

# Which Amphibians Call Oaks Bottom Home?

## Pacific Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*)

Chorus frogs are the most common frog at Oaks Bottom. They are identified by black eye-stripes and their small size despite a variety of skin colors. Toe pads on their feet are used to climb into small trees and shrubs.

**Fun Fact:** Chorus frogs have strong voices and are easily heard throughout the day and evening. Their familiar croaks are often heard during nighttime movie scenes.



Frogs and salamanders are **Amphibians**, animals that need a moist, humid environment to survive. “Amphibian” means “two lives” and refers to how the animals start life in water-filled egg sacs with many species developing as tadpoles before maturing into land-dwelling adults.

An amphibian undergoes changes in order to live in both water and land environments. Can you think of ways their bodies are adapted for breathing, eating, and moving in each habitat?

(amphibians shown approximately life size)

## Long-toed Salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*)

A long fourth toe on its hind foot identifies this salamander. It is the earliest amphibian to breed with eggs often seen in January. The long-toed salamander lays its eggs in water and leaves them to hatch on their own.

**Fun fact:** The long fourth toe helps the female to hang onto grass when she is depositing her eggs on the leaf blade in the water.



## Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*)

“Aurora” refers to the reddish undersides of this frog’s legs and abdomen. Gold-colored eyes look to the side rather than to the front. The largest native frog in our area, it often spends the cold weather months in the water.

**Fun fact:** The red-legged frog usually croaks only when it is underwater.



## Western Redback Salamander (*Plethodon vehiculum*)

An orang-ish stripe, rounded tail, and short legs identify this terrestrial (land-dwelling) salamander. Occasionally no stripe is seen. Without lungs, these animals breathe through their skin and live in moist underground worm holes.

**Fun facts:** *Plethodon* means “many teeth” and *vehiculum* refers to the male’s habit of carrying the female as she holds his tail during courtship.



## Oregon Salamander (*Ensatina eschscholtzii* var. *oregonensis*)

This terrestrial salamander is best identified by the constriction at the base of its tail. Females lay eggs in damp places underground and remain near them until they hatch. The hatchlings look like miniature versions of the adults.

**Fun fact:** *Ensatina* means “sword-like” and refers to the way the salamander raises its tail to protect itself. If the tail is lost, it re-grows in about two years.



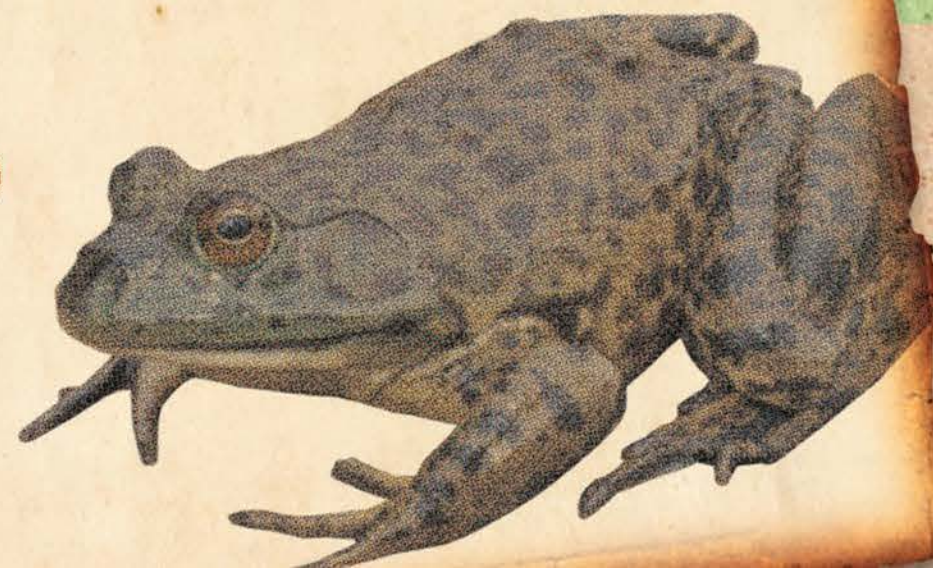
## UNWANTED: Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)

### DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECT

Length: 8-10 inches    Eye color: gold    Skin color: green to brown; spotted  
Distinguishing feature: ear drums are as large as eyes.

Oaks Bottom’s largest amphibian, bullfrogs were introduced from the eastern U.S. because of their large, tasty legs. They are invasive pests throughout the West and feed on insects, young water birds, and other amphibians.

(Last seen eating a duckling.)



**Observing amphibians:** Please watch amphibians without interrupting their normal activities. Their moist skin is used for breathing and is very sensitive. Listed in the Federal Endangered Species Act, Red-Legged Frogs are protected and research on them requires a permit. Contact Portland Parks & Recreation at [frogs@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:frogs@ci.portland.or.us) for more information.



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