



TAUNTON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

A VOICE FOR THE RIVER SINCE 1988



Diamondback Terrapin Study

TRWA has completed the 4th year of its long-term study of the diamondback terrapin. In 2019 a record number were captured and several recaptured. Recaptures provide crucial information about the animals' growth and their movements through the watershed. This rare turtle, once a posh and popular delicacy, still inhabits the brackish estuary of the Lower Taunton River. TRWA monitors and protects its shoreline nests from predation. It traps, notches, tags, photographs, weighs, measures and documents the adults it traps or nets. Sponsoring this study would allow TRWA to continue this valuable work.

Four things you might not know about terrapins:

- These turtles, now threatened in Massachusetts, were once so common that terrapin soup was served on the luxury steamboats of the old Fall River line.
- Incubation, not genetics, determines sex, making them especially sensitive to climate changes.
- Cars are a leading cause of terrapin death. If you see any turtle in the road move it in the direction it was headed.
- The Diamondback Terrapin is the the only turtle in North America which exclusively inhabits estuaries and salt marshes.

We invite you to support this exceptional organization as a donor or sponsor. You can reach us in 1 of 3 ways:

Web: www.savethetaunton.org/donations/donate • **Call** 508-828-1101 and leave a message • **Email** director@savethetaunton.org with your contact info and how you'd like to sponsor. One of our volunteers will contact you within a few days.

Our Mission: ...to protect and restore the watershed's natural resources for current and future generations.

Taunton River Watershed Alliance, at Sweets Knoll State Park, 1387 Somerset Ave., (Rt. 138), Dighton
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1116, Taunton, MA 02780 • 508 -828-1101 • www.savethetaunton.org