

## Spread your wings and fly! Join community science program to document bat activity



**WHAT:** Discover the mysteries of bats! Woodland Park Zoo's newest community science program, ***Bat Activity Trends***, is taking flight with a series of opportunities to learn about and observe local bats. These nocturnal mammals are most active now during the summer months, with activity peaking from June to August.

Bat Activity Trends seeks to educate the community about these often-misunderstood mammals, monitor bat activity in the region and empower participation in community science. During this program, you will watch for bats right where you live, record what you see, and submit the data to help create a visualization map of the levels of bat activity in our region—you'll also have a lot of fun!

Join the zoo on July 26 for an online webinar to learn the basics about bats and how to participate in this exciting program. Then put on your walking shoes and grab your notepads as we head outdoors for several public bat walks through August. If you can't join us, fear not. Anyone can participate in this project right from their own yard, balcony or window!

**WHEN/WHERE:**

**Two online webinar options Tuesday, July 26, 2022:**

- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- 5:00–6:00 p.m.

**Public in-person bat walks:**

- August 3 at Seward Park (Hosted by Seward Park Audubon)
- August 17 at Seward Park (Hosted by Seward Park Audubon)
- August 19 in South Seattle (Hosted by Tilth Alliance)

More details about these events and additional bat walks will be released later.

**HOW:** You can participate in this project on your own at home or you can attend one of the zoo's webinars or in-person events. Visit [www.zoo.org/batactivity](http://www.zoo.org/batactivity) to download a participation packet, register for a webinar and learn more about the program. Anyone 13 years and older can participate individually from their neighborhood. Those under 13 years can participate with their family or team with someone over 13 years old.

Simply go for a walk, visit a park or watch for bats in your backyard to document activity to send to us. The program focuses on building a map of participants' data from King County, but data submissions from anywhere in the United States are accepted.

**INFO:**

Washington state is home to 14 bat species, 10 of which can be found statewide; four occur only in Eastern Washington. All Wash. bats are insectivores, meaning they feed on insects.

Bats are one of the most diverse groups of mammals in the animal kingdom and are essential to our ecosystem as pollinators, seed dispensers and pest controllers. Their nocturnal nature makes them a bit more mysterious than other creatures, and they often don't get the credit they deserve.

Bat populations face many threats around the world, including habitat destruction, wind turbine disruption, climate change and light pollution. In addition, the emergence of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in the eastern U.S. in 2006 has killed millions of bats. WNS is a disease caused by a fungus, and it has since been found in Europe and Asia. WNS was first discovered in Washington state in 2016. Scientists are still determining the impacts on Washington bats and this new program will help with that effort.

To learn more about bats and the efforts to save the species visit [www.zoo.org/batconservation](http://www.zoo.org/batconservation).

**HOW TO PROTECT BATS:**

- *Share about bats:* One of the biggest steps you can take to help bats is to learn about them and share information with friends and family. Fear and misunderstanding can harm bats, so it's important to educate everyone about all the good things bats do for us.
- *Provide a home:* You can provide a habitat for bats in your yard by leaving hollow trees and snags standing or installing a bat house. Keep cats indoors and reduce your use of pesticides or other chemicals in your yard.
- *Contribute to research:* Get involved with the [Bat Activity Trends](#) program and help us learn more about bats in Western Washington.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) for information. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. daily.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools, can be found at [www.zoo.org/access](http://www.zoo.org/access). For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact [zooinfo@zoo.org](mailto:zooinfo@zoo.org).

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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