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 straightforward 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 manufacturers 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

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

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 Your Smartphone’s GPS Features

Today’s modern smartphones have advanced 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/

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