

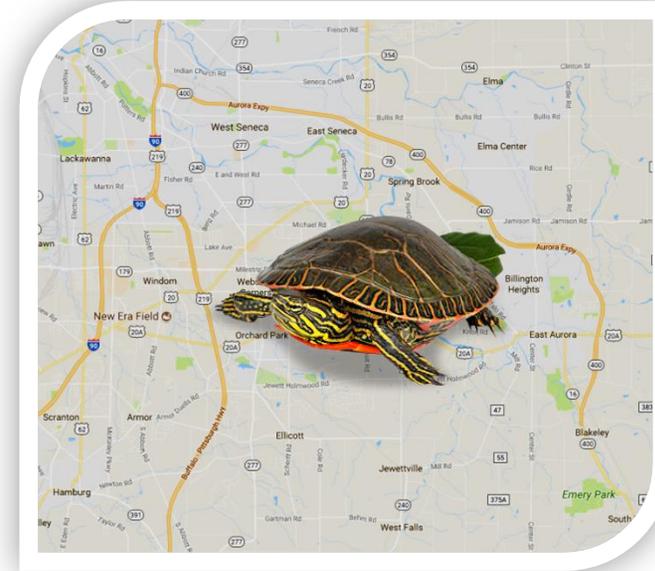
Project Thruway Turtle Watch

A network of members of the general public and area licensed turtle rehabilitators who come together to save our wild chelonians who were injured on our roadways.



It takes 20 years for a turtle to replace itself. The impact of losing even one adult can be devastating for the population.

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PROJECT THRUWAY TURTLE WATCH

An initiative to save WNY's turtles crossing roadways



Goals of this project

Project Thruway Turtle Watch is a Facebook based group with the goal to lessen the number of our native turtles that fall victim to thruways and other roadways every year during their migration.

In 2017 the 400 and 219 expressways have proven to be very perilous for turtles.

The goal of this project is to engage members of the general public, who commute on these expressways daily, to keep a lookout for injured and crossing non-injured turtles. Another goal is the creation of a network of turtle rehabilitators/ rescuers and finders/ spotters.

What to do if a turtle was spotted?

The following actions can be taken:

1. GPS or approximate marking of the area where an injured or dead turtle is found. Even dead turtles are valuable due to them still being able to carry viable eggs. Once the area is identified, a rescuer is called, who then will retrieve the turtle.
2. The crossing, uninjured ("the lucky") turtles will be helped across safely. **Of course the human rescuers have to remain save themselves at all times when participating in this project.**

Alternatively the location of the turtle is reported.

3. The injured turtle is retrieved by the finder and taken to a rehabilitator for care.



2017 has been a very dangerous year for turtles.

Several area wildlife rehabilitation centers reported larger than usual numbers of turtles being admitted, most of them hit by car. Hot temperatures will cause the injured chelonian to overheat if help does not come within a short period of time.

The death of a migrating gravid female should not be in vain. Her eggs can be retrieved, incubated and released to preserve the next generation.

Save the turtles!

We all can play a part in wildlife conservation.

Simply noticing an injured turtle, remembering the approximate location of the animal and contacting a rehabilitator can save a life, or in the case of a gravid female: many lives!

Contact

Find us on Facebook:

Project Thruway Turtle Watch

Or you can contact :

716-281-8494

turtlerehabber@gmail.com

www.turtlerescue.ny.gov

DISCLAIMER:

ALWAYS REMEMBER HUMAN SAFETY COMES FIRST. DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY WHEN RESCUING A TURTLE. IF CONDITIONS ARE UNSAVE, STAY IN YOUR CAR AND SIMPLY CALL OR EMAIL WITH AN APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE INJURED TURTLE. ALWAYS FOLLOW STATE LAWS REG. PHONE USAGE AND DRIVING.