



# Planning a BioBlitz



**What is Community Science?** When people share observations, they are helping collect data that can assist with conservation decision making. This helps solve real-world issues and makes science more accessible to the public.

**What is a BioBlitz?** A BioBlitz is an activity where you go outside to record what species are in an area using the iNaturalist app. A BioBlitz can occur anywhere outside, such as in a park, on a hiking trail, or even in your backyard! You can do a BioBlitz with others or by yourself.



**Why you should do a BioBlitz?** Contribute to community science and assess biodiversity while working on your species identification! Learn about and report species near you, discover at-risk or invasive species, and connect with others while contributing to valuable data collection. Data from community science can be used for your project interests or contribute to projects run by organizations.

## How to make a good iNaturalist Observation

- Take clear photos & include all identifying features (plant leaves/stems/flowers/seeds; underside of fungi)
- Include a small object for scale (pencil, coin, your thumb)
- Record only wild species (no cultivated species)



## Examples of Community Science Activities

- Water Quality Testing
- Plant Identification
- Insect Monitoring
- Bird/Bat Counting
- Soil Testing
- Weather Observations
- Air Quality Monitoring
- BioBlitz



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**How to Report** iNaturalist is a free app where users can record species they find. If you find an invasive species in BC, you can report it using the free Report Invasives app. Other reporting tools can include apps and projects like eBird or Merlin, Project FeederWatch, and City Nature Challenge. Physical tools such as hand lenses or binoculars and local ID guides can be helpful too!

## BioBlitz planning checklist!

- Choose a location and plan a walking route;
- Get permission from land owner, if needed;
- Pick a date and time the event will take place;
- Create a project on iNaturalist, or use a pre-existing project (e.g. I Spy and Identify Invasives)
- Spread the word through emails, posters, and newspaper;
- Provide participants with iNaturalist instructions;
- Do a safety hazard assessment;
- Pick a muster location at project site for everyone to meet in case of emergency.

## Planning Considerations:

1. What ecosystem are you focused in? (shoreline, forest, wetland, etc.)
2. Is your planned area public or private?
3. Who is your target audience? (community members of all ages, school-aged children and youth, university students, seniors, etc.)
4. What is the knowledge level of your audience? Will you need to provide some pre-event training?
5. What tools would you want to bring? Will you need rain gear or sunscreen?
6. Sign-up method and how many participants can be accommodated
7. Media release form for taking photos of participants.

