

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES
IN NEW YORK STATE

Bog Turtle

This area of the Town of Chester near the Davidson Drive Holdings, LLC project on Davidson Drive may contain suitable habitat for the Bog Turtle, which is a New York State Listed Endangered Species. This species is an important part of our ecosystem and it is illegal to kill, harm or harass them. In New York, bog turtles occur in open-canopy wet meadows, sedge meadows, and calcareous fens often fed by groundwater and the vegetation always includes various species of sedges. This brochure's intent is to educate the public of their potential presence and provide valuable information should an encounter occur even though sightings are rare.

This Pamphlet is to be distributed to all construction workers and residents at the project site by the **Project Engineer/Biologist after initial training by a Knowledgeable Wildlife Biologist**

In case of a sighting, please call
Michael Nowicki at 203-910-4716

And

The NYSDEC Wildlife Office to
Report the incident within 24
Hours at 845-256-3098 or
Wildlife.R3@dec.ny.gov. Please
Provide the location, the project
Name, and explanation of incident.



Fact Sheet

- The bog turtle is New York's smallest turtle, reaching a maximum length of 4.5 inches. A bright yellow or orange blotch on each side of its head and neck are a distinctive feature of this species.
- Mating generally occurs in the spring but autumn mating events are documented. Nesting sites are typically located inside the upper part of an unshaded tussock (a tall, thick bunch of grass).
- Overwintering sites are typically found in densely vegetated areas often in association with tree roots and other submerged structures along streams or near underground springs.
- In New York, the bog turtle is generally found in open, early-successional types of habitats such as wet meadows or open calcareous boggy areas generally dominated by sedges (*Carex spp.*) or sphagnum moss. Like other cold-blooded or ectothermic species, it requires habitats with a good deal of sunlight for basking and nesting. Plants such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and reed (*Phragmites australis*) can quickly invade such areas resulting in the loss of basking and nesting habitat.
- Contact the response number on this brochure to have this species identified and relocated from the work area if necessary. A trained state licensed professional will safely relocate the turtle.

Measure to Take During Encounters

Measures to take during encounters include:

1. All personnel working at the site will be trained to be able to identify, and locate Bog turtles by a knowledgeable biologist. Turtles can only be moved by a qualified biologist with knowledge of Bog and relocation procedures who is also licensed by the NYSDEC to handle Bog turtles.
2. It is illegal to take, import, transport, possess, or sell an animal listed as threatened without a license.
3. If a turtle is seen, stop all work immediately. To restart work, written approval is required from the NYSDEC.
4. Contact the contractor in charge and delay work in the area until the turtle has moved safely from the area. Allow the turtle to continue on its way.
5. If the turtle does not move along on its own or is found in the barrier fence, contact the following response number to have a trained, NYS licensed professional, safely relocate the turtle (Michael Nowicki at 203-910-4716).
6. Contact the NYSDEC wildlife office to report the incident within 24 hours at 845-256-3098 or wildlife.r3@dec.ny.gov. Please provide the location, the project name, and explanation of incident.
7. If the turtle was found within a turtle exclusion fence, work cannot commence until fencing is inspected by and signed off on by a knowledgeable Bog turtle consultant (turtle monitor) and the NYSDEC issues written approval that work can commence.
8. The project sponsor will provide educational materials for all contractors and residents to inform of the potential for Bog turtle encounters and what to do if a turtle is encountered to ensure the animals are not collected or persecuted.
9. If a turtle is found within the temporary barrier fencing, fencing needs to be inspected, repaired, and the area swept and signed off on by the monitor. To restart work, written approval is required from the department.

Additional sources of information:

Available from: <https://guides.nynhp.org/bog-turtle/>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Bog Turtle Fact Sheet