



# Open environments

Open environments are characterised by early successional vegetation, and the absence or low presence of trees, i.e. less than 25% of the total area. These environments are made up of former agricultural wastelands or forest environments regenerating after clear-cutting. In forest environments, open areas can be created by total or severe logging, or naturally by disturbances such as those caused by beavers or strong winds.

Open environments are essential wildlife and plant habitats for the survival of many species, which depend on them or use them as nesting, breeding, shelter or feeding sites. They also act as lookout or parade sites for birds, and serve as buffer zones and dispersal corridors for wildlife. Species diversity and abundance depend on the size and quality of open environments, as well as their durability. Since species have different needs, it's important to offer a variety of habitats.

Without human intervention, open environments evolve into forest environments. In order to preserve open environments and thus meet the needs of the various species that depend on them, they must be renewed or managed in a way that keeps them open.

Threats to open environments used by at-risk species include invasion by exotic species, reforestation, recultivation or conversion to other uses.

## ASSOCIATED SPECIES

- Golden-winged warbler
- Eastern whip-poor-will\*
- Loggerhead shrike\*
- Red-headed woodpecker\*
- Bats (Silvered-haired, Red, Hoary, Little brown\* and Tri-colored\*)
- Van Brunt's Jacob's ladder\*

\*Species in a precarious situation

## TO MAINTAIN AND RENEW THE HABITAT



Where species at risk are present, work should be carried out outside the breeding season (see species fact sheets).



In the presence of species at risk, avoid recultivation or reforestation.



Maintain a mosaic of contrasting habitats, alternating a diversity of open and forested environments, with different tree species and age classes.



Maintain and create open environments by cutting in a variety of sizes and irregular shapes.



Control invasive shrub species such as buckthorn.

For references and to learn more, please visit: [foretprivee.ca/biodiversite](http://foretprivee.ca/biodiversite)



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