

## **GOSHEN250 NATURE CHALLENGE:**

*A Friendly Competition Between East Goshen and West Goshen Townships to Identify 250 Local Plants, Animals, Birds, Insects, and More Through the Free iNaturalist App*

### **What is a Nature Challenge?**

Sometimes referred to as a BioBlitz, a nature challenge is a fun, educational, and valuable event where experts, amateurs, and “community scientists” spend time finding, identifying, and cataloguing as many of the plants, fungi, birds, animals, insects, and aquatic life they come across outdoors, using the **iNaturalist mobile app**. Visit your mobile device’s app store and search “iNaturalist” to find and download it.

### **How does the Goshen250 Nature Challenge work?**

Beginning with a live kickoff event in East Goshen Park at 12:00 p.m. on September 20, 2026, participants can walk the parks and neighborhoods of their township over the course of one week, from September 20 to 12:00 p.m. on September 27. The goal is for each township’s participants to find at least 250 species in honor of America250, our nation’s sesquicentennial celebration.

### **What if I am unable to attend the kickoff?**

No worries! You can still participate on your own within the Nature Challenge timeframe (9/20 to 9/27).

### **Is the event only in the township parks?**

No! The contest will be set up in the **iNaturalist** app as two separate projects, one for East Goshen and one for West Goshen. You can make observations anywhere within the geographic boundaries of your township, and your own yard is a wonderful place to start.

### **How do I find the Goshen250 Nature Challenge project in the app?**

Easy! Just go to the Projects section of the app. In Android, tap on Projects in the side menu. In iOS/iPadOS, tap on Projects in the navigation bar. Next, tap on the magnifying glass icon in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to open the project search. Search for “Goshen 250 Nature Challenge” and tap on it. Then tap on your township and begin embracing your role as a community scientist!

### **What if I’m not familiar with the iNaturalist app?**

No problem! Check out the “Getting Started” section of the app’s knowledge base [HERE](#) or access the video tutorials [HERE](#). We will also have experienced users available at the kick-off to help you.

### **What if I don’t know many trees, birds, insects, or animals?**

Part of the fun of a Nature Challenge is exploring and learning about wildlife—no experience necessary! The iNaturalist app will help identify the types of wildlife you observe.

### **Can anyone use iNaturalist?**

iNaturalist requires users to be at least 13 years old, so younger children will need to work with an adult who has an account to enter species into the app.

### **How do I register to participate in the Goshen250 Nature Challenge?**

Registration is not required. All you have to do is download the app to your mobile device, create an account, and you are ready to go!