



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update: 23 April 2026

Yorklands is excited to begin the City Nature Challenge, premiering tomorrow! Scroll down and learn more about the challenge. Be sure to check out the other YGH events planned for the coming weeks.

City Nature Challenge – April 24–27

Join the global event and help document local biodiversity across Guelph. Check out the itinerary as well as the two hikes planned for the challenge.

YGH's Annual General Meeting (AGM) – May 14

Stay up-to-date with all things Yorklands by grabbing a ticket for our AGM.

Volunteer Coordinator Position

Want to join Yorklands and help build a greener community for Guelph? Learn more about our open volunteer position 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





  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, you'll find a graphic containing Guelph's CNC itinerary. Also, there is a separate graphic and text, displaying the two hikes planned 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.



**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, make sure to take pictures and audio recordings and then 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. [!\[\]\(9dfdaff1d86ba3c1f8353b4d1b61b8c5_img.jpg\)](#)


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>

Join the

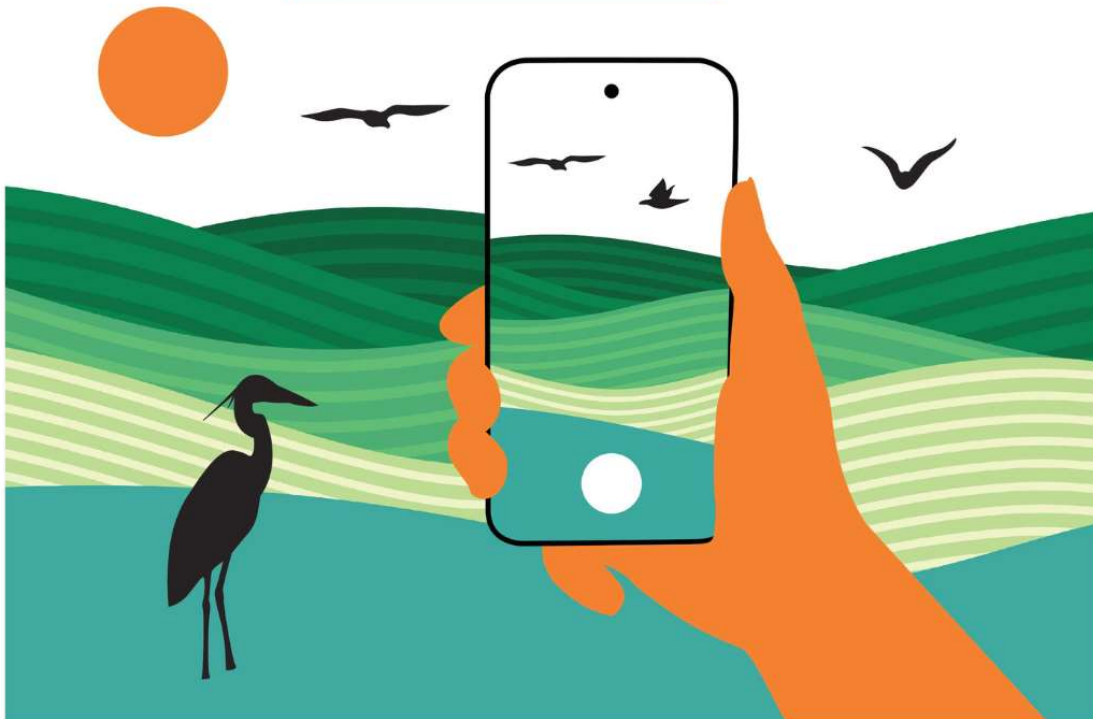



City Nature Challenge Guelph

April 24-27, 2026

Explore Guelph
and capture
images of wildlife

Share your
findings by
uploading your
discoveries to
iNaturalist



 How to Use the iNaturalist App

To help you prepare for the challenge, we have included a step-by-step guide on how to download and get started with iNaturalist. All you need to do is observe wildlife or nature, capture it with a photo or sound recording, and share your observations on the app. We also have a link to a video tutorial, listed below.

 iNaturalist Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xENZ1xRu0wI>

Step-By-Step Guide

1. Before you come to any events or go out exploring on your own, if you don't have iNaturalist on your phone already, go to the "App Store" on your mobile device.
2. Search iNaturalist (not iNaturalist Classic).
3. Click "Open" and then click "install."
4. Create an account, they will ask for an email and password.
5. Look for the + sign at the bottom of your screen. (If there is no plus sign, go to settings and click on "Advanced Mode" and click on "All observations...")
6. A plus sign should appear at the bottom of the screen.
7. When you are out looking for organisms, click on the plus sign and choose one of the options.
8. Take a photo of a "wild" organism or a recording. When taking a photo you may want to take a few shots of the same organism to get different angles.
9. Record your coordinates (location)
10. Indicate where you saw the organism (in Guelph) If you turn your location on your phone this will be automatic. iNaturalist may ask you if you want to turn on your location while you are using the app.
11. Choose a group of organisms (ie. flower, butterfly, beetle, bird, etc.)

12. Record the date you saw it (not when you uploaded the photo).

13. If you're unsure of the species, the community of iNaturalist users will help identify it. We want to have good quality (research grade) observations.

Please make sure not to take any photos of your gardens, pets, or people.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us as we reflect, reconnect and look ahead.



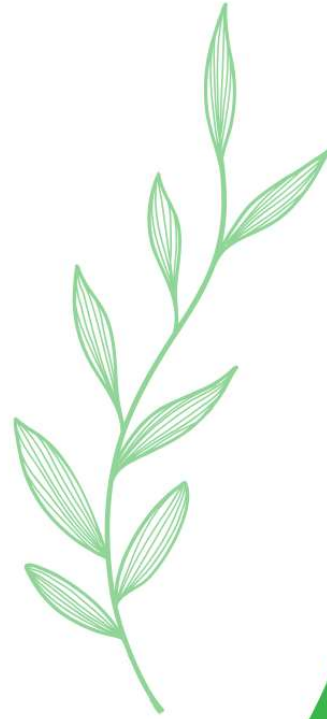
Date:
Thursday, May 14, 2026



Time:
7:00PM - 9:00PM



Location:
57 Watson Pkwy S, Guelph, ON N1L 0H8



Who wants to stay up-to-date with all things Yorklands?


Join us on May 14 for our AGM!


We'll be sharing updates on YGH initiatives, financial highlights, and results from the CNC, and more!

We also have a special guest speaker coming, Gina Lammel from [Seniors for Climate Action Now](#) (SCAN). She will share with us what SCAN is up to and how it connects to what we are doing.

Registration is free on Eventbrite.

Event Details

 Date/Time: May 14, 2026, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

 Meeting Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 234, 57 Watson Pkwy S, Guelph, ON N1L 0H8.

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

Presenter Bio

Gina Lammel is a lifelong resident of Guelph, a mother of three, and a retired educator. She spent her career working with adults and young people, encouraging and supporting them through education. She now dedicates much of her time to working with Seniors for Climate Action Now, a pan-Canadian group of older adults who educate and advocate for the health of the planet.



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YORKLANDS

Help steward the
Yorklands for future
generations. Become a
Volunteer Coordinator.

Collaborate. Conserve. Contribute.

yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer



 Volunteer Coordinator Position!

We are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to take on the Volunteer Coordinator role.


As Volunteer Coordinator you will:

- Conduct outreach to recruit new volunteers.
- Screen and interview potential volunteers.
- Schedule volunteers for programs and events.
- Assist in planning appreciation strategies to foster retention and satisfaction.
- Gather feedback on occasion.

Who we're looking for:

- Community-minded individuals who enjoy working with others with diverse backgrounds.
- Access to and comfort with computer use and learning new computer tasks.
- Training provided.

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

A FILM BY ALEXANDER KORNELSEN

Mission to Marsh

– Discovering the unsung heroes of our planet –

Sunday April 26th, 7 pm, Doors open: 6:30

The Bookshelf, 41 Quebec St. Guelph

\$10 or pay what you're able

76 min film followed by panel discussion



FÖRDERUNG: PATAGONIA ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT ANDREA VON BRAUN STIFTUNG GROW DIGITAL GROUP
SPOTLEIT GMBH TEAM: ALEXANDER & ANN CHRISTIN KORNELSEN ELSA LOWDIN MICHAEL HORNSBY
EMMA STRAUSS ILLUSTRATION SOPHIE HOLLMANN

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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