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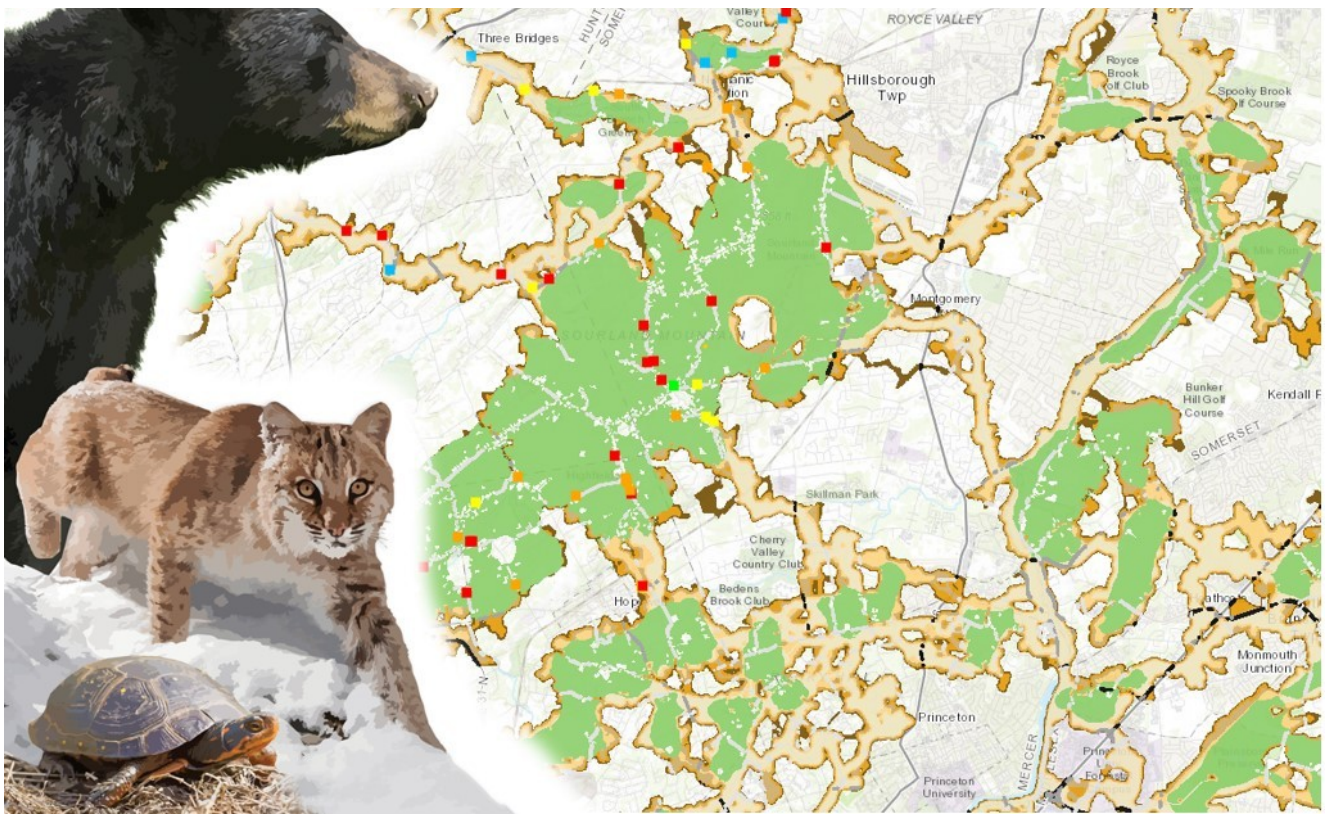
## Wildlife Crossings and the Infrastructure Act

Wildlife crossings can reconnect fragmented habitats, prevent animal-vehicle collisions, and help wildlife move and adapt to a changing climate. They also make roadways safer for people and create jobs associated with project planning, construction, monitoring and maintenance. Props to the new federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for seeing all these benefits and supporting wildlife in an historic way. A few key things the Act includes:

- \$350 million in competitive grants for wildlife-friendly infrastructure projects like overpasses, underpasses and roadside fencing
- Making wildlife connectivity and collision-reduction projects eligible for other funding categories
- Standardizing roadkill data collection across the U.S. to help study wildlife-vehicle conflicts and prioritize needs
- Dedicated funding for pollinator highway plantings

New Jersey is ready for an opportunity like this: CHANJ has been building partnerships and creating tools to focus our efforts on the most important places for connectivity across the state.





For example, stream culverts can either be pathways or barriers for wildlife trying to cross roads. So where are the barriers? Our CHANJ Mapping shows which culverts have been surveyed so far in New Jersey, and how they rank for animal passability. *Click the map above to explore!*



Oversized stream culverts that include dry ground are important safe passageways for terrestrial wildlife, and they're encouraged in the new

Infrastructure Act. Here, a Bobcat crosses below a busy six-lane highway in north Jersey. In time, we'd like more culverts to double as animal underpasses. *Trail cam photo by our volunteer, Melissa McCutcheon*

For a broader overview of wildlife crossings in the new federal Infrastructure Act, here's a good article: "[Animals need infrastructure, too](#)" (Vox.com, Nov 12, 2021)

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