

# Welcome!

We're glad you're here and are interested in learning about and observing the nature surrounding you on Spectacle Island.

With just a few clicks of your smartphone or tablet, you'll be on your way to becoming a Junior Citizen Scientist.

## BE ALERT! BE SAFE! ✨

Before you get started, there are a few things you should know to stay safe on Spectacle Island:

- ✓ **Stay on marked trails and out of tall grass.** Spectacle Island is home to many things living in tall grasses that may be tempting to observe - however, make sure you stay out of grass taller than the palm of your hand. It's smart to do a full-body tick check at home!
- ✓ **Stay off of, and above, the sea wall.** The wall made of big rocks surrounding the island can be dangerous to walk or sit on. There are lots of exciting observations to be made at safe beach access points!
- ✓ **Stay out of fenced areas.** At times, Spectacle Island may have areas surrounded by fencing of some kind – make sure to stay out! Ask park staff if you are unsure of off-limit areas.
- ✓ **Respect wildlife and leave no trace.** Don't approach wild animals, or pick or eat wild plants. If you're using your own equipment to temporarily catch marine life or insects, make sure to keep them in a container with enough water or air, and release them back where you collected them. Help preserve the park by leaving nothing behind!

## TURN ON YOUR SENSES AND TUNE INTO NATURE

All of your senses (except for taste) will be your best tools to discover biodiversity around the island.



**Look** – look carefully at your surroundings. Get up close and look at plant leaves and flowers, bend down to look in the grass, and keep your eyes peeled on the beaches.



**Listen** – Find a quiet place on the island and listen for birds and insects.



**Feel** – Have an adult help you decide what is safe to touch, and use your fingers to feel if something is smooth, fuzzy or slimy!



**Smell** – Take a deep breath and follow your sense of smell. Some interesting plants may be awaiting you!



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**GRAB & GO: LEARN**  
Be a Citizen Science Explorer

## Spectacle Island

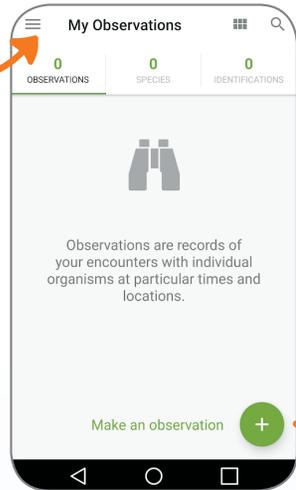
Use the **iNaturalist app** to explore nature.

**THE SCOOP:**  
Ages: 10+ yrs.  
Time: 30 min.-1 hour+  
Materials:  
Smartphone or tablet with iNaturalist app installed.  
In advance:  
Set up app account(s).



# Using the iNaturalist App

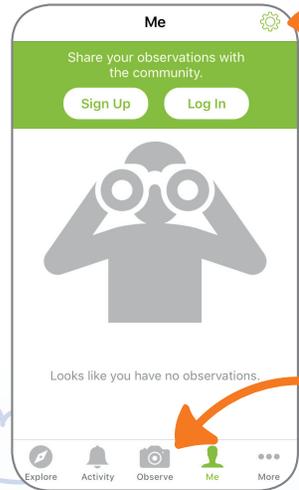
With the **iNaturalist** app, you can make photo observations that may contribute towards documented **biodiversity**. What is **biodiversity**? **Bio** - means **life**. **Diversity** - means all different kinds. With the **iNaturalist** app, you can help document all the different kinds of life observed here on the Boston Harbor Islands, and anywhere else you travel.



## On an Android device:

Tap the **menu icon** and select **"Help"** to learn how to use the app.

Tap the **"+"** to make your first observation.



## On an iPhone or an iOS device:

Tap **settings**, and scroll down to **"Help,"** and choose **"Tutorial."**

Tap the **camera** to make your first observation.

## How to Use iNaturalist

### Who you are

You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations



### What you saw

Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**



### Where you saw it

Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public



### When you saw it

Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist



### Evidence of what you saw

By including evidence like a **photo or sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles



## TIPS & TRICKS

- Upload multiple photos to make your find easier to identify!
- Take clear photos close-up and far away to show the entire organism
- Include things like leaf, flower, stem, bark, insect legs, wings, undersides of marine life
- You can enter an identification, or enter "Unknown"
- Double check the location assigned to your observation – make sure location services are on if there is a problem
- Check your account after you upload observations to see how the community helped to identify what you found!

## PLACES TO GO

"iNat" plants and wildlife:



**1. The Beach** – Spectacle Island has three beaches where you will be able to find marine life, like mollusks. Scan the shore for **Blue Mussel** shells, **Common Slipper** shells, and **Periwinkles**.

**2. The North Drumlin** – On a trip to the North Drumlin, you might find a **Tree of Heaven**, or different types of **oaks** or **pines**. The North Drumlin is the highest point in the harbor, where you can observe birds like the **Killdeer** who's been known to make its nest up there! On your way, look for **Common Mullein** and **Sow Thistle**.

**3. The South Drumlin** – Take the grassy trail, leading from the saddle to the summit of the South Drumlin to check out different types of wildflowers and the insects they attract! Look for **Monarch** or **Small Copper** butterflies among wildflowers such as **Purple Loosetrife** and **Wild Carrot**.

**4. Perimeter Trail** – This 1.8 mile flat loop is lined with many plants and is a great place to catch views of birds like the **Black-backed Gulls**, **Double-crested Cormorants**, and maybe even a **Red-tailed Hawk**. Make sure you also keep your eye out for Tina, the island's resident **Wild Turkey**.

We hope you were able to discover some exciting biodiversity during your visit! Come back soon and help us document even more life around the park. In the meantime you can practice your observations skills with iNaturalist anywhere you can find wild living things.