



**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

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TO: MAYOR NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. WIDEMAN, PARKS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, EXT. 4938

NOTED: K. BRADLEY, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING

M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH DEVELOPMENT

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: CITY OF BARRIE PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2023

DATE: MARCH 29, 2023

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding the City of Barrie's participation in the City Nature Challenge 2023 which occurs from April 28th to May 1st, 2023.

Started in 2016 by the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the City Nature Challenge (CNC) has grown into an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their cities. The annual four-day global bio-blitz is a collaborative-meets-friendly competition to not only see what can be accomplished when communities work toward a common goal, but to also see which cities can gather the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people in the event. In 2022, 445 cities participated, with more than 67,000 people making 1.7 million observations of urban wildlife and nature. Forty Canadian cities are participating in this year's CNC event.

The goals of the CNC are to:

- Connect people in urban areas to their local natural environment,
- Connect people to each other while building community in person and online around local nature,
- Collect urban biodiversity data available to use for science, management, and conservation,
- Grow volunteer biodiversity documentation/citizen science globally, and
- Have fun through friendly competition and global collaboration.

This is the first year that the City of Barrie will participate. The CNC aligns with Council's 2022-2026 strategic priorities to create and foster programs and opportunities to support community wellness and to expand and maximize access to parks and recreation opportunities. The CNC, which encourages citizens to take pictures of wild plants and animals using the iNaturalist platform to document their discoveries, is free to the City and members of the public to use. The Canadian Wildlife Federation oversees the iNaturalist platform in Canada. Identified observations with the results will be announced on the CNC website on May 8th, 2023. The links to the CNC's webpage and the iNaturalist platform are included below:

- <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-city-of-barrie>.

Development Services staff welcome all members of the community to get involved in the free program. A kick-off activity is scheduled for April 28th, 2023 at Sunnidale Park to commence our community observations. Council members are invited to participate in the challenge and its activities. If there are any questions regarding this community outreach program, please contact Stephanie Wideman at ext. 4938.