

Caring for your Habitat Structure

DOWNY WOODPECKER



Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners like you play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

Habitat

Downy woodpeckers are found in open woodlands, deciduous forests and near streams. They are also commonly found in parks, gardens, farms and orchards.

When to Expect Them

April to July

Call

Sounds like: Rapid whinny of notes, descending in pitch and makes a flat “*pik*” sound

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Open woodlot, forest
Height off Ground (m)	Greater than 2
Entrance Hole Facing	Any direction
Spacing	30 m apart
Attach to	Dead tree, pole
Installation Time	September to March

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in March. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom and rotate the moveable panel upward. Woodpeckers like to excavate their nesting cavity. Add 5 cm of coarse wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

Interesting Fact

The drumming noise that woodpeckers make on pieces of wood or metal is often mistaken for their feeding habit. It's actually a way of communicating with other birds.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for woodpeckers on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space.

Photo Credit: Credit Valley Conservation