

The Farmington Valley BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Field Research

Community Education

Information Sharing

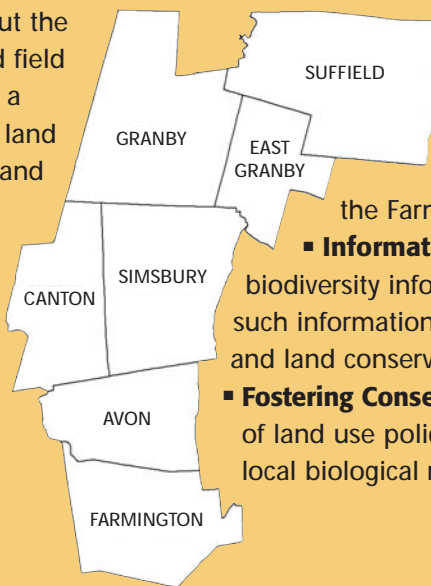
Fostering Conservation

Exactly What Is the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project?

The Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project is a regional initiative created to establish accurate and comprehensive biological information about the valley area. The data, collected by qualified field biologists, will give the towns in the valley a scientific basis for making decisions about land use management, open space acquisition and resource conservation. Coordinated by the Farmington River Watershed Association and the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (a program of the Wildlife Conservation Society), the project is a cooperative one with the towns of Avon, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Simsbury, and Suffield.

The Objectives of the Project Are:

- **Field Research** Establish a current and comprehensive biological data set through a literature search and field research
- **Community Education** Educate local officials, land conservation organizations, and the public about biological resources and their value in the Farmington Valley
- **Information Sharing** Distribute current biodiversity information and the tools for using such information, to local land use decision makers and land conservation organizations
- **Fostering Conservation** Foster the implementation of land use policies consistent with safeguarding local biological resources



Egg mass of the Blue-spotted Salamander



Dennis Quinn

Tariffville Gorge vernal pool



Dennis Quinn

Ring-necked Snake



Dennis Quinn

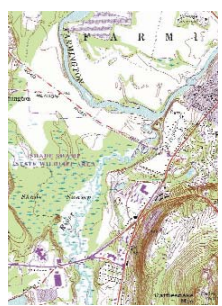
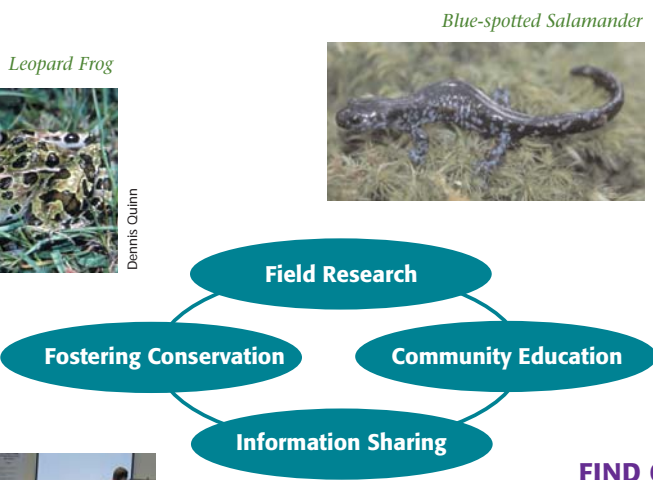


Biodiversity? What's That?

Biological diversity, often shortened to "biodiversity," refers to the total variety of living organisms and habitats in an area. The ruby-throated hummingbird that visits your garden, the salamander hiding under a rotten log, and the fireflies you see on summer evenings are all part of the Farmington Valley's biodiversity. In a broader sense, you can think of biodiversity not just as all the different kinds of living organisms around you, but also as the different habitats of the region, each with its own community of life. The Farmington Valley towns enjoy a rich variety of habitats, including bogs, marshes, streams, ponds, mixed deciduous and evergreen woods, traprock ridges, and sand plain grasslands. Some of these special areas are protected, as, for example, is the trap rock ridge in Talcott Mountain State Park. Much of the valley's biodiversity, however, occurs outside protected areas. As the development of private land proceeds, the valley towns face a loss of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Loss? So What?

There are many reasons that biodiversity loss matters. From a practical standpoint, intact ecosystems provide important benefits. For example, marshy wetlands along streams and rivers hold and absorb storm water, helping to prevent flooding and to purify the water. Also, our food supply depends on insect pollinators that live in natural areas. The valley's apple orchards and vegetable farms could not produce their crops without insects to pollinate the flowers. Biodiversity is also important for pest control. Bats, birds, and frogs all help to keep mosquitoes under control. Public programs to preserve open space may be motivated by efforts to preserve these benefits, to preserve an area's rural character, or to avoid the fiscal burdens of development. The data from the Biodiversity Project will help towns to make informed choices about which open spaces to protect and which areas are most suitable for growth.



FIND OUT MORE!
If you would like more information or want to find out about upcoming Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project events please call, fax, or email us at (860) 658-4442, fax (860) 651-7519 info@frwa.org www.frwa.org



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