

Topo Maps App - User Guide




Sections

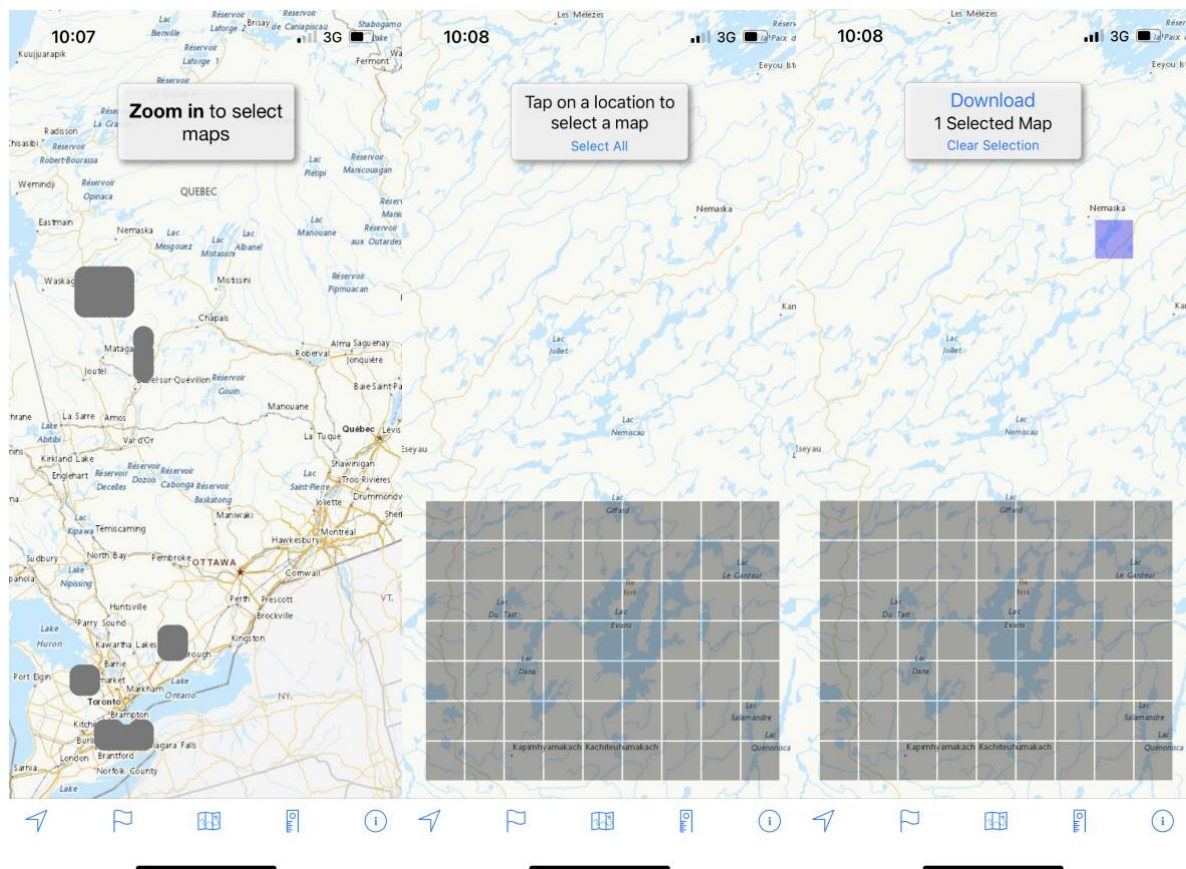
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Download map tiles

Open the app to see a map screen, with a window saying “zoom in to select maps”. Pinch the screen to zoom. At the right zoom level, the window will change to read “tap on a location to select a map”. Downloaded tiles will look like gray squares.

 **Tip**
Do this while you have internet access, so that you can use the app offline in the field later.

The map below shows eastern James Bay. You can see several gray blocks on the map - these are tiles that I have downloaded. Let's tap to add a tile. Anywhere you tap will show a blue square, and the window will change to read “Download __ Selected Maps” (however many you've selected). Tap “Download”.



Your download will start in another window. This may take a while, but leave the app open until the download is complete. You can't use the app until it's complete, and if you close the app the download may fail.

When the download is complete, the window will close and the square will turn gray. Now you can use the app offline in that area.

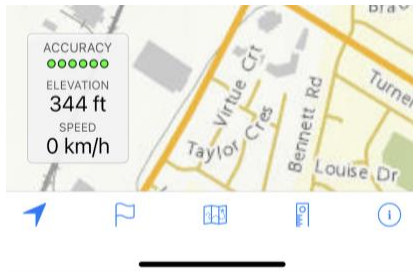


Tip

Double-check to make sure that all of your tiles downloaded successfully. Repeat the process for any that didn't.

Find your current location

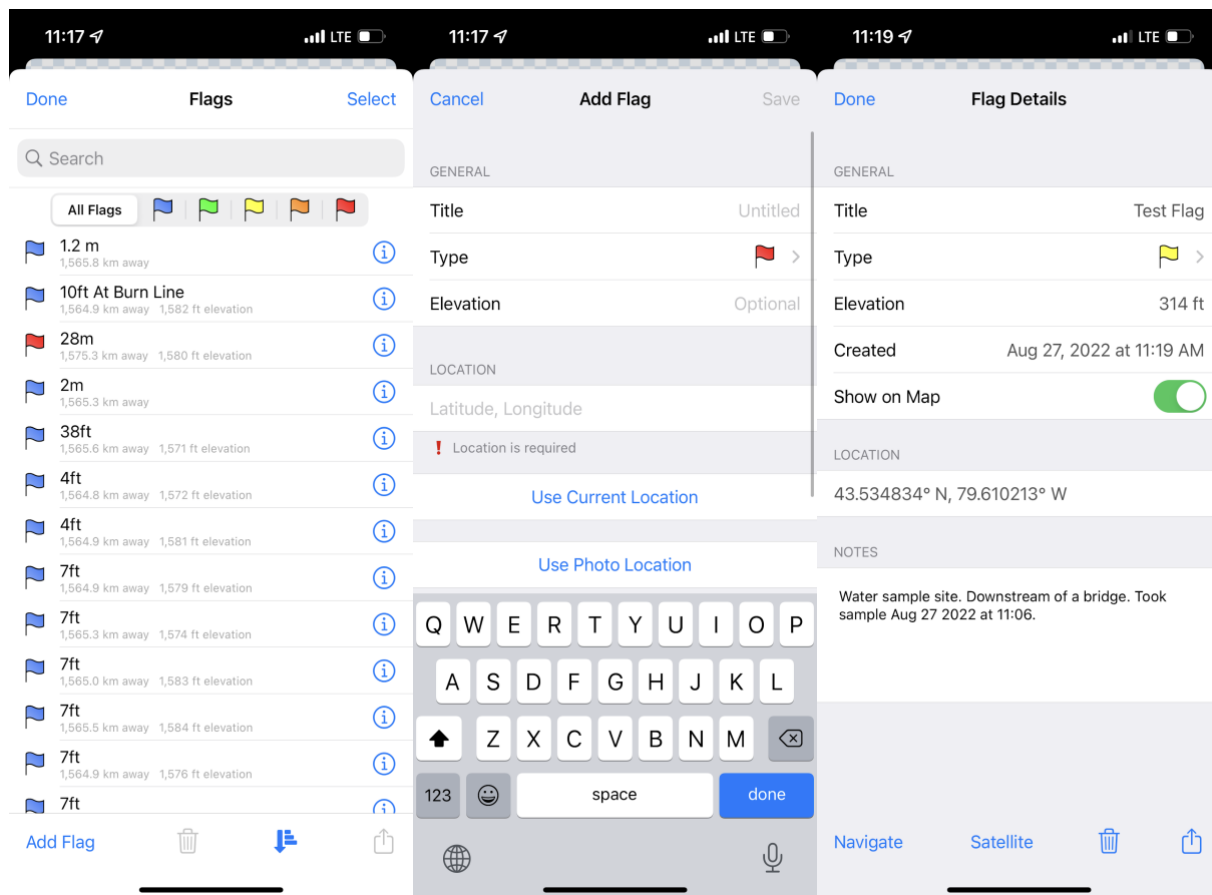
To find your current location, press the arrow icon at the bottom left corner of the screen. This will zoom to your location and give information about your current GPS accuracy, elevation above sea level, and speed. This information will update every few seconds.



Save a flag at your current location

To save a flag at your current location, tap the [flag icon](#) at the bottom of the screen. This will open a menu showing any saved flags - you can search through these and find a past flag, if you want to.

Tap [“add a flag”](#) at the bottom left corner. This opens a new menu. Give your point a title, choose a flag color if you want, and tap [“use current location”](#) to fill in the coordinates and elevation of the flag. You can also add descriptive notes, which can be useful later for remembering details.



Save a flag for a different location

If you want to save a flag for a site but you're not currently there, you can hold your finger down on the site's location on the map. This will open the new flag window, with coordinates taken from the spot you tapped on the map.

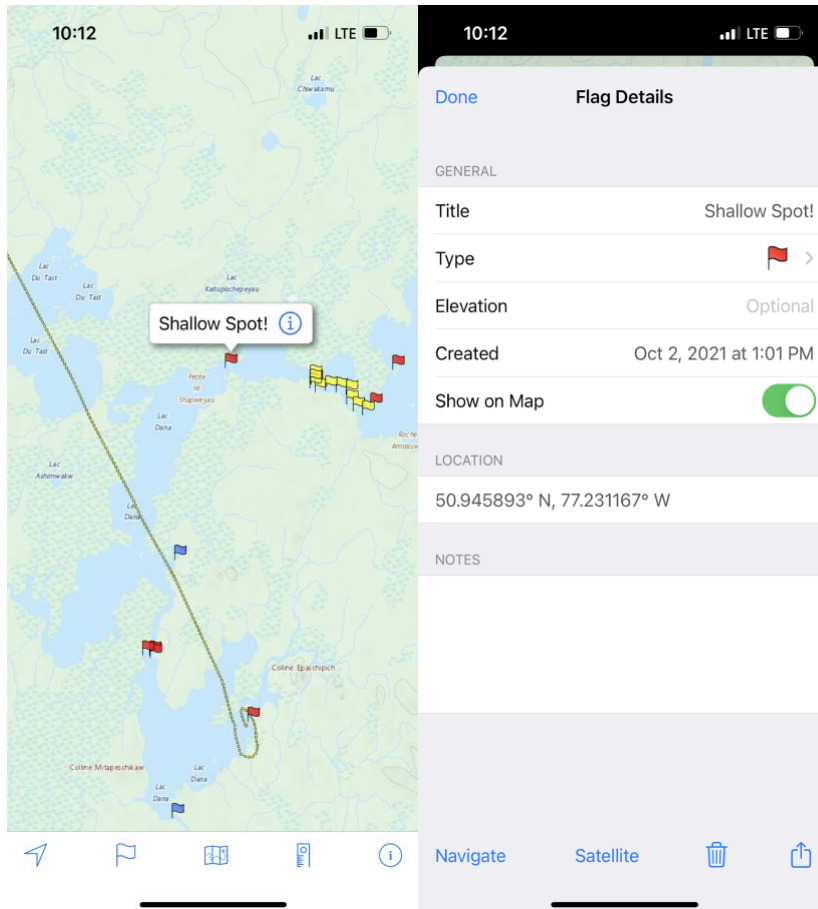


Tip

This is fine for points of interest or navigation waypoints, but DON'T do this to save a location for sampling sites - it's not as accurate as saving your location when you're standing there.

Reading coordinates from a flag

Tap a flag to see its title. Below, I flagged a shallow spot in a lake as a reminder. Click the blue “i” to open the flag’s information. From here, you can see the coordinates and other details of a flag (for example, to write them on a field sheet).

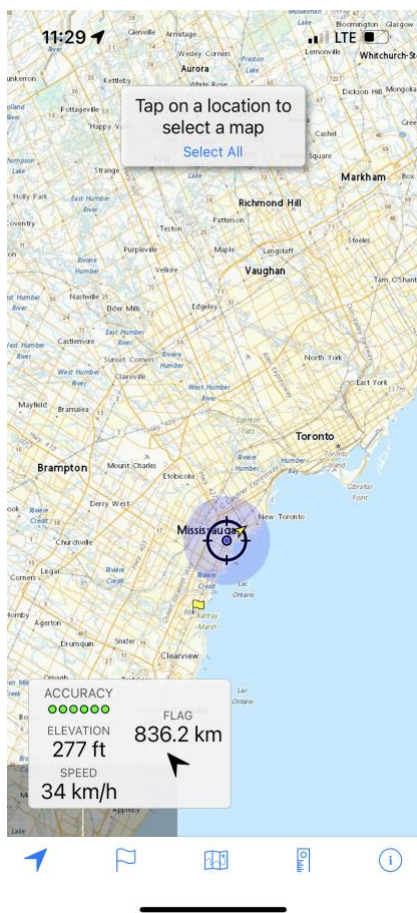


Navigating to a flag

From a flag’s info screen, if you tap “Navigate”, the app will show a small window with an arrow telling you what direction to turn in to face towards the flag, and how far away you are from it.

As you can see below, it’s a long distance (and a bit to my left) to get to the selected flag in James Bay from my location near Toronto.

To stop navigating to a point, just tap the navigation arrow and close the window.

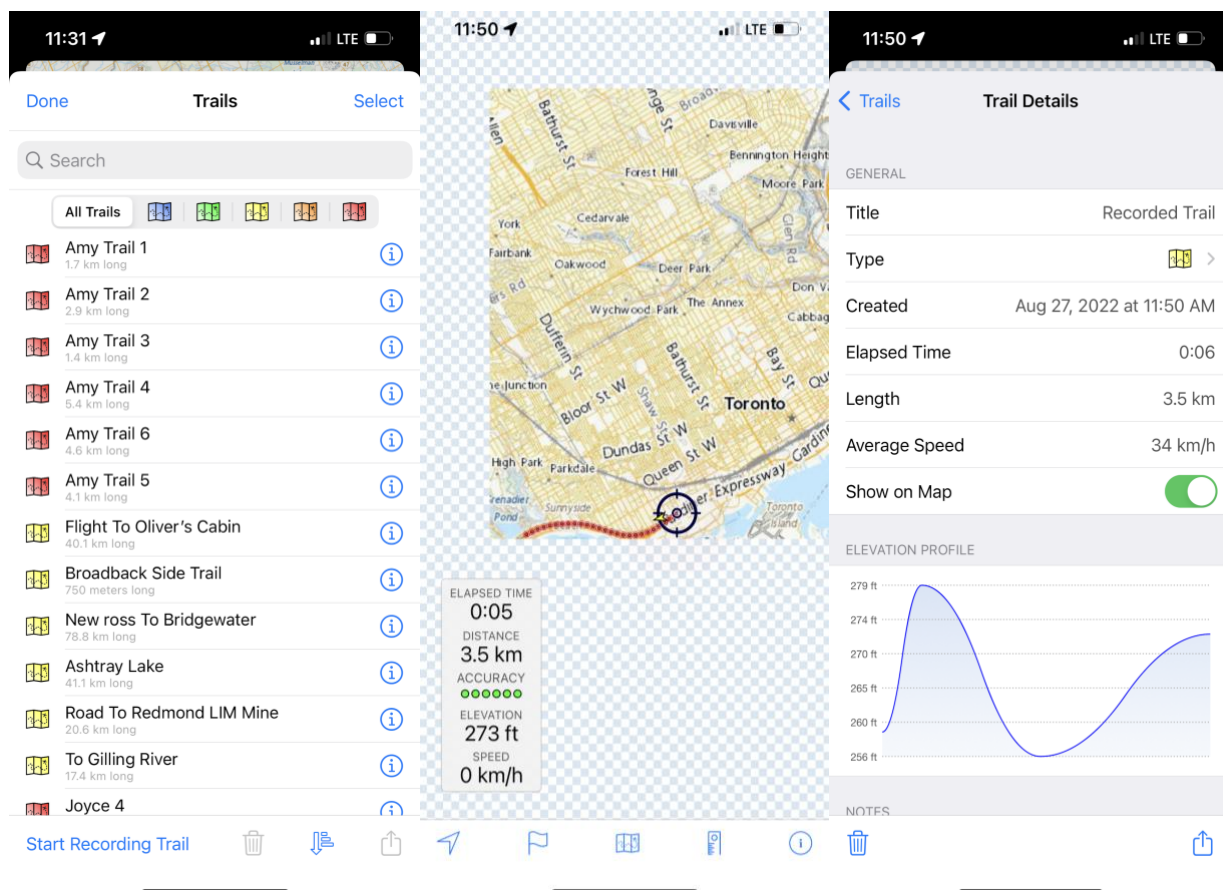


Save a trail

To record a trail as you travel, tap the trails (looks like a little map) icon at the bottom center of the screen. This will open a menu of all trails you've recorded - you can open a past trail from here, if you want to.

To save a new trail, tap “start recording trail” at bottom-left. This will return you to the map screen and a trail will start to appear behind your location.

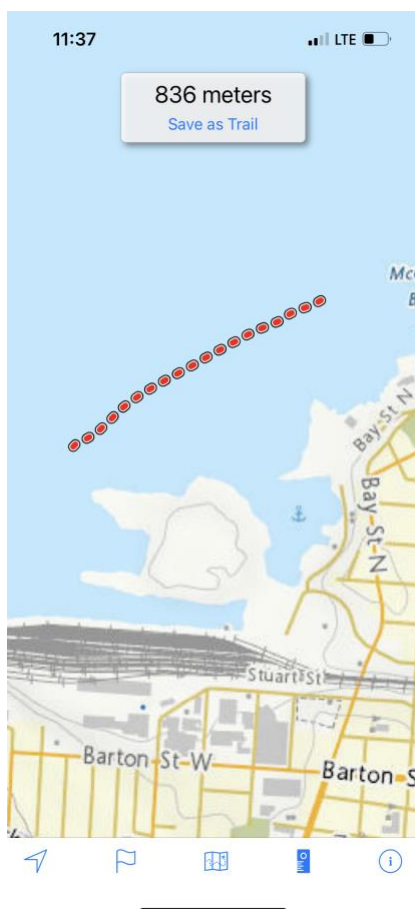
When you're ready to stop recording the trail, tap the trails icon again and then tap “stop recording trail”. This will open an information screen for the trail, allowing you to add a title, choose a color, and write any notes.



Take a (rough) measurement

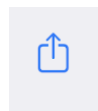
You can roughly measure distances in the app. Tap the ruler icon at the bottom of the screen. Then trace a line on the map with your finger. The distance will appear. You can save this line as a trail if you want to use it later.

To stop measuring distance, tap the ruler icon again.

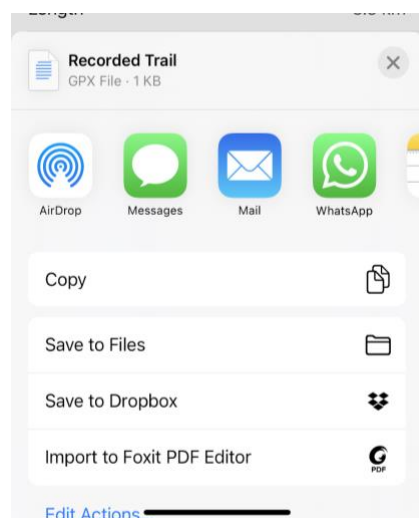


Send a flag or trail

You can send a flag to someone else - for example, to give someone else your trail into an area, or to share a sampling site location with them. Open the information screen for a flag or trail, and tap the sharing icon (square with up arrow) at the bottom right corner of the screen.



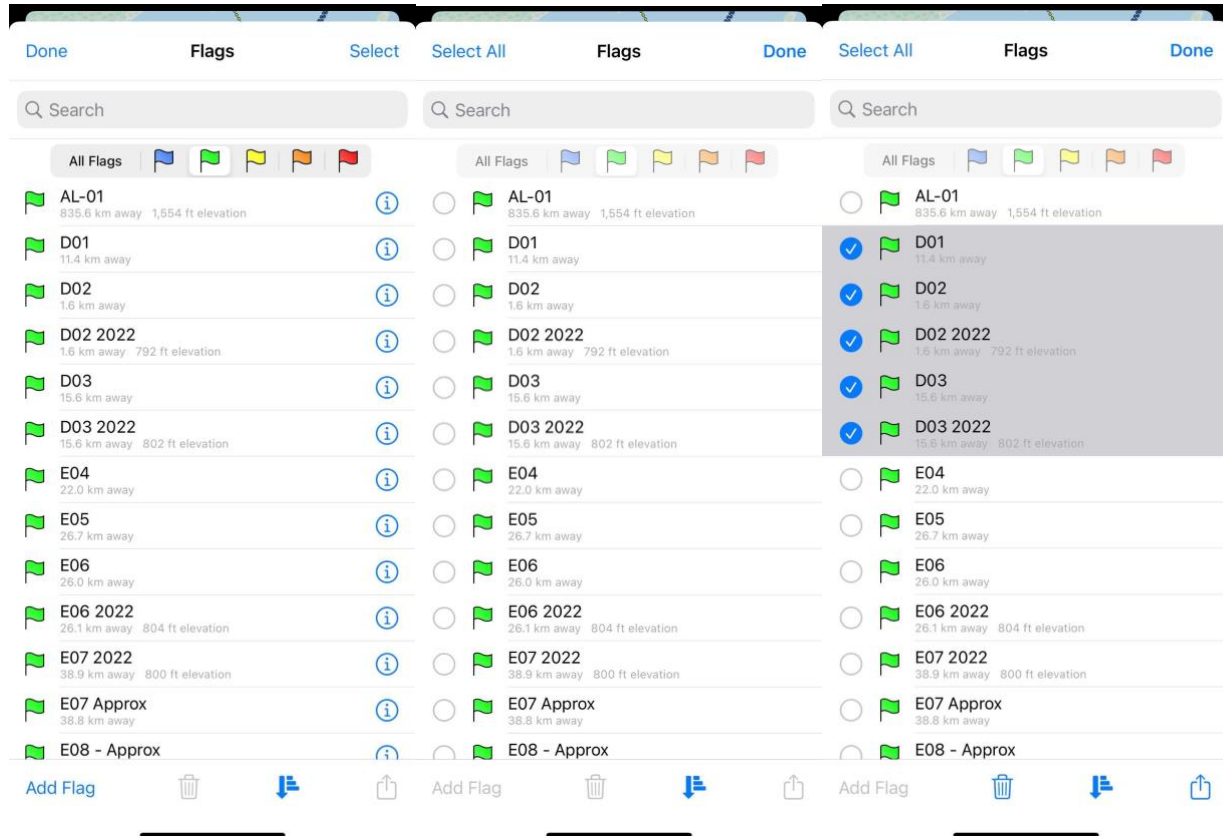
This will open your phone's default sharing screen, so you can send the flag or trail by email, text message, or whatever method works best for you.



The flag or trail will be sent as a “.gpx” file. These are the standard file format for a GPS, so this file should be usable on any GPS, any phone with a GPS app like Topo Maps, or any mapping software on a computer.

Send multiple flags or trails

If you have many flags/trails to share (e.g. you were out sampling all day and recorded observations at many locations), the procedure is similar to sending just one. When you open the flags or trails screen, tap Select at the top right corner of the screen. This will open a check-bubble to the left of each flag or trail.



You can then select as many as you want and tap the sharing icon at bottom-left. As before, you will be able to share your data as a single “.gpx file” by email or whatever method you like. All of your selected flags would send in that single file, and you could repeat the process to send all selected trails in a second single file.