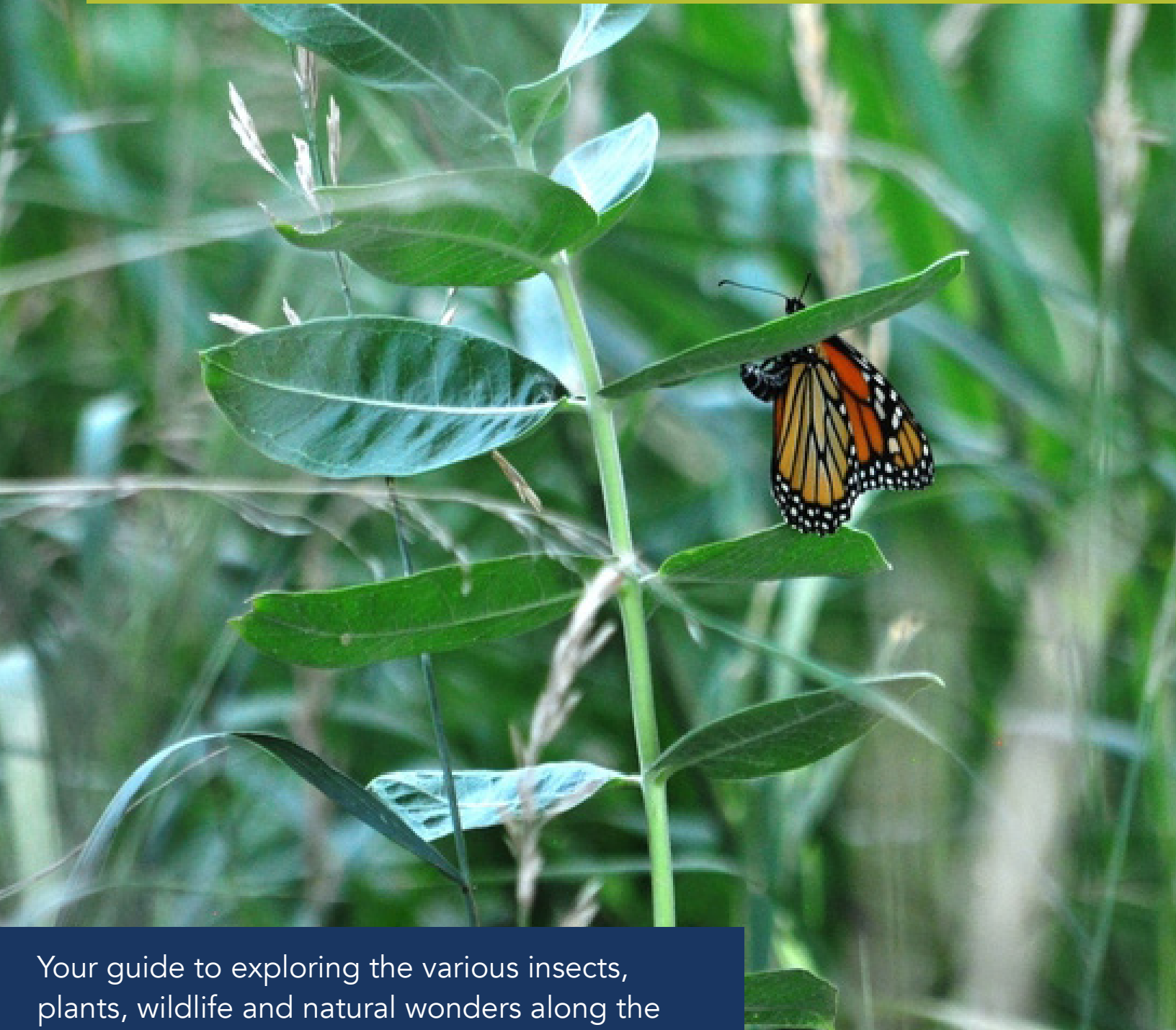


THE HIGH LINE CANAL

Guide to Bioblitz



Your guide to exploring the various insects, plants, wildlife and natural wonders along the 71-mile-long High Line Canal.



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

About this Guide

The High Line Canal is a 71-mile ecological corridor filled with diverse plants and wildlife. This guide is designed to help you bioblitz the High Line Canal, become a community scientist and contribute to science using the iNaturalist app. You will learn how to document your observations and contribute to the Canal's biodiversity science. The data collected through a bioblitz can help make informed decisions about the Canal's ecology. Become a community scientist today!

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The Canal

The High Line Canal (Canal) is a landmark of our agricultural heritage, a 71-mile-long irrigation Canal. Now nearly 150 years old, the Canal's 71-miles meander through the physical and social mosaic of the region. Its cottonwood banks weave through residential neighborhoods, public parks, golf courses, cemeteries, commercial and industrial lands, and over and under urban thruways, all while offering those who travel a slice of nature in the city. The Canal not only connects various communities and people to nature but serves as an important ecological corridor. It is home to a vast array of species of flora and fauna ranging from beautiful and iconic cottonwood trees to playful foxes. Experiencing the High Line Canal means connecting with nature and communities



Photo credit: Evan Anderman

The Conservancy

The High Line Canal Conservancy is a nonprofit representing the passionate community dedicated to preserving the High Line Canal. The Conservancy provides leadership that reflects the public's commitment to the Canal's sustainable future. Working collaboratively with its partners, including Denver Water, the 11 jurisdictions along the Canal's reach, Mile High Flood District and Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, the Conservancy's efforts will lead to a natural, more connected corridor with improved access, amenities and safety for trail users.

Mission: Preserve, protect and enhance the 71-mile legacy Canal in partnership with the public.

What is a Bioblitz?

"A Bioblitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time." – National Geographic. A Bioblitz is an opportunity to get a better understanding of the area's biodiversity. Bioblitzes are a great way for community members to connect to nature all while generating data for science and conservation.

What is Community Science?

"Community Science is the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge. Through community science, individuals are able to share and contribute to data monitoring and collection programs."

– National Geographic.



What is Biodiversity?

Definition:

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species (plant, animals, bacteria and fungi) on Earth or within a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Significance:

Knowing more about the Canal's biodiversity allows for a better understanding of the ecology and environmental health of the corridor. Typically, greater species diversity is associated with greater resilience to environmental change.

Canal biodiversity:

The Canal crosses three ecoregions: Foothill Shrublands, Front Range Fans and Flat to Rolling Plains. The Conservancy in partnership with the public and organizations like Denver Audubon and Denver Botanic Gardens, have been able to document the plants and wildlife that live along the corridor. The Canal is home to 24,000 mature trees, 199 bird species, 28 mammal species, 16 reptile species, 450 plant species and countless insects!



iNaturalist Overview

iNaturalist is an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to learn about nature. Through iNaturalist, individuals are able to make observations and identify the plants and animals in the environment while contributing research data. iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Science and the National Geographic Society.

The Conservancy uses iNaturalist to record observations and identifications made along the Canal by community scientists to get a better understanding of the ecology of the corridor. Be sure to follow the High Line Canal Plants and Wildlife project on iNaturalist when making observations on the Canal.



Making an Observation

How It Works

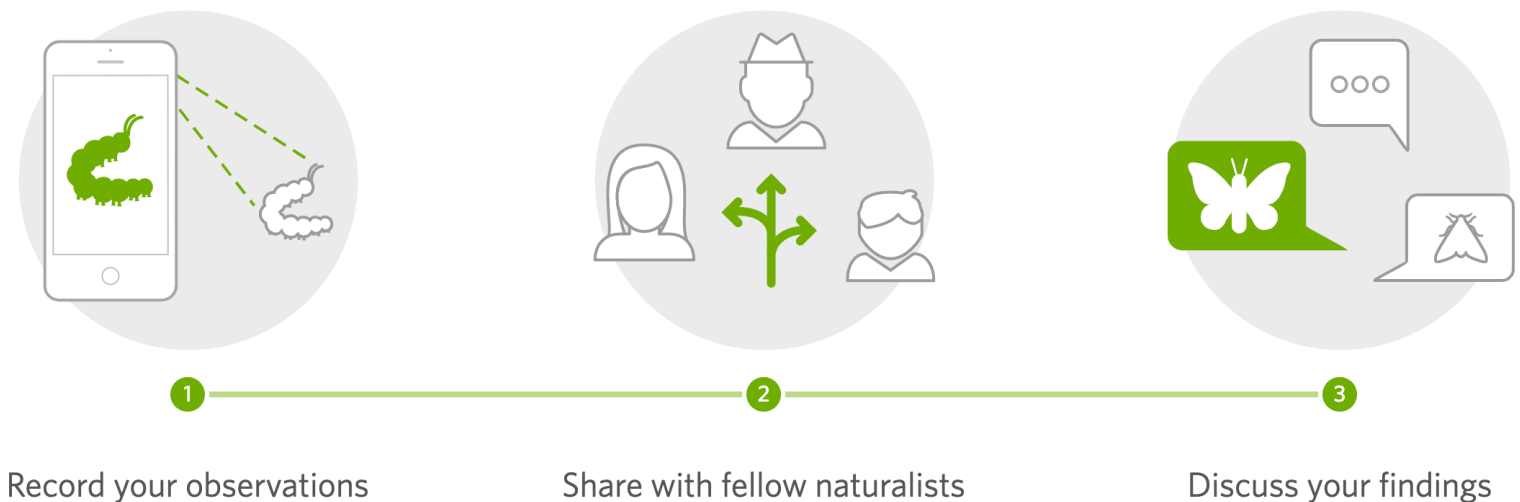
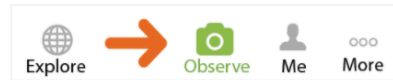


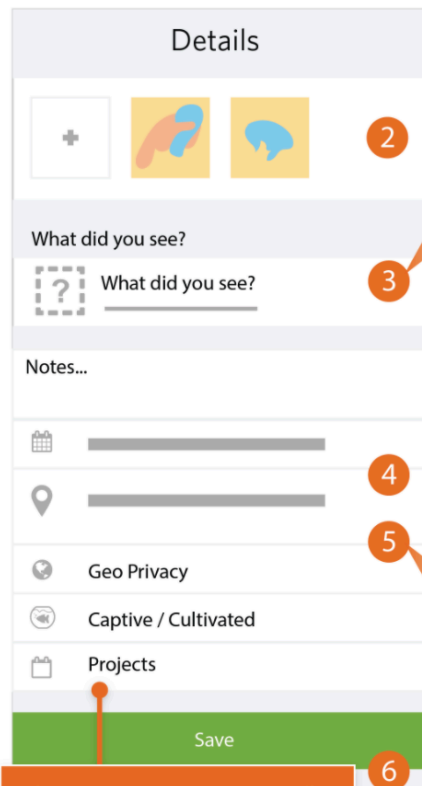
Image credit: iNaturalist

Making an Observation - iPhone

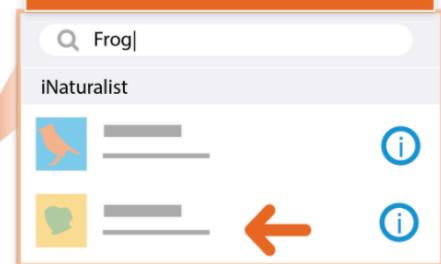
- 1 Tap **observe**.



- 2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**.



Choose one of the computer vision suggestions, search for something else, or type in a 'Placeholder' if offline



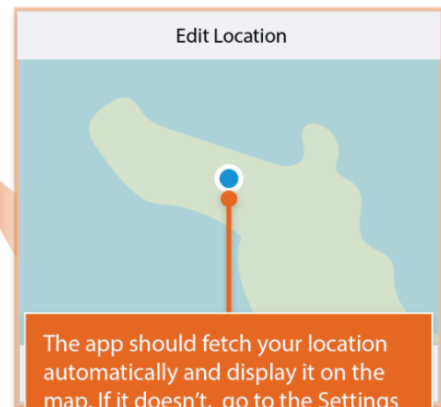
- 3 Choose **what** you saw.

- 4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically.

- 5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If it doesn't, check Privacy in the Settings app.

- 6 **Save** your observation.

Observations are automatically counted by collection projects and can't be added manually



The app should fetch your location automatically and display it on the map. If it doesn't, go to the Settings app and tap Privacy to enable Location Services for iNaturalist

- 7 **Upload** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the Upload button. You can turn off automatic upload from the app settings from the Me tab.



- 8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



Image credit: iNaturalist

Making an Observation - Android

- 1 Tap the **observe** button from the My Observations tab.



- 2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**.

- 3 Choose **what** you saw.

- 4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically.

- 5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If this doesn't happen, check app permissions in the Settings app.

- 6 **Save** your observation.

Choose one of the computer vision suggestions, search for something else, or type in 'Placeholder' if offline

Observations are automatically counted by collection projects and can't be added manually

The app should fetch and display your location automatically. If it doesn't, tap through to get your location manually.

- 7 **Sync** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the button. You can turn off auto upload from the Settings tab.



- 8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



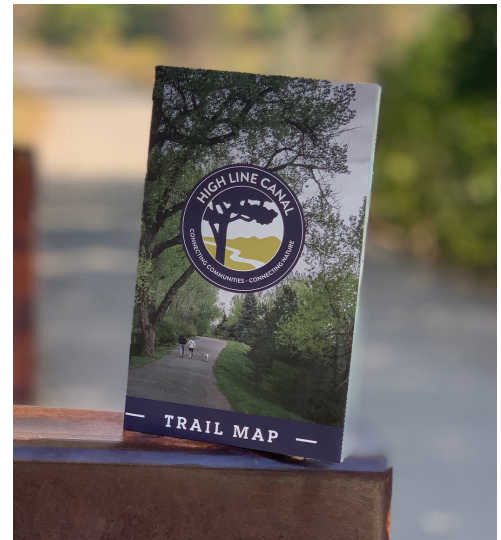
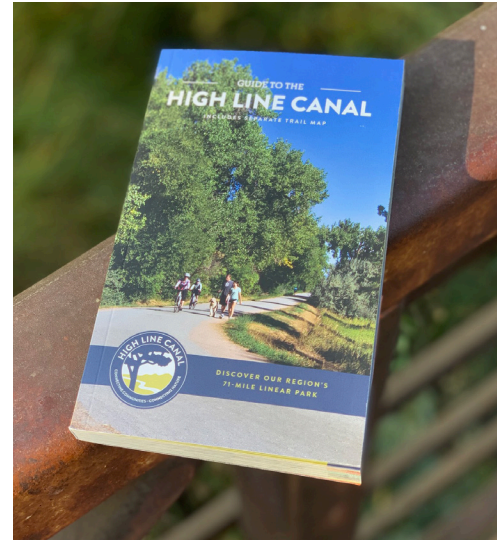
Image credit: iNaturalist

High Line Canal Map & Guide

DISCOVER OUR REGION'S 71-MILE LINEAR PARK

The Guide to the High Line Canal, published by the High Line Canal Conservancy, is an indispensable tool for discovering the wonders of the historic trail. It breaks down the 71-mile linear park into 27 walkable, bike- and equestrian-friendly trail segments, beckoning adventures along every curve. The guide and map include navigational tips and highlights of the Canal's history and natural wonders, highlighting access points, landmarks and connecting trails.

To purchase, visit highlinecanal.org/guide.



Preparing for the Outdoors

- Be sure to bring any necessary items when heading for the outdoors such as sunscreen, water, snacks, appropriate attire, etc.
- There are various Canal projects and enhancements happening along the corridor to improve the trail as a place for people and protect the natural habitat for vegetation and wildlife. Check for trail updates at highlinecanal.org/trail-updates.
- Please remember that dogs must be on a leash on the Canal at all times and dogs are not allowed at Waterton Canyon.
- Be weather wise and keep an eye on current and predicted weather conditions. Weather can change very quickly!

Ethics of Nature Observation

1. Wildlife should be viewed/photographed from a safe and respectful distance.
2. Avoid getting close to nests or dens – your presence can disturb breeding and alert predators to nest/den locations.
3. Never publicly post locations of nests/dens.
4. Stay on trails and roads, tread lightly, and leave plants and animals where you find them.
5. Use recorded animal calls to attract animals while viewing or photographing wildlife **responsibly** – only play once and avoid using animal calls during nesting season (April-August)
6. Never “bump” a bird for photography.
7. If an animal shows any sign of stress, move away.
8. Respect all wildlife and plant life.
9. Keep pets on leash at all times.

Jurisdictional Contacts

1. Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space: 303.739.7160
2. Cherry Hills Village Parks and Recreation: 303-783-2744
3. Denver Parks and Recreation: 720 913-1311
4. Douglas County Parks and Recreation: 720-733-6990
5. Greenwood Village Parks and Recreation: 303-486-5773
6. Highlands Ranch Metro District Parks and Recreation 303-791-0430
7. South Suburban Park and Recreation District (Littleton and Centennial) 303.798.5131



Share Your Observations on Social Media

When exploring and bioblitzing the High Line Canal, be sure to share your observations and findings on social media and tag the Conservancy.

By sharing your experience online, you're helping to amplify the many reasons why it is important to preserve, protect and enhance the 71-mile High Line Canal. Below is a social media post you can feel free to copy or make your own!

"The High Line Canal trail in our backyards is home to 450 plant species, 28 mammals and 16 reptiles! This morning, I identified XX plant species along the trail myself during a bioblitz on the Canal. Visit highlinecanal.org for more info about the Canal."



Social Media Handles

Instagram: @HighLineCanal

Facebook: @HighLineCanalConservancy

Twitter: @COHighLineCanal

Hashtags

#CanalBioblitz, #HighLineCanal, #71Miles, #BeAHighLineHero, #preserve, #protect, #enhance



Volunteer

Help elevate the level of care and improve the ecological health of the corridor by becoming a volunteer of the Canal. The Conservancy leads various stewardship projects such as bioblitzes, cleanups, brush and weed removals. If you are interested in volunteering, please email volunteer@highlinecanal.org to learn more.

Donate

With your financial support, the Conservancy will continue to leverage government resources and do more for the Canal than any one group could do on its own. Your support is essential to the Conservancy's success in preserving, protecting and enhancing the Canal for generations to come! Visit highlinecanal.org/donate.



Connect

Whether you'd like to know more about the Conservancy, the Canal, planning and implementation, how you can get involved or would just like to be informed on the latest happenings along the Canal, sign up for our monthly newsletter at highlinecanal.org/signup.

For more information, visit highlinecanal.org