



Beach and Coastal Resource Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

TO: Beach and Coastal Resource Advisory Committee

FROM: Mary Holden, Planning Manager

DATE: December 12, 2024

RE: Update on use of Good Bites (rodent birth control) at Mackle Par

Good Bites has been in use for the past three months. Since our pest control company does not provide the Good Bites, we rely on volunteers to fill the stations. It is too soon to provide observations on the effectiveness but stations in high density area have been used. This is a good sign.

There was an issue with rats eating some of the wiring of the emergency generator for Mackle Park. It seems a station was in the near vicinity of the emergency generator, which have now been moved. It caused approximately \$1,000 of damages. We can't say it was related to the Good Bites, as rats eating wiring is not uncommon. Please see attached email from Alaina Gonzalez-White, of Good Bites, on this issue. As an FYI, the items listed in the email are being completed or are completed.

A final note is that the Audubon is meeting with (and providing information) a few condos on the island about switching over to using Good Bites.

Heather Reed

From: Alaina Gonzalez-White <alaina@wisdomgoodworks.org>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 9:20 AM
To: Heather Reed
Subject: Re: WISDOM Good Bites supplies delivery

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Good Morning Heather,

Apologies on the delay of this response. Your message got a little buried in my inbox. I hear you on needing to take swift action to protect the emergency generator. Here's what I can see from the picture. It looks like on the bottom edge there has been some previous attempt to rodent-proof it with foam. The rats can chew through that foam, but it does slow them down. What I would suggest is:

1. Identify where the points of entry to the generator and do what you can to seal them off.
2. Trim back any trees that are close to it as the rats like to move from the trees to nearby areas where they can find harborage
3. Use snap traps to swiftly and safely kill any rats inside the generator. (make sure the traps aren't out where other species could get hurt, and do this only if you must.)
4. Clean any rub marks, points of entry or nesting areas with a solution of bleach water to interrupt the rats' familiarity with the area. (The oil that comes off the rats fur leaves a trail for them and others to follow)
5. I've talked to Brittany and we are going to be slowly moving the feeding station away from that area. We have shown success moving resident rats to more convenient locations by moving the pellets away from where we don't want the rats to be.

Ultimately, that is one of the goal's with the project - to move the rats far enough away from the area that people most frequently use to the point that they are undetectable. Keep in mind that the Good Bites don't kill anything, but they keep the problem from growing. By feeding the remaining rats at an area that's less of a nuisance to the staff and park users you're protecting the food chain and your abundant wildlife habitat while providing for a most enjoyable park for that's safe for all. If there are any other questions I could answer or you want to talk through any of this let me know.

Lastly, if those poison boxes left over from previous service haven't been picked up I would suggest you throw them out. Eventually, rats will use them to make homes and nest in if they are left undisturbed for long enough.

Hope you had a nice Thanksgiving, WISDOM is grateful for you!

All Best,
Alaina