

The Bottleneck

The map inside shows a section of the main wildlife corridor east of the Green Mountains. The animals encounter a challenging bottleneck as they pass through Sharon and Pomfret into Royalton and finally into Barnard, where they gain access to the Green Mountains.

This area is the most constricted in the whole corridor, and therefore deserves careful study. Land use planners have an opportunity to show respect and appreciation for nature by educating the community, encouraging everyone to help protect our wildlife and our wildlife corridor.

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Citizen Science Resources

<<https://www.linkinglandsalliance.org/llaeducationalmaterial>>

<<https://www.linkinglandsalliance.org/llamaps>>

<<https://vtcostudies.org>>

Concepts / Vocabulary

land use planning	human impacts
glaciation	topography
watersheds	millennia
wildlife corridors	migration
forest blocks	connectivity blocks
forest fragmentation	bottleneck
balance of nature	ecology
diversity	gene pool
territory	habitat
survival	conservation

Our Wildlife Corridor

Wildlife Corridors are interconnected systems of trails and paths that animals follow. The main wildlife corridor east of the Green Mountains passes through our beautiful town of Royalton.

These trails have been used over thousands of years by large animals like moose and bear to get between the White Mountains and the Green Mountains. In addition to seasonal migrations, the animals need large territories in order to strengthen the diversity of their gene pool.

Scientists at UVM, the Agency of Natural Resources and Vermont Fish & Wildlife tracked the animals using observation, cameras, hunting tags, road kills and GPS collars to collect data. They developed mapping software, called BioFinder, that shows where the animals go.

Land use planners think it's important to know where the wildlife corridors are so that human impact can be minimized. That will help the wildlife thrive by reducing the human impact on the natural balance in the environment.

Through the remaining large forest blocks and connectivity blocks, the main wildlife corridor east of the Green Mountains comes south from Vershire, where it is quite wide. Then through West Fairlee and Thetford, and then into Sharon, where the corridor narrows and heads west into Royalton and finally south into Barnard, the most crucial access to the Green Mountains.

Wildlife Corridor

