

Free Online Tools to Find Photo Locations

Minnesota Valley Photo Club



Make Your Life Better

Scouting for locations

- Finding possible location / subjects

Check Access

- Land Access – Public or Private?
- Where to park – Save actual parking spot location

Saving Locations & Navigation

- Save exact location for better navigation
 - To the Parking spot
 - To the photo op, if you have to walk a bit
- Your phone has a handy list of photo locations as conditions / mood allows
- Saving off line maps to phone
 - Your phone can lead you places with or without cell phone coverage

Arm chair scouting in winter / rainy day

- Find places to explore next summer / trip
- Options for next trip
- Pre explore place you have never been, or are going, anything interesting?

Scouting Locations & Access



Tools

Scouting Locations

- Google Maps
 - Web and Phone
- Google Earth
- Google Searches
- Location web sites
 - Parks
 - City / County / State web sites
- County GIS
 - Who owns the land!
- Photographers Ephemeris – Free version
 - Interesting sun / moon opportunities

Advantage!

My Scouting / Trip Planning Philosophy

- I do not plan an itinerary
- I find possible locations and save to Google Maps
 - Exact parking / hiking / photo locations
- If there is an astronomical event I will note in the map notes
- If I may be out of cell tower range, or to save data usage
 - I download off line maps to my phone.

Advantage!

- **I have possible photo locations and quality navigation in my pocket!**

- I can decide where to go what to do depending on conditions / mood

- No point in going to a sunrise/set location if fully overcast

- Overcast days are great for water falls, flowers, non sky pictures.

- Possible sunrise / set locations

- Check weather forecast. (A whole other topic)

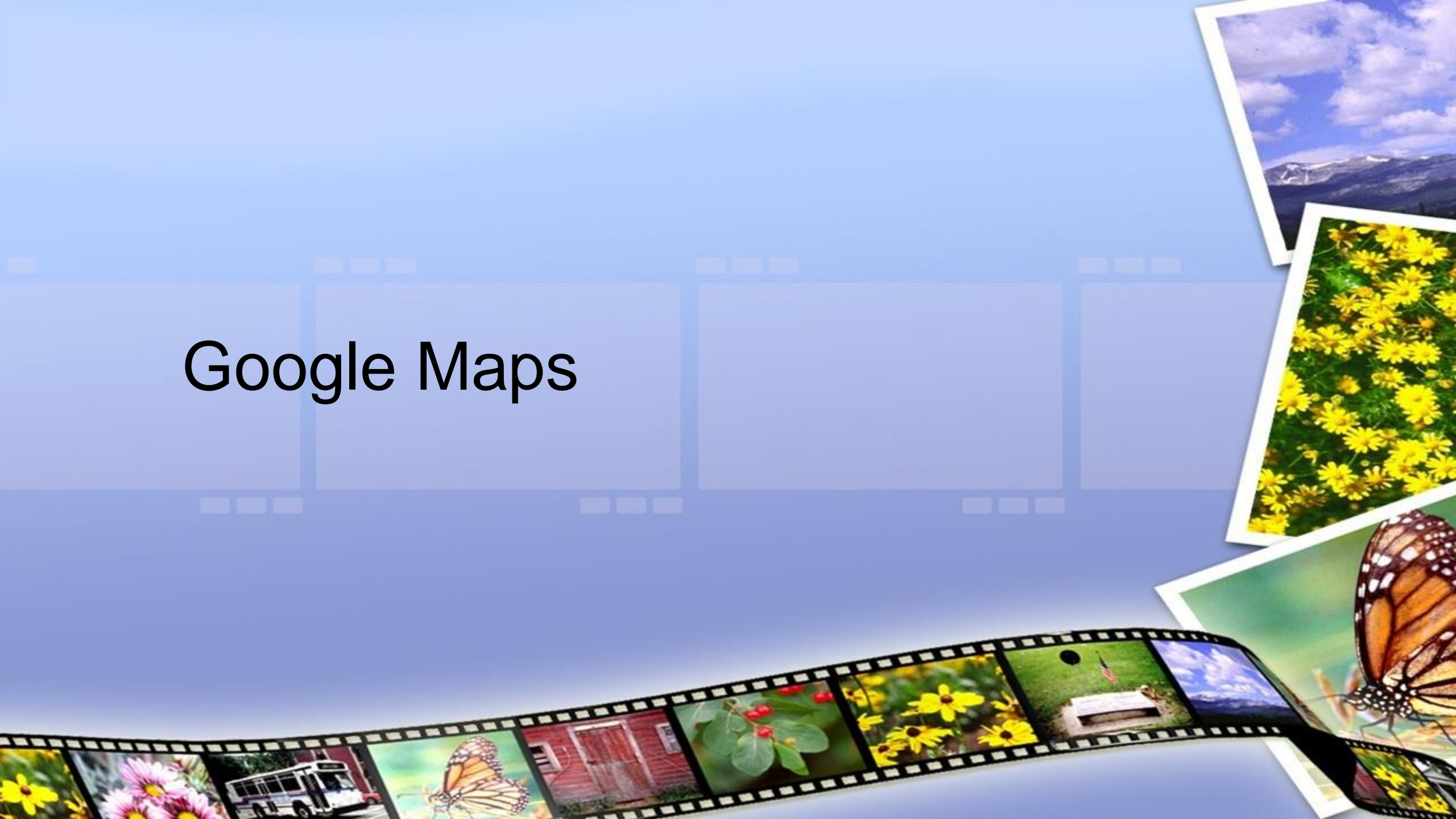


Lies, Lies, and More Lies

Rule ONE – The Internet Lies!

- Some of the information on the internet is crowd sourced
 - This means it is create by random people with different “abilities”.
 - Photo location information may be suspect
 - Could be GPS based or just place name based
- Google maps, street view, and Earth all have inconsistencies
 - Some data is current, some may be a bit old.
- GIS / Park web sites (Government) are generally more accurate
- Always consider the source and cross check.
 - If several sites agree likely good data

Google Maps



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

I usually start my explorations here

Map View

Parks/ Public are darker green

Light Green = Rural if zoomed out

Landmarks are noted!

Zoom in a bit to see all landmarks

Trails usually go somewhere

Click on land marks

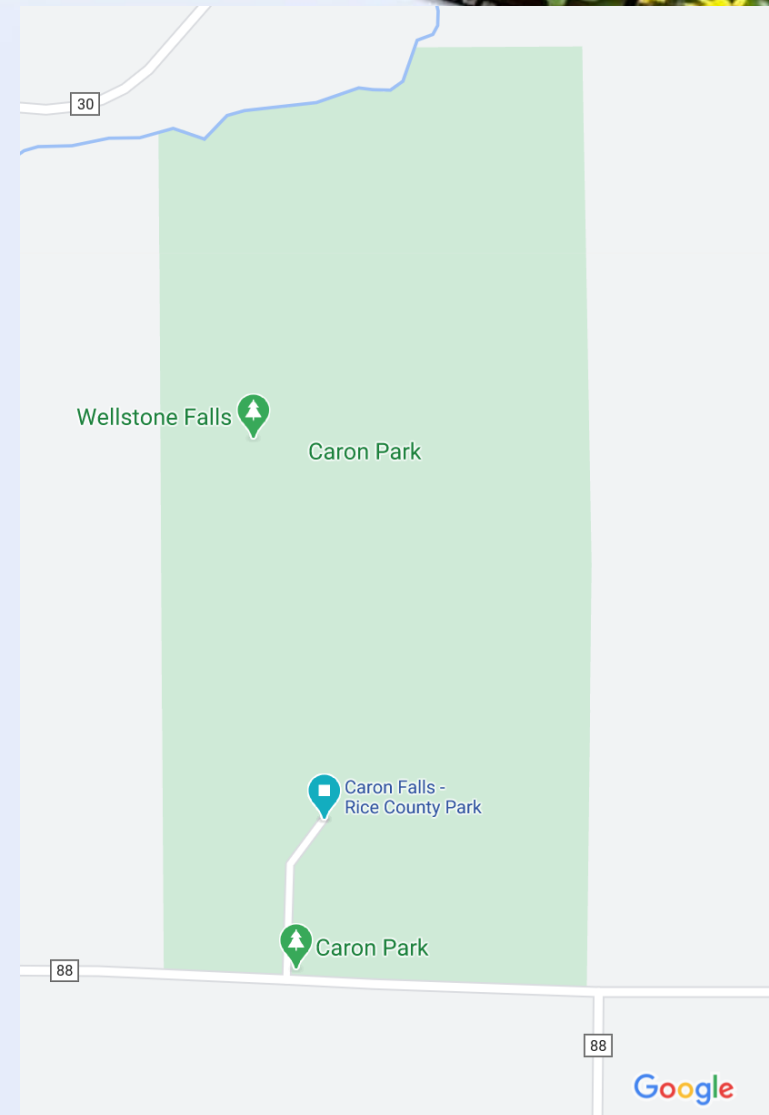
Links -> More information

Photos! -> Anything Interesting?

Hints of trail conditions

Photos of paths / stairs

How long is the drive?



Scouting Tools – Google Maps


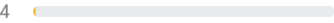

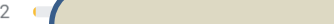
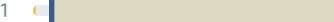
Map View

- Parks/ Public are darker green
 - Light Green = Rural if zoomed out
- Landmarks are noted!
- Zoom in a bit to see all landmarks
- Trails usually go somewhere
- Click on land marks
 - **Links -> More information**
 - **Photos ! -> Anything Interesting?**
 - **Comments -> What do others say?**
 - Hints of trail
 - Photos of paths / stairs
- How long is the drive?

The screenshot displays the Google Maps interface for 'Wellstone Falls'. At the top, a search bar contains 'Wellstone Falls' and a 'Back to directions' link. Below the search bar is a photo of a waterfall. A callout bubble points to this photo with the text 'Photos. Look interesting to you?'. Underneath the photo, the location name 'Wellstone Falls' is shown with a 4.6-star rating and '10 reviews'. A callout bubble points to the reviews with the text 'Comments = Information'. Below the rating are icons for 'Add stop', 'Save', 'Nearby', 'Send to your phone', and 'Share'. Further down, the address 'Northfield, MN 55057' and 'Open now: Open 24 hours' are visible. A callout bubble points to the 'Claim this business' link with the text 'May be link to web site'. At the bottom, there is a 'Suggest an edit' button. On the right side of the map, a red location pin marks 'Wellstone Falls' within a larger green area labeled 'Caron Park'. Other nearby locations like 'Caron Falls - Rice County Park' and 'Caron Park' are also marked.

Scouting Tools – Google Maps


← All reviews

5  4  3  2  1 


4.6

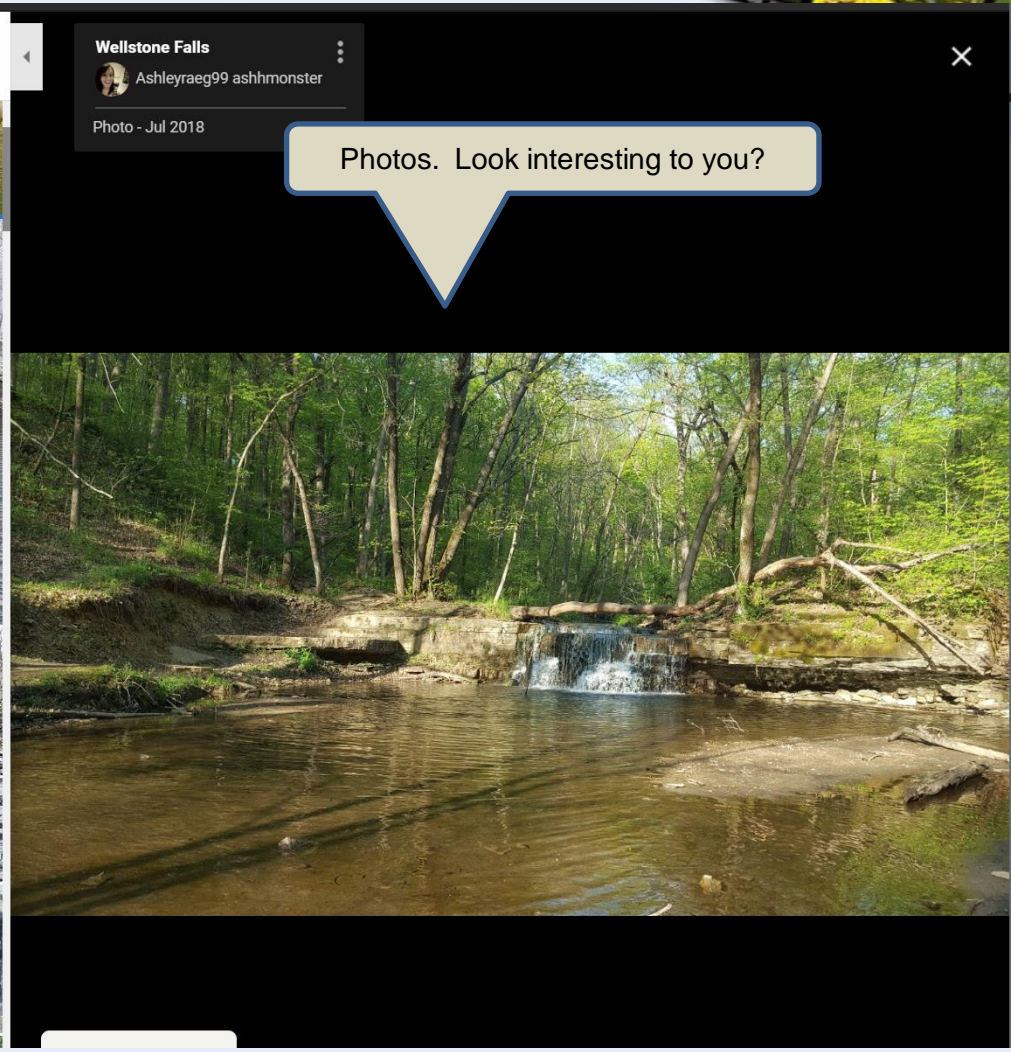
Comments = Information
Crowd source – Makes sense?
Multiple people say same thing?

All hike 3

 Jerry Winker
Local Guide · 7 reviews
★★★★☆ 3 months ago
Not a gigantic waterfall, but scenic. As you head downhill toward Caron Falls in Caron Park, this is on the creek to your left, as Caron Falls is ahead on your right. The two are separated by about 100 feet; each falls are on different streams. Pretty sweet that you get a 2-for-1 deal on this hike!

Like Share

 matt sieg
Local Guide · 270 reviews
★★★★★ a week ago
The South Waterfall is named "Wellstone Falls" and the the Waterfall to the East is named "Carron Falls". Super dope place!



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

Satellite view

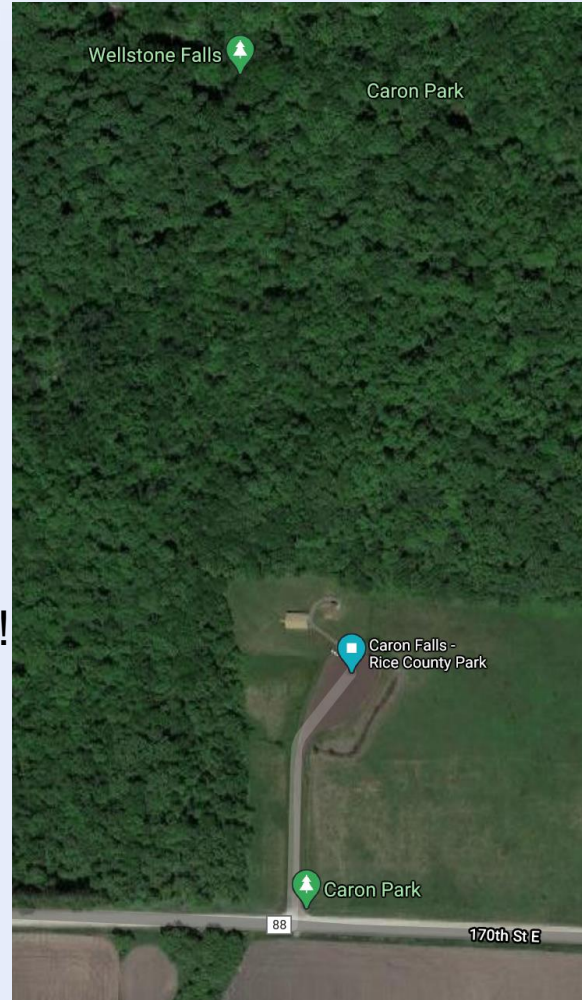
- Finds actual parking location!
 - GPS address do not always work !
 - Asking google does not always work!

◦ See waterfalls – bigger ones

◦ Tree cover and trails

- Thick tree cover may indicate limited views

◦ Open area - opportunities for big landscapes!



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

Street View

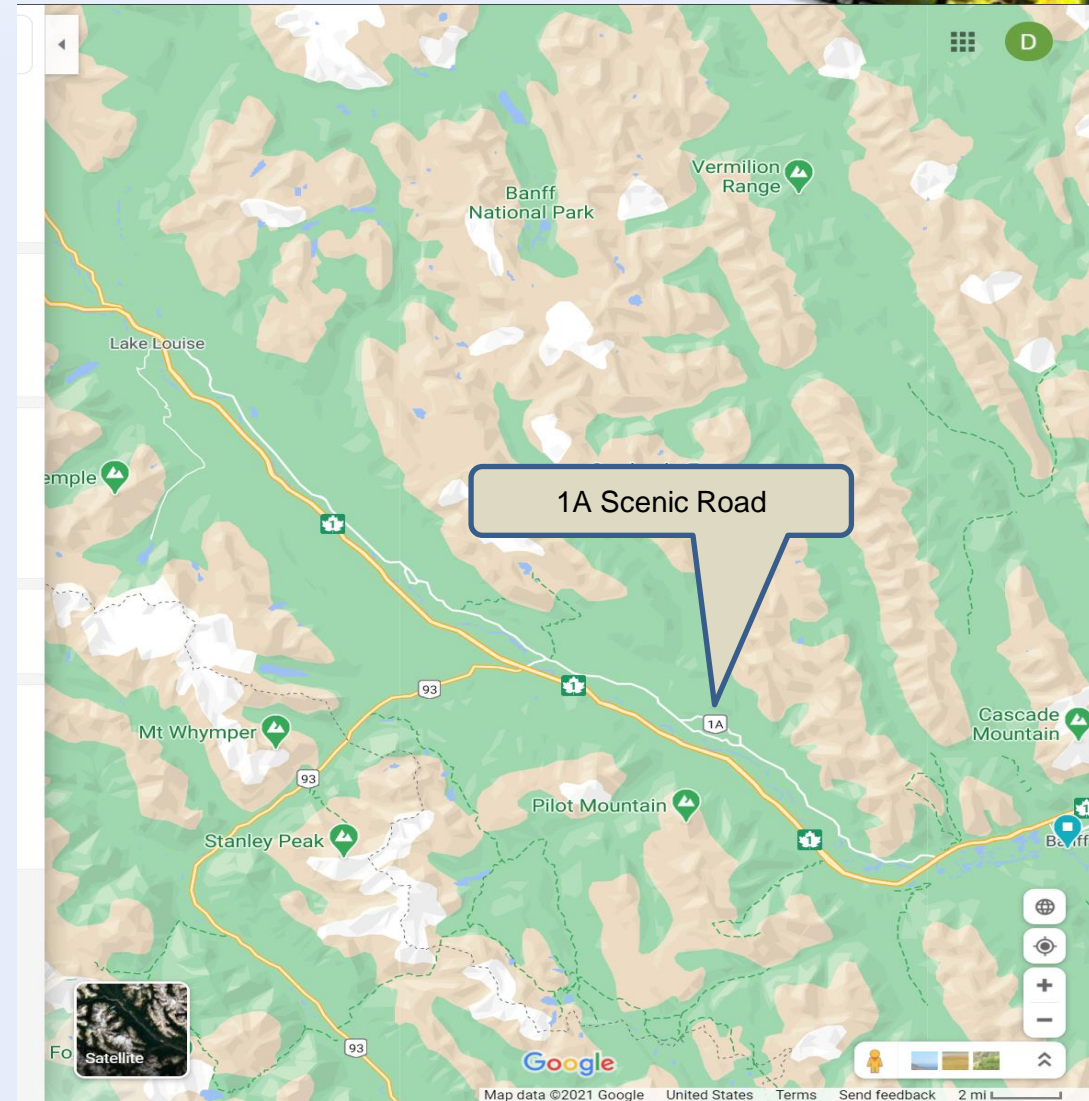
- Read signs – Confirm parking and entrances
- See if maps are correct!
 - Trust but verify (Lies. Lies and more Lies)
- Can you go down this road?
 - Gate, Warning Signs, Private mail box
 - or Welcome to park sign!
- Confirm location of trail crossings / entrances
- “Drive” a road before going to see if there are any views
- Potential view from road side pull off?



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

Street View – Scenic road photogenic?

- Banff National Park
- Bow Valley Parkway
 - Listed as scenic road
- White road 1A to the east of Canadian Route 1
- A multi hour drive



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

Street View – Scenic road photogenic?

- I drove **Entire** road from the recliner in my living room.
- It all looks like ->
- Tall trees on either side of road, the entire route



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

◦ Vs the view from the Ice Field Parkway

◦ Where would you go?

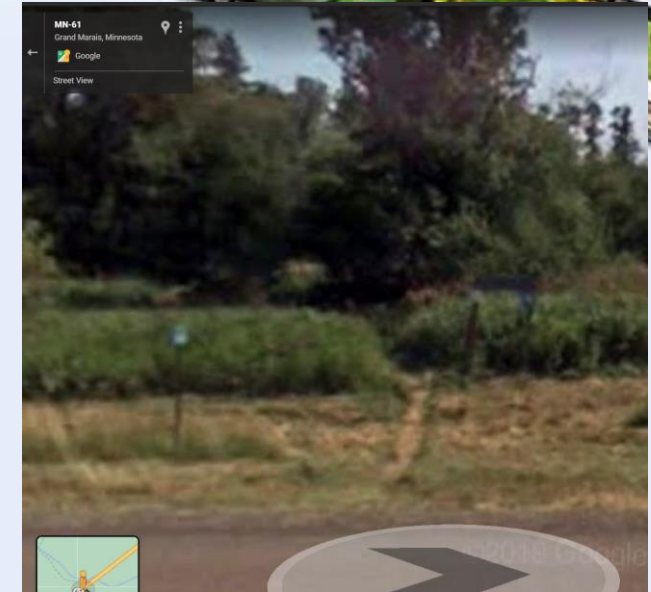
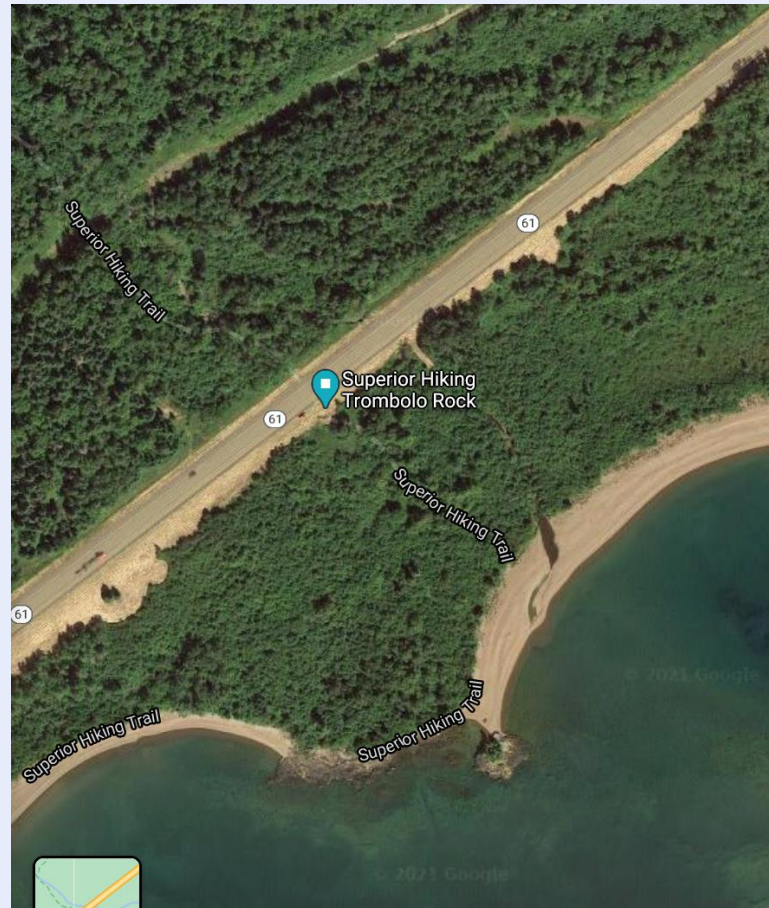


Scouting Tools – Google Maps

Look Around for Clues

Trail to the Tombolo north of Grand Marais

Can see the trail on map, use street view to confirm trail crossing



Scouting Tools – Google Maps

How far is the drive?

Right click on saved pin or any location

Click on Directions to here

The screenshot displays the Google Maps interface. At the top, a search bar contains the coordinates 44.346455, -93.164696. Below the search bar is a blue header with a city skyline icon. The main map area shows an aerial view of a parking lot with a red location pin. A context menu is open over the pin, listing several options. A blue arrow points from a yellow 'Click' callout box to the 'Directions to here' option in the menu. The left sidebar shows the location is saved in a list titled 'MN Waterfalls' with a note about a water fall hike. Other options in the sidebar include 'Add a missing place', 'Add your business', and 'Add a label'.

44.346455, -93.164696

44°20'47.2"N 93°09'52.9"W
44.346455, -93.164696

Directions Saved Nearby Send to your phone Share

Saved in MN Waterfalls
Caron Falls Parking

Water Fall is about 1/4 mile hike
Take path to the NW

Edit note View list

Northfield, MN 55057

8RWP+H4 Faribault, Minnesota

Add a missing place

Add your business

Add a label

Caron Falls - Rice County Park

44.34650, -93.16469

Directions from here

Directions to here

What's here?

Search nearby

Print

Add a missing place

Add your business

Report a data problem

Measure distance

Click

Scouting Tools – Google Maps

How far is the drive?

Enter a starting location

About a 50 minutes drive from the park and ride in Eagan

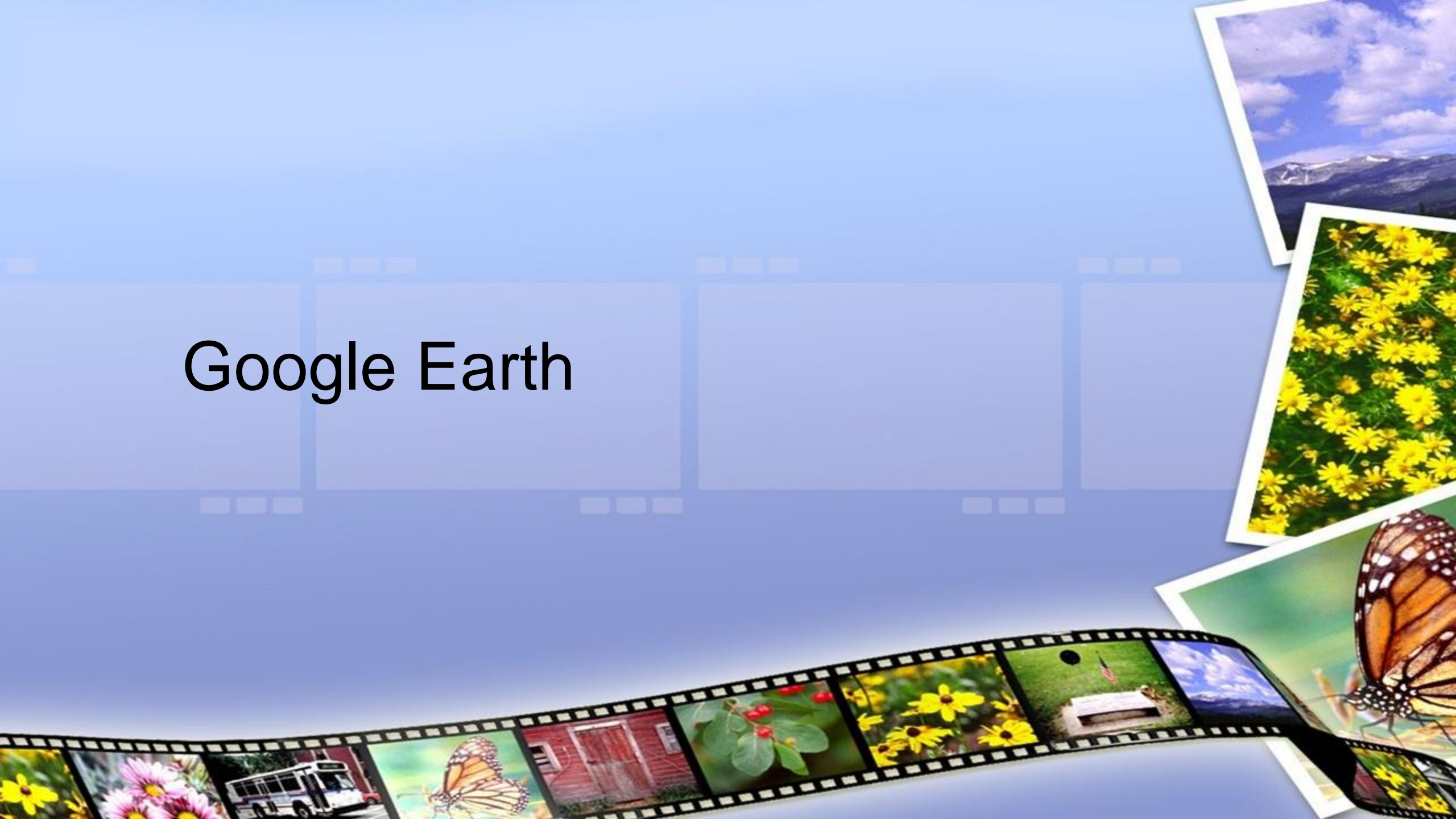
This is to a saved pin in the parking lot of the park!

The screenshot displays the Google Maps interface. On the left, the search bar shows the starting location as "Park & Ride, 3450 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan" and the destination as "Caron Park, Northfield, MN 55057". Below the search bar, there are options for "Leave now" and "OPTIONS". A warning message states: "Wearing a mask in some public spaces is required due to COVID-19". There is a button to "Send directions to your phone". The route options are listed as follows:

Route	Time	Distance
via I-35 S	45 min	43.0 miles
via I-35E S and I-35 S	50 min	42.6 miles
via MN-3 S	53 min	38.0 miles

Below the route options, there is a section titled "Explore Caron Park" with icons for Restaurants, Hotels, Gas stations, Parking Lots, and More. The map on the right shows the route in blue, starting from the Park & Ride in Eagan and ending at Caron Park in Northfield. The map includes various landmarks, roads, and a satellite view inset at the bottom left.

Google Earth



Scouting Tools – Google Earth

- **Turn on the Photos layers**

- See what other people have taken pictures of
- Something you are interested in?
- Does the location of photo make sense? (Lies)

- **3D view of the landscape**

- **Time Slider**

- See what was there in the past
- Different seasons
- Landscape changes

- **Sunlight across the landscape**

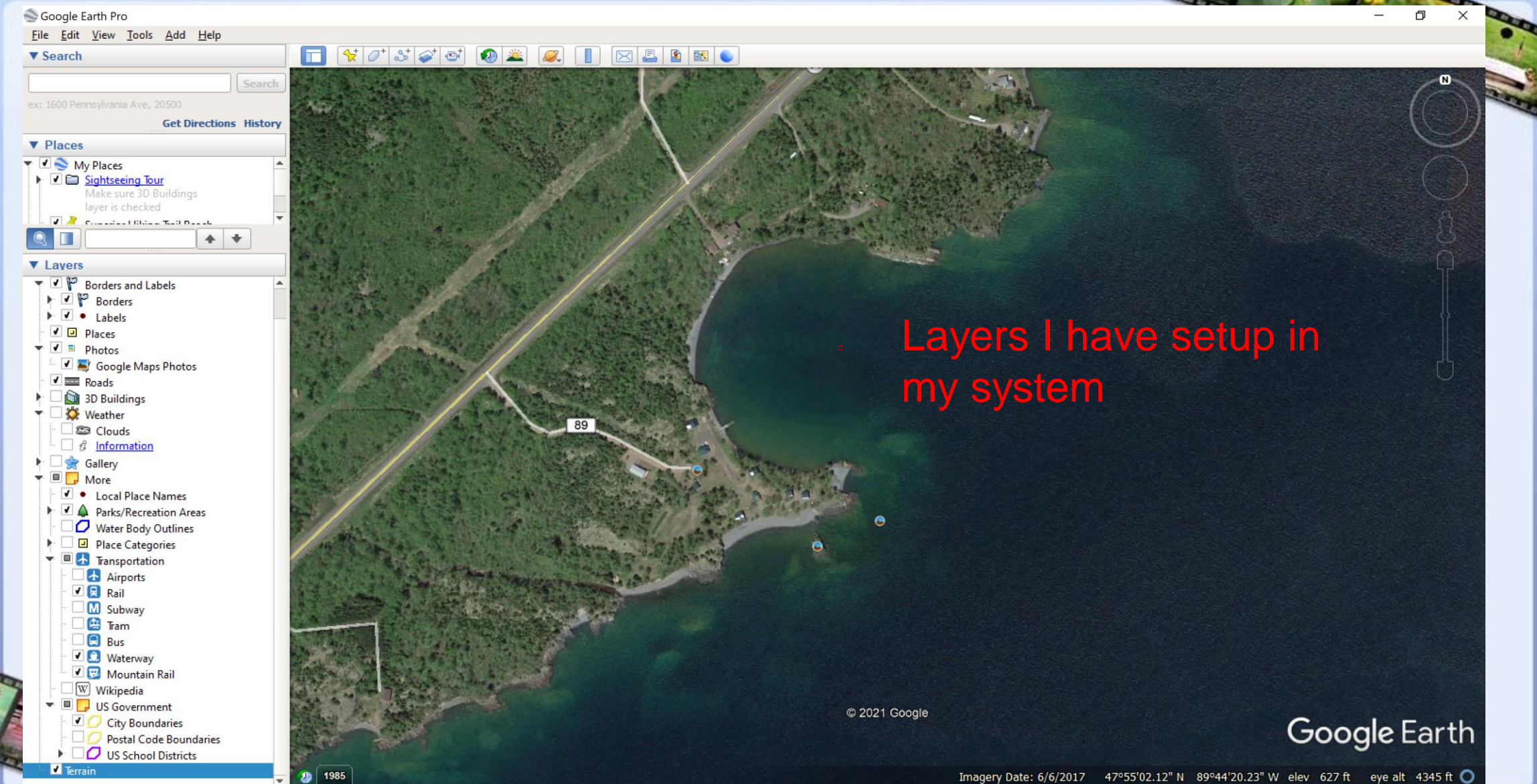
- Not as useful in the flatlands (MN)

- **One click link to google maps**

- **Measure distances**

- **Another tool to explore the landscape**

Scouting Tools – Google Earth



The screenshot displays the Google Earth Pro interface. The main map shows a satellite view of a lake area with a road labeled '89'. The left sidebar contains the following sections:

- Search:** Search bar with placeholder text 'ex: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, 20500' and buttons for 'Get Directions' and 'History'.
- Places:** A list of saved places, including 'My Places', 'Sightseeing Tour', and 'Crescent Lake Trail Book'.
- Layers:** A detailed list of map layers with checkboxes. The checked layers include:
 - Borders and Labels
 - Borders
 - Labels
 - Places
 - Photos
 - Google Maps Photos
 - Roads
 - 3D Buildings
 - Weather
 - Clouds
 - Information
 - Gallery
 - More
 - Local Place Names
 - Parks/Recreation Areas
 - Water Body Outlines
 - Place Categories
 - Transportation
 - Airports
 - Rail
 - Subway
 - Tram
 - Bus
 - Waterway
 - Mountain Rail
 - Wikipedia
 - US Government
 - City Boundaries
 - Postal Code Boundaries
 - US School Districts
 - Terrain

The bottom status bar shows the following information: © 2021 Google, Imagery Date: 6/6/2017, 47°55'02.12" N 89°44'20.23" W, elev 627 ft, eye alt 4345 ft. The Google Earth logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Layers I have setup in my system

Scouting Tools – Google Earth

The screenshot shows the Google Earth Pro interface. The main map displays a satellite view of a lake area with a road labeled '89'. A photo bubble is visible on the map, and a callout box points to it with the text: "Click on Photo Bubble to see Photos".

Google Earth Pro
File Edit View Tools Add Help

Search
Search
ex: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., 20500
[Get Directions](#) [History](#)

Places

- My Places
 - Sightseeing Tour
 - Make sure 3D Buildings layer is checked

Layers

- Borders and Labels
 - Borders
 - Labels
- Places
- Photos
- Google Maps Photos
- Roads
- 3D Buildings
- Weather
- Clouds
- [Information](#)
- Gallery
- More
 - Local Place Names
 - Parks/Recreation Areas
 - Water Body Outlines
 - Place Categories
- Transportation
 - Airports
 - Rail
 - Subway
 - Tram
 - Bus
 - Waterway
 - Mountain Rail
- Wikipedia
- US Government
 - City Boundaries
 - Postal Code Boundaries
 - US School Districts
- Terrain

1985

Imagery Date: 6/6/2017 47°55'01.54" N 89°44'10.94" W elev 602 ft eye alt 4345 ft

Google Earth

Hollow Rock

Vanessa McCahon
Images may be subject to copyright. [Report a Problem](#)

[Where's the old Photos layer?](#)

Scouting Tools – Google Earth

3D landscape view

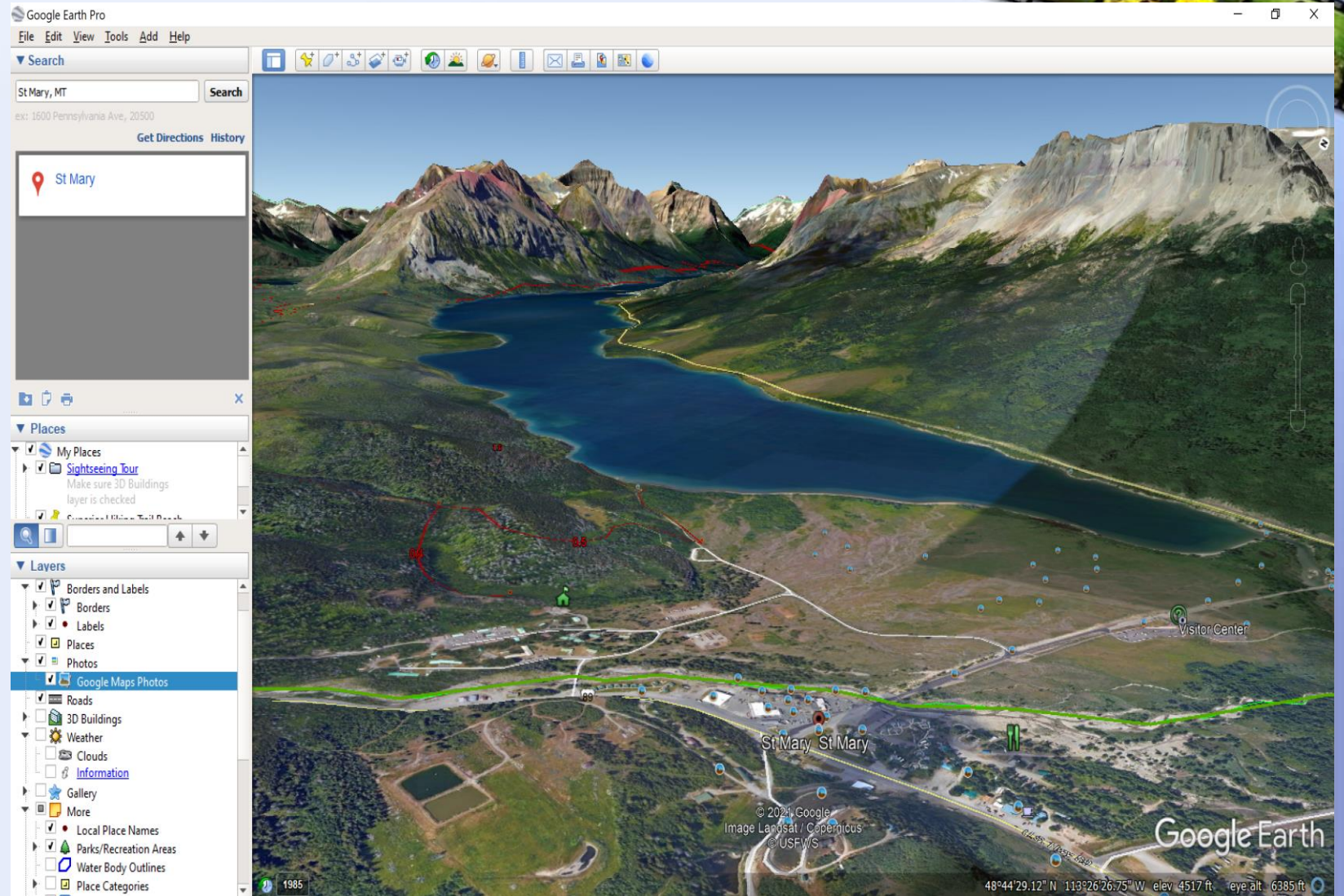
Mouse Wheel = Zoom in/out

Shift + Mouse Wheel = Angle

Control + Mouse Wheel = Rotate

Can get a sense of elevation. Is it a cliff to lake superior or a gentle slope?

Earth has elevation data.

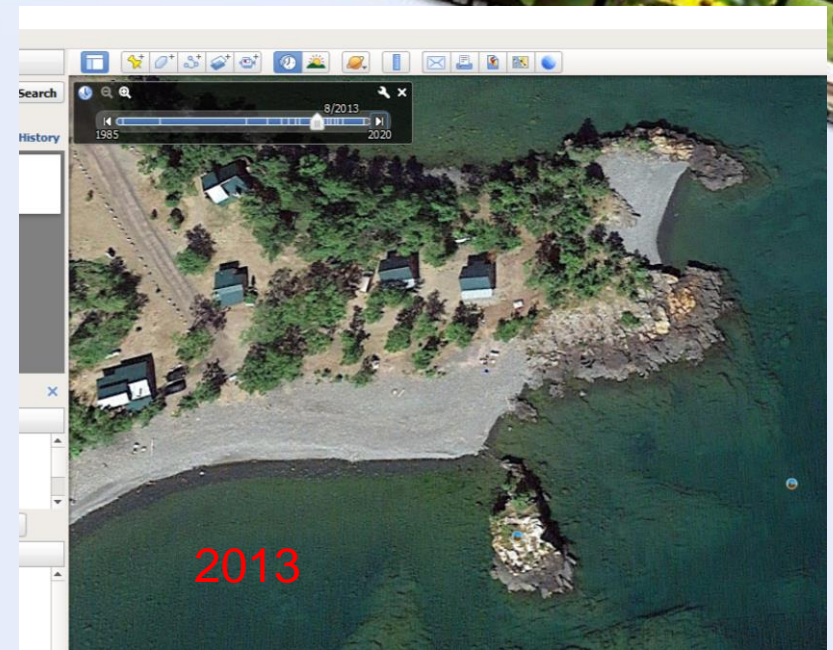
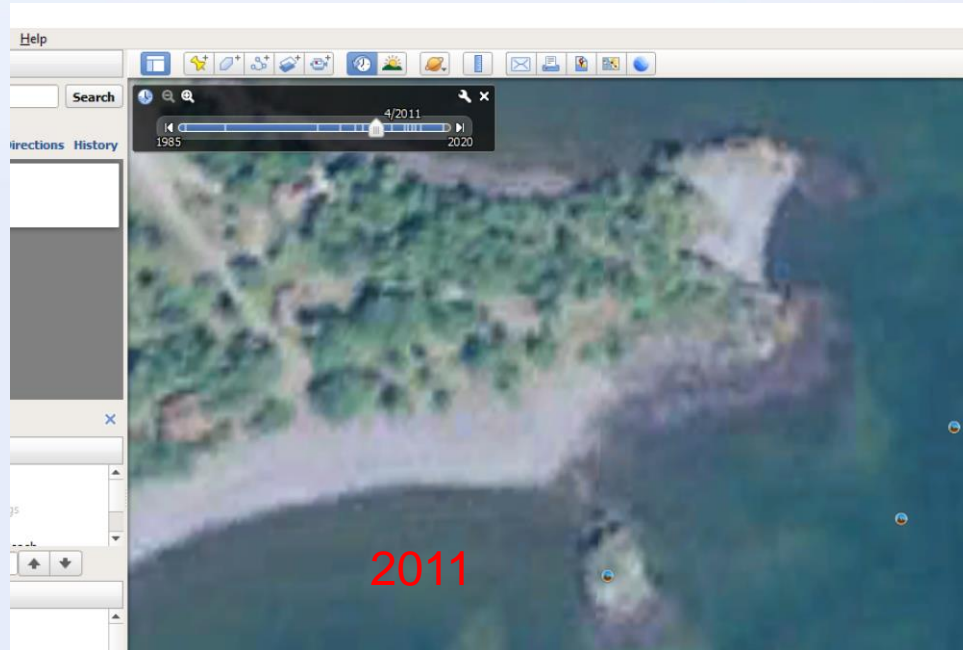


Scouting Tools – Google Earth

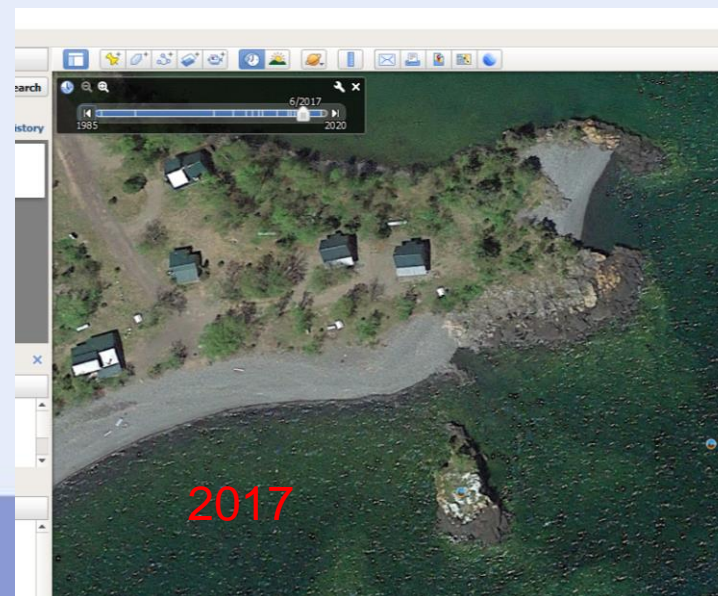
Time Slider

Look into the past

Does landscape change?



Time Slider



Scouting Tools – Google Earth

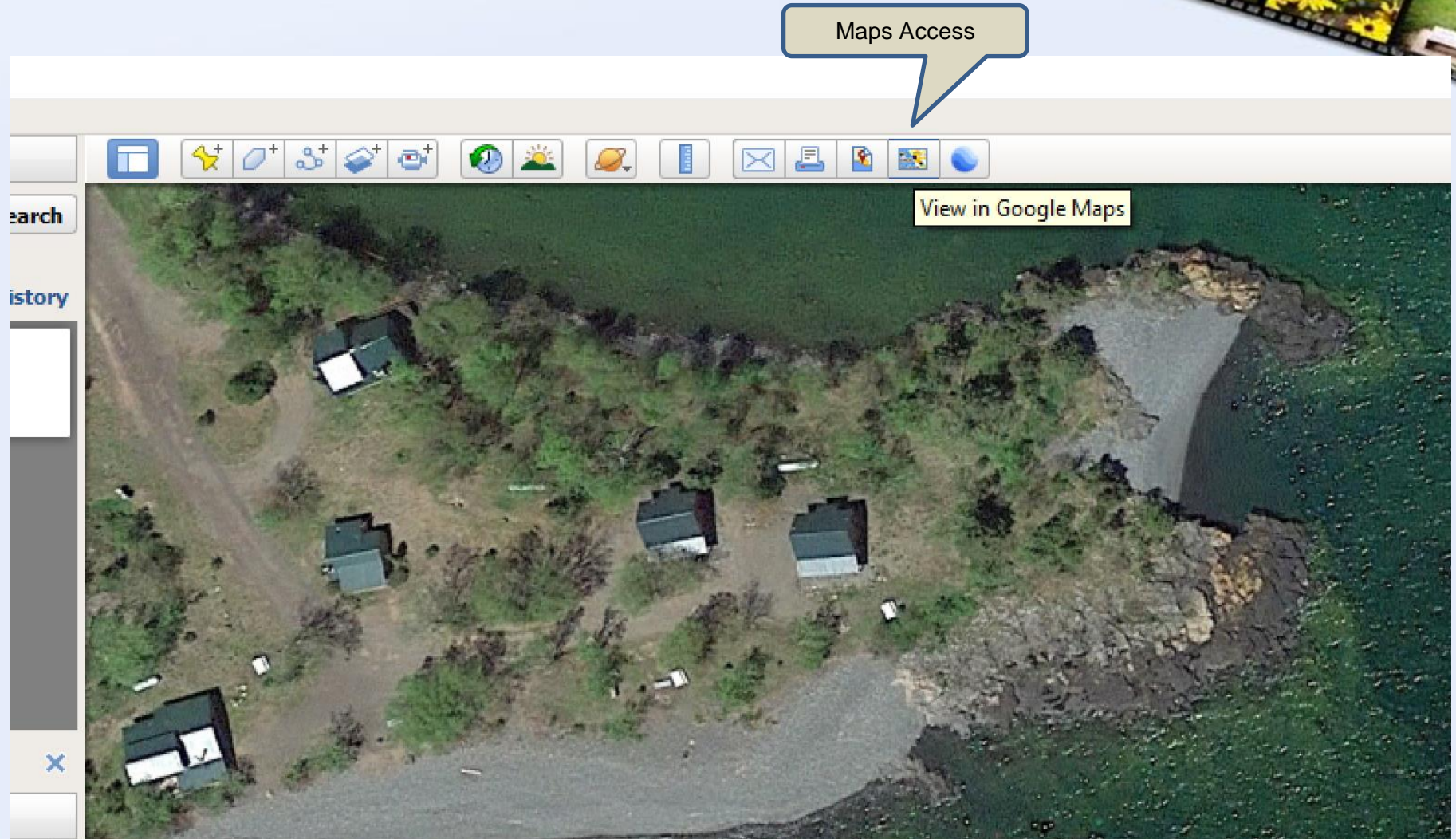
Link to Maps

Chrome has to be default browser

Find on earth

Jump to Maps

Save location



Scouting Tools – Google Earth

Measure Distances

How long is the walk?

Distance to object + height, you can calculate focal length needed

The screenshot shows the Google Earth interface with a 'Measure' tool active. A yellow line is drawn between two points on a satellite map. A 'Ruler' dialog box is open, displaying the following information:

Line	Path	Polygon	Circle	3D path	3D polygon	
Measure the distance between two points on the ground						
Map Length:	0.23 Miles					
Ground Length:	0.23					
Heading:	350.07 degrees					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mouse Navigation						
					Save	Clear

Saving Locations in Google Maps



Save Locations – Google Maps

- You must have a Google account
 - Auto sync to phone
 - (I have no idea how or if this works on an Iphone, I suspect it does)
- Have a list of possible shooting locations in your pocket
- Navigate to EXACT Parking lot / trail head / photo spot
 - Save exact location from satellite view.
- Have good naming conventions
 - Google's organizational tooling is **poor!**
 - A list of list of locations. One level of hierarchy
- Do not use Stared and Favorites – make you own lists!
 - Use verbose naming convention with hierarchal description
 - LS – Water Access (Lake Superior – Water Access)
 - MN – Water Falls (Minnesota Water Falls)
 - CND-IFP-Bathrooms (Canada – Icefield Parkway - Bathroom)

Save Locations – Google Maps

How save ANY location

Save location of Caron park parking lot
to MN-Waterfalls list

Right click on location

Select “What’s Here?”

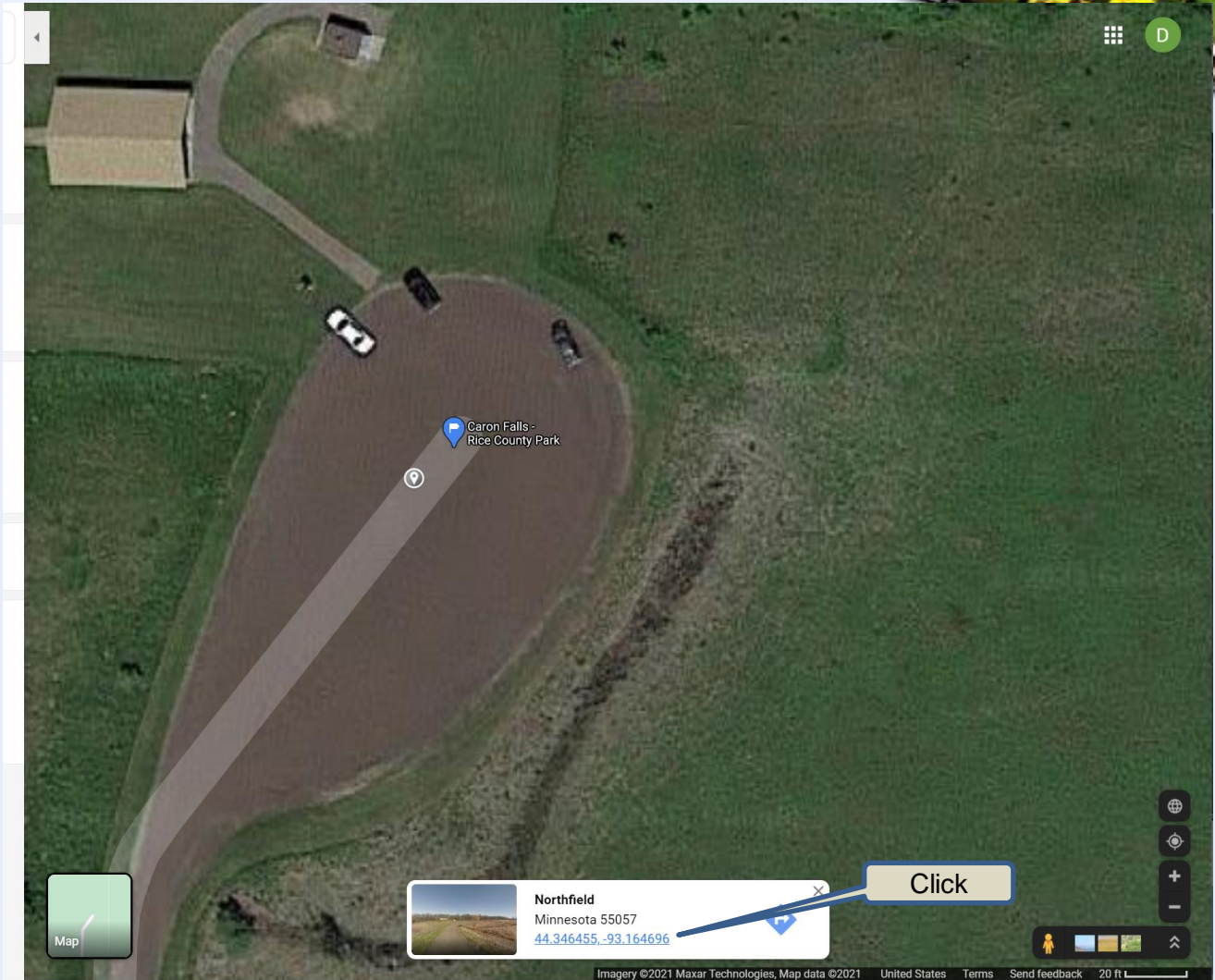
The screenshot shows a Google Maps interface with a right-click context menu open over a parking lot. The menu items are: 44,34646, -93.16470; Directions from here; Directions to here; What's here?; Search nearby; Print; Add a missing place; Add your business; Report a data problem; Measure distance. A blue arrow points to the 'What's here?' option, and a yellow box with the text 'Click' is positioned next to it. The map shows a parking lot with several cars and a building in the background. The browser's address bar shows the coordinates 44.3464432, -93.1647216, 98m/data=!3m1!1e3. The browser's bookmark bar is visible at the top with various categories like 'Ham', 'Cvd', 'PhotoOps', etc. The Google logo and copyright information are visible at the bottom of the map.

Save Locations – Google Maps

Call up location window

A pop-up will appear

Click on the Lat / Lon coordinates

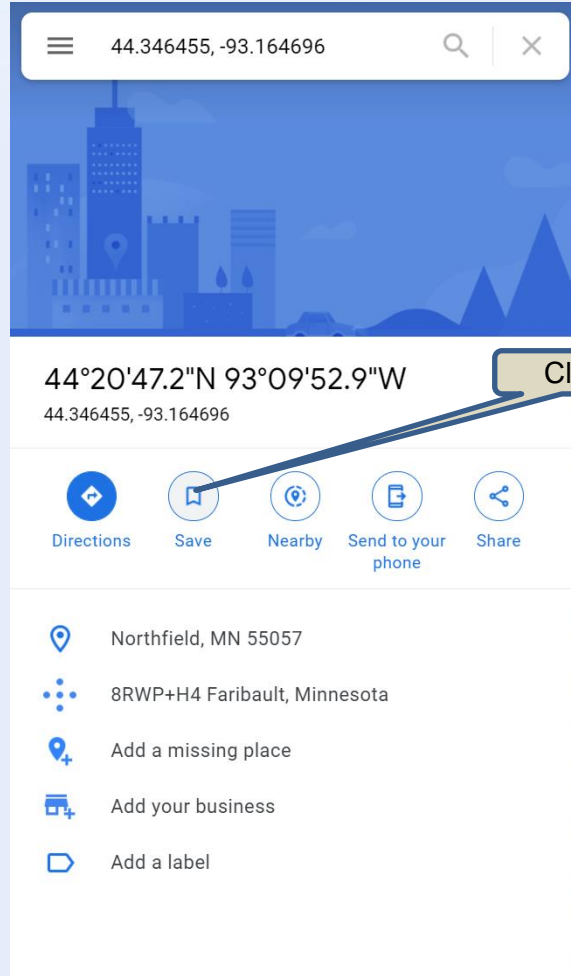


Save Locations – Google Maps

Location menu

A Location windows appears on the left

Click Save



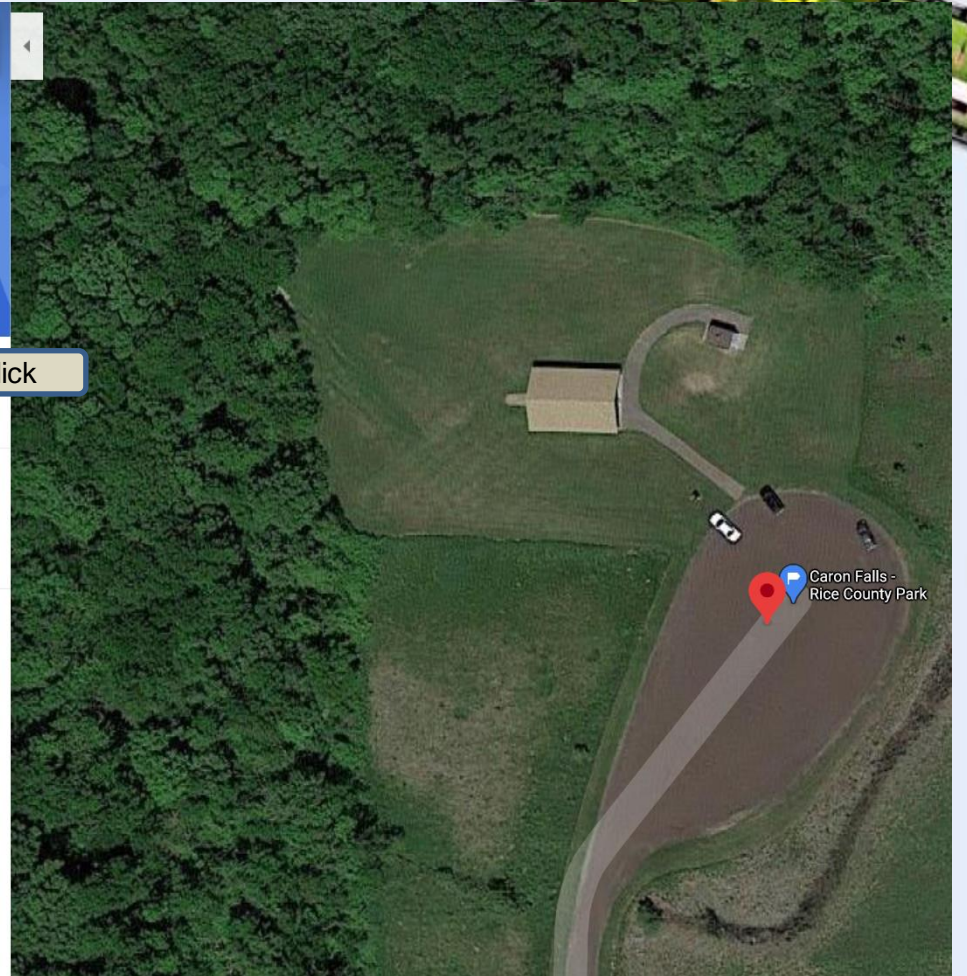
The screenshot shows the Google Maps interface with a location menu open on the left. At the top, the search bar contains the coordinates 44.346455, -93.164696. Below the search bar, the location is identified as Northfield, MN 55057. The menu includes options for Directions, Save, Nearby, Send to your phone, and Share. A callout box labeled 'Click' points to the 'Save' icon.

44.346455, -93.164696

44°20'47.2"N 93°09'52.9"W
44.346455, -93.164696

Directions Save Nearby Send to your phone Share

Northfield, MN 55057
8RWP+H4 Faribault, Minnesota
Add a missing place
Add your business
Add a label



Save Locations – Google Maps

Save location to list

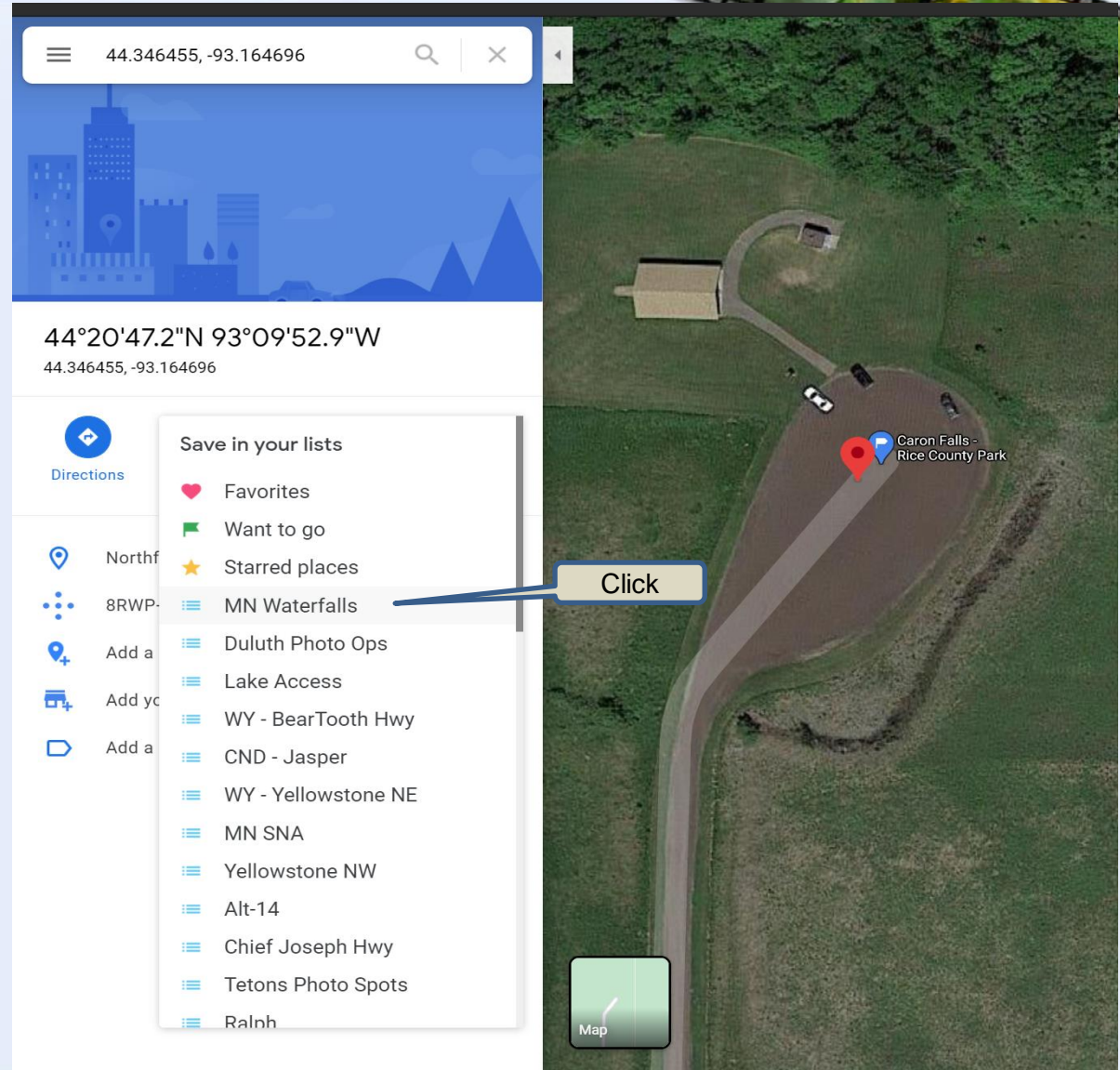
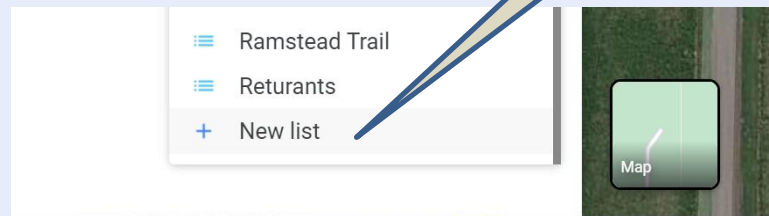
A Location windows appears on the left

Pick your list

Create a new list if you want

Remember – Verbose hierarchical naming convention

Bottom of list has new list



Save Locations – Google Maps

Add a Label

Label is used by Google Maps in some places for picking location

Add a label CANCEL

Caron Falls Parking

Personal places will be used across Google products, for personalized recommendations, and for more useful ads.

Caron Falls Parking Add a label

44°20'47.2"N 93°09'52.9"W
44.346455, -93.164696

Directions Saved Nearby Send to your phone Share

Saved in MN Waterfalls ▼

[Add note](#) [View list](#)

Northfield, MN 55057

8RWP+H4 Faribault, Minnesota

Add a missing place

Add your business

Add a label Click

Enter Label here and press "enter" key

Save Locations – Google Maps

Add a Note

Duplicate the label at the start of the note!

The label not shown in some places, but the note is!

You can also add information now or update later as you explore.

You can always add to the note

The screenshot shows the Google Maps interface for a location. At the top, the search bar contains the coordinates 44.346455, -93.164696. Below the search bar is a blue header with a city skyline icon. The main content area displays the location name "Caron Falls Parking" and its coordinates "44°20'47.2"N 93°09'52.9"W". Below this are several action buttons: "Directions", "Saved", "Nearby", "Send to your phone", and "Share". A list of saved locations is shown below, with "Caron Falls Parking" selected. A yellow callout box with the word "Click" points to the "Add note" button. An "Add note" dialog box is open, showing the location name and coordinates, and a text input field containing the note: "Caron Falls Parking", "Water Fall is about 1/4 mile hike", and "Take path to the NW". The dialog box has "CANCEL" and "DONE" buttons at the bottom right.

Click

Add note

View list

Add note

44°20'47.2"N 93°09'52.9"W
Saved in MN Waterfalls • Private

Caron Falls Parking
Water Fall is about 1/4 mile hike
Take path to the NW

CANCEL DONE

Navigating on Phone



Google Maps – Phone Navigation

Two ways to navigate

The places you add on PC or phone are synced to your phone via your Google account

You can **Explore** the map, click on location and go

List - Search a saved list, select and navigate

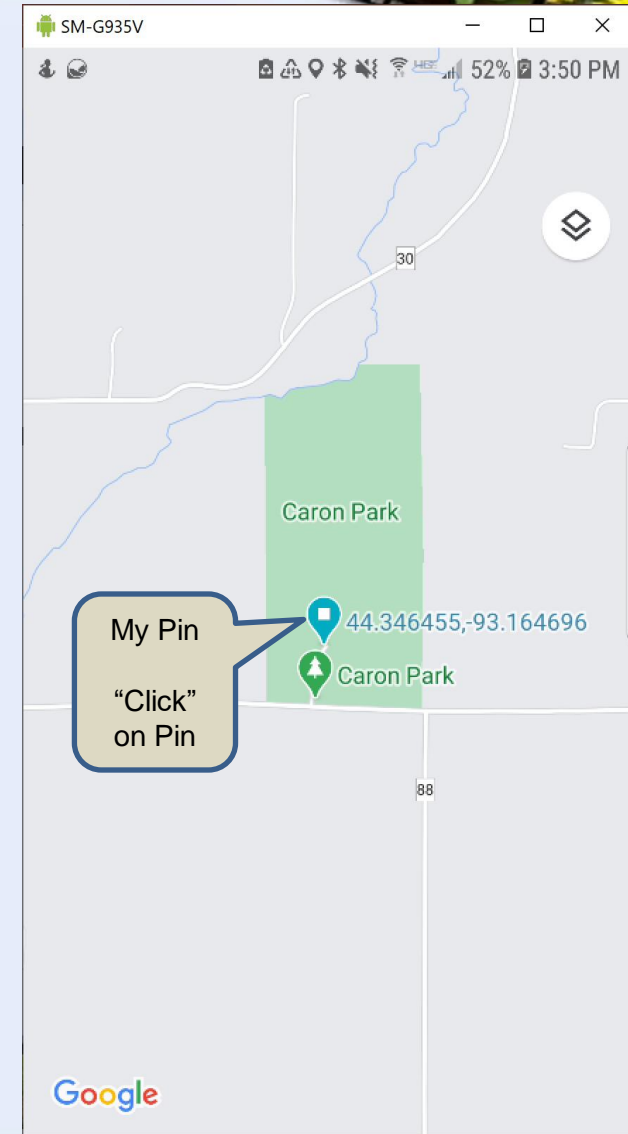
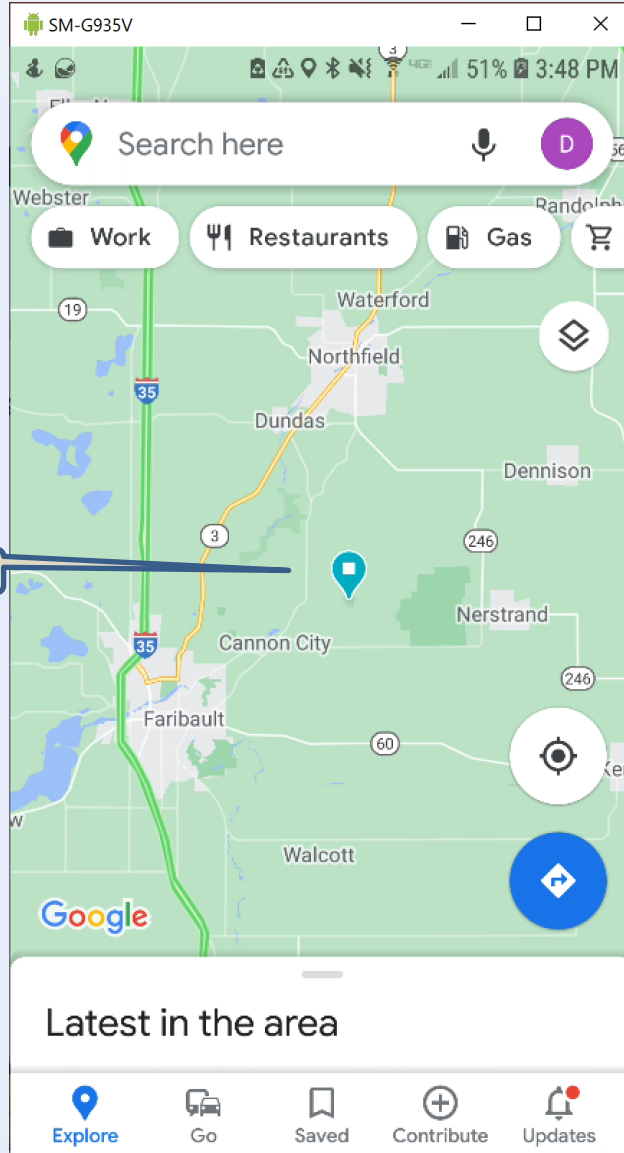
Google Maps – Phone Navigation

Explore Mode

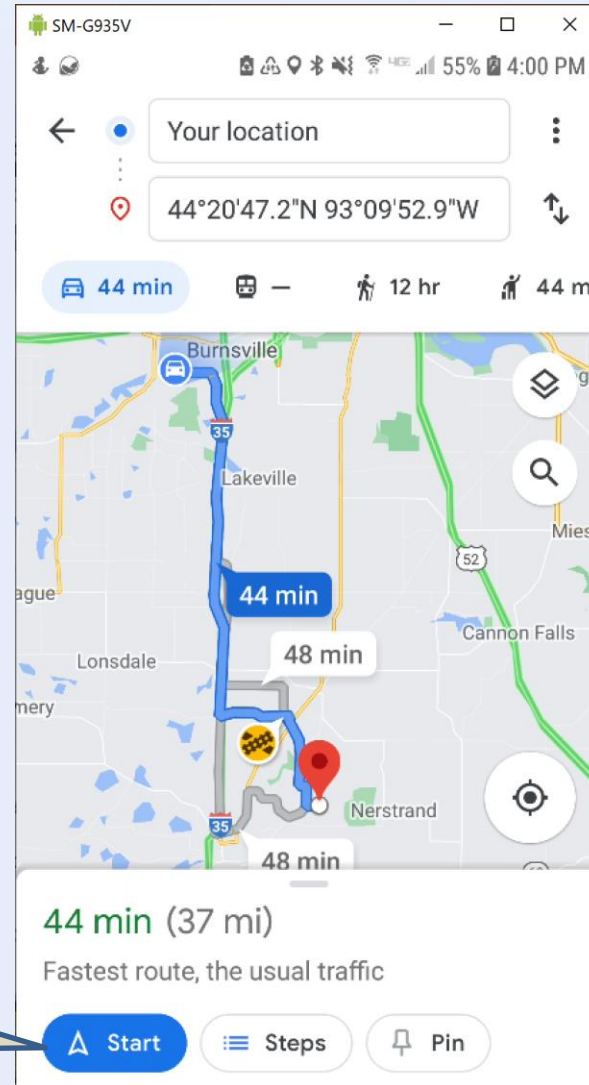
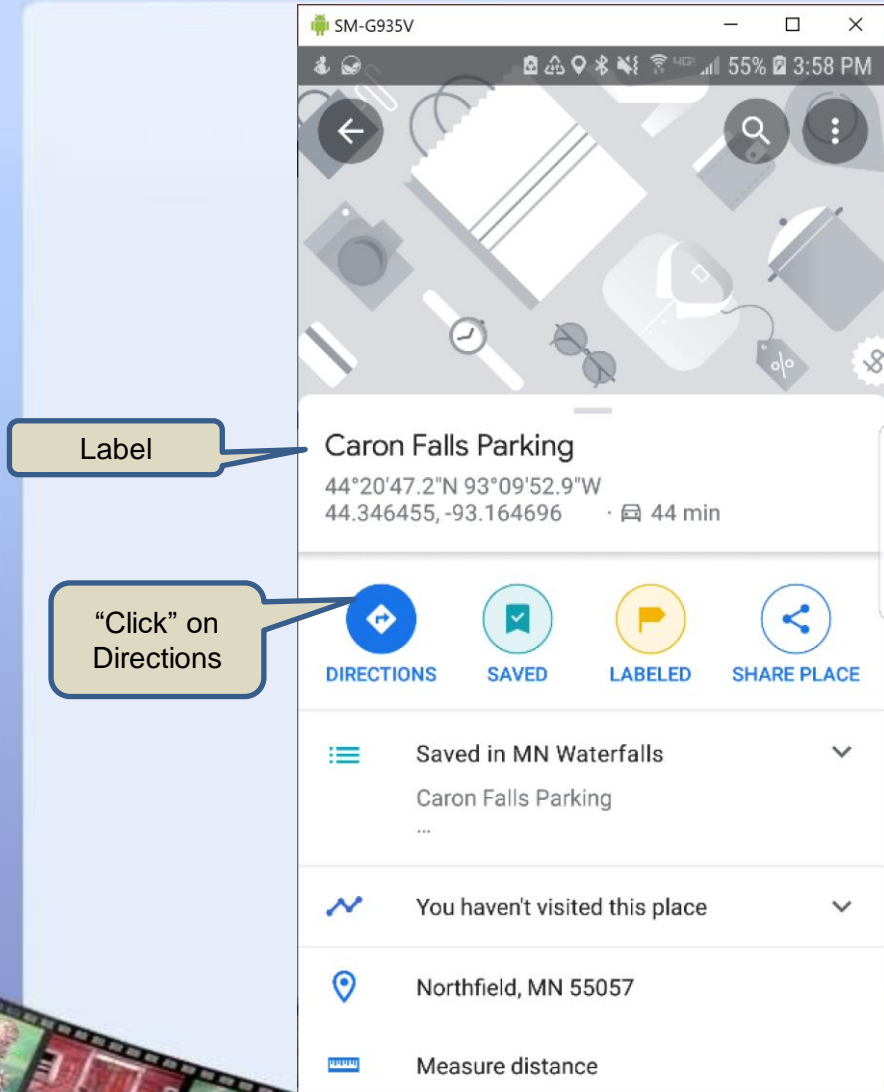
Explore the map

You can browse the map, click on location and go

My Pin

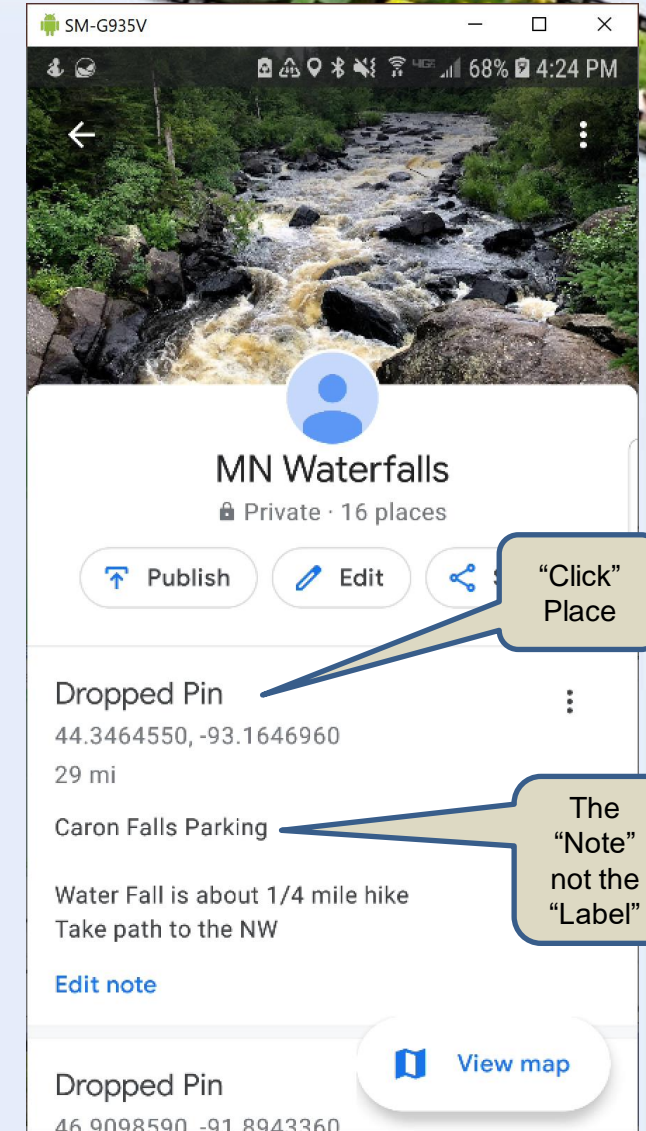
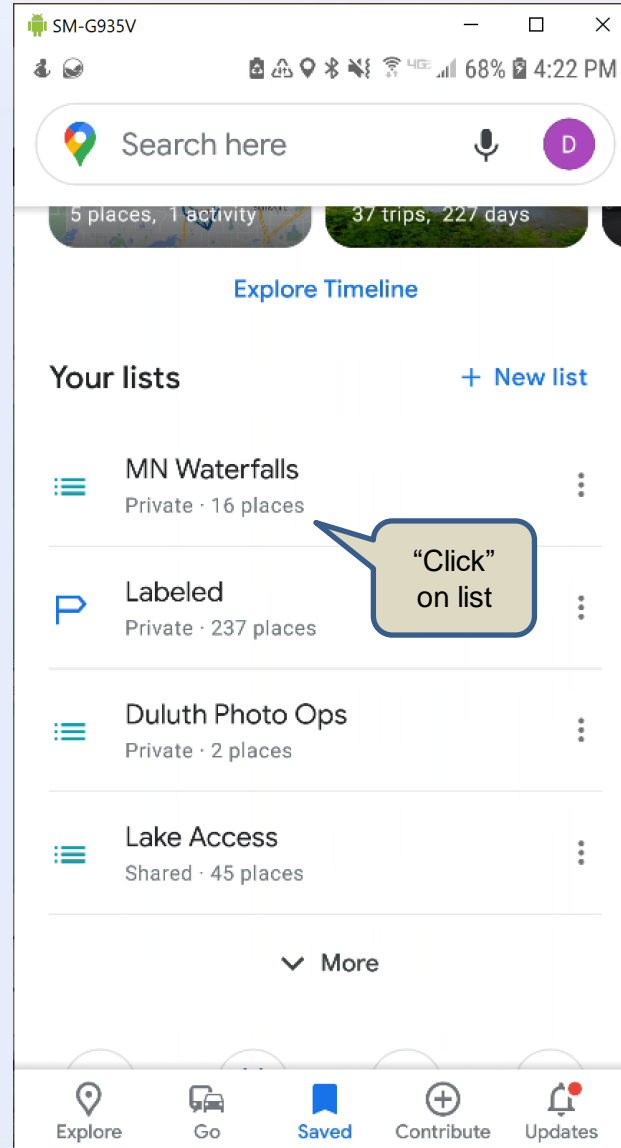
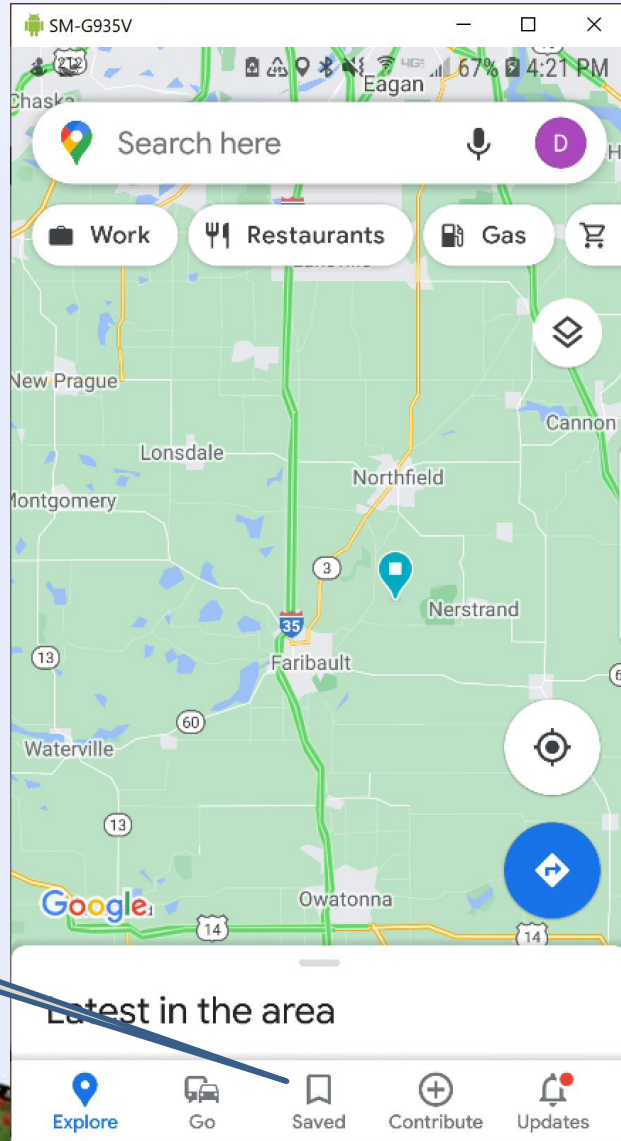


Google Maps – Phone Navigation



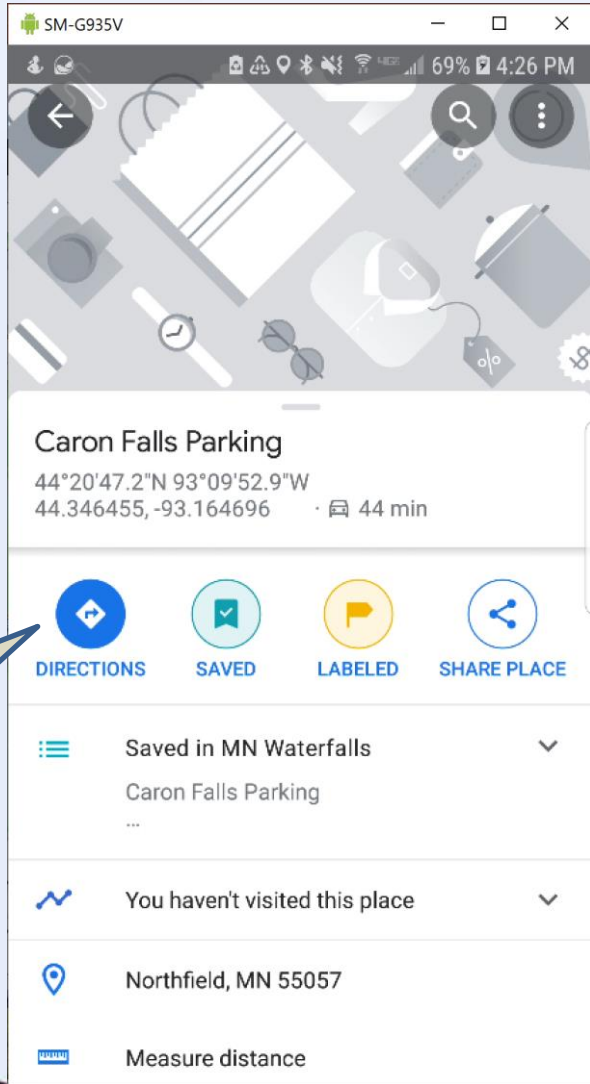
Google Maps – Phone Navigation

List Mode

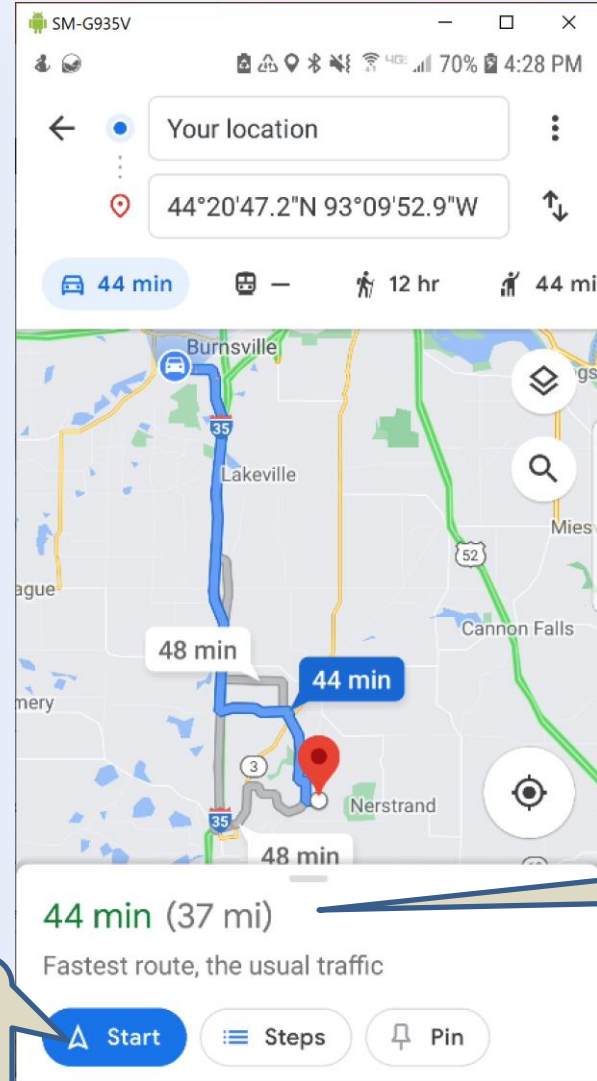


Google Maps – Phone Navigation

List Mode



"Click" on Directions



"Click" to start navigation

Drive Time & Distance

Saving Offline Maps for Offline Navigation




Saving Offline Maps

- Do not need a cell phone connection to navigate
 - Cell coverage may be weak or non-existent in some areas
 - Northern part of 61.
 - Inland from 61.
 - National Parks
- GPS is satellite based – No cellular connection required to know your location
 - Mapping information can be stored on your phone
 - Roads, trails, rivers, lakes, points of interest.
 - The standard maps view

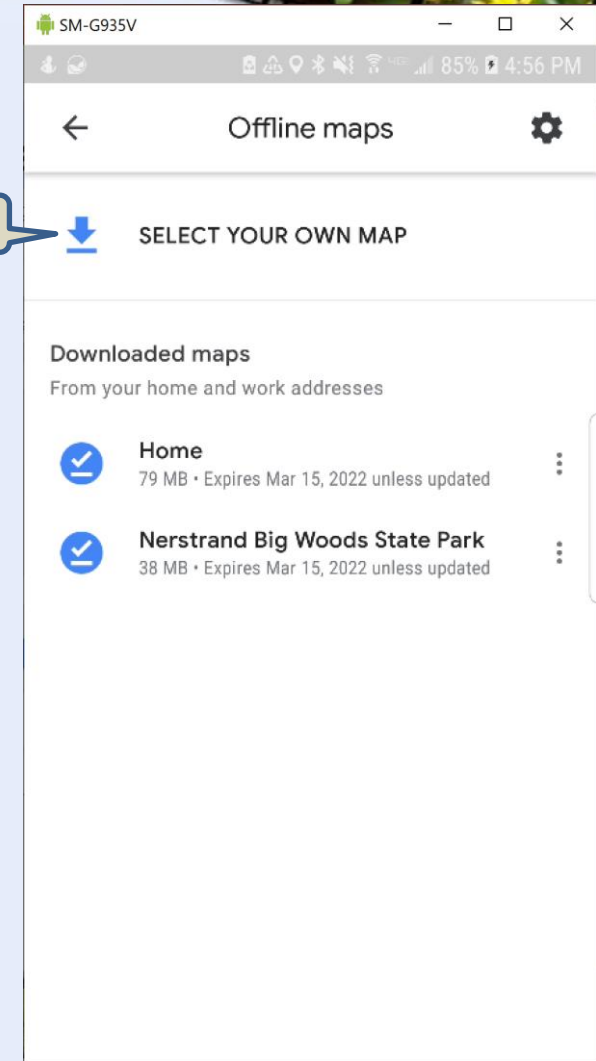
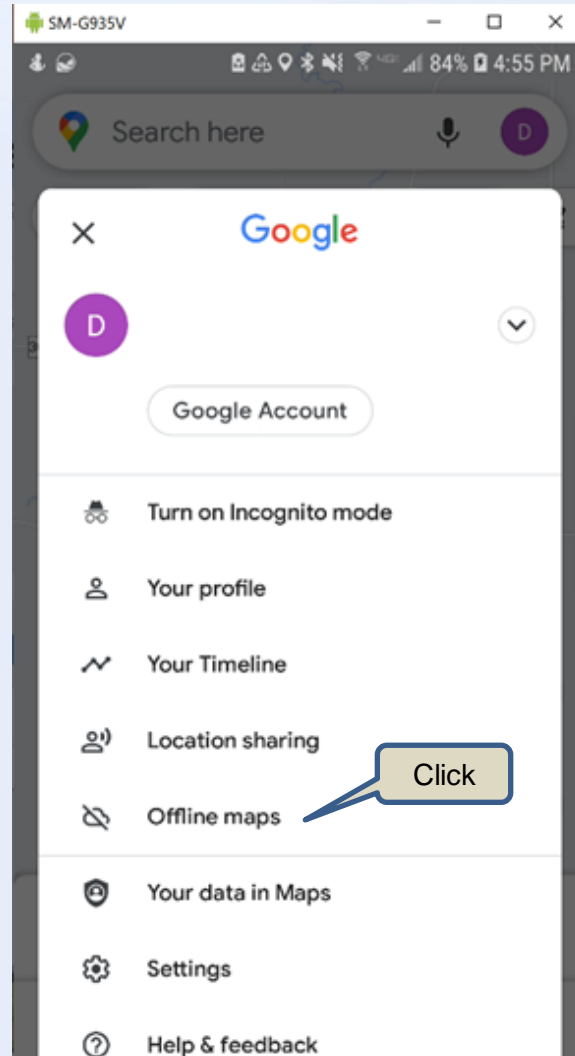
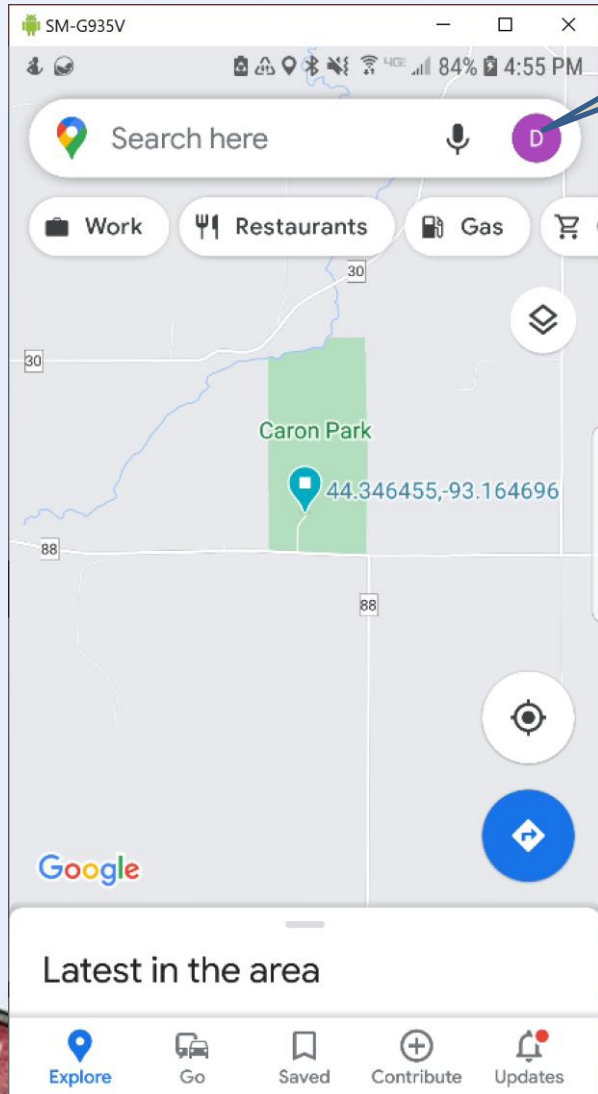


Saving Offline Maps

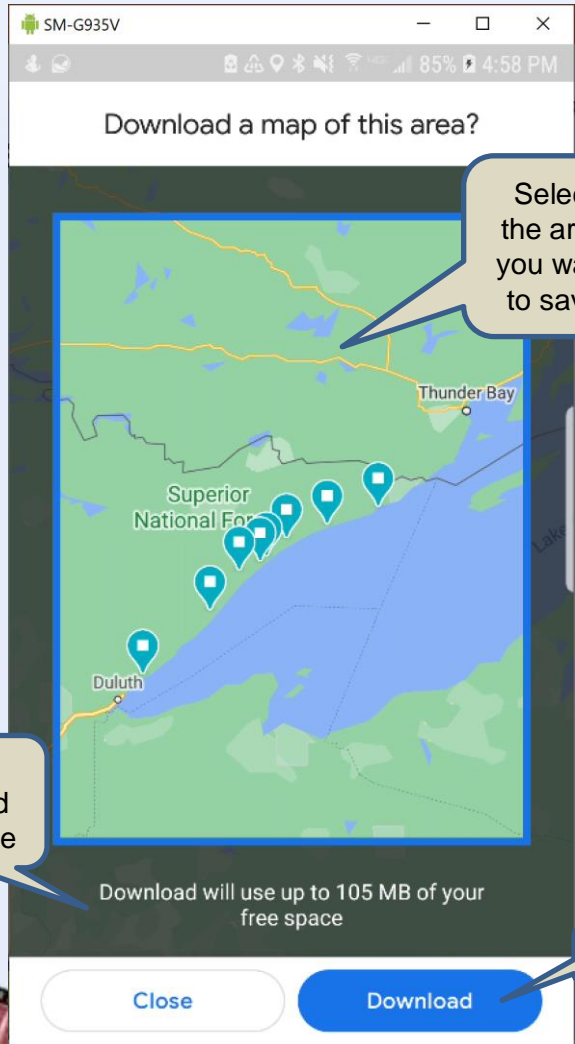
- Airplane Mode
 - If really out of cell signal range go to airplane mode
 - Battery will much last longer
 - The transmitters (power hogs) in your phone are all turned off
 - If you are out of range your phone tries to find a tower using max power
 - GPS / Compass / Accelerometers all still work
 - These plus a stored map is required for navigation
 - North of Hovland our phones go into airplane mode.
 - Google Maps will use offline data automatically if available
- 



Saving Offline Maps



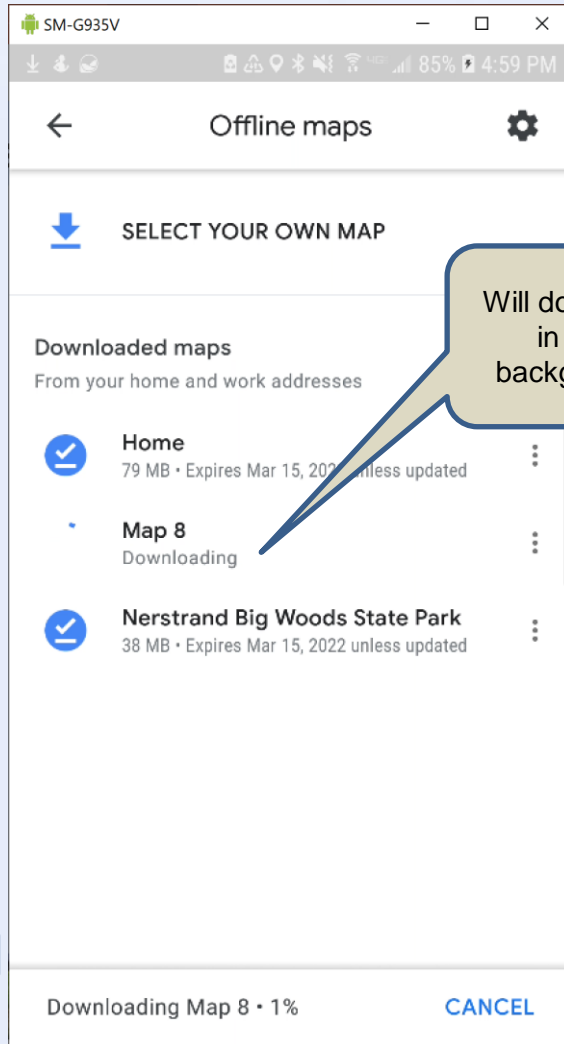
Saving Offline Maps



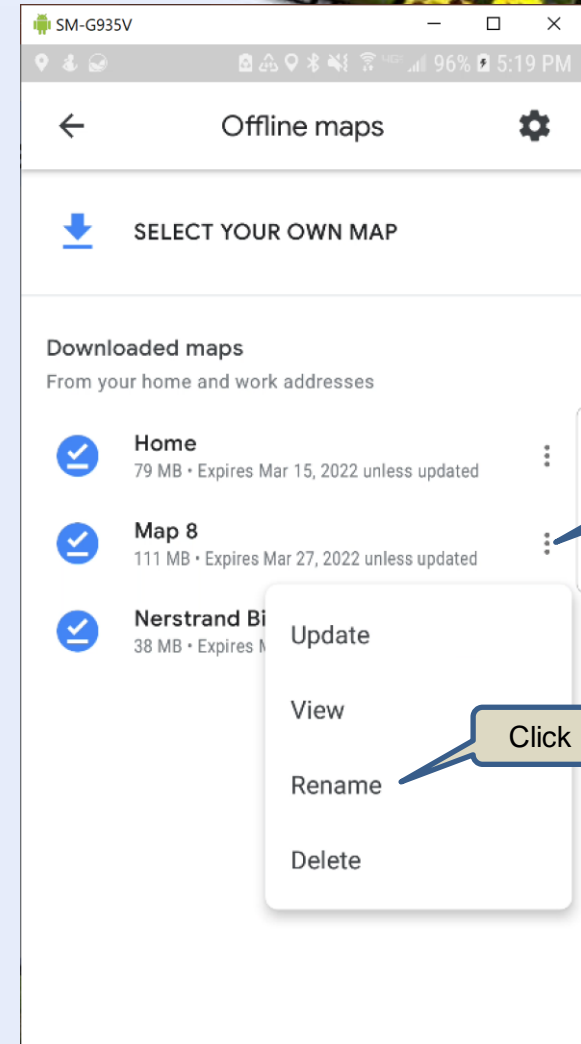
Select the area you want to save

Space required on phone

Click



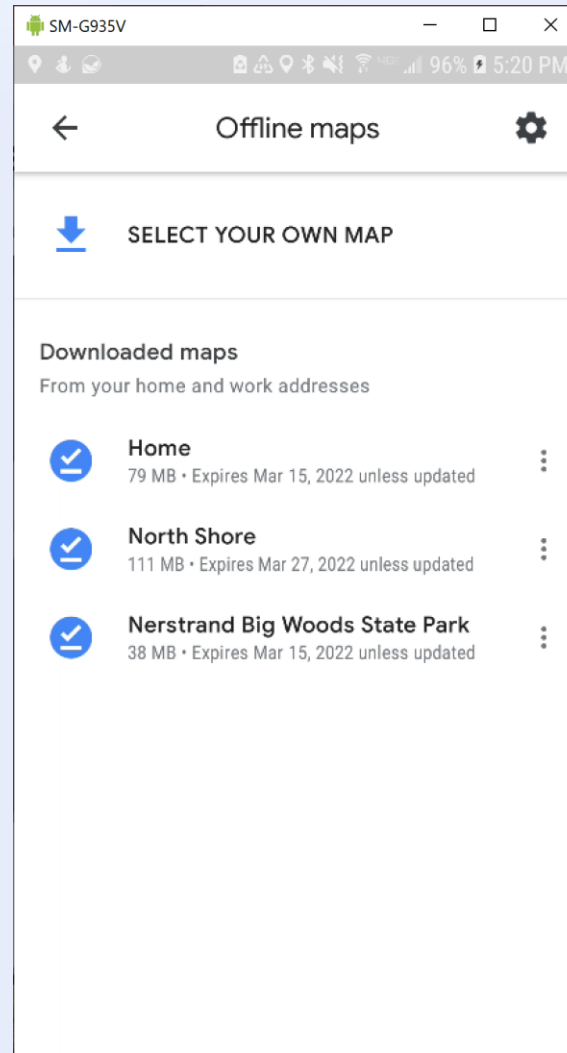
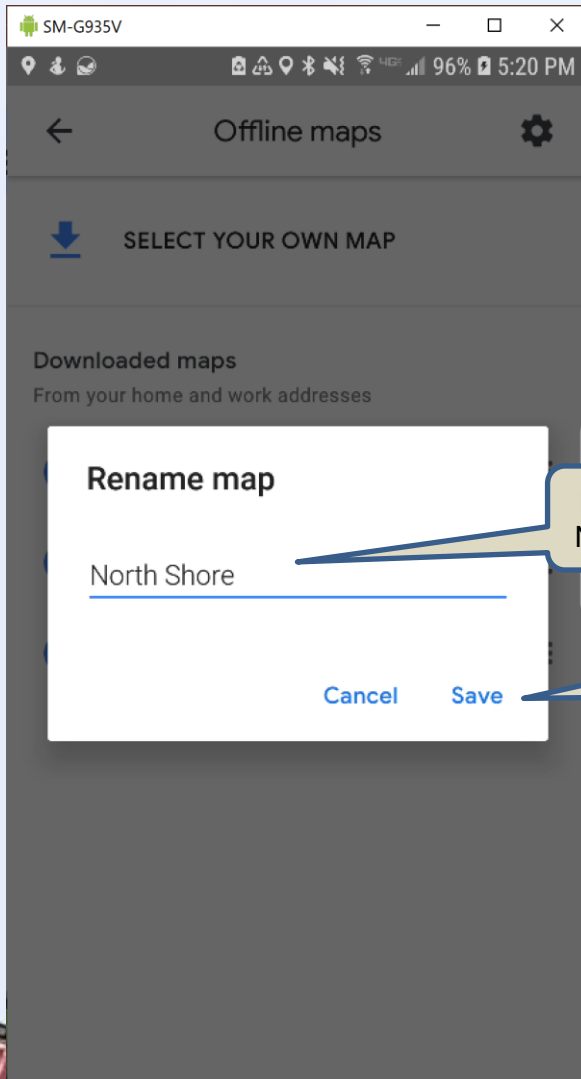
Will download in the background



Click

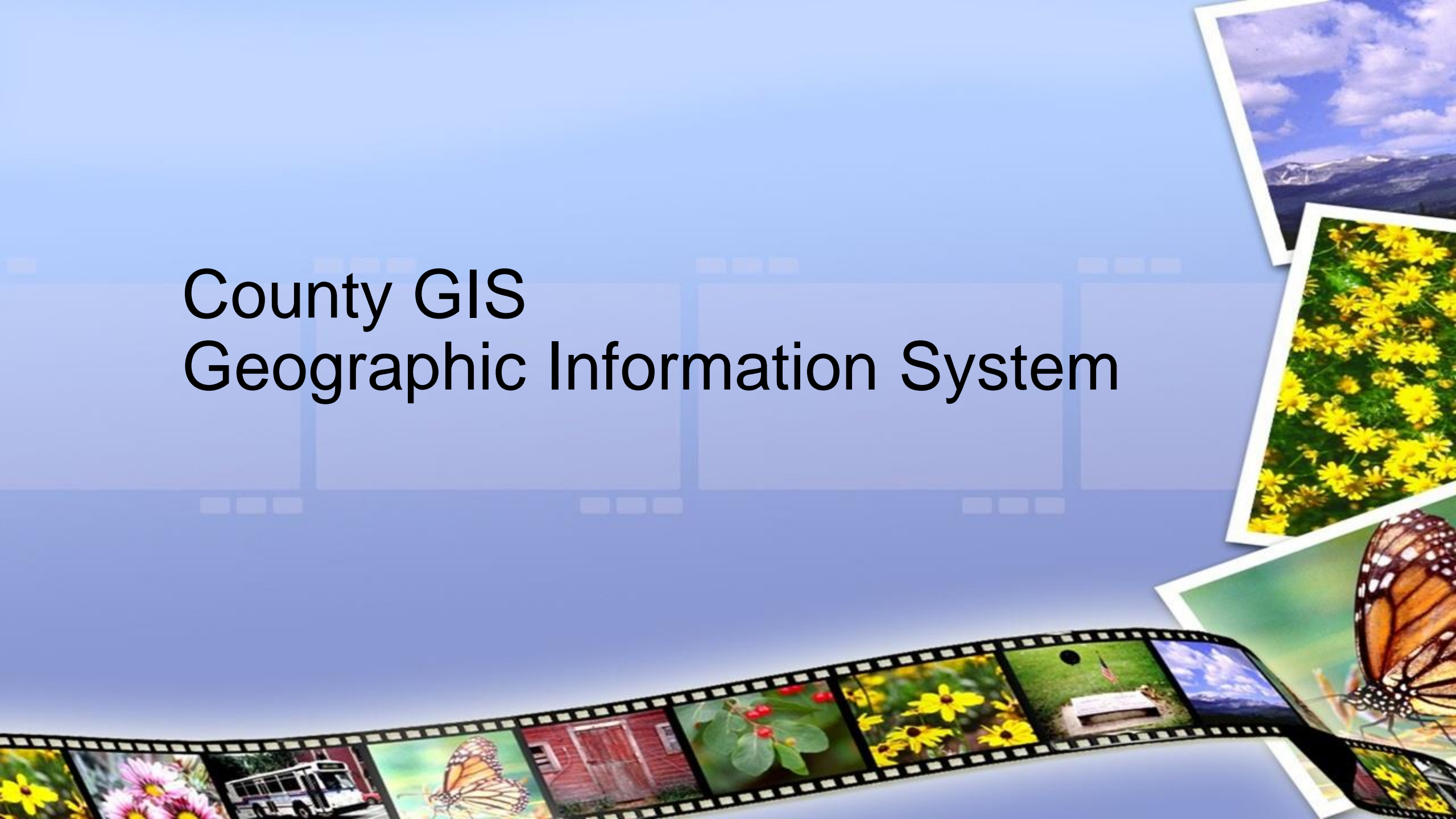
Click

Saving Offline Maps



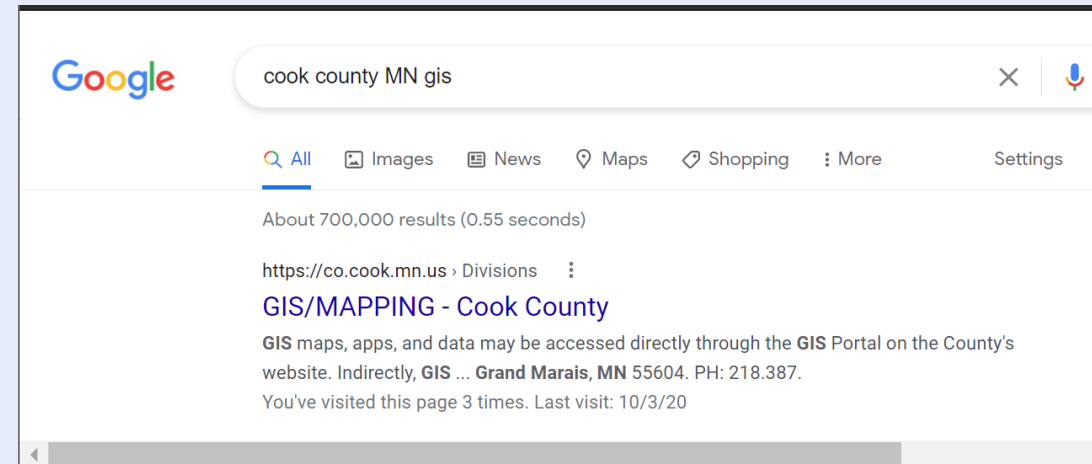
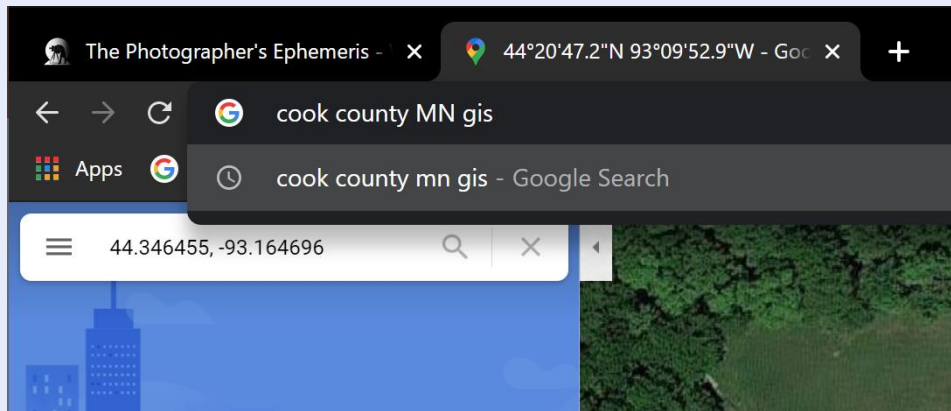
County GIS

Geographic Information System



County GIS

- Most counties have a free online GIS system
- Google County State GIS
- Typically will have a satellite view with land parcels
- Click on parcels to see ownership



County GIS

- Typically want Tax Parcel finder
- Who owns what, Owners pay the taxes
- Not as easy to find locations.
- Have to “navigate” by roads, land marks, etc to find locations

Home Gallery Map Scene Groups

Cook County MINNESOTA mAPP

Get mAPPING!

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFO HUB Cook County Response

Seasonal Weight Restrictions on County Roads

Tax Parcel Finder App

CULVERT INVENTORY

Welcome to mAPP
Cook County's enterprise mapping platform

Help Trust Center Legal Contact Esri Report Abuse Contact Us

County GIS

Find your parcel

This is the Kudunce way side rest north of Grand Marais

Click on the parcel and see who owns it

State of Minnesota Park land. Public you can explore.

MDOT owns the road

Tax Parcel Finder Search and Find Tax Parcels in Cook County, MN Property Information Search

Find a Tax Parcel

LOT 2

LOT 1

61

300ft

-90.153 47.794 Degrees

POWERED BY esri

Community Maps Contributors, Province of Ontario, BuildingFootprintUSA, ...

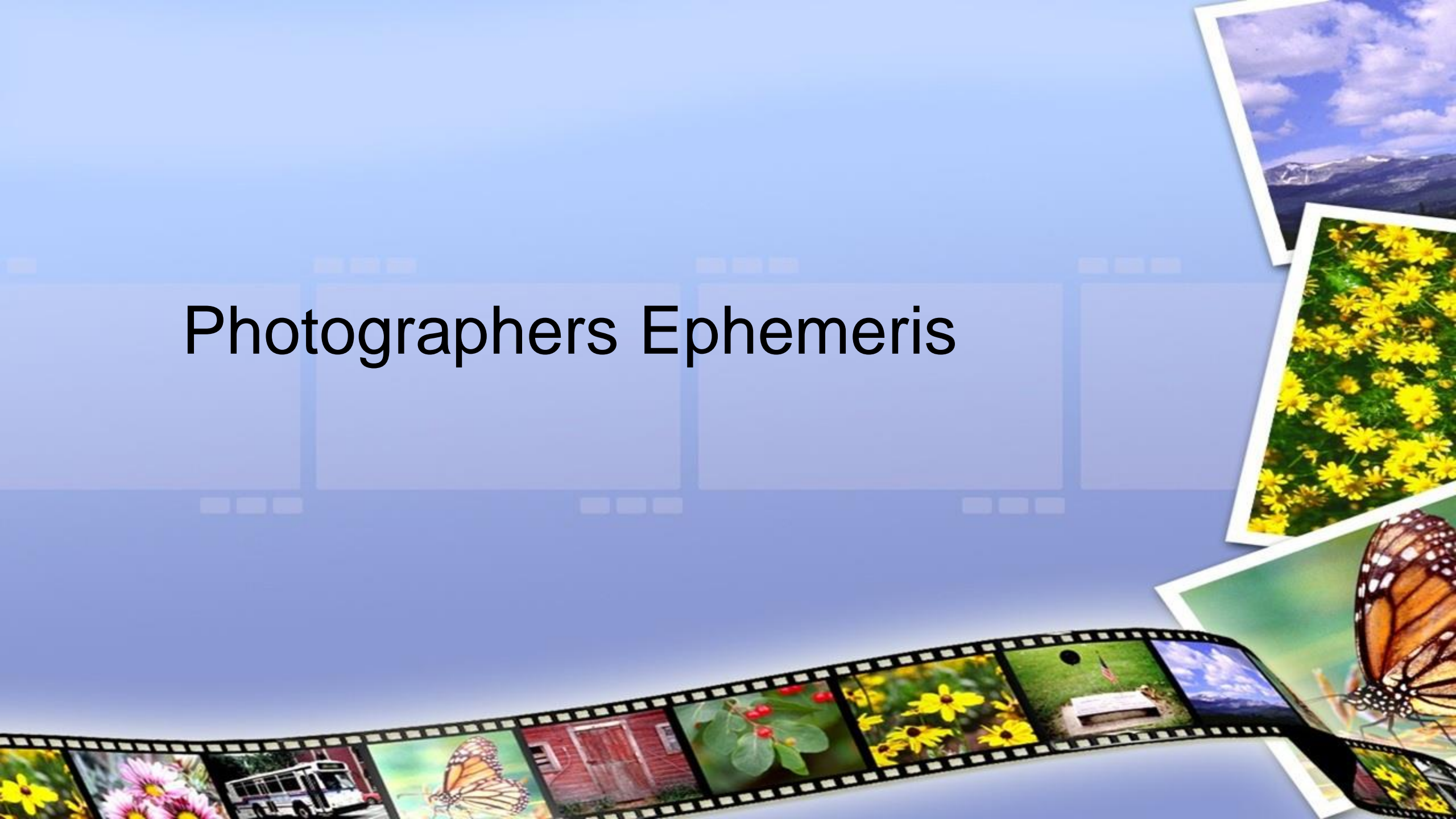
Tax Parcel ID: 54-102-1350

General Information
Taxpayer: STATE OF MN - PARK
Mailing Address:
TAX EMEMPT 00000

Property Information
Property Address: 2986 E HWY 61
Section: 2 Township: 61N Range:2E
Plat:
Deeded Acres: 120.00
Homestead: No
Summary Legal Description: BAL LOT 2,
NW/NE AND SW/SE SEC 35-62-2E

Assessment Information
[Zoom to](#)

Photographers Ephemeris



Photographers Ephemeris

- Free version on the web
 - Just base maps – No satellite view
 - Can not save locations
- Provides key sun and moon times
 - Rise / Set / twilights
 - Golden hour
 - Moon phase
 - No blue hour
 - Time before / after sun rise / set
- Good enough for most uses!
- Need to create a free account



Photographers Ephemeris

PHOTO EPHEMERIS
MAP SPHERE LOCATIONS SETTINGS TUTORIALS ABOUT

April 11th, 2021

America/Chicago -0500 Sun 5:15 PM
 Default Google **PRO**

 +594 ft **SRTM3**

110978°W

50 m / 200 ft

Leaflet | Maps © Thunderforest, Data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Astro start	Nautical start	Civil start	↑ Sunrise	↑ Moonrise	Golden hr	Moon transit	Sun transit	Golden hr	↓ Moonset	↓ Sunset	Civil end	Nautical end	* New moon	Astro end
4:35 AM	5:16 AM	5:54 AM	6:25 AM	6:40 AM	7:06 AM	12:59 PM	1:07 PM	7:09 PM	7:29 PM	7:49 PM	8:21 PM	8:59 PM	9:30 PM	9:40 PM
55.16°	63.53°	70.84°	76.65°	87.28° Waning 0.39%	83.96°	180.03° Waning 0.14%	180.00°	276.31°	276.75° Waning 0.01%	283.66°	289.50°	296.87°	299.84° Waning 0.00%	305.32°

Altitude° vs Time

5:15 PM

- ☀️ 255.04° +25.27°
- 🌙 252.10° +20.89° 0.04%

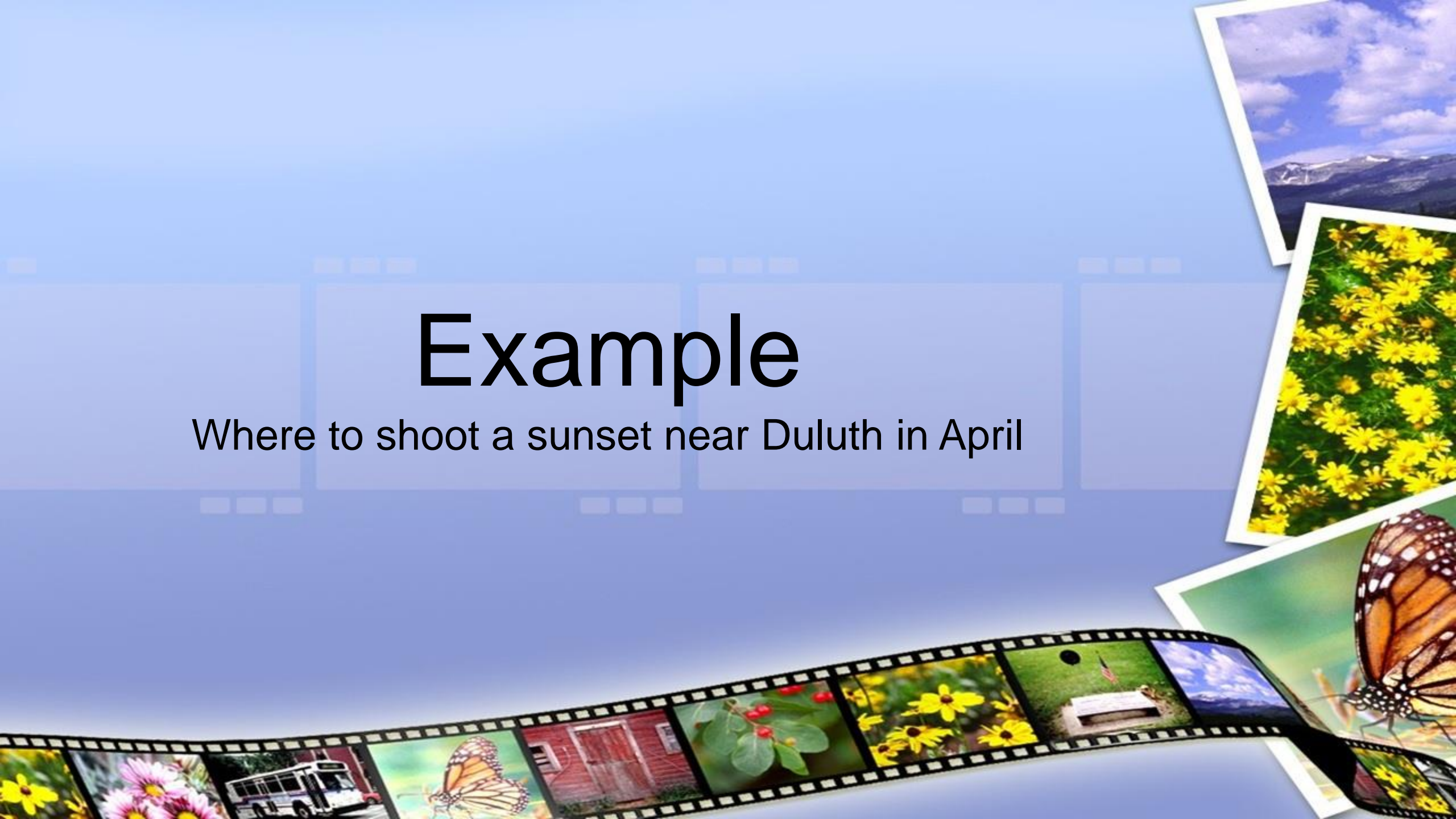
Horizon: +0.00°

[2.3.2](#) · Made in Boulder, Colorado · © Crookneck Consulting LLC. All rights reserved. · [Terms of Use](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Cookies](#)

 Help

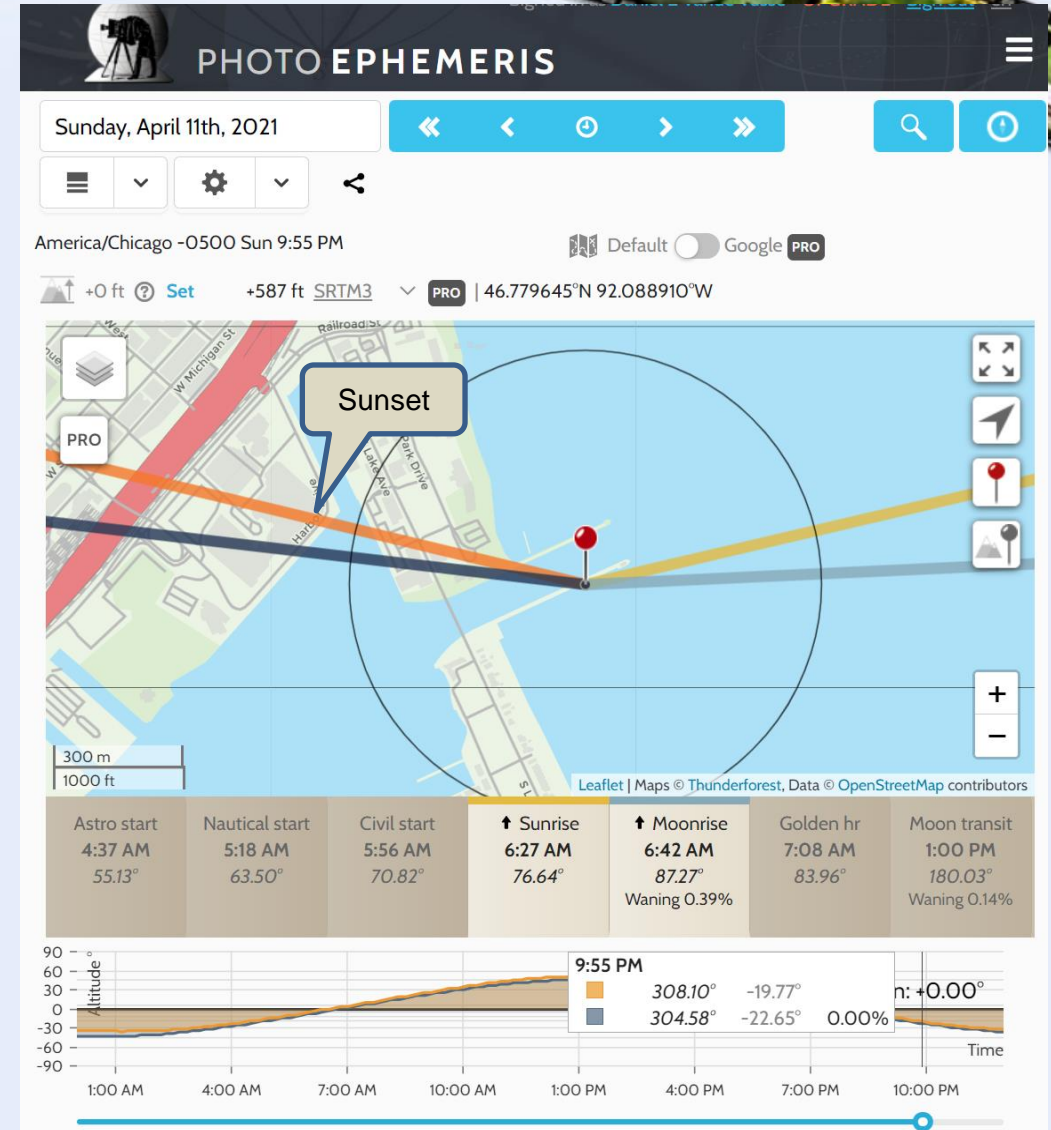
Example

Where to shoot a sunset near Duluth in April



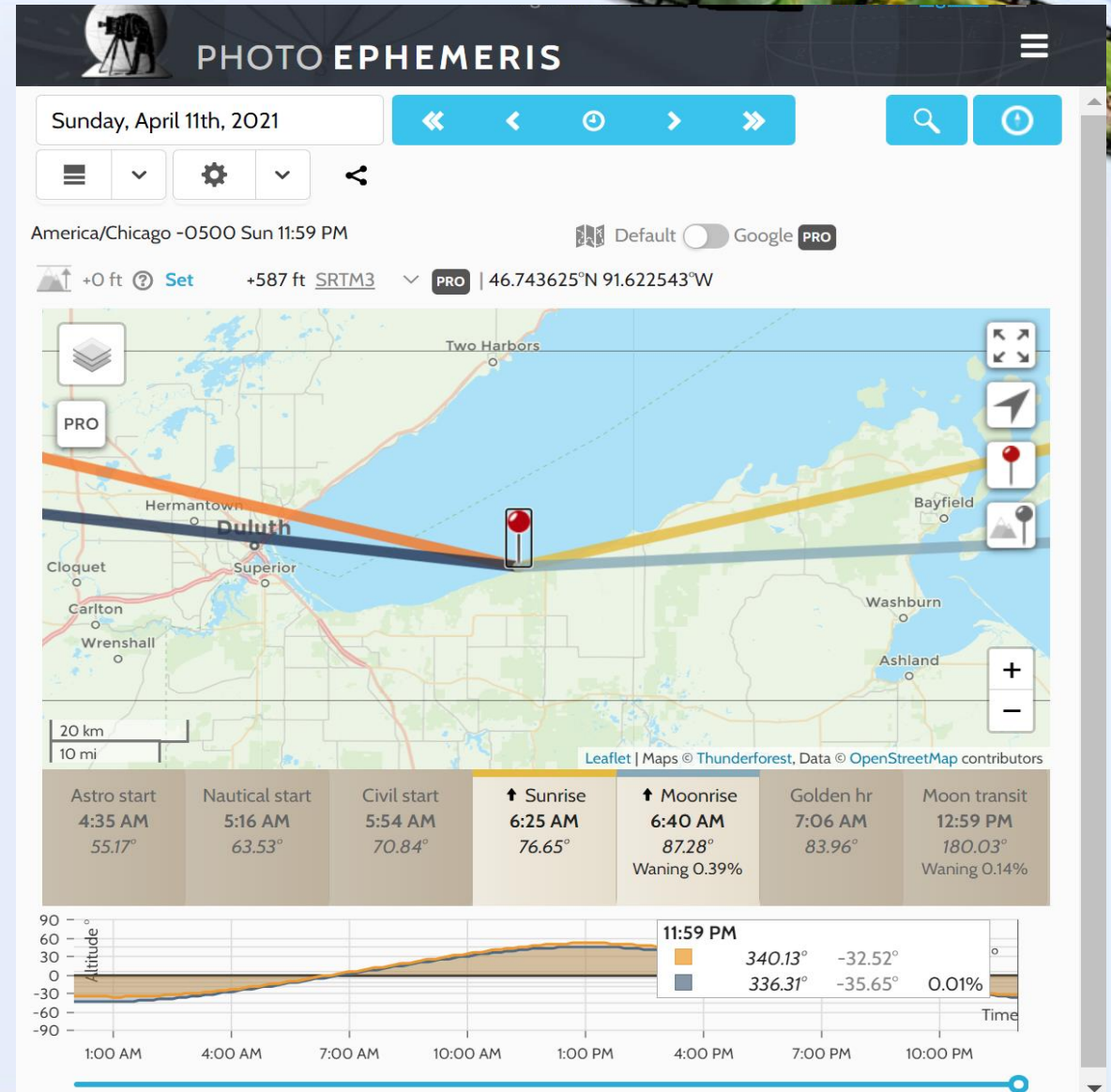
Duluth Sunset Early April

- Where to shoot a sunset?
- No good shot, just close buildings. Clutter
- Big hill to the west!
- Lot of local light



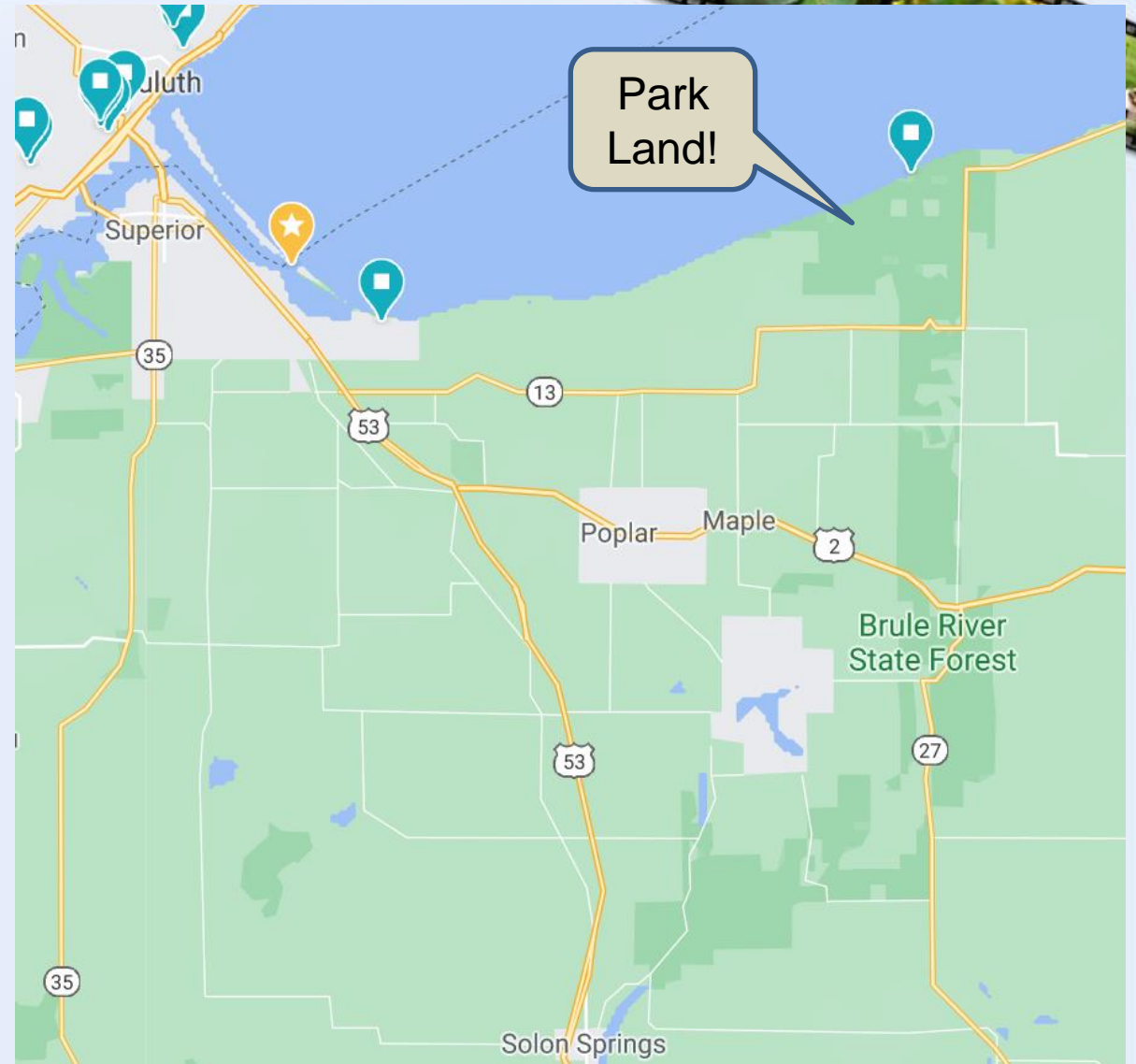
Duluth Sunset Early April

- Zoom out
- Go East!
- Shoot across the lake!
- Where can we find lake access - Need
- Good view to the east
- Possible foreground interest



Duluth Sunset Early April

- Look on Google Maps
- East!
- There is a park along the shore



Duluth Sunset Early April


Zoom in a bit

- Road to the lake shore
- Public land
- Check Satellite
- Check Google Earth for history
- Lets see what google has to say.
 - Click on the Bear Beach link



Duluth Early April

Bear Beach State Natural Area



Photos

Bear Beach State Natural Area
4.4 ★★★★★ 23 reviews
Nature preserve

Comments

Directions Save Nearby Send to your phone Share

Becks Rd, Maple, WI 54854

Open now: Open 24 hours

dnr.wi.gov

(888) 936-7463

P77C+F7 Maple, Wisconsin

Claim this business

Add a label


Suggest an edit

All lake 4

L Lund
Local Guide · 23 reviews

★★★★★ 2 years ago


This is a NATURAL area, not what you would think of as your regular beach. Since that is what I prefer and what I was expecting- that is what we got. A gorgeous, amazingly beautiful, secluded and quiet natural beach. We were the only ones there. The road ends abruptly due to a wash out, and it's difficult getting down to the beach, but once you do it's beautiful. The lake is calm and sandy, with lots of interesting driftwood to look at and admire. If you're looking for a "beach" this isn't it. If you want to explore and enjoy nature as it was intended, this is your place.



1 Share

Bear Beach State Natural Area

All Videos



Bear Beach State Natural Area
Aaron Carlson
Photo - Nov 2018

Duluth Early April

- Maps Satellite View
- Has Beach Access?
 - May / may not
 - Other side of river
- Depend on lake level?
- Recent storms?



Duluth Sunset Early April

- Google Earth Time Slider
- The Beach comes and goes, moves around
- The latest satellite image is 2017
 - What maps is using
- Could check out or skip



Duluth Sunset Early April

Next Option

- Road to the lake shore
- Public land
- Check Satellite
- Check Google Earth for history
- Lets see what google has to say.



Duluth Sunset Early April

Satellite View

More developed

More stable location

Shoot west across lake

Possible foreground

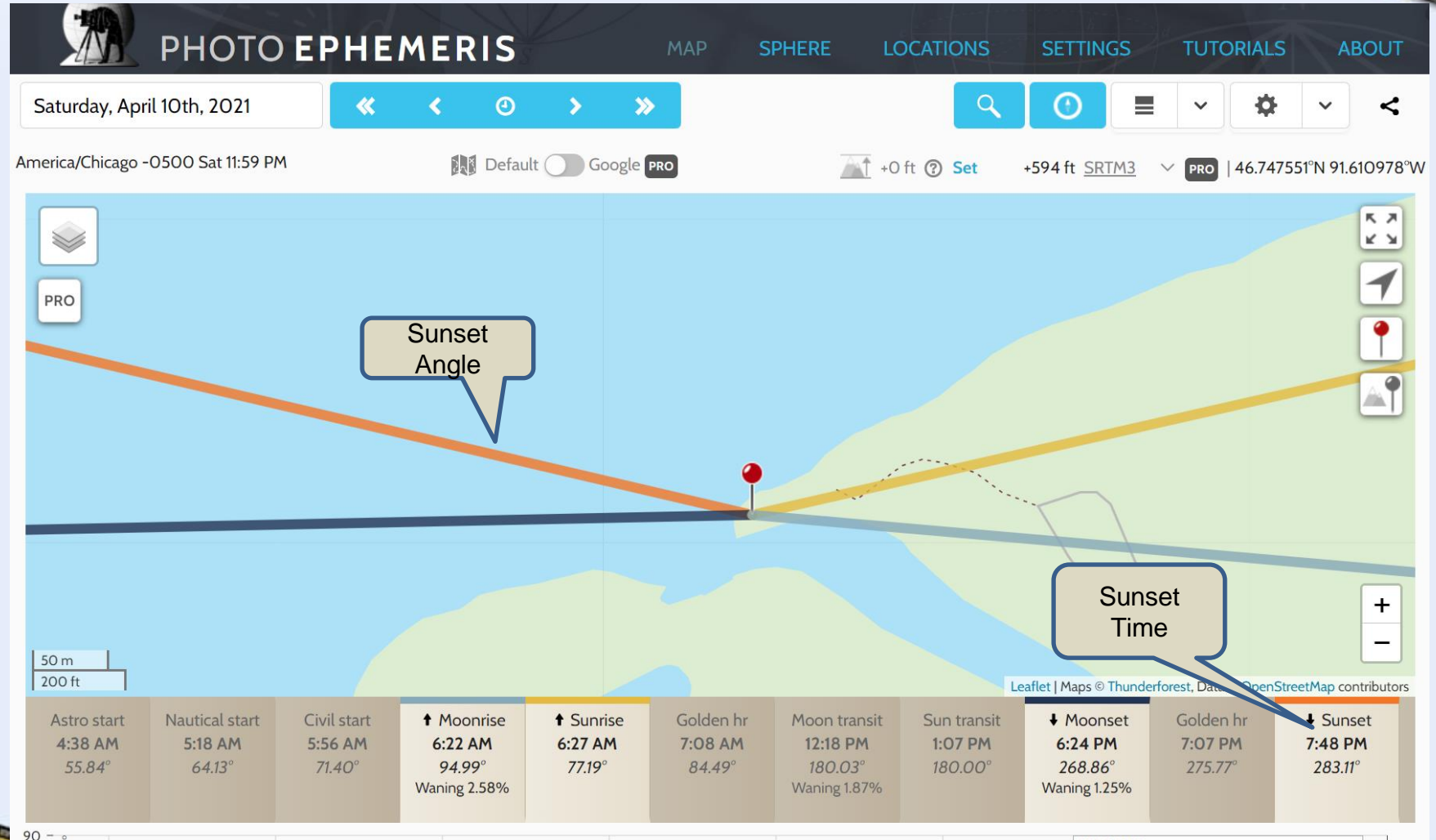
More promising lake and beach access



Duluth Early April

Check Sunset Angle

Looks Good!



Duluth Sunset Early April

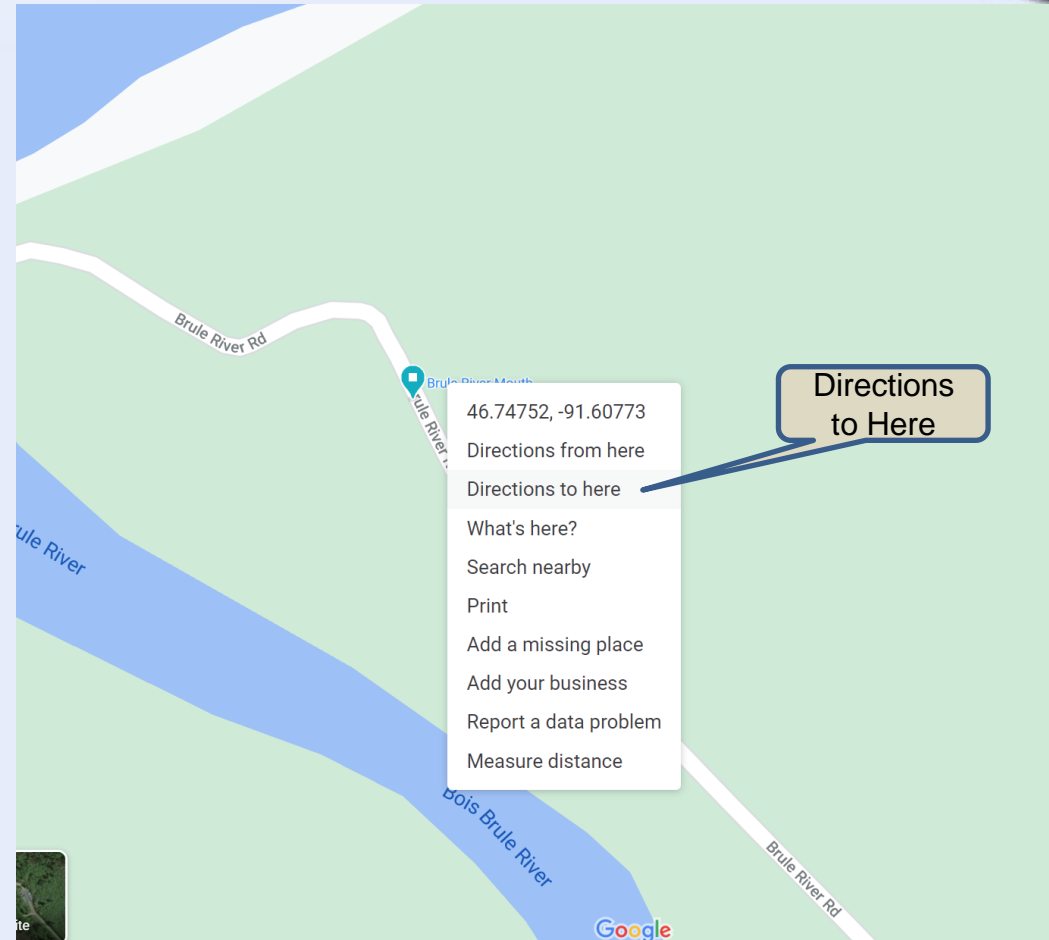
Save Location

- Use google maps to navigate
- Have offline maps saved just in case

Drive Time

Right click on location

Directions to here



Duluth Sunset Early April

Enter starting location

Best route

Drive Time
1 hour

Golden Hour at
7:00 pm

Leave 5:30pm to
6:00pm to have
time to scout
location, make
use of golden
hour.

The screenshot shows the Google Maps interface with a route from Canal Park, Duluth, MN 55802 to a destination near Brule River State Forest. The route is highlighted in blue and takes 1 hour 6 minutes via US-53 S and US-2 E, covering 50.0 miles. The map shows the route passing through Superior, Parkland, and Waino. The interface includes a search bar, a list of nearby locations (Gas, Groceries, Hotels), and a sidebar with navigation options and a list of nearby amenities (Restaurants, Hotels, Gas stations, Parking Lots, More).

Canal Park, Duluth, MN 55802
46.747470,-91.607889
Add destination

Leave now OPTIONS

Send directions to your phone

via State Hwy 13 S/WI-13 Trunk S 55 min
Fastest route, the usual traffic 41.3 miles
DETAILS

via US-53 S and US-2 E 1 hr 6 min
50.0 miles

Explore 46.747470,-91.607889

Restaurants Hotels Gas stations Parking Lots More

Map data ©2021 United States Terms Send feedback 2 mi



Conclusion

- I did not show all the features of the tools

- There is more to explore

- I showed the key features I use for photo shoot planning.

- I have been using this combination of tools for several years with success.

- Using these tools I have a list of locations with navigation to the exact spot in my pocket.

- Solves the issue of GPS or Google taking me to the wrong place

- The exact parking lot, trail head, waterfall location on your phone.

- Ask Google to take you to Caron Falls – It Fails!

- Try experimenting with an area you know, to learn the tools.



Happy Armchair Exploring, Planning and Shooting!

