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L.A. BioBlitz Challenge to Photograph and Map the City's Biodiversity Announced by Los Angeles Public Library and LA Sanitation & Environment

LOS ANGELES (June 7, 2021) – Angelenos are invited to join the L.A. Bioblitz Challenge to photograph and map native animals, insects and plants around their homes, neighborhoods, parks and other areas across the city of Los Angeles from June 7 to August 7 using the iNaturalist app.

This collaboration between the Los Angeles Public Library's Neighborhood Science (NeiSci) Initiative and LA Sanitation & Environment's Biodiversity Program aims to enumerate the city's existing native biodiversity and assist researchers in determining the distribution of wildlife across L.A.'s natural landscape.

Los Angeles is recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot that has an array of native insects, animals, plants and ecosystems to explore, including indicator species, which serve as a measure of the environmental conditions that exist in a given locale. Participants are asked to photograph indicator species and map their observations on the city's observation heat map. The crowdsourced data will help reduce observational "cold spots" and inform the efforts to conserve and protect wildlife habitats.

To complete the challenge, participants are asked to upload at least 10 observations of animals, insects and plants—including 3 or more indicator species—to the "LA BioBlitz Challenge" project on iNaturalist or complete a BioBlitz game card available at any open [Los Angeles Public Library](https://www.lapl.org) location.

For more information about the challenge and how to participate, visit lapl.org/bioblitz.

A recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the art technology accessible at [lapl.org](https://www.lapl.org), and more than 25,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

About LA Sanitation and Environment

As the lead agency for the City's environmental programs and initiatives, Sanitation protects public health and the environment through the administration and management of three program areas: Clean Water (Wastewater), Solid Resources (Solid Waste Management) and Watershed Protection (Stormwater). These infrastructure programs collect, treat, dispose and recycle the solid and liquid waste generated by the nation's second largest city of more than four million residents. Through these essential Public Works programs, Sanitation delivers a triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social benefits that sustain quality of life in Los Angeles.

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