IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Apps for Collecting GPS Tacks: myTracks - The GPS - Logger

myTracks - The
GPS-Logger
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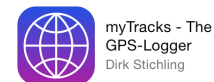
iOS 7.1 and later

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series. The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing mapping tasks.

There are many smart phone applications out there that can be used to collect GPS waypoints and tracks, this task sheet covers how to collect GPS tracks with the **myTracks - The GPS - Logger** iOS app and how to export the tract as a GPX file. GPX is a GPS Exchange Format, it is an XML schema designed as a common GPS data format for software applications. GPX files can be converted to many other geospatial data files formats such as Shapefile, KML, or GeoJSON.

1. Download App for iOS Devices

a. Download **myTracks - The GPS - Logger** from the **App Store**. This is a **FREE App** with in-app purchases that are **NOT** required for this task sheet.

2. Start Tracking

a. Open the **myTracks** app and tap the **location arrow** at the bottom of the screen to zoom the map to your current location. A pin will be dropped on the map showing your location. *Note: the app may ask you to give it permission to use location services. This is necessary for the app to track your location.*

b. Tap the **record** icon at bottom on the screen. In the pop-up window, tap **Change accuracy**. Keep the accuracy at **Best**, but change the number of seconds between point collections to **2s**. Tap **Done** to close the window.

c. Tap the **record** icon again. In the pop-up window, tap **Start recording**. As you begin to walk a blue line will begin marking your route, and the pin will continue to move with your current location.

d. When you are finished with your route, tap the **record** icon and select **Stop recording**. A pop-up will display the name of the recording and a message telling you it has been added to your track list. Tap **OK**.
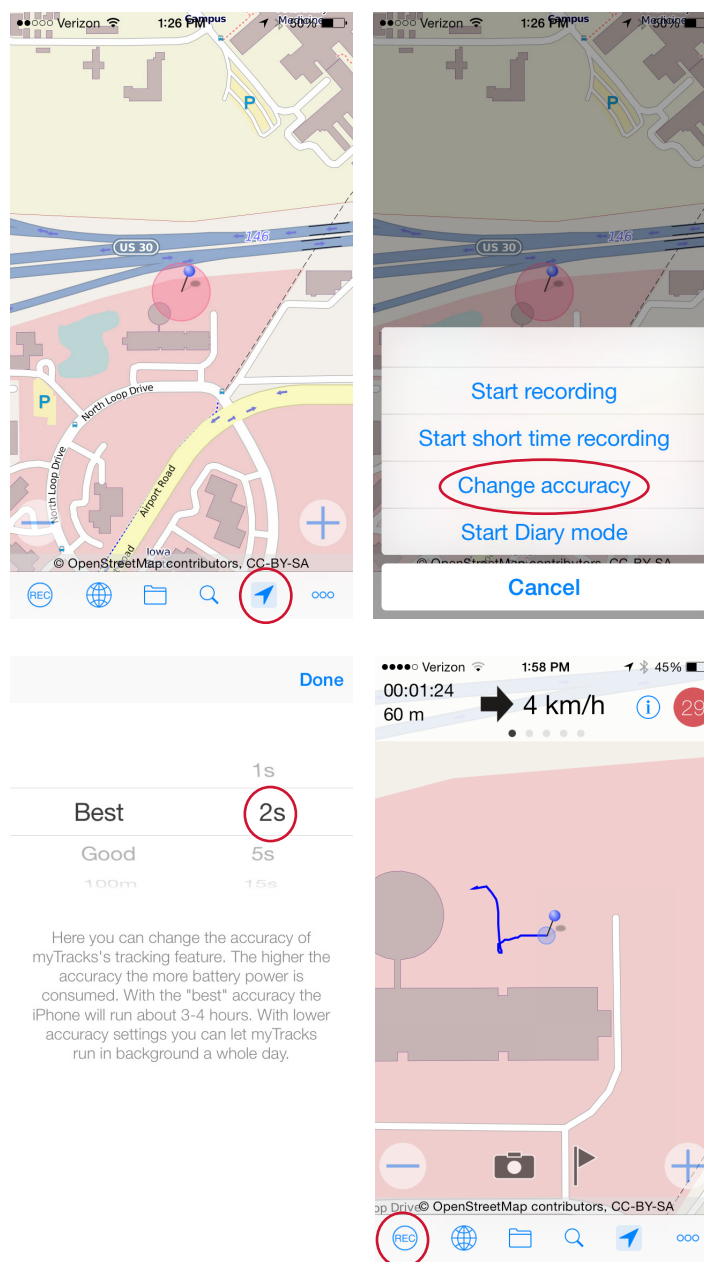
3. Export Tracks

a. Tap on the **folder** icon at the bottom of the screen, this is the track list. Identify and select the track you just completed.

Start recording
Start short time recording
Change accuracy
Start Diary mode
Cancel

Done

1s
Best   2s
Good   5s
100m   15s

Here you can change the accuracy of myTracks's tracking feature. The higher the accuracy the more battery power is consumed. With the "best" accuracy the iPhone will run about 3-4 hours. With lower accuracy settings you can let myTracks run in background a whole day.

00:01:24
60 m   4 km/h   29

b. You will see the track you just selected on the map. Tap the **information** icon in the top right corner of the screen. This will display some information about the track.

c. Select the **share** icon (rectangle icon with an arrow) at the far right.

d. Keep all the default options, shown in the **Export** screen and tap the **share** icon in the top right corner of the screen.

e. Select **Mail** from the pop-up and the track **.gpx** file will be attached to a blank email. Send the file to yourself so later you can view the file or convert it to a different file type.
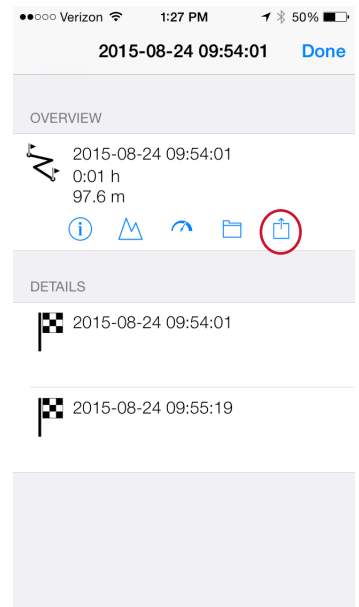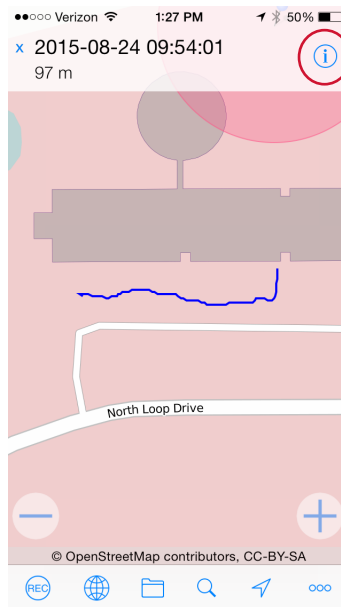
## 4. Additional Options and Appearances

a. To change the name of the track you just collected, tap the folder icon to see your list of tracks and tap to select one.

b. Tap the **information** icon in the top right corner.

c. Again, tap the **information** icon, this time it will be located on the left side of the screen under the track overview. Tap in the box under the **Name** field to change to name of the track.

d. To change the appearance of the track on the map, tap the information icon next to **Appearance** then select the **Color** you would like to track to be. If you would like a buffer around the track, change the width of the track using the slider bar under **Width**.
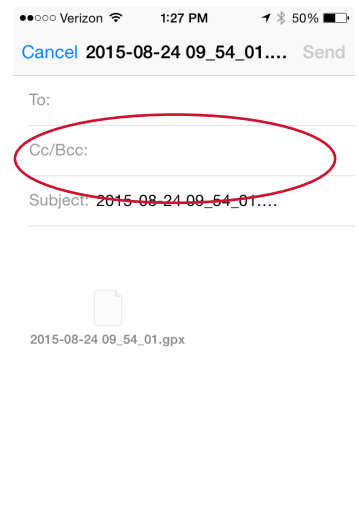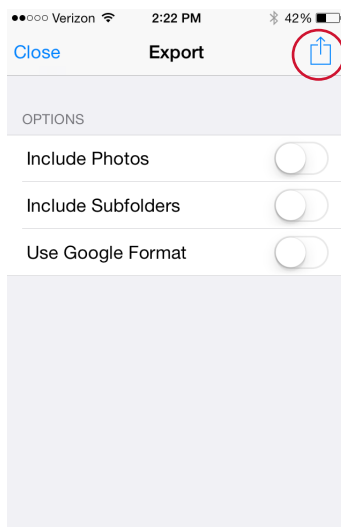
5. Convert GPX to GeoJSON

a. With a text editor, open the GPX file you emailed to yourself. *Hint: possible text editors - Mac: TextEdit or Windows: Notepad.*

b. In a web browser navigate to http://mapbox.github.io/togeojson/. Paste the GPX text into the converter on the left and select GPX. A GeoJSON format of the GPS points will be created.
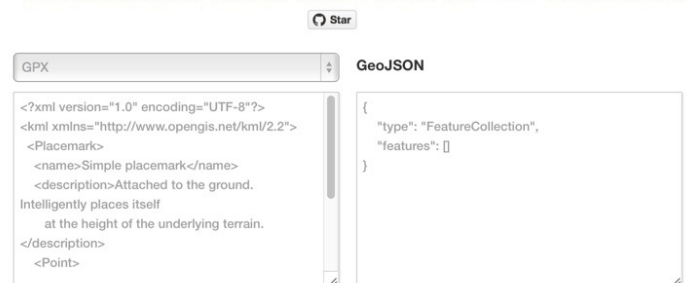
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Bailey Hanson bahanson@iastate.edu, 515-520-1436 or Associate Professor Christopher J. Seeger, ASLA, GISP cjseeger@iastate.edu, 515-509-0651 for more information about the Geospatial Technology Program. This task sheet and more are available at www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/gis