in Pine Ridge?

How cool is that?



Black bears are native to our area and are an important part of Florida's heritage. They are naturally shy, timid animals that try to avoid people. However, as human development expands, it becomes increasingly difficult for bears to avoid people.

Bears are lured into neighborhoods when they find an easily accessible food source. Think bird feeders or pet food left outside. If a bear starts visiting your yard regularly, put your bird feeder away and bring it back out a few weeks later. The bear will move on.

Note: It is NOT legal to feed bears.

They may pass through Pine Ridge neighborhoods when travelling to or from State Forests or Wildlife Management areas such as:

Withlacoochee St. Forest, Flying Eagle Wildlife Mngt Area, Half Moon Wildlife Mngt Area, Potts Wildlife Mngt Area, Ross Prairie St. Park, Chassahowitzka Wildlife Mngt Area, and Ocala National Forest (which is where the greatest concentration of FL black bears can be found).

A bear may climb a tree if it gets scared. Leave it alone and it will climb down and be on its way.

Make noises when hiking in bear territory. Do not run from a bear, walk away slowly.

Florida bears don't fully hibernate in winter but instead go into a state, called torpor.

A Bear sighting in Pine Ridge is not common, but it can occur!

Courtesy of the Pine Ridge Environmental Awareness and Education Committee