

WELCOME TO BEAR VALLEY

A Newsletter with Helpful Information for New Residents

Next Door App



Download the Next Door App or join the web-based Next Door website for Bear Valley to view announcements, items for sale, services, safety and more. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and stay up to date on happenings in the community.

Announcement Boards

Stay up to date with announcements, lost and found, flyers, and other information on the Bear Valley announcement kiosks, located at both of the community mailbox stands.

Spring Clean Up

Every spring, BVCC sponsors a clean-up at or near the time the MOA city-wide clean up occurs. Trash bags are provided to clean the ditches, woods, roads and land around homes and elsewhere in Bear Valley. Usually, a Community BBQ takes place at the site where the bags of trash can be off-loaded for free. This does not include household trash.



It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

Welcome to Bear Valley, a great place to live to enjoy being close to nature within the city of Anchorage. This newsletter provides important information to new residents of this area where moose, bear, lynx, coyote, wolves, wolverines and many birds make their home: our backyards!

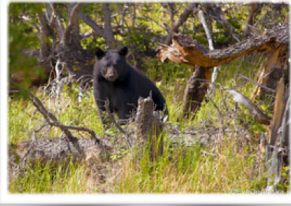
The Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) is a source of current helpful information and important issues concerning the area. BVCC meets monthly September to May on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Bear Valley Elementary School from 7-9 p.m.

Read about BVCC at its Federation of Community Council website: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/6.html>

Did you know?

Bear Valley is part of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). As part of the MOA, all municipal rules and regulations apply in the area, including fireworks and noise ordinances, leash laws, etc. Be aware of light pollution so everyone can enjoy the majestic northern lights!





Be Bear Aware

After all, it's called **Bear** Valley for a reason! Here are some tips for living with bears from *Alaska Fish and Game*:

- Bird feeders should be taken down from early April until late October.
- Do not encourage bears with easily accessible garbage and food. Do not create "garbage bears" that endanger children, pets and other animals. Reminder: It is not lawful to shoot a bear except in defense of human life.
- Walk or hike in groups, carry bear spray, and make noise as to not surprise bears or moose. Spring calves and cubs can make especially dangerous situations.
- Even the best-trained dog can be unpredictable in bear situations so leash your dog to avoid chase encounters.

Additional wildlife (moose, lynx, wolves, coyotes) are also common in the area. Do not feed wildlife and be safe and aware of your surroundings.

Other Safety Tips

High winds (up to 120 mph) are common in Bear Valley. Be sure outdoor belongings, including construction sites, are secured in advance of windstorms.

It is helpful to have a plan for emergencies including being prepared for power outages, earthquakes, winter roads, wildfires, and other emergencies.

Getting Settled In

Mailboxes: Your mail can be delivered to a traditional mailbox or in a secure mail unit. Both options are available at either Heights Hill and Jamie or as Clarks turns into Kings Way. There is a one-time fee for a secure unit. See the *Community Council website* for information on setting up a secure unit.

Trash: Local trash service is available in Bear Valley via setup with Alaska Waste. Keep trash securely stored from animals and wind. Bear-proof garbage containers are encouraged. Residents are expected to clean up trash and debris that spills or becomes wind-blown onto the road or neighbors' properties.

Internet: GCI and ACS do not currently serve Bear Valley. Most residents utilize dish or satellite services for internet and TV, such as Borealis Broadband for internet. Cell phone service is generally pretty reliable throughout the valley.

Roads: Bear Valley is a Limited Road Service Area (LRSA). Snow removal and road maintenance are provided by one of two LRSA boards that serve the community: Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA and Bear Valley LRSA. The Board members of these LRSAs are elected. Contact information is available on the *Community Council website*. Speed limits in resident areas is 25 mph. Clarks road is maximum of 35 mph, depending on conditions. Residents are not allowed to plow their snow into roads.

Parks and Trails: The valley has numerous trails and parks to enjoy, including Storck Park, Section 36, Del's Woods, Bear Tracks Park, plus trails to Chugach State Park which are available for non-motorized use and on-leash pet hiking. When exploring, please respect private property and quiet. Please be sure to pick up after your dog and do not let your dog(s) harass the wildlife who frequent the area.

Building a Home in Bear Valley?

Most of Bear Valley is land-use permit area. Building codes still apply, but do not require the same permits and inspections as building in other areas of Anchorage. Visit the *MOA website* for additional information on land use permits, as well as right-of-way and wastewater systems requirements. Also contact the *Army Corps of Engineers* for soils and wetlands considerations when planning your build.