

# Reptiles of Putnam Park<sup>1</sup>

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Eastern garter snake

Smaller, generally harmless snake, usually 28-26 inches long. Can be identified by its dark body with three stripes, which tend to be yellow: one thin stripe on its back and thicker ones on either side.

Fox snake

Adult snake is 36-56 inches long. Identify it by its numerous, large brownish blotches along its back and smaller blotches on its sides. The snake itself can range from yellow to olive gray with the head usually being a copper color.

Painted turtle

Shell is usually 4-8 inches long. The turtle's tail, legs, head, and neck are striped with thin red, orange, or yellow lines. The top of the shell is dark green, and the bottom ranges in color from yellow-orange to reddish.

Prairie skink

Lizard is 5-9 inches long, including the thick tail. Adults have three wide tan stripes running down their backs, separated by two thin black lines. The sides have three dark lines that are separated by two thin whitish stripes.

Red bellied snake

Snake is 8-10 inches long, with a rusty-brown to steel gray background color, with a thick light stripe down its back and two narrow darker stripes on the sides. The belly is a bright red or orange, edged with dark blue-black

Snapping turtle

Shell is 8-16 inches long and can vary from light brown to black in color and it has a saw-toothed back edge. The tail is about as long as the shell and has small spikes on top. The turtle has large jaws and a pointed snout.

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks are due to Dr. Michael Weil of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for providing a list of the reptiles that are known to be present in Putnam Park.