



**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
HEALTHY, ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY AND PARKS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

THURSDAY April 18, 2024 – 3:00 p.m. - ZOOM

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation: *Be it resolved that the agenda as presented be approved.*

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation: *Be it resolved that the minutes of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee from their meeting of January 18, 2024 be approved as circulated.*

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING / OUTSTANDING ITEMS

5.1 Workplan Update – Cheryl/Chantele

5.1 No Mow May Update - Stephanie

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Raised, accessible Community Garden Bed Discussion

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Staff to provide verbal update on concerns brought forward by resident

- Transit and audible crosswalk

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ ROUND TABLE

8.1 Essa Public Library Update

8.2 Parks and Recreation Update

9. ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 Set date for next quarterly meeting.

- July 18th, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation: *Be it resolved that this meeting of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee of the Township of Essa adjourn at _____p.m.*



TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
HEALTHY, ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY AND PARKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
THURSDAY January 18, 2024
Meeting Conducted via Zoom

In Attendance:

Cheryl Jackson, Chair
Patricia Foster, Member
Stephanie McCann, Member
Chantele Mayer, Partner Member

Staff:

Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk, Secretary
Abbey McClinton, Parks and Recreation
Samuel Haniff, Planning and Development

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Committee Chair, Cheryl Jackson, opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution No: HACPC01-2024 Moved by: Foster Seconded by: McCann

Be it resolved that the agenda as presented be approved.

----Carried-----

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution No: HACPC02-2023 Moved by: McCann Seconded by: Foster

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Healthy Community Committee dated December 13, 2023, be received.

----Carried-----

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING / OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- 5.1 HACP Brochure**
The Committee was provided an updated HACP Brochure.
- 5.2 Winter Walk Day – SMDHU**

SC to copy /distribute.
SC to provide Social Media Post to encourage walk/wheel to school/work

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 **Simcoe Muskoka - Monitoring Food Affordability** No Action Required
Chantele Mayer, SMDHU provided the Committee a presentation on the Simcoe Muskoka Food Affordability Monitoring . She commented on the challenges of food availability in the catchment of the SMDHU. She commented that several resources are available on the SMDHU website
- 6.2 **Workplan Discussion** Email to members, workshop/brainstorming session to follow. Information to be brought forward to future meeting.
Chantele Mayer, SMDHU SM to provide the committee further information at the next meeting.
7. 6.3 **No Mow May**
Stephanie McCann will provide further information at a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

8.

OTHER BUSINESS/ ROUND TABLE

- 8.1 **Essa Public Library** No Action Required
Glenda Newbatt, Essa Public Library while not in attendance, provided the Committee with an overview of the programming
- 8.2 **Parks and Recreation** No Action Required
Abbey McClinton provided an update to the Committee on the Parks and Recreation department. She provided an update on upcoming department projects including the Angus Arena Chiller, Stonemount Parkette, tennis court light installation and spring drop in programming.
- 8.3 **Planning Department Update** No Action Required
Samuel Haniff, Manager of Planning and Development provided an update on the submission for funding through the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Municipal Grant Program. He provided an outline what the funding would be used for should Essa be successful.

9. ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. **SC to schedule.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: HACPC03-2024 Moved by: Foster Seconded by: McCann

Be it resolved that this meeting of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee of the Township of Essa adjourn at 4:06 p.m.

----Carried----

Cheryl Jackson, Chair

Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk

DRAFT
Essa Township
Healthy, Accessible Communities and Parks Committee
Work Plan 2022-2026

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
<p>MANDATE : The Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee is dedicated to advise and assist the Township in promoting and fascilitating a barrier-free healthy community while improving the quality of life for all persons and promoting equal opportunity for citizens of all abilities.</p>						
<p>1.Promote healthy living and access to eating local food</p>	<p>Create a Healthy, Accessible Communities and Parks brochure outlining the committees goal, objective and community activities available</p>	<p>Q3 2023 – Q1 2024</p>	<p>Township of Essa</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Δ</p>	<p>2024.01.18 In progress to be printed and distributed</p>
	<p>Assess expension and accessibility of community gardens</p>	<p>Q2 – Q3 2024</p>				
<p>2. Promote Healthy Living and active lifestyles for all residents and assit in planning future trails, sidewalks, canoeing and</p>	<p>Promote active school travel through communications assets (e.g social media)</p>	<p>Q1 2024 - Ongoing</p>	<p>Township of Essa</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Δ</p>	<p>2024.02.07 – Promotion of Winter Walk Day completed through social media</p>
	<p>Promote new parks and features of existing parks (healthy and barrier-free)</p>					

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
kayaking launches, as well as parks, and public spaces	Attend Transportation and Trails Master Plan Open Houses in order to bring back information to the committee for discussion and potential input on behalf of the HACP Committee	Q2-Q3 2024				
3. Promote safe roads, reduction in personal vehicle use and energy conservation	Promote active transportation through social media posts					
	Review and provide input on the Township of Essa Official Plan on behalf of of the committee					
	Promotion of Charged for Change Stations through communication assets.					
4. Advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities through the promotion of public awareness and understanding the needs of disabled persons						

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
5. Monitor the status of municipality owned and/or operated buildings, facilities and public areas to ensure that they meet the needs of disabled people						
6. Identify any potential funding opportunities to assist Essa in becoming healthy and barrier free	Provide information on funding opportunity from Tree Canada.	Q4 2023	SMDHU	N/A	O	2023.10.19. Funding opportunity shared with municipal staff
7. Respond to relevant accessibility issues as raised by individuals or community groups	Encourage residents of the Township of Essa through social media messages and other communication assets to reach out to the committee to raise accessibility issues.					
8. Provide a forum for discussion and coordination of						

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
recreational and healthy community initiatives and programs with other community groups and agencies						
9. Work with Township staff in the maintenance of the Essa Accessibility Plan in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act	Provide verbal feedback of having accessible seating in new parks.	??	Township of Essa	??	Δ	2024.01.18 – awaiting assement of having a wheelchair accessible picnic table at new parks.
	Assess trail accessibility and mark which trails are accessible for all ages and abilities					
10. Support the development and implementation of program, policies and by-laws which promote and create a barrier-free healthy community	Develop a policy for winter maintenance of sidewalks, paths and trails					

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
<p>11. Provide advice to Staff and Council on policy matters and relating to the provision of recreational, cultural and related services, including special events for residents and visitors.</p>						
<p>12. Make recommendation to Council on strategies and policies to ensure that existing barriers are eliminated, and that no new barriers will be created especially at parks and in public spaces</p>						

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold	Additional Information
13. Make recommendations to council on amenities to be contains in parks, park and facility planning and policies for park and facility use.						

DRAFT

The Flutter Buzz Patch
in Essa



Some See Weeds



We See Food for Bees

#NoMowMay

Wild About Pollinators: Creating a Buzz Climate Action Initiative



Redeemer Lutheran
TORONTO, ONTARIO
Finding *Life* In Community



redeemerlutheran.ca

How to create solitary bee nest sites on your farm

Protecting Farmland Pollinators Action Sheet 1

Action Sheet | 1

In 2019, the National Biodiversity Data Centre received funding through the Department of Agricultural, Food and the Marine for a five-year European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project called 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators'. By working closely with a group of 40 farmers, chosen to reflect differing farm types and intensity levels, it identified actions that will allow biodiversity to coexist within a productive farming system. It aims to help farmers to provide small habitats that will offer food, safety, and shelter on their farms for pollinators (wild bees, hoverflies), and other biodiversity. The National Biodiversity Data Centre have taken the evidence-based actions and developed a whole-farm pollinator scoring system. This results-based method helps farmers to understand how pollinator friendly their farm is and identifies what simple low-cost actions they can take to work towards improving their score in a way that does not negatively impact on the farm as a business.

These action sheets outline how best to carry out each of the evidence-based actions to help pollinators and other biodiversity. They have been developed in collaboration with the farmers and are based on information from extensive biodiversity surveys which took place on each of the 40 farms within the project in 2020. This action sheet identifies how best to create solitary bee nesting habitat on a farm. As part of the

EIP project, farmers created over 300 nest sites for mining solitary bees and 130 sites for cavity nesting solitary bees.

Of the 101 bee species in Ireland, 79 are solitary bees. Solitary bees look very different from bumblebees. They are much smaller and occur in a range of different shapes and colours. Some species are small and black like ants with wings, while others have black and yellow striped bodies like wasps. Solitary bees do not form colonies with a queen and workers, like bumblebees or honey bees. Each female makes her own small nest. Within each cell, she lays a fertilised egg and leaves a food reserve composed of regurgitated nectar and pollen. The larvae feed on the provisioned food before pupating and spending the winter hibernating to emerge as adults the next year. Solitary bees are harmless and not aggressive and are excellent pollinators. They nest in two main ways; mining bees burrow into the ground (ground-nesting bees), while above-ground cavity nesting bees use existing holes in hollow stems, wood, or stone walls.

No matter the species, all bees need flowers close to their nest. Remember solitary bees will only travel a few hundred meters to find food.

You will only see solitary bees for a short time each year, maybe 6-8 weeks (some bees can be seen flying in April and others can be seen in August. The rest of the time bees are developing or hibernating in their nest, so it is important not to disturb nest sites all year. Avoid using pesticides in these areas to ensure next year's bees are safe.

How to provide suitable habitat for ground-nesting solitary bees on farmland

Our 64 species of mining solitary bees nest by making tiny burrows in bare earth clay, peat, sand and soil. They will nest in flat well-drained areas but will generally prefer south/west facing sheltered banks.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 A well-drained sunny south or west facing bank (or an aspect in between). Alternatively, you can use well drained flat ground.
- 2 A spade.
- 3 Some muscle.

Making a bare soil nest site is as easy as one, two, three.

- 1 Ensure flowers are close by.
- 2 Clear the vegetation on your bank with a spade. Vegetation will need to be kept clear and the site may need to be cleared more than once a year.
- 3 Avoid clearing back the vegetation when the nest is active. Never spray the site with pesticides or allow drift to access the site.



Figure 1 Active mining bee nest at the base of a hedgerow.

These sites can be created along hedgerows, driveways, and other field boundaries. Bees don't like the damp so be sure the sites are dry banks. The evidence from the EIP suggests that hedgerows are the location most likely to be used. Scraping back the top layer of vegetation will not disturb the bees when they are not active.

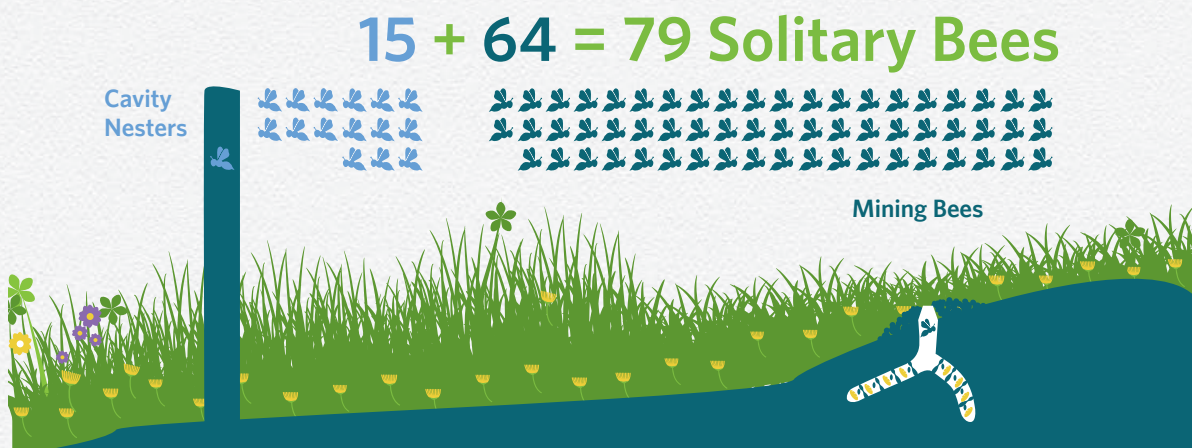


Figure 2 Number of solitary bees in Ireland.



Figure 3 Active mining bee nests on farmland.

TIPS FROM THE FARMERS

- 1 Sheltered banks work better than flat ground.
- 2 If you are creating a pond or carrying out construction, reuse the removed soil to create additional raised banks around the farm.
- 3 The larger the area scraped back the better. It will save time going back every few months to clear back the overgrown grass.

Evidence base from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators project

Eighty-one bare soil sites from 40 farms were monitored to assess if the site was occupied by solitary mining bees. The area, aspect, general context (location and whether the nest was manmade), number of nests, and shade for each site was recorded. Each site was monitored for ten minutes.

Within the first 4 months, the exposed areas of bare soil were already successfully colonised by mining bees, and one-third of nest sites were occupied (27 out of 81 sites).

What species of bee were found?

Newly created nest sites on farms were immediately used by a range of different ground-nesting solitary bees. Across nineteen farms, a total of nine different bees were observed. Three *Andrena* bees (Buff Mining Bee, Chocolate Mining Bee, and Gwynne's Mining Bee), six sweat bees (Gooden's Nomad bee, Marsham's Nomad Bee, Bronze Furrow Bee, Orange-legged Furrow Bee and a species of *Lassioglossum* and *Sphecodes*). Nest sites were occupied on all farm types (6 beef, 4 dairy, 4 mixed and 5 tillage). The most common bee to nest was Orange-legged Furrow Bee (found on 9 farms) and Marsham's Nomad Bee came in a close second (8 farms). All results reported here include data on active occupied nest sites only.

How large should the nest site be?

The area of the bare soil where occupied nests were found ranged from 150 cm² to 12 m². The highest number of species were found within areas less than one meter squared (7 species). Occupied nests were in both open locations (no shade;13 sites) or sheltered (some shade;14 sites). The number of nests per site ranged from 1 to 150.

What aspect did the bees prefer?

Across the nineteen farms, ground-nesting solitary bees were found occupying banks of different aspects. South facing banks had the highest nest occupancy (Figure 4) and the highest number of bee species (Figure 5). Figure 4 shows that bees were found nesting on NE banks (2 sites), S (6 sites), SE (4 sites), SSW (2 sites), SW (5 sites), W (3 sites), WSW (1 site) WNW (1 site), NNW (2 sites) and NW (1 site). While the Northeast aspect had just two occupied nest sites (Figure 4), five different species were found nesting within these two sites (Figure 5).

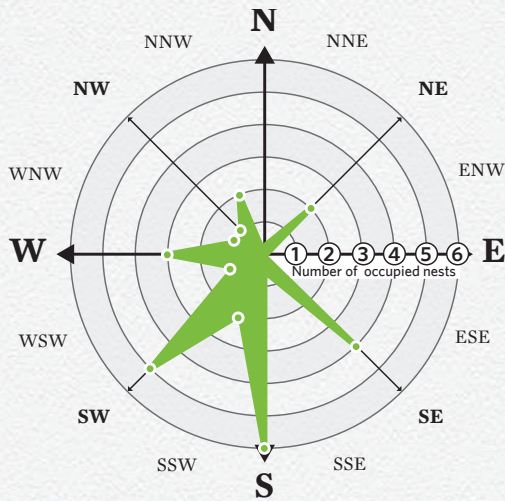


Figure 4 Aspect of occupied mining bee nests.

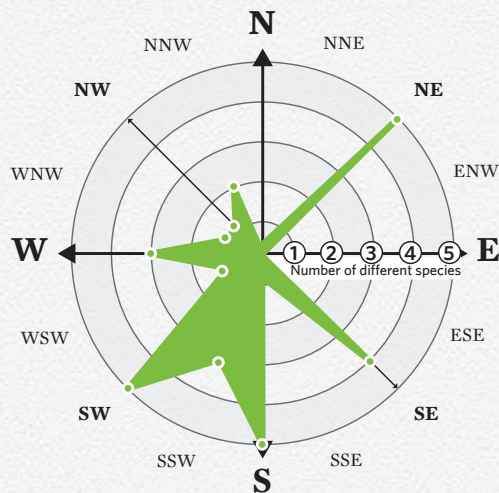


Figure 5 The number of different species of ground-nesting bees found at each aspect.

Can new nest sites also be naturally made by livestock?

Yes, they can. Out of the twenty-five occupied nests, fourteen were made by livestock and ten were made by the farmer. All occupied nests were located within a hedgerow.

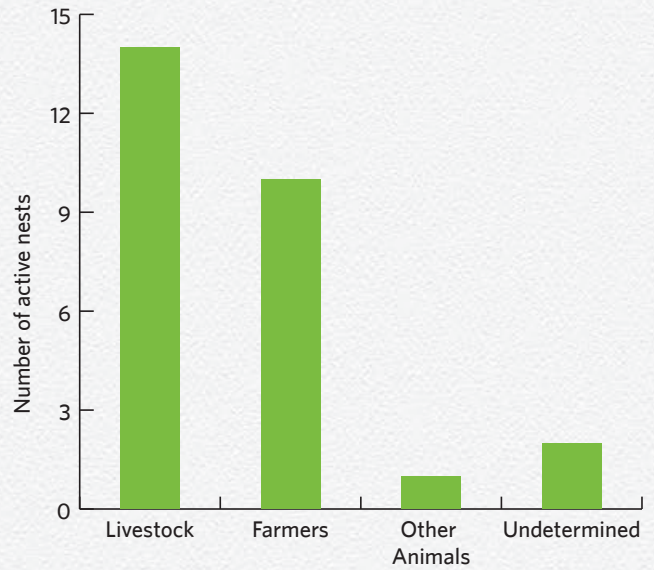


Figure 6 How the bare soil site was created.



Figure 7 Active mining bee nest.

How to make a nest box for above-ground cavity nesting bees



Figure 8 The range of bee boxes that were placed on the farms. The holes have been covered by leaves or soil in the occupied nests.

Our fifteen species of cavity-nesting solitary bees make their nests in existing cavities in stone walls, masonry, wooden structures, or commercially available bee nest boxes.

- 1 Ensure flowers are close by.
- 2 Keep it simple (see images above for inspiration).
- 3 Drill with the grain/ drill into the end grain.
- 4 Use a sharp drill bit to ensure no splinters.
- 5 Drill between 10-30 holes depending on the size of your piece of wood.
 - > Use the following size drill bits only: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 mm (bradpoint or forstner).
 - > Ensure the depth into the wood is 10 cm (the length should be at least ten times the diameter of the hole).
 - > Do not drill all the way through the wood.
- 6 Mount at least 1 metre above ground (1-2.5 metres preferable) facing the sun (East, South or West facing).

- 7 Try putting a sloping roof on top of your bee hotel to ensure it stays dry during rainy weather.
- 8 Do not hang your bee hotel near bird feeders so the nesting bees will not be easy targets for hungry birds.

If your nest is not occupied within two years, move it to a different location. If you have an active nest, after four years put a second nest next to the active one. This way the bees will have somewhere to go when the original nest is no longer suitable. If using plywood you will need to consider waterproofing the nest box. Nests will need to be cleaned out once in while to stop the build up of debris, diseases, and/or parasites. Remember, even if bees don't use the nests, many other invertebrates will (for example spiders and potter wasps), so they will still help farmland biodiversity.



Figure 9 Occupied bee box created by a farmer in Kildare.

Did you know: The dog rose, *Rosa canina*, is used by leaf cutter bees to create nests. Other rose leaves can be used too. If you look closely, you can see the leaves have been cut on the rose in the image above.

TIPS FROM THE FARMERS

- 1 Keep your drill bit sharp.
- 2 While drilling your holes, take a break with one size bit (e.g., 4 mm) and start with another size (e.g., 6mm). This will allow the 4mm to cool down.
- 3 After a few minutes of drilling turn the block upside down and hammer out the saw dust. You can also use a Hoover to remove any excess pieces of wood.

Evidence base from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators project

Twenty-nine nest boxes from 18 farms were monitored to assess if the nest box was occupied by solitary cavity bees. The aspect, general context (location), number of nests and the size of each nest box was recorded. Each nest box was monitored for ten minutes.

What species of bee were found?

Eleven bee boxes from eight farms were occupied. *Megachile* sp was the only species observed flying into a nest box. Other bees had not emerged from their nests at the time of surveying. *Megachile centuricularis*, *M. versicolor* and *Hylaeus confusus* were observed flying close to nest boxes.

What aspect did the bees most commonly use for nesting?

Cavity bees were found nesting on several different aspects: E (1 site), ESE (1 site), S (1 site) SE (1 site), SSW (3 sites), W (2 sites), WSW (1 site) and NNW (1 site).

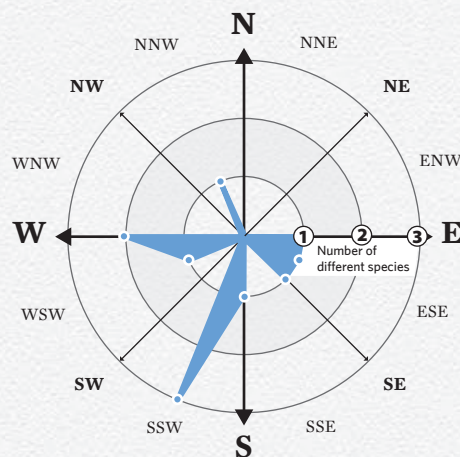


Figure 10 Aspect of the eleven occupied cavity bee nests.

Where did the farmers place the nest boxes?

All active nests had floral resources close by. They were placed in areas where the farmer had taken action to protect pollinators, either within a field boundary (hedge or stone wall) or close to a farm garden. All active nest boxes were placed at least 1.5 meters above ground.

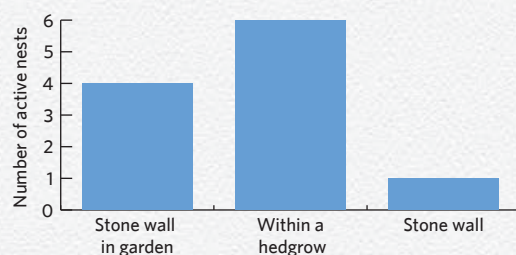
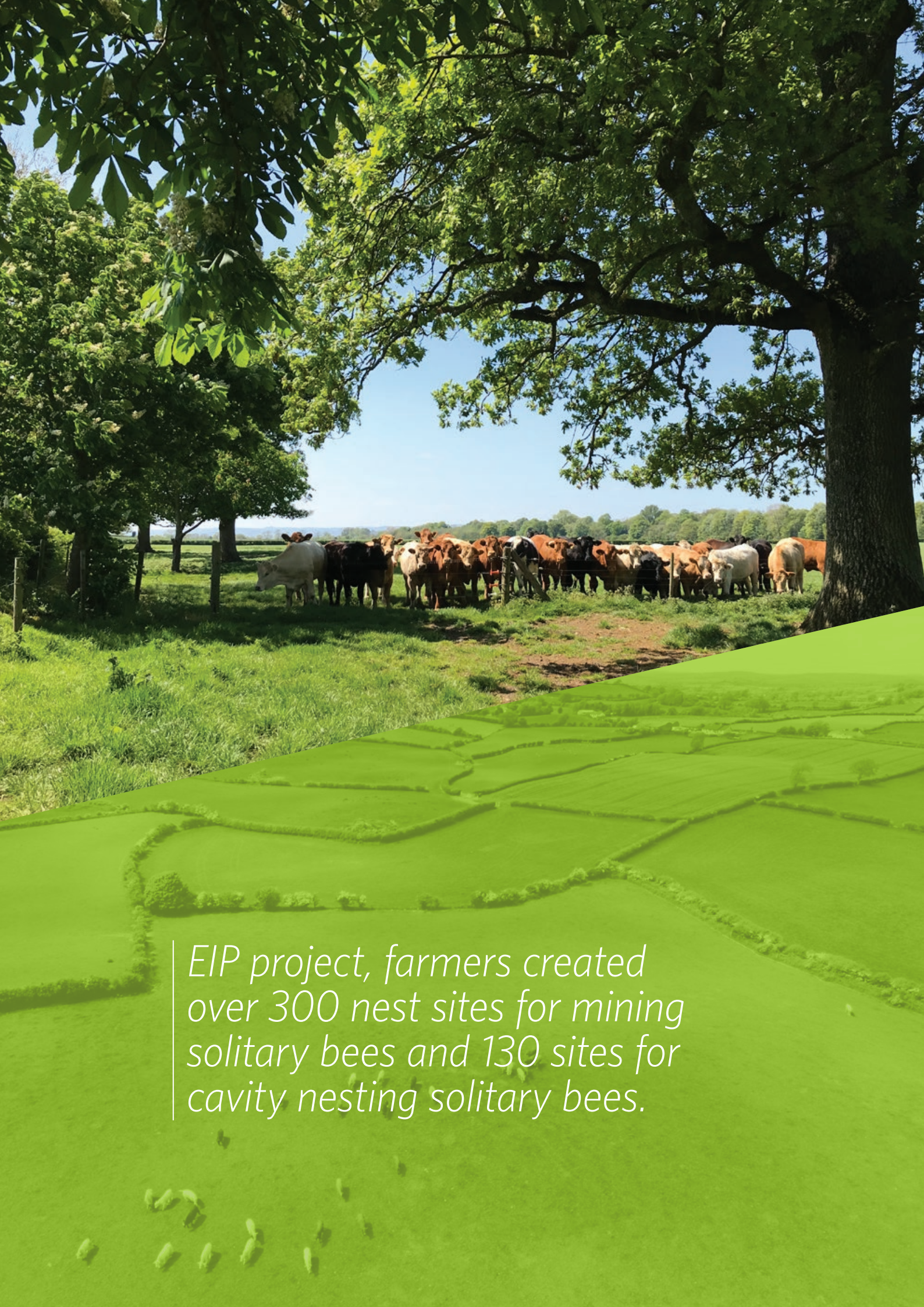


Figure 11 General context of the eleven occupied cavity bee nest boxes.



EIP project, farmers created over 300 nest sites for mining solitary bees and 130 sites for cavity nesting solitary bees.

Protecting Farmland Pollinators Action Sheet 1

This Action Sheet has been compiled by Dr Saorla Kavanagh and Dr Úna Fitzpatrick, National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Design: Vitamin Creative Ltd.

Citation: How to create solitary bee nest sites on your farm Protecting Farmland Pollinators Action Sheet 1, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford.

We would like to thank Dr Simon Hodge for his input, the ecological survey team (Neus, Niamh and Shannon) and the participant farmers.

Protecting Farmland Pollinators is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership) project being administered by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The Project is funded by the EU Recovery Instrument Funding under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022.

Is tionscadal EIP (Comhpháirtíocht Nuálaíochta Eorpach) é an Protecting Farmland Pollinators atá á riaradh ag National Biodiversity Data Centre. Tá an Tionscadal maoinithe ag Maoiniú Ionstraim Téarnaimh an AE faoin gClár um Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2014-2022.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture
Food and the Marine



The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

RECOMMENDATION TO ESSA TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Respectfully Submitted by the Healthy Community Committee

April 13, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

Essa Township declare May 2022 as No Mow May month, encouraging householders and businesses to support our local pollinator population by refraining from mowing lawns during the month. This will let flowers, including dandelions, bloom on lawns, providing an important and early source of nectar and pollen for wild bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

BACKGROUND

Started in the U.K. and now picking up steam in Canada, No Mow May is a call to help wild pollinators and other wildlife in the greenspaces where we live.

According to Dr. Chris Watson of the University of Québec at Trois-Rivières, lead author of *Ecological and Economic Benefits of Low-Intensity Urban Lawn Management* as published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* (British Ecological Society), "Even a modest reduction in lawn mowing frequency can bring a host of environmental benefits: increased pollinators, increased plant diversity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, a longer, healthier lawn makes it more resistant to pests, weeds and drought events."

THE CALL TO ACTION

The call to action is simple: Don't mow your lawn during the month of May and let the wild flowers in your lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators.

SUPPORT TO INCLUDE:

I. Communication

Proposed @ Township of Essa Website:

- i. Downloadable lawn signage (options available in Exhibit I)

- ii. Information about the initiatives of the Healthy Community Committee of Essa Township (Pollinator Plantings, link to webinar recording about Pollinator Plantings (recorded and presented in Spring 2021 featuring Shannon Stephens of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority)
- iii. Information about the how-to's of No Mow May

II. Events

- Free "how to" family-friendly workshops in the mornings of Saturday May 14 & 21 @ Utopia Hall

- i. Dandelion Flower Jelly
(poster from 2019 event; to be updated)
 - Everyone invited to pick the dandelion flowers by the hall
 - The flowers are then prepared by the participants (with supervision from the Happy Hens of Utopia) and made into Dandelion Flower Jelly
 - Everyone will be able to take home a free jar of dandelion flower jelly



- ii. Build Your Own Bee Hotel [Build Your Own Bee Hotel | National Geographic Society](#)



III. Essa Township Buildings

- Grass mowing to not be done during month of May

NEXT STEPS

Pending approval by Essa Township Council,

- Signage to be updated to include logos
- Communication piece to be created to explain initiative and the “how to’s”
- Promote initiative

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

This initiative will positively engage our community and help:

- i. Support our natural world, encouraging pollinators
- ii. Save money and resources by not using the lawnmower for a month
- iii. Have more time (by not having to mow the lawn in May)

DOWNLOADABLE LAWN SIGNAGE

- Room to include logos such as Township of Essa
- Option available to make it also available in French



Some See Weeds

**We See
Food for Bees**

#NoMowMay

LEAVE the WEEDS



FEED the BEES

#NOMOWMAY

SEE THESE AS WEEDS? THEY'RE

