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LA Nature Quest—formerly LA BioBlitz Challenge—Returns For Its Fifth Year With Citywide Call to Protect Wildlife

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 1, 2025)—The Los Angeles Public Library today kicks off LA Nature Quest, formerly the LA BioBlitz Challenge, which encourages Angelenos to help protect local wildlife by documenting biodiversity across the city from October 1-31.

LA Nature Quest is a community science initiative that engages residents in photographing animals, insects, and plants in their neighborhoods. Building on four successful years of the LA BioBlitz Challenge, the program expands to safeguard urban wildlife while encouraging exploration and public participation in biodiversity research.

“It is remarkable to see the growth of this program as it encourages Angelenos of all ages to get outdoors, explore and learn about local wildlife, and become neighborhood scientists who contribute to important research,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo.

To celebrate the launch of the program, a special [event](#) will be held at Griffith Park on Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The family-friendly celebration will feature activities and opportunities for all ages to explore local wildlife, and guidance on how to contribute to this year’s LA Nature Quest.

The monthlong program is a collaboration between the Los Angeles Public Library’s (LAPL) Neighborhood Science Initiative, LA Sanitation & Environment’s (LASAN) Biodiversity Program, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Throughout October, libraries and partner organizations will present interactive [programs](#) for kids, teens, and adults in an effort to crowdsource information about the city’s native biodiversity and assist researchers in determining the distribution of wildlife and health of the environment.

(more)

Since the inaugural program in 2020, participants have recorded more than 47,400 observations, documenting 29 of 38 key indicator species, which provided valuable data on the city's habitat quality.

"This collaborative program is a testament to the collective impact Angelenos can have on their environment to support a greener Los Angeles," said Mayra Valadez, President of the Board of Library Commissioners.

To complete the quest, participants will need to download the iNaturalist app to create an account, and upload at least 10 observations of animals, insects, and plants to the iNaturalist project titled "[LA Nature Quest 2025](#)", including:

1. Three or more [indicator species](#), which are used to infer the condition of a particular habitat;
2. One or more [invasive species](#), which can indicate potential threats to local ecosystems; and
3. One or more observations in [data cold spots](#), which are areas that lack recorded observations.

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

Los Angeles Public Library

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 six million books and state-of-the-art technology accessible at lapl.org provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

LA Sanitation & 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.

Los Angeles Recreation and Parks

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) oversees and operates more than 450 parks, including recreation centers with active programming for kids and adults, dog parks, childcare facilities, senior centers, golf courses, community gardens, museums, and special event venues, which includes Griffith Park, Elysian Park, Augustus Hawkins Nature Park, White Point Nature Preserve, and other green space within the concrete jungle of Los Angeles. More information on programming and the work that RAP does is available at www.laparks.org.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is the nation's largest municipal water and power utility, with 8,081 megawatts (MW) of electric capacity and serving an average of more than 399 million gallons of water per day to Los Angeles' approximately four million residents, businesses, and visitors. For more than 100 years, LADWP has provided the city with reliable water and power service in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. With a workforce of nearly 12,000 employees, LADWP is guided by the five-member Board of Water and Power Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) include the Natural History Museum and La Brea Tar Pits. They operate under the collective vision to inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds. The museums hold one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history—more than 35 million objects. Using these collections for groundbreaking scientific and historical research, the museums also incorporate them into on- and offsite nature and culture exploration in L.A. neighborhoods, and a slate of community science programs—creating indoor-outdoor visitor experiences that explore the past, present, and future. Visit NHMLAC.ORG for adventure, education, and entertainment opportunities.

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