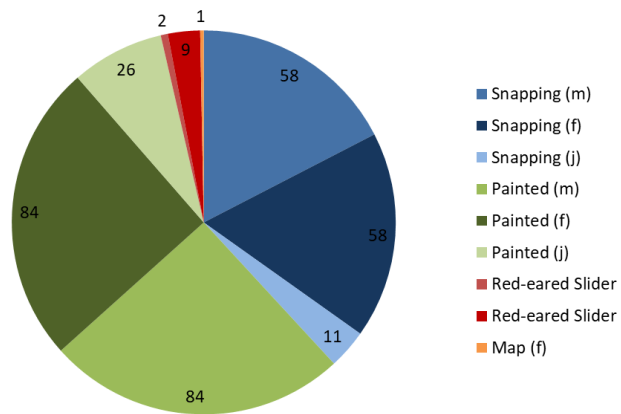


Wonderful Watershed Moments!

MAY TO OCTOBER 2018

2018 Heart Lake Wetland Complex



LOCATION:

Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:

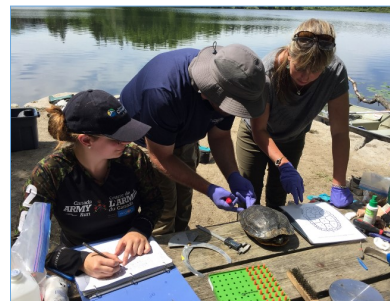
May to October, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:

Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), City of Brampton, Ontario Road Ecology Group, York University



Heart Lake Provincially Significant Wetlands, 2018 Turtle Population Study

Heart Lake Road bisects an area of designated Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) which are home to diverse and significant wildlife. Since 2011, TRCA has conducted a citizen science Heart Lake Road Ecology Volunteer Monitoring study to collect data on wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs). To date, over 5,000 wildlife fatalities of various species have been recorded along Heart Lake Road.

All eight of Ontario's turtles are listed on Ontario's Species at Risk list and in 2014 and 2015, a turtle population study was conducted at two of the PSW to gain a base-line population of turtles prior to the installation of a dedicated wildlife passage and wildlife directional fencing.

The area of focus was expanded in 2018 to include seven wetlands and Heart Lake, with a total of 333 turtles captured. Data collected involved, notching, PIT tagging and measuring of; snapping, Midland painted, northern map and non-native red-eared slider turtle species. Five female snapping turtles and one female northern map turtle were outfitted with a GPS transmitter in order to study nesting and movement behavior.

To further protect the water and habitat of these wetlands, local residents, students and community groups were engaged in TRCA's Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaign as part of ongoing efforts to remove litter and garbage from the areas adjacent to the wetlands. This years efforts resulted in over 2,500 lbs. of illegally dumped litter, debris and construction material being removed.

Data collected from this study will assist partners with planning more effective mitigation efforts to be implemented in protecting sensitive wildlife and ecosystems within urban areas.

Positive Environmental Impacts

Total # of Turtles Captured in 2018 Study	# of Turtle Species Captured	# of Turtles Tagged with GPS Transmitter	# of lbs .of Garbage Removed from Heart Lake PSW
333	4	5	2,540

