

## **Obtaining GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates:**

### **What is GPS?**

The [Global Positioning System \(GPS\)](#) is a satellite-based navigation system that can be used to find your location quickly and accurately anywhere in the world. You can use a GPS receiver to locate your exact position on Earth (latitude and longitude). The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a worldwide radio-navigation system formed from a constellation of 24 [satellites](#) and their [ground stations](#).

### **How does GPS work?**

<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/gps.htm>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/longitude/gps.html#>

### **What equipment will I need?**

- GPS receiver
- Area map for your project site

### **Where on the project site should the GPS coordinates be taken?**

Coordinates should be taken either at the entrance to the park site or at the Point of Beginning (P.O.B.) as shown on the Boundary Map and site survey.

### **Why do we ask for GPS?**

There are many reasons why we ask for GPS. First of all, the National Park Service, the federal agency that administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, requires the GPS coordinates in order to locate your project site on a national data-base. The information helps us specifically locate your project site for statewide research (such as the SCORP) and aids in communication of your data to other agencies.

A tutorial & practice exercises can be found at these websites:

<http://www.nb.net/~resteele/newsites/gpsuse.htm>

<http://www.wsanford.com/~wsanford/activities/gps/gps.html>

GPS Glossery: [Large-scale map](#)

Shop for a GPS device either hand held or for your vehicle:

[http://www.epinions.com/GPS\\_Devices](http://www.epinions.com/GPS_Devices)