



About the Western Biodiversity Inventory

Executive Summary

The Biodiversity Inventory at Western is being planned on Western's main campus grounds from April 2022 to the end of winter term, 2023. Students and other campus users are invited to photograph or otherwise document organisms found on campus and post them to a dedicated project using the community science app iNaturalist and/or by submitting data to a repository. The Inventory will span a full calendar year to capture seasonal variation in ecological conditions and to create many opportunities for the community to participate. The Inventory will include a combination of 1-day and week-long events (e.g., BioBlitzes), held in collaboration with student groups and courses, as well as individual participation by community scientists.

The goals of the Biodiversity Inventory at Western are to: 1) engage the Western community in appreciation of and education about natural spaces and wildlife on campus, and 2) collect species occurrence data to help characterize environmentally significant features on campus, such as previously unmapped wetlands, and compare with existing available baseline data and historical records. Data collected by the Inventory may be useful for long-term ecological monitoring of Western's grounds and could be of value in undergraduate biology labs. Precautions will be taken to ensure participants are familiar with guidelines for posting records of sensitive species at Western such as Species at Risk and for minimizing the risk of harm (e.g., staying on marked trails, no touching, safety in wildlife encounters and natural areas).

The Biodiversity Inventory at Western is hosted by the Western University Department of Biology. This project has been sanctioned by Western University with permission from Brescia University College, Huron University College and King's University College Facilities Management.

To learn more about the Inventory, please visit

https://www.uwo.ca/biology/community/biodiversity_inventory.html