

Mature deciduous forests

Mature deciduous forests are critical habitats for maintaining biodiversity. Stands of mature trees such as maple, yellow birch, beech, ash, cherry and oak are used by wildlife in a variety of ways (mobility, feeding, reproduction and shelter). Wildlife is adapted to the structure of this type of forest, which is characterised by:

- Dominance of long-lived shade-tolerant or semi-shade-tolerant deciduous species;
- Presence of living, aging or dead trees of varying size and age (uneven-aged stand);
- Large-diameter snags, many large cavity trees and woody debris in varying degrees of decomposition on the ground;
- Relatively closed canopy with small openings.

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

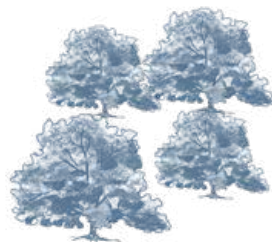
- Cerulean warbler*
- Eastern wood pewee*
- Wood thrush*
- Southern flying squirrel*
- Pileated woodpecker
- Bats*

*Species in a precarious situation

HOW TO MAINTAIN THE ATTRIBUTES OF MATURE FORESTS WHEN MANAGING YOUR FOREST



Preserve large-diameter trees (+ 40 cm dbh).



Maintain connected forest massifs.



Plan harvesting to reproduce natural disturbances: irregular cutting, small gaps.



Preserve shrubs and regeneration.



Follow the recommendations listed in the *Snags* fact sheet.



Follow the recommendations listed in the *Woody debris* fact sheet.

Illustrations : Sophie-Anne Vachon and Émilie Dumais

For references and to learn more, please visit: foretprivee.ca/biodiversite



Produced by



CONSERVATION
DE LA NATURE
CANADA

and



Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :
This project was undertaken with the financial support of:



Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Fondation
de la faune
du Québec

Québec