

iNaturalist for Beginners

Lake Placid Land Conservancy uses the iNaturalist app to gather observations. This program can be found online at [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) and can be downloaded for free on your smartphone through the App Store or Google Play. We recommend using a smartphone or tablet if possible because geotagging capabilities through the smartphone's program allows data, like time and location, to be uploaded automatically and accurately. It's easier, too!

Make an account

- Download iNaturalist through the App Store or Google Play
- Open the app and tap "Sign Up"
- Create your account: enter your email address, choose a username, then choose a password
- Tap "Sign Up"
- Tap "More..."
- Tap "Projects"
- Tap the magnifying glass and type in "LPLC Conservation Monitoring Program"
- Tap "LPLC Conservation Monitoring Program and then select "Join"
- Use the back arrow to return to the main menu

Observe

* Make sure your location settings are turned ON in your phone's privacy settings *

- Photograph and record whatever you find interesting or ecologically important. We are collecting data about all species and plant life, including invasives
- Make note of the temperature, cloud cover, and any other weather notes before heading out - you'll use this information later
- Set a regular schedule, then follow a consistent monitoring path and take pictures of plants or animals using your smartphone's camera – not in the app
- Take clear photos and try to capture as much detail as possible
- Also take pictures that are zoomed out and include the surrounding habitat
- Carry a small notebook and take notes as you go

Share

When you have access to WiFi, open the iNaturalist app and record your observations:

- Tap "Observe," then tap the icon on the bottom right to bring up photos from your camera gallery.
- Select the photo(s) of the first species observed, tap "Done," and then tap "Next"
- Tap "What did you see" and choose or type in, to the best of your ability, the species you observed. You can also guess or leave this blank to get help from others using iNaturalist.
- Optional: Tap "Notes" to record additional observations you think may have influenced what you saw, like the percentage of cloud cover at the time of the observation, the air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, and other weather notes of interest.
- LPLC's Conservation Monitoring Program is a collection project. Therefore all observations made within the Adirondack Park will automatically be added to our project.
- Tap "Share" to submit the observation and complete the data entry. You're done! Repeat these steps for every species you photographed while on your monitoring route