

Ramblr Instructions

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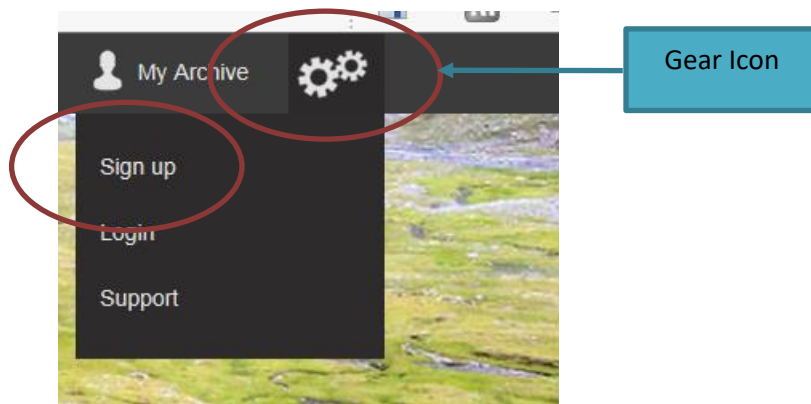
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Install Ramblr App

Create Ramblr Account

The first step is to get signed up for the Ramblr Web site and app. Visit www.ramblr.com using a Web browser. From the home page, select the gear icon as shown below, and then select Signup.

Ramblr Signup



You can sign up with an existing Facebook or Google+ account, or create a new Ramblr account. To create a new Ramblr account, fill in the fields shown below and select Join.

Creating a Ramblr Account

Create a new account

A screenshot of the Ramblr account creation form. At the top, there are two buttons: "Sign up with Google" (with a Google+ icon) and "Sign up with Facebook" (with a Facebook icon). Below these buttons is the word "or". The form contains several input fields: "Username" (with a note "(minimum 6 characters)"), "Password" (with a note "(minimum 6 characters)"), "Confirm password", "Email address", "First name" (with a note "(minimum 2 characters)"), and "Last name" (with a note "(minimum 2 characters)"). At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Join". The entire form area is circled in red.

You will receive a verification email through the email account that you provided while registering. Select the link supplied in that E-Mail. If all goes well, Ramblr will notify you that your account is verified. Select the gear icon again and choose login. You will now be able to login to Ramblr.com or the app with your new username and password.

Download Ramblr App

Once your ID is setup, download the app from the Ramblr home page. You can find the icons shown below near the bottom of the Ramblr home page (you must scroll down to see them). Select either the App Store (Apple) or Google play (Android) icon, depending on the type of smartphone you have. **Note that the instructions on the following pages use screenshots from the iPhone version of the app.** There may be slight variations in the availability of features (such as maps) and screen layouts between the two apps. In addition, the app will initially use roughly 50 MB of storage space.

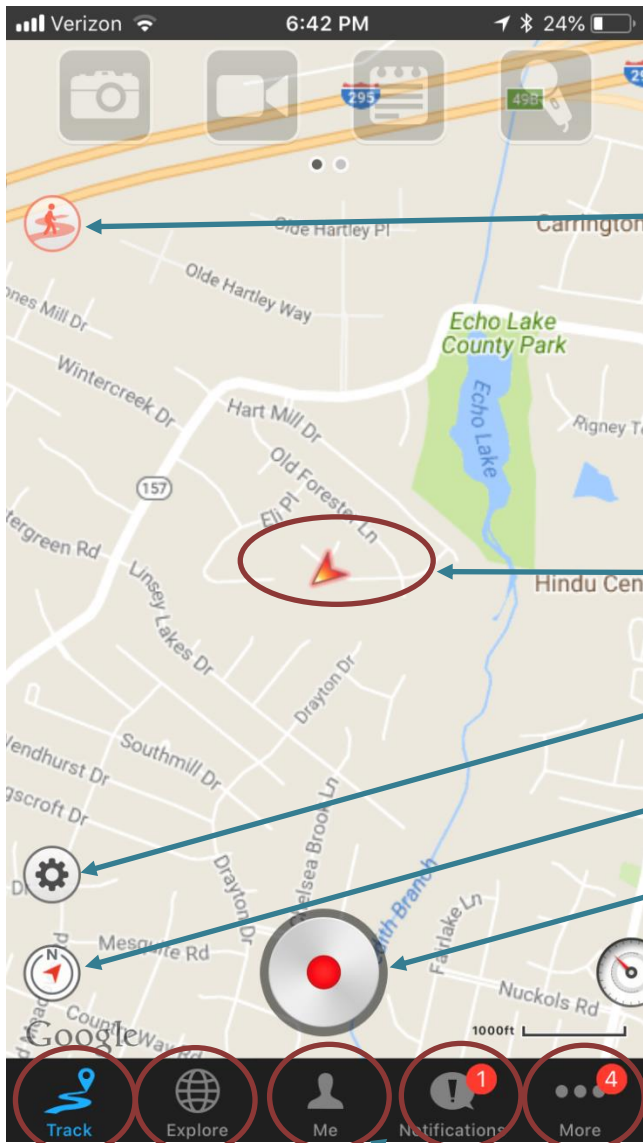
Ramblr is available for download on the **App Store** or **google play** now. Yes, it's **free!**



Once the app is installed on your phone, start it up. Select the Login button on the startup-up screen, and sign in with your new ID. From this point forward, the app will remember your login information, and skip over the login process at the next startup.

Upon login, the app will display the Tracks screen as shown below. The basic function of each area of the screen is briefly described. This is the screen you will use to navigate a trail. Later on, we will show you how to download a guided hike for use on a hike and then use the Tracks screen to follow it.

NOTE: Since this guide was first published, the Ramblr app has added several features to the main screen. These relate primarily to real-time tracking of your location by others (for safety reasons). Because these features are not used for our guided hikes, we have not updated the screen shots shown below to include them.



Select Guided Hike

Your Current Location

Map Settings

Map Orientation

Record a Hike

Hike Statistics

General Settings

Alerts from Ramblr

My Trips

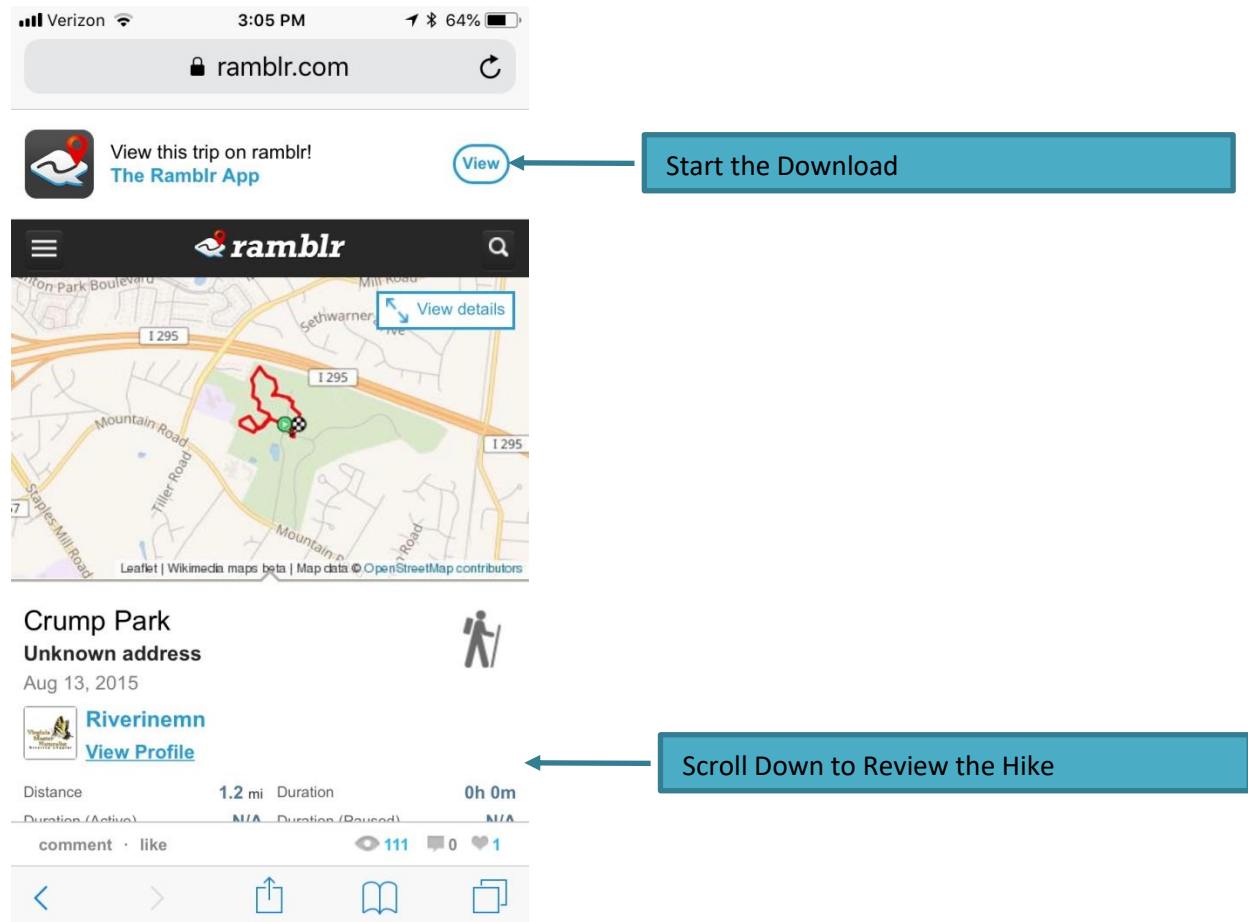
Find Trips

View Maps and Take Guided Hikes

Prepare for a Guided Hike

Download Guided Hikes to Ramblr

Open our web site using your smartphone and select a link for a Ramblr-formatted guided hike. The link will take you to a page similar to the one below. If you have the Ramblr app installed on your phone, you can simply select the View button (View Details on Android) at the top to open the hike in the app. You can also scroll down on this page to review the hike.



The next steps vary based on the type of smartphone you have:

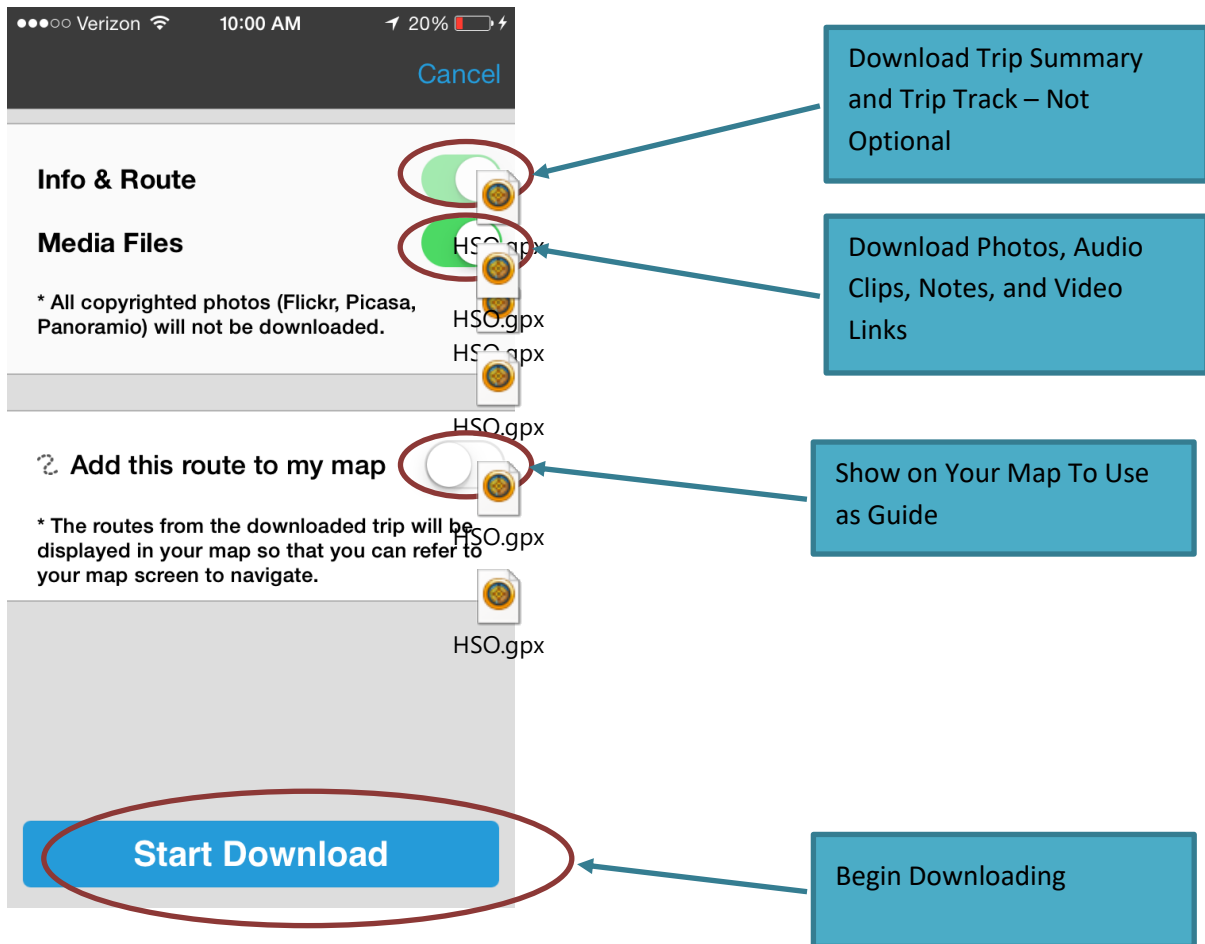
iPhone

Once you select the View button, Ramblr will ask you to confirm that you want to open the Ramblr app. From the next screen, choose the Download button at the top.

Android

Once you select the View Details button, Ramblr will open a map showing the hike. Use the back arrow at the top left of the screen to get to the hike narrative. From that screen, choose the Download button at the top.

For both types of smartphone, you will then be presented with a download screen as shown below. You have several options in this process, as outlined in the brief descriptions attached to the screen shot. We will review each of these options below.

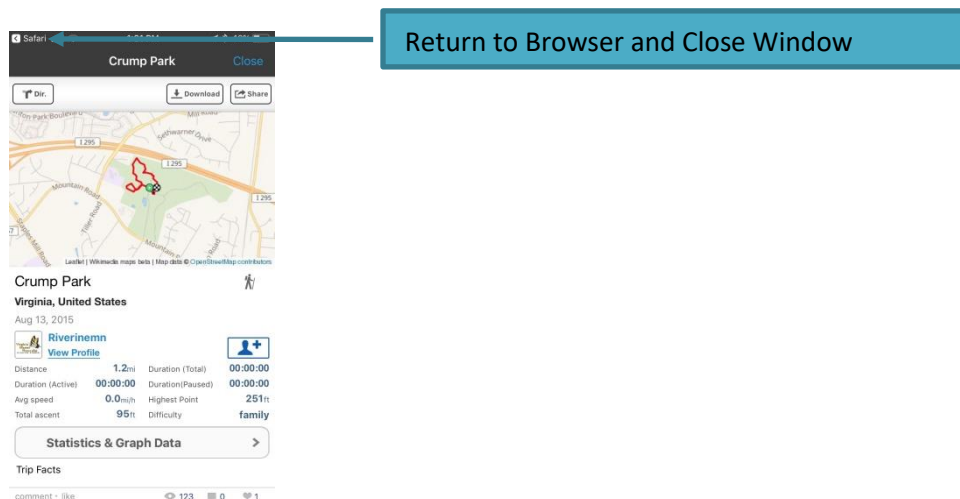


The top three items on the screen are toggle switches to turn options on or off. The last button starts the download process. Additional details include:

1. Info & Route – This option is always greyed out – you cannot actually change it. Ramblr will always download the Trip Summary, Trip Track, and Basic Waypoints as described in previous sections. Remember that basic waypoints are simple pins with a short text description – they lack any media files such as photos.

2. **Media Files** – By default, Ramblr will download any photos, audio clips, notes, and video links associated with the trip. You will then be able to view them on your map as you walk the trail. There can be several reasons to turn this option off:
 - If you are planning to use the trip as a guide, you may not want to clutter your map with a whole set of media files added by the creator of the trip. Instead, you may want to simply see the track and follow it, adding your own media files as you go along.
 - Trips that contain a large collection of media files take longer to download, because media files are much larger than the file containing the basic track and waypoints. They also require more storage space on your smartphone. This is usually not a major problem – the sample trip we are using contains 10 media files that use 2.5 MB of storage space. However, certain trips may contain many more media files and have much larger storage and download requirements. If you would prefer to preserve storage space by foregoing the use of these media files, turn this option off.
3. **Add this route to my map** – This option controls whether the downloaded trip will appear on the map under Tracks so you can view it. Turning this option on prepares the trip for use as a trip guide by making it visible on the map so you can follow it in the field. If you want to use a trip guide immediately, turn this option on - by default, Ramblr leaves this option off.

Once you have made your choices, start the download. Ramblr will show you a progress indicator, and alert you when the download is complete. Close the alert, and return to your browser using “back” button at the top left of your screen (see below). This is necessary to clear the link between the two applications.



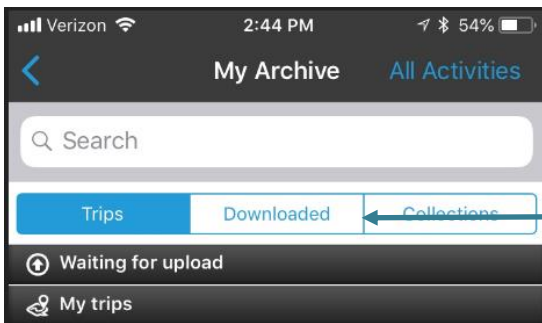
Once you have closed the browser, reopen Ramblr. Close the download screen (Close button at top), then select the Me button from the bottom row of choices. As shown below, choose the View My Archive link in the next screen. This is the area where all of the guided hikes that you download will be stored.



Open Your Lists of Hikes

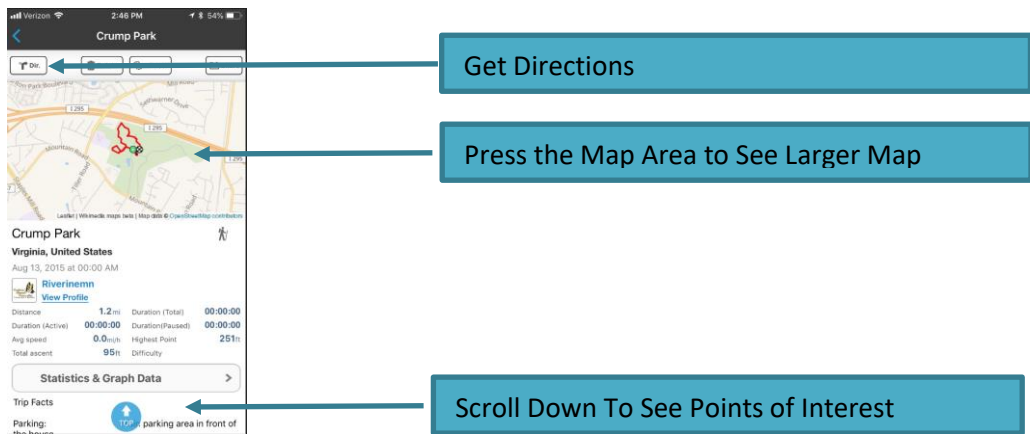
Choose the Me Button First

The next screen will initially show a list of trips that you have recorded with the app – it will be empty at the outset. Press the Downloaded button to see the trip you just downloaded in another list.



See Your Downloaded Trips

If you press an entry in the list, a screen similar to the one below will appear. If you press the map area at the top, the hike and its various waypoints will appear in a larger map. You can zoom in and out on this map, and touching anyone of the markers on the screen will present information about a point of interest along the trail. If you scroll down in this screen, you will also find descriptions for the hike and its points of interest. You can use this screen to begin to familiarize yourself with the features of our guided hikes. We will explain how to use a guide while hiking the trail in a later section.




Once you have downloaded a track and chosen to show it on the map, you are ready to use it as a guide for your hike. This involves following the trip track during your hike and opening any media markers that appear as you go along. There are, however, a few more preparatory steps to take. We will discuss each of these below.

Downloading Maps

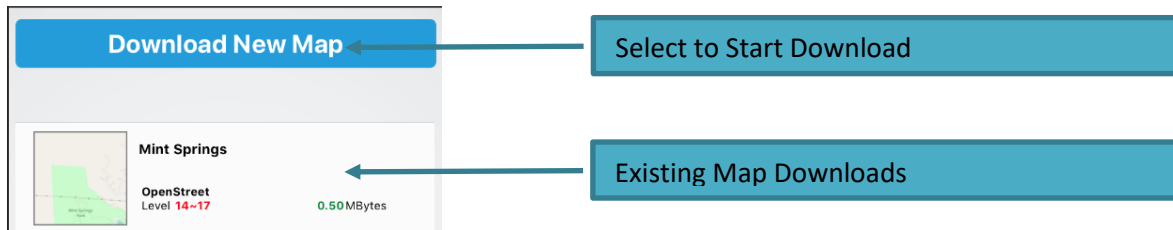
It is important to note that, by default, Ramblr maps are being served up via the Internet – they are not actually on your phone. If you are in a remote area without Wifi or cellular coverage, these maps will not be displayed, because you will not have an Internet connection. However, the GPS chip in a smartphone **will** work in areas where your smartphone cannot make a Wifi or cellular connection, since the GPS satellites will still be visible. This means you can still locate yourself, follow a track (provided you downloaded the hike), see and open markers along a trail, and perform other activities that are reliant on location services. However, the map area will be blank – it will appear that are travelling through empty space. If you would prefer to have a map visible on hikes in these remote areas, you must download a map for offline use. You must do this **before** you travel to the hike location, preferably while you have a Wifi connection, since these downloads may involve the transfer of significant amounts of data to your phone. This may be slow and costly (depending on your data limits) on a cellular connection.

The first step in this process is to determine whether your chosen hike will occur in an area without coverage for your carrier. All of our guided hikes provide an indication of signal strength for Verizon at the trailhead. Other carriers such as AT&T provide coverage maps – find the hike location on those maps. In general, parks near heavily populated areas will have coverage, while remote areas will be spotty at best. When in doubt, download the map.

To download a map, first open a downloaded hike in the app. It can be found at Me, View My Archive, Downloaded. From the screen that first appears when you select the hike from the list, press on the

map area at the top of the screen. A full screen map will appear, showing the hike and the surrounding area. Tap the Map icon  at bottom left, then choose Manage Offline Map. The screen shown below will pop up. It shows a list of the maps you downloaded earlier (if any), and gives you the option to download a new map. Select Download New Map.

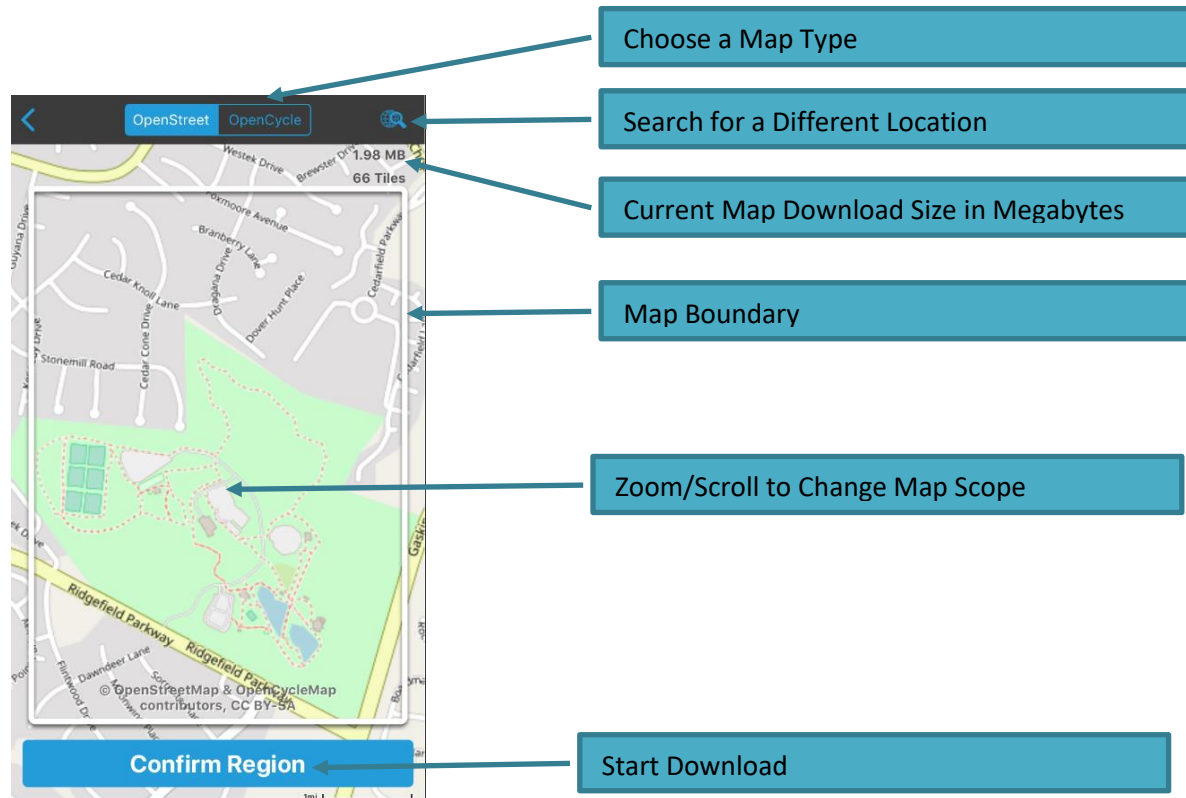
Map Download List



To begin with, the Download screen presents a map selection just big enough to contain the hike you selected (see below). This is often a good choice, and you can choose Confirm Selection to accept it and begin the download. You also have the ability to modify the selection in several ways:

- Choose a Map Type – Ramblr only offers Open maps for download. Remember that the OpenCycle map may show trails in area parks. Press the button for your map choice.
- Search for a Different Location – The Search key at the top is used to search for an entirely different area than the one already selected. This is not needed for a hike download and will not function properly in that context – ignore it.
- Current Map Download Size – This shows how many megabytes of data will be downloaded for the current map specification. It will be dynamically updated as you change the map scope (see below). Usually, the map downloads are fairly modest in size, unless you broaden the scope to include a much larger region. Check this measure to ensure that you will not consume too much of the available storage space on your phone.
- Map Boundary – This box shows the boundary of the map area you have chosen.
- Map Scope – You zoom in and out on the map screen inside the boundaries to increase or decrease the area covered by the map. You can also scroll the map area vertically and horizontally.
- Start Download – Begin the download with the current specifications.

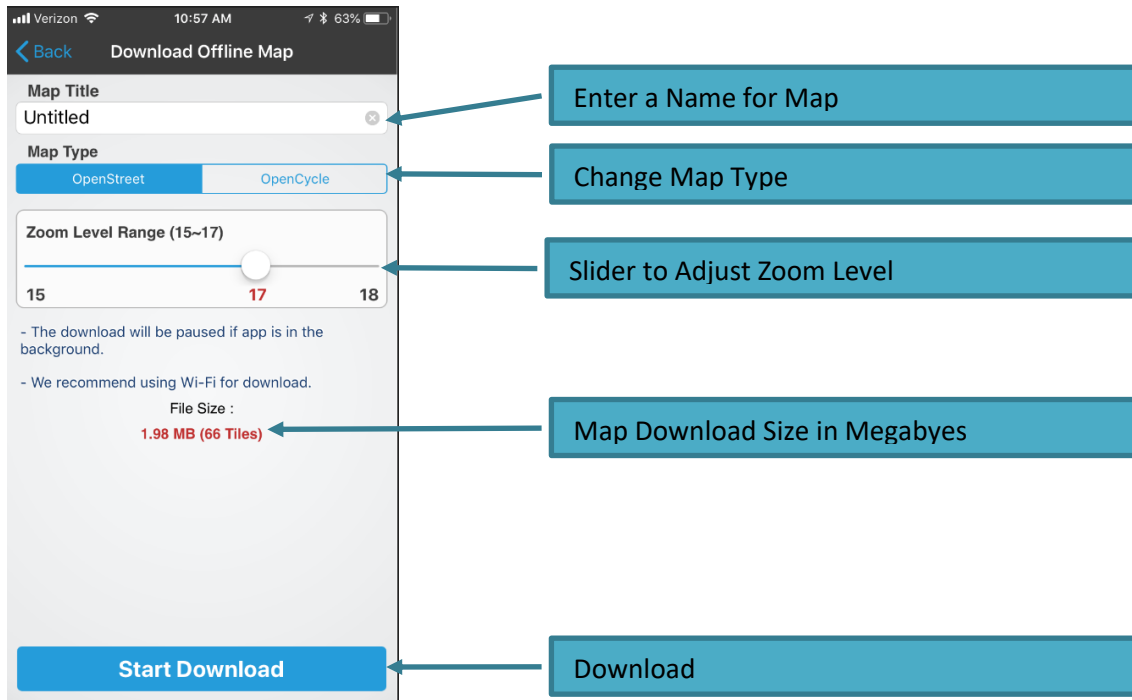
Map Download Options



Once you have confirmed the region, Rambler will give the chance to make a few further adjustments (see below). These are:

- Title – Provide a name for the map so you can recognize it later when managing your list of map downloads.
- Map Type – You have the option of changing the map type again.
- Zoom Level – With downloaded maps, you can zoom in and out on specific areas of the map. This factor controls how much of a map will be visible on the screen at the lowest zoom level. The higher the zoom level, the more detail you can see as you zoom in on the map. As you increase the zoom level number, the size of the download file will increase in order to accommodate the added data for finer levels of detail. For most map downloads aimed at covering just the area for a given hike, file sizes will be fairly modest (a few megabytes) even for the highest zoom number, and you should choose that option. If you have broadened the scope of a map to cover a much larger area, the file size can increase dramatically. Check the File Size estimate (see below), and reduce the zoom level if the download will consume too much of the storage space on your phone. The File Size estimate will dynamically change as you change the Zoom Level, so you can fine-tune your changes.
- File Size Estimate – Download size based on the current specifications.
- Start Download – Begin downloading the file.

Map Download Adjustments

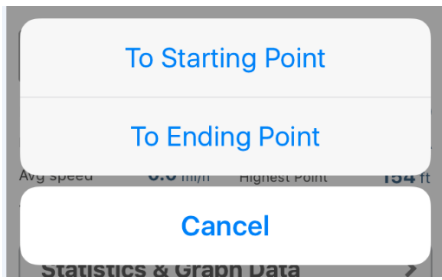


Once you start the download, Ramblr will show you a progress meter for the download. Once the download is complete, you will be returned to the list of map downloads. After you take the hike, you can return to this list and delete the map download. This will free up the storage space on your phone. For now, just close the list.

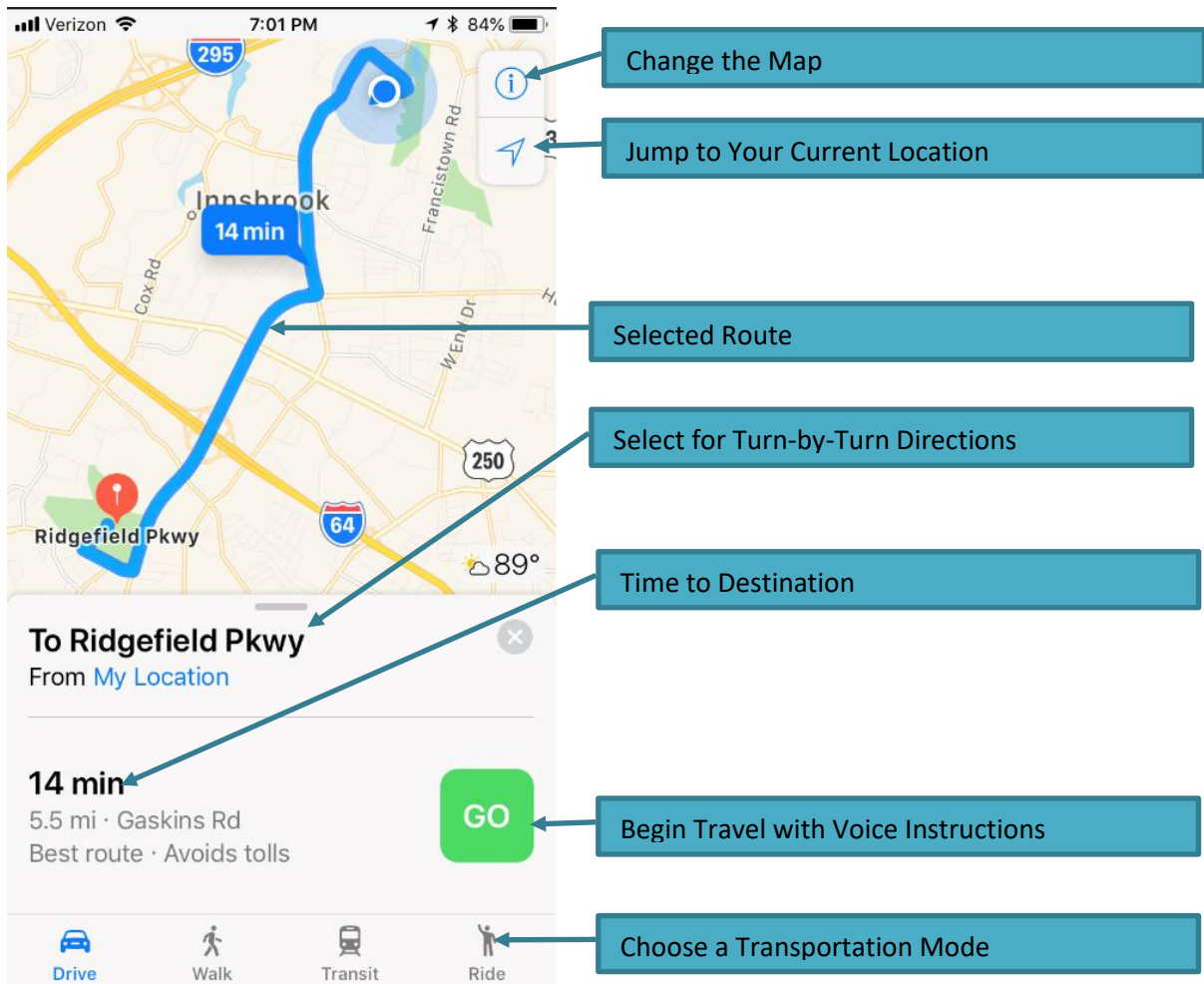
Getting Directions to Trailhead

Once you are ready to take the trip, you may need directions to the trailhead. Once again, go to Me, View My Archive, Downloaded and open the downloaded hike. Choose the Dir. Button at the top left of the hike description screen, and Ramblr will ask if you want to go to the start of the trip track or its end (snippet below). Select one of these choices, and Ramblr will jump out to Apple or Google Maps and show you a route from your current location to the trail (next snippet). By default, it will offer driving directions, but you can also see walking and transit routes. The basic options for Apple Maps are highlighted in the snippet. Since you are probably already familiar with this tool, we will not go into any detail as to its use. Simply follow the routing instructions to get to your trip start or end point.

Choose Destination For Trip Directions



Apple Maps Directions to Trailhead



Start the Hike

Activate the Trip Guide

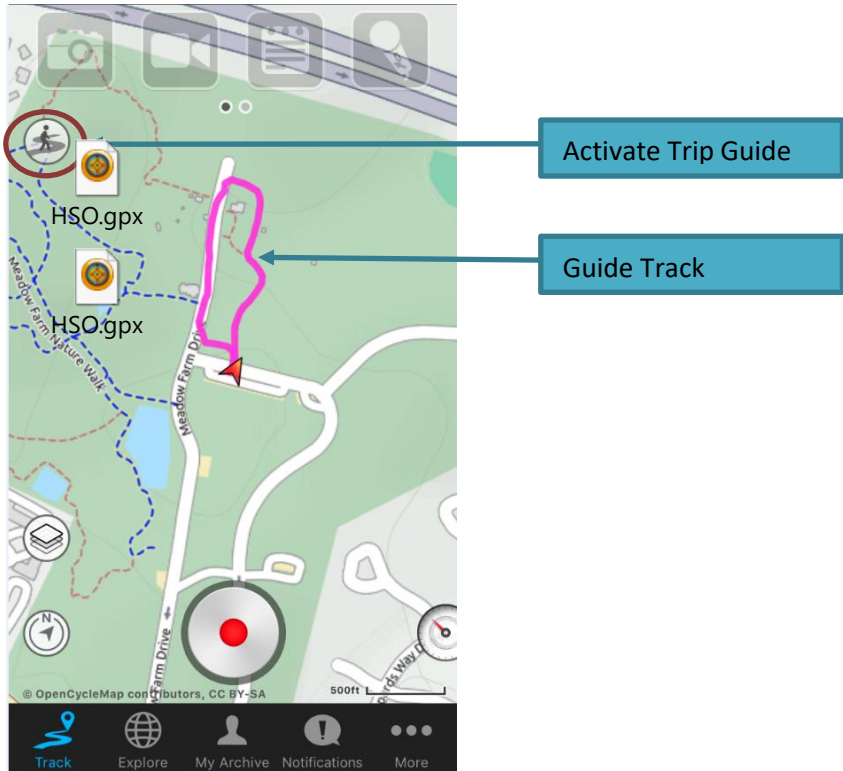
Once you arrive at the trailhead, open the Track screen (snippet below). As discussed in the previous section, only the guide track will be evident initially – no markers will be visible. If you plan on viewing the guide trip markers (if any), you must activate the trip as a guide. To do this, press the Guide icon on this screen (circled below). Ramblr will show you the list of trips that are eligible to be used as guides (not shown). These are the trips you opted to show on the map, as described in the previous section. Select the entry for the trip currently on the map, and Ramblr will then present you with the screen in the next snippet.

Here, you have a choice as to which type of markers will be visible to you as you walk the trail, as denoted by the two toggle switches shown in the snippet. By default, Ramblr will show you all of the basic waypoints, but none of the media markers. To change these settings, simply toggle either of these switches on or off. If you change one of the settings, Ramblr will show or hide the associated markers on the upper map screen. You can also zoom in on the map to get a better feeling as to how many markers of either kind will be visible. Note that media markers will not be available for viewing if you decided not to include them earlier during the download process (see the section on Downloading a Trip). If the original trip included no markers of any kind, the map screen will obviously be void of markers.

In making your choice, you must decide whether either type of markers will be useful to you during your hike. For example, basic waypoints may include information about trail intersections or site amenities such as picnic shelters and restrooms. Similarly, media markers may alert you to key points of interest along the trail and provide additional information about these features. On the other hand, an excess of markers can be distracting during your hike. If you are unsure, you can review the trip story in the Downloaded tab of My Archive. This will require you to exit this screen and jump to My Archive. Return here when you are ready to finalize your decisions.

Having made your choices, press the Select button. Ramblr will return to the map screen, which will now show the markers you opted to make visible. You can return here at any time during the hike to change these settings, as well as to deactivate the guide trip altogether using the Deselect button. In the third snippet below, we turned on the media markers, and they now appear on the map screen. The Guide button is also shaded red, indicating a guide trip is active.

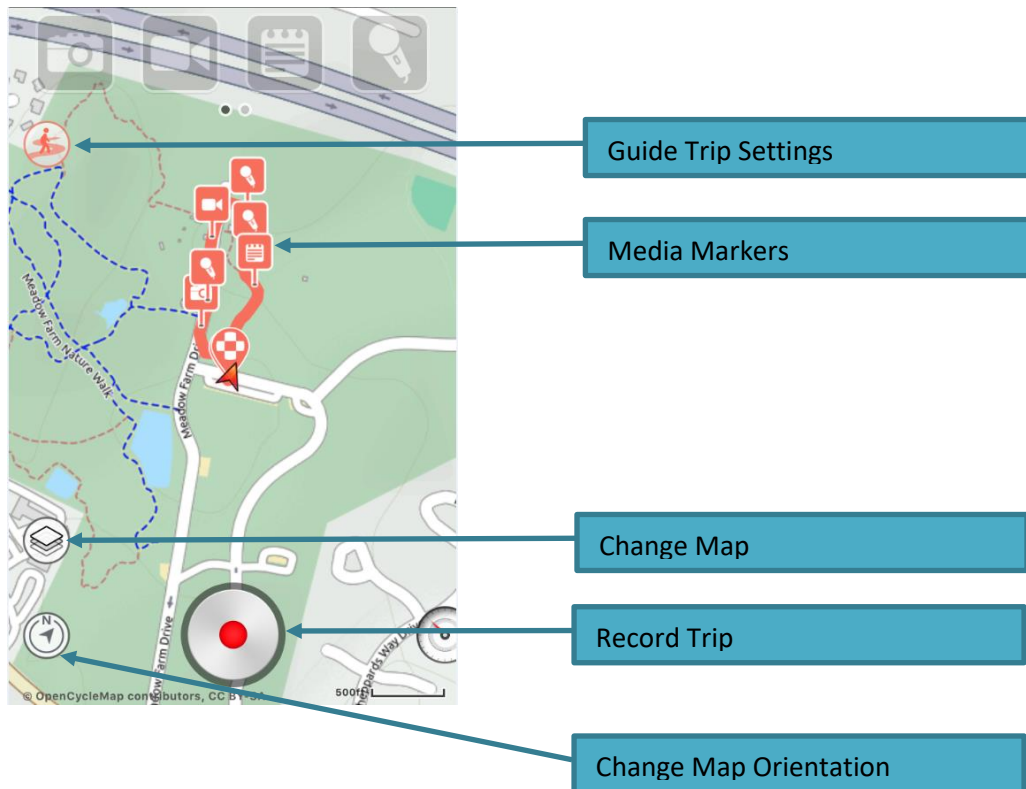
Initial Track Screen Upon Arrival



Activating a Trip Guide



Trip Guide Activated

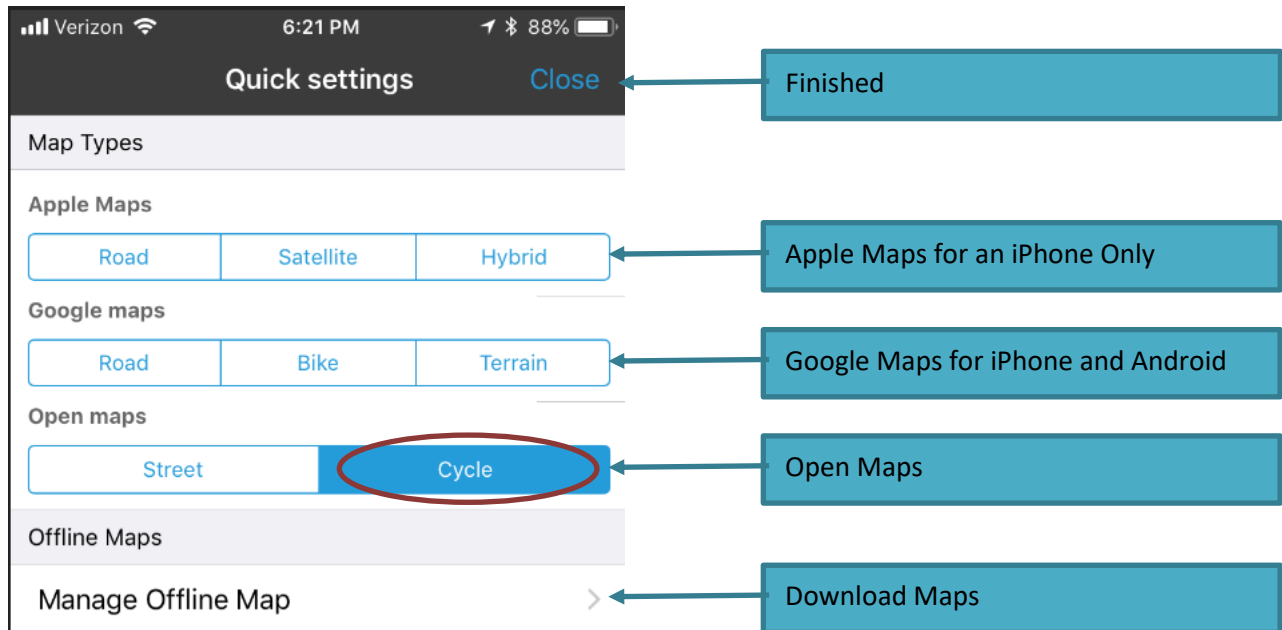


Change Map

Ramblr provides a variety of different maps. Pressing this icon allows you to choose which map you want to use. As shown in the screen below, the current map will be highlighted in blue (circled item). Select any of the other map buttons to change the map. Here are a few tips:

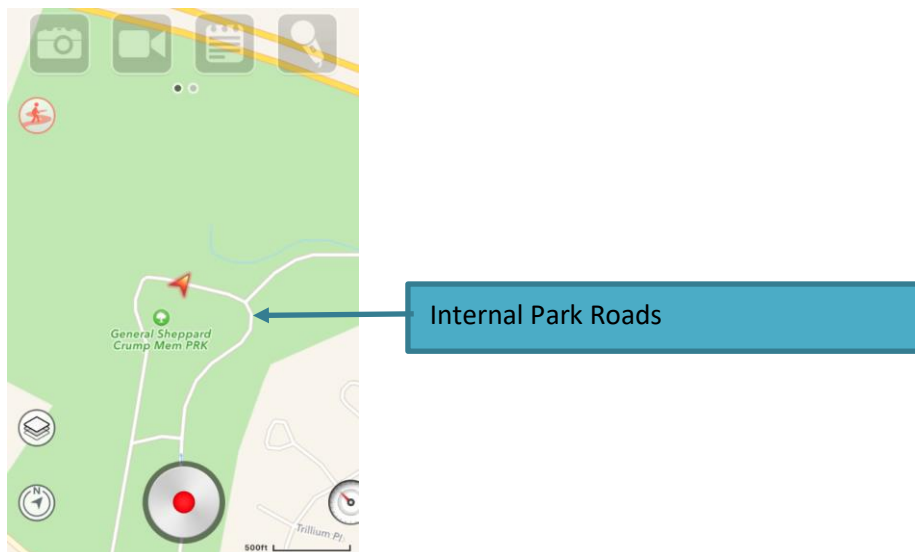
- Apple Maps – The standard maps on an iPhone are Apple Maps. You can choose between a street map, satellite photos, or a combination.
- Google Maps – For an Android phone, the standard maps are Google Maps. These maps are also available on the iPhone version. One added twist is the provision of a 3d terrain map. This can be helpful if you are traversing steep or rough terrain. The Bike map adds a modest number of biking trails.
- Open Maps – Open maps are managed and updated by volunteers spread across the world (a model similar to Wikipedia). One advantage to using these maps is that they sometimes include trails in local parks, whereas the other maps only show major trails (e.g., the Appalachian Trail). The Cycle Map adds contour lines to show elevation.
- Close – Return to the previous screen.

Change Maps

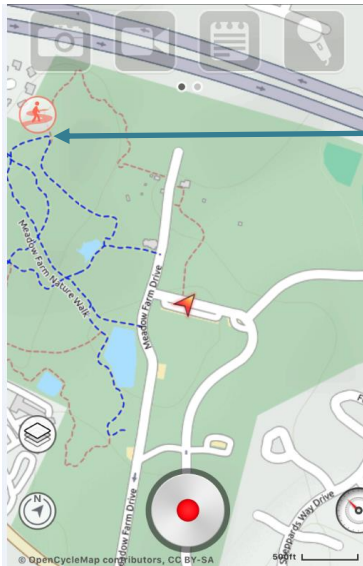


By default, Ramblr shows the standard Road map. If you are undertaking an adventure in a natural area, you might want to change the map. In the first snippet below, you can see the Road map view of a local park. This view shows the internal roads within the park, but no trails are visible. By switching to the Open Cycle map (second snippet), a number of trails are added to the map. You could use these trails to guide you during a hike in the park. You could even plan your hike on the fly by scrolling on the map to view the trails, deciding which trails to take, and making appropriate turns at trail intersections. Simply make sure that your current location marker does not veer off your planned path.

Road Map for a Local Park



Open Cycle Map for a Local Park



Park Trails

Change Map Orientation

The Map Orientation function plays a role in helping you to navigate and orient yourself with Ramblr maps. Ordinarily, maps are oriented with north at the top, south at the bottom, east on the right, and west on the left. This is the default mode for Ramblr when displaying a map. However, you can change the map orientation by pressing the Map Orientation button shown above. This button is a toggle switch which cycles through 3 different modes – each time you press it, the icon changes and the mode changes. The three different positions are:



North Up (Default) – When you first open a map in the Tracks screen, the map screen will “jump” to your current location, with the position arrow in the center of the screen. In this mode, you can scroll in any direction on the map screen to explore different areas of the map. Ramblr maintains the North Up orientation described above as you scroll around on the map. However, it is easy to lose track of your current position if you scroll to another portion of the map or begin moving away from your starting point. This is where the other modes come in handy.



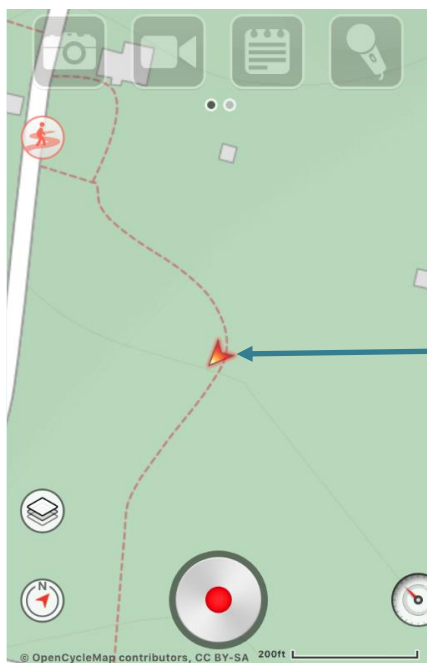
North Up on Your Current Location – When you select this mode, the center focus of the map screen once again “jumps” to your current location if you have scrolled the map to another area. In other words, the position arrow will be in the center of the screen. The map screen will then maintain this focus on your current position as you move across the landscape. This means that the map screen

will appear to follow you to keep your current position in the center of the screen. It will also maintain the North Up orientation regardless of the direction in which you are travelling. You can zoom in or out on this location, but scrolling on the map will cause this function to revert to the default mode, because the position arrow will no longer be in the center of the screen.



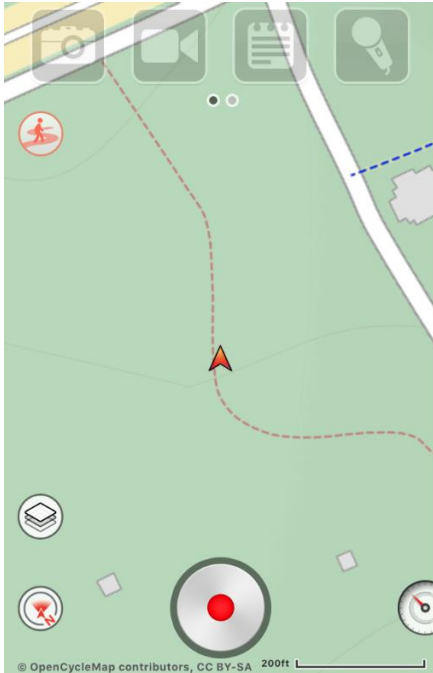
Track Up – In addition to maintaining a center focus on your current position, this mode changes the map orientation from North Up to Track Up. This means that Ramblr continuously adjusts the map orientation to place the direction in which you are heading at the top of the screen, instead of always showing North there. For example, if you are heading east, the eastern portion of the map display will be at the top. As you change direction, the map orientation will shift. This mode can be very helpful when you are recording a track or following a track, since the North Up mode can be confusing in these activities. For example, if you are heading south, your position arrow in North Up mode will point towards the bottom of the screen, because your direction of travel is into that portion of the map (first snippet below). This will make a left turn look like a right turn based on a quick glance at the map display, since the map display is “upside down” in terms of what you see in front of you. By shifting to Track Up orientation, the map display will always show what is ahead of you at the top of the screen, which will match the orientation of your perspective (second snippet). Notice also that the icon itself shifts to show which way is north as the map orientation changes (the red N on the icon). Of course, some users still prefer the North Up view, particularly those with long experience with reading paper maps (since they use North Up). Experiment with the two modes to determine which works best for you. Note also that orientation will revert to the default if you scroll around the map.

Heading South on a North Up Map Screen



Travelling in a Southerly Direction

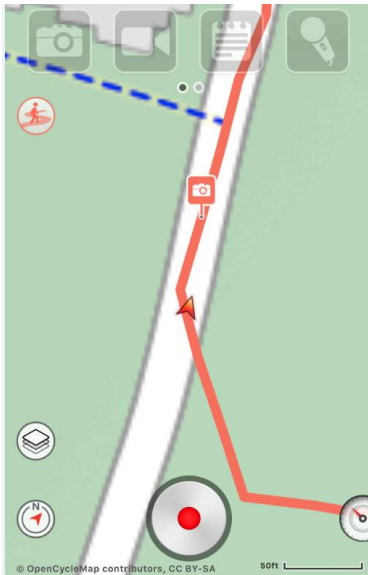
Track Up Orientation



Zoom in on the Map

You will usually want to zoom in closer on the map. Otherwise, your markers may overlap one another and be difficult to see and use. At the same time, a closer level of detail makes it easier to follow the trail and have advance notice of an upcoming marker. Double-tap the screen to a zoom level with which you are comfortable. The snippet below shows the added clarity of a closer level of detail as compared to the initial map screen.

Zooming in on A Guide Track




Adjust Brightness of Display


If your guide trip has markers with text descriptions, this text may be difficult to read in the bright sunshine. You may want to increase the brightness of the display on your smartphone to make the text more legible. On an iPhone, adjustments to display brightness are made in Settings, Display & Brightness. Note that turning up the display brightness will increase battery drain, so try to limit your use of the display where possible and turn the display off when not in use.

Recording a Trip (Optional)



It is not necessary to press the Record button  to start following the guided hike. This function is used to record and document your own hike, as a sort of a personal scrapbook for your trip. In this way, you can create your own guided hike for others to follow. Ramblr has a broad set of features for this purpose, which are described in greater detail in the Support section of the Ramblr Web site. When you first begin using the app, you may want to save this feature for later exploration. If you start recording by accident, you can turn it off by sliding the Pause button to the right and choosing the Stop



button . You can then Discard the trip. As described below, **recording is necessary if you want Ramblr to alert you when you stray from the path set out in the guided hike.**

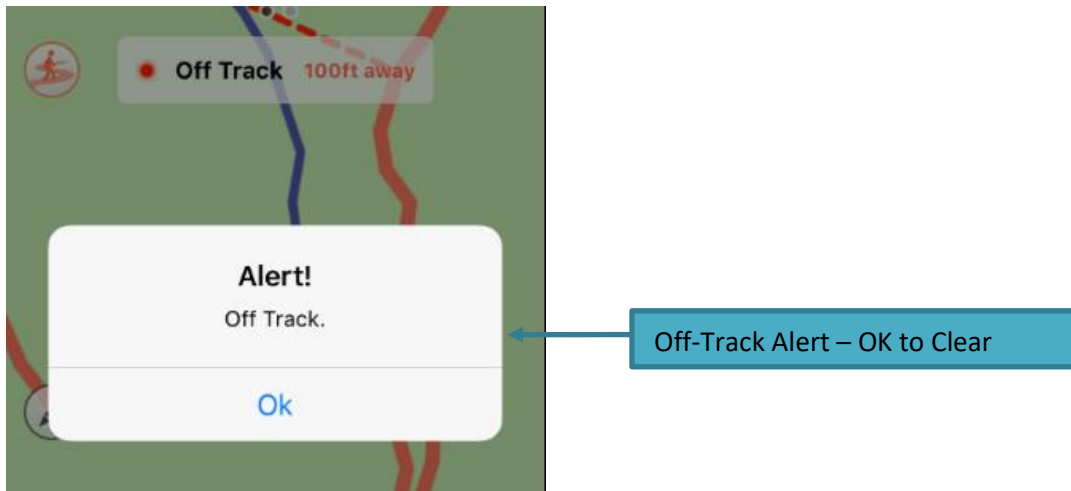
Walking a Trail with a Trip Guide

Follow the Track

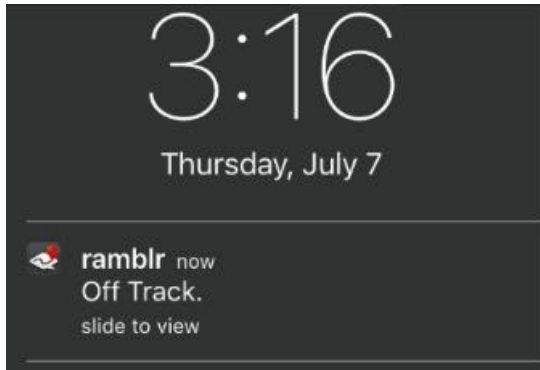
Once you have taken care of initial preparations, you can begin hiking. At the outset, your focus is to ensure that your current position as denoted by the position arrow has not strayed too far from the guide track. Remember that these tracks are only rough guides – they may be 30 feet or more off the trail you are actually on. Since you typically are using an established trail for your hike, you usually only need to head in the right direction on the trail, stay on that trail as you move along, and make the correct turns at trail intersections.

Ramblr will help you stay on-track by sending you an alert anytime you stray more than 100 feet from the guide track. An example of this alert is shown in the snippet below. Press OK to clear it. If the Ramblr app is running in the background, Ramblr will deliver the alert to your smartphone's notification screen, as shown in the second snippet (iPhone example). Swipe on this alert to reopen Ramblr. Once the alert is cleared, Ramblr will also continuously update your distance from the track and show you the shortest route back to the track. (third snippet). Since the path that Ramblr suggests usually involves bushwhacking off-trail, it is best to just backtrack to the point where you made a wrong turn. **Note that this feature only works while you are recording a track – be sure to turn on recording before you start off on your hike.**

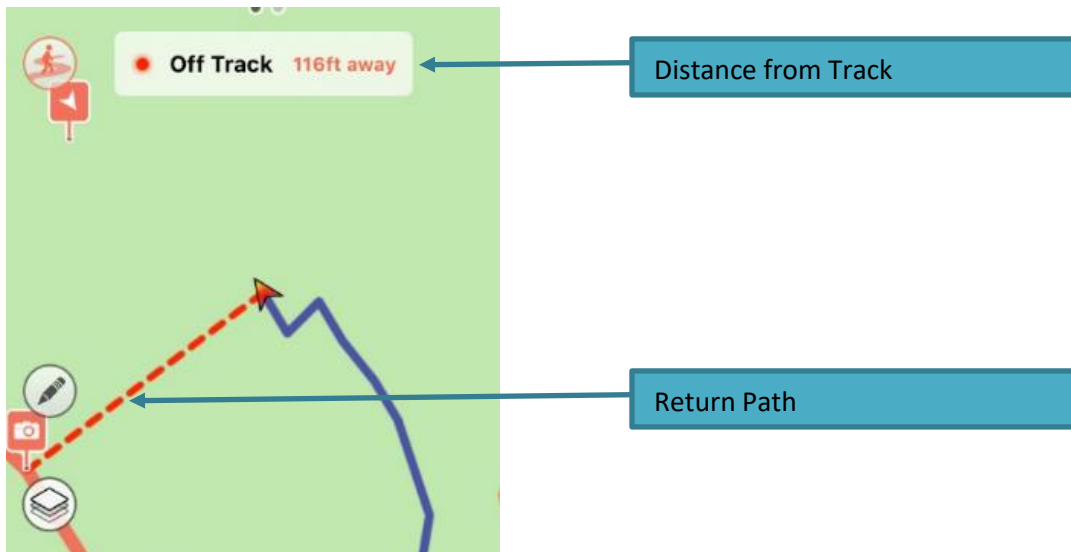
Off-Track Alert



Alert in Smartphone Notification Screen



Getting Back On Track



Given that Ramblr is constantly making sure you are following the guide track, you only need to glance at your smartphone occasionally to make sure you are still on track, while staying alert for obvious changes in direction on the track. The best advice is to **stay on the trail whenever you are in doubt.**

View Markers

While checking your position relative to the track, you also should notice whether any markers are coming up. Once you are abreast of the marker (snippet below), press the marker icon to open it. Remember that marker locations on your map are not precise. If you are looking for a specific object, such as a special kind of tree, start keeping a lookout for it a number of feet ahead of the marker – it may actually be closer than the marker indicates. Be aware that there may also be a slight lag in Ramblr's update of your current position. If you cannot find the object you are looking for, circle around

and have another look. The details contained within each marker vary in accordance with the type of marker involved. We will look at each one in turn.

Approaching a Guide Marker

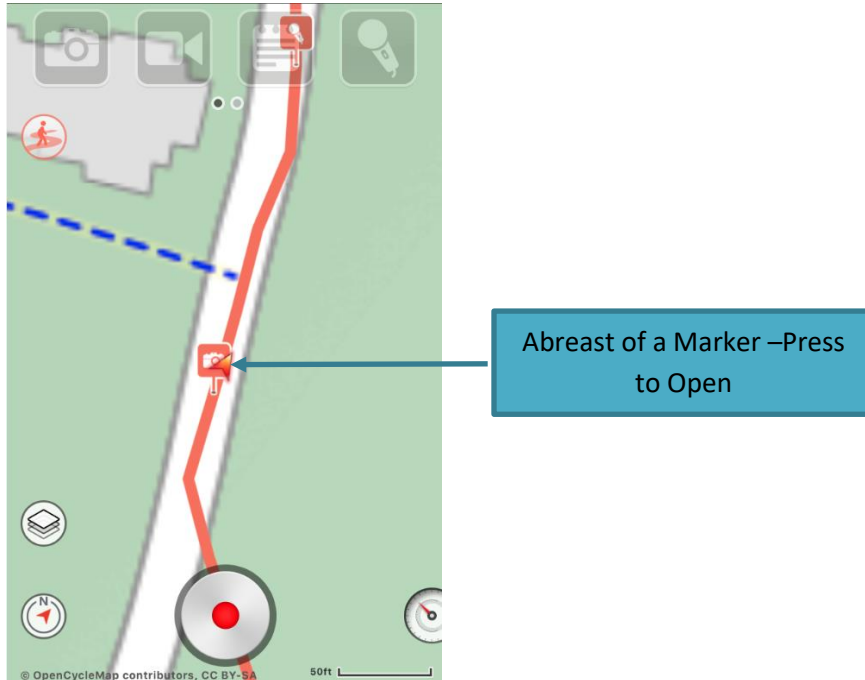
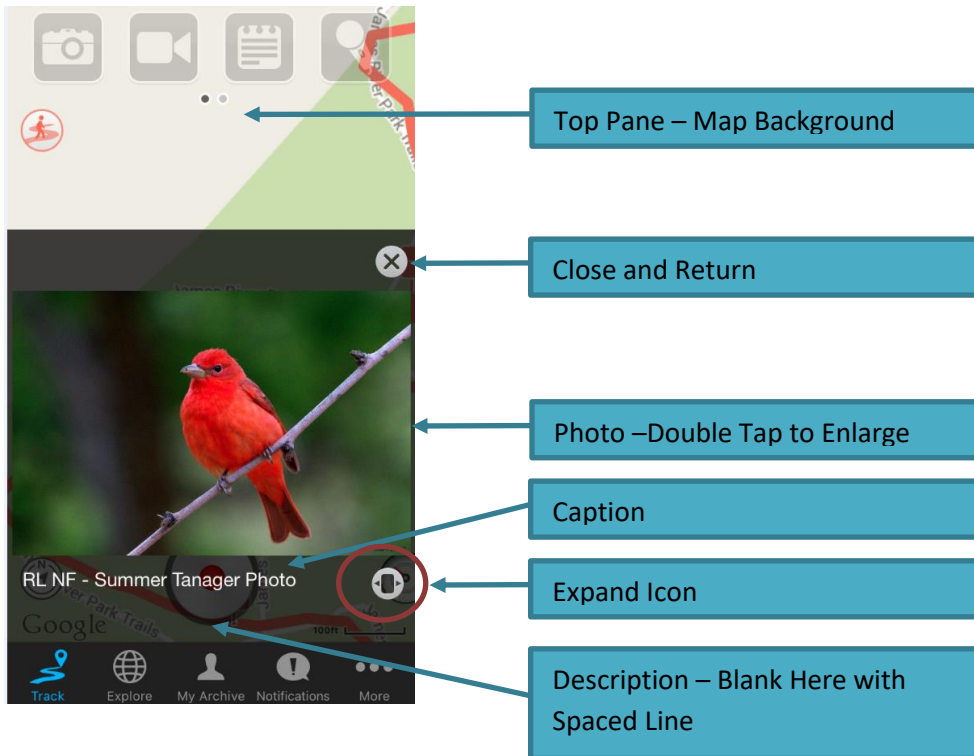


Photo Markers

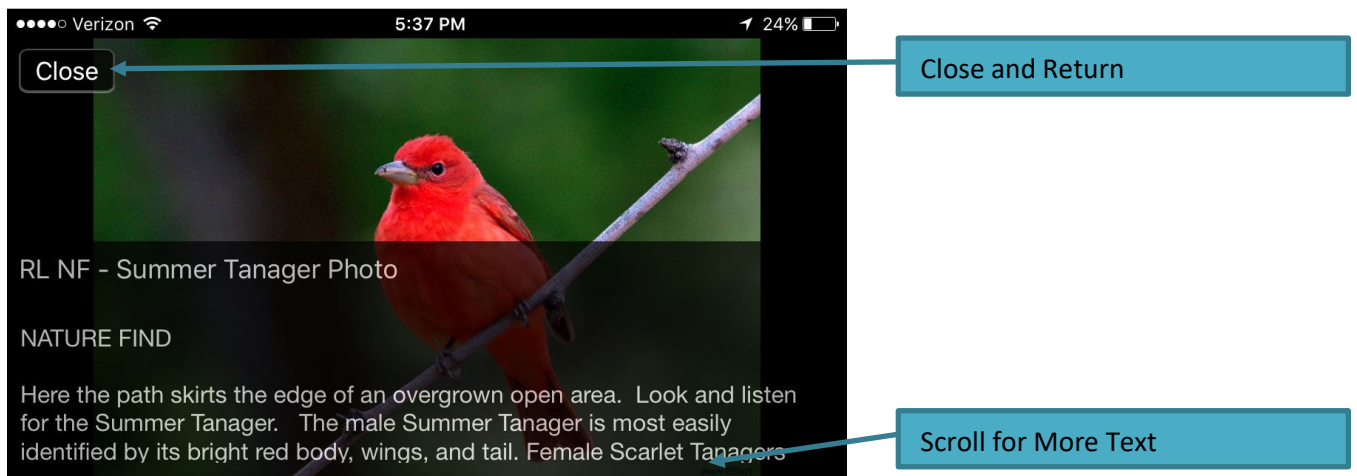
Photo markers are the most common type of media marker. When you press on a photo icon on the map, the photo screen will pop up over top of the map (snippet below). Only a limited amount of the marker description will appear in that screen – most of the description (if added) will be cut off. To see the entire description, press the Expand icon at the bottom right of this page (circled), which will open a full-screen version of the photo marker. Not only will more marker text be visible, but you can also scroll down to see any remaining text. If the marker description is especially long, rotate your smartphone into landscape mode (next snippet). While reading the text, be alert for any text outlined in blue (third snippet). This indicates an active Web link. When you press these links, your Web browser will open and jump to the Web page specified. After you have reviewed the additional information, press the “back to ramblr” link at the top of the Web page. This will close your Web browser and return to the Ramblr app. Note that Web links will **not** work without an Internet connection.

To enlarge the photo, double tap on it. If you have opened the expanded screen, you can also scroll through the trip’s whole set of markers by swiping left or right. Once you are done on any screen, press the Close button to close the page and return.

Photo Marker



Landscape Mode for Viewing Text Descriptions



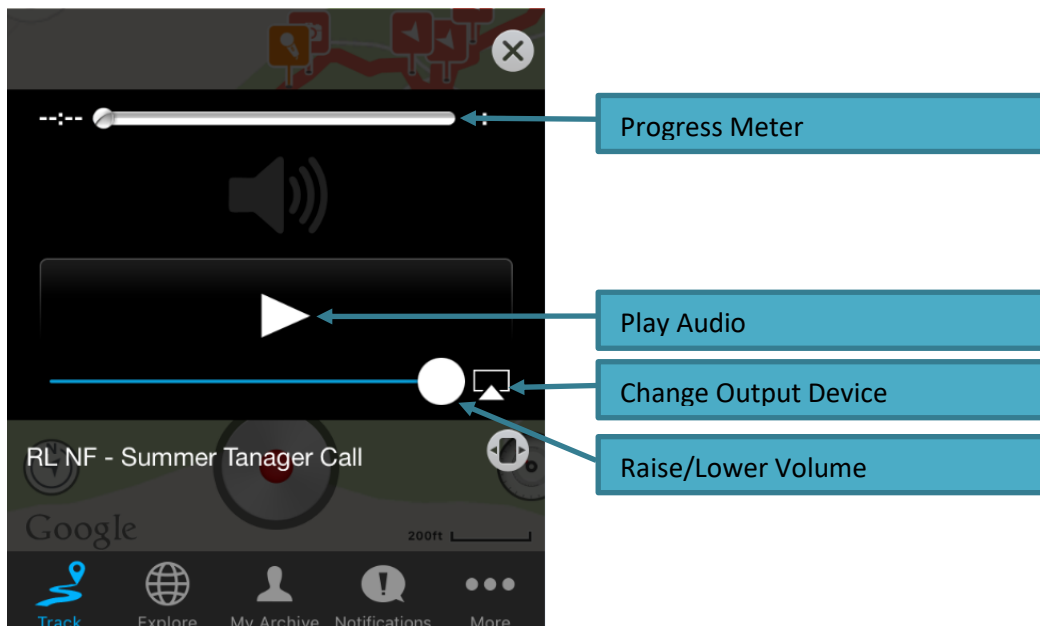
Web Link in a Marker Description

To find out more about this bird, visit the Cornell birding site:
http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Summer_Tanager/id

Audio Marker

The other markers have the same basic features as the photo marker, with the main difference being how you access the media. Here and in the descriptions of the remaining markers, we will focus only on any differences. The Audio marker uses a standard audio player, with the usual functions (snippet below). One twist is the ability to change the output device to any Bluetooth-attached player.

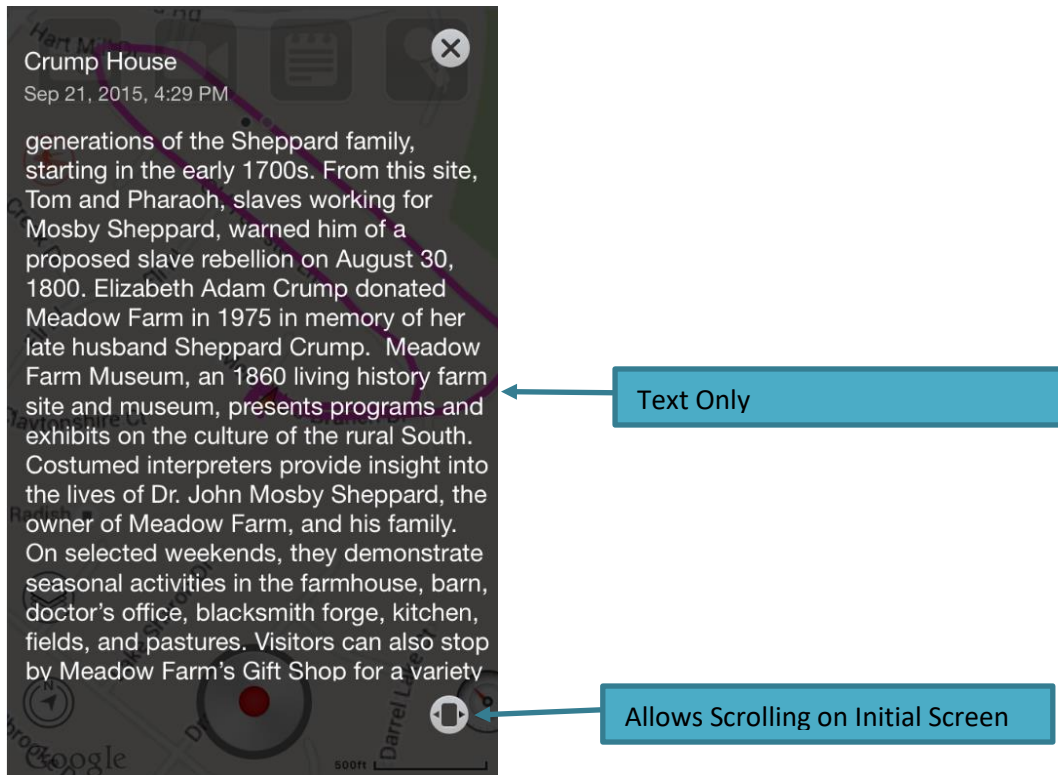
Audio Marker



Note Marker

The Note marker differs in that it opens automatically in full-screen mode (snippet below), and allows scrolling within that initial screen. Since Notes typically contain more text than the other markers, this allows additional text to be shown at the outset.

Note Marker



Waypoint Marker

Waypoint markers are very similar to Note Markers. They contain only text and open in full-screen mode.

Waypoint Marker

