

March 9, 2023

Dear Council,

I am writing today to request permission to place a bat house in Clintonia Park. I am proposing that the bat house be placed by Curtis Creek near the old bench, please see the attached photo. I have built the bat house and I am proposing to monitor the bat house and complete the yearly maintenance and inspection if Council would approve my request.

In the past bats have been given a "bad rap" such as "getting entangled in one's hair" or "they will suck blood from their victims"! Nothing is further from the truth. Environmental issues, human misunderstandings and disease such as WHITE NOSE SYNDROME has led to a serious decline in bat numbers. White Nose Syndrome is an airborne bacterial disease which thrives in cold temperatures. When bats go into hibernation, they are at great risk of losing their lives due to this Syndrome. Research is in full stride to find the cause and cure for this disease.

Some people have asked: "Why do we need to save the bats?" There are many reasons:

- 1) They are great pollinators of different types of local plants.
- 2) A single bat can consume anywhere from 1500 to 3000 mosquitoes in a single day.
- 3) Farmer's friend – it is estimated in the U.S., that bats save farmers millions of dollars, by eliminating the need for pesticides because they also eat many other insects that forage on crops.

Bats love and thrive close to agricultural and open land with water close by. A properly built bat house in a good location can be a hot bed for a bat colony. For best results a bat house should be a minimum of 12 feet from the lowest point on the house to ground level, multichambered and at least 25-30 feet away from any trees or objects that could hold owls. Owls prey on bats, especially on the young. A well-built house needs only to be inspected on a yearly basis once the bats leave for their hibernation homes. Bats love small spaces and the reason is security. The Bat entry openings to the house are only 3/4 of an inch wide. This stops bees and wasps from trying to make it their home.

If you have Bats in your attic or living where you don't want them to be, then the following should be done. Find out roughly how many are there, and build or buy a suitable bat house that can hold all the bats. It is also advisable to erect the house

before you evict them so they have a place to go and have some time to customize the new house.

I am a Bat enthusiast and interested in helping these amazing creatures. I am not a bat expert by any means, but I have read a lot of information online and in books and I encourage others to do the same. Merlin Tuttle <https://www.merlintuttle.org/> , whom they call 'the Batman', is a Bat expert who I have followed now for some time along with Bat Conservation International <https://www.batcon.org/> . There are many websites with great information for people who are interested in learning about and helping to save the bat population.

Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,

E. Marty Aschaber  
Television Road