

## Vernal Pool Field Observation Form

Submit this data to Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-rare-species-vernal-pool-observations> (log into Heritage Hub, be sure to link to HLT)

\*\*We strongly recommend that landowner permission be obtained prior to collecting certification documentation. It is the sole responsibility of an individual providing vernal pool certification information to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to ensure that all of their activities associated with gathering said information comply with law. \*\*

### Observation Details

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Pool Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to the observed location: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Pool Visit Dates (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### Obligate Information:

\*Indicate breeding evidence and date observed for each species. Evidence must include  $\geq 1$  of the following for certification: congressing salamanders OR  $\geq 5$  pairs wood frogs in amplexus OR a full wood frog chorus (calls constant, continuous, & overlapping) OR a total of  $\geq 5$  egg masses, regardless of species OR  $\geq 1$  MESA-listed salamander egg mass(es). Each individual egg mass or mated pair required for certification (e.g., all 5 wood frog egg masses) must be photographed or videotaped. If more than the minimum required number is observed, photo the required number, and count or estimate the total number and indicate in the table below.\*

Species	Date Observed	# Mated Pairs	# Egg Masses	# Tadpoles	#Transformed Juveniles	Full Chorus
Wood Frog ( <i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i> )						
Jefferson Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i> )						
Spotted Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i> )						
Marbled Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma opacum</i> )						
Blue-Spotted Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma laterale</i> )						
Unidentified Mole Salamander						
Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Eubranchipus</i> sp.)						

**Facultative Information**

Breeding evidence of ≥ 2 species must be documented by photos, video, or audio. Breeding evidence includes: full breeding choruses (call constant & overlapping), ≥ 5 adults in amplexus, any # of egg masses, tadpoles, and/or transforming juveniles in pool.

Species	Date Observed	# Adults in Amplexus	# Egg Masses	# Tadpoles	#Transformed Juveniles	Full Chorus
Spring Peepers (Pseudacris crucifer)						
Gray Tree Frog (Hyla versicolor)						
Fowler's Toad (Anaxyrus fowleri)						
American Toad (Anaxyrus americanus)						

**Site Information:**

Potential Vernal Pool Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Length  
(Feet or Meters): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Width  
(Feet or Meters): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Depth  
(Feet or Meters): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe distinctive features visible from or near the pool: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pool Origin:**

\_\_\_\_\_ natural depression    \_\_\_\_\_ human-made pool/depression    \_\_\_\_\_ created wetland/pool    \_\_\_\_\_ other

\_\_\_\_\_ unknown    (description if other): \_\_\_\_\_

**Pool Hydroperiod:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal    \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-permanent    \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent

Describe any inlet or outlets to/from the pool and their permanence: \_\_\_\_\_

**Land use in the vicinity of the pool:**

\_\_\_\_\_ upland forest    \_\_\_\_\_ emergent marsh/scrub-shrub wetland    \_\_\_\_\_ residential/commercial

\_\_\_\_\_ forested wetlands    \_\_\_\_\_ agricultural/grassland/meadow    \_\_\_\_\_ other

(description if other): \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Survey Information:**

**Methodology:**

\_\_\_ Meander Survey \_\_\_ Transect \_\_\_ Plot \_\_\_ Habitat Assessment \_\_\_ Incidental (no methodology)

Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_ Time spent surveying (person hours): \_\_\_\_\_

Weather:

\_\_\_ Storm \_\_\_ Overcast \_\_\_ Clear \_\_\_ Rain/Sleet/Snow \_\_\_ Partly Cloudy \_\_\_ Windy

Temperature (Fahrenheit): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this observation associated with a NHESP Review File? Yes / No

If Yes, please list the NHESP file / tracking #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this observation associated with a Collection Permit? Yes / No

If Yes, please list Collection Permit #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: the answer to both of the above questions will be no unless working directly with NHESP or instructed)*

**Observer:**

Are you submitting this observation as a member of an organization/company or under your private account?

Be sure to link to: **Hilltown Land Trust**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_