

Geolocating Big Trees with GPS



Jay C. Hayek, Extension Forestry Specialist
 Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences

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Obtaining GPS Coordinates for Big Tree Nominations

Detailed location information by way of GPS coordinates, or latitude and longitude, is now required for every big tree nomination. These data assist our volunteer big tree inspectors to find and verify your big tree nominations. Fortunately, modern technology has made the reporting of GPS coordinates relatively straight forward and common practice. All GPS coordinates must be reported in decimal degrees (Example: 40.10285°, -88.22405°). Please use the following website to convert between GPS coordinates:

<https://www.pgc.umn.edu/apps/convert/>

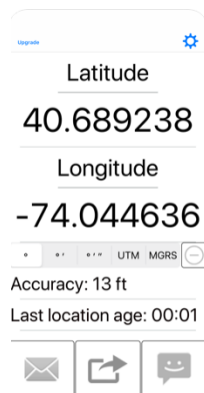
Handheld GPS Units

Garmin, Magellan, Delorme, and other manufactures produce and sell some very nice and affordable recreational grade GPS units. To increase the accuracy of your GPS measurements, please utilize your GPS unit's following features, if available: **(1)** enable WAAS (wide angle augmentation system) and, **(2)** use *Waypoint Averaging* to mark your big tree nomination's exact location.

Please use the following settings on your GPS unit:

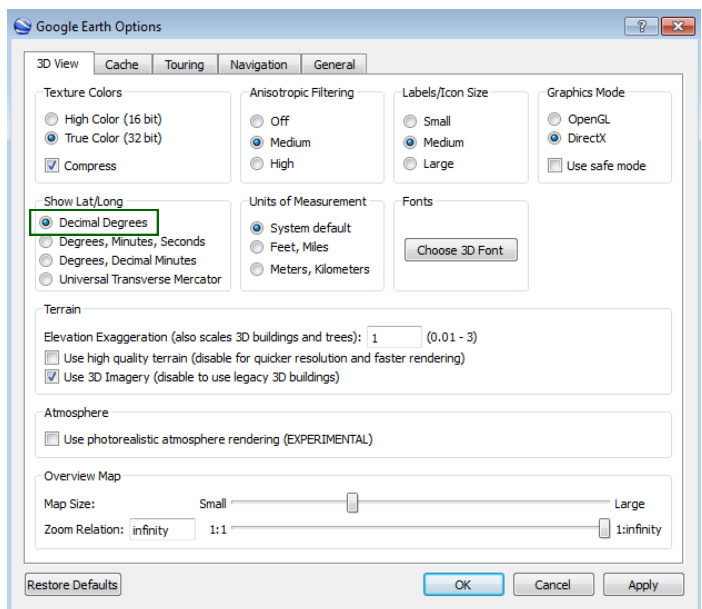
Position Format: Decimal degrees (hddd.ddddd°)

Map Datum: WGS84



Google Earth Pro (Web / Mobile / Desktop)

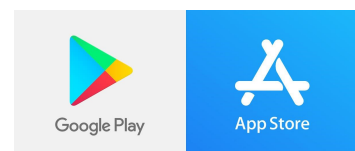
Google Earth Pro is not only an excellent mapping tool, but it is also available for free! I frequently use Google Earth to locate points of interest and to retrieve GPS coordinates for a variety of uses. I also utilize Google Earth Pro's high resolution aerial imagery and measurement features.



Use the *Options* feature in Google Earth to select decimal degrees (DD).

Use Your Smartphone's GPS Features

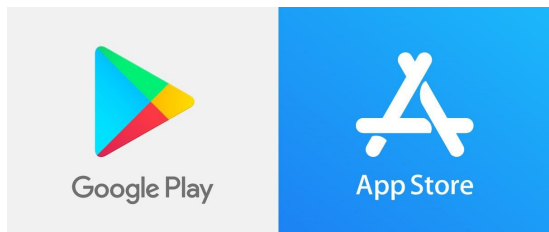
Today's modern smartphones have advance GPS and photo geotagging features. However, if you are currently unhappy with your smartphone's suite of GPS and photo geotagging features, please visit and browse either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Websites related to current topic:

Google Earth Pro
www.google.com/earth/versions

Univ. of Minnesota PGC Coordinate Converter
<https://www.pgc.umn.edu/apps/convert/>



My GPS Coordinates °
Find your current location.
Andrew Neal
#155 in Navigation
★★★★☆ 4.5, 484 Ratings
Free

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