

Found a Turtle Crossing the Road?



Why is it crossing?

Here are a few possible reasons:

To find a mate.



To reach a good spot to lay eggs. (mostly spring & summer)



To spread to new habitats.



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Why should you help?

To save that individual turtle.

Thanks friend.



To save species.

Most eggs and hatchlings get eaten. For populations to thrive, turtles must live a long time & lay many eggs.



Bragging rights.



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What should you do?

Stay safe. NEVER EVER put yourself in danger.

Let the turtle cross if it can do so safely.

Don't turn it back. It'll try to cross again!



If you must move it, lift by the back of the shell—never by the tail.



Don't move it to a new area.

It may roam aimlessly or try to return to its home area.



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CAUTION: Some turtles need special treatment.

Snapping and Softshell Turtles can be defensive & extra bitey.



Use a stick or other long object to push the turtle along.



Or, hold a hind leg, support the tummy, and help it cross.



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Help Protect Turtles in Minneapolis

If you see a turtle on land,
report it at bit.ly/ReportATurtle



With help from the public, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is identifying where and when turtles are seen on land in Minneapolis. This information will guide efforts to protect them at critical locations.

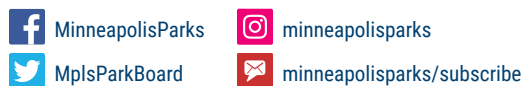
Turtles are vulnerable on land, especially when crossing roads and bike paths. Adults leave the water to move between winter and summer habitats, and to lay eggs in a nest that hatch after two to three months. Baby turtles (hatchlings) head to water right away, or the following spring, after staying in the nest through winter.

If you see an injured turtle: Report it and take the turtle directly to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of MN (www.wrcmn.org). Please leave healthy turtles where you see them, unless they need help crossing a road.

Questions? Comments?

Contact turtles@minneapolisparcs.org

Stay Connected!



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