

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

Citizen science opportunity during global competition

April 25-28, 2025



[City Nature Challenge](#), one of the world’s largest community science events, returns for its 10th year of connecting people through local nature. The event invites people of all ages and backgrounds to get outside and observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals and fungi during the Challenge on April 25-28, 2025. The data, submitted and identified via the free app [iNaturalist](#), helps scientists at Denver Botanic Gardens and around the world, track real-time changes in our planet’s biodiversity and better understand wildlife conservation.

Denver Botanic Gardens is the lead organizing institution for the Denver-Boulder metro area which encompasses the greater seven-county metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson). Community members are invited to participate independently or through an [organized activity](#) with Denver Audubon, Denver Parks and Recreation, High Line Canal Conservancy, Longmont Open Spaces, Colorado Open Lands and more. Participants can upload their findings to iNaturalist. In 2024, 400 people in the Denver-Boulder metro area recorded more than 4,500 observations of almost 1,000 species!

Alissa Iverson, the Gardens’ floristic and outreach coordinator, says “we often use observations on iNaturalist to create a list of what species we might encounter when we’re doing fieldwork, or to help identify unexpected finds in the local area. It’s an incredible way to crowdsource biodiversity data, while also encouraging people to get involved in the scientific process.”

City Nature Challenge consists of two phases – the **Observation Phase (April 25-28)** – where community scientists record observations of nature in their city, and the **Identification Phase (April 29 – May 4)** where nature enthusiasts and experts work to link species identifications to the observations.

ABOUT CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

Launched by the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) in 2016, the Challenge started with just 1,000 observers in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In 2024, the Challenge broke records with more than 83,500 community scientists around the world amassing over 2.4

million observations from 690 cities in 51 countries. Since its inception, City Nature Challenge has collected over 7.13 million urban biodiversity observations of 94,000+ species and engaged over 364,000 people.

In previous years, observations made during the Challenge have helped scientists detect patterns of biodiversity change on a global and local scale. These wildlife observations provide invaluable insights that support scientists, conservationists, and policymakers to make informed resource management and conservation decisions that can help curb biodiversity loss.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Photos taken during the Challenge can be uploaded to [Denver EcoFlora Project](#), where an online community of naturalists confirms species identifications.

Wildlife can be found in the participants' backyards, neighborhoods or anywhere else, and can be any wild plant, animal, fungi, slime mold or other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, etc.). Whether participating in an organized habitat survey or making observations in their own neighborhood, participants can upload photos or sound recordings of their findings to iNaturalist where they can learn more about the plants and animals they find as their observations are identified.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Bue Sky is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.