

What is the CNC? The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual citizen science event that gets people outside to enjoy nature in their city as well as create a living record of urban wildlife. The CNC is a global initiative that encourages friendly competition between cities to get the most observations. From April 28th to May 1st, 2023 participating cities will ask their citizens to get outside and take photos of wildlife (this includes both plants and animals!) in their municipality using the free iNaturalist app or iNaturalist.ca. More than 400 cities took part in 2021 from around the world, 25 of which were right here in Canada. To find out if your city is participating this year, visit the iNaturalist project page.

Even if your city is not participating, we want to engage people from everywhere in Canada to help identify what's being seen. During the event and an extended second half until May 7th, 2023, anyone can contribute using the CNC Canada Identify page – amateur to professional wildlife enthusiasts and everything in between are invited to participate from anywhere in the country.

Learn more at CityNatureChallenge.ca.



How do I get involved?

Sign up or log into your free account at iNaturalist.ca or through the iNaturalist app.

If you are in a participating city, take photos and upload them to iNaturalist during the event from April 28th to May 1st, 2023 and your observations will be automatically added.

Those who are not in a participating city can help identify observations from April 28th to May 7th, 2023.

What can I expect to see in the Spring?

The best resource to figure this out is right at your fingertips. Have a look at iNaturalist.ca/observations and use the search bar or zoom in to your area. You can use the filters to select dates to see what's been seen last spring, the year before, or all year long. Some early season observations may include:

- Early flowers
- Lichens
- Trees
- Spring time birds
- Mammals emerging from hibernation
- Butterflies
- Bees
- And other insects!

PLACES TO LOOK FOR WILDLIFE:

- Backyard
- Parks
- Gardens
- Shorelines
- Conservation areas
- Greenbelts
- Multi-use paths



Photos: Getty Images