

Creatures that crawl, hop, and jump

Amphibians and reptiles use the St. Charles Ecopark for food, shelter, and reproduction. Frogs and toads are perfectly built for this land-and-water environment. In spring, listen for mating calls of frogs and toads living around the wetland—the Blanchard's cricket frog, for example, sounds like clicking pebbles. American toads, most common of Missouri's toads, live in woods but seek water for breeding in April. You also have a good chance of seeing a box turtle or garter snake traveling through the woods.

WHAT IS AN AMPHIBIAN?

- ⌘ moist, often toxic, skin
- ⌘ young have larval phase, like tadpoles
- ⌘ occur in wet environment
- ⌘ lay eggs in water
- ⌘ salamander, frog, toad

WHAT IS A REPTILE?

- ⌘ body covered in scales or plates
- ⌘ clawed toes
- ⌘ only some depend on water
- ⌘ turtle, lizard, snake, alligator



Left to right: Spotted salamander. Northern spring peeper. Eastern garter snake. Three-toed box turtle. Snapping turtle. **Background:** Western painted turtles. All photos courtesy of Missouri Department of Conservation.

