

Surveying your home for frogs

Frogs play a key role in maintaining healthy waterways. They are a middle link in food chains. They breathe and drink through their skin and are often the first to show signs of increasing or decreasing waterway health. Surveying for frogs can help you track the health of your own environment!



Frogs and tadpoles support diverse reptile, fish and bird species



Frogs fill our evenings with beautiful song



Tadpoles control algae and tadpoles and frogs feast on biting insects



Watch a video demo of these frog survey tips

Step 5: Slowly search for frogs

Hold your flashlight at eye level or use a head torch. You might see shiny reflections off the eyes of hiding frogs. Check different habitat types, including trees and shrubs, grassy pasture and muddy caves along the water's edge.

Please never touch the frogs! It is very stressful and can make them sick.



Watch your step!

Despite their loud calls, many frogs are tiny and well camouflaged against the soil.



Step 2: Pick a warm night

Frogs are most active on warm still nights (above 12 C) and after recent rain. Start your survey about 30 minutes after sunset.

Step 3: Quiet listening

Turn off all lights, and listen quietly for at least 5 minutes. How many different types of song can you hear? Do you recognize any? Take a recording on your phone.

Step 4: Call back

Use the FrogID app to play different calls on your phone. Then listen quietly to see if you can hear a response. Try this at different spots around the water body.



Download the Frog ID App



For complete survey guidelines, read Melbourne Water's "Frog Census Handbook"



iNaturalist video tutorials

Step 6: Take a photo

Turn off your phone's flash. Hold a white sheet of paper between your torch and the frog, so that the frog is softly illuminated. This way, the light is not too bright for the frog's eyes and you get a nicer photo.

Step 7: Identify and report

Upload your call recording to the FrogID app. Compare it to different frog calls in the app to identify your frogs.

Upload your photos iNaturalist. The app will automatically suggest a species based on your photo, and other users of the app will provide further identifications.



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Elia Pirle Illustration