

Baileys Trails Monitoring: Using GPS or photos to enhance your trail observations

GPS points and photos help track potential issues on the trail. If you find, for instance, a fallen tree and are able to track the GPS location to share with ORCA, it is much easier for our trained sawyers to find the tree when going to cut it. Photos assist us in classifying the severity of the problem, so we know which locations to prioritize when conducting maintenance. Here are some simple methods you can use to track GPS locations.

Take a photo with location sharing on

If you have a smartphone, you can simply take photos while out on the trail and the location will be recorded automatically. You just need to make sure that your location sharing is turned on. This can typically be found in your privacy settings, or through viewing the photo's information. We recommend testing this method before relying on it to record GPS locations. **This is the most effective method for sharing GPS locations** - through this method, we can have both a visual and a GPS point in one simple package.

Save and share your location in Google Maps

If you open Google Maps on the trails, simply click on your satellite location and create a pin in that location. You can then save and label this location describing the issue, or take a screenshot of the coordinates. The trails will not show up on the map, but we are then able to upload that GPS data onto a trail map and find the location of the problem.

Take a screenshot in OpenStreetMap

Open Street Map is a user-generated mapping service that by many is considered to be the most complete and detailed. The Baileys Trail System is available on OpenStreetMap. If you find an issue out on the trails, you can record its location by opening this map in your smartphone's browser and screenshotting your satellite location. Just remember to record which screenshots correlate to which issues.

Use your Garmin or other activity tracking device

Activity tracking devices oftentimes offer a method to record a specific point on the map. To do so during an activity, navigate to the option to 'mark location'. When you share your trail report with ORCA, you can then share the coordinates of these locations.

What Three Words App

This app assigns locations with three words to create unique GPS point names. You can select a location, save, label, and share it. If you choose to use this app, you can label locations as different trail problems and 'share' the list.

No GPS?

No problem. You don't need a GPS device for your monitoring efforts to be valuable for the Baileys. You can always take a photo of the issue and/or record how long it took you to get there from the trailhead/a junction, or record notable features of the surrounding area.