



WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Exploring Waste and Wildlife Solutions in Bragg Creek

June 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to community concerns regarding wildlife attractants, such as unsecured garbage, Rocky View County conducted public engagement in the Bragg Creek area to better understand human-wildlife interactions, gather residents' views, and explore potential solutions. One option under consideration is a potential garbage bylaw.

The engagement process took place from April 9 to May 14, 2025, and included an online survey as well as two in-person events. The County received a total of 169 survey contributions and 308 comments. The engagement focused on several key topics:

- Frequency of animal sightings
- Wildlife attractants
- Possible solutions

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

When asked how the County could explore potential solutions, more than half of the respondents (51%) expressed support for increased information campaigns. Additionally, 30% favored program changes, which could include expanding composting services and introducing communal bins. Many residents advocated for a garbage bylaw, with 59% in favour, while 36% called for a more comprehensive bylaw that would also address wildlife attractants, such as fruit trees and bird feeders.

Additionally, most respondents said local residents are managing their garbage effectively, with 92% self-reporting they store their garbage in a secure bin or inside, and 81% of participants sharing they have the information required to understand how to coexist with wildlife.

When asked if there was an issue with unsecured garbage leading to wildlife encounters, the top concern (39%) was overflowing garbage in communal areas (such as commercial or tourist areas).

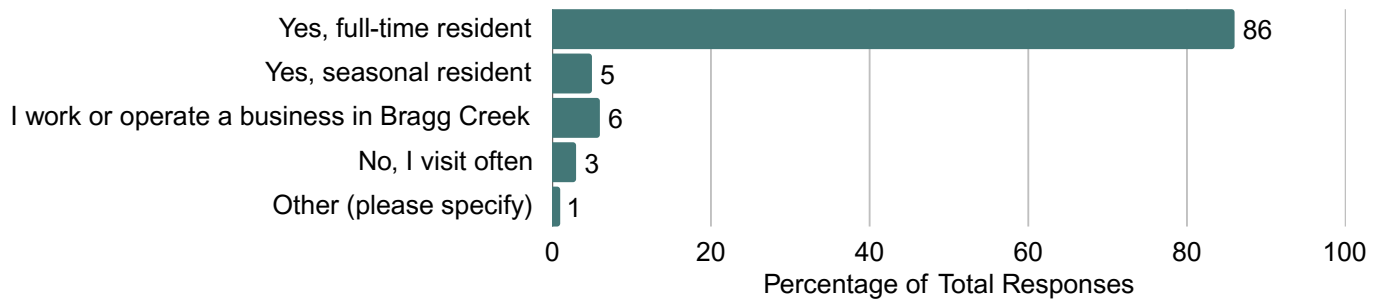
On what type of attractants lead to wildlife presence in the community, respondents identified people feeding wildlife as a primary concern (84%), as well as garbage bins (78%) and bird feeders (64%).

When asked what the County should know about wildlife interactions, almost a third of residents stressed the importance of educating new residents and tourists to teach them how to coexist with wildlife.

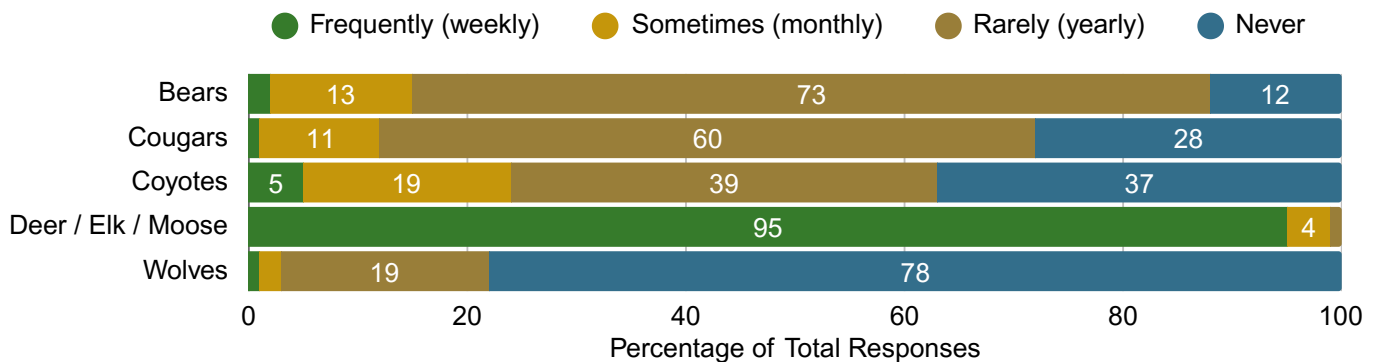
Bears are some of the least frequent animals seen, with 73% of respondents reporting rare (annual) sightings and 12% reporting they do not see bears. Deer, elk, and moose accounted for the majority of medium-to large animal sightings, with 95% of respondents reporting weekly interactions.

KEY FINDINGS:

Question 1: Do you live in the Greater Bragg Creek area? (Please select all that apply) (142 respondents)



Question 2: How frequently do you see the following animals around your house and / or business? (142 respondents)



Question 3: Is there anything you want the County to know or understand about wildlife interactions in your community? (89 respondents)

Resident Education & Garbage-Proofing

Participants (20%) spoke about the importance of storing garbage correctly as a resident. Some people also mentioned the need for bear-secure hamlet garbage, and concerns that communal bins can overflow.

Accountability

Participants (19%) stressed a need for accountability and respect for existing bylaws from both residents and tourists of Bragg Creek. They called for more enforcement and shared concerns around people feeding wildlife and littering.

Coexist

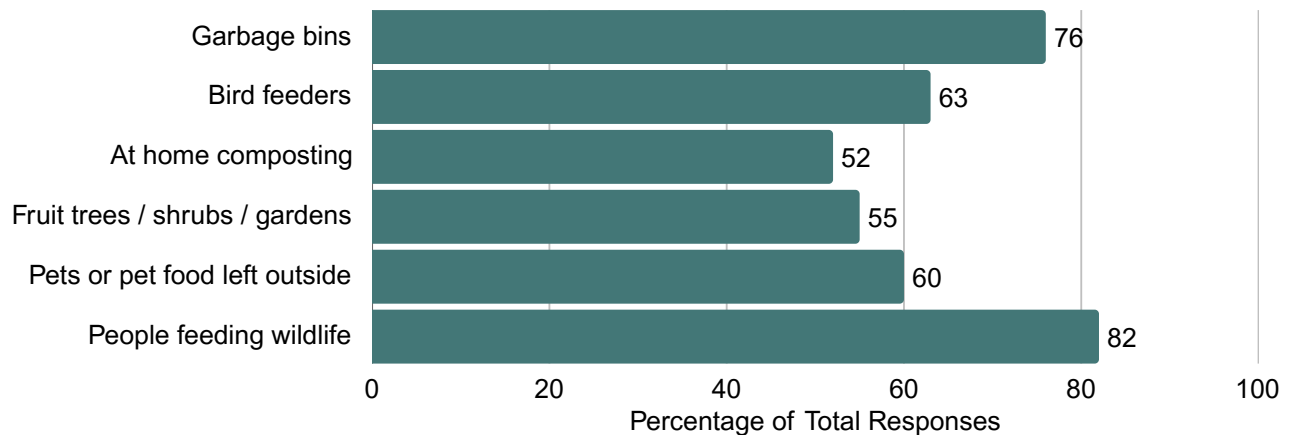
Respondents (17%) expressed a desire to coexist with wildlife and reduce interactions by changing their lifestyles to allow animals to live undisturbed.

KEY FINDINGS:

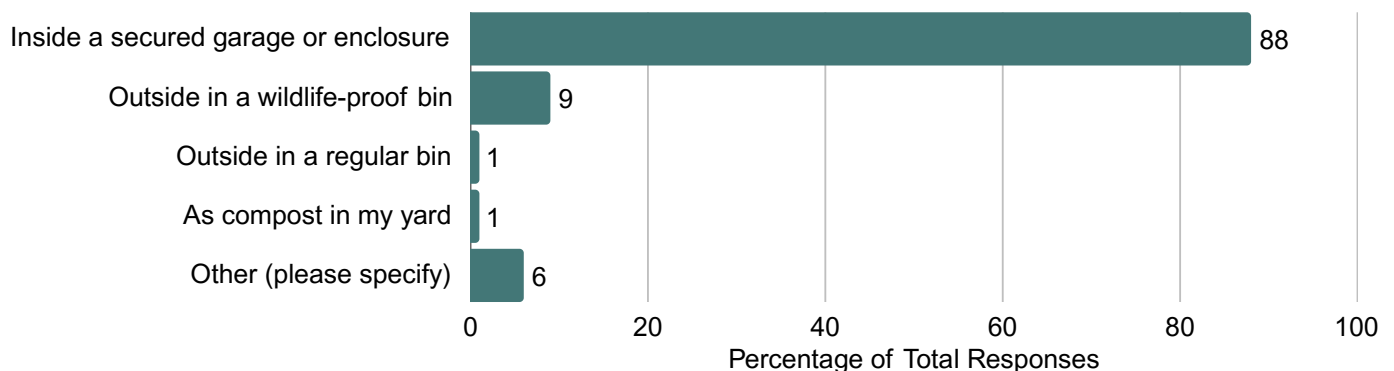
Question 4: Do you feel you have information you need to coexist with wildlife in the Greater Bragg Creek Area? (101 respondents)

A high number of respondents (81%) of respondents feel they have enough information to exist with wildlife. Some (12%) felt increased public education and awareness for people was needed, specifically newcomers and tourists.

Question 5: What types of attractants do you think contribute to wildlife presence in Bragg Creek? (Please select all that apply) (139 respondents)

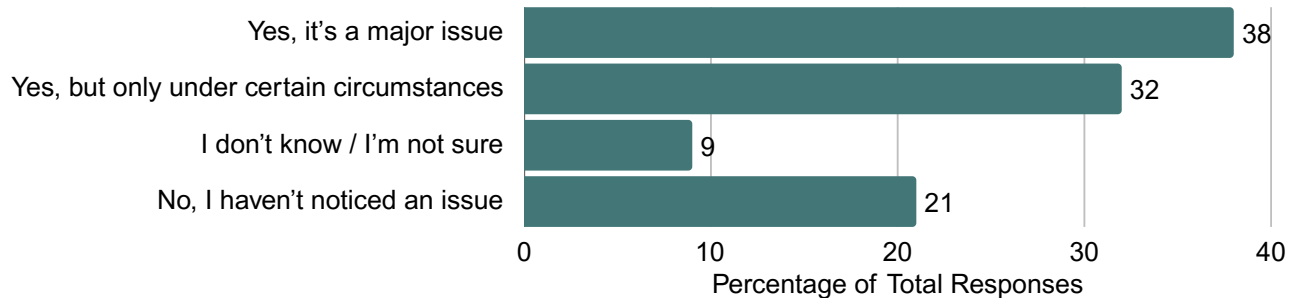


Question 6: How do you currently store your household waste? (Please select all that apply) (140 respondents)



KEY FINDINGS:

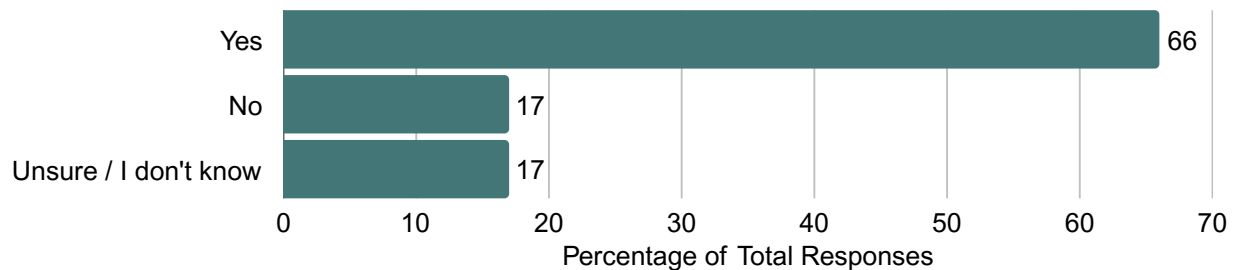
Question 7: Do you believe there is an issue with unsecured garbage leading to wildlife encounters in Bragg Creek? (140 respondents)



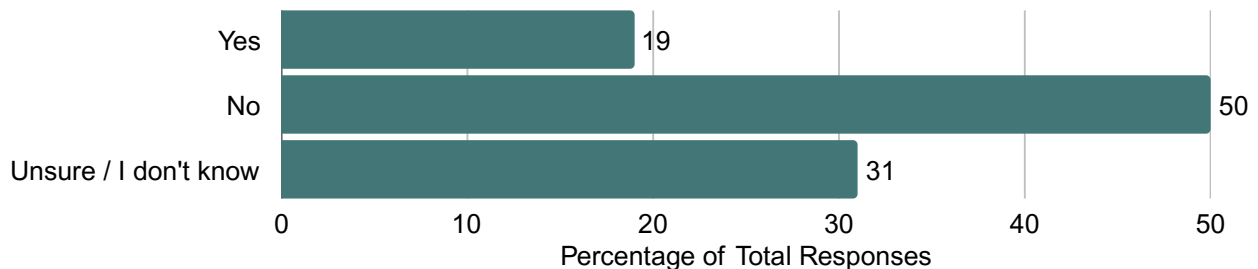
The circumstances participants mentioned were: (33 respondents)

- Overflowing and unsecured garbage within communal spaces in the hamlet (39%).
- Residents not respecting their role / responsibility (21%) or residents leaving garbage outside overnight (21%).
- New residents or tourists not having proper education on wildlife and wildlife attractants (18%).

Question 8: Some municipalities offer communal animal proof waste bins throughout the community. Is this an option you would like the County to explore? (142 respondents)

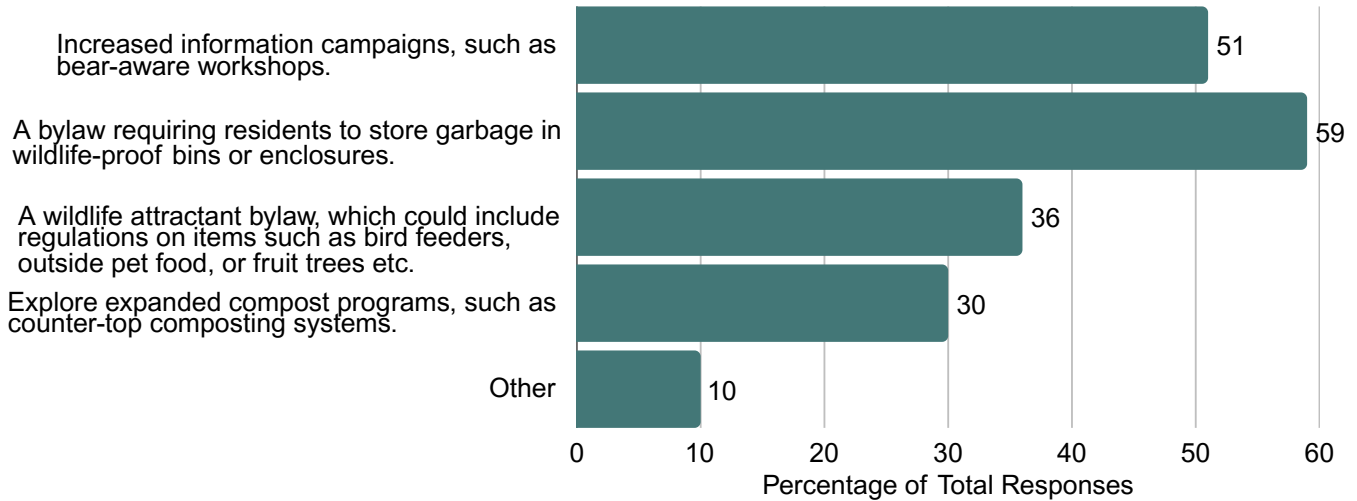


Question 9: Would you be willing to pay a service fee for a community collection service? (142 respondents)

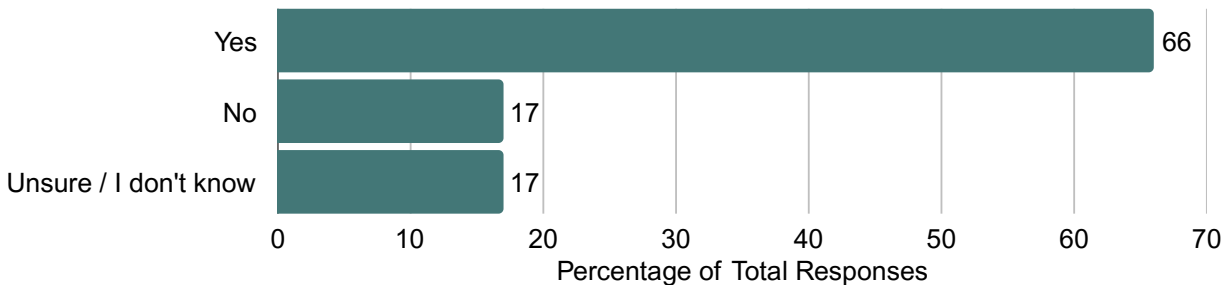


KEY FINDINGS:

Question 10: What other solutions do you think should be explored? (Please select all that apply) (138 respondents)



Question 11: Do you think the County should subsidize wildlife-proof bins? (71 respondents)



Question 12: What else would you like the County to know about wildlife interactions? (54 respondents)

Public Education & Awareness

Almost a third of respondents (31%) stressed the importance of educating new residents and tourists to teach them how to coexist with wildlife.

Enforcement

Some respondents (19%) stressed the need for enforcement of current bylaws, such as the littering bylaw, to deter people from continuing actions that attract wildlife.

KEY FINDINGS: ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

“What do you want the County to consider about a potential garbage bylaw or other solution to manage human-wildlife interactions in the Bragg Creek area?”

(31 comments)

Alternatives

68% of respondents suggested alternative solutions instead of implementing a garbage bylaw. These solutions included public education aimed at both tourists and new residents, as well as a focus on enforcing existing bylaws.

Garbage Bylaw

16% of respondents expressed support for a garbage bylaw, believing that a forest community like Bragg Creek needs such regulations to protect local wildlife and effectively cohabitate.





THANK YOU

Thank you to the community members who provided their feedback on waste and wildlife interactions in Bragg Creek. Your insights will help us create a solution around wildlife interactions moving forward.

Please check the project page at engage.rockyview.ca for further updates.