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NEWS RELEASE

Phase II of Residential Wildlife Resistant Containers Underway

Durango, CO: The City of Durango is distributing fully-automated wildlife resistant containers for Phase II of a two-year capital improvement project. The area for wildlife resistant containers was identified through a four-year study conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). During this study, monitoring throughout the city took place to determine areas that have very high bear activity. In 2018, 600 fully-automated wildlife resistant trash containers were delivered during Phase I. The study showed that distribution of wildlife resistant containers resulted in 50% fewer bear-human conflicts. The fully-automated containers unlock automatically when turned upside down by the City's trash truck and relock automatically upon set-down.

Phase II includes residences from the Ella Vita Court to West 23rd Street and along Columbine Drive to the south side of Arroyo Drive between Highland Avenue and the west side of Main Avenue. More information about the CPW study, along with maps of the Phase I and II study areas can be found at DurangoGov.org/wildlife.

All residents that live within the Phase II study area will receive a new fully-automated wildlife resistant trash container and their current container will be removed. Residents who do not currently have a wildlife resistant container will see a new \$4.12/month fee on their utility bill. This fee enables the City to recover the cost of the new containers over a four-and-a-half-year period, after which the fee will be removed. The up-front cost of containers is covered by trash/recycle user fees under the Sustainable Services Enterprise Fund.

Residents living within the Phase II study area who already pay \$4.12/month for a semi-automated or manual wildlife resistant container will also have their container replaced and will see no change in their utility bill. Residents who have already paid for a wildlife resistant container in-full will not be charged again.

All residents within the Phase II study area are asked to leave out their existing trash container beginning May 13, 2019 in order to allow City crews to carry out the swap. Crews will replace containers Monday - Friday beginning May 13, 2019. The estimated completion date for this project is the end of June 2019.

For more information about the anticipated roll out, please visit DurangoGov.org/wildlife or contact the Recycle/Solid Waste Manager, Joey Medina at 970-375-4834.

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