

How can you help turtles
cross the road and other
ways you can help?

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Why help turtles?



Protected habitat saves other species

7 out of 8 species in Ontario listed

as 'at risk'



Special Concern

Life history

Habitat loss

**Road mortality

Subsidized nest predation



Blanding's turtles



Why do turtles cross the road?

- To get to additional habitat features (hibernation, basking, food, etc.)
- Females use sides of roads as nesting locations
- Hatchlings also cross the road directly following emergence from the nest
- Can be found basking on asphalt due to its warmth



Helping Turtles Cross the Road

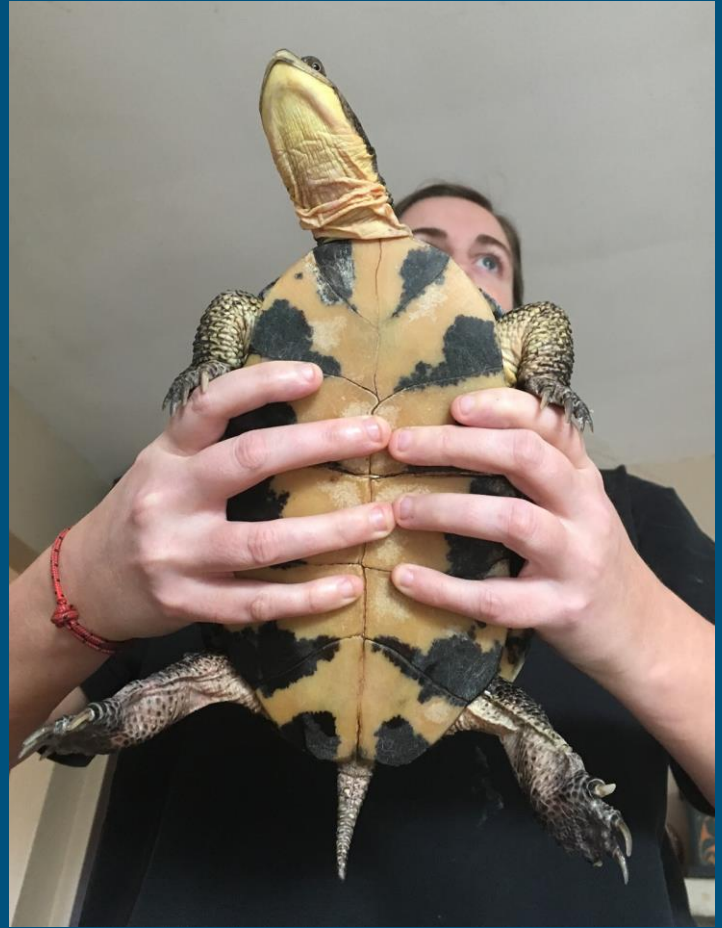


All other species

- One hand on either side of their shell
- Move in the direction they are facing

Snapping Turtle

- Hands between hind legs and tail
- Move in the direction they are facing
- May want to wear gloves
- Other ways to move them!





Other ways to help

Leave microhabitat features on property

Create artificial nesting sites

Protect turtle nests from predators

Call in observations to hotline or submit to Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas



START Project Hotline

Focuses on conservation of the 6 turtle species in central Ontario

Teams survey for turtles in wetlands and along roadsides

Can send teams out to process individuals called into the hotline (Blanding's focus)

Help protect turtle nests on public and private property

Submit all observations to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas to trigger habitat protection