

Bats, Rabies, and You

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Bats live near this area of the park. Our health is linked to the health of all species and the environment, so please read the following message to protect yourself and bats.

Bats play an important part of ecosystems, consuming large quantities of insects like mosquitoes and insects that can damage crops or forests. They also pollinate plants and disperse seeds.

A small percentage of bats have rabies, which they can transmit to people, usually by exposing people to saliva through a bite or scratch. Rabies can be prevented in humans if you seek medical care, but rabies is fatal if left untreated. Rabies is often fatal to bats, too.

If you see a dead bat or a bat that is behaving strangely, such as being aggressive, lying on the ground, flying near, or making contact with people, tell a park ranger right away, and do not touch it. The bat may need to be tested for rabies, and if you had contact with the bat, you may need medical attention to prevent you from getting sick with rabies.

For More Information:

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