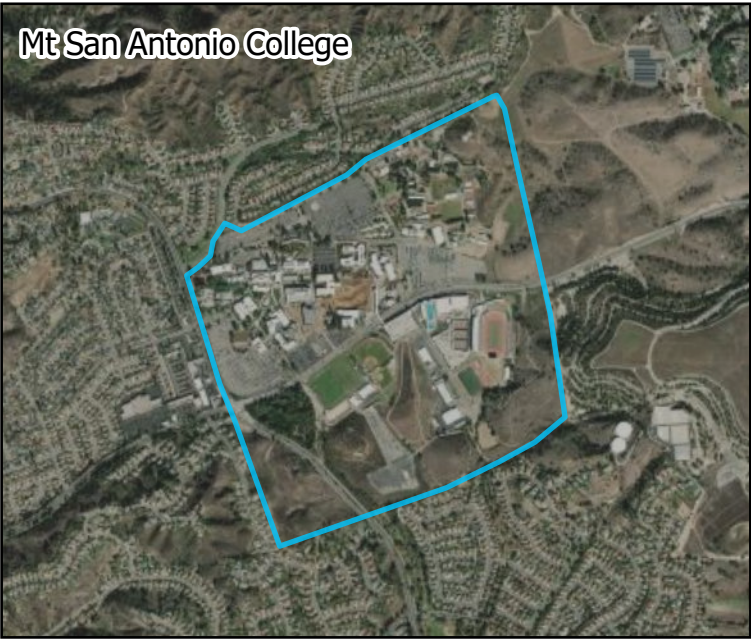
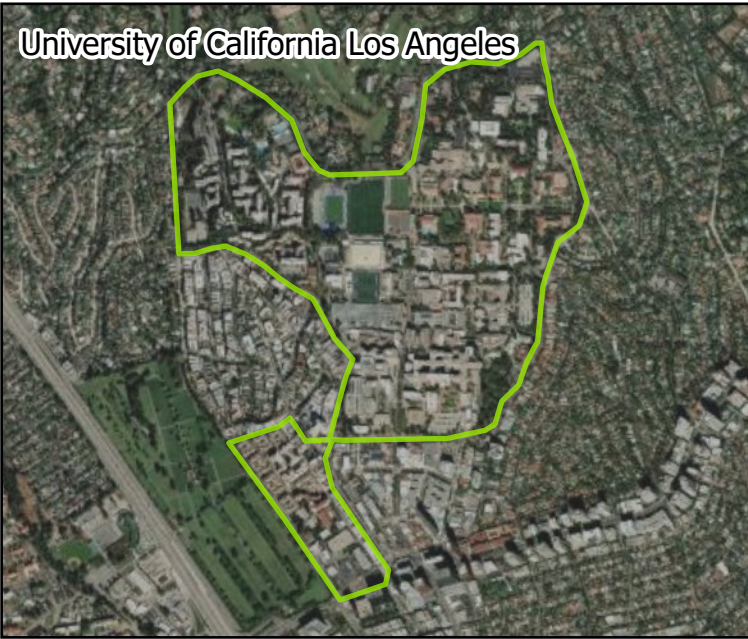
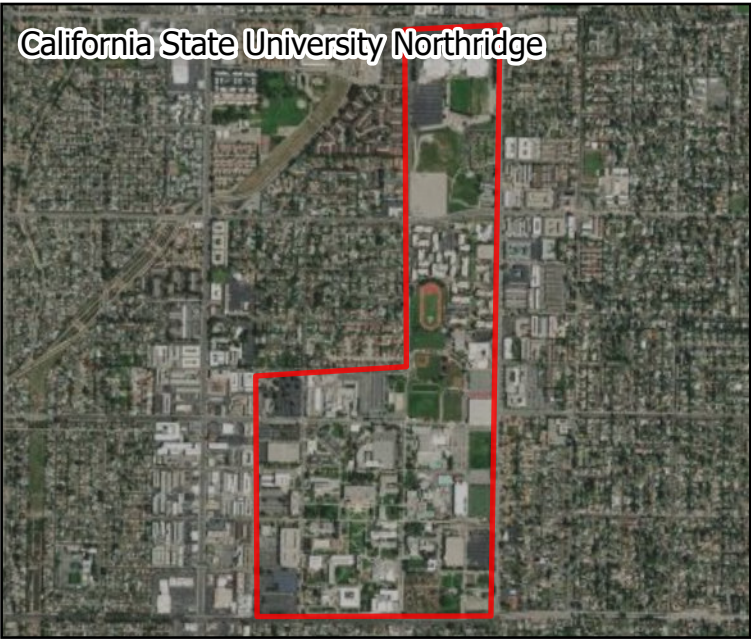
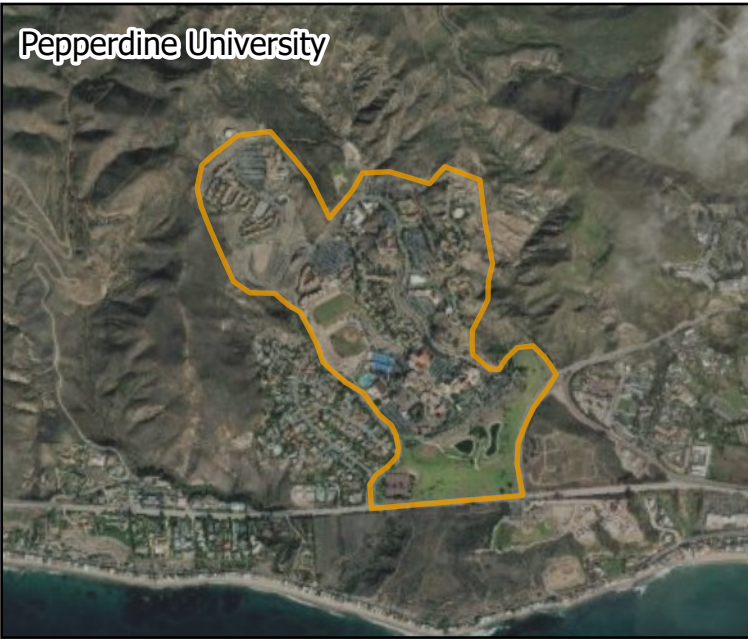
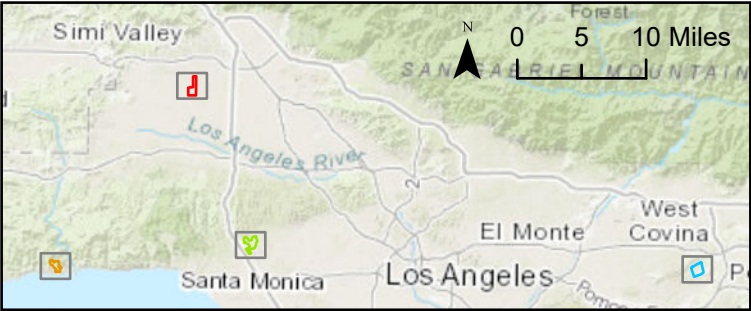


iNaturalist at Universities and Colleges in Los Angeles County

iNaturalist is a project that encourages people to document the biodiversity around them. This project examines the iNaturalist observations at Los Angeles County's largest campuses by physical size for University of California (UCLA), California State University (Northridge), community college (Mt. San Antonio College) and private university (Pepperdine). All four campuses have a biology department or biology major.



Campus	Population 2022	Area (sq mi)
Pepperdine University	11626	0.425206
California State University Northridge	44089	0.557875
University Of California Los Angeles	69845	0.671693
Mt San Antonio College	30125	0.676801

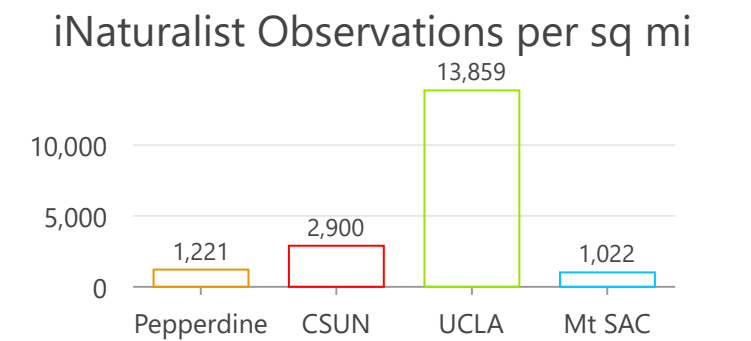
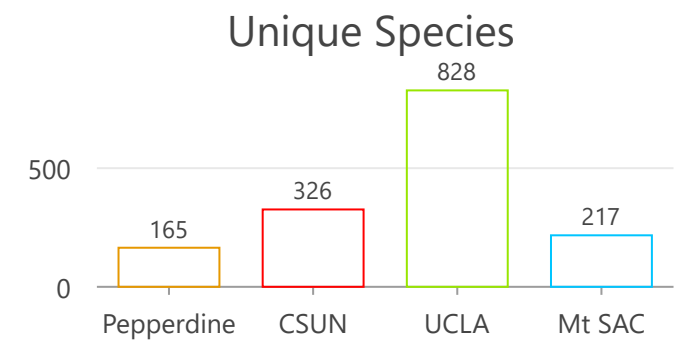
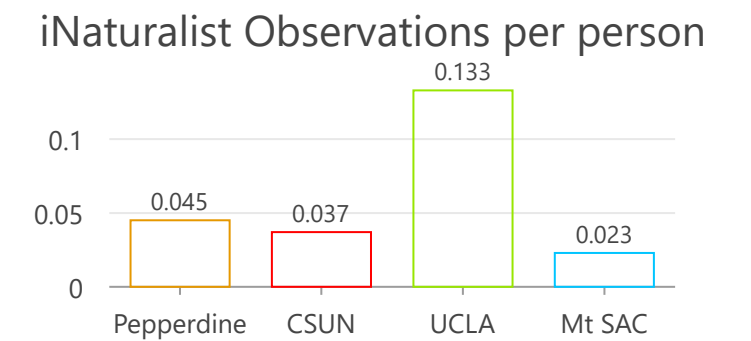
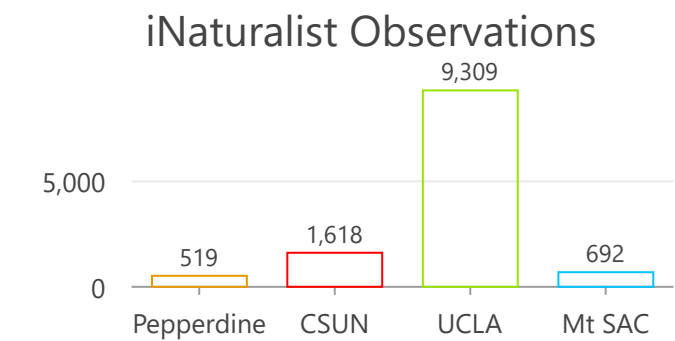
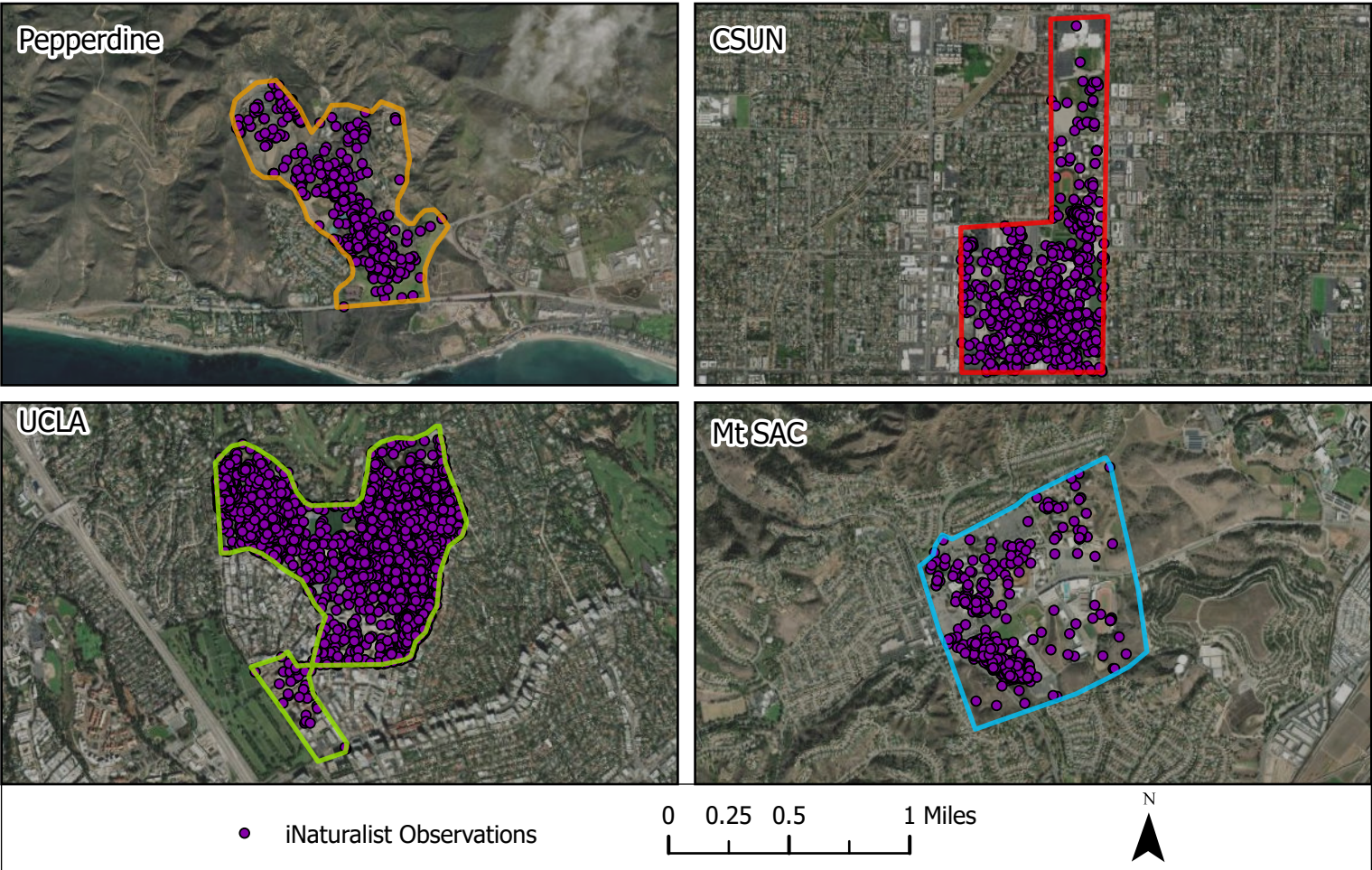
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Data sources: Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, Maxar

iNaturalist at Universities and Colleges in Los Angeles County

These maps show of the number of research-grade iNaturalist observations from 2020 to 2025. UCLA has many more iNaturalist observations than the other campuses, even if you normalize the data with campus population (students + employees) and campus area. Comparisons with other R1 universities is needed to see if UCLA is an outlier. For students at two-year colleges who are interested in biodiversity, learning how to use iNaturalist could be a helpful skill for four-year institutions.



iNaturalist at Colleges and Universities in Los Angeles County

These maps show the density of iNaturalist observations within three miles of each campus. All four areas have parks that are hotspots for iNaturalist observations. Pepperdine has much less iNaturalist observations than Malibu Lagoon State Beach. Both CSUN and UCLA have the highest density of iNaturalist observations within their area. Mt SAC area has Mt SAC, Cal Poly Pomona and a park that are iNaturalist hotspots.

The fact that some colleges and universities have a higher number of iNaturalist observations than surrounding areas and parks demonstrates that biodiversity isn't just found in scenic greenspaces. Biodiversity can be found everywhere; people just need to pay attention.

