

Wildlife Crossings

Challenge:



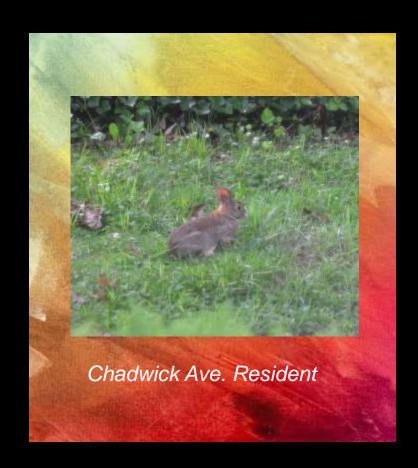
- → One million animals die on roads every day in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- → Road mortality is the leading cause of vertebrate deaths in the
 U. S., surpassing hunting within the last thirty years.
- → The positive impact of driving less on the rate of 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.

- → 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

- → 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.
- \rightarrow 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.



Feedback from the Public Works Department:

"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

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)

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.



Why This Matters: Chippy









Why This Matters: Rest in Peace, Chippy

You are dearly missed.













1951 Aerial Photograph: Chadwick Ave. surrounded by forest habitat

Red square = 309 Chadwick Ave







Continual habitat decimation forces the surviving wild animals into life-threatening situations when their homes are destroyed.

Action Items:

- → 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