

Common Musk Turtle *Sternotherus odoratus*

Habitat Preference: Permanent water in backwaters and spring fed ponds. Sandy uplands adjacent to the pools are used for nesting and over wintering.

Threats:

- Loss of riparian areas force common musk turtles to travel further away from pools of water which leaves these turtles vulnerable to becoming road kill or being killed by farm machinery.
- Many wetlands have been drained.
- Many ephemeral pools have silted in.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Restore wetlands whenever feasible. Common musk turtles need an abundance of clean open water.
- Maintain or recreate riparian habitats: Common musk turtles use areas directly adjacent to water for nesting. They do not travel well across land and therefore are dependent upon riparian areas directly adjacent to water for successful nesting.