



Saving our Turtles!

FRESHWATER TURTLES OF CANADA

Canada is home to eight species of native freshwater turtles: Northern Map, Blanding's, Painted, Eastern Musk, Snapping, Spiny Softshell, Spotted, and Wood. Currently all eight species are designated as species at risk by the federal government.

THREATS

The main threats are wetland loss, road mortality, and nest predation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help an injured turtle

- What do you do if you find an injured turtle? Unresponsive turtles may be alive so it's best to call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (705-741-5000) or contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitation centre](#) in your area.

Help a turtle cross the road

- If it safe to do so, you can [help turtles cross the road](#). Pull off the road, put on your 4-way flashers, check for cars and that it's safe for you to stop, use both hands, and move the turtle in the direction it is heading.
- Don't release it elsewhere or keep it as a pet.

Build a nest protector

- If you have a cottage or wetland near your property, you may want to consider [building a nest protector](#) for the turtles that may come up on your property.

Join a turtle conservation group in your area

- Some examples include the [Ontario Turtle Conservation Network](#), [Heart Lake Turtle Troopers](#), [Turtle Guardians](#), and [Turtles Kingston](#).



Blanding's turtle

Photo: Simon Lunn



Painted turtle

Photo: Simon Lunn



Northern Map turtle

Photo: Simon Lunn

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visit [HelptheTurtles.ca](#) to learn more about threats to freshwater turtles and how you can help.
- Learn about the [Saving Turtles at Risk Today \(S.T.A.R.T.\)](#) project in Ontario.
- Join [iNaturalist](#). This free community science project encourages people to submit observations of things they see in nature. There is a specific "Help the Turtles" page which has over 53,000 observations. These observations help researchers and conservation biologists know where turtles are found, understand their threats, and where the worst hotspots are.
- Learn about turtles and roads with this [resource](#) from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre.
- Read the 'Best Management Practices for Mitigating the Effects of Roads on Amphibian and Reptile Species at Risk in Ontario' report.

Join the free Freshwater Stewardship Community!
watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship

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