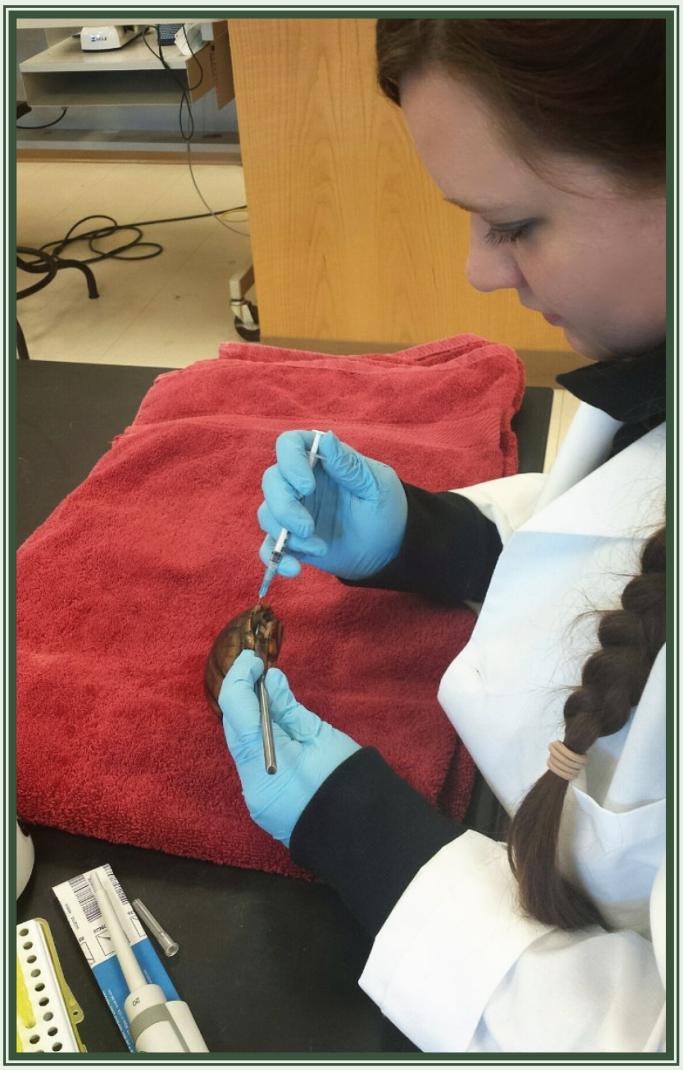
Wildlife Research at Brick Pond Park – By Ashley Holmes

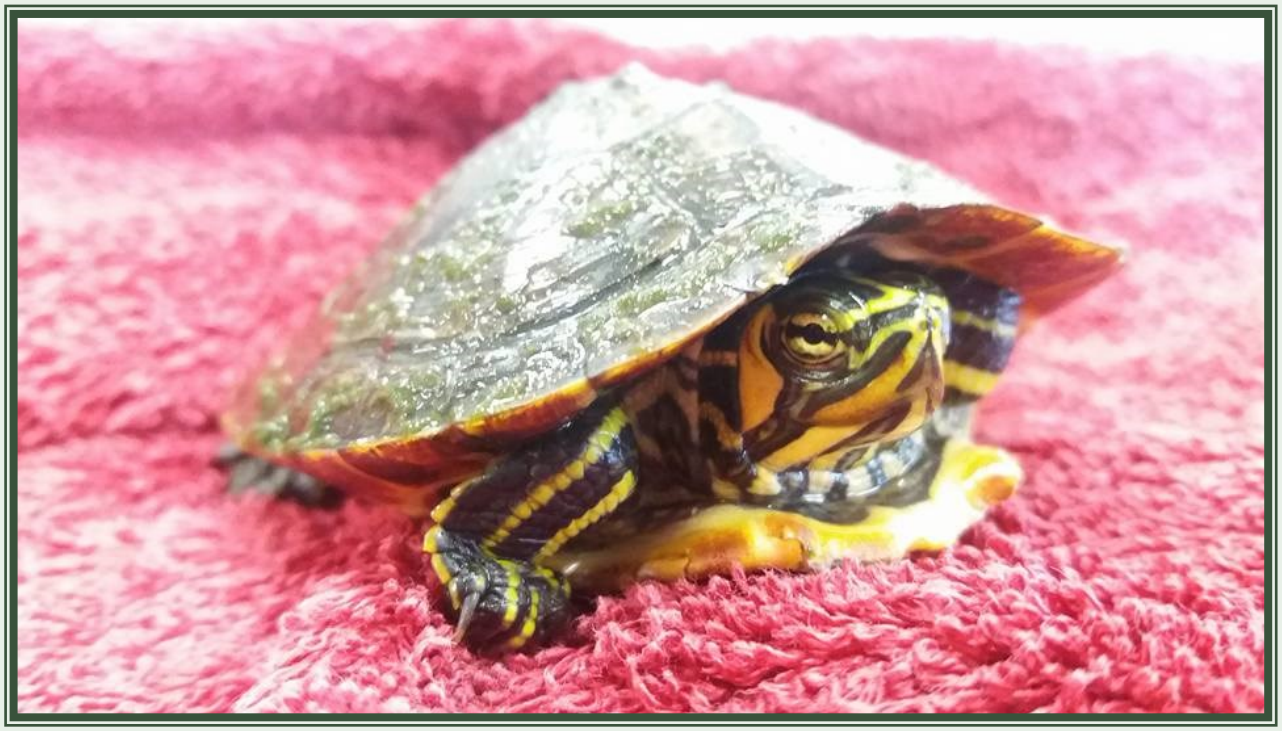
Brick Pond Park is a lovely place for an afternoon stroll or a wildlife-watching adventure, but did you know that it is also a great place for research? Due to its abundance of wildlife and its location between North Augusta and the Savannah River, Brick Pond Park offers a unique opportunity to study wetland wildlife. On any sunny day, you may see students along the shoreline of the ponds, or even wading out into the waters to collect samples.



Very low levels of BPA are not considered particularly harmful to animals. However, high levels of BPA in turtle blood would indicate high levels of plastic and related residues are making it into the wetland's system. BPA is found in plastic products, such as epoxy resins and popular food storage polycarbonate containers, such as commercial beverage bottles. As always, the goal is to minimize human impacts where pollution is concerned.

Turtles are an indicator species, which means the health and presence of turtles are telltale signs of the overall health of an ecosystem. They are also a keystone species, in that they are important to the maintenance and function of the ecosystem they inhabit.

Though our wetlands are considered a buffer to help prevent pollutants from entering the Savannah River, which is a drinking water source for many, it is still important to monitor pollutant levels to ensure the beautiful wildlife habitat remains healthy and we can continue to enjoy the wildlife at Brick Pond Park.



Since the wetland waters of Brick Pond Park are direct runoff waters from roads, parking, and residential areas, the best way to prevent excess pollutants from entering the wetlands is to take steps to contain trash. Make sure litter is properly disposed of into waste bins and waste bins are covered from exposure to rain water. Using reusable containers, such as canvas grocery bags and reusable drink containers, and taking steps to recycle plastics are all helpful means to avoid excess plastic pollutants in our waterways.