



# *Wildlife Crossings*

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# Challenge:

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- One million animals die on roads every day in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Road mortality is the leading cause of vertebrate deaths in the U. S., surpassing hunting within the last thirty years.
- The positive impact of driving less on the rate of wildlife vehicle collisions was illustrated during the height of the pandemic stay-at-home-orders in March and April of 2020. The number of collisions in some states declined by 21-58% in those two months, according to research by the Road Ecology Center.

# *Why This Matters:*

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- Animals are an essential part of our interconnected ecosystem.
- Protecting wildlife and ecological systems are clearly expressed goals of Hendersonville's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, specified in Chapter 3: Natural & Environmental Resources.
- Wildlife corridors & greenways connect and support the region's vital & valuable networks of green infrastructure.
- Hendersonville is a Bee City USA, "Bird and Squirrel Sanctuary".
- All life is sacred and we must do our part to protect it.





# COH's 2030 Comprehensive Plan: Quotes

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→ The City has declared itself a sanctuary for birds and squirrels (Sections 10-1 through 10-3 of the Municipal Code). These sections generally prohibit the killing or harming of birds or squirrels within the corporate limits of Hendersonville, with a priority given to the Brevard White Squirrel.

→ “Links” that connect the system together and provide continuity in wildlife habitat and ecological systems. Examples include linkages between parks or preserves, river and stream corridors, greenbelts, and wooded buffer areas between urban and rural land uses.

→ Green infrastructure systems help to protect and restore naturally functioning ecosystems and provide a framework for future development. Examples of green infrastructure may include: Natural areas such as waterways, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitats.

→ Benefits of green infrastructure include: Enriched habitat and biodiversity - Reduced public infrastructure and service costs, including stormwater management and water treatment - Better connection to nature and sense of place.



*Chadwick Ave. Resident*

## *Feedback from the Public Works Department:*

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"Our worst area is HWY 191, a NCDOT road, but it already has deer crossing signs in place. I wish people paid better attention! Thank you, Tom Wooten" - Director of Public Works

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Decreased animal killings reduce the workload for clean ups and disposals. "You wouldn't want to know how they're disposed"- Chad Freeman, Assist. Dir. Public Works (former)

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Department of Transportation standard Wildlife Crossing signs were previously estimated by a Public Works employee at \$250 each. ~ Pricing inquiry suggested by Councilman Miller (former)



# *Wildlife Crossing Request: Chadwick Avenue*



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- Wildlife corridor runs along vegetative buffer, above & below culvert, from wooded lots across Chadwick Ave. towards floodplain & wetlands. (Also beneath street light, at night). Continued loss of wildlife habitat due to development.
- Animals crossing observations at 309 Chadwick Ave. location – Turtles, foxes, raccoon mama & baby, possums (1000 ticks/day), wild rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, cats, dogs, birds, groundhogs.
- Speeding common occurrence with traffic count of approx. 2000 cars/ day. Estimated increase of +430 daily trips from newly approved 70 apts. on Chadwick Ave. and Greenville Hwy.
- Importance of Cookie, Chadwick & Chippy's Legacy
- Previous actions include reducing speed limit, installing electronic speed limit signs, increase of warning signage for curve & culvert.





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# *Why This Matters: Chippy*







# *Why This Matters: Rest in Peace, Chippy*

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You are dearly missed.



# *Why This Matters:*





# *Why This Matters:*





*1951 Aerial  
Photograph:  
Chadwick Ave.  
surrounded by  
forest habitat*

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Red square = 309 Chadwick Ave





*Why This Matters:  
Continual habitat decimation forces  
the surviving wild animals into life-  
threatening situations when their  
homes are destroyed.*

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Red = Recent habitat destruction of Chadwick Ave. wildlife habitat corridors

# *Action Items:*

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- Collaborate with Public Works and city residents to identify vulnerable animal habitats and hazardous crossing locations.
- Explore options such as Wildlife Crossing Signs, culverts and traffic calming measures like reflectors and colorful crosswalks.
- Designate initial crossing locations and allocate resources.
- Create process for feedback, installation and maintenance.
- Promote public awareness and community education.







*Example: Graham Projects  
Traffic Calming Crossings*