

# Caring for your Habitat Structure

## PILEATED WOODPECKER



CREDIT VALLEY  
CONSERVATION



### 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

Pileated woodpeckers are found in mature deciduous or mixed woodlands with large dead trees or ample downed woody debris.

### When to Expect Them

Present year round. Look for the birds at your nest box May to mid-July.

### Call

Sounds like: a high, clear “*Wuk-wuk-wuk*” call in repeating series, similar to the northern flicker

### Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Mature forest
Height off Ground (m)	5 – 7
Entrance Hole Facing	Northeast, East, Southeast, South, Southwest
Spacing	100 m apart
Attach to	Live tree, dead tree
Installation Time	September to April

### **Care of the Habitat Structure**

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in May. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Pileated woodpeckers will not re-use cavities. Pack the box to the top with wood chips before the breeding season for them to re-excavate.

### **Interesting Fact**

Pileated woodpeckers are monogamous. A mated pair will live in and defend their territory year round.

### **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 breed space.

*Photo Credit: Bryana McLaughlin*