

BUFFALO

BAYOU

BEEES



BEE-LIEVE IT OR NOT... BEE FACTS

- Almost 20 acres of wildflowers are located along Buffalo Bayou Park to support bee and other pollinator populations. These insects and animals are vital for sustaining ecosystem health and promoting plant reproduction.
- Humans collected honey from bees as early as 6,000 B.C.
- There are approximately 20,000 bee species and 800 bee species in Texas.
- The honeybee's wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.
- Foraging bees visit five million flowers to produce a single pint of honey. These bees collect nectar (in one stomach), water (in another stomach), and pollen (on their hind legs) for the hive.
- Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their central brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.
- Honeybees fly at up to 15 miles per hour.
- The queen may lay 600-800 or even 1,500 eggs each day during her 3 to 4-year lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
- Bees have five eyes, four wings and hair all over their bodies. The garden bumblebee has a tongue as long as its body.
- Bees can see colors - they are most likely to land on flowers that are blue, purple, or yellow.
- Honeybees move to a dance called "the waggle." Scientists think that the dance shows other bees in the hive where the best nectar is.
- Bees pollinate approximately 130 types of agricultural crops in the U.S. (over a third of U.S. crops) including fruit, fiber, nut, and vegetable crops.
- Up to 50,000 honeybees may live in one hive.
- The saying "Busy as a Bee" is accurate as every honeybee in a colony has a special job. The drone bees help the queen make eggs and the worker bees collect pollen, feed the queen and care for the young. The worker bees also build the hive and make honey and guard the hive against enemies. Whew!

