



---

Wildlife Attractant Management Plan  
August 20, 2019

---

# Wildlife Attractant Management Plan

The Human-Wildlife Coexistence Report was released in June 2018. Since that time the Town of Canmore has made progress on a number of recommendations from the report. However despite this, issues related to human-wildlife conflict continue to exist in the Valley. In an effort to address these issues, Administration, under the guidance of Council, has further prepared this Wildlife Attractant Management Plan. The intent of the plan is to reduce human-wildlife conflict in Canmore and the tactics identified under four broad categories below align with the Coexisting with Wildlife Roundtable recommendations.

Table 1 lists all the tactics, timeframes, estimated budget and lead.

## Tactics

### Enforcement

#### 1. Amend the Wildlife Attractant Bylaw

When approved in 2017, the Wildlife Attractant Bylaw 2017-10 was a new bylaw for Council and the community. The bylaw was modeled after a number of (mostly) BC communities with similar bylaws. Given it was a new bylaw, a softer approach was deemed appropriate to give the community time to become aware of the new regulation with the potential to strengthen the bylaw at a later date. Based on challenges associated with the existing bylaw, Town of Canmore Bylaw Services now recommends strengthening it in order to address the possibility of food conditioned bears.

Section 3.2 of the bylaw currently reads “No person or owner of land shall permit fruit from a tree or bush, or otherwise located on a parcel of land, to accumulate on the tree, bush or ground **such that it attracts dangerous wildlife**”. The amendment would remove “such that it attracts dangerous wildlife” therefore compelling home owners to remove the fruit or tree before this dangerous situation occurs, and it would also enable our Bylaw officers to issue a fine or educate the resident before a bear, or other dangerous wildlife, is/are attracted to the fruit. Section 3.2 will also be amended to add the following “....**a wildlife attractant, including but not limited to fruit from Crabapple, Mountain Ash tree or Shepherdia (buffaloberry) bush...**”

Further to this, the fines associated with contravening the bylaw will also be increased. The proposed fine increases are commensurate with other fines issued by Bylaw Services and are deemed reasonable.

Summary of proposed amendments:

Section	Existing	Proposed	Rationale
3.2	No person or owner of a parcel of land shall permit fruit from a tree or bush, or otherwise located on a parcel of land, to accumulate on the tree, bush or ground such that it attracts dangerous wildlife.	No person or owner of a parcel of land shall permit <b>a wildlife attractant, including but not limited to</b> fruit from a <b>Crabapple or Mountain Ash tree or Shepherdia (buffaloberry)</b> bush, or otherwise located on a parcel of land, to accumulate on the tree, bush or ground <del>such that it attracts dangerous wildlife.</del>	Currently a bear must be in a tree or eating fruit on the ground for a violation to occur, essentially creating a food conditioned bear. Removing this clause means Bylaw does not have to wait for a bear to become food conditioned to compel the homeowner to remove the fruit. As well, this version highlights specific species that we are most concerned about, but does

			not “handcuff” us by limiting the bylaw to only those species.
<b>Schedule A – Penalties</b>			
Failure to remove fruit	\$100	\$250	The proposed fines are in line with fines for other Town bylaws, and the amounts are deemed reasonable and significant enough to compel action.
Birdfeeder or bird feed/nectar accessible to wildlife	\$100	\$250	

**2. Bylaw staffing**

For the remainder of 2019 and 2020, Bylaw Services will enforce the amended Wildlife Attractant Bylaw and educate the public on potential attractants and other issues related to human-wildlife conflict; existing resources will be managed such that someone from the Bylaw Services team will perform these duties. During 2020, Bylaw Services will also perform a service review to determine if existing resources are adequate for this work, or if an additional Peace Officer is required in 2021 to solely focus on attractant and human-wildlife conflict related issues. This position could be responsible for managing the feral rabbit program, off leash dog enforcement, Wildlife Attractant Bylaw enforcement, and when called upon, be trained to haze wildlife from urban areas. Details related to authority, protocols, training and mutual aid regarding hazing would also need to be determined during the service review process in consultation with Alberta Environment and Parks and the Solicitor General.

**3. Development of MOUs with TransAlta and Three Sisters Mountain Village**

Currently Town of Canmore Bylaw Services are only able to patrol and enforce bylaws on Town land, or private land where we’ve obtained owner permission for enforcement. Town of Canmore Bylaw Services would seek permission to do enforcement from both TransAlta and Three Sisters Mountain Village through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). This would allow Bylaw Officers to enforce on a larger area throughout the community where we know issues such as off leash dogs, commonly occur. Bylaw Services would seek to establish these MOUs in 2020.

**Education campaign**

Administration will build on existing communications to the community with an on ongoing education campaign utilizing a number of different tactics – social media, print ads, postcard maildrops, temporary A frame signage. Canmore will also participate in a social norms initiative led by the Town of Banff that will advocate for a change in the concept that people in Canmore and Banff townsites live *near* wildlife, rather than living *with* wildlife, resulting in a new goal for the communities to change behaviours in order to keep large wildlife out of the townsites. Because social norms marketing aims to change collective and individual human behaviours, considerable research and message testing will be required in order to ensure effectiveness of messaging before deployment. Message development is scheduled to be developed in 2019, with implementation in 2020 and 2021. Funding for implementation will be required; Administration will come forward with a request during the fall budget process. We will also work with WildSmart to plan additional pop up educational opportunities in key neighbourhoods, especially during berry and fruit tree season.

**Attractant management**

**1. Quarry lake dog park enforcement signage upgrade**

There is a need to improve signage at the Quarry Lake off leash dog park in order to clarify the on and off leash boundaries to the public and enable Bylaw Officers to confidently educate and if necessary, issue tickets. The plan

for improving signage will be developed in 2019, with implementation to follow in 2020. Once the plan is developed, it will be costed out. If additional funds are required in 2020, Administration will come forward with a request during the fall budget process.

## **2. Existing fruit tree management**

- a. Trees on Town of Canmore lands – there are potentially a large number of fruit trees on Town of Canmore lands. In 2020 Administration will seek to identify the location, number, and species of all trees on Town lands and develop a multi-year plan for removal. Once the plan is complete, removals will take place in subsequent years, likely several trees per year until completion. The plan will be to remove trees in high risk neighbourhoods first (on the periphery of town), then move to lower risk areas (the town centre). Funds will be requested to complete this work during the fall budget process.
- b. Trees on private lands – during 2019 and 2020, budget permitting, the Town of Canmore will offer a fruit tree removal incentive in targeted high risk neighbourhoods of 50% of the cost of removal to a maximum of \$300 to encourage community members in high risk neighbourhoods to remove their fruit trees. By 2021, depending on further amendments to the Wildlife Attractant Bylaw and the progress on removal, this program may or may not continue.

## **3. Ongoing shepherdia removal**

The Town will commit to ongoing shepherdia removal throughout the community. Female shepherdia plants resprout and bear fruit every 4-5 years, therefore areas within the community need to be treated on a rotation every 4-5 years. Shepherdia removal should be an annual operating cost in the Parks Department budget.

## **Policy Alignment**

Our current Engineering Design Guidelines (EDGs) include a list of species to avoid and a list of recommended species, but they do not include a list of prohibited species. Further, the EDGs only apply to lands the Town of Canmore will assume (e.g. MR or ER). The EDGs should be revised to include a list of prohibited species and the guidelines should apply to all development.

Canmore's Land Use Bylaw also includes a landscaping section. This section should also align with the EDGs and address any gaps in applicability across the town through the development and building permitting processes.

Amendments to the EDGs and LUB should occur in 2020 to prevent planting of wildlife attractants in future developments.

The Town of Banff is contemplating prohibiting certain species in their Design Guidelines and there should be an effort made to align plant selection guidelines across the valley.

Table 1 – Summary of Tactics – Wildlife Attractant Management Plan

Tactics	Timeframe			Estimated Budget	Lead	Comments
	short	med	long			
	2019	2020	2021 beyond			
<b>Enforcement</b>						
Amend Wildlife Attractant Bylaw				staff time	Sustainability Coordinator and Bylaw Services Supervisor	
Bylaw staffing				\$110,000	Bylaw Services Supervisor	in 2020 utilize 4th approved bylaw position, and determine if an additional position dedicated to wildlife is required in 2021
Bylaw Patrol vehicle				\$50,000	Streets and Roads Supervisor	
MOU development				staff time	Bylaw Services Supervisor	
<b>Education Campaign</b>						
postcard mail drop in targeted neighbourhoods				\$3,500	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	these tactics would be used year over year
t shirt campaign for Town Parks staff				\$1,850	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	
A boards at neighbourhood bins				\$2,000	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	
signage on TOC garbage trucks				\$1,000	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	
social media campaign				staff time	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	
mobile TOC signs				staff time	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	
additional engagement opportunities with Wildsmart				staff and volunteer time	Sustainability Coordinator and WildSmart	
collaborative social norms initiatives with Town of Banff				approx \$20,000 in both 2020 and 2021	Sustainability Coordinator and Communications	Town of Banff is developing of a social norms campaign in 2019, Town of Canmore should implement relevant tactics as well
<b>Attractant Management</b>						
<b>Quarry Lake dog park enforcement signage upgrade:</b>						
develop plan				staff time	Sustainability Coordinator	
implement				approx \$50,000	Sustainability Coordinator and Public Works Project Manager	\$50,000 available in 2020 budget for HUMR/Coexistence projects - depending on costs, additional funds may be required
<b>Addressing existing trees:</b>						
Town of Canmore lands: develop plan				contracted services - approx \$10,000	contracted services managed by Sustainability Coordinator	
implement				\$10,000	Public Works Project Manager	
Private lands: fruit tree removal incentive				50% of cost of removal to max \$300	Sustainability Coordinator	
prohibit fruit				staff time (Bylaw amendment)	Sustainability Coordinator and Bylaw Services Supervisor	
prohibit trees				staff time (Bylaw amendment)	Sustainability Coordinator and Bylaw Services Supervisor	this tactic is optional - Administration will determine whether this step is necessary based on progress on removal and incidents
Ongoing shepherdia removal				\$8,000 annually	contracted services managed by Parks Supervisor	
<b>Policy Alignment</b>						
Address attractants in key policy documents (to prohibit new trees)				staff time	Sustainability Coordinator, Engineering, Planning	
(Engineering Design Guidelines and Land Use Bylaw)						