



### 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

Native bees are found in areas with native species of flowering plants.

### When to Expect Them

Spring through summer

### Habitat Structure Placement

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Location              | Near flowering plants in a sheltered area           |
| Height off Ground (m) | 1 – 2   |
| Entrance Hole Facing  | East or South East within 100 m of flowering plants |
| Tube Size             | 0.24 – 0.95 (3/32" to 3/8")                         |
| Attach to             | Building, fence or cedar stake                      |
| Installation Time     | Anytime   |

### Care of the Habitat Structure

Bee boxes need to be properly maintained to avoid infestations from mites and spreading fungal diseases. A key part to regular cleaning is an emergence box. An emergence box is any box with a tight lid and 1 to 2 small 0.95 cm (3/8") holes towards the bottom of one side. The box can be made of wood or a plastic storage container large enough to fit all the nesting material. Remove the

block in the spring and put it into the emergence box making sure the ends are uncovered and there is room for bees to emerge. Install a second bee box in the same or nearby location as the last block.

In the fall, after all the bees have emerged from the original block, drill into the holes or use a small bottle brush to remove the debris. Soak the block in a bleach solution of 71 ml (¼ cup) of bleach in 4L of water, rinse well, and allow the box to fully dry before installing.

### **Important Notes**

Unlike honeybees, native bees are not colony defenders and tend not to sting. Avoid placing your bee box in areas where pesticides are applied such as invasive control projects. Bees are particularly sensitive.

### **What Else Can You Do to Help?**

You can take action to provide natural nesting sites for native bees on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Native perennials and shrubs that have hollow or pithy stems such as native sunflower, coreopsis, raspberry and elderberry provide natural nesting habitat. Native plants such as wild bergamot, swamp milkweed and common boneset provide food sources. Try to plant species that bloom at varying times near your nest box because bees do not travel long distances to forage for food. A shallow dish with some rocks allows bees and other pollinators to access water.

*Photo Credit: Erika Nardone*