

Adding bat box houses to our stormwater facilities and natural areas

provides many benefits for wildlife and citizens. Here are some key facts to know about bats in our urban community:

- There are several species of bats in the Pacific Northwest and live in areas that have suitable habitat, including urban areas.
- Bats in our region eat insects therefore will live in areas where there is adequate roosts (places to live) and insects (food source).
- Roosting sites can be any location that has adequate size and temperatures for a small colony. Bats will roost in trees, buildings and bat houses.
- Stormwater facilities may have ponding water that is suitable for insects therefore providing roosting sites for bats help keep the insect populations in balance.
- Bats are mammals with minimal impacts to humans in urban settings (they already live in our community, even downtown settings).



Bat Box Houses are:

- A place for bats to nest and care for their young
- Similar to a bird house, with bats specific details
- Simple to build, no carpentry skills needed
- A way to attract bats to an area of high insect density

VolunteerClark.com & parkhero.org

Your resources for volunteering in Clark County!

These websites provide information to match volunteers to projects for their skills, interests and time availability. VolunteerClark is a central web site for linking volunteers to local environmental agencies and organizations that need their help. ParkHero is a county program for park, trail and natural area volunteer projects, such as litter pick-up and plantings.



ClarkGreenNeighbors.org

Want to learn more about you can do on your own property to protect our environment?

- Check out our website for tips on a greener lifestyle, informative workshops, fun community festivals, and other events.

A volunteer opportunity partnership between:



Clark County Environmental Services
360-397-2121 ext. 4345
www.clark.wa.gov/environment

Clark County Public Works
360-397-6118 ext. 1627
www.clark.wa.gov/parks



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Build Bat Box Houses



Create valuable habitat to support a healthy environment



Why do we need bats?

- Stormwater facilities, such as ponds or bio-swales, are vital features of Clark County's stormwater management system. They are designed to slow and control the water runoff from developed areas (houses, schools, roads) and direct it to local water ways near by.
- Certain insects, such as midges and mosquitoes require standing water and lots of oxygen for breeding. Stormwater facilities may have both key breeding elements.
- Experts recommend a key solution to insect control is to improve the habitat for predators such as bats. Some bats can capture between 500 to 1,000 insects in a single hour.



Little brown bat

Interested in other volunteer opportunities in our natural areas?

Visit our web pages listed on the back of this brochure for more information.

- Tree planting
- Weed pulls
- Natural area enhancement
- Natural gardening
- Streamside clean-ups

Contact the volunteer coordinator at (360) 397-6118 x1627 for more information. Building bat box houses is a great way to volunteer in our community and protect our environment. We will help find a location near you that is great for the bats and the neighborhood.

Are you or your community group interested in helping to build bat boxes for our local stormwater facilities and natural areas? Volunteers are needed throughout our urban area. These projects are great for community groups, student clubs and scout troops, including kids and adults alike!

Here are some tips on what a bat box project requires for your group:

Location, location, location!* - One of the keys to the success of a bat box house is the right location. Place the house in full sun. Don't put it on a tree, as there will be too much shade and too close to perch sites used by predators. Keep the area around the entrance clear of obstructions for 20 feet. Bats will need clear space to fly in and out of their new roost.

Types of houses to choose from* - There are many types of bat houses to choose from, whether you purchase one or build your own. There are some key details that will help attract bats to your box.

- **Size.** Build or buy a bat house that is at least 2 feet tall and 14 or more inches wide. Bigger is better. A roughened or screen-covered landing platform measuring 3 to 6 inches should extend below the house.
- **Type.** The house can be single-chambered or multi-chambered, but chambers should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide—a variety of sizes is good to provide for the needs of different types of bats.
- **Wood.** Use cedar wood and exterior grade plywood for building materials and appropriate screws to hold the box tightly in place. Minimize the use of materials that may contain chemicals harmful to the bats.
- **Construction.** The houses should be caulked during construction and preferably be screwed together. The idea is to create a tight microclimate inside the house capable of trapping both the heat captured during the day and the warmth generated by the bats.
- **Paint.** Bat houses should be painted with multiple coats of flat black exterior latex paint. A house baking in the sun is what our bats need and seek—a nice warm place to raise their young, and that lets them decrease their metabolic needs during roosting. The optimal temperature range is between 85 and 104 degrees F.

How to get started? - 1) Identify participants for your project; 2) Identify the type of bat box house you want to build (we have examples if you need ideas); 3) [Contact Clark County's volunteer coordinator at 360-397-6118 ext. 1627 to volunteer](tel:3603976118); 4) Clark County will help you determine the location for the box; 5) Purchase the materials for your project; 6) Pull together your group and build; and 7) Confirm with Clark County when you want to install your box and then install!

Don't forget to visit your box often to check for bats.



* Technical information provided by the Washington Fish & Wildlife Department. To learn more about bats, visit their website: wdfw.wa.gov/living/bats.html