



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update: 10 April 2026

As we head into April, the YGH is pleased to share some fresh opportunities for the month. We're excited to highlight The City Nature Challenge, happening in just a few weeks. Learn more about the challenge below!

YGH's Clean and Green Day – April 18

From 9:30-11:30 am, come welcome spring at Yorklands and help clean up the site. Families are welcome.

🌳 City Nature Challenge – April 24–27

Join the global event and help document local biodiversity across Guelph. Check out our iNaturalist training sessions and the two hikes planned for the challenge.

Yorklands Green Hub's Annual General Meeting (AGM) – May 14

Save the date for Yorklands Green Hub's Annual General Meeting on May 14. Learn more in our upcoming e-blasts.

Board Member Positions

Want to join Yorklands and help build a greener community for Guelph? Check out our open board member positions below.

🍷🌳 Small Change Fund

Join us in protecting the Yorklands. Our partnership with SCF supports our work in urban conservation, biodiversity, and reconciliation.

Thank you for your support,

The Yorklands Team



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

PRESENTED BY YORKLANDS GREEN HUB & THE GUELPH TOOL LIBRARY



Saturday March 28
10 AM- 3PM
Old Quebec St. Shoppes
55 Wyndham St. N.
Downtown Guelph



*We are thrilled to announce over 20 local vendors
and an exciting workshop line-up!*

Nancy's Creations
Root Rescue
Canadian Biotechnology
Action Network
Gaia Organic Seeds
Saturday Seed Co.
Soil Renewool

Water Farmers
GW Master Gardeners
CoG: Healthy Landscapes
CofG: Natural Areas Stewardship
Royal City Nursery
University of Guelph Arboretum
Maude Stephany
Ballantyne Blooms and Bees

Seeds of Diversity
Gaia Seeds
Guelph Public Library
Pollination Guelph
Ignatius Jesuit Centre Farm
Hawthorne Farms
Shadylane Greenhouses
Nature's Guardians

Workshops:

Seeds for Bees - 10am - with Kiki Alwan
The Hobby Homestead - 11:15am with Amy Ellard-Gray
Easy to Grow Edible & Medicinal Plants - 12:30pm with Zhyfhs Millicent
Urban Gardening - 1:45pm with Nancy Hainsworth



A shopping, sharing, and learning experience dedicated to all your seed needs!

 Seedy Saturday: Thank-you!

A special thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and participated in our annual Seedy Saturday event.

Whether you led a workshop, vended, ran displays, or assisted with the day, we truly appreciate all your efforts. Your contributions helped create another memorable day of connection, learning, and community.

We also wish to thank The Guelph Tool Library for helping us organize the event, and the Old Quebec Street shops for hosting us.

We hope to see you again next year!






CLEAN & GREEN DAY AT YORKLANDS

Saturday, April 18
9:30–11:30am

Join us at Yorklands as we welcome spring.
Spend the morning with us cleaning up,
greening, and enjoying the space together.




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 Clean & Green Day Volunteers

Join us on **Saturday, April 18, from 9:30am to 11:30am**, as we come together to help clean up the Yorklands site and welcome the spring season. Yorklands will supply the gloves and bags. The event is also family friendly – kids are welcome to come and help out.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to create positive and green impact on the local environment.

 **Location: Main Gates, 785 York Rd. (Bus route #4)**

**City Nature Challenge**

April 24–27 • Guelph

Discover. Document. Participate.

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY


CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES


NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

  The City Nature Challenge (CNC)

Participate in a worldwide event!

From April 24 to April 27, Yorklands and 13 other local organizations are taking part in **The City Nature Challenge!**

Organized by the California Academy of Sciences and the LA Natural History Museum, the CNC is an annual four-day nature census. People from cities around the world will use iNaturalist — a biodiversity recording platform — to document nature in their neighborhoods.

Together with local organizations, we're providing pre-census iNaturalist training, walks, and bio-blitzes in natural areas across Guelph.

Below is graphic providing an overview of events for the CNC challenge. Separate graphics and text follow, highlighting four iNaturalist training sessions and two planned hikes with the Guelph Hiking Trail Club. All are welcome to attend.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support local biodiversity and global conservation efforts!

 Learn More: [City Nature Challenge](#)

**The photos above were taken by the following primary students during a Focus on Nature program. Abbi N. Arlo V. Javier L. and Nathan C. **



Pre-Census iNaturalist Training events

April 14th
6:30-7:30pm
East End
Library

iNaturalist Training
Get ready for Guelph's first time participating in [City Nature Challenge](#), join [rare Charitable Research Reserve](#) to learn about how to use [iNaturalist](#), a powerful citizen science platform! You will learn how to identify plants, bugs, birds, etc. [Register here.](#)

April 16th
Virtual
10am or 7pm

iNaturalist Trainings (virtual)
Join Biologist, Shoshanah Jacobs for a virtual iNaturalist training either in the morning or in the evening. She will show participants how to use the free iNaturalist app on their phone to make observations **10am [Register here](#) / 7pm [Register here](#).**

April 21st
7pm - 8:30pm
Guelph Public
Library - Main
Branch

iNaturalist Training
Joseph Langlois and Christa Wise will give you the confidence to start using iNaturalist in your day-to-day life, whether that's to identify a plant, a bug, a bird, or any other living thing you may come across. [Register here.](#)

Bio-blitz events (April 24-27)

April 24th
3pm - 6pm
Barber Scout
Camp

Tracking
Looking for the tracks and sign of any and all species along the Eramosa River with byron murray! Hard limit at 12 participants. No pets. [Register here.](#)

April 24th
10am-11:30 |
2pm-3:30 |
6-7:30pm
JC Taylor
Nature Ctre.

Arboretum Bio-Blitz
Join us as we explore a variety of habitats in search of as many species as possible. You'll use iNaturalist to help document plants, animals, fungi, and more while contributing to real biodiversity data. **Drop-in.**



April 24th
9am - 11am
Ignatius Jesuit
Centre

IJC Nature Walk with rare
Join Ashley for a walk through the IJC and spot wildlife, wild flora, fungi and insects using iNaturalist. [Register here.](#)

April 25th
9am - 11am
Vorklands site

Bird Bio-blitz
Come and walk with Sarah Mueller from Bird Safe Guelph to watch and observe the many birds visiting the Yorklands site. Meet at the front gate -785 York Rd. **Rain date: April 26th 9-11am. Drop-in**

April 25th
10am- 12pm
UofG Arboretum
Victoria Woods

Ephemeral Walk
Join Nature Guelph Wildflower Society for a Spring Ephemeral Walk in Victoria Woods searching for these fascinating plants. We will take photos and log our finds on iNaturalist as part of Guelph's City Nature Challenge. **Drop-in.**

April 25th
12 - 3pm
Barber Scout
Camp

Fish & Aquatic Insect Bio-blitz
Join Nature Guelph and Freshwater Conservation Canada to explore the world of fish and aquatic insects in the river. Biologists will guide you in this family friendly event. No pets. **Drop-in**

April 27th
7am - 9am
Ignatius Jesuit
Centre

Bird Walk
Join Nature Guelph and Bird Wing in partnership with the Ignatius Jesuit Centre for an early morning bird walk. This walk will feature spring migrants; logging their presence and their habitat into iNaturalist. [Register here.](#)

Watch for upcoming
CNC hikes led by the
Guelph Hiking Trail
Club

<https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca>



All events family friendly, no pets please
Drop-in means no registration is required.

How to Use iNaturalist

With Biologist, Dr. Shoshana Jacobs

Join the



Guelph

April 24-27, 2026



Join Shoshana Jacobs from Royal City Science on **April 16th (10am or 7pm)** and dive into the world of iNaturalist, a powerful citizen science platform that can help identify various plants, bugs, birds, and other living things.

Brought to you by:



Scan or visit
Yorklandsgreenhub.ca
for more information



10am - Register here



7pm - Register here



CNC Challenge: iNaturalist: Virtual & In-Person Training

Join Yorklands Green Hub, the Arboretum, Nature Guelph, and other local organizations in **a worldwide effort to better understand and conserve nature.**

Yorklands, in collaboration with Royal City Science, is offering two virtual training sessions on April 16, led by biologist Shoshanah Jacobs. You'll learn how to use the iNaturalist app to record observations of wild birds, insects, mammals, plants, trees, amphibians, and more.

Your observations will contribute to a global dataset, helping us better understand and protect nature worldwide. **Participants can register for either the morning or evening training session.**

Morning Training Details

 Date/Time: Thursday, April 16, 10am

 Location: Virtual, via Zoom

 Registration: <https://cncmorningtraining.eventbrite.ca>

Evening Training Details

 Date/Time: Thursday, April 16, 7pm

 Location: Virtual, via Zoom

 Registration: <https://cnceveningtraining.eventbrite.ca>


Registered participants will receive a Zoom link closer to the event date.

In-Person Training Options:


Two in-person training sessions are also being offered by our local partners, rare Charitable Research Reserve and the Arboretum. Similar to the virtual training

sessions, you'll learn how to use the iNaturalist app to record observations of wild birds, insects, mammals, plants, trees, amphibians, and more.


Guelph Public Library, East End (with rare)

 Date/Time: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

 Location: 1 Starwood Drive, Guelph ON, N1E 0H5

 Registration: [City Nature Challenge: How to Use iNaturalist with rare Charitable Research Reserve](#)

Guelph Public Library, Main Branch (with Arboretum)

 Date/Time: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

 Location: 100 Norfolk St, Guelph ON, N1H 4J6



 Registration: [City Nature Challenge: How to Use iNaturalist with The University of Guelph Arboretum](#)

Don't miss this chance to be part of a global challenge!



**Hike 1: Speed River Trail to Niska Road
April 24, 2026, 9:00am - 11:00am**

**Hike 2: 'Early Birds' Speed River Hike
April 26, 2026, 8am -10am**

  City Nature Challenge: Guelph Hiking Trail Club Hikes

Want to put your iNaturalist skills to the test?

As part of The City Nature Challenge, The Guelph Hiking Trail Club is offering two hikes — a perfect companion to your training sessions.

Before the hikes, participants are encouraged to download the iNaturalist app on their smartphones. As you venture through Guelph's green spaces, take pictures and audio recordings, and upload them to iNaturalist. These recordings will ultimately contribute to global conservation and biodiversity efforts.


Ready to get started? Hike details and registration links are below. [!\[\]\(90164f74041f71b612f1c8605a7ede54_img.jpg\)](#)


Hike 1: Guelph City Nature Challenge: Speed River Trail to Niska Road

Hike Description

Join Wally on a leisurely hike along the Speed River Trail section to Niska Road. This hike is part of the 'Guelph City Nature Challenge', where participants will take pictures of wild plants and wildlife and upload them to iNaturalist. The City Nature Challenge is "an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their own cities." Depending on pace, the hike will work its way towards Niska Road, turning around at the 10am mark to make it back for 11am.

Hike 1 Event Details

 Date/Time: April 24, 2026, 9:00am - 11:00am

 Meeting Location: Park and meet at the gates of the former Guelph Humane Society (first driveway west of Hanlon Parkway).

📅 Registration: <https://guelphhiking.com/event-6532233?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=4/8/2026>

Hike 2: Guelph City Nature Challenge: ‘Early Birds’ Speed River Hike

Hike Description

Join Jane and Sam on a leisurely ‘Early Birds’ hike along the Speed River. We will have a special guest, Heather, joining to help spot and snap birds along the river. This birdwatching hike is part of the ‘Guelph City Nature Challenge’, where participants will take pictures of wild plants and wildlife and upload them to iNaturalist. The City Nature Challenge is “an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their own cities”.

Hike 2 Event Details

📅 Date/Time: April 26, 2026, 8:00am - 10:00am

📍 Meeting Location: Park in the gravel lot next to the Covered Bridge on Gordon Street, Downtown Guelph.

📅 Registration: <https://guelphhiking.com/event-6647677?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=4/8/2026>

ANNUAL YORKLANDS GENERAL MEETING


SAVE THE DATE

14

MAY
2026



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
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 Yorklands Green Hub's Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Save the date for the Yorklands AGM on Thursday, May 14,- 7pm at the Royal Canadian Legion on Watson. Make sure to check our next e-blast for more event details and updates.



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YORKLANDS

Help steward the
Yorklands for future
generations. Join our
Board of Directors.

Collaborate. Conserve. Contribute.

yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
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Board Member Positions!

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to **join our board**.


As a board member, you will:

- Attend monthly meetings, review meeting materials and contribute strategic decisions for YGH.
- Join one of our committees, assist with organization fundraising and act as a Yorklands ambassador.

Who we're looking for:

- Community-minded individuals who enjoy working with others.
- Individuals committed to working towards protecting the site and/or general environmental issues.
- Marketing, fundraising, and/or finance experience.

How to get involved:

 If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

 **Apply here:** <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.

HELP PROTECT YORKLANDS

Keep this green space open for everyone

Donate Today

SCAN HERE



  Small Change Fund Partnership

We have joined forces with Small Change Fund on a fundraising campaign called [Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging](#).

We need to keep the momentum on advocating for the protection of this beautiful gem in our city and for building a generation of caring stewards.

A place where nature, learning, and community thrive for everyone.

Funds drive our efforts to keep the Ontario Reformatory lands protected as public greenspace. Your donations will also support year-round community programming focused on stewardship activities for both young and old. If you donate to our joint project, you will receive a tax receipt through the charitable organization, Small Change Fund.

Join us in bringing this vision to life — watch the video and visit our website to learn more!

 Website: [Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging](#)

 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=o3CoEPyiREw>

For further information, please contact us at: info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Don't leaf us behind!



Become a member today!

Join our community of members dedicated to preserving the Yorklands site and cultivating a greener, more sustainable future for all. **Don't leaf this opportunity behind! Scan the QR code to join!**



Scan & Learn More!



Members are the heart of Yorklands. **Their contributions fuel initiatives aimed at creating a more environmentally conscious community.** These initiatives protect

the historic Yorklands site, connect people to nature, uphold Indigenous collaboration, and champion environmental education.

We offer both monthly and annual memberships with several tiers of support. Members can select the tier that best fits their interests and capacity. As a token of appreciation, every membership tier comes with exclusive rewards.

Don't leaf this opportunity behind! Become a member and be part of YGH's vision for a greener future!

Email Kim Wakeford at yghmembershipsecretary@yorklandsgreenhub.ca, scan the QR code above, or click “become a member” below.

A special thank you to our sponsors at the Guelph Museums and The Neighbourhood Group for supporting our membership programs!



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