



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com



## **BearWise Certification Application**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Florida BearWise Certified location.

As a member of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is participating in the BearWise program (<http://BearWise.org/>). The BearWise program is a regional approach to sharing unified messaging on ways to prevent human-bear conflicts and encouraging community involvement in keeping bears wild.

In order to be certified Florida BearWise, a location must:

1. identify and secure all potential bear food sources according to FWC standards, and
2. implement and enforce compliance measures to ensure food sources are inaccessible to bears, and
3. understand and inform residents, visitors, customers, employees, and/or students of appropriate responses to bear interactions, and
4. know when and how to report bear activity.

The application below will assist the FWC to objectively evaluate locations requesting to be considered for BearWise certification. BearWise certification is valid for five (5) years, at which time the FWC will contact the location to request a new application and site visit. If all BearWise criteria are still being met, the location will be recertified for another five (5) year period.

Please return a completed application to [BearManagement@MyFWC.com](mailto: BearManagement@MyFWC.com). After the FWC receives a completed application, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.

It is the responsibility of the certified location to notify the FWC of any change of contact information for the location. FWC staff can be reached at [BearManagement@MyFWC.com](mailto: BearManagement@MyFWC.com).

After FWC staff reviews a submitted application, they will contact the listed individual(s) to set up a site visit to discuss the information noted and if any additional steps might be needed to meet the terms of certification.

Once a location is deemed BearWise, the listed individual(s) will be emailed an official certification letter along with other recognition details, and the location will be added to the online list of Florida BearWise Locations at [www.MyFWC.com/BearWise](http://www.MyFWC.com/BearWise).

To learn more about the BearWise program in Florida, please visit [www.MyFWC.com/BearWise](http://www.MyFWC.com/BearWise).

Check all that apply:

**PUBLIC:**

County      Portion of County      School(s)      Park(s)      Library(ies)  
City      Portion of City      Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVATE:**

Residential Neighborhood      Business (1 location)      Business (2+ locations)  
Property Management Company:      Residential      Business  
Multiunit Residential (e.g., apartments, condominiums)  
Business Park      Shopping Plaza  
School(s)      Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of units included in described location: \_\_\_\_\_

Business - NA

Location Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location County: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Physical Address (Street, City, ZIP Code):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Contact's Position/Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Location Contact's Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Location Contact's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

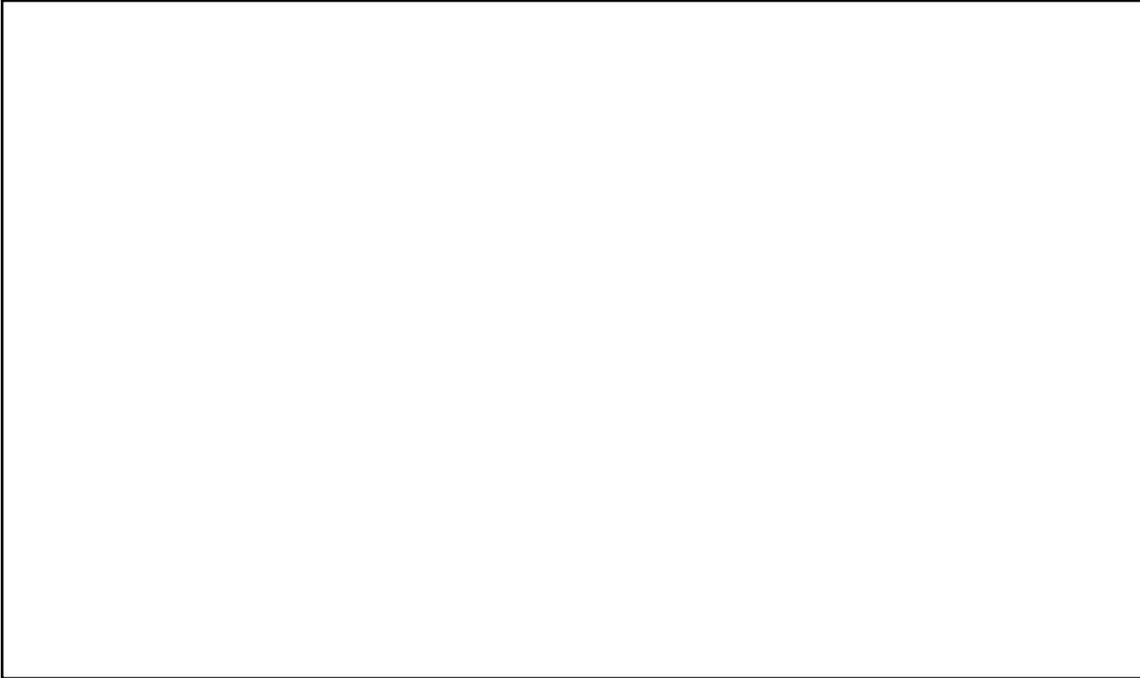
Location Mailing Address (Street, City, ZIP Code):      Same as Physical Address

Different than Physical Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Active governing board (County Commission, City Council, Homeowner's Association)?

Yes      No      NA

1. Describe how your location has identified all potential bear food sources and keeps them inaccessible to bears, including a description of any bear-resistant equipment being used:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to provide a detailed description of how their location identifies and secures bear food sources, as well as any bear-resistant equipment used.

2. Describe how your location educates residents/visitors/employees on how to appropriately respond to interactions with bears:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to describe the educational methods used at their location to inform residents, visitors, and employees about proper bear interaction protocols.

3. Describe what compliance measures your location has implemented (and related enforcement measures) to ensure food sources are kept inaccessible to bears (i.e., ordinances, bylaws, and associated penalties for non-compliance):

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to describe compliance measures and enforcement actions.

4. Describe how your location makes sure residents/visitors/employees know when, how, and to whom they should report bear activity:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to describe how the location ensures that residents, visitors, and employees are informed about reporting bear activity.

If your location is certified BearWise, you will receive a certificate noting your BearWise designation. In addition, the FWC may have limited funding available to provide additional certification recognition options. Please select which items in which you would be interested and the quantities:

Certification Recognition Preferences:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| BearWise Certified Community Window Cling             | Quantity _____ |
| BearWise Certified Business Window Cling              | Quantity _____ |
| BearWise Certified School Window Cling                | Quantity _____ |
| “You are entering a BearWise Community” Metal Sign    | Quantity _____ |
| “You are entering a BearWise Business” Metal Sign     | Quantity _____ |
| “You are entering a BearWise School” Metal Sign       | Quantity _____ |
| “I live in a BearWise Community” Bumper Stickers      | Quantity _____ |
| “I work at a BearWise Business” Bumper Stickers       | Quantity _____ |
| “I am a student at a BearWise School” Bumper Stickers | Quantity _____ |

*\*Note: Upon certification, a community may choose to purchase their own recognition items after coordinating with the FWC to receive the designs and printing specifications.*

By submitting this application, the person signing below certifies that all the information noted is accurate and true to the best of their knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_