

City Nature Challenge 2020 Summary and Results

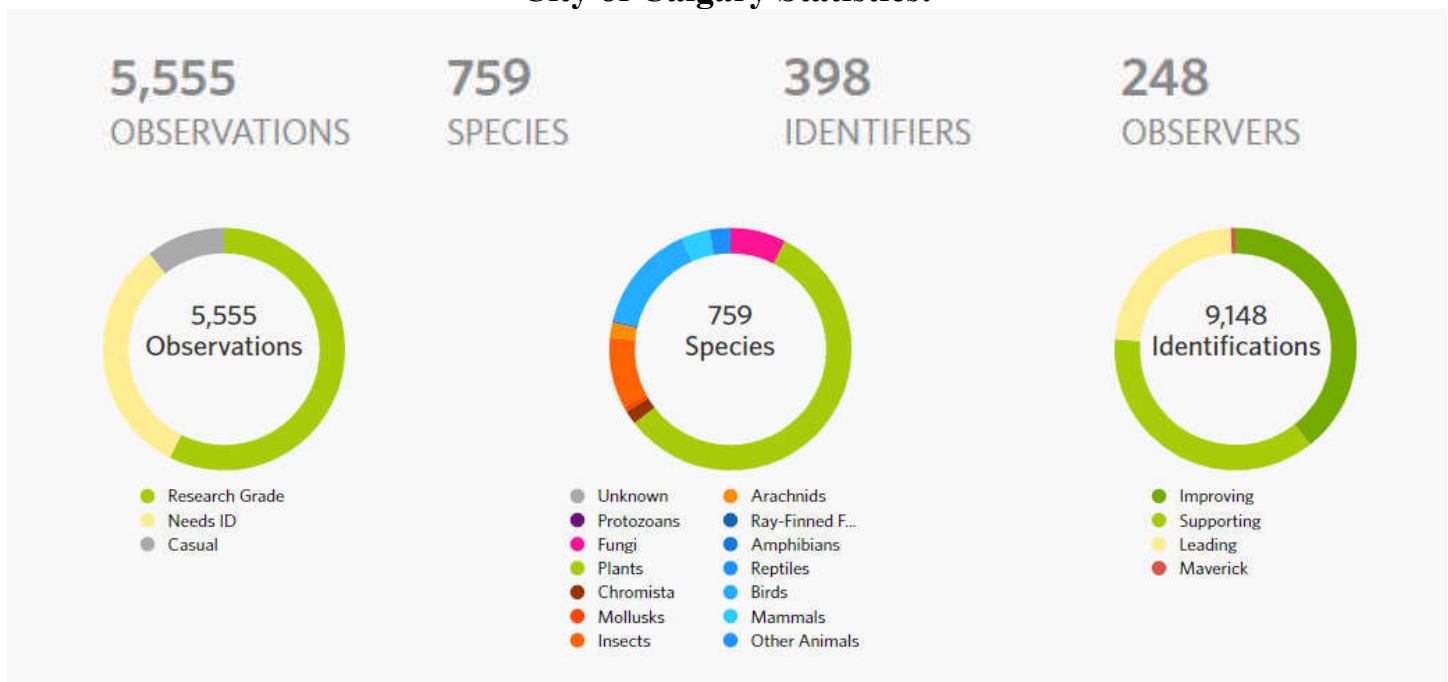
City Nature Challenge 2020 (April 24-27) was the second year Calgary participated in the global citizen science event with the aim of documenting all the biodiversity that lives in our urban communities. This was the second year Weaselhead Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS) helped in promoting citizens to learn about and create an incredible inventory of their local urban flora and fauna.

In 2019, efforts were centralized on nature tours and science events throughout Calgary's Park network. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic a decentralized format was promoted so citizens could maintain health guidelines while engaging with local nature. WGPPS encouraged citizens to safely explore their homes, backyards, communities, and nearby parks independent of events and on-site experts and gain a new appreciation of nature in the city.

City Nature Challenge Calgary participants outperformed all 2019 results and was the top performing Canadian City. As citizen scientists, participants contributed important information about the distribution and phenology of urban flora and fauna in Calgary. The iNaturalist platform provides statistics about what and where flora and fauna was observed which can help stewardship groups and stakeholders learn and make informed decisions about managing natural areas.

Below is a summary of the Calgary Region results, followed by a summary of what was found inside the boundaries of the Weaselhead Park:

City of Calgary Statistics:



Research Grade: number of observations admitted to NatureServe Canada and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) facilities at current data.

Weaselhead and Glenmore Park Stats

- 376 Observations,
- 164 Species,
- 98 Identifiers,
- 34 Observers

City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary Region Observation Map

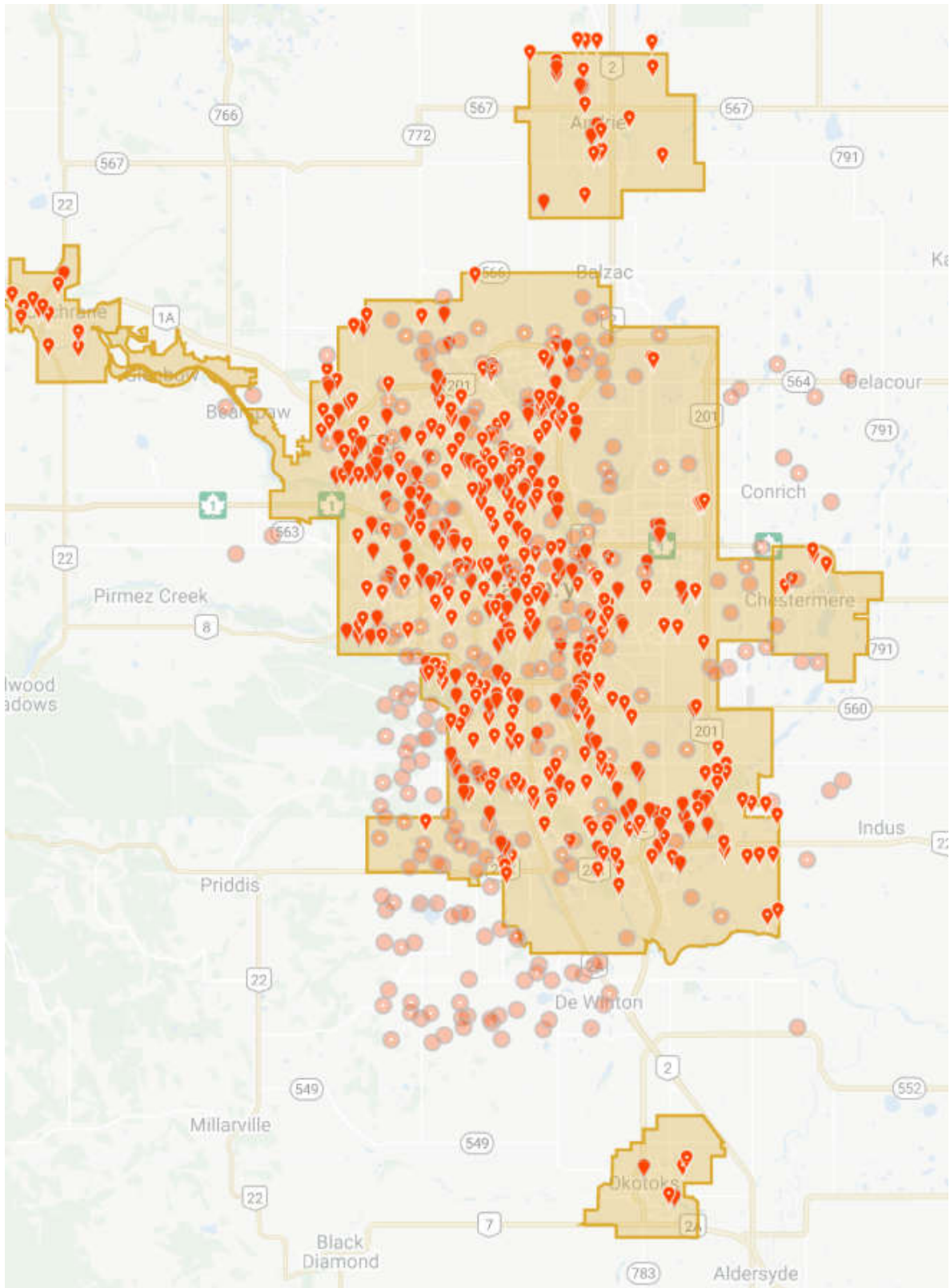


Figure 1 Distribution of iNaturalist observations made April 24-27 during the City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary Region event. Red indicates hotspots of observations (>1 observation per pin). A total of 5555 were made during the event.

Weaselhead/ Glenmore Park Observations Map

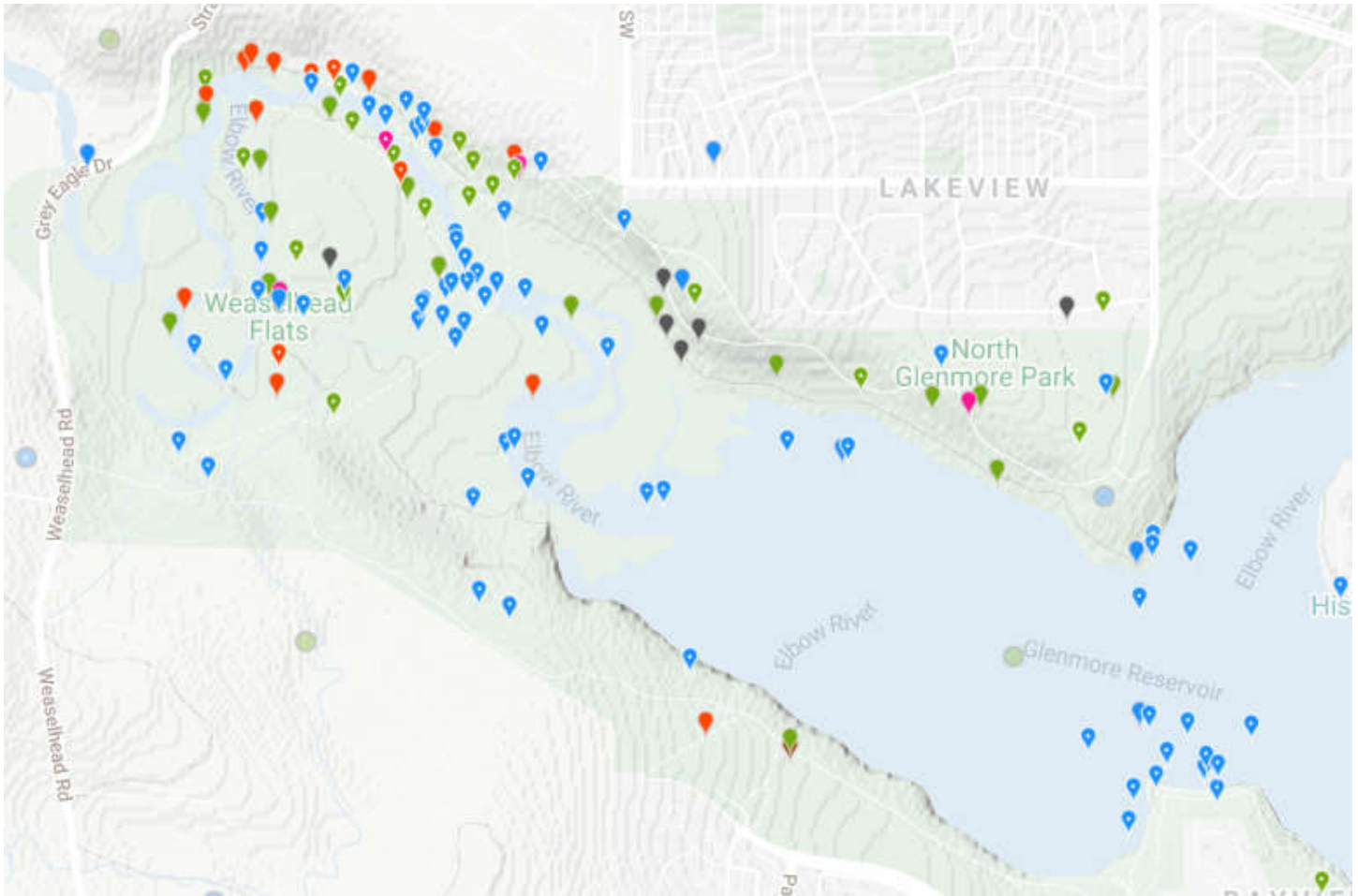






Figure 2 Distribution of iNaturalist observations made April 24-27 during the City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary Region event in the Weaselhead and Glenmore Park area.. Pins indicate hotspots of observations (>1 observation per pin) and colours indicate various taxonomic groups (see Map Legend). A total of 376 observations were made by 34 observers comprising 164 species found during the event.

map legend

QUALITY GRADE:

-  Research Grade
-  needs ID, casual

GEOPRIVACY:

-  open
-  Obscured

TAXONOMIC GROUPS:

-  Amphibians, Birds, Ray-Finned Fishes, Mammals, Reptiles, Other Animals
-  Mollusks, Arachnids, Insects
-  Plants
-  Fungi
-  Chromista
-  Protozoans
-  Unknown

City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary Region Outcomes

- Initial analysis of the [Calgary citywide stats](#) show that Calgarians consider natural areas like the Weaselhead park to be hotspots of biodiversity (evident by higher density of observations made within park boundaries).
- The 2020 stats indicate that over 55% of observations made were plants with the second highest class being birds (12%). Compared to the 2019 results, the distribution of observations was spread throughout Calgary, illustrating that COVID-19 guidelines influenced how people engaged in urban nature.
- The highest density of observations was made in natural areas (>50%), followed by urban parks (~20%) and urban communities (~10%) environments.
- There is a lack of data to determine the number of actual people that may have participated. Social media photos and received emails suggest families and groups submitted observations under a single iNaturalist account. Anecdotal information suggests that over 300 individuals were involved including youth and seniors during the City Nature Challenge.
- Highlights of the City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary include [a backyard bobcat and prey](#) (featured on the global CNC infographic), [a downtown raccoon](#) (rare in YYC), [a bizarre oil beetle in Weaselhead park](#), [storm water protozoans](#), [an urban moose in Fish Creek](#), and a [plethora of birds \(111 species\)](#). [Prairie Pasqueflower \(*Pulsatilla nuttalliana*\)](#), often referred to as Prairie Crocus, was the most observed plant species and collected data offers insight into its confined urban range.
- Visit the [Global City Nature Challenge 2020 iNaturalist project](#) to see how cities around the world compared!
- Visit the [City Nature Challenge 2020 Canada iNaturalist project page](#) to see how other Canadian cities stacked up!

For more information please visit:

www.citynatureyyc.ca

www.citynaturechallenge.org

We cannot say thank you enough to local stewardship groups that protect our urban nature and helped support CNC YYC with promotion and a commitment to participate under the adversity of COVID-19. We are grateful to TD Parks People for the Grant used to help promote and support this important cause. We look forward to working alongside everyone in the future and will continue to promote education and a healthy relationship with local nature in Calgary.