

Amphibian Use of Union Bay Natural Area

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Background

As the second largest natural system on Lake Washington, providing appropriate landscape habitat for native wildlife in the Union Bay Natural Area (UBNA) is of utmost importance. From preliminary observations, the wetlands at UBNA have little evidence of amphibian presence when compared to other natural areas of Lake Washington. Low numbers of observed amphibians could result from low habitat quality.



Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) egg mass found in Shoveler's Pond. Amphibians require emergent vegetation for laying egg masses and vegetative cover for moving between habitat patches.



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Amphibians are important to the food chain and can be bio-indicators of wetland health.

Objectives

- Assess current landscape quality specifically for amphibians and make restoration recommendations
- Provide appropriate habitat enhancements with emergent vegetation and vegetative corridors
- Create a monitoring protocol and group to track amphibian egg masses each year

Interested? Contact Kathleen at ktwalter@uw.edu