



Dear Arcola Elementary School Students,

Thank you so much for sending us your pictures!

Here's a little bit of information on
the species you saw:

The Northern Two-Lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*)



A mother two-lined salamander with her eggs



Two-lined salamander eggs



A larval two-lined salamander. Larval means the salamander is in the beginning stages of life, much like yourselves.



Larval salamanders live in water and have gills, like fish! Their gills, however, are external.

An adult two-lined salamander

This species of salamanders likes to live near small or medium sized streams. They are most likely to be found under rocks or logs and eat insects like beetles, flies, spiders, earthworms, and snails.



Small dark brown or black spots are usually found on the salamander's back.

Two black lines run down the salamander's back on different sides.

Adults have a yellowish or yellowish brown tail.

Adults also have a bright yellow underside.

The Northern Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi dekayi*)



Northern Brownsnakes often live in urbanized areas where they can hang out in gardens or other areas eating earthworms and other prey items.

They are identified by the two parallel rows of dark / black spots down their backs and have a dark, downward streak on the side of their heads.



Brownsnakes only grow to be around 9 to 13 inches long!
They are non-venomous and are not known to bite.

A Pregnant Mother Brownsnake



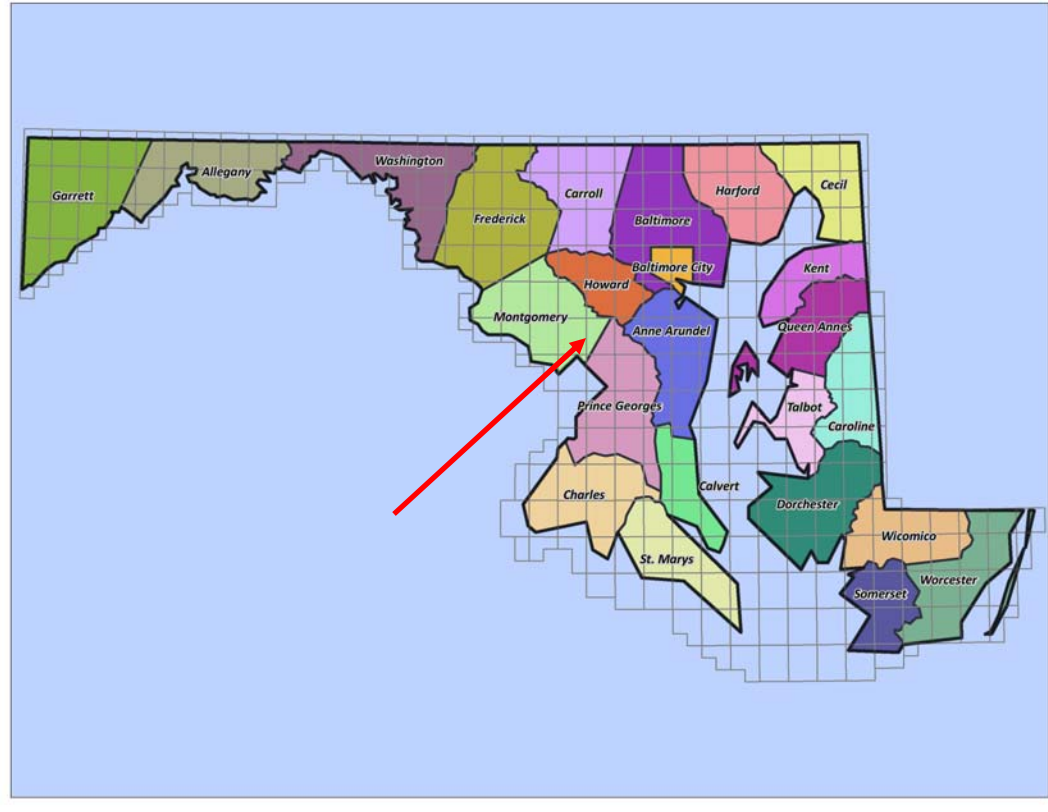
Northern Brownsnakes are live bearers, meaning the mother does not lay eggs like the Two-Lined Salamander does. Instead, the babies emerge fully formed and ready to be independent.

Baby Northern Brownsnakes



How what you found is used:

- The Atlas divides Maryland into a grid. Each area is known as a “Quadrangle” or “Quad”
- These quads are further divided into six blocks
- Presence of amphibians and reptiles will be recorded for a five year period in every block
- 2010 was the first year of the Statewide Atlas.

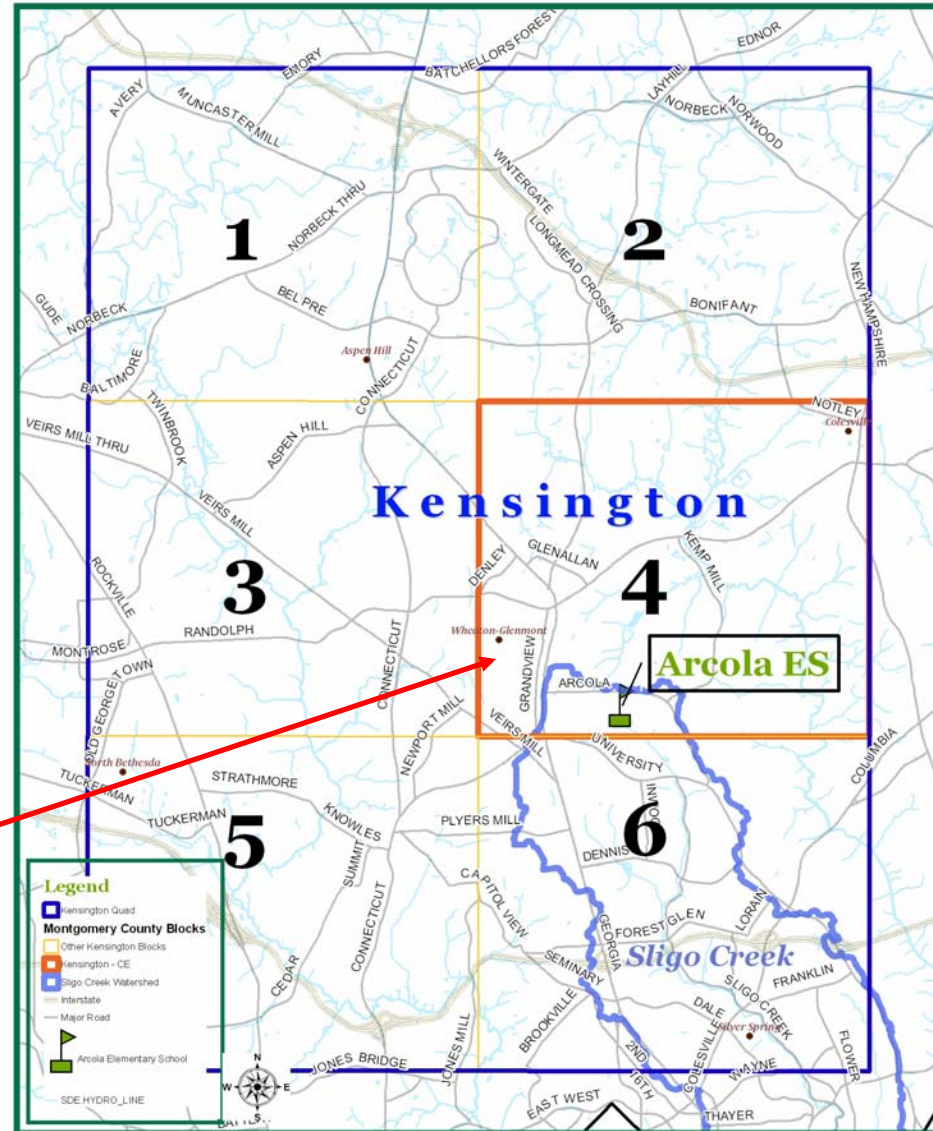


- Information can be used to make decisions on how to protect amphibians and reptiles and important habitats.
- The Atlas can be repeated in the future to see what has changed.

How what you found is used:

- Arcola Elementary School is in the **Kensington Quad**
- You reported two species in the **Kensington 4 (Central East (CE)) Block**

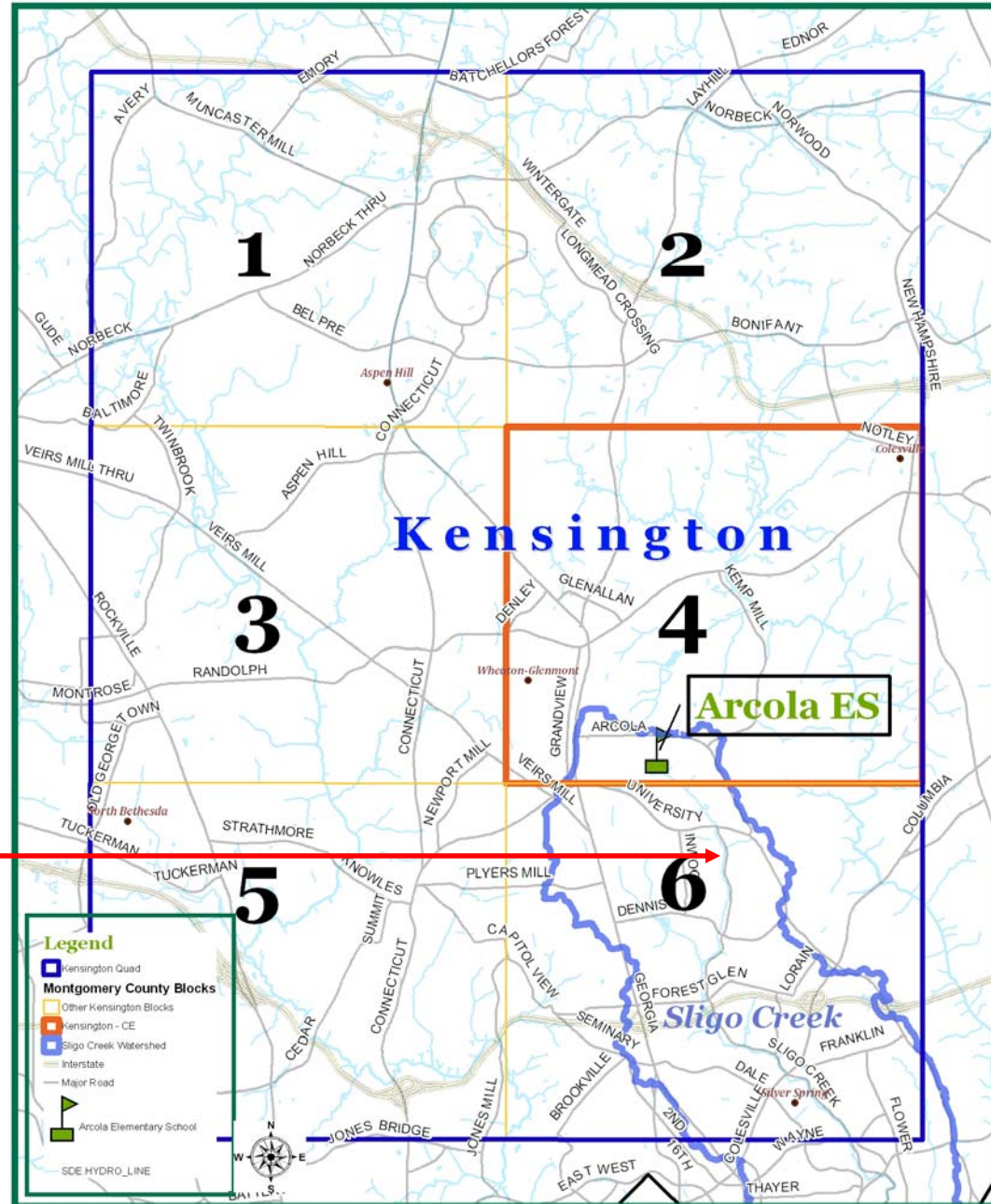
Arcola Elementary School MARA Data Map



Arcola Elementary School MARA Data Map



- The area you searched and learned about drains to the **Upper Sligo Creek Mainstem**.
 - This flows to **Sligo Creek** → **Anacostia River** → **Potomac River**... and then the **Chesapeake Bay!**
- Sligo Creek has had a lot of trouble with pollution. But, it is a good sign that the animals you saw are living there.
 - Biologists monitor Sligo Creek and other County streams and help make decisions on how to protect and improve them.



Again, thank you so much for contributing to the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas. We hope you enjoyed learning about the Northern Two-Lined Salamander and Northern Brownsnake!

Sincerely,

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<http://www.marylandnature.org/mara/index.htm>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/monitoringBiological.asp>

