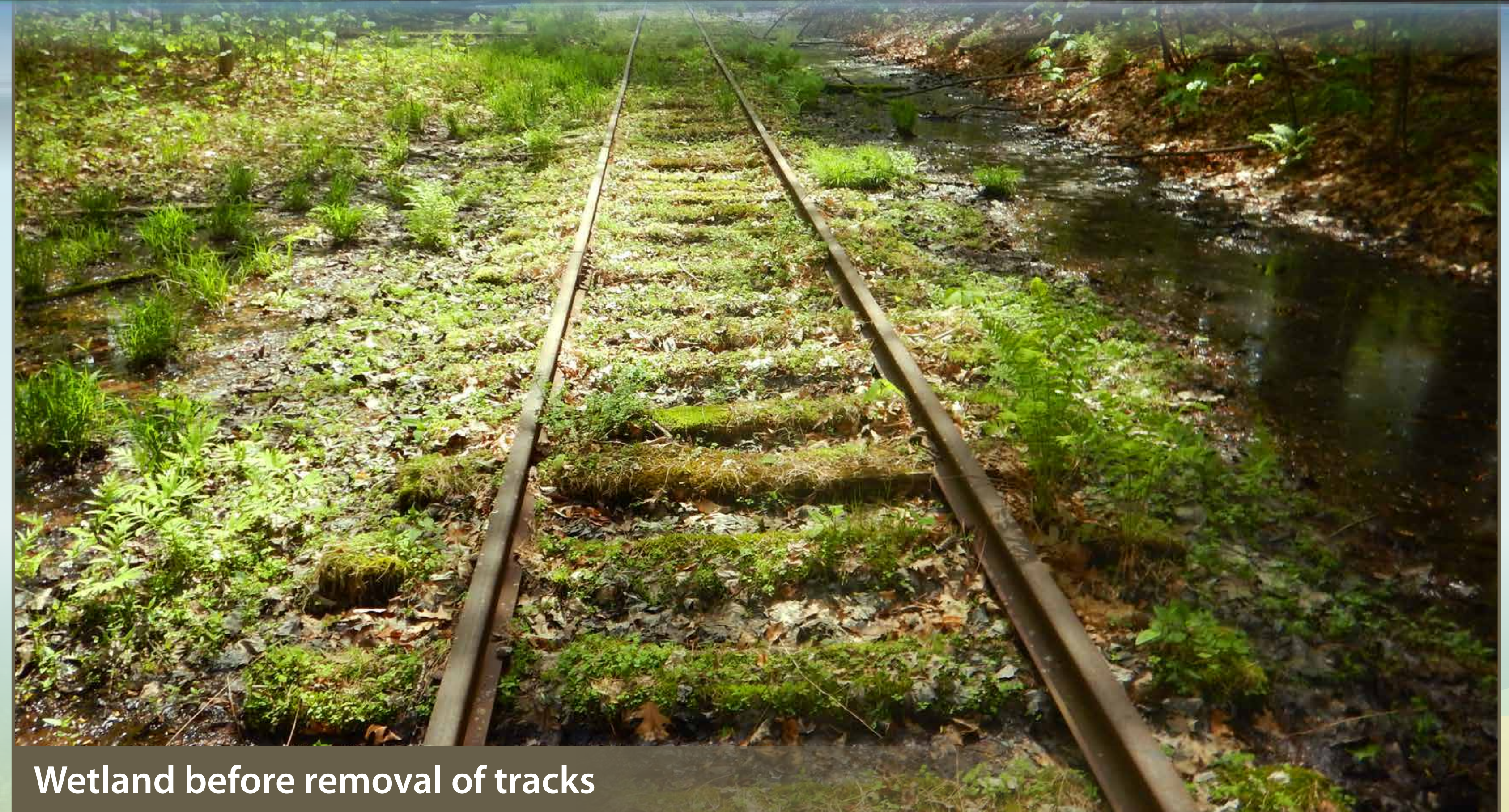


# RAILROAD BED TO WETLAND

## WETLAND PROTECTION

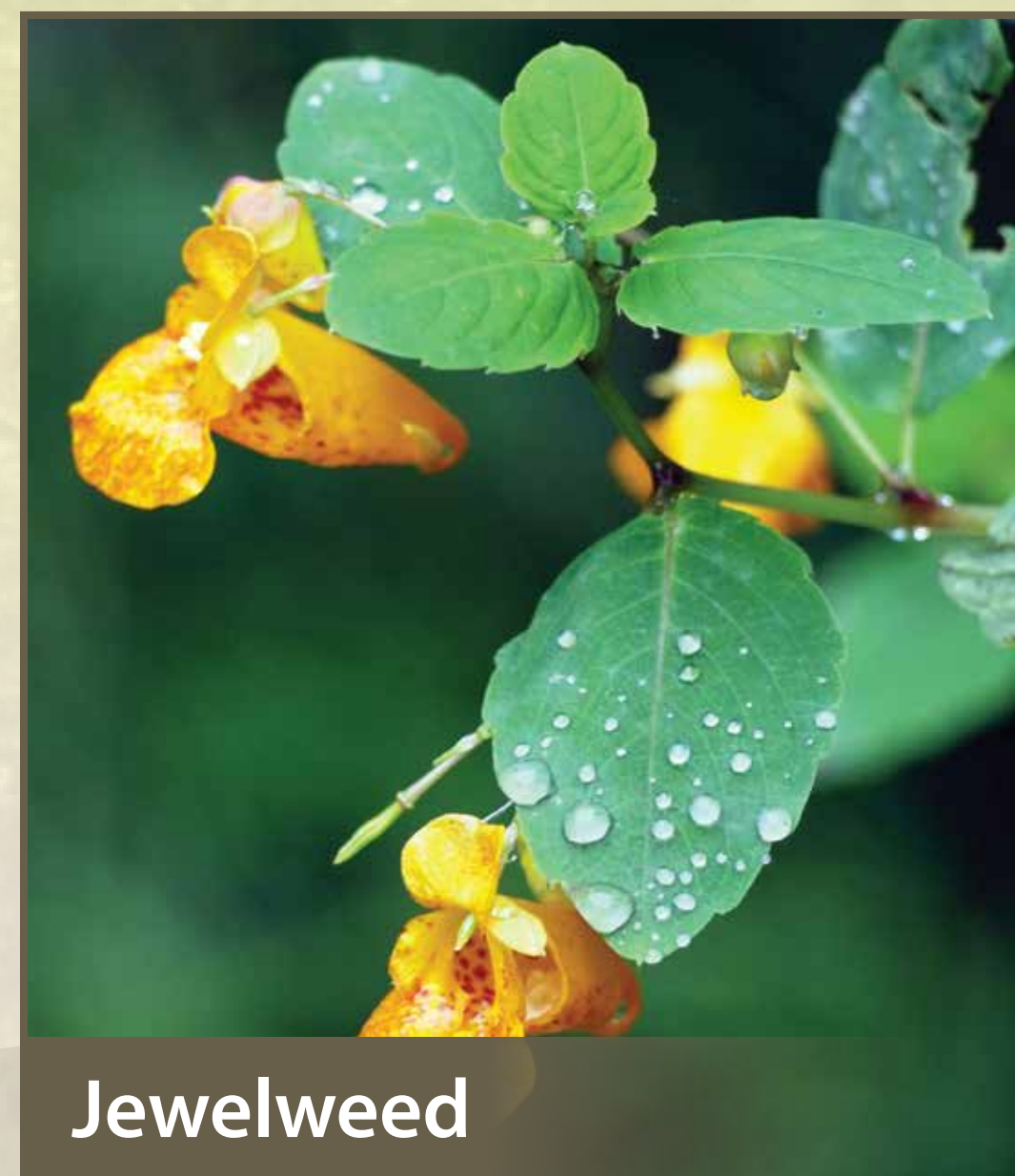
The linear corridor you see here was once part of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad bed. The rail trail was diverted for approximately 880 feet to protect the pooled wetlands that developed over a period of decades. This is the only location where the Ashokan Rail Trail briefly diverges from the path of the railroad established in 1913. These shallow water pools fill in the spring and may dry by mid-summer. They are important habitat for many species of amphibians and insects such as dragonfly larvae. Plant species in the wetland include jewelweed, sensitive fern, and several other types of flowering plants. Red maple and eastern white pine are dominant in the forest around the wetland.



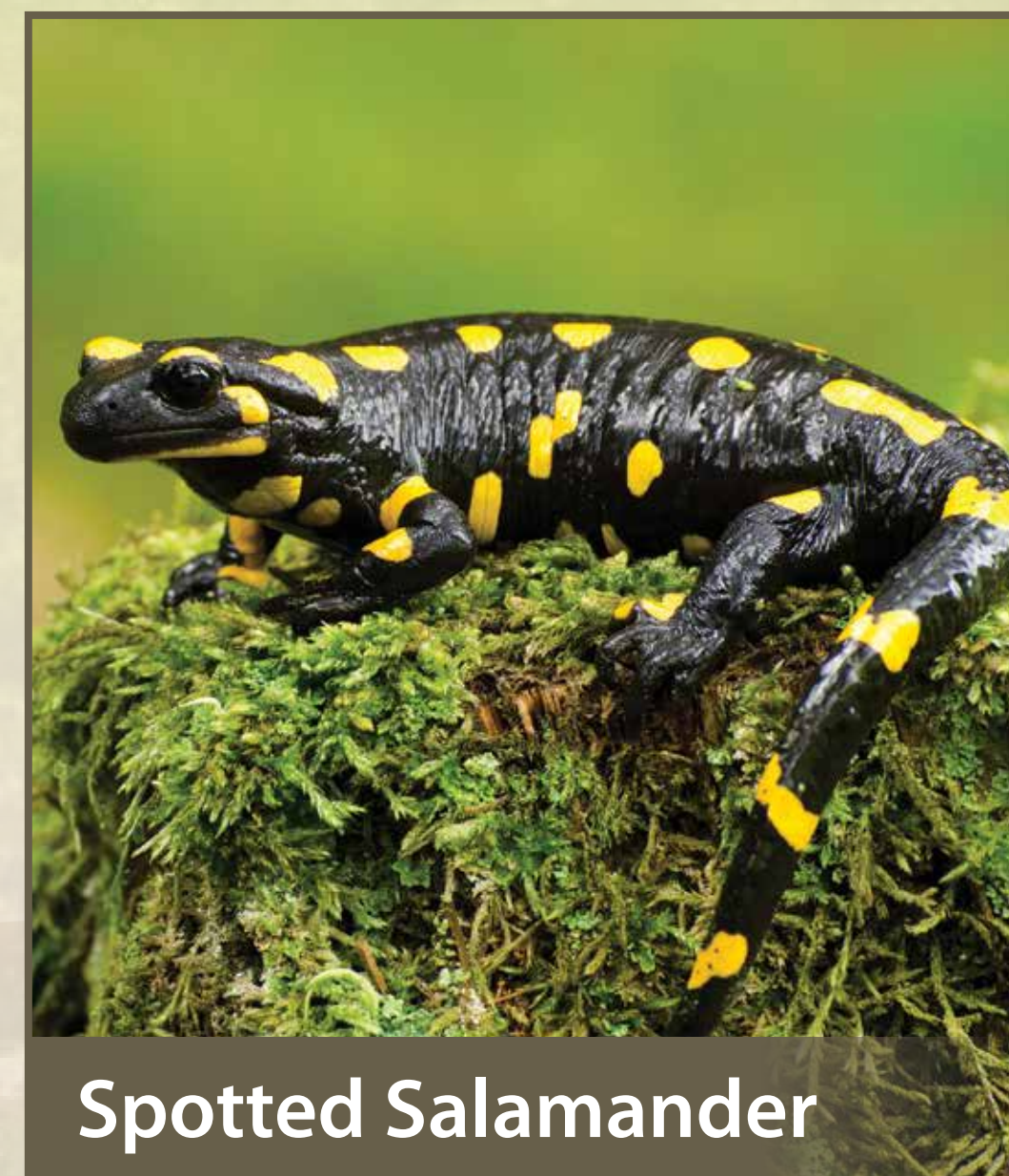
Wetland before removal of tracks



Sensitive Fern



Jewelweed



Spotted Salamander

## ANIMAL HABITAT

Wetlands are important because they provide animal habitat. Frogs and salamanders use shallow wetlands for breeding, shelter, and food. In the spring, spotted salamanders lay their eggs in vernal pools such as these by the rail trail. After the tadpoles hatch, they will grow in the shallow water, and by early summer they'll leave the wetland to live as adults in the forest.