



The Amphibian Road Crossing Program

Community Conservation Partners

Each spring, thousands of frogs and salamanders move between upland wintering grounds and breeding wetlands, often crossing roadways en masse at great peril. In the 15 years since North Branch Nature Center (NBNC) began monitoring road crossings, ARC volunteers have saved thousands of amphibians while providing important information to scientists and natural resource planners. This successful program now monitors over 200 sites around Vermont, thanks to partnering conservation commissions and land trusts who help engage local volunteers in hands-on amphibian conservation.

ARC Program goals: (1) Increase public engagement in amphibian conservation. (2) Decrease direct amphibian mortality at road crossing sites. (3) Inform local and state transportation planning with robust data on movement and mortality at road crossings.

How the ARC Community Conservation Partners model works

1. Local conservation organizations express interest in becoming ARC Community Conservation Partners.
2. Partners work with NBNC to recruit and coordinate volunteers to participate in the ARC program.
3. NBNC provides group trainings and other helpful resources to prepare volunteers on data collection and reporting, safety protocols, and amphibian ecology and identification.
4. NBNC maps known and potential local ARC crossing sites based on partner community input.
5. Partner volunteers visit these sites during the spring migration season, rescuing amphibians from the roadways and submitting survey data to NBNC's ARC online portal.
6. NBNC manages data and provides an end-of-season summary to each partner organization, which can be used in local transportation planning efforts.

*NBNC makes data submitted by ARC volunteers available to our partners at the Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. We also coordinate with organizations throughout the region doing similar work.

Get Involved!

The ARC season runs from mid-March to mid-May. NBNC typically begins working with partners to map crossing sites and train volunteers beginning in February. NBNC asks partners for a \$200-300 contribution to cover staff support, resources, and data management. If this sounds like a good fit for your local conservation organization, get in touch with us soon! Learn more about the ARC program at our website below. Become a Community Conservation Partner by emailing Sean@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org.

NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/amphibian-conservation