



Shrewsbury Conservation Commission Wildlife Road Crossings Project

The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission initiated the Wildlife Road Crossing Project in 2021 to identify wildlife road crossings in our town and to learn about the number and variety of animals whose travel corridors intersect our roadways. This is a three-to-five-year project.

Roadways and bridges need to be designed with wildlife connectivity needs in mind. Our project will help identify where wildlife corridors are as well as help landowners become aware and understand the importance of conserving forested land on each side of the roadway. It will also help to know wildlife movement in order to plan for future culverts and bridges. It will be interesting to see if our work starts to define wildlife connectivity and wildlife movement between conserved lands in Shrewsbury.

At the end of each winter season Jens Hilke, of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, will take our data sightings and make a master map which will update and refine wildlife corridors in Shrewsbury. It will record all species of wildlife recorded using specific data collection.

How we gather our data: We have sixteen sections of town roads, chosen for their connectivity potential. After a multi-inch snowfall, we survey the road sections for wildlife tracks. Sections vary in length, but are less than a mile long. We measure the tracks and record the species on a field-sheet. We also take a GPS longitude and latitude location of the track. This is how we place the track precisely on a GIS Map.

Our Coordinator of the SCC Wildlife Road Crossing Project is Linda Shelvey. She brings a wealth of experience in the collection of citizen scientist data like this. She is also a fabulous teacher for those who wish to know more about how to identify what animals made the tracks we see around town. If you would like to become one of the volunteer citizen scientists to receive training and help with this project, please contact Linda at Lpurdyschel@gmail.com or 802 236-4515.

