

WAYS TO HELP TURTLES

- Watch from a distance. Use binoculars and move slowly to avoid scaring the turtles.
- If you have a dog, keep it on a leash when you're in turtle territory.
- Only Western Painted Turtles exist in BC naturally. If a pet turtle was released into the wild, it probably wouldn't survive, but it could also get native turtles sick. If you ever see a turtle in a park in BC that has red on its head and doesn't have a painted plastron, try to get a photo and report it to the park staff or to the [BC Invasive Species Council](#).
- Spread the word about how to protect turtles! Tell your friends and family about why turtles need space. You could even make a poster to share. Hint: Try to keep your poster positive by highlighting what you DO want people to do (i.e. give turtles space vs. don't go too close to turtles).
- Help to protect wetland habitat by learning more about the importance of wetlands in BC. Visit the BCWF website for [information](#), family resources or [upcoming wetland courses](#). Consider becoming an Earth Ranger and learn about wetlands and what some BC students did to help protect the endangered Oregon spotted frog [here](#). You can read more about the distribution and importance of BC wetlands [here](#).