



**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

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

**NOTED: K. BRADLEY, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING**  
**M. BANFIELD, RPP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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

**DATE: April 17, 2024**

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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 (CNC) 2024.

The City of Barrie will be entering into its second year of the annual four-day global bio-blitz, looking to improve on last year's results of placing fourth in Ontario. This collaborative-meets-friendly competition engages communities to work together towards a common goal and to see which cities can gather the most observations of nature, find the most species, and involve the greatest number of people in the event. In 2023, 482 cities participated, with more than 66,400 people making 1.9 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.

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 is free to the City and members of the public, occurs between April 26<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 encouraging citizens to take pictures of wild plants and animals utilizing the iNaturalist platform to document their discoveries. CNC CANADA is an initiative led by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, which oversees the iNaturalist.ca platform used by Canadians to track biodiversity coast to coast. So far, Canadians have uploaded over 13 million observations to iNaturalist.ca. Identified observations with the results will be announced on the CNC website on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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-2024-city-of-barrie>.

Development Services staff welcome all members of the community to get involved in the free program. Activities are scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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.

APPENDIX "A"

City Nature Challenge Logos



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY

