

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are small pools that are most obvious in the spring. The pools occur in small depressions, and most dry up by late summer.

By definition, vernal pools are free of fish and can therefore support a rich community of amphibians and invertebrates that would be difficult to sustain if fish were present.



Woodland Pond Photo credit of Joseph Kiesecker, Penn State University



Wood Frog Tadpole Photo credit of Joseph Kiesecker, Penn State University

Typical species found in pools include salamanders, wood frogs and fairy shrimp.



Shared Streams is a national riparian conservation program of the American Forest Foundation