

**Indiana Bat Maternity Colony Habitat Assessment Guide**  
**Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department**  
**Updated June 2021**

This is a preliminary screening tool to determine if a given site could provide suitable roosting habitat for Indiana bat maternity colonies in Vermont. The results are taken together with the latest USFWS Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines habitat assessment and the known locations of Indiana bat colonies in Vermont to determine habitat suitability. The survey should be performed by a biologist with knowledge and experience in Indiana bats and their habitat.

**Town:**

Does the town fall within the known and potential range of Indiana bats in Vermont (see Figure 2)?

No: Not suitable habitat

Yes: Continue

**Elevation:**

Is the site below 1100 feet in elevation – a key threshold for suitable habitat?

No: Not suitable habitat

Yes: Continue

**Current Potential Roost Tree Availability: Circle One**

What is the availability of dead or dying trees with loose bark or crevices?

Low (0)

Medium (1)

High (2)

**Presence of Shagbark Hickory: Circle One**

What is the availability of live or dead, dying shagbark hickory trees?

Absent (0)

Low (1)

Medium (2)

High (3)

**Diameter Sizes of Potential Roost Trees: Circle One**

< 8 inches DBH

8–12 inches DBH

12–18 inches DBH

> 18 inches DBH

0

1

2

3

\*A total value of 0 for the above criteria indicates that the site is not suitable as roosting habitat for Indiana bats. If the total is 1 or greater, continue and add all scores together for the total.

**Average Stand Diameter:**

What is the acreage of stands having an average diameter of 8 inches or more dbh? diameters on the site?

0 acres: 0 points

1-10 acres: 1 point

11-30 acres: 2 points

> 30 acres: 3 points

**Slope:**

What is the approximate slope of the general site?

0-5%: 0 points

6-10% 2 point

> 10 % 3 points

**Aspect:**

What is the general aspect of the site?

North: 0 points

East, South, or West: 1 point

**Add all scores from the assessment together for a total. The following points provide a relative value of the suitability of the site to provide Indiana bat maternity colony habitat:**

1 – 4 Points: Low Suitability

5 – 9 Points: Medium Suitability

10 or more Points: High Suitability

For projects where habitat will be converted to other uses, a potential roost tree survey may also be needed.