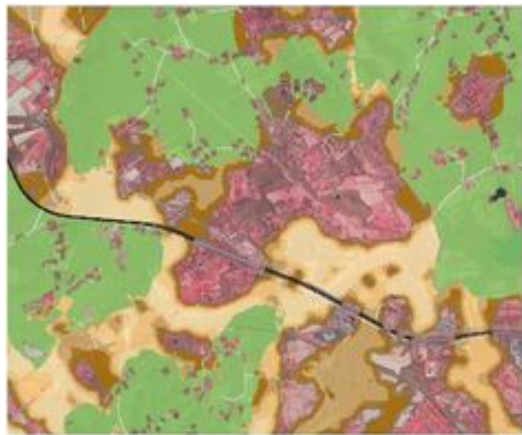




Welcome to CHANJ!

Animals need to be able to move through the landscape to find food, shelter, and other resources. Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ) aims to make our fragmented landscape friendlier to wildlife movement so that healthy populations can persist long into the future. Here's what's happening right now:



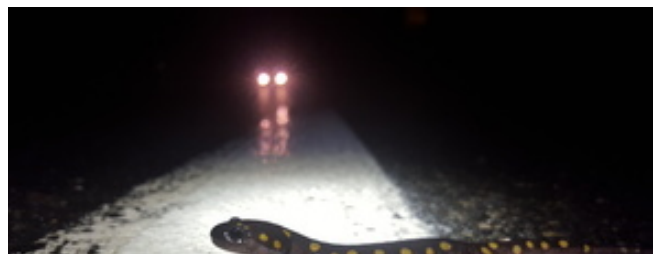
Tools of CHANJ are Nearly Complete

Our interactive map and guidance tools will soon be available to help steer efforts to protect important habitats, restore movement corridors, and make roads safer for animals to cross. The mapping highlights areas across New Jersey that are crucial for wildlife

connectivity, while our guidance document walks you through deciding and designing effective projects. These tools are now under final review by a broad working group of partners. A smart phone app to report rare wildlife and roadkill sightings is also coming soon!

Early Start for Amphibian Migration

Before the crocuses or forsythias bloom, an impatient group of



amphibians are getting their own springtime party started. This year, spring came especially early for



these vernal pool-breeding frogs and salamanders, when a warm nighttime rain on February 15th triggered them to head for water. This was the earliest spring migration event in northern New Jersey since the [Amphibian Crossing Project](#) began keeping record 16 years ago. Migration normally kicks off in mid-March.

Over the next month, volunteers will be out on rainy nights on roadways where amphibians cross in mass. The teams will be shuttling the animals safely across the asphalt while collecting data on species, abundance, weather conditions, and vehicle traffic. One such crossing is along Waterloo Road in Byram Township, Sussex County, where roadkill rates are tremendous during migration season, and under-the-road tunnels are being planned as a long-term safeguard for amphibians that must cross the road to reach their critical habitats.



Research Projects Underway

A growing list of CHANJ-related research projects are happening across New Jersey. This winter, NJDFW's [Endangered and Nongame Species Program](#) (ENSP) began a gene flow study of wild mammals - from deer

to muskrats to meadow voles - to investigate whether populations across the state are intermixing or becoming isolated from each other due to urbanization and roads. Genetic samples are being collected from road-killed animals as well as from sources like wildlife rehabilitation centers and harvest check-stations.

Starting this spring, our partners from Montclair State University's [Passaic River Institute](#) are surveying road culverts in a few pilot CHANJ-mapped areas. These surveys will tell us how well-suited the various culverts are for wildlife passage now, and where wildlife-friendly improvements are needed. [The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey](#) is supplementing this information with road segment analyses, roadkill monitoring, and camera surveillance for wildlife moving through culverts.

Other News from Near and Far

Cristina Eisenberg, author of *The Carnivore Way*, offers a beautifully written [article](#) about the importance of habitat connectivity on a broad landscape scale. Incredible examples of long-range movements made by grizzlies, lynx, mountain lions, and wolves show that "even in our fractured world, it's possible for a carnivore to roam widely." *Illustration by Curtis Edson*



Farther from home in East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania are thinking long-term about how to conserve important habitats, dispersal areas and corridors for wildlife amidst rapid land use changes. Both are working to establish National Wildlife Corridor Acts in support of habitat connectivity for animals like elephants, zebras, oryx and topi. See Kenya's report on [Wildlife Migratory Corridors and Dispersal Areas](#).

Watch our video
and learn more at:
CHANJ.nj.gov

Contact us by email at CHANJ@dep.nj.gov



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