

Join us for the iNaturalist Bioblitz!
Saturday, April 30
10 am - noon
Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain



A bioblitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible.

Join BCNA and Boulder County Open Space as we work together as a team for the annual iNaturalist City Nature Challenge to document as many species possible at Rabbit Mountain. Often when we hike, we enjoy the flowers, delight in the eagle soaring overhead, and notice the buds on trees. On Saturday we will approach our experience somewhat differently. We will choose a small area to examine closely, and document every living organism we can find in that area, be it a flower, an ant, a fungus, or a lichen.

We will then record photos of everything we see on iNaturalist, so those knowledgeable about ants, lichens, or flowers can verify our identifications later. Likely no one can quickly identify all the species we will find, but we can work together and use suggestions made by the [iNaturalist](#) app along with other materials to help with identification.

Please sign up to join us at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/Register.

Bring with you:

- A phone with the [iNaturalist app](#) already downloaded or a camera to record what you find
- Your favorite books or apps to help with identification
- Sun protection
- An inquisitive mind
- Good hiking shoes
- Your own snacks and water

What is iNaturalist?

Developed as a Master's Final Project at the UC Berkeley's School of Information, iNaturalist is an app that gives everyone a chance to record and organize what they see in nature, and to work with others to identify and learn about what they have recorded, with the hope that people will become more aware of the local biodiversity around them. It is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Science and the National Geographic Society.

iNaturalist has over 2.5 million people submitting observations worldwide at present. A much smaller number of people verify those observations. Not only does iNaturalist serve to help people see and document the world they live in, but the data collected is also used in a wide range of scientific studies.

Using the iNaturalist app

Excellent guidance for using iNaturalist to record your observations is on the iNaturalist website.

[Getting started](#)
[Video tutorials](#)
[Bioblitz guide](#)

Past Denver/Boulder City Nature Challenges

To see all the species documented in the 2021 City Nature Challenge for the Boulder/Denver area, check out the [guides on iNaturalist](#). Colorado Parks and Wildlife has put together guides for: wildlife; flowers; birds; bugs; plants; butterflies and moths; fungi, lichen, algae, and slime mold; and grasses, sedges and allies. Each guide is organized by classification and by color. Boulder County Parks and Open Space has published a guide for local wildlife.

There are also two projects using iNaturalist reports maintained by Boulder County Parks and Open Space for [wildlife](#) and [flora](#).

Sample studies using iNaturalist

MARCH 2021, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[450 butterfly species rapidly declining due to warmer autumns in the western U.S.](#)
iNaturalist data shows similar trend to other butterfly datasets in *Science* paper

AUGUST 2020, THE CONVERSATION

[The next invasion of insect pests will be discovered via social media](#)

"iNaturalist has become a world-leading resource that combines observational data with artificial intelligence and community expertise to bring natural history into the digital age."
by Paul Manning and Morgan Jackson

JANUARY 2019, THE DAILY - CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

[How male dragonflies adapt wing color to temperature](#)

Hundreds of dragonfly photos on iNaturalist were examined as part of a study looking into the connection between wing color and local temperature.