



Rating Culverts for Connectivity

Montclair State University's [Passaic River Institute](#) (PRI) has boots on the ground – and in the water – looking at whether animals are able to pass through the multitude of culverts and bridges beneath New Jersey's roads. PRI is part of the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative ([NAACC](#)), which aims to improve aquatic connectivity across a thirteen-state region stretching from Maine to West Virginia. And now they're partnering with CHANJ to think about how land animals use culverts, too.

Starting last year, PRI is focusing their surveys within three CHANJ pilot areas of northern New Jersey, where various projects are now underway to study roads-and-wildlife interactions. Each culvert is evaluated for fish and wildlife passability based on things like size and dimensions, substrate type, water depth and velocity, and whether there is suitable dry ground for terrestrial animals to walk, crawl, or slither across.





New Jersey's road culvert locations and survey results can be found as a map layer in the [CHANJ Web Viewer](#). Every surveyed culvert is color-coded by its passability score - from "No barrier" to "Severe barrier" - helping to show where structural improvements for fish and wildlife mobility may be needed the most.

Get *your* boots wet! Find out [how you can help](#) by volunteering, or by starting a culvert inventory in your area.



Email us at CHANJ@dep.nj.gov



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