

re:build

## Where the Wild Things Are - Harnessing the Power of Citizen Scientists

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Cities are increasingly becoming home to wildlife that have adapted to urban living and are quickly developing into ecological hotspots. Calgary is at the forefront of this evolution given our proximity to the Rocky Mountains and the development pressures occurring there (hello bears and cougars). The climate is changing causing animals not previously found in Calgary to be seen with more regularity (raccoons anyone?) and, with the abundance of food in our urban setting, we attract species that are highly adaptable in their diet (#wileycoyote). Recognizing this, Calgary Parks has

begun a multi-year wildlife camera study to better understand our wild neighbors. This project uses wildlife trail cameras to capture data about habitat use and wildlife movement around our urban environment with the aim of enhancing citizen eco-literacy through participatory stewardship action. Citizen-generated image classifications, through the Calgary Captured launch page at [Zooniverse.org](https://Zooniverse.org) are a cost-effective means for Calgary Parks to understand species movement and barriers to movement, to enhance urban development and ecological network planning now and in the future.

