What is a BioBlitz

- A race against time to see how many species can be counted in a 24-hour biological survey
- Part contest
- Part festival
- Part educational event
- Part scientific endeavor
What can a BioBlitz do for your park or region...

- Educates the public about the rich biodiversity in our own backyard.
- Brings out the specialists.
- Identifies rare and unique species/groups.
- Documents species occurrence.
- Brings media attention.
- Spreads excitement about the natural world.
What a BioBlitz won’t do for you

- Provide a complete inventory of the area
- Basis for monitoring
- Make your car payments.
The very first one...

- USGS organized
- Kennelworth Park and Gardens, Washington DC
- May 31 – June 1, 1996
The Idea...

Organize the natural history talents of the top scientists and naturalists living within urban centers to document the biodiversity present at their backdoor.
The distribution, occurrence, and patterns of plants and animals on this planet is nowhere completely documented.
The name and concept of the BioBlitz is not registered, not copyrighted, not trademarked, and not a government thing. It’s just an idea that can be used, adapted, and modified by any group, who should freely use the name BioBlitz for their own purposes.
Kennelworth Park results

- 90 scientists
- 974 species
- No public involvement
What came next...

- USGS held two in 1997 and...
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh held one
Basecamp
How many have been done?

BioBlitz

- 2016
- 2004
- 2003
- 2002
- 2001
- 2000
- 1999
- 1998
- 1997
- 1996
Fox River Park, Waukesha (2017)
BioBlitz stats

- 92 surveyors
  - Birds (14)
  - Mammals (4)
  - Amphibians and reptiles (21)
  - Fishes (3)
  - Plants (14)
  - Invertebrates (36)
- 12 universities and 9 organizations
- 10 educators from 3 organizations
Stats cont.

- 1,023 species reported (1,022 actual)
  - 12 amphibians and reptile species
  - 19 mammal species
  - 69 bird species
  - 20 fish species
  - 355 insect species
  - 44 spider species
  - 51 other invertebrate species (+1)
  - 452 plant species (-2)
Schlitz Audubon
(48 surveyors)
853 species

Grant Park
(83 surveyors)
976 species

Fox River Park
(92 surveyors)
1,021 species

- Plants
- Other Inverts
- Spiders
- Insects
- Birds
- Mammals
- A&R
- Fish
Plants
Aquatic and Wetland Plants

- 23 species
Vertebrates - Mammals

• 19 species
  • 5 species of bats
    • State Threatened & new county records
      • Little Brown Bat
      • Big Brown Bat
    • Species of Special Concern
      • Silver Haired Bat
      • Eastern Red Bat
      • Hoary Bat
Vertebrates – Amphibians/Reptiles/Birds

• Amphibians and Reptiles
  • 12 species
    • Gray Tree Frog – new county record
    • Unusual – only one species of snake (Garter)

• Birds
  • 69 species
Vertebrates - Fish

- 20 species of fish
- 906 individuals
  - Bluntnose Minnow, Common Shiner and Spotfin Shiner most common
- Northern Sunfish
  - State Threatened
  - Nine specimens in breeding color
  - Species dependent on clean, sediment-free gravel to spawn
Invertebrates

- Good - 5 unionid mussel species
- Not so good – Asian clam (*Corbicula*)
- Good – Ampheloria – native millipede species (1 of 3 records for Wi)
- Not so good – most other millipedes were non-native
- Not so good – Asian Jumping Worm
Insects

- Healthy moth diversity – 119 moth species (far exceeds the recorded diversity for Waukesha County)

- 122 species of beetle, including *Harpalus rubripes* (Eurasian ground beetle)
MPM BioBlitz 2018

Lake Farm County Park, Dane Co.
June 22-23, 2018

www.mpm.edu/BioBlitz