

Getting to know Chilliwack's Species at Risk

Species at risk profile: Western Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast Population, *Chrysemys picta* pop. 1

What it looks like:

A turtle (up to 25 cm) with a smooth olive-green to dark brown shell. Head, neck and tail are olive to greenish-black, and yellow striped. Underneath, the shell has a distinctive red or orange pattern.

[Click here for more identification details.](#)

Where it lives:

Found in slow-moving, permanent waterbodies, such as ponds or lakes, with soft bottoms, aquatic vegetation, and areas of exposed sand or gravel for nesting. [Visit this map for location details.](#)

What it eats:

A resourceful omnivore, this turtle feeds on aquatic plants, invertebrates, tadpoles, and small fish.

What are its main threats in the Fraser Valley?

Habitat loss and disturbance of nesting sites.

Did you know?

- Is the only native turtle species left in the Fraser Valley.
- Easily confused for the commonly found non-native Red-eared Slider. Click [here](#) to learn how to spot the difference.
- Will bask on logs or land to soak up the sunlight which allows for the absorption of vitamin D needed for shell and skeletal maintenance.
- Click [here](#) for more facts and [here](#) for what is being done to help.

How you can help:

Do not release pet turtles into the wild as they will compete with this native turtle species.

Join the [Nature Stewards](#) program for personalized property advice.

Spot a Western Painted Turtle? – take a photo, record the location, and send it to outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca.

For any questions about this or other species at risk, contact the [Fraser Valley Conservancy](#).