



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

Bats are found along forest edges and agricultural areas with rivers or streams nearby. These areas provide suitable habitat for their insect prey.

When to Expect Them

March to November

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Forest edge, near water and farmland
Height off Ground (m)	4 – 6
Entrance Hole Facing	South or East with at least 6 hours of sunlight
Spacing	Place to encourage pairing
Attach to	Pole, building
Installation Time	September to March

Care of the Habitat Structure

Maintenance on the structure is not needed for the first few years. A warm nest site is important for roosting bats so the box may need to be re-caulked or re-painted over time to minimize drafts and maximize heat absorption. If you notice that wasps or hornets have established nests, they should be removed as bats will not use the box if they are present. The best time to inspect the boxes is in the fall after the bats have left and any insects are dormant. If you have more than one bat box, be sure to clean your tools before moving on to the next box. Wear gloves while doing all maintenance and cleaning. Wash your hands thoroughly upon completion to prevent the transfer of disease.

Important Notes

It is important not to disturb bats while they are using the box. If observing bats at night, do not shine light on the entrance of the nesting box. If you find a fallen bat below the box, do not pick it up. If you must handle it, take precautions by wearing gloves as bats may bite when they are distressed and can transmit the rabies virus.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Planting herbaceous species that bloom and release scent at night such as common evening primrose and goldenrod can help attract nocturnal insects to your property and provide a food source for local bats.

Photo Credit: Credit Valley Conservation