



*A swooping bat is the symbol of good fortune's arrival.*

Jack Kear

09.Feb.2016

Dear Jack,

Thank you inviting me to discuss the possibility of placing bat houses in your neighborhood parks.

As I stated, providing summer roosts for our Wisconsin bats, mainly the Big Brown and Little Brown bats, will assist these 2 species in their survival. As for their very important role for humans, they eat a tremendous amount of our nighttime flying insects. One Little Brown bat can eat 600 to 1000 mosquito-size insects in 1 hour.

Since the bat houses need to be in direct sunlight for 6-8 hours per day to maintain very warm to hot internal temperatures, poles, wooden or metal, would be used to mount them. We tend to use 5-inch by 6-inch wooden poles that are 20-feet or 24-feet long. The poles are placed in a 4-foot deep hole. Pea gravel is place in the hole around the pole to anchor it.

Each pole should have 2 bat houses on it: one facing east-to-southeast and the other house facing the opposite direction to provide optimal warmth and coolness, as needed.

The poles cost approximately \$65.00 to \$85.00. A medium house costs \$55.00 (can hold 60-70 Little Browns or 35-45 Big Browns) and a small house costs \$35.00 (can hold 35-40 Little Browns or 20-25 Big Browns). The pea gravel expense is approximately \$15.00 to \$20.00 per pole.

The only maintenance that is required is to knockout any wasps' nests that may have been built during the summer season. This is done in mid-October to mid-November after the bats have left for their hibernation sites.

Our organization has placed bat houses and poles in several neighborhood parks in and around Madison. Each of the sites has established colonies.

Bat Conservation of Wisconsin Inc  
**2956 Fern Drive**  
**Sun Prairie, WI 53590-9440**



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We are willing to assist you and your organization in any way that we can to establish summer roosts for our bats. There is no fee/charge for our help.

Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Gratefully,

Ken O. Bowman, R.N.  
President  
Bat Conservation of Wisconsin, Inc.

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