



Guidelines for a safe Home River Bioblitz

This guide will help you to get started on preparing your event! Here you will find advice on what to plan and how to set up a safe activity in the context of the global pandemic. Use this guide to suit your local situation and needs, together with your own ideas on how to organise your Home River Bioblitz.

Prepare your Home River Bioblitz

On the 6th of September, we welcome you to an online Bioblitz / iNaturalist training session. But your preparations can start already today. If you haven't done so yet, make sure to download the iNaturalist app and start doing some observations, this way you will get used to the application.

Next, call your best river friends and start brainstorming ideas together. Number of participants, length of the activity and size of the surveyed area are all dependent on your own energy. If you want to do something small with your family or friends, please go ahead! If you are thinking big, involving other people (as long as it fits within the space that COVID-19 allows) don't hesitate in doing so, we will do our best to support you. You can also think outside of the Bioblitz box, and combine the day with a movie night or a riverside dinner party.

Most of your preparation goes into the field between the 24th and 26th of September. One of these days, you go out to your home river and observe as many species as you can find (if you are really motivated, you can go out multiple days, but the biggest reason for this year's Home River Bioblitz being a 3-day event was to allow both school groups and weekend warriors to join).

Some practical advices

- a) **Pick a location.** Choose your favorite part of the river or stream, wherever you see fit. The ideal place is by the river, but we understand that rivers are part of watersheds, containing creeks, wetlands, lakes, forest and a large biodiversity.
- b) **Choose a meeting point.** Preferably easy to reach by bike or public transport.

- c) **Pick a timeframe.** You may do 2, 3, or 4 hours, depending on your logistics. We encourage you to make it a full day. Once you start exploring, there is no end to it!
- d) **Decide who and how many people** you can invite (this may still depend on your local COVID-19 situation, make sure to be respectful towards the local regulations).
- e) **Register your event** through [this form](#) asap, but on the 5th of September at the latest. This way we can upload it on the map and contact you to add the information to the iNaturalist project. If you register late, your observations might not be counted as part of the Home River Bioblitz project, which would simply be a pity.
- f) **Partner up with a biodiversity expert** that can help you look in places you did not think of before. Maybe someone in your community or try reaching out to a closeby university.
- g) **Reach out to local stores or companies** (possibly) that might be willing to support your event with some goods or cash.

Note: We urge all participants to carefully follow public health guidelines provided by your local government, as they are changing real-time. Individual safety and public health are of utmost priority. Some recommendations from our side:

- Keep safe distance at all times
- Split up in small groups (you could make groups that focus on different taxonomic groups or set time slots)
- Avoid crowds
- Wear face masks accordingly
- Bring hand sanitizer

Safety first! Rivers, though wonderful, can also be dangerous places, especially if the water level is high. Please make sure you know all about the safety aspects of the area or river bank that you will be exploring and share this information with your group. This includes whether the river is safe to swim in and the possibility of flash floods.

For more tips on organising your own bioblitz, have a look at the [National Geographic Encyclopedia](#). To learn about iNaturalist, head over to [their website](#). And if you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with us through info@homeriverbioblitz.org

We wish you a happy Home River Bioblitz! :)

The River Collective Team