

SNAKES



- ◆ Snakes shed their entire skin 1-3 times per year in order to grow.
- ◆ Snakes have specialized jaws that allow them to swallow prey much larger than their usual jaw size.
- ◆ Some snakes can climb trees. Our climbers include the brown water, black rat, rough green, northern water and ribbon snakes.

Colubrids (non venomous)

- Black Rat Snake
- Brown Water Snake
- Earth Snake
- Eastern Garter Snake
- Eastern Hognose Snake
- Eastern Kingsnake
- Eastern Ribbon Snake
- Northern Black Racer
- Northern Brown Snake
- Northern Scarlet Snake
- Northern Water Snake
- Rainbow Snake
- Red-bellied Snake
- Rough Green Snake
- Worm Snake

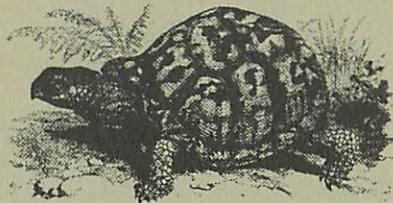
Pit Vipers (venomous)

- Canebrake Rattlesnake ^{SE}
- Eastern Cottonmouth
- Northern Copperhead

(SE: This species is endangered in Virginia)

Please help protect our Natural Resources!

Please remember that all plants and animals found in the City's parks are protected by law. It is illegal to molest, injure or remove any wildlife including their nests, eggs or young. It is also illegal to remove, cut, damage or destroy any plants (including plant parts) found in the parks. Help us conserve your natural resources!



For more information...

If you have any questions regarding this listing, or if you would like more information about any of the City's natural resources, please contact us at:

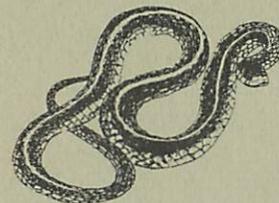


Newport News Park Discovery Center
13560 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23603
(757) 886-7916, 886-7912

REPTILES

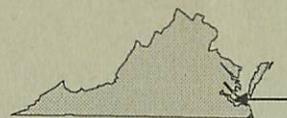
OF THE PARKS

Newport News, Virginia



Welcome...

Newport News is located in what is called the Peninsula area of the Coastal Plain region of Virginia. Its forests, fields, rivers, marshes and grasslands are a wildlife watcher's paradise.



During your visit to the City's parks we hope you will take the time to observe our wildlife. There are 62 native species of reptiles found in Virginia; 36 of these may be seen in the parks located throughout the City.

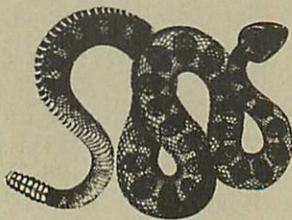
Save this brochure; it can be used at any of the City's parks and provides a nice record of "wildlife sightings."

What is a Reptile?

- ◆ A reptile has an outer body covering of dry scales that allows them to venture away from water.
- ◆ A reptile gives birth to young or lays eggs on land.
- ◆ A reptile has very little control over its internal body temperature; it is generally dormant in winter.

How to Watch Reptiles...

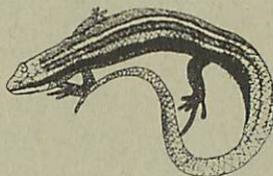
- ◆ Learn what reptiles eat, where they live and other facts about their lives.
- ◆ After you have learned where to find reptiles, approach the area quietly.
- ◆ If you move a log or other item to look for critters, always put it back in place as you found it.
- ◆ Look before you put your hands and feet anywhere (venomous snakes are rarely encountered, but they do reside in this area).



The following reptiles have been found in the parks located in the City of Newport News.

Please contact us at the number or address on the back of this brochure if you note any additions to this list.

LIZARDS



- ◆ Lizards are terrestrial (they live on land).
- ◆ Lizards are mostly insect-eaters.
- ◆ Skinks have "break-away" tails (often bright blue on juveniles) that help them escape from predators.

Skinks

- Broad-headed Skink
- Five-lined Skink
- Southeastern Five-lined Skink
- Ground Skink

Whiptails and Racers

- Six-lined racerunner

Fence and Spiny Lizards

- Eastern Fence Lizard

TURTLES



The turtles found in the parks of Newport News spend most of their time in the water (except for the Eastern Box Turtle); all of the turtles come onto land to lay their eggs.

A turtle has an upper shell (carapace) and a lower shell (plastron) that provides protection for the reptile; the carapace is attached to the turtle's ribs.

Snapping Turtles

- Common Snapping Turtle

Musk Turtles

- Common Musk Turtle
- Eastern Mud Turtle

Box, Slider and Painted Turtles

- Eastern Box Turtle
- Eastern Painted Turtle
- Red-bellied Turtle
- Spotted Turtle
- Red-eared Slider
- Yellow-bellied Slider

Sea Turtles

- Loggerhead Sea Turtle ^{FT}

(FT: this species is Federally Threatened)