

BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP
PRESENTS



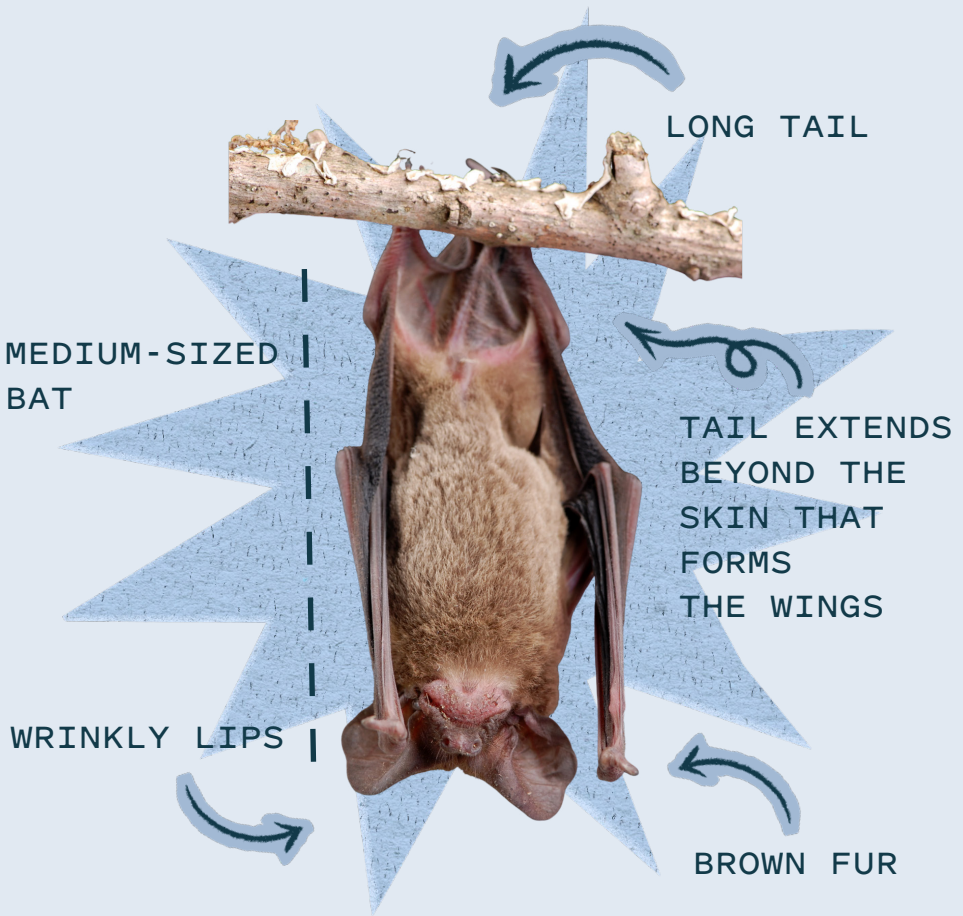
Summer Species: **Bats!**



WAUGH BRIDGE
BAT COLONY,
HOUSTON, TX

Meet the Bats!

Mexican Free-Tailed Bats



DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the bats living under the Waugh Drive Bridge migrate to Hidalgo state in Mexico for winter, returning to Buffalo Bayou in early March.

Home Under the Bridge



Waugh Bridge Bat Colony

What looks like an ordinary bridge is actually a carefully chosen bat habitat.

- CONCRETE BEAMS CREATE NARROW GAPS CALLED EXPANSION JOINTS
- THESE SPACES ($\frac{3}{4}$ TO 4 INCHES WIDE AND UP TO 16 INCHES DEEP) PROVIDE THE PERFECT SHELTER
- EACH YEAR, AROUND 300,000 FEMALE BATS AND THEIR PUPS GATHER HERE



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Nature's Night Shift

As the sun sets, the bats get to work.



Mexican Free-tailed Bats feast on insects like moths, beetles, and flies—helping keep the ecosystem in balance and reducing pests like mosquitoes.



But even these aerial acrobats aren't at the top of the food chain.

Hawks and herons snatch bats mid-flight. Fish and alligators wait below for a low-flying snack.



Out here, every evening is part of a larger, living system.



Plan Your Visit



Where & When to See the Bats

For the best show, visit on a clear evening between March and October, just before sunset.

- HEAD TO THE VIEWING PLATFORM ON THE EAST SIDE OF WAUGH BRIDGE
- OR SPREAD OUT ON THE NEARBY GRASSY AREA
- ARRIVE ABOUT 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNSET FOR OPTIMAL VIEWING

As daylight fades, watch the sky come alive as thousands of bats spiral out into the night.



Fun Facts & Myths

Fun Facts

- Bats weigh just $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce—lighter than a handful of paper clips
- They can fly up to 100 mph, making them some of the fastest mammals on Earth
- Each night, a single bat can eat thousands of insects! Talk about a natural pest control squad

Myth vs. Reality

“Bats will get tangled in your hair.”

False! Bats are skilled fliers with built-in radar. They’re far more interested in insects than people.

“Bats are blind.”

False! Bats have eyes. They also use echolocation, sending out sound waves and listening for echoes—to “see” in the dark like nature’s own sonar system.



Bat Resources

Found a fallen or injured bat?

If you see an injured or grounded bat please don't handle it. Instead, report to the appropriate local contact:

BATWORLD.ORG/LOCAL-RESCUE

IF YOU DON'T FIND HELP
PLEASE CONTACT:

940-325-3404



MEXICAN
FREE-TAILED
BAT





Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Buffalo Bayou Partnership creates and stewards welcoming parks, trails, and unique spaces, connecting Houstonians with our city's most significant natural waterway.



funded in part by the
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