



2023 Bat Box Cost Share Program Guidelines

Providing leadership in conserving the natural resources in Weston County by providing information, education, and technical assistance to meet the needs of our users

Do you have bats roosting in unwanted places on your property? Are you looking to attract bats to help control insects such as mosquitos and other pests? Despite the bad wrap that bats often get, they can be very beneficial to have in our community. To help District members keep bats where they belong or, to help in attracting bats to your property, the Weston County Natural Resource District is offering a cost share on bat boxes. District members can purchase bat boxes from the District at a discounted rate for placement in Weston County.

Bats can help in controlling many common garden pests including June beetles, stink bugs, leaf hoppers, cutworms, corn earworms, and moths. Bats are also very helpful in controlling mosquitos. A single bat can catch up to a thousand or more insects an hour!

Placing bat boxes on your property is also a great way to help conserve our native bat populations. Bats nationwide are declining, and this is due in large part to a loss of habitat, especially safe roosting sites. Providing a safe roosting site keeps them safe from predators and helps provide an ideal environment where they can shelter during the day.

Benefits of Bat Houses

1. Helps keep bats from roosting in unwanted places such as buildings and the eaves of homes
2. Provides a safe environment away from predators
3. They eat bugs! Including mosquitos
4. Provides a warm place to sleep

Proper placement of your bat box

- Avoid hills because of the wind can injure the bats and disrupt their ability and navigate safe entry and exit the bat box
- Place the bat box facing the South or Southeast direction so they get at least six hours of sun light
- To keep the bats safe from predators, the best placement is on a pole in a grassy area or on the side of a building, but not attached to the building

Annual Maintenance

- Should be checked annually for any problems or unwanted animals
- The best time to check the bat houses will be between November and March
- It is important to check for any wasps, cracks, leaks, peeling paint or any other minor repairs
- If there are any unwanted guests, you can use a stick or a pole to scrape the nest or infestation out of the houses
- And finally check for any buildup of guano (the excrement of seabirds and bats, used as fertilizer) and scrape it out with a stick or a pole to get it out

Further Information

For more information on bats and how you can help preserve these important allies, please refer to our website at <https://westoncountynrd.org/all-about-bats/>

Cost of bat houses

The District is providing the bat boxes at a discount as a 70/30 cost share, so the cost to you is \$40.



2023 Bat House Cost Share

Reporting Form

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Please update the District about the placement of the Bat Boxes, is it being used, what impacts did you notice from having the Bat Boxes on your property. Please return this form to the District office.

Name _____ Date _____

Why did you originally purchase your bat house? _____

Location of Bat Box _____

What date was it placed? _____

Are Bats using the Box? How many do you estimate are using it? _____

Other observations _____



2023 Bat Cost Share Application

1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 3, Newcastle, WY 82701

307-746-3264 westoncountynrd.org

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____ Alt Phone # _____

Address/Location of bat box (street address, park name, school, etc.) _____

Why do you want a bat box for your property? _____

Where do you plan to install the bat box? _____

What Benefits would you like to see from the bat house _____

Signature of Contact Person _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION TO: Weston County Natural Resource District Office

The Weston County Natural Resource District offers all programs and services on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, or marital and familial status