

How to get involved

If you are interested in volunteering with the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey (WFTS), there are several ways to get involved:

Visit the WFTS website to see if any **standard routes** are available near you.

[https://wiatri.net/inventory/
FrogToadSurvey/](https://wiatri.net/inventory/FrogToadSurvey/)

Visit the WFTS Phenology web page to get more information on conducting **phenology surveys** at a single pond, stream or wetland near you.

[https://wiatri.net/inventory/
frogtoadsurvey/Volunteer/phenology.cfm](https://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/Volunteer/phenology.cfm)

Visit the WFTS Mink Frog web page to see if any **mink frog routes** in northern Wisconsin are available near you.

[https://wiatri.net/inventory/
frogtoadsurvey/Volunteer/Mink/](https://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/Volunteer/Mink/)



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<https://wiatri.net/inventory/FrogToadSurvey/>

DNR file photo

Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey



Photo by Rori Paloski

History of the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey (WFTS)

1981

The WFTS is initiated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point due to declines in several Wisconsin species. Volunteers help develop a long-term survey.

1984

Following three years of testing, standardized WFTS surveys begin statewide.

1998

A summary of the first 15 years of the WFTS is published.

2006

The WFTS website and animated maps for each Wisconsin frog species are created.

2014

Phenology surveys are added to the WFTS to monitor changes due to climate change.

2018

Mink frog surveys are added to the WFTS to monitor the rare mink frog in northern Wisconsin.

How does the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey work?

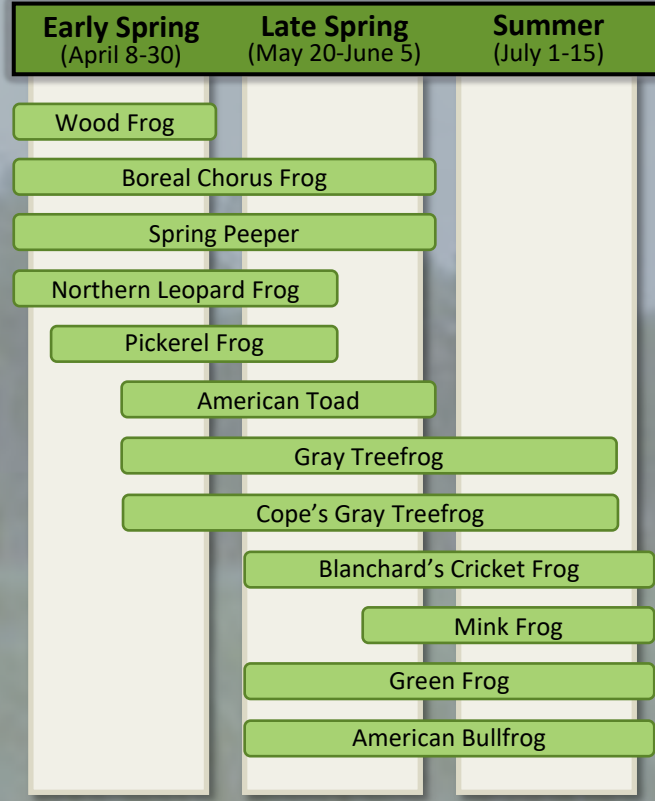
Wisconsin is home to twelve frog species, each with a different breeding vocalization. Each species also breeds during slightly different time periods. Volunteers conduct **three calling surveys** every spring/summer to account for these different breeding call periods.

Survey Periods:

- Early spring (April 8-30)
- Late spring (May 20-June 5)
- Summer (July 1-15)

Volunteers listen for **5 minutes** at 10 survey sites and record a call index (relative abundance) value for each species heard calling.

WFTS Survey Periods



What are phenology surveys?

Phenology surveys help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources learn more about how Wisconsin frogs are impacted by climate change. Volunteers select a single wetland or waterbody and listen for 5 minutes at least twice weekly from April 1-June 15, and at least once weekly from June 16-August 1. Volunteers record a call index value for each species heard calling. Phenology surveys are great for volunteers that live near or often visit a single wetland or waterbody.

What are mink frog surveys?

Mink frog surveys help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources learn more about this rare species and their distribution and status in northern Wisconsin. This species may call during the day and is therefore often missed during standard evening call surveys. Mink frog surveys involve one day and one evening survey during the mink frog's peak calling period of June 6—July 15.