

At its April 22, 2009 meeting, the Gateway Greens Board of Governors voted to bar alligator trappers from entering Gateway Greens without explicit approval from an authorized representative of the Board. Until March of this year, the board was not aware that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission required the approval of a gated communities governing body to issue permits to harvest alligators. Because only a small minority of homeowners who do not appreciate the role alligators play in our community take it upon themselves to have the animals killed, the board acted to represent the interest of the majority who enjoy observing the alligators.

While it is very rare, only 5 unprovoked alligator bites were reported in the entire state of Florida for all of 2008, it is possible for people to be at risk. When people feed the reptiles, they may lose their fear of people and approach them looking for food. If an alligator is observed approaching people, this incident should be reported to Delores Linscott, who is the board's current authorized representative for approving a trapping permit.

To learn more about alligators visit, http://myfwc.com/WildlifeHabitats/Alligator_facts.htm