

Avoid Unpleasant Surprises



During your stay in Gatineau Park, there is good chance that you will meet some of the Park's furry inhabitants.

About Food

Special care should be taken not to leave any food lying about in a natural area. Storing food in a bag or cardboard box is not enough. It is not unusual for a chipmunk or groundhog to gnaw through a tent to get at bread or cookies it has smelled from the outside.

Even a cooler is no obstacle for a raccoon or black bear. A skillful raccoon can unlatch and open a cooler, while a bear can tear the lid off with one swipe of its powerful paw. **Therefore, it is recommended that all food items as well as any perfumed items** (such as shampoo or cosmetics) **be kept in the car overnight to avoid attracting animals.** If you do not have access to a vehicle, you can hang the food from a tree, at least 3 metres high and 1 metre away from the tree trunk. Keep in mind that certain animals are accustomed to the presence of humans and have lost their natural fear of people; they will not hesitate to enter a tent in which they smell food.



Spending time in an area frequented by groundhogs, raccoons and sometimes black bears is an opportunity that most people enjoy. However, a visit to your campsite by one of these animals can turn into an unpleasant experience if certain precautions are not taken. On occasion, food coolers may be broken into and tents torn.

As intruders in their natural environment, it is our responsibility to take steps to avoid such confrontations.

About Litter

We have installed special garbage bins, designed to resist wildlife, throughout the Park. While camping, always place your garbage in one of these bins before nightfall to minimize the risk of attracting animals to your campsite.

If raccoons and black bears cause us problems at times, our attitudes and conduct are often at fault. By feeding wild animals, we teach them to associate campsites and picnic areas with food, thereby encouraging undesirable behaviour. **For this reason it is strictly prohibited to feed wild animals in the Park.**

By adopting this code of behaviour and by informing Park staff of any incidents that you witness, you will help ensure both your safety and the preservation of the Park's wildlife.

Information:

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