

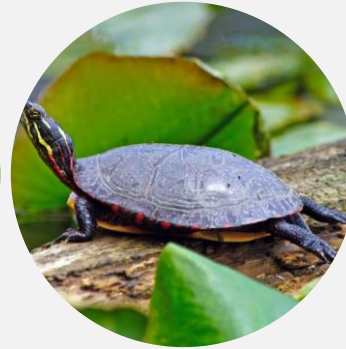
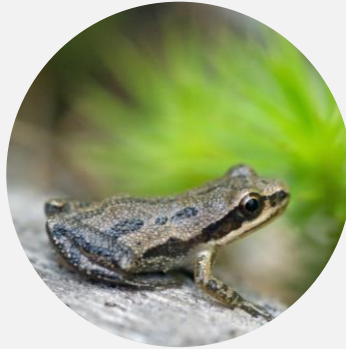
# NAP INVENTORY PROGRAM



*Becky Hand, Stewardship Specialist*  
*City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation*



# NAP INVENTORY PROGRAM



NAP staff train and supervise groups of volunteers who survey for:

- Birds
- Frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, snakes
- Butterflies
- Change over time through photo monitoring

Why do we survey?

- To get baseline conditions in new sites.
- To characterize the quality of the habitats we have.
- To look for rare species populations to protect and enhance.
- To document the impacts of our restoration work.
- To inform future land management actions.

# IMPACTS OF COVID



In **2020**, lockdown happened in the middle of our inventory training season. Staff quickly pivoted to holding trainings virtually.

In **2021**, record numbers of volunteers signed up for virtual trainings that otherwise would have been in-person.

Example: Salamander survey registrants  
2019 = 36    2020 = 39    2021 = 107

# IMPACTS OF COVID

In the midst of lockdown and restricted gatherings, volunteers were looking for **meaningful activities they could do outside**. As a result, in 2021, our survey programs had more volunteer participation than ever.

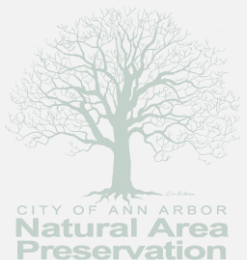
Breeding bird survey volunteers covered more parks than they ever have.

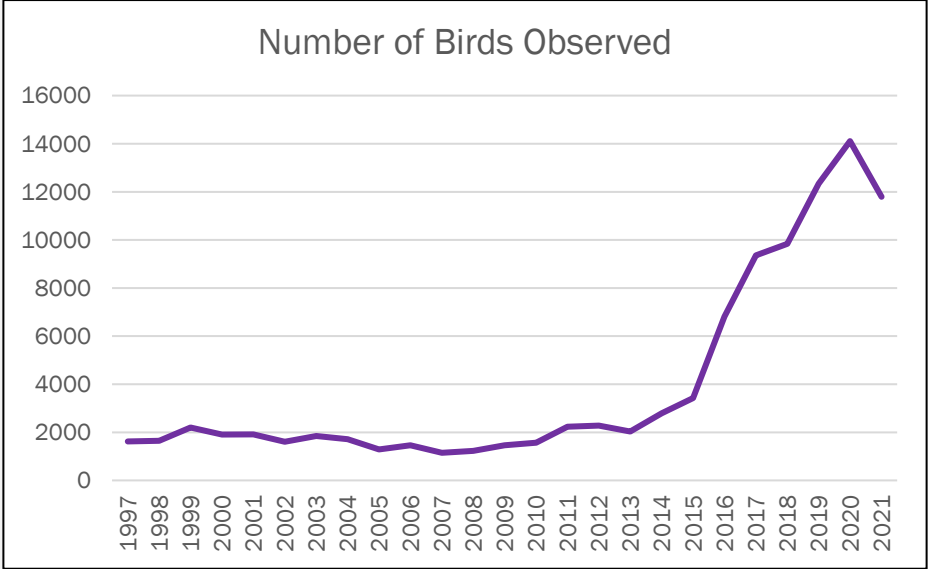
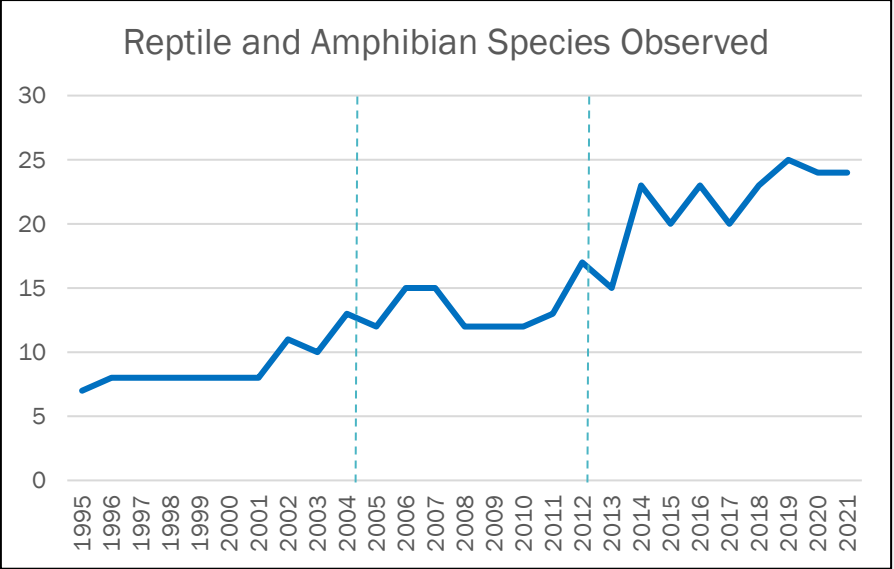
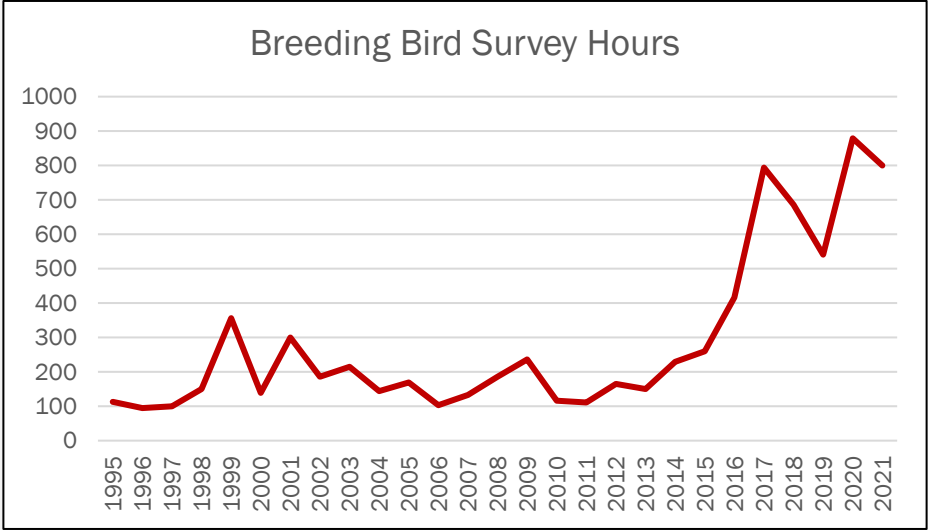
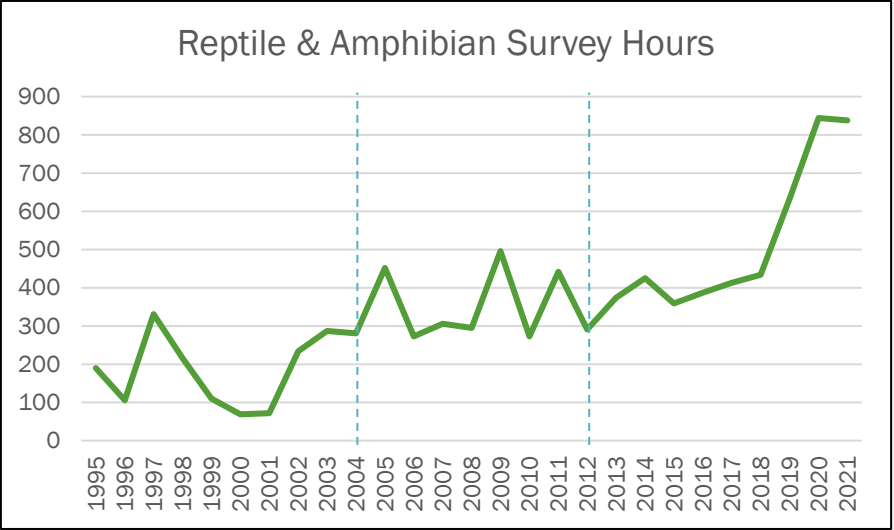
Salamander survey volunteers contributed more hours than ever.

All reptile and amphibian survey volunteers submitted more observations than in any other year.

The butterfly survey had more volunteers than in any other year since its revival in 2015.

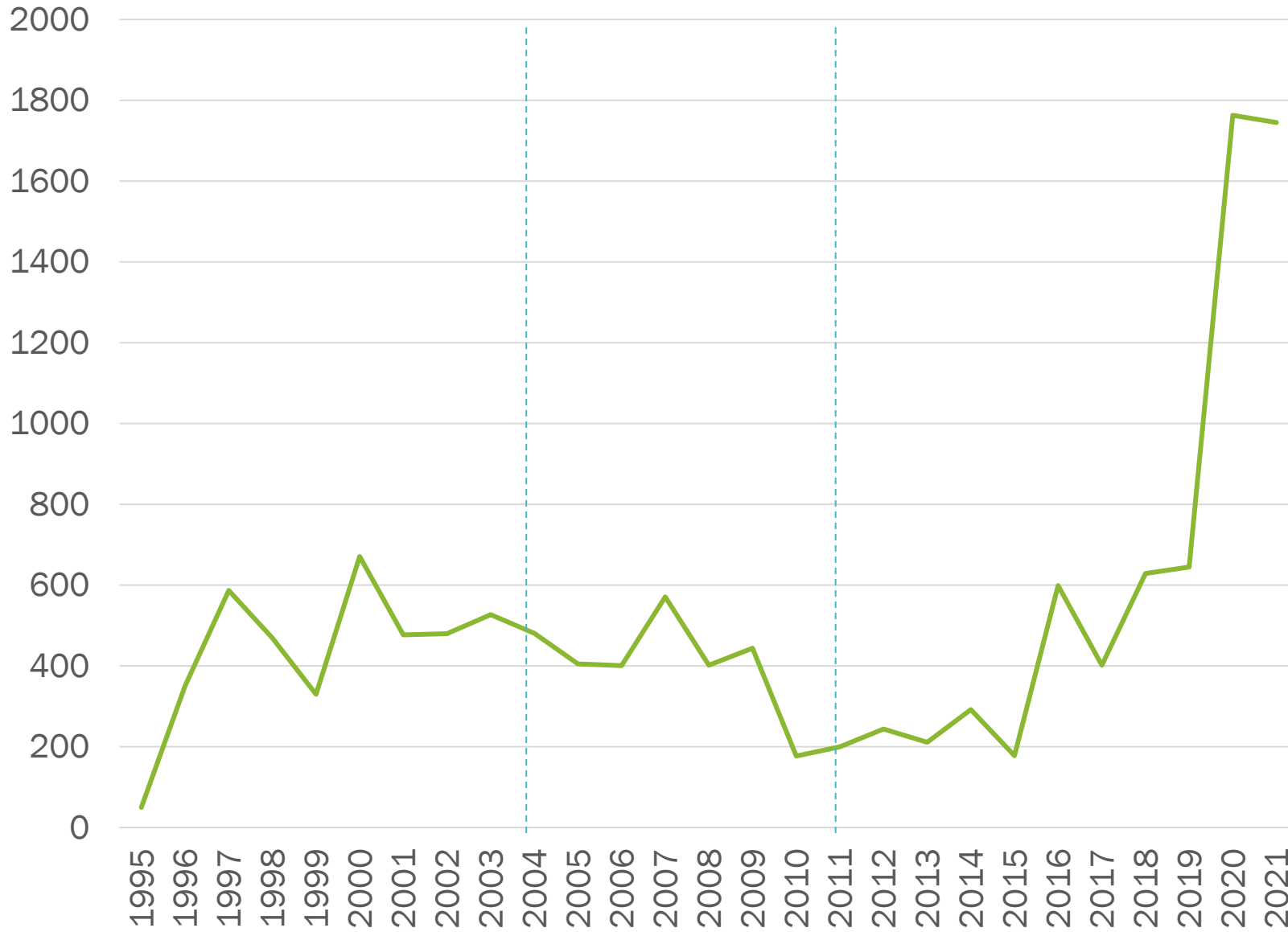
Park boundaries were added to iNaturalist, so we can get data from the big influx of people who are out in the parks, even if they aren't participants in our surveys.







## Number of Reptile and Amphibian Observations



# IMPACTS OF INCREASED OBSERVATIONS



New species were found in parks where we didn't know they were present before.



Volunteers found an increased number of rare and state-listed species, which helped to focus staff survey efforts.



Volunteer observations allowed staff to get an idea of what was happening in the parks when we couldn't get there to see for ourselves.



Increased volunteer effort led to increased interactions with the public, spreading the word about our survey programs and the importance of the wildlife in our parks.



The ability to contribute to meaningful work had a major positive impact on volunteers during a time of stress and uncertainty.

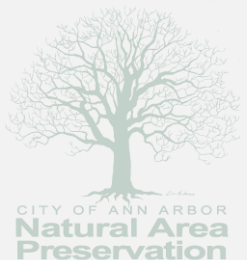
## FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

“We had such a fun time doing the survey this spring! We're definitely a whole lot smarter about amphibians now and hear them all the time, it seems.”

“Thanks again for the opportunity to be a part of the BBS. It was a great motivation to get out there. I saw and heard many beautiful things as a result.”

“I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to help with the count, and I'm so happy to have added a park (to the survey)...I hope I can be a volunteer again for your BBS next spring.”

“It was a great pleasure for me to do this now for the third year. I feel like these critters are my friends now! I feel so much appreciation to Ann Arbor for making the volunteer program possible; my friends just can't believe it when we are walking along and I say I hear a green frog or a toad call. It's positively exciting.”





# THANK YOU TO NAP'S FIELD BIOLOGISTS!



George Hammond

Reptile and Amphibian surveys



Juliet Berger

Breeding Bird Survey



# HAPPY BBS VOLUNTEERS





# HAPPY HERP VOLUNTEERS

