

Five Principles for Bat-Friendly Forestry



1. Leave dead and decaying trees,

when safe to do so. Pieces at different stages of decay, particularly pieces of large diameter, provide a diversity of roosting options for bats. If trimming is required, consider topping where possible and retain a minimum 3-metre tall trunk as this can still provide roost options for bats.

2. Protect mature and large diameter trees

Mature trees provide a diversity of insect and bat habitat, supporting bats and their food source!

3. Enhance diversity of woodland edges

Woodland edges help buffer bat roosting habitat and they provide foraging habitat for many bat species. Plant and/or maintain a diversity of plant species at woodland edges, including a variety of broadleaved trees, of shrubs, and ground vegetation like grasses.



Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Photo: Jason Headley





4. Buffer roost and hibernation sites

The areas around key bat habitats—like roosts or hibernation sites—are just as important as the sites themselves.

These surrounding habitats act as a buffer, providing food, shelter, and safe travel routes.

Protecting as much nearby habitat as possible helps bats thrive. At minimum, habitat within 1 km of roost sites and within 25 m of hibernation sites should be maintained, with the wider 200 m area around hibernation sites also carefully managed

5. Retain hedgerows and connections between forest patches

Many bat species, such as the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), rely on forested habitats and connected flight paths between them. Restoring or maintaining hedgerows creates safe, sheltered corridors that protect bats as they travel and also support the insects they feed on.

Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)



Photo: J. Scott Altenbach



Remember to report any sightings of bats to www.batconservation.ca

Questions? Contact us! | info@merseytobeatic.ca