



## What if I'm Not a Scientist?

**H**ow many times have you told someone about the animal, strange plant, insect or frog that you saw in your backyard? Maybe it was a hawk or eagle perched in a tree alongside a Wilton road. You got excited and even felt a little privileged to have witnessed one of nature's miracles.

*Well, you just qualified for Wilton's new Senior Citizen Science Program and you don't need to hike miles or hang out in a tree to participate.*



Great horned owl

The Wilton Senior Citizen Science Program is funded by:



*and by The Galloway Family*

*Illustration by Gail Hoar*

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# Wilton's Senior Citizen Science Program



Wilton's new Senior Citizen Science (SCS) Program is for adults age 50+ who would like to help track the changes in Wilton's ecology from birds to bears, woodchucks to wildflowers and even algae to ash trees.

*This flier will tell you how you can become involved*



## Why Citizen Science?

New Hampshire is fortunate to still have many open spaces and wild places across much of the state, Wilton included. Yet the organizations charged with protecting these environments are under-resourced for the challenge. So they rely on conservation commissions and individuals for local knowledge.


***That's where you come in.*** You can help count bunnies and bats, log sightings of mushrooms and moose, muskrats and otters, help track migration corridors, watch your backyard birds to see if you notice a decline in their number or note sightings of species new to our area. Working in conjunction with biologists and scientists, you can help add critical information to their data sets as well as help provide more information for Wilton's Natural Resource Inventory.

Thanks to an AARP Community Challenge Grant, participants will have a new gazebo on the Wilton Riverwalk as an observation platform for watching our urban wildlife. You may want to meet others there to socialize while noting what you see. Or you may prefer to wander on Wilton trails by yourself, or just count the turkeys in your own backyard. It's your choice.



## How Do I Document What I See?

The SCS Program will be using iNaturalist, a free application that runs on smart phones, tablets, computers and iPads. Or just take a notebook and pen with you and jot down what you see, noting the date, time and place you saw it.

To download the free iNaturalist application, go to [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org). You'll be asked for an email address, a user name and to set a password. Then you'll be ready to start logging your sightings. 



## What Your Help Means

- Identifies wildlife corridors and sensitive areas.
- Provides data for Wilton's Natural Resource Inventory.
- Helps determine which lands to protect for conservation, management and recreation.
- Helps promote healthy ecosystems.
- Improves scientific research and expands key observations and count coverage.

## How SCS Benefits You

- By participating in outdoor activity and learning about Wilton's natural world.
- By meeting new people or spending time with friends.
- By developing new observational skills.
- By doing meaningful and valuable work for the environment.
- By improving memory and attention and sparking cognitive connections.

## How Do I Sign Up?

**For more information or to sign up, contact:**

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