

# CITY OF BELLE ISLE



## Proclamation

Declaring October 15, 2024 - “**BAT APPRECIATION DAY**”



*Whereas*, bats play a vital role in our ecosystem, contributing to pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal. In one hour, a bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes; and

*Whereas*, many species of bats are facing threats from habitat loss, climate change, diseases; and

*Whereas*, educating our community about the importance of bats can help foster appreciation and conservation efforts; and

*Whereas*, the residents of Belle Isle recognize the need to protect our bats for the health of our environment.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor of Belle Isle, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2024, as

### “**Belle Isle Bat Appreciation Day**”

and encourage all residents to learn more about bats, their benefits to our community, and ways to protect their habitats. Let us celebrate these remarkable animals and work together to conserve them.

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda Quiceno, CMC-City Clerk

*In Witness Whereof*, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Belle Isle to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Nicholas Fouraker

BATS ARE THE ONLY MAMMALS CAPABLE OF TRUE FLIGHT - FLYING SQUIRRELS ARE GLIDERS!

MAYBE NOT AS FAST AS A SPEEDING BULLET, BUT SOME BATS CAN REACH SPEEDS OF 60 MPH!

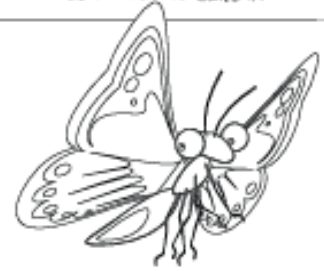
OH!

THE ECHOLOCATION CALLS BATS USE FOR LOCATING FLYING INSECTS ARE TYPICALLY GREATER THAN 120 DECIBELS - THAT'S LOUDER THAN A JET ENGINE OR MACHINE GUN!

BATS ARE ALSO SUPER SMART! THEY INTERCEPT ERRATICALLY FLYING INSECTS USING THE SAME MATHEMATICALLY EFFICIENT STRATEGY SEARCH MISSILES EMPLOY TO ZERO IN ON MOVING TARGETS!

BOING!!!

POW!



JUST BEFORE INTERCEPTION, BATS EMIT A "TERMINAL BUZZ" USING SUPERFAST MUSCLES TO PRODUCE VOCALIZATIONS MORE THAN 220 TIMES PER SECOND!

WHAM!



HIGHLY MANEUVERABLE BLEATING BATS LISTEN FOR THE SOUNDS OF PREY MOVEMENT - THE RUSTLING SOUNDS OF PREY MOVING THROUGH LEAF LITTER, THE FLUTTERING SOUNDS OF WINGSBEATS ON SURFACES, OR SPECIES-SPECIFIC MATING CALLS!

OMG



BATS HAVE MANY SUPERPOWERS - MAMMALIAN FLIGHT, ECHOLOCATION, NIGHT VISION, SUPERNATURAL HEARING, SUPERANIMAL ABILITY, LONGEVITY AND BODY TEMPERATURE MANIPULATION! SOME BATS EVEN HAVE POISON IMMUNITY!

BUT BATS DON'T HAVE THE POWER OF INVINCIBILITY - THEY ARE FACING MANY BATTLES AND NEED YOUR HELP! HOW CAN YOU BE A SUPERHERO FOR BATS?

SOME BATS ARE RESISTANT TO ENVENOMATION BY POISONOUS PREY LIKE SCORPIONS AND CENTIPEDES!



## Bat Appreciation Day 2024

Fun Bat Facts: [www.batweek.org](http://www.batweek.org)

- Some species of bats live up to 40 years.
- Bats can see in the dark and use their extreme sense of hearing.
- They also use echolocation to find food.
- A bat's ability to fly makes them unique. In the mammal world, only bats are naturally capable of true and sustained flight.
- There are over 1,200 known species of bats.
- An estimated 48 species of bats make their home in the United States.
- Nearly 70% of bats are insectivores.
- As [pollinators](#), bats, bees, and butterflies provide a vital link to our food supply.
- Bats grow in a variety of sizes. One of the largest bats is the Giant Golden-Crowned Flying Fox bat weighing up to 4 lbs. with a wingspan of up to 5 feet, 7 inches.
- Bats are also clean animals, grooming themselves almost constantly.
- North America's largest urban bat colony is found on the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Texas. An estimated 1,500,000 Mexican Free-Tailed bats live there. This colony of bats eats approximately 10,000 to 30,000 lbs. of insects each night. An estimated 100,000 tourists visit the bridge annually to watch the bats leave the roost at twilight.
- One 150 Big Brown bat colony protects farmers from up to 33 million or more rootworms each summer.
- Almost 40% of American bat species are severely declining, with some already listed as endangered or threatened.
- Three U.S. states have an official state bat. Texas and Oklahoma named the Mexican Free-Tailed bat their state bat, and Virginia dubbed it the Virginia Big-Eared bat their state bat.

### HOW TO OBSERVE BAT APPRECIATION DAY

1. Learn more about bats.
2. Read about them or watch a bat documentary.
3. Share your experiences with bats, too!
4. Use #BatAppreciationDay to post on social media.

### INTERNATIONAL BAT APPRECIATION DAY HISTORY

[Bat Conservation International \(BCI\)](#) started and supports International Bat Appreciation Day. The BCI mission is to conserve the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

<https://www.batcon.org/>