



### **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**

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

### **When to Expect Them**

Spring through summer

### **Habitat Structure Placement**

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

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

Bee boxes need to be properly maintained to avoid infestations from mites and the spread of fungal diseases. A key component to regular cleaning is an emergence box. An emergence box is any box with a tight lid and one to two small 3/8" holes towards the bottom of one side.

This could be a wooden box or a plastic storage container large enough to fit all the nesting material. Remove the tubes from the bee box in the spring and put them directly into the emergence box making sure the ends are uncovered and there is room for bees to emerge. After all the bees have emerged, clean the bee box by soaking it in a solution of ¼ cup of bleach in 4L of water, rinse well, and allow to fully dry before filling the box with new tubes. The tubes can be made from hollow stemmed plants, paper straws or newspaper that has been shaped around a piece of dowel.

### **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 on your property such as invasive control projects as bees are particularly sensitive.

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

There are actions you can take to provide natural nesting sites for native bees, 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 as 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: Credit Valley Conservation*