



# CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2025



## SEATTLE-TACOMA METROPOLITAN AREA – RESULTS!



### OVERVIEW

Woodland Park Zoo, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and other collaborators help mobilize people across the greater Seattle area to join a friendly nature observation challenge involving hundreds of cities across the globe.

Any observation made anywhere within the **Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma-Everett metropolitan area**, which includes all of **King, Pierce and Snohomish counties**, between **Friday, April 25 – Monday, April 28** counted towards our total in the City Nature Challenge.

Participants took photos, identified what they saw and uploaded them to the project on **iNaturalist**. Participants also helped one another by identifying observations in iNaturalist.

**SAVE THE DATE - CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2026**



**OBSERVE! April 24 – April 27, 2026**

**IDENTIFY! April 24 – May 3, 2026**

2025 local planning team:

Woodland Park Zoo, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat at Home Program, Green Tukwila / City of Tukwila, The Nature Conservancy in Washington, Washington State Department of Agriculture Pest Program and a graduate student with the Advanced Inquiry Program of Miami University of Ohio/Woodland Park Zoo.

Poster prepared by Woodland Park Zoo  
[monitoring@zoo.org](mailto:monitoring@zoo.org)

### GLOBAL RESULTS

669 Cities from 62 Countries on 6 continents

 3,310,131 OBSERVATIONS	 73,765+ SPECIES	 102,945 PARTICIPANTS
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Including over 3,338 rare, endangered, or threatened species

### SEATTLE-TACOMA RESULTS

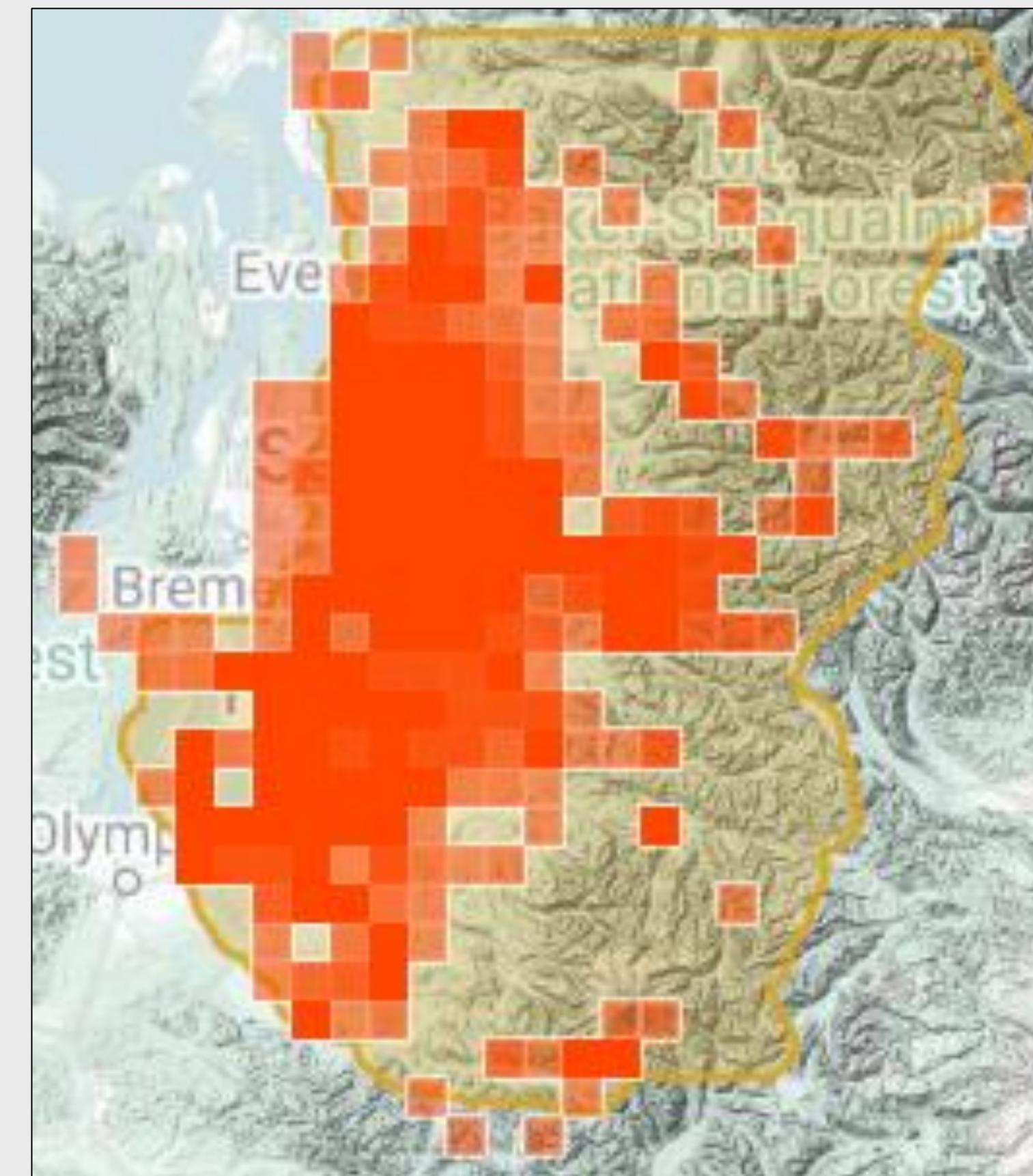
	OBSERVATIONS	SPECIES	PARTICIPANTS
2025***	19,628	2,138	1,233
2024	16,395	1,868	895
2023	10,057	1,437	798
2022	7,705	1,280	654
2021	7,067	1,226	566
2020	5,190	1,044	565
2019	2,946	853	235
2018**	5,841	1,033	359
2017*	1,587	484	76

We now have a [cumulative Seattle-Tacoma CNC project page](#) where you can see ALL of our observations since 2017!

\*Area for 2017 was the greater Seattle area

\*\*Starting 2018, our area is the larger Seattle Metropolitan Area (all of Snohomish, King and Pierce counties). In 2018, Pt. Defiance Zoo & Aquarium ran a 24-hour bioblitz during City Nature Challenge weekend, which generated 2,010 observations of 471 species by 162 participants.

\*\*\*Starting 2025, our iNaturalist project accepts observations of cultivated and non-wild species in addition to wild species. In 2025, these non-wild observations accounted for an estimated 1,500 observations and 275 species. Only counting the "wild" observations, the numbers of observations and species still increased in 2025 over 2024.



Map showing the distribution of CNC 2025 observations in the Seattle Metropolitan Area (includes Snohomish, King and Pierce counties)

### NOTABLE OBSERVATIONS



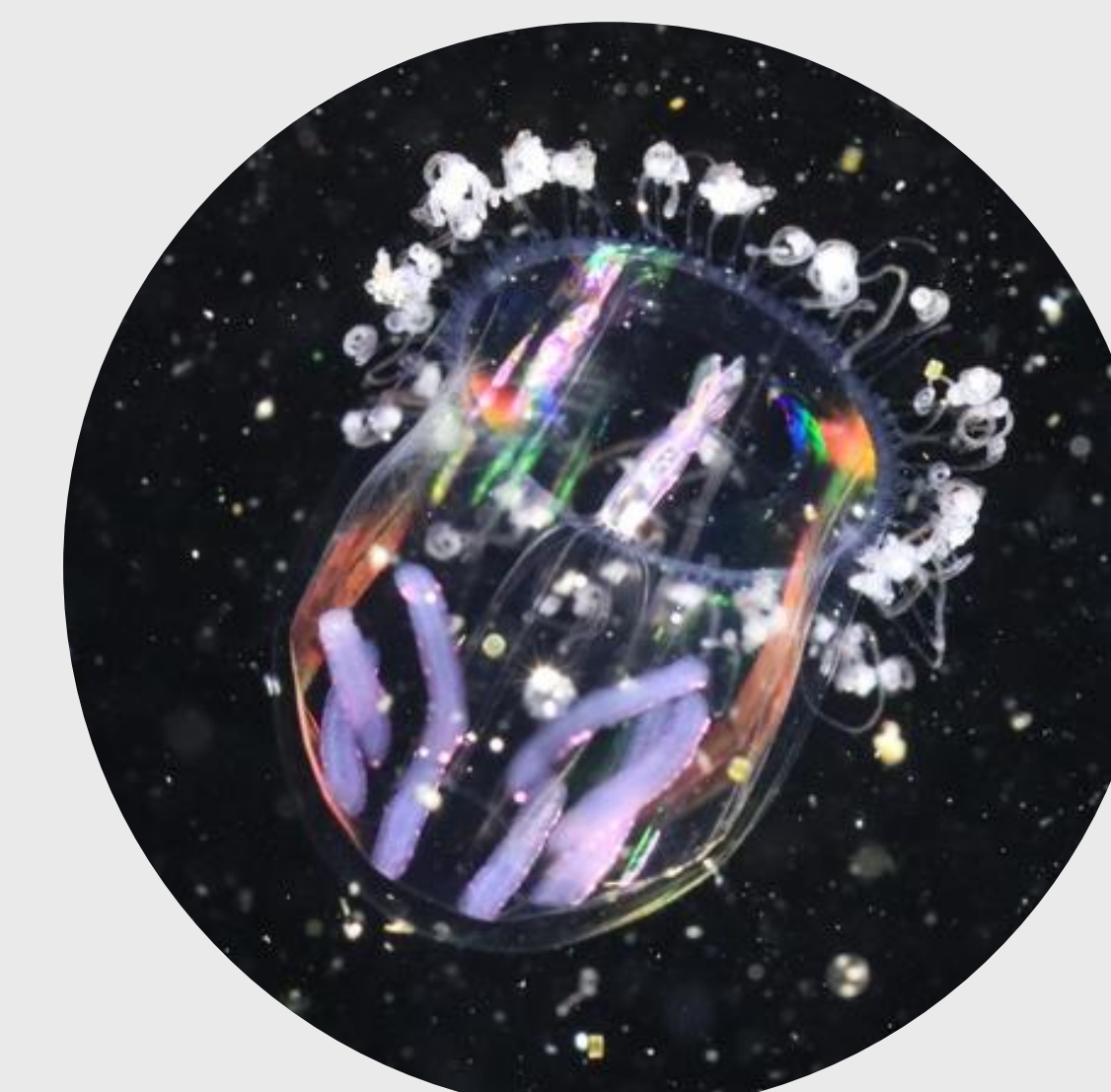
Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)  
 observed by diverdan55  
 Photo © Daniel Hershman  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/495763164>



Orchid (orchid pollen on bee's back) (*Family Orchidaceae*)  
 observed by samuelchain7  
 Photo © Sam Hain  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/276872000>



Red Net-winged Beetle (*Dictyoptera simplicipes*)  
 observed by muinungo  
 Photo © Jen  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/275054193>

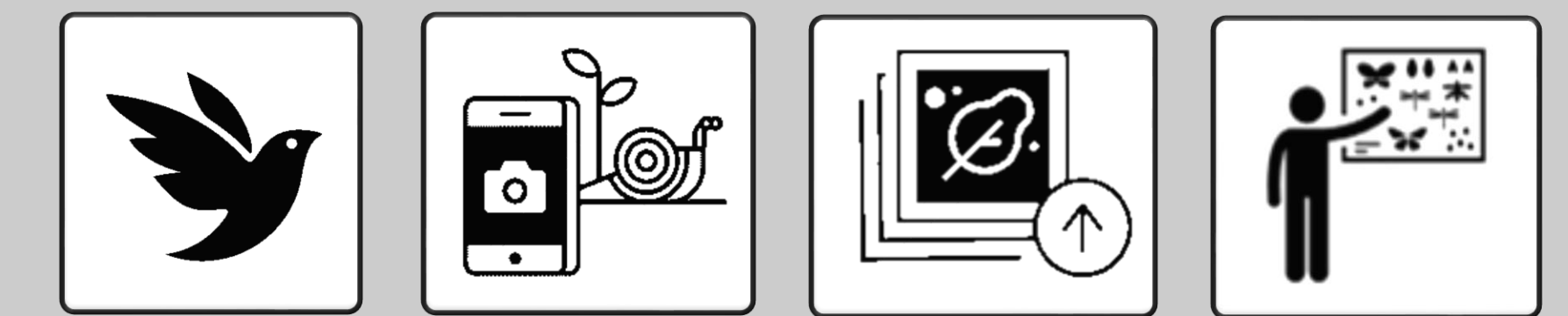


Aglantha digitale (*Aglantha digitale*)  
 Observed by hawnzd  
 Photo © Zach Hawn  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/276831029>

### TRAININGS & INNOVATIONS

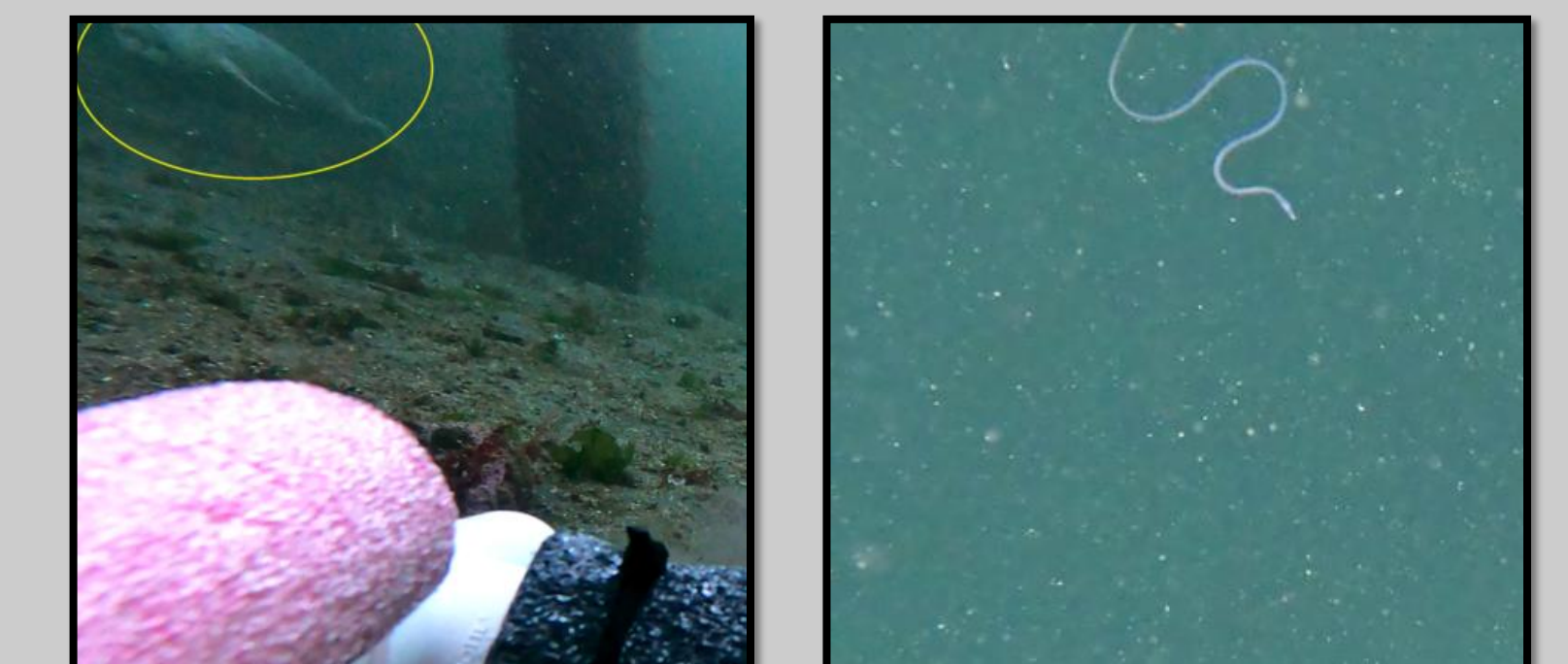
In 2025, we recorded our City Nature Challenge training and orientation sessions. We recorded and posted a training video for educators/group leaders and an orientation for individuals and families. Videos are available at

<https://www.zoo.org/conservation/naturechallenge/events>



#### SAMi ROV Underwater Observations

High school students from the Science and Math Institute (SAMi) in Tacoma collected underwater biodiversity observations using their ROV (remotely operated vehicle) built in their Marine Technology class. The students got photos of a [harbor seal](#) and a very rarely observed fish – the [quillfish](#) (*Ptilichthys goodei*).



### SEATTLE-TACOMA TOP OBSERVERS

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	natureguy	931	187
2	samuelchain7	676	428
3	hmheinz	632	212



### TOP IDENTIFIERS

Rank	User	Identifications
1	ajwright	1,713
2	hawnzd	1,184
3	aruejohns	1,092

Thanks to everyone who participated!