

INATURALIST AND PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE



- Observe local nature
- Share your observations with fellow naturalists
- Contribute to ongoing research



WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE?

“Participatory Science” refers to real, ongoing scientific research that the public can participate in. Scientists use participatory science projects to crowdsource data collection to get a much bigger sample size, or to crowdsource data analysis



Myth: Science is only for some people

Any time you are testing something to answer a question, you are a scientist! Contributing to these projects requires no former education or training.

Myth: I have to find a group

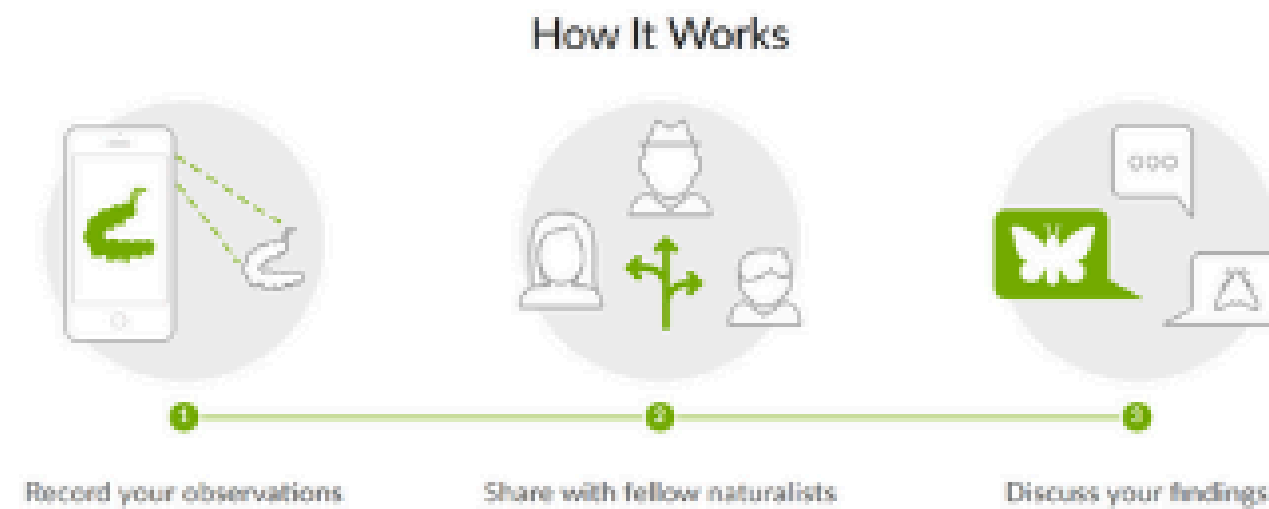
Many participatory science projects, like iNaturalist, can be done individually, but contribute toward a larger community of learning.

Myth: I don't have anything to contribute

We know our neighborhood the best. By monitoring our local area for things like biodiversity studies, we contribute invaluable data to the scientific narrative.

WHAT IS INATURALIST?

iNaturalist is an online hub for ecological research. It allows participatory scientists like us to connect with researchers all over the world and in many different fields.



Record your Observations

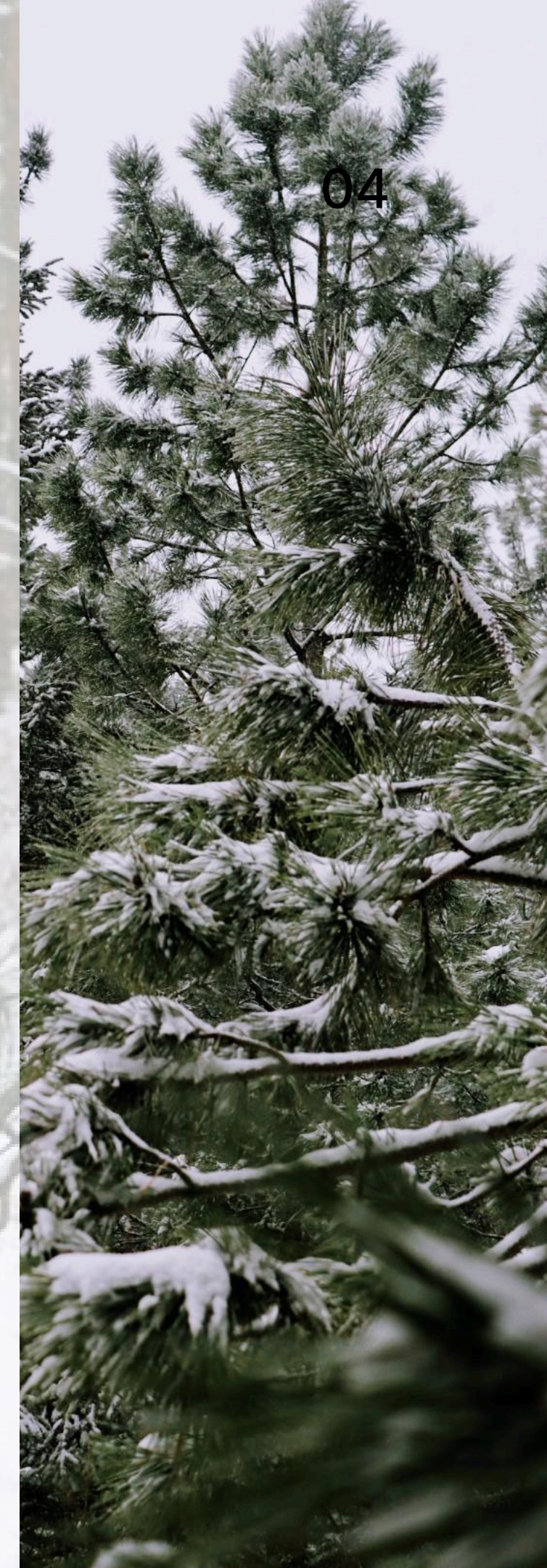
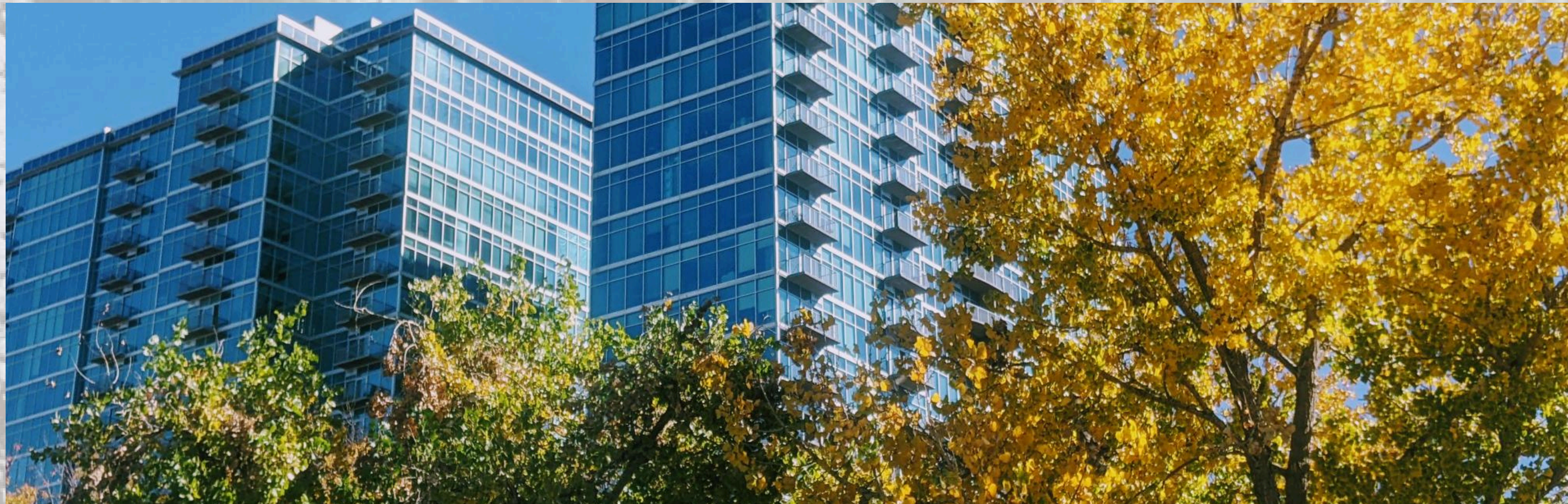
- Use the Seek app's in-app camera
- Upload photos from your own camera
- Upload other observations like birdcalls

Share with Fellow Naturalists

Once an observation is uploaded, naturalists all over the world will be able to see it. Be sure to set your permissions to allow your observations to be contributed to biodiversity databases!

Discuss your Findings

Not sure the ID of an observation? Once it's uploaded, other naturalists can help ID it! Join in the discussion!



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

The City Nature Challenge is a “Bio-blitz,” where people come together to try to record as many observations as possible in a specific time period.

This one in is a world-wide bio-blitz where cities register to compete to see who can rally their city to log the most observations within city limits from April 25-28

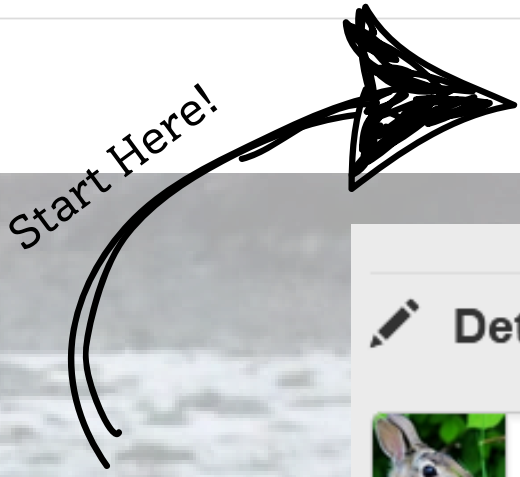
CITY NATURE CHALLENGE: HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Any observations added to iNaturalist from within Fort Collins city limits between April 25-28 will automatically count toward our city's score
- All you have to do is get outside, take pictures, and upload them to contribute toward participatory science and research!



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Details

 Cottontail Rabbits 



 2025/03/28 3:12 PM



 Fort Collins, CO, USA



Notes



Location is public 

Captive / Cultivated

 Tags 

 Projects 

 Fields 

 Offset Time 

If you're not sure the species, a general guess still helps; other iNaturalist users will help ID your species.

Be as specific as you can; specificity will make your observation more useful as research. If you're not sure, even a vague answer helps!

Gardens, pets, and landscaping are totally allowed! Just be sure to mark them.

RECORDING AN OBSERVATION



USING SEEK

Seek is an app by iNaturalist that helps you identify the species you're seeing.

- Link Seek to your iNaturalist account
- Be sure to tell the app where you are; this will help it to know what species you are likely to be seeing
- Tap the camera button in the bottom middle of the screen to access the in-app camera
- Point your camera at a living thing! It can be a plant, animal, bug, or fungus
- Notice the green dots at the top of the screen; those are helping identify the species. It will start with Kingdom and fill in phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species.
- Once you've identified the species (or gotten as close as you can), snap a picture! You will be given the option to automatically upload it to your linked iNaturalist account with the species, date, and location data already filled in.

