From: Jes Foster <jesfoster@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 4/18/2022 10:59:33 AM
To: Diana
Cc: Greg Shuler, Amy Deyton, Darlene Barnwell
Subject: Re: Modifying city trash cans

Hi Diana,
Apologies for the delay in response, I was out of the office last week.

Could you please share with me the modification you are considering using?

Currently, the City has not approved any DIY modifications to carts. We would need to follow our testing process before approving and/or recommending any modifications.
We partner with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to test carts and mods at the WNC Nature Center and in the wild to determine what is effective and what is not. If you could share the particular mod you are considering, we would run it through their testing protocol. See below for more info on that. (Colleen with the NCWRC is also a member of the SEAFWA Black Bear Products Testing Committee.)

We are all in agreement that an affordable modification is needed and are eager to test solutions.

Best,
Jes

Per NCWRC - Testing process

If there are ideas for modifications that have potential, black bear specialists at NCWRC can evaluate, and then based on that evaluation, we can work with the staff at the Western North Carolina Nature Center to have Uno test the modifications in a formal way that follows the testing guidelines established by the IGBC, and further modified by the SEAFWA Black Bear Products Testing Committee. The WNC Nature Center is also one of the captive bear testing facilities for a new testing program designed specifically for black bears. The Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), who also created and supported BearWise, are funding a new formal testing program in order to encourage more manufacturers, especially of trash cans, to design and produce more black bear resistant products. Wildlife Management Institute is the contractor carrying out the testing program, which is going live this year: https://wildlifemanagement.institute/project/black-bear/submissions.If a modification passes the captive test with Uno, the next step would be to test "in the wild" just to see if wild bears may approach the modification differently than Uno. Though I suspect if it passes the Uno test, it likely will work well with wild bears.

Jes Foster
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She/Her/Hers

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how to recycle or properly dispose of 100s of items!

On Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 1:17 PM Diana <diana@wildthingsdwell.org> wrote:

Thank you very much.

On Apr 4, 2022, at 3:08 PM, Jes Foster <jesfoster@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi Diana,
Yes, that would be our Sanitation Department. I have a couple of packed days & need to discuss this with another staff member who is out of the office today. Let me get some preliminary info and then we can set up a time to chat? I'll be in touch before the end of the week if that works for you.
Thanks!
Jes

Jes Foster
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On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 8:21 PM Diana <diana@wildthingsdwell.org> wrote:

Hello,

My apology if this is a repeat, but who would I talk with about getting permission for residents to modify their city trash cans for bear proof straps that would be paid for, or distributed at cost (one time cost of $8), by Help Asheville Bears?

Thanks!

Diana