



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2026

SEATTLE-TACOMA METROPOLITAN AREA – RESULTS!



OVERVIEW

Woodland Park Zoo, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and other collaborators help mobilize people across the greater Seattle area to join a friendly nature observation challenge involving hundreds of cities across the globe.

Any observation made anywhere within the **Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma-Everett metropolitan area**, which includes all of **King, Pierce and Snohomish counties**, between **Friday, April 24 – Monday, April 27** counted towards our total in the City Nature Challenge.

Participants took photos, identified what they saw and uploaded them to the project on **iNaturalist**. Participants also helped one another by identifying observations in iNaturalist.

SAVE THE DATE - CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2027



OBSERVE! April 23 – April 26, 2027

IDENTIFY! April 23 – May 9, 2027

2026 local planning team:
Woodland Park Zoo, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Green Tukwila / City of Tukwila, Washington State Department of Agriculture Pest Program, University of Washington - Tacoma, Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds, Snohomish County's Healthy Forest Project, and a graduate student with the Advanced Inquiry Program of Miami University of Ohio/Woodland Park Zoo

Poster prepared by Woodland Park Zoo
monitoring@zoo.org

GLOBAL RESULTS

754 Cities from 61 Countries on 6 continents



3,001,825
OBSERVATIONS



76,422+
SPECIES



106,354
OBSERVERS

Including over 5,688 rare, endangered, or threatened species

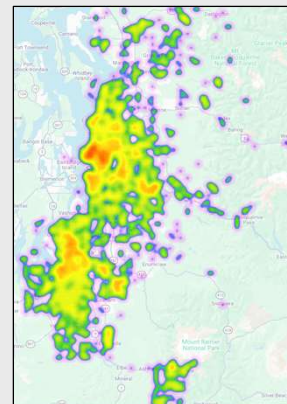
SEATTLE-TACOMA RESULTS

	OBSERVATIONS 	SPECIES 	OBSERVERS
2026**	17,300	1,788	1,167
2025*	19,628	2,138	1,233
2024	16,395	1,868	895
2023	10,057	1,437	798
2022	7,705	1,280	654

We now have a [cumulative Seattle-Tacoma CNC project page](#) where you can see ALL of our data since 2017!

*In 2025, our iNaturalist project accepted observations of cultivated and non-wild species in addition to wild species. In previous years, non-wild observations were accepted but not counted in our totals. In 2025, these non-wild observations accounted for an estimated 1,500 observations and 275 species. Only counting the "wild" observations, the numbers of observations and species still increased in 2025 over 2024.

**Starting in 2026, observations of cultivated and non-wild species were no longer included in our observation counts. In prior years, the project area on iNaturalist overlapped with adjacent counties; in 2026, the area was adjusted to eliminate that overlap but keep a buffer into nearshore and marine edges; this slightly decreased our overall project area.

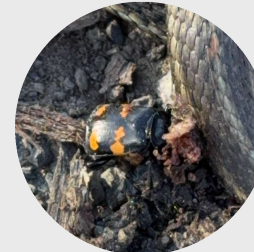


Map depicts the distribution and volume of CNC 2026 observations in the Seattle Metropolitan Area (includes Snohomish, King and Pierce counties)

NOTABLE OBSERVATIONS



Horned Nudibranch laying eggs
(*Hermisenda crassicornis*)
observed by hmheinz
Photo © Morgan Heinz
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/358831448>



Boreal Burying Beetle
(*Nicrophorus defodiens*)
observed by ctravels132
Photo © ctravels132
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/354912953>



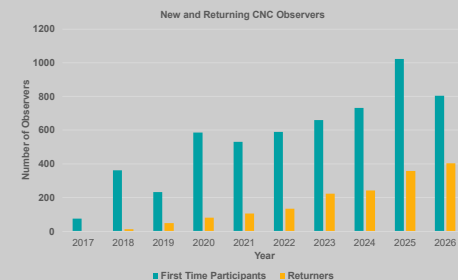
Jumping Spider + Psyllid Prey
Phanias harfordi + Superfamily Psylloidea
observed by samuelchain7
Photo © Sam Hain
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/355943665>



Bobcat
(*Lynx rufus*)
Observed by a-kul
Photo © a-kul
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/355561288>

PARTICIPANTS AND DATA

Over the years we have seen an increase in both first-time participants and people returning for more CNC fun!



Participants in Seattle-Tacoma CNC consistently make high quality observations that can be reliably identified. At the immediate conclusion of the initial observation and identification period for our CNC, we average 53% Research Grade observations; after three or more years of identifying, we average 70% Research Grade observations. In iNaturalist, "Research Grade" observations are considered verified and useable in biodiversity studies. Here is a list of scientific publications that have leveraged "Research Grade" observations: <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/press-and-publications>. You can continue helping to identify our CNC observations to increase the impact of these data!

SEATTLE-TACOMA TOP OBSERVERS

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	bruce_widmer	1,011	142
2	hawnzd	829	483
3	samuelchain7	791	413



TOP IDENTIFIERS

Rank	User	Identifications
1	vlohr	1,576
2	jessejameswhite	1,447
3	naturenerd92	1,024

Thanks to everyone who participated!