



STL City Nature Challenge 2018

Guided & Self-Guided Experiences throughout the Greater St. Louis Region

Missouri counties: St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, Lincoln
Illinois counties: Calhoun, Madison, St. Clair

April 27-30 | Self-guided experiences offered throughout the 4-day challenge

City Nature Challenge: Biodiversity Hike

Where: Shaw Nature Reserve Visitor Center (307 Pinetum Loop Rd., Gray Summit, MO 63039)

When: 7 a.m. – half hour past sunset, April 27-30

Visitor Center hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekends

Stop by the Visitor Center at Shaw Nature Reserve to learn about the best places in the Reserve to document native plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife during the 4-day STL City Nature Challenge.

Biodiversity Survey at the Butterfly House in Faust Park

Where: Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House (15193 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63107)

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., April 27-30

During any of the four days of the STL City Nature Challenge, visit the Butterfly House where expert entomologists and educators will be on hand to provide quick-start tutorials on iNaturalist. You'll then be encouraged to put your newfound skills to the test by documenting plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife in the Butterfly House's outdoor native plant gardens and surrounding Faust Park.

Biodiversity & Birds at the Riverlands

Where: Audubon Center at Riverlands (301 Riverlands Way, West Alton, MO 63386)

When: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., April 27-30

Over the course of the 4-day STL City Nature Challenge, visit one of the region's biodiversity hotspots to document the migratory and resident birdlife that relies on this sanctuary's plentiful habitat in the heart of our region's great river confluence. Volunteers will be on hand with tips, expertise, and resources for bird ID.

Cuivre River Biodiversity Hikes

Where: Cuivre River State Park, Visitor Center (678 MO-147, Troy, MO 63379)

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., April 27-30

One of Missouri's largest and most rugged parks, Cuivre River is a touch of the Ozarks close to St. Louis. Its system of trails offers impressive bluff views, moss-covered rocky ravines, and peaceful woods. At the Visitor Center, you'll get tips on the best trails to document biodiversity during the 4-day Challenge weekend.



Friday, April 27 | Guided Experiences

STL City Nature Challenge at the Museum of Transportation

Where: National Museum of Transportation (2933 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122)

When: Friday, 10 a.m. – Noon

Join expert naturalists to explore and document the diversity of plants and animals found in the habitats surrounding the Museum of Transportation, one of the official host sites of the STL City Nature Challenge.

BioBlitz II – Signal Hill Outdoor Classroom

Where: Peterson’s Pond (Signal Park Lane, Belleville, IL 62223)

When: Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Calling all citizen scientists, master gardeners, master naturalists, biologists, ecologists, and nature enthusiasts! We need your help with our second annual bioblitz at the Signal Hill Outdoor Classroom in Belleville, IL, timed perfectly with the STL City Nature Challenge, part of a 4-day global event to document biodiversity. Help us catch and release bugs, discover toads, and document plants. We will also be testing the quality of the water in the middle of the wetlands. Bring boots, wear clothes that can get muddy, and come ready to explore!

Two Rivers Biodiversity Hikes

Where: Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (121 Main St., Brussels, IL 62013)

When: Friday and Monday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nestled in between the Illinois River and Mississippi River, this 9,225-acre wildlife refuge is home to wetlands, open water, bottomland forests, and prairies. Four designated hiking trails are ideal places from which to document the refuge’s diversity of life. The refuge is closed on weekends, but open on the Friday and the Monday of the 4-day Challenge.

Saturday, April 28 | Guided Experiences

STL City Nature Challenge at the Museum of Transportation

Where: National Museum of Transportation (2933 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122)

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon

Join expert naturalists to explore and document the diversity of plants and animals found in the habitats surrounding the Museum of Transportation, one of the official host sites of the STL City Nature Challenge.

STL City Nature Challenge: Calling all Neighborhood Naturalists!

Where: Watershed Nature Center (1591 Tower Ave., Edwardsville, IL 62025)

In addition to self-guided biodiversity walks (resources and iNaturalist information available from Noon-4 p.m. at the Welcome Center), the Watershed Nature Center will be offering guided experiences all day long to encourage all visitors to document the life thriving in the Center’s wetlands, woodland, and prairie habitats.

Guided Bird Walk

When: Saturday, 7-9 a.m.

Discovery Day: Spring Plants & Animals

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon

Wildflower Walk

When: Saturday, 2-4 p.m.

Evening Frog Walk

When: Saturday, 7-9 p.m.

Citizen Science Adventures

Where: Olin Nature Preserve (2213 South Levis Lane, Godfrey, IL)

The Nature Institute invites citizen scientists of all ages and abilities to visit Olin Nature Preserve throughout the day to interact with expert naturalists and have the chance to document biodiversity and collect data. In addition to self-guided hikes from dawn to dusk, visitors are encouraged to take part in the following programs:

Intro to Citizen Science

When: Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Join Natalie Marioni, director of environmental education and citizen science at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, as she orients you to citizen science, with a special focus on iNaturalist. Participants will then be encouraged to hike the Preserve, open until dusk, to document biodiversity.

Monarch Watch and Milkweed Insects

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Join Dr. Patrick Dailey, entomologist and Vice President of The Nature Institute's Board of Directors, to learn more about the critical role our region plays in the great monarch migration.

Bird Hike

When: Saturday, 3 p.m.

Join Brent Schindewolf, longtime birder and volunteer with The Nature Institute, as you hike using your eyes and ears to identify the Preserve's diversity of birds, including migratory and year-round residents.

Sunday, April 29 | Guided Experiences

Prairie & Pollinator Hike/Native Plant Sale

Where: Heartland Prairie (Gordon Moore Park, Alton, IL)

When: Sunday, 1-3 p.m.

Join volunteers from The Nature Institute for guided hikes through this special prairie, learning more about the diversity of pollinators that increasingly rely on restored habitats like these. Be sure to stay for the Native Plant Sale with Green Thumb Nursery and pick up some plants for your home landscape.

Rockwoods Reservation: City Nature Challenge – Biodiversity Tabling Event

Where: Rockwoods Reservation (2751 Glencoe Rd., Wildwood, MO 63038)

When: Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet in front of the Nature Center for an iNaturalist tutorial, tips on safe and ethical sighting collection, and a free copy of the STL City Nature Challenge field guide. Visitors will also have an opportunity to find out the best sighting spots in the area from naturalist staff.

Willoughby Farm Biodiversity Hike

Where: Willoughby Farm (631 Willoughby Lane, Collinsville, IL)

When: Sunday, 1 – 3 p.m.

Meet at the Farmyard Pavilion for a brief iNaturalist tutorial followed by guided walks through the Trails, Garden, and Farmyard. Led by trained educators and naturalists. More information: call 618-660-8668.