



No Mow May

Web Training Document

Improve pollinator health by postponing the spring clean-up in your yard and not mowing your lawn until June! Midwest Grows Green (MGG) and local residents help pollinators thrive in spring by coordinating No Mow May (NMM) Milwaukee. Want to take it a step further? Plant native, pollinator-friendly plants to create a diverse and healthy habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Get involved in NMM and grow a deeper connection with your own yard and learn about the insects and other wildlife that call our greenspaces "home." Snap photos within your property boundaries to record observations of the wildlife you find in your yard and learn about the individual roles they play in the ecosystem -- and how your NMM efforts contribute to pollinator success!

We can all explore, monitor, and learn more about the various species using our own yards or greenspaces in order to grow a deeper connection to the project by using the website iNaturalist.

WHAT is iNaturalist?

"iNaturalist is an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature." Learn more at <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/about>.

WHO can participate?

-  Anyone who has a yard or greenspace within their property boundary or a property boundary participating in No Mow May.
-  No previous experience necessary! You can be brand new to observing wildlife or a seasoned veteran – no limits here.

WHEN do I participate?

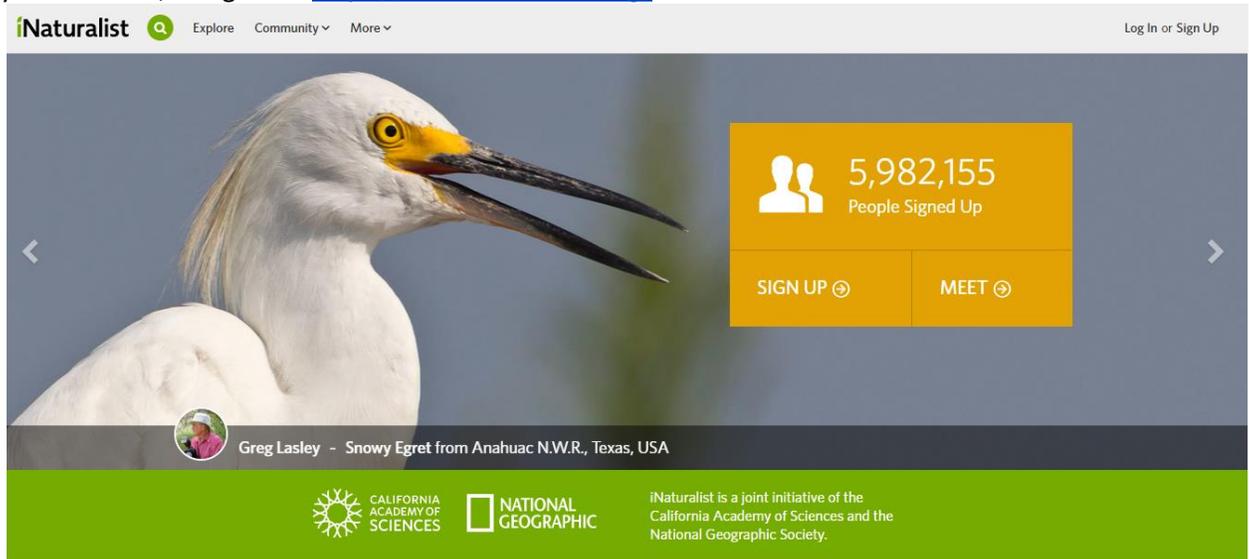
-  During the month of May (and beyond)

HOW do I participate?

-  What do I need?
 -  Camera & a computer (access to the internet and able to upload photos)
-  Create an account on iNaturalist and join the "No Mow May - Milwaukee" project! Snap photos and submit observations! You can see which species you and others participating in the project are posting to learn more about the wildlife in your area. Follow the guide below to get started!

Step-by-Step Guide to using iNaturalist on the Web

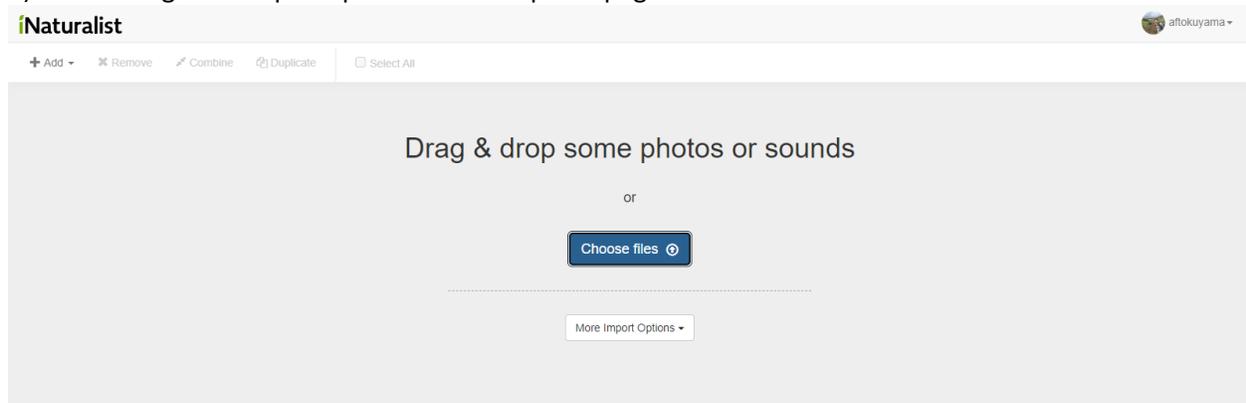
- 1) On your browser, navigate to <https://www.inaturalist.org/>



- 2) From there you will need to sign-up if you do not already have an account. Click the SIGN UP button and fill out your email, username, and password and you're good to go!
- 3) Once you login, you will be taken to your homepage, where you can see any recent observations from your friends, updates from projects you participate in, and if ID's were added to any of your observations.

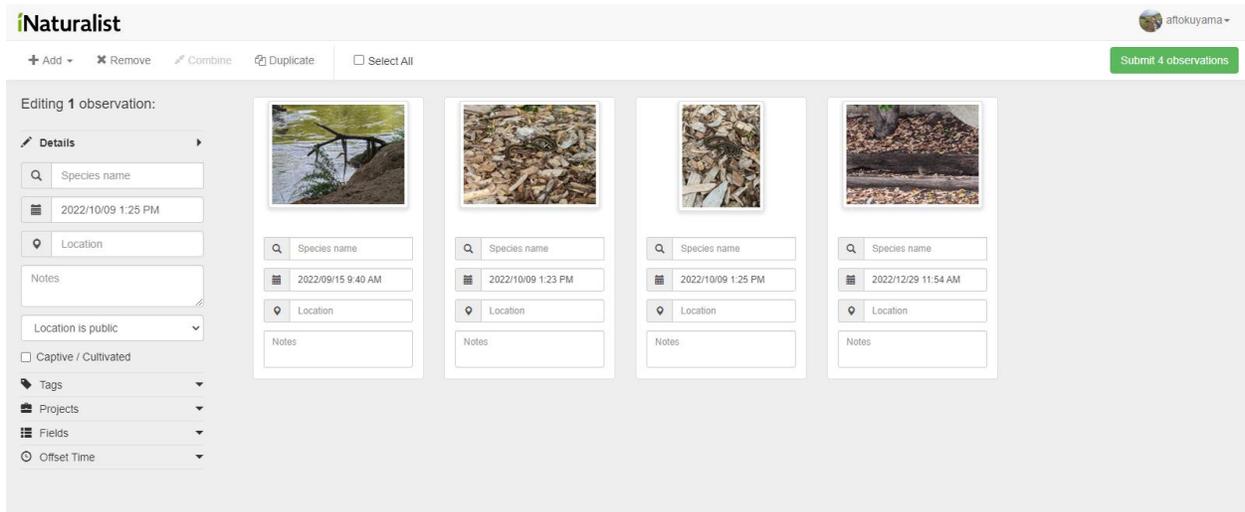
To Upload Observations

- 1) To upload observations on the web, first make sure all photos of the observations you want to add are accessible to your computer.
- 2) Select "Upload" in the upper right hand corner of the website.
- 3) Then drag and drop the photos on the upload page or select "Choose Files."



- 4) Enter your observation data
 - 🐛 Species - if you know it, or a broad category it falls under (e.g. Butterflies, Bees, etc.)
 - 🐛 Date and Time you observed it - photo files are generally pretty good at remembering this for you but it's a good idea to check and make sure it's accurate

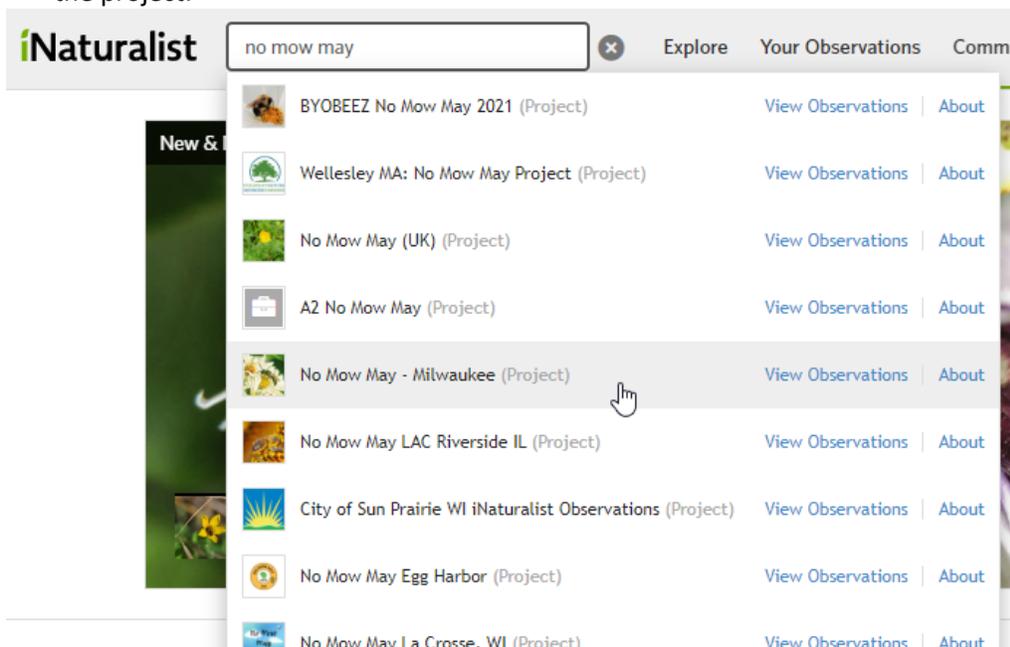
- 🐛 Location you saw it - you can search by place name, address, or geo-coordinates or zoom in on the map to where you saw it
- 🐛 Decide if you want your location to be public, obscured, or private - public means anyone can see the exact location you entered, obscured means the exact location will be generalized to a broad area you saw it within, and private means the location information you entered will not be shared at all



- 5) If you have multiple pictures for 1 observation just drag them on top of the main photo you would like to use.
- 6) Then click “Submit Observations” and your observations will be uploaded and are ready for others to help identify!
- 7) If you have joined the No Mow May Project then your observations will automatically be included, no need to manually add them.

To Join a Project (No Mow May)

- 1) To join a project you know the name of, like No Mow May - Milwaukee, use the search bar to search the project.

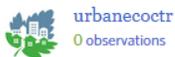


- 2) Select “No Mow May - Milwaukee (Project)” and it will bring you to the project home page.
- 3) There you can view information about the project, view observations and help identify species, and see any posts from the project managers.
- 4) In the top right corner of the project home page, you will see a “Join” button.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist project page for "No Mow May - Milwaukee". The header includes the iNaturalist logo, a search bar, and navigation links: Explore, Your Observations, Community, Identify, and More. There are also icons for Upload, notifications (0), and messages (0). The main content area features a large banner with the text "Not mowing this May will help to increase bee diversity" and "NO MOW MAY". Below the banner are logos for "Fund for Lake Michigan" and "MIDWEST GROWS GREEN". To the right, there is an "About" section with a "Join" button and a notification icon showing 2 notifications. Below the banner, there are three sections: "Status" showing a countdown timer (81 DAYS, 3 HOURS, 38 MIN, 22 SEC), "Project Requirements" with a list of criteria (Taxa: All taxa, Location: Milwaukee County, US, WI), and "Journal" with a note that there are no journal posts yet.

- 5) Once you click “Join” you will be brought to a page regarding the rules of this project and if you would like to trust this project with hidden coordinates. If you respond yes to this, project curators will be able to see the coordinates of your observations even if they are obscured or private. No other members of the project or iNaturalist will be able to see these coordinates.

Project Curators



Rules for Adding Observations

- must be observed in Milwaukee County, US, WI
- must have quality grades: research, needs ID
- must be observed after 05-01-2023
- must have photos

Other

- Receive updates from this project

Receive updates about this project on your dashboard and in the daily updates email.

Trust this project with hidden coordinates?

Granting access to your hidden coordinates will allow the managers of this project to see the true, unobscured location of your observations in this project. This is extremely important in situations where scientists or resource managers need access to exact coordinates for analysis and decision-making.

No

- Yes, for any of my observations

This includes observations where you have set the geoprivacy to "obscured" or "private," e.g. observations from your backyard or spots you don't want other people to know about.

- Yes, but only for my observations of threatened taxa, not when I've set the geoprivacy

Many projects just need access to coordinates that are obscured because the observation depicts a threatened taxon.

Please Be Careful!

Coordinate access is important for scientists, but can also be abused by poachers. Make sure you trust all the project curators before trusting this project.

[Yes, I want to join](#)

[Cancel](#)

What Might be Visiting my Yard?

Monarch Butterflies (*Below left*)

Monarch butterflies are a charismatic species that are celebrated for their annual migration from North America to Mexico where they spend the winter. Their life cycle consists of 4 stages: egg, larvae (caterpillar), pupae (chrysalis), and adult. Milkweed plants are the only plants monarchs will lay their eggs on, and the caterpillars rely on them as their food source. Adults will feed on other native nectaring plants throughout the spring, summer, and fall. You can see some if not all of the stages in your yard!

Learn more about identifying this species at Monarchjointventure.org

(Left) Monarch butterfly on Blazing Star. Adult monarchs will feed on various native plants.

(Photo credit: Urban Ecology Center)

(Right) Monarch caterpillar on Common Milkweed. Monarch caterpillars need milkweed to grow. *(Photo credit: Matt Flower)*



Bumblebees v. Honeybees (*Above right*)

Both bumblebees and honeybees are very important pollinators, and they can look similar to one another. Learn more about bees at <https://wisconsinbumblebees.entomology.wisc.edu/>

(Top) Bumblebee on New England Aster. Notice the bumblebee is large, round, and fuzzy. *(Photo credit: Matt Flower)*

(Bottom) Honeybee on Golden Alexander. Notice the honeybee is more slender with less hair. *(Photo credit: Urban Ecology Center)*

Notice the yellow pollen gathering on this bee's legs (*below*). Some bees, including honeybees and bumblebees, have sacs to collect pollen, also commonly referred to as "pollen pockets." Take a look for these on the bees you spot in your yard! (*Photo credit: Bruce Halmo*)



Birds

Birds are indicators of a healthy ecosystem and are important to humans in many ways. Most bird species rely on insects for food during at least a portion of their lives, so by creating an insect-friendly greenspace, you are helping to support these species. A bonus is that you'll be able to reap the benefits of supporting bird species by getting to watch them visit your yard.



(Indigo Bunting, photo credit: Chamong Xiong)

And so, SO much more!