



Photo by William Rodrigues dos Santos / Getty Images

An Assessment of Wildlife Coexistence Practices in Metro Vancouver Municipalities (2023)

**Project conducted by UBC
undergraduate students Ashley,
Jingjian, Meghan, and Storm**

**In collaboration with
The Fur-Bearers**



INTRODUCTION



Municipal bylaws, programs, and policies play an important role in reducing human-wildlife conflicts and promoting coexistence.

Objective:

To gain an understanding of the current practices in place that manage human-wildlife conflicts in Metro Vancouver municipalities and identify areas for improvement.

Methods:

- Questionnaire of ten best practices for managing human-wildlife conflicts
- Contacted 15 Metro Vancouver municipalities
- Visited municipal websites to identify public-facing information and resources

We would like to acknowledge that the municipalities assessed in this project are in the Metro Vancouver region, which is situated on the territories of 10 local First Nations: Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Matsqui, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Semiahmoo, SquamishTsawwassen, and Tsleil-Waututh.

DELTA

571 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 108,455 (2021)

HARBOUR | TRAILS | WATERSHED PARK






HIGHLIGHTS

Fines and Enforcement: Enforcement for attractant management is complaint-based. Typical issues arise with residents feeding raccoons. Prior to ticketing, Delta attempts to gain compliance through education and warnings. In 2022, Delta issued 2 tickets.

Wildlife control and pesticides: Regarding rodenticides, local governments are not permitted to place restrictions on these pest control products. Delta follows the BC Wildlife Act. Delta also requires a Rodent Inspection and Control Declaration to ensure proper integrated pest management techniques are used.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding 
- Trapping/hunting 
- Attractants 

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Wildlife in the City](#)

[Environmentally Sensitive Areas](#)

NEW WESTMINSTER

15.62 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 78,916 (2021)
INDUSTRY | URBAN FORESTS AND PARKS | SHORELINES




HIGHLIGHTS

Off-leash dog areas: Nine fenced off-leash areas and a dog relief station downtown.

Urban wildlife control: Already banned anticoagulant rodenticides on all City-owned properties as of October 2020, before the provincial-wide ban.

Infrastructure: Resources on the website for rodent-proofing properties, citing reputable sources.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding 
- Trapping/hunting 
- Attractants 

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Wildlife](#)

[Off-Leash Dog Areas](#)

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/statistics>

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/environment/natural-areas-and-habitat>

PITT MEADOWS

86 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 19,146 (2021)

AGRICULTURAL | FLOODPLAIN



HIGHLIGHTS

Urban wildlife control: Non-lethal humane beaver management by wrapping trees with wire mesh to prevent damage and installing pond levelers to allow water to flow through beaver dams.

Infrastructure: Wildlife-proof bins, signage of educational messages, and bee hotels in parks.

Urban planning: Environmental Inventory and Management Strategy to assess ecological and community value of environmental features in the City. Guidelines include identifying and protecting environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing impacts of light and noise on wildlife, and more.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding
- Trapping/hunting
- Attractants

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Environmental Inventory and Management Strategy](#)

[Pitt Meadows Parks Projects](#)

PORT COQUITLAM

29 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 61,498 (2021)

SUBURBAN | TRI-CITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Attractant management: Comprehensive Solid Waste bylaw requiring all citizens to secure wildlife attractants at all times. 183 tickets were issued in 2022. Waste cart locks are provided for residents.

Infrastructure: Wildlife-proof bins are in place in parks. The City undertook a bear hazard assessment and is working towards Bear Smart certification.

Staff and budget: Two designated staff Ambassadors to provide education on wildlife attractants, including Bear Aware information sessions for citizens. Annual budget of \$30k to \$35k on wildlife education, outreach, and staff.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding
- Trapping/hunting
- Attractants

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Bear Safety in Port Coquitlam](#)

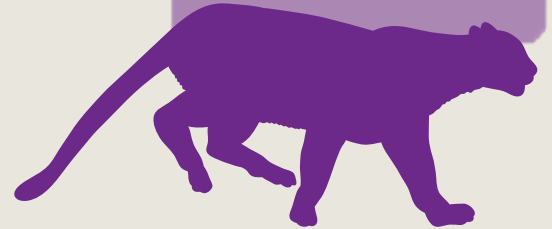
[Solid Waste Bylaw - Bears](#)

PORT MOODY

25 SQ. KILOMETERS

POP: 33,535 (2021)

SUBURBAN | TRI-CITIES



HIGHLIGHTS

Attractant management: Solid Waste Bylaw, Litter and Dumping Prohibition Bylaw preventing littering in public; Unsightly Premises Bylaw to prevent untidy property, and Vector Control Bylaw that prevents property owners from allowing vector attractants and disease hazards.

Infrastructure: Park signage, neighbourhood mailouts and advisories, and wildlife-proof bins are in place in parks.

Public outreach: Various public outreach events are held to promote education on wildlife and bylaws involved. There is the City Nature Challenge collaboration, which is a global competition utilizing the iNaturalist App to document wildlife in the city and encourage citizens to learn about and support local wildlife.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding 
- Trapping/hunting 
- Attractants 

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Wildlife Information](#)

[Marine Wildlife Information](#)

RICHMOND

129 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 209,937 (2021)

ISLAND CITY | SEA LEVEL | FARMLAND





HIGHLIGHTS

Several naturalized areas: Including Richmond Nature Park (with designated Parks staff), Terra Nova Rural Park and Natural Area, Garden City Lands, and foreshore habitat areas such as the West Dike trail.

Signs for respectful wildlife viewing: Throughout park systems, especially in these naturalized areas.

Collaboration: Contracts to BC SPCA and Stanley Park Ecology Society for coyote issues. Also, 7 full-time BC SPCA officers help enforce bylaws.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding 
- Trapping/hunting 
- Attractants 

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Urban Wildlife in Richmond](#)

[Fish, Habitat, and Wildlife Regulation](#)

SURREY



326 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 568,322 (2021)

URBAN, AGRICULTURAL, & RURAL | PARKS | WETLANDS

HIGHLIGHTS

Budget: Around \$10,000 for education, signage and wildlife structures.

Urban wildlife control: Transitioning from rodenticides to BC SPCA-approved snap traps.

Infrastructure: Biodiversity Design Guidelines inform the city's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy to reduce light and noise pollution, reduce the frequency of driver-animal collisions, and improve drainage, for instance.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding
- Trapping/hunting
- Attractants

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Biodiversity Conservation](#)

[Wildlife & Habitats](#)

<https://www.surrey.ca/sites/default/files/media/documents/Neighbourhood-Profile-City-of-Surrey.pdf>

<https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey>

<https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/environment/wildlife-habitats>

VANCOUVER

114 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 662,248 (2021)

URBAN | COASTAL CITY | PACIFIC MARITIME ECOZONE



HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife feeding: Comprehensive bylaw prohibiting the feeding of wildlife anywhere in Vancouver, including parks and beaches.

Urban wildlife control: Adopted an Integrated Pest Management approach to manage pest infestations. Performs egg addling for Canada Goose management.

Education and outreach: Promotes bird conservation through Vancouver Bird Week. Administers an annual Animal Welfare grant to non-profits. Provides public-facing information on non-lethal management of rodents and coexistence with a variety of wildlife species.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding
- Trapping/hunting
- Attractants

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Pets and Willdife in Vancouver](#)

[Report Wildlife Issues Online](#)

WEST VANCOUVER

87.18 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 44,122 (2021)

FORESTS | WATERWAYS | FORESHORE | PARKS



HIGHLIGHTS

Education and outreach: Co-existing with Coyotes Program through the Stanley Park Ecology Society and the North Shore Black Bear Society.

Bylaw enforcement: Issued 33 bylaw notices and 4 warning notices in 2022, which were concerning managing attractants.

Infrastructure: Converting to wildlife-proof garbage cans.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

- Feeding
- Trapping/hunting
- Attractants

WEBSITE RESOURCES

[Bears, Coyotes, & Other Wildlife](#)

[Dogs in Parks](#)

<https://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/2021%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

https://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/dwv/assets/environment/docs/natural-assets/DWV_Natural_Capital_Assets.pdf

WHITE ROCK

5.13 SQ. KILOMETERS POP: 21,939 (2021)

TRAILS | PIERS | BEACHES | PARKS



HIGHLIGHTS

Bylaws for attractants: Unsightly bylaws would regulate any attractant/food source conducive to nuisance animal infestation (rats, mice, raccoons, skunks). Other municipalities more prone to bears have implemented bylaw regulations to mitigate bears entering residential neighbourhoods.

Education and bylaws against pesticides: No tools are in place for providing education but there are bylaws that regulate the type of chemicals used.

BYLAW CHECKLIST

Feeding



Trapping/hunting



Attractants



WEBSITE RESOURCES



[Animal Control](#)

[Environment](#)

CITIES THAT HAVE WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE-RELATED BYLAWS

City	Wildlife Feeding	Hunting / Trapping	Attractant Management
Delta	☑	☑	☑
New Westminister			
Pitt Meadows			
Port Coquitlam			☑
Port Moody	☑	☑	☑
Richmond	☑	☑	☑
Surrey	☑	☑	
Vancouver	☑		
West Vancouver			☑
White Rock		☑	☑
TOTAL	5/10	5/10	6/10

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

1) Proper **enforcement** of municipal bylaws and raising fines

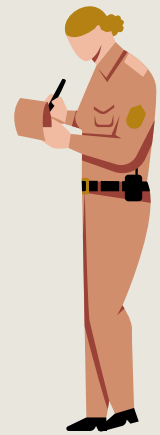
2) **Budget** for education

3) Hiring dedicated **staff**

4) Regulation for **non-lethal** wildlife control methods

5) Incorporating wildlife needs into **urban design**

6) **Waste & attractant** regulation in public and private spaces



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The current best practices for a wildlife-friendly city all play an important role in the various municipalities that we have in B.C.. The types of cities and landscapes provide a focus for the type of management required to maintain a wildlife-friendly city.

This includes:

- **Waste and attractant management** where bears and coyotes are prevalent at the borders between greenspaces and residential areas
- **Bylaws** against the hunting and trapping of wildlife as well as using unsafe pesticides and rodenticides
- **Bylaw enforcement** against feeding in areas of frequent tourism and local foot traffic
- **Public resources and educational materials** for trails that have a sensitive ecosystem
- **Landscape considerations** for roadways, dangerous buildings and electrical structures

The continuation of these management practices will ensure that the human-wildlife relationship in our cities improves in future generations.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all of the cities that participated in this project, especially the staff that took the time to answer our questionnaire.

We would also like to thank undergraduate student, Emma, for her contribution to the project.

We also extend our thanks to Aaron Hofman at The Fur-Bearers for this opportunity and his guidance throughout the project.

