

BATS

BENEFITS OF BATS

Bats are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and promoting biodiversity. Some plants rely entirely or partially on bats to pollinate their flowers or disperse their seeds, while other bat species control pest populations by feeding on insects such as mosquitoes.

Installing bat boxes on your property can help support bat populations and their contributions to the ecosystem. By actively promoting bat conservation efforts, we can help ensure the continued health and stability of our ecosystems.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Bats are unique mammals that belong to the order Chiroptera, which means "hand-wing" in Greek, describing their most notable feature.
- They are insectivores and primarily eat insects like beetles, moths, and mosquitoes, and are very efficient at insect control.
- Bats are social creatures and prefer to live and roost in large groups, although males and females may roost separately except during mating season.
- They are nocturnal animals and are active at night, while resting, grooming, and sleeping during the day. After feeding for an hour or two, they may rest again, then have a second feeding before dawn.

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-BAT CONFLICTS:

- **Avoid handling bats directly**, as they can bite and transmit disease.
- **Prevent bats from roosting inside your home** by blocking potential entryways such as chimneys, crawlspaces, attics, and porches.
- **Keep your dog leashed** when walking outside to minimize the risk of encountering wildlife, including bats.
- **Make sure your pets are vaccinated** against rabies, which can be transmitted by bat bites. However, most bats are not infected with rabies (about 6% according to the CDC).
- **Learn about the benefits of bats**, which play important roles in pollination and pest control. By understanding bats better, we can overcome our fears and coexist with these amazing creatures.



City of
Saginaw