Final Report: High Park Wildlife and Road Mortality Monitoring – Assessing Cycling and Roadway Impacts

Prepared by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

July 30, 2025

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project team would like to acknowledge the contributions of Turtle Protectors (Mishiikenh Gizhaasowin) for their Indigenous knowledge principles and insight. Further, contributions of nesting and mortality data from Turtle Protectors made the work presented in this report possible.

Recommended Citation:

Fortune, C., D.A. Lawrie, S. Hugh, and J.L.W. Ruppert (2025). High Park Wildlife and Road Mortality Monitoring – Assessing Cycling and Roadway Impacts. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Toronto, ON. 29 pages.

SUMMARY

The High Park road ecology study was initiated in 2024 to assess road mortality risk to wildlife in the park in association with infrastructure (roads, trails) within and around identified Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs). In consultation with the City of Toronto (Parks and Recreation), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Applied Ecosystem Research team implemented standardized surveys from June 24 to November 1, 2024, along identified wildlife-roadway conflict areas to better understand the impact of roadways and trails on park wildlife (Ruppert and Lawrie 2024). As there was a limited number of observations recorded in 2024 and given that the spring movement season was missed, road surveys were continued in 2025 from March 18 to June 27 to get a complete picture of potential wildlife mortality within the park. Additionally, TRCA staff mapped existing structures along the survey routes that may inhibit or facilitate wildlife movement, including curbs, retaining walls, fencing, trails and trail heads.

The data collected, combined with modelled wildlife movement by TRCA, and turtle observational and nesting location data provided by Turtle Protectors from 2023 - 2025, show some potential areas of risk within the park. Specifically, given the presence of ESA through the middle of the proposed recreational cycling pilot (West Road and Colborne Lodge Drive, the "High Park loop") this may be a high priority to mitigate impacts of roadways on park wildlife. However, the two years of road mortality data suggest that unfortunately American toads are most at-risk, followed by snake species, and chipmunks. Notably, we did not find any turtles within or on the High Park loop. Further, nesting data from Turtle Protectors (a total of 80 nesting locations in the park) shows a concentration of nesting activity in the area to the east of Grenadier Pond. In the High Park loop, only 3 nests were recorded over 3 years (~4%). This finding alongside the lack of turtle observations on the roadway suggests that the cycling loop does not pose a large risk to turtles, likely due to the efforts of community stewardship groups within the park.

Reviewing the existing structures along the High Park loop that may inhibit or facilitate wildlife movement together with nesting and survey data shows there is need for some wildlife-roadway mitigation to ensure the long-term persistence of biodiversity within the park. Recommendations to prevent road mortality and improve wildlife connectivity in High Park include:

- Implementing wildlife crossings or modifying existing infrastructure (up to 1m wide curb cuts/ramps, signage or paint stamps, and fencing) in the general locations identified as high wildlife movement corridors to provide a better balance between wildlife needs and park users, particularly in the area of the High Park loop.
- Supporting and encouraging community stewardship groups like Turtle Protectors to continue their efforts to monitor and safeguard turtles nesting in the park, which has proven to limit turtle mortality.

- Introducing training to High Park staff, contractors, and volunteers on what to do to reduce wildlife conflicts within the park, the timing of turtle movement season and what to look out for, as well as who to report turtle sightings to when encountered.

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BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto, hereafter referred to as “the City”, developed the High Park Movement Strategy (HPMS) in 2021. The strategy’s goal was to better serve park users and the surrounding community, while prioritizing improvements to safety, accessibility, and the park's natural environment. The City Council approved the HPMS in May 2023 (IE3.7), including the long-term goal of full road closures to visitor vehicles (Figure 1A).

The interim report *High Park Wildlife and Road Mortality Monitoring – Assessing Cycling and Roadway Impacts* (Ruppert and Lawrie 2024) completed by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority’s (TRCA) Applied Ecosystem Research team outlines a brief history of road ecology research and the need for a study in High Park. Together with the City’s Parks and Recreation team, TRCA implemented a High Park road ecology study in 2024 to determine the road mortality risk to wildlife in the park in association with infrastructure (roads, trails) within and around identified Environmentally Significant Areas and Provincially Significant Wetlands (TRCA 2019). The goal of this study is to improve our understanding of current impacts on the habitat and wildlife associated with these important environmental designations and potential mitigation measures to ensure that the consequences of making changes to the roadways that bisect these areas does not increase risk to wildlife.

With this in mind, TRCA staff began by conducting standardized road surveys from June 24 to November 1, 2024, along identified wildlife-roadway conflict areas to better understand the impact of roadways and trails on park wildlife. A limited number of observations were recorded in 2024, thus, to strengthen our ability to detect wildlife movement patterns, road surveys were continued in 2025 from March 18 to June 27 to gather more data on where wildlife travel and mortality occurs most frequently within the park. Further, TRCA staff have mapped existing structures along the survey routes that may inhibit or facilitate wildlife movement, including curbs, retaining walls, fencing, trails and trail heads. TRCA also continued to collaborate with the local Indigenous stewardship group, Turtle Protectors (Mishiikenh Gizhaasowin), who shared data on turtle observations and nesting locations within High Park. With these additional data in hand, TRCA has made several recommendations on mitigation options to support wildlife movement throughout the park and limit mortality along roads and trails without inhibiting park user’s enjoyment.

Objectives

This project aims to determine the road mortality risk to wildlife in the park in association with infrastructure (roads, trails) within and around identified Environmentally Significant Areas and Provincially Significant Wetlands in the park. Understanding the road mortality risk will help to inform future decisions around potential impacts to biodiversity and inform mitigation strategies that can benefit biodiversity alongside other park uses. Specifically, the project will help City staff:

- Gain an understanding of wildlife road mortality risks within and around identified Environmentally Significant Areas and Provincially Significant Wetlands in the park by collecting wildlife road mortality data (June 24 – November 1, 2024, and March 18 – June 27, 2025).
- Continually engage with interested stakeholders by sharing information on the overall project with stewardship groups like Turtle Protectors.
- Provide a summary and analysis of overall findings as well as a suite of recommendations on both programming (e.g., cycling pilot) and design (e.g., long-term roadway reconfigurations and implementation of roadside infrastructure) measures to mitigate the risk of road mortality to wildlife in the park.

METHODS

Study Area

The area of study is within High Park in the City of Toronto and aligns with areas of focus associated with the High Park Movement Strategy (HPMS) and ecologically sensitive habitats within the park. As directed by the City Council, City staff developed and consulted on a recreational cycling pilot along the High Park Loop, a 2-kilometre counter-clockwise route starting West Road at Spring Road, connecting to Colborne Lodge Drive, then back up to Spring Road (see Figure 1A). An overview of the cycling pilot and the concerns for wildlife are outlined in the interim report *High Park Wildlife and Road Mortality Monitoring – Assessing Cycling and Roadway Impacts* (Ruppert and Lawrie 2024). Findings from road surveys completed in 2024 guided the decision to continue the same survey route in 2025, following the High Park loop, Colborne Lodge Drive, and a trail near Grenadier Pond (Figure 1).

Figure 1. An overview of High Park and the roads and trails that were targeted for additional data collection by TRCA staff from March 18 – June 27, 2025. High Park (green boundary) roads (white lines) and trails (purple line) monitored by TRCA are shown in the left panel. The inset in the left panel highlights the cycle loop location in the right panel, noting infrastructure features.

TRCA Data Collection and Analysis

TRCA Monitoring

TRCA continued to target 2 standardized surveys weekly (typically Tuesdays and Fridays) between March 18 and June 27, 2025, during a variety of time periods but with a focus on the early morning period, to capture the diversity of wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, and other taxa) that may be impacted by surrounding roads and trails. We collected road ecology data using a standardized methodology (TRCA 2018). Generally, we coordinated the timing of surveys with parks staff to ensure that paths were not cleaned in advance of surveys, to make sure the most data possible could be collected. When sampling occurred, it involved walking specified roadways and trails (Figure 1) and recording all species and individuals, dead, injured, or alive on the road along with the UTM coordinates. If there was a cluster (2 or more individuals within 5 m of each other), a single set of UTM coordinates were recorded and data were later split into individual points for analysis. In addition, we mapped existing structures along the survey routes that may inhibit or facilitate wildlife movement, including curbs, retaining walls, fencing, trails and trail heads (Figure 1). All data was entered directly into a tablet and later downloaded and imported into an ArcMap project.

Data Summary Analysis

The data collected through this study by TRCA is organized into summaries by taxa (species specific, if possible) and location for incidents that were recorded by surveys. Similarly to 2024 (n=26), there were a limited number of observations in 2025 (n=24; Table 1, Figure 2). These observations were supplemented with data on turtle observations, including nest locations and hatchling emergence, from Turtle Protectors from 2023 to 2025 (Table 2; Table 2A and 2B).

Beyond the scope of this project, additional work was completed using a graph theory modelling approach to estimate where movement corridors for species would be of higher and lower probability within High Park (Gelmi-Candusso et al. 2025). Due to the limited number of observations, we utilized these results alongside the data collected as part of this study to help refine areas of high risk to road mortality within High Park (Figure 2). Here the modelling predicts the likelihood of areas used for wildlife movement for a suite of species (including turtles, frogs, salamanders, large mammals and small mammals) where the likelihood of travel is on a scale from high (likely to be used) to low (less likely to be used).

Citizen Science Data (Turtle Protectors)

The efforts by Turtle Protectors have continued to significantly reduce potential stressors and impact on wildlife within High Park. This includes ensuring the safe movement of individuals to and from nesting habitats, the installation of nest guards to reduce disturbance and predation of nests and hatchlings, and the documenting and burial of casualties that have succumbed to roadway collisions. Given the scale of their operation within High Park, it was critical to work with them to incorporate their knowledge and understanding of processes within the park. To that end, we reviewed the data provided by Turtle Protectors to the project team from 2023 to 2025 to support the objectives of this project (data received on June 24, 2025). This included call logs or reports of mortalities and sightings of nesting turtles, including nest locations (Table 2; Figure 2), as well as additional reports of incidents. This data combined with TRCA monitoring and modelling results provides a more comprehensive understanding of wildlife risk within the park.

RESULTS

TRCA Data and Modelling Summaries

We documented a total of 50 wildlife occurrences on roadways and trails in and around High Park during the 2024 and 2025 survey periods (Table 1). Of these observations, 44 were mortalities, which can be seen clustering near expected movement routes through the park (Figure 2). Survey timing varied with some surveys completed early in the day and other mid-afternoon. The timing of surveys did not noticeably affect the quantity or type of wildlife recorded. It is important to note there were many observations of live songbirds, geese, ducks, grey and red squirrels as well as chipmunks along the edges of roads throughout the park. Anecdotally, many of these observations appear to be in areas of the park where active feeding has been taking place (David Lawrie *personal communication*) although it could very well be attributed to other reasons for movement. In addition, in the most recent year of survey, there were turtle observations recorded in Grenadier Pond, however, these and other live wildlife were excluded from overall survey counts as they were not actively found on the roads/trails. Lastly, TRCA's modelled wildlife movement corridors also show a high alignment with observed wildlife sightings throughout the park. Notably, through the middle of the proposed cycling pilot route (West Road and Colborne Lodge Drive) and along the southern portion of Colborne Lodge Drive (Figure 2).

Table 1. All observations from surveys conducted by TRCA along study sites from June 24 – November 1, 2024, and March 18 – June 27, 2025. Noted is the Animal Type, Species, status (Dead/Alive) and number observed.

Animal Type	Species	Status	# observed 2024	# observed 2025
Birds	Rock dove	Dead	1	0
Birds	Unknown Chick	Dead	1	2
Birds	American Robin	Dead	1	0
Birds	Red-winged blackbird	Dead	0	1
Frogs/Toads	American Toad	Dead	6	8
Frogs/Toads	American Toad	Injured	0	1
Frogs/Toads	Unknown	Dead	1	5
Mammals	Coyote	Alive	1	1
Mammals	Eastern Chipmunk	Dead	2	5
Mammals	Meadow Vole	Dead	1	0
Mammals	Unknown	Dead	1	0
Mammals	Meadow Jumping Mouse	Dead	1	0
Snakes	Eastern Garder Snake	Alive	2	0
Snakes	Eastern Garder Snake	Dead	1	1
Snakes	Brown snake (Dekays)	Dead	6	0
Turtles	Midland Painted Turtle	Alive	1	0
Turtles	Snapping Turtle	Dead	1	0
Total			**26**	**24**

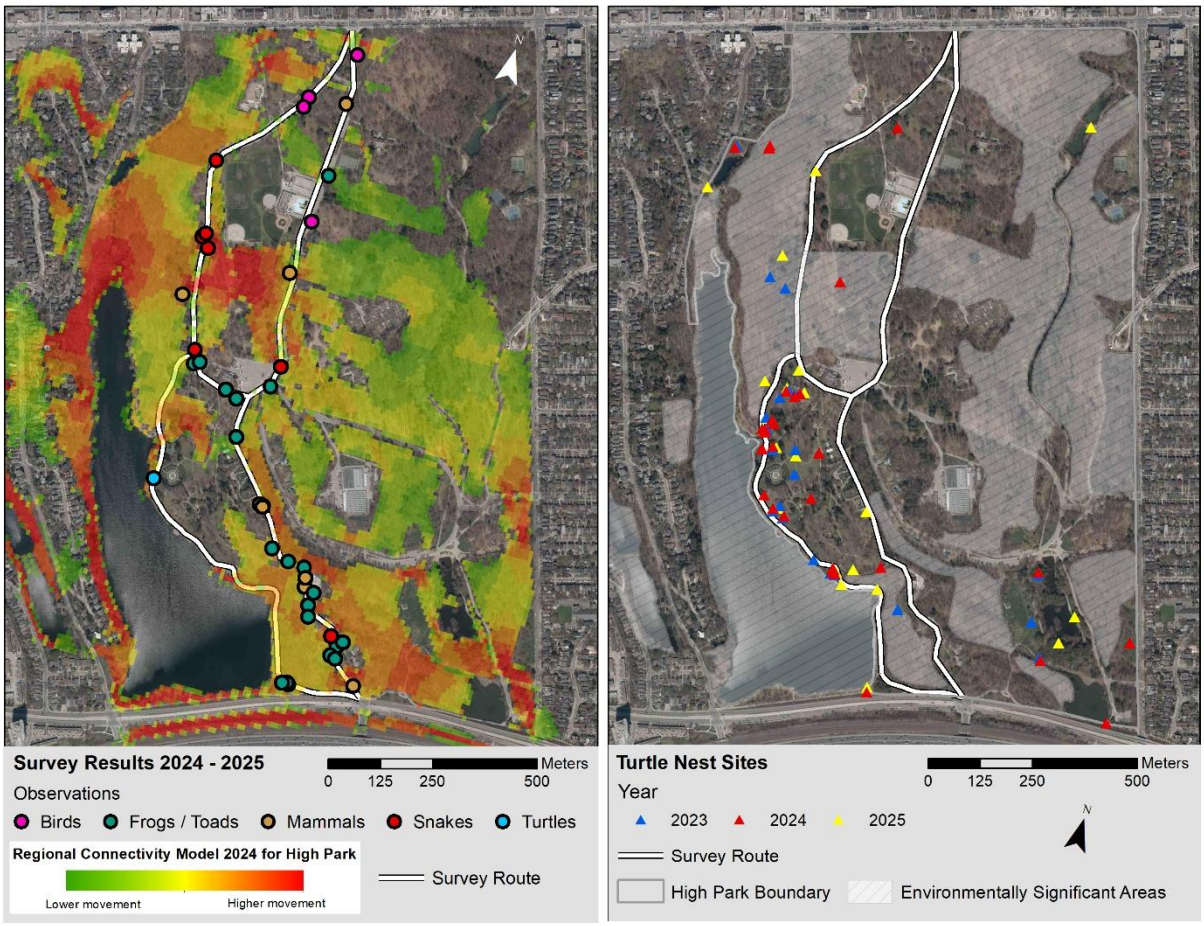

Figure 2. Wildlife and turtle nesting records. The left panel showcases wildlife records classified by taxa along TRCA's survey route, overlayed on TRCA's movement model (Gelmi-Candusso et al. 2025) through the park. Red/Orange areas indicate the highest potential for wildlife movement, green indicates lower amounts of expected movement, and no colour indicates no movement or perhaps only incidental movement is expected. The right panel highlights the locations of turtle nest from 2023 - 2025 (turtle protector source) within the High Park boundary against environmentally significant areas.

Citizen Science Data Summaries

One of the important pieces of data received from the Turtle Protectors was their log of received calls in 2024 and 2025, which allowed us to gain further insights into where other turtle observations have been made within the park, and in some cases their related behaviours and timing of movements. In all, 66 call records were examined from High Park over the two years, and many of these calls were related to subsequent on-the-ground actions including turtle rescues, as well as nest mapping (Table 2) and protection.

Additionally, the locations of nests and hatchlings provided by Turtle Protectors gives us a more specific understanding of where turtles may be moving to and from when nesting/hatching (Table 2). For instance, the concentration of nesting data near and around Grenadier Pond would indicate that turtles are mostly navigating between the pond and the nesting and hatching sites that were recorded (Figure 2). However, specific coordinates of where individual turtles are seen would be helpful in mapping their specific routes of travel from pond to nest.

An important observation from nesting records shows that only 3 nests over three years (~4%) are located within the High Park loop (Figure 2; Table 2). This finding alongside the lack of turtle observations on the High Park loop suggests there is not zero, but a lower amount of risk to turtles crossing the High Park loop.

Table 2. Turtle nests documented in High Park, including number for each species per year.

	Number of nesting sites per year		
Species	**2023**	**2024**	**2025***
Blanding's Turtle	0	2	0
Painted Turtle	13	10	6
Snapping Turtle	12	10	10
Red-Eared Slider	0	8	4
Unknown	0	4	1
Total Nests	**25**	**34**	**21**
Total Nests (Excluding Red-Eared Slider Nests)	**25**	**26**	**17**

*2025 totals based on data received as of June 24th. More nests could have been created since this date.

DISCUSSION

Identification of Areas of Concern for High Park

Although the limited number of field records collected within the survey area did not allow for a hotspot analysis to be conducted, it did allow for an examination against TRCA's modelled wildlife movement corridors. The predicted movement hotspots from the model align well with the field collected data (Figure 2). Preliminary areas of concern identified in the interim report (Ruppert and Lawrie 2024) were supported with new observations recorded in 2025. This includes the portion of the High Park loop along West Road and the field between West Road and Colborne Lodge Drive. This area is shown to be a high wildlife movement area through TRCA's movement model, high curbs were mapped along most of West Road (which can impede movement of smaller fauna), and in 2024, an endangered turtle nesting was reported in this area (Figure2).

Between the observations from TRCA monitoring and data provided from Turtle Protectors, there are three species of turtles observed within the park that are designated at some level of *Species-at-Risk* federally and/or provincially, including Midland Painted Turtle (Special Concern - federally), Snapping (Special Concern – federally and provincially) and Blandings (Endangered – federally; Threatened - provincially). Notably, for the Blandings Turtle there should be particular attention paid to the known nesting location and monitored should be conducted to determine whether there is a need for continued habitat protections in this area of the park (Environment Canada 2016; MECP 2019). Blanding's turtles along with many other turtles exhibit a strong nest site fidelity, meaning females return to the same general areas to nest year after year. However, for Blanding's turtles this is more challenging to determine as the turtles may alternate between several long-term nesting sites, so nest sites may not be used every year (Congdon et al. 2011). Additionally, female turtles might only nest every 1-3 years.

Overview of Potential Mitigation Solutions and Recommendations for High Park

Given all the available sources of data, we can provide a variety of recommendations for improvements to wildlife connectivity in High Park. These recommendations are focused on the High Park loop, where wildlife appear to be most at risk based on modelling and road survey observations (Figure 2 and 3). With high-speed cycling introduced this would present an increased risk to wildlife so minimizing the potential impact would be beneficial.

1. **Wildlife crossing structures** can be added to movement corridors through modification of existing infrastructure. Suggested locations are in high-connectivity areas where there is more movement and also align with trailheads linked to informal trails, assuming the wildlife follow the path of least resistance (Figure 3). These structures can be staggered with trailheads (up to 5m max) and can be accompanied with signage or road paintings to promote engagement with the public. Unfortunately, TRCA does not provide a service for the construction of these

structures, and this would have to be completed by another contractor or potentially city staff. Examples of wildlife crossing structures are shown in Figure 4, and include:

a) **Curb cuts:** This would allow small fauna to more easily cross roads that currently have tall curbs, which are difficult for them to get overtop of.
b) **Curb ramps:** The same reasoning as curb cuts applies, however ramps are an alternative option. Curb ramps can be constructed simply using asphalt.

2. **Fencing** could be altered, replaced and/or extended in the park that would not affect park users in a substantial way. This fencing would direct wildlife around high traffic areas, preventing individuals from entering the roads and redirecting towards wildlife crossings. In particular, TRCA suggests fencing along the southern end of West Road across from the Grenadier Cafe at the top of Cherry Blossom Hill (Figure 3) as several American toad mortalities have been recorded in this area and large number of nesting locations for turtles can be found here annually (Figure 2).
    a) TRCA recommends installing post and paddle fencing (example shown in Figure 4), with a small gauge wire mesh along the bottom to prevent and/or direct wildlife movement. This would require a total of 220m of fencing, and the cost estimated to be ~$407/m including staff, equipment, and materials (~$89,500 total).
3. **Turtle Protectors** should be supported and encouraged to continue their efforts to monitor and safeguard turtles nesting in the park, which has proven to limit turtle mortality on the high-traffic survey areas in the park.
4. **Staff, contractor and ongoing stewardship training** – In addition to Turtle Protectors' ongoing efforts, there are many staff and volunteers in the park full-time that could benefit from specific wildlife training and direction for the many issues regarding wildlife conflicts within the park. If all staff, volunteers, and contractors were made aware of the movement season, and what to watch for (big turtles in the spring, baby turtles late summer/early fall) and who to report to (Turtle Protectors or designated ecology staff) or do (how to move turtles off roads) there would be a reduction in wildlife conflicts within the park. This training process could be expanded to include a standard cloud-based folder where people could drop geotagged images that would allow for both identification and mapping of wildlife in the park.

Generally, a combination of the above recommended mitigation structures (curb cuts and/or ramps, and fencing), coupled with ongoing stewardship action and park staff/volunteer training, would provide increased connectivity and potentially reduce mortality of wildlife in High Park, especially in the area near the High Park loop where wildlife is most at risk.

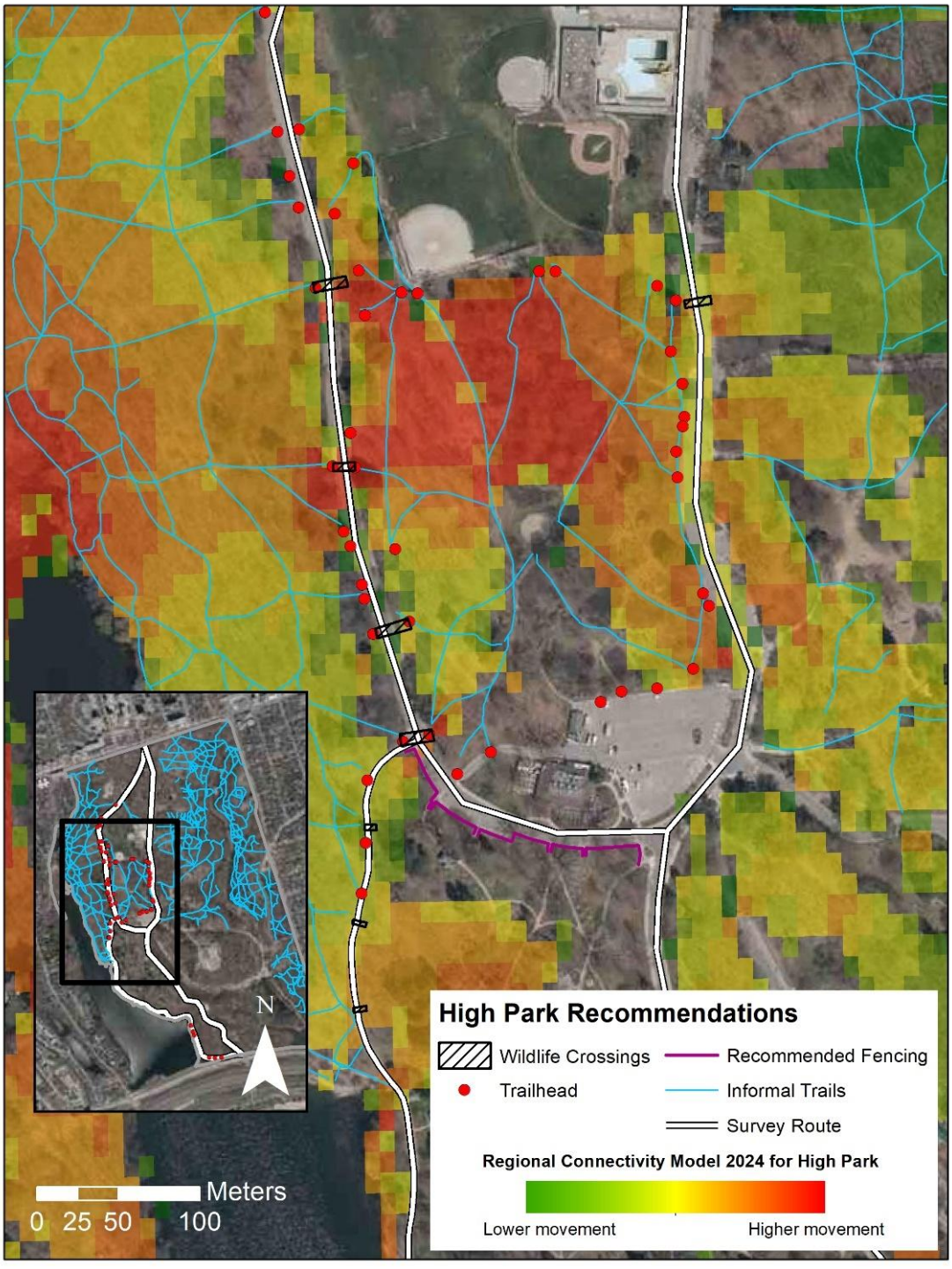

Figure 3. Recommended mitigation solutions for wildlife road mortality. Wildlife crossings along West Road and Colborne Lodge Drive and post and paddle fencing along the top of Cherry Blossom Hill.

Figure 4. From top to bottom: a curb cut implemented in Richmond Hill; a curb ramp constructed with asphalt also in Richmond Hill; and an example of post and paddle fencing.

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APPENDIX 1

Figure 1A. The High Park Movement Strategy with designated roads and directions for vehicle use in the park (map provided by the City of Toronto).

APPENDIX 2

Table 2A: Summary of Turtle Protectors' call log for High Park in 2024 regarding wildlife in the park

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
June 1	1:21 PM	High Park	Injured female duck (in a couple) wandering in High Park	Jenny called Megan to inform her of TWC policy - A volunteer must take on the responsibility of the bird and build a relationship in order to bring into care. Volunteer must be able to come within 1 foot in order to capture the bird.	
June 2	8:00 AM	High park	Turtle Nesting Spotted! on the south shore - road along bottom of south duckpond parallel to Queensway verge next to fence	Yogendra on site, headed right over, Kinu and Leah joined to relieve Yogendra, Alex arrived to relieve Kinu	
June 2	9:35 PM	High Park	Playground on Ellis Park Rd	Carolynne spotted turtle in the playground on her way to Ellis Park Rd	Carolynne is trying to keep an eye on both Tina is on their way to support
June 3	7:20 AM	High park	Large Snapping turtle nesting - already dug hole and is in the position to lay	Hjalmar was on site and headed over, when he arrived another volunteer who was on a walk was on site - she couldn't stay, but can come back at 9am if Mama is still laying	Nest complete and covered, stewarded back safely to the water
June 3	19:00	High park	Reported dead turtle - killed by car driving through high park	Megan was asked to send a picture of the turtle- either RES or Painted	No outcome

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
June 4	7:22	High Park	Painted turtle spotted.	Kept distance and stayed with Turtle. She dug but seems to have dug into another animal's abode.	She went back to Grenadier Pond.
June 4	9:40	High Park	High Park intersection bike path where you circle around to Queen.	Texting pin, Kinga and Leah en route. Following currently. Carolynne messaged Tommie who is en route, Yogendra arrives later. Jenny is coming at 12:30 and Kinga should be back by then. Leah is still with turtle (11:42am). I (Andrea) called all Indigenous volunteers for High Park along with returning volunteers, no luck so far. Calling others now.	*is this the same log as line 35? -Andrea
June 4	13:30	High Park	Mama blandings turtle seen wandering near Colborne lodge in high park	Volunteers on shift monitoring turtles movement	Turtle returned to water without successfully nesting.
June 4	17:00	High park	Spotted mama painted turtle nesting near Grenadier Pond	Volunteer Kinga, Alex, Rein and Megan supervised turtle. Kwame watched turtle return to water	TP #30 is placed, and nest is protected.
June 4	19:46	High Park	Spotted eggs being predated upon by ants under NP	Jenny cross references information- this is the same nest that was under water in a puddle (eggs floating)	Hole was not predated upon by larger animal, eggs were exposed due to egg laying conditions.
June 5	8:19	High Park	reported sighting a snapping turtle digging	Jenny went to the spot - turtle was test digging - Kinu took over - around 11:30 turtle was left because we had volunteers at other sites	

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
June 6	6:37	High Park	Snapping turtle on the hill across from the wooden platform at the base of cherry hill.	Needs a nest protector.	
June 6	7:26	High Park	Turtle crossing the road..	Turtle assisted	
June 6	17:34	High Park	Messaged about Box number 21. Elaine felt like the nest was dug up, yet the protectors were in place. Could hatchlings come out this early?	Should someone check on this?	Protector was removed; this was a painted turtle nest that had to be dug up in May.
June 6	18:46	High Park	Blanding was found again near Grenadier Pond. Could very well be the one release earlier today.	Yogendra and Jenny are with her.	She went back into the pond.
June 8	11:03	High Park	Found a possible nest in High Park, could be blandings.	Alicia is coming over with a protector.	TP9.
June 9	7:00 AM	High Park	Snapping turtle near pond, may have already laid	Volunteer on morning shift did not sign in/was unreachable if they were on site- Audrey stayed with her until she returned to the water, Field Staff to check potential nesting sites	Returned to water safely with Audrey

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
June 9	7:30 AM	High Park	Snapping Turtle heading up Cherry Blossom Hill heading towards bathrooms - caller unable to stay with her as he had been called away to do a task	Volunteer on morning shift did not sign in/was unreachable if they were even on site - unable to mobilize anyone on site until after 8am - Carolynne located her and Alicia is sitting with her for now. Miles took over when he arrived	Nested successfully and protected
June 9	9:05 AM	High Park	High Park - Sara out for a walk with her family, spotted Snapping turtle mama digging behind snow fencing	Alicia was with this mama yesterday and she got spooked, is on her way to be with her	Test site, returned to water
June 11	11:45	High Park	Kinu texted to share they placed a cover over an area that looked like predation.	https://maps.app.goo.gl/AEidWD4N8rFTRX156?g_st=i	121 put in place then removed as this was one of the painted turtle hatchling nests that had to be dug up in May.
June 12	1:30 PM	High Park	Called about Red Ear Slider nesting	Kinga and Meghan on scene with Mama until she returns to water	No nest protector placed
June 12		High Park	Call about Blanding's nesting	Jenny supported and waited for mama to nest	Mama nested safely, nest in place.
July 22	12:10 PM	High Park	RES nesting in park	Volunteer Stephanie dispatched	
July 22	8:00 AM	High Park	Unprotected predated nest spotted by Kinga	Kinga placed a protector over nest	
July 23	1:00 PM	High Park	Caller thought turtle was stuck in algae	Volunteer Julie dispatched; turtle was basking	
July 25	2:00 PM	High Park	RES nesting in park; provided instructions for staff to give space;	Volunteer not available to be dispatched	

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
August 8	6:00 PM	High Park	Dead hawk spotted in Duck Pond	Park staff Daniel contacted to assist with retrieval of Hawk	
August 10	morning	High Park	Baby rabbit appeared to be on their own	Megan informed to give space and observe as Mama may be close by; shortly afterwards Mama came out and baby reunited	
August 12	6:45 PM	High park	Injured Painted Turtle hatchling near fishing dock	Jenny and Megan dispatched; hatchling brought to TWC next day 2024-4333	
August 13	5:00 PM	High Park	Large Snapping Turtle trying to climb chain linked fence to get out of upper Duck Pond	Carolynne and Jenny dispatched; Turtle was extremely large; Turtle assisted over the fence; Turtle walked and entered the creek connected to lower Duck Pond	
August 20	9:00 AM	High Park	spotted eight eggs placed beside protector; assumed these may be pet turtle eggs		
August 29	8:30 AM	High park	Hatchlings emerging from nest along south end of lower Duck Pond (mesh nest protector)	41 hatchlings assisted to water; one injured 2024-48-8	
August 30	late afternoon	High Park	Contacted staff Andrew to inquire about Blue Green Algae; informed that Ministry tested water earlier in day and confirmed algae		
August 31	3:00 PM	High Park	Called about adult Painted Turtle dead in grass near Grenadier Pond		

2024					
Date of Call	**Time of Call**	**Location - Park**	**Reason for Calling**	**Action**	**Outcome**
Set 13	11:50 AM	High Park	Hatchling spotted on Colborne Lodge; caller unable to pin location	Caller had released hatchling in Grenadier Pond	
June 2	6:45 AM	High Park - near Children's Garden	Painted Turtle crossing Colbourne Lodge Road from Children's Garden area moving west towards pond possibly	Caller able to stay with turtle while she walked back to water	Turtle back in pond
June 2	9:14 AM	High park Area - Ellis Park Road	Community Member Called that the turtle had returned to her property at 31 Ellis Park Road	Carolynne driving over to assess, Angela sending the call out to volunteers to support	Carolynne stayed with until Tina and Pavar arrived on site

Table 2B: Summary of Turtle Protectors' call log for High Park in 2025 regarding wildlife in the park

2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
April 14, 2025	4:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	7		Lower Duck Pond	Monica noticed emergence hole on scouting shift and Lazlo discovered hatchlings in the grass
April 14, 2025	5 found in the morning, 1 found in the evening	High Park	Midland Painted	6		5 Lower Duck Pond and 1 Grenadier	Spotted during nest monitoring shift
April 24, 2025	9:15 AM	High Park	Midland Painted	8		Grenadier 43.6455233, -79.4689688	Spotted during nest monitoring shift
April 25	12:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grenadier 43.644949, -79.468522	Spotted by Kinga, released by Alex with class of young children
April 25		High Park	Midland Painted	2		Grenadier 43.6388670, -79.4644860	Spotted during nest monitoring shift
April 28, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted	2	3	Grenadier	nest originally hatched on April 25 so was excavated, two were alive, three turtles were deceased (had roots wrapped around their bodies)
April 29, 2025	6:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grenadier	received call on hotline from park visitor who spotted hatchling
April 29, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grandier	received call on hotline from park visitor who spotted hatchling, hatchling didn't want to go into water at first and was brought to the north end behind the pump house

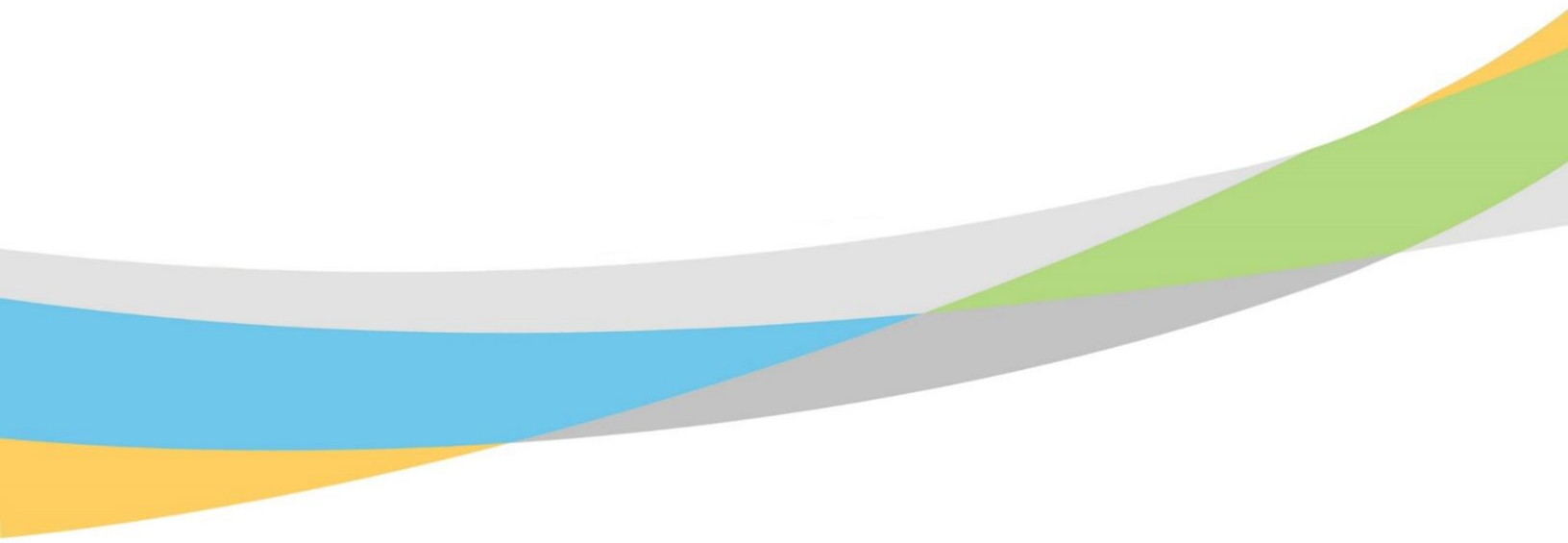
2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
April 30, 2025	2:30 and 5:30 pm	High Park	Midland Painted	2	2	Grenadier	two emerged on April 30, nest was excavated early on May 1, 2 hatchlings were found deceased in the nest.
May 2, 2025	1:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	2		Grenadier Pond	Passerby told Erin about a crowd of people huddled around a hatchling while she was scouting the Purple Martin nests
May 3	3:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		Taken to TWC	
May 6	1:15 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		43°38'45.6"N 79°28'08.9" W	Park goer found the hatchling on a walking path near cherry blossom/hatchling hill. They called it in, and Andrew responded. Hatchling was collected, and after scouting the emergence hole was located. Eggshells were found, so a new nest protector was put on site. TP112. Hatchling released in grenadier pond. After scouting, no other hatchlings were found, but some could have been hiding among the many leaves and branches
May 7	2:25 PM	High Park	Red Eared Slider				Andrew
May 8, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grenadier Pond	A park visitor found the hatchling on the concrete and moved it to the edge of the pond. I released the hatchling into the reeds

2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
May 8, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted		1	n/a	
May 8, 2025	12:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted		1	43.6447479, -79.4685202	deceased hatchling found by park goers who called the hotline. Carapace did not appear to be damaged, so perhaps they weren't compressed from above? We wondered if they could have been dropped by a bird, given the injuries and unusual location Volunteer Mark was nearby and scouted the hill closest to the area but didn't find any others or an emergence hole.
May 10, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted	1		43.64069° N, 79.45626° W (Lower Duck Pond)	There was only the one hatchling, we did not find more.
May 12, 2025	8:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grenadier Pond	Park visitor texted the hotline with photo of them releasing the hatchling and the PIN for where they were found.

2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
May 13, 2025	8:30 AM	High Park	Midland Painted	7	1	Grenadier Pond	Park goer spotted 4 hatchlings in nest protector and called the hotline. 6 were found initially and released around 10:00 am. Another hatchling was found at 11:00 am in the protector and nest was excavated at 11:00 am by Jenny and Grace. One hatchling was still partially in their eggshell. Shell was peeled off. Hatchling had a weak back right leg so was taken to TWC. The 8th hatchling was deceased and was buried in the nest with the eggshells post excavation.
May 13, 2025	5:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		Grenadier Pond (https://maps.app.goo.gl/QJYDitdFbDrAR1gB8)	Andrew spotted Hatchling on his scouting shift
May 13, 2025	10:00 AM	High Park	Midland Painted		2	n/a	

2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
May 13	9:15 AM	High Park	Midland Painted	6	1	43.644366,-79.468410 (5 hatchlings)	Remaining Queensway NP (#112?) emerged with 5. The 5th needed to be gently lifted, and a 6th was visible. All initial 5 healthy, active, and righting themselves prior to release. Nest later excavated (same day) by Grace and Jenny [recorded]. One found deceased [recorded]. A 6th alive one taken to twc [recorded], Grace assisted to help them out of their shell and one back leg wasn't moving (Jenny, Erin, can add or clarify)
May 13	12:00 PM	High Park	Midland Painted		2		Both found to have been flattened on the forest side of path very close to water. Runners who have noticed many fatalities here suggested advocating for an elevated boardwalk along the north end of Grenadier to prevent erosion and save lives
May 13, 2025		High Park	Midland Painted	1		43.644366,-79.468410	Hatchling found while scouting in the area; from unprotected NP. Determined healthy and released
May 15		High Park	Midland Painted	1		43.64552° N, 79.46903° W	Hatchling found and called into hotline by park goer who stayed with them. New volunteers were assisted by returning volunteer to release
May 16th	10:45 AM	High Park	Midland Painted	1			

2025							
DATE	**TIME**	**PARK**	**SPECIES OF TURTLE/OTHER WILDLIFE**	**NUMBER OF LIVE HATCHLINGS**	**NUMBER OF DECEASED HATCHLINGS**	**Release Site**	**NOTES**
May 16th	2:30 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	6	3	43.64490° N, 79.46861° W	Nest excavated by Adore, Phillip and Leticia under Jenny's and Grace's watch and guidance. Five active hatchlings were release right away into Grenadier pond. The sixth active hatchling had dirt covering their eyes but once they were open and turtle was active, they also were released into the pond. The 3 deceased ones were returned to the land.
May 16th	5:30 PM	High Park	Midland Painted	1		43.6403991, -79.4625111	Adore came across a family crouched around a hatchling. Them and the family released hatchling together. Adore scanned area but didn't see any other hatchlings nearby.
May 26th	1:36 PM	High Park	Snapping Turtle	1		43.64629° N, 79.46935° W	



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority