



2019 Frog and Toad Citizen Monitoring

Start: After Ice Out (Now!) End: Mid Sumer

Volunteers commit: One observation a week (assigned day) after sunset

EXAMPLE OBSERVATION LOG

Observer	Date	Begin	End	Air (F)	Water (F)	Sky	Wind	Wood Frog	Chorus Frog	Odor?	Location	Notes
AR	5/4/2017	8:23	8:29	59		1	0			No	Island	Very faint spring peeper; might not have been in lagoon
JK	5/6/2017	11:45	12:00	51		0	0				Island	Silent
BY	5/7/2017	8:35	8:40	55		0	0			No	Island	No Call

Why am I monitoring?

Trying to document the phenology of amphibians in Vilas Lagoon and Lake Wingra to avoid the most sensitive times in their lifecycles. Our observations will be shared with the City of Madison Parks Department, and share the same format as the [WDNR Frog and Toad Survey](#).

How do I monitor?

Visit the lake, listen for frog or toads calling for about 5 minutes, and document observations. On the datasheet enter the info for each box. Make notes if the shelter is busy, the park is noisy, you might have heard something but you're not sure if it was in the lagoon, etc.

For frog/toad calls:

- 1 = Individuals can be counted; there is space between calls (no overlapping of calls).
- 2 = Calls of individuals can be distinguished but there is some overlapping of calls.
- 3 = Full chorus. Calls are constant, continuous, and overlapping; individual calls cannot be distinguished.

Sky and wind codes are found on WDNR datasheets:

http://wiatri.net/inventory/FrogToadSurvey/Volunteer/PDFs/WFTS_PhenologyDatasheet.pdf

Where do I monitor?

For the study, it is assumed that frog and toad calls can be heard for 200 feet- so observations should be taken near Vilas Lagoon. This can be from Vilas Park Drive, or the skating rink parking lots.

What if I don't know what frog and toad calls sound like?

You'll learn quickly! There are only ten different species that can be heard in southern Wisconsin (we do not focus on the mink or cricket). Here is a website with videos. If you click on each link, there is a YouTube video you can watch and at the end of the video they play the calls for you to listen

to. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/herps.asp?mode=table&group=Frogs>