

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Contact: Nancy Lee Gomer, Marketing Coordinator, 636-949-7535, or 636-795-1137, [ngomer@sccmo.org](mailto:ngomer@sccmo.org)

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY PARKS OFFERS SPRING FROG WATCHING TRAINING  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SAINT LOUIS ZOO**

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – The St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department is teaming up with the Saint Louis Zoo to offer FrogWatch USA training for those individuals, groups, and families interested in learning about the wetlands in their communities by reporting on the calls of local frogs and toads. The training



will be held from 6:30–8:30 p.m., Friday, March 29 at the Broemmelsiek Park Visitors Center near Defiance.

You don't have to be a frog or toad expert to be a FrogWatch USA volunteer. All you need to do is have an interest in frogs and toads, join the Saint Louis Zoo's FrogWatch Chapter, participate in our volunteer training session, and commit to monitor a site of your choosing for at least three minutes twice in the evenings throughout the breeding season—February through August.

Being a part of this monitoring program allows trained volunteers to become directly involved with gathering information that can ultimately lead to practical and workable ways to stop amphibian decline. Over 2,000 amphibian species are currently threatened with extinction and many more are experiencing sharp population declines. This alarming trend may be a sign of deteriorating wetland health because amphibians can serve as indicator species. The valuable data collected will be submitted to a national [online database](#) and will be used for future studies.

FrogWatch USA is a long-term citizen science monitoring program that was started by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1998 to report on observation of frogs and toads throughout the US and is sponsored by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Visit <https://www.aza.org/become-a-frogwatch-volunteer/> to learn more, or contact Michael Dawson, naturalist instructor at the Saint Louis Zoo, at [dawson@stlzoo.org](mailto:dawson@stlzoo.org) or 314-646-4551.

Broemmelsiek Park is located at 1795 Highway DD. The volunteer training session is free, but pre-registration is requested. Call the parks department at 636-949-7535 or go online at <http://bit.ly/ParkFrogWatchTraining2019> to register.

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**About St. Charles County Parks & Recreation**

The St. Charles County Parks & Recreation Department was created in 1997 after voters approved a local use tax with the sole purpose of park land acquisition, development, operations and maintenance. The department's mission is to preserve natural and historic features in areas throughout the county for the use of future generations. Today, the department operates 15 parks and consists of 3,643 acres of acquired park land. From historic homesteads to a youth skate park; from camping, hiking, biking, and fishing



## NEWS RELEASE

to weddings and educational classrooms, there's something for everyone in St. Charles County Parks.

For more information and specifics about each park, amenities, trails, and more, visit [stccparks.org](http://stccparks.org).