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Point Pelee National Park

Sowing the seeds of a savannah

Restoring a rare ecosystem in Canada's most southerly park

When she first took high school students to [Point Pelee National Park](#) to collect seeds from native plants in 2010, Parks Canada's Jenny Costa had no idea whether the park's savannah restoration project would take root and grow. But grow it has: almost four years later, more than 600 people – including students, First Nations, and community groups – have participated in hands-on activities to restore this rare and vibrant ecosystem.



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Giant Swallowtail butterfly



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Five-lined Skink

A tiny southern jewel

Located on a peninsula jutting out into Lake Erie, Point Pelee is not only the southernmost national park in Canada, it's the very southern tip of the country itself. Tiny in size, at only 15 km², it plays an enormous and vital role in conserving biodiversity. Point Pelee is home to a whopping 66 species at risk -- more than any other national park in the country.

Of the many habitats found in the park, the Lake Erie Sand Spit Savannah has emerged as a top restoration priority. The savannah covers a mere 2% of the park, yet shelters one quarter of its species at risk. These include the sun-loving [Five-lined Skink](#), the [Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus](#), and the [Common Hoptree](#), which plays host to the [Giant Swallowtail butterfly](#), one of Point Pelee's most graceful visitors.



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