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RTC Data Submission Standards for GPS

In order to maintain the integrity of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's spatial data, and to make the most efficient use of your time and ours, we ask that all submissions of GPS data follow the guidelines below:

- Please use a GPS unit that can collect both waypoints and a tracklog. Please use this to collect both a tracklog and waypoints for the trail you wish to submit data for. Please collect your tracklog at the shortest distance interval available (typically 0.01 mile) for your unit.
- Please collect the following waypoints:
    o Start Point/End Point
    o Bridges (please specify if it is a trestle bridge)
    o Public Parking (please specify right or left side of trail)
    o Restrooms (please specify right or left side of trail)
    o Drinking Fountains (please specify right or left side of trail)
    o Tunnel start/end points
    o Official Trailheads
    o Rail-with-Trail sections (start and end points)
    o Major Surface Changes (such as asphalt to ballast, or trail to street)

- Please download and use RTC's Waypoint Description Tempate from the trail mapping page (in *.xls format) to key in the description (from the list above) of each of your waypoints. If you do not have a copy of Microsoft Excel, please prepare a text document that lists each waypoint you collected (001, 002, 003, etc.), and the corresponding description (start point, bridge, restrooms). Please do not use codes or abbreviations in your descriptions and please keep the description for each waypoint to 15 words or less.
- For your convenience, please download and use RTC's Waypoint Form from the trail mapping page to record your waypoints as you collect them on the trail.
- Please submit a separate GPS file and waypoint description file for each trail that you map.
- Please only submit complete datasets (the entire trail length, as described on www.traillink.com, with both waypoints and a tracklog). Please be sure to let us know if the information that appears on TrailLink is out of date.

- Please only include official on-street routes to connect discontinuous trail segments (as applicable), and no un-official on-street routes.
- Please submit your GPS data (both waypoints and tracklog) as a *.gpx file and your waypoint descriptions as an *.xls, *.csv, *.doc, or *.txt file. (If you are unable to provide your data as a *.gpx file, please submit it as a *.kml file).
- Please do not submit proprietary GPS file formats. You may submit your data as ESRI Shapefiles, if you are familiar with the format (please submit both a polyline and point shapefile).
- Currently, RTC Staff is only able to answer questions pertaining to the Garmin GPSMAP 60-series GPS units, as this is what we use for our data collection. For help with your unit, please examine the manufacturer's documentation.
- At this time, please do not include unopened or "project" trail segments with your data. Please only provide data for officially open trail segments.
- Please use the trail name exactly as it appears on www.traillink.com
- Please avoid missing or duplicate waypoint numbers.

Please direct any questions to gpsadmin@railstotrails.org

Thanks for your help in mapping all the rail-trails in the United States!