

WILDLIFE IN GLENVILLE



COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

The Common Snapping Turtle is one of the more common reptiles you will find in Glenville's Ma'alwyck Park along the Mohawk River during egg-laying season. A turtle may travel a fair distance from the river in search of a place to bury its eggs. You are most likely to find a Common Snapping Turtle in shallow, murky ponds and streams.

The Common Snapping Turtle, scientific name *Chelydra serpentina*, is a large freshwater turtle native to North America. With a natural range that spans from the Rocky Mountains down to Florida, the Common Snapping Turtle is extremely adept at adjusting to its surroundings. They have a strong, muscular build, with a carapace that ranges from 10-20 inches in adulthood, and an average weight of about 10-35 pounds. An omnivore, the Common Snapping Turtle will also scavenge for their food.

INTERACTING WITH COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

Often considered one of the more threatening reptiles one may encounter, the Common Snapping Turtle will actually avoid confrontation in most scenarios. When in water, a Common Snapping Turtle will most likely swim away from a human, and they can be beautiful to observe from a safe distance. Issues arise when Snapping Turtles get on land, specifically in situations where they may be crossing a road or impeding in other day-to-day tasks. However, snapping turtles have the capacity to cause serious injury with their incredibly strong bite, and one should always proceed with caution around them. A snapping turtle can reach its head all the way back to its hind legs, so it is not advisable to try to pick the turtle up to relocate it. Instead, call a local wildlife specialist.

For help with snapping turtles in any of the town parks, please feel free to contact Parks Director Vicki Hillis at 518.688.1221.

FUN FACT: The Common Snapping Turtle is the official reptile of New York State.

