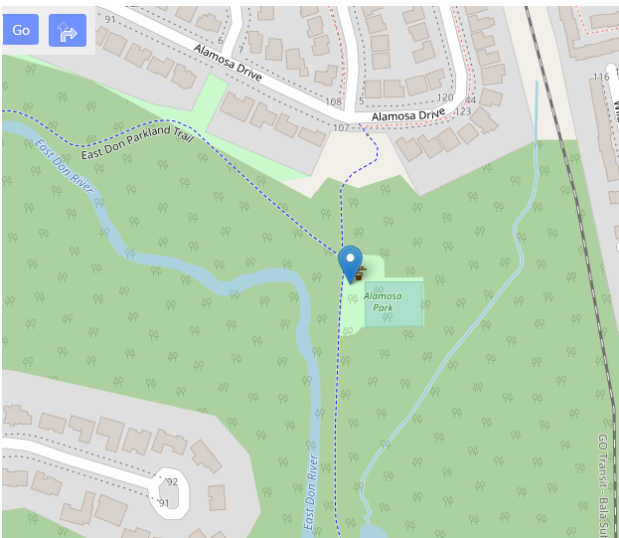


The 2023 Turtle Watch has begun.

14 June 2023

Turtle Watch: the hatchlings are on the way, and we would like your help. We would like you to, monitor, watch-over and keep other humans and predator animals away and let us know what you see.

On June 10th, a Common Snapping Turtle was observed digging a nest and laying eggs in the East Don Parkland. In front of the Alamosa Park tennis courts, on northwest side of the hill, a little lower than last year. There was a second snapping turtle in this area, it started to dig a nest in another location and was scared away by a lady taking a selfie with it. Please do not get this close and scare the mother trying to make a nest for its eggs. If you see the second nest, let me know asap.



This is natural for mother snapper to come up from a river to high solid open warm ground. They can lay anywhere from 2 to 102 with an average of 35 eggs at one time. The mother then leaves the nest and eggs to fate. She returned to the East Don River shortly afterwards.



Unfortunately, due to human and predator animal actions many do not survive. The turtle is now classified as **“at risk species”** and needs our help.

- Demo egg that did not make it.

What we have done so far to help and protect the nest. We have placed a turtle nest cage protector over the nest site and weighed it down with large rocks. As this is not in a high pedestrian traffic area, we have not put large traffic barrel and small traffic pylon out to mark it and protect it further.



PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE.

If you see or have any concerns or issues, please call me **Gary James** at 416 - 512 - 6690 or cell 416 - 660 - 0044, jemail2 @ bell . net (remove the spaces), part of the BVA team.

The last few years they have hatched in late September depending on the weather. Last year a dozen or so hatchlings were found on the tennis court.

There are four cut out escape holes for the hatchlings to get out. We do not need to move the cage and let them out. They will not all hatch at the same time. I will maintain the cage during this time.

Our Councillor Shelley Carrol, 311Toronto, City Parks and Ravines and the TRCA have all been emailed and made aware of our efforts to save this “at risk turtle”. And now you, our turtle watch friends are helping too.

What you can do for the turtles. Please become one of our turtle watch team. As you walk by, check, and make sure nothing is moved or disturbed. Inform and educate other people and ask that they keep their distance. Please keep dogs away from it too.

If you see the turtle hatchlings, give them space, take lots of photos, and enjoy. They do not need to be let out of the cage or fed. They will find their own way out the escape holes. If they are out, they have an instinct to head for water. If they are in danger on the path, you can carefully pick them up by the shell and move them in the direction they are going off the path or closer to the water. Careful they do not scratch you. Wash your hands asap.

Question: what do you call a group of turtles? Answer: A group of turtles is known as a bale.

Join and post all your wild photos to iNaturalist Project - [Bayview Village, Toronto, ON, CA - urban nature · iNaturalist Canada](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/bayview-village-toronto-on-ca-urban-nature)

Thank you. If you have any questions, please report any updates, disturbances, damage to me Gary James at 416 – 512 - 6690 or cell 416 – 660 - 0044, jemail2 @ bell . net. (Remove the spaces)

<https://trca.ca/news/crossings-connectivity-road-ecology-helps-native-species/>

<https://trca.ca/app/uploads/2016/03/HLREMP-2016MitigationRprtCookFinalJuly-2017.pdf>