A green bug on a white flower

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA ladybug on a flower

Description automatically generatedA close-up of a flower

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA butterfly on a plant

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

City of Riverside

Outdoor

Adventure Journal

Chapter Two

**This is your lucky week, because not only is it the second week of Earth Month, but it is also a weeklong celebration with the Virtual Riverside Insect Fair.**

**You can take advantage of new Earth Month read aloud stories, Insect Fair grab and go bags, the Outdoor Adventure Journal and so much more. Along the way, you will get to know some of our local bugs and some more exotic bugs from faraway places. You will learn which bugs are helpful and which are troublemakers and why both are important in our ecosystem.**

**As we head back outside exploring public lands, you will discover some surprising human actions that are really “bugging” the insect populations in Earth’s Ecosystems and simple things you can do to help keep those systems in a healthy balance.**

**A group of insects

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Insect Safari**

**Grab your safari hat because it’s time to go hunting! Bug hunting that is. Riverside has so many beautiful outdoor trails, parks, conservation areas, and historic areas. We even have our own river where you can use your powers of observation - just like a scientist, to find as many of these bugs and insects as you can.**

**To increase your chances, find out what kind of habitat each of these critters prefer, then search those locations. Be sure not to disturb them, they have important work to do and some of them bite or sting.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A close up of a bug  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOne Grasshopper**  **Location:** | A butterfly on a flower  Description automatically generated**Two Monarch Butterflies**  **Location:** | **Three Honeybees**  **Location:** | A group of ants on a branch  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Four Ants (any color)**  **Location:** |
| A butterfly on a flower  Description automatically generated**One Monarch Caterpillar**  **Location:** | A close-up of a fly  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Two Flies**  **Location:** | **A spider on a web  Description automatically generatedThree Spiders (any kind)**  **Location:** | **Four Rollie Pollies (Pill Bugs)**  **Location:** |
| A green grasshopper on a leaf  Description automatically generated with low confidence**One Praying Mantis**  **Location:** | **A butterfly on a leaf  Description automatically generatedTwo Lacewings**  **Location:** | A butterfly on a plant  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Three Milkweed Bugs**  **Location:** | A close up of a caterpillar on a leaf  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Four Aphids**  **Location:** |



**Citizen Scientists at Work**

**This charming fellow was caught in the act of taking his lunch break at the Kathleen Gonzales Waterwise Garden. Watching him and his pals enjoying a delicious meal of birdseed and other tasty treats was entertaining, but we were also collecting important data to share with real scientists.**

**Gathering information on squirrels, snails, pollinators, light, and air pollution can be great ways to enjoy Riverside’s parks and outdoor spaces while collecting and reporting important data to scientists studying our environment.**

**Here are a few Citizen Science projects you can participate in while exploring Riverside’s great outdoors.**

* **The Great Sunflower Project can be done anywhere outside where there are plants and flowers for pollinators.** [**www.Scistarter.org/nlm/great-sunflower-project-nlm**](http://www.Scistarter.org/nlm/great-sunflower-project-nlm)
* **Use the Nature’s Notebook app to submit observations of plant and animal phenology to help scientists take the pulse of our planet. Phenology is the study of plant and animal life cycle events.** [**www.scistater.org/nlm/natures-notebook-nlm**](http://www.scistater.org/nlm/natures-notebook-nlm)
* **By contributing to Project Squirrel and documenting your experience, you an provide valuable information that will eventually be used to learn how valuable citizen scientists are to the advancement of scientific knowledge.** [**www.scistarter.org/project-squirrel**](http://www.scistarter.org/project-squirrel)
* **Help the Los Angeles Natural History Museum better understand the biodiversity of land snails/slugs in SoCal. Find snails/slugs in SoCal, take photos of them, and share with the museum.** [**www.scistarter.org/slime**](http://www.scistarter.org/slime)

**These are just a few of the Citizen Science activities you can participate in. For a list of more projects, you can also go to the Science Starter web site** [**https://scistarter.org/nlm**](https://scistarter.org/nlm) **and click on the Project Finder tab at the top. Be safe and enjoy your outdoor adventures.**