

What kind of frogs live here? I hear some, but I can't see them.

There are two frogs that I am certain live in Foothills Park. There are others which might and a couple of other amphibians to throw into the mix also.

The ones that I have seen here are:

Pacific Tree Frog (*Psuedacris regilla*) fairly small at about an inch and a half long, light to dark green with a bandits mask (a black stripe running from the tip of its nose, along the side of its' head, through the eyes, to the tops of the front legs). Another name for this frog is the Pacific Chorus frog, it is a very good possibility this is the frog you have been hearing. Its most common call is used by the males to advertise their presence in a given territory. It is a two part call, with the second part being louder and a bit higher in pitch "rib-IT."

I have also seen American Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) which are the largest frogs that occur in California at up to 8 inches long. They are usually easily recognized as a very large, green frog. Their call is very recognizable, it is low, slow "crrroaakk." They are an introduced species that sometimes eat native frogs and are generally unwelcome.

Frogs that occur in this part of California that I have not seen in Foothills Park include:

- Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*)
- Yellow Legged Tree Frog (*Rana boylei*)
- Red Legged Tree Frog (*Rana aurora*)

Other Amphibians that occur in this part of California include:

California Tiger Salamander (*Ambistoma californiense*)—a threatened species

California Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*)

California Slender Salamander (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*), I saw one of these last night during a rain storm on the back patio of the interpretive center.

Arboreal Salamander (*Aneides lugubris*)

Yellow Eyed Ensatina (*Ensatina eschscholtzii*)

California Newt (*Taricha torosa*) also sometimes seen on the patio of the interpretive center when it is raining.

Rough Skinned Newt (*Taricha glandulosa*)

When you are here and can here the frogs calling, go out onto the turf across the road from the interpretive center and look around for the mounds of dirt made by gophers. The mounds of dirt often have a hole in them that leads into the gopher burrow. If you look into the hole you may see a small green frog hiding just inside the hole.

Bullfrogs can be spotted by walking quietly along the lake side (if they spot you coming they will jump in the water and disappear, leaving behind just the sounds of the splash and some ripples on the water).