City Nature Challenge

2025 *10 Year Anniversary*

Bringing the world together for biodiversity

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual four-day urban bioblitz where participants around the world use biodiversity recording platforms like iNaturalist to document nature in their neighborhoods. These contributions become data to understand and protect nature worldwide. Started in 2016 as a friendly competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the CNC has grown into an international event where cities collaborate and compete to find species, collect observations, and connect communities to nature. Led by the Community Science teams at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), the 2025 City Nature Challenge (April 25 – 28) is gearing up to be the biggest one yet!

25 April - 28 April
make observations

29 April - 4 May
upload and identify

5 May
results announced

Seattle-Tacoma Metro Area, USA
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Goals of the City Nature Challenge

- Connect people in urban areas to their local nature

- Connect people to each other: build community in person and online around local nature

- Collect urban biodiversity data available to use for science, management, and conservation

- Grow volunteer biodiversity documentation globally

- Have fun through this global event

CityNatureChallenge.org | Instagram and Twitter on @CitNatChallenge

How is the CNC Organized?

Every official CNC city or metro area has one or more individuals from that region who serve as a local organizer. Local organizers are from all backgrounds, from high school students to environmental professionals and beyond. All organizers start meeting regularly with the Global Organizing team from NHM and CAS seven months before the CNC. Support from the Global Organizing Team includes trainings, tools, and resources that organizers use to promote and implement the CNC in the ways that work best in their communities. Local organizers often work in their community to create partnerships, working with supportive staff from local organizations, schools, city/regional governments, and community-based organizations.

Impact of the CNC

Since 2017, the CNC has been the largest annual recording event on iNaturalist. To date the CNC has engaged more than **364,000 people** in collecting more than **7.13 million urban biodiversity observations**, often bringing new species occurrences and range expansions to the attention of land managers and policy-makers. Researchers have used CNC data in their publications, demonstrating the effectiveness of large-scale community science projects like the CNC. Not only does the CNC engage new people in observing nature during the event itself, it highlights the value of this work and inspires some participants to become biodiversity observers year-round.

Hong Kong, China *Outdoor Wildlife Learning*

Hyderabad, India *Ram Dayal Vaishnav*

Trinidad, Bolivia *Márton Hardy*

Vancouver, Canada *Trevor Kavanaugh*

Global Results Through the Years

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cities	2	16	68	159	244	419	445	482	690
Observations	19.8K	125K	441K	963K	815K	1.27M	1.7M	1.9M	2.4M
People	1K	4K	17K	32K	41K	52K	67.2K	66.4K	83.5K

K = thousand.   M = million

More Information:
CityNatureChallenge.org

To organize your city for the CNC:
CityNatureChallenge.org/organizers

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LOS ANGELES COUNTY