

Google Street View: Alaska's Trails

GEOG A375: Environmental Applications of
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

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What is *Google Street View*?

Google Street View was first launched in 2007 with the goal of providing interactive panoramas from different streets all around the world.

Street View allows for contributions from not only Google professionals, but from people around the world.

Google Street View provides: access to virtual tours; explore cities and landmarks; and find shops, restaurants, and hotels.



A photograph of a snowy mountain trail. The foreground is covered in deep, uneven snow with some small, dark shrubs. In the background, there are more snow-covered mountains under a clear blue sky. The sun is visible on the left side, creating a lens flare effect.

Street View and Alaska's Trails: Our Goal

Google Street View's goal is to provide 360° horizontal and 290° vertical panoramic images, at street level, of cities around the world.

By providing 360° images of Alaska's infamous trail systems people are able to remotely access trails to visualize the trail before hiking and to see the panoramic views of Alaska's peaks.

Methodology

Our group used the Ricoh Theta V 360-Degree Spherical HD Camera to capture 360° images of various trails. After capturing the images, they were then uploaded into Google Street View through the Google Street View app.

After publishing several 360-photos, our group was able to become a “trusted” Street View contributor, which enabled us to see our photos connected in a line on Google Maps and Google Earth.



Google Street View *'Trusted'* Photographer

Google 'Trusted' Criteria:

- Image quality
- Connectivity
- Appropriateness



Google Street View '*Trusted*' Photographer (Continued)

Image Quality

For a certification to be acquired, there must be at least fifty images uploaded to Google servers via the Street View app, and one must ensure that the images uploaded meet the following criteria:

- 14 mp or larger
- 2:1 image aspect ratio
- No gaps in image around horizon
- No significant stitching errors
- Adequate detail in light/dark areas
- Sharpness: no motion blur, must be in focus
- No distracting effects or filters

Google Street View '*Trusted*' Photographer (Continued)

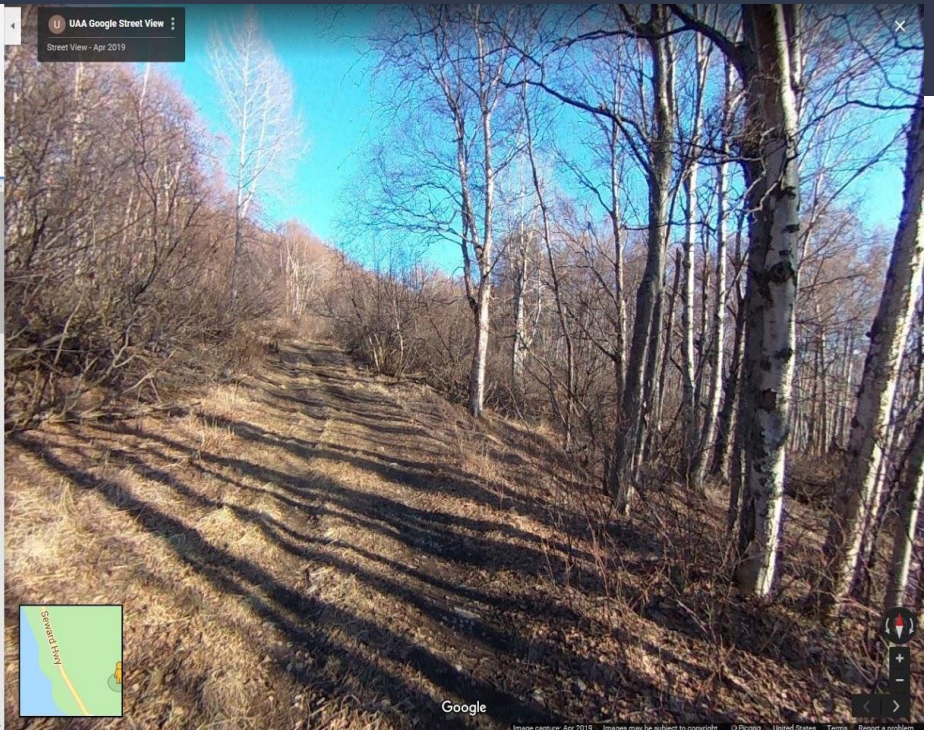
Connectivity

- All connected 360 photos must maintain a clear line of sight
- Shot at 1 meter spacing indoors and 3 meters outdoors
- Increase the chances of connecting by extending your collection to a street











Google Street View '*Trusted*' Photographer (Continued)

Appropriateness

- Consent to show people and place
- Geographically accurate placement
- No computer generated spaces
- No attribution beyond nadir area
- No hateful or illegal content






Contributions from UAA Google Street View

 Reviews	0	 Edits	0
 Ratings	0	 Places added	0
 Photos	122	 Roads added	0
 Videos	0	 Facts checked	0
 Answers	0	 Q&A	0

[Learn more about points](#)

As you help other people, you earn points for each contribution & get closer to the next level.








UAA Google Street View
122 contributions ›

REVIEWS

PHOTOS

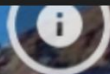
 443  6,893

Date ▾



Trails Documented

- Turnagain Arm Trail
- Powerline Pass
- Prospect Heights Trailhead/Wolverine Trail
- Smokejumper Trailhead
- Homestead Trail



Results

[https://poly.google.com/view/
9lijsMQUldd](https://poly.google.com/view/9lijsMQUldd)

< Scene 1 of 5 >

verline Pass Trail ⓘ

gle Trail View

3 views



Like



Share



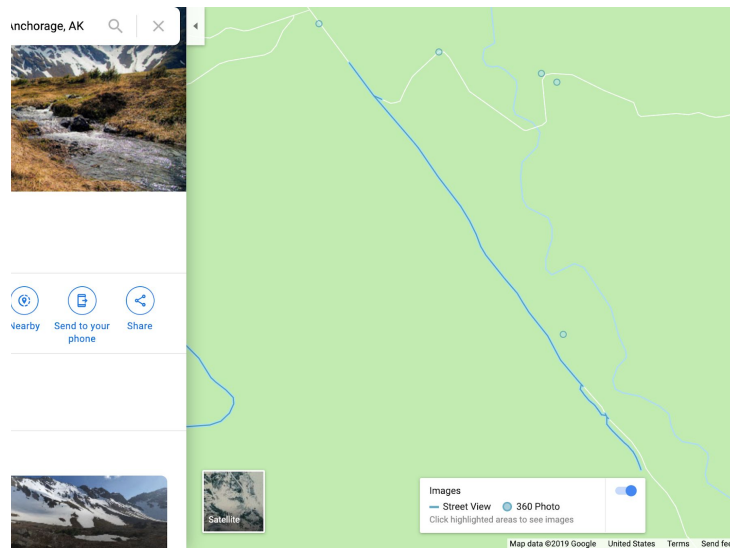
Edit



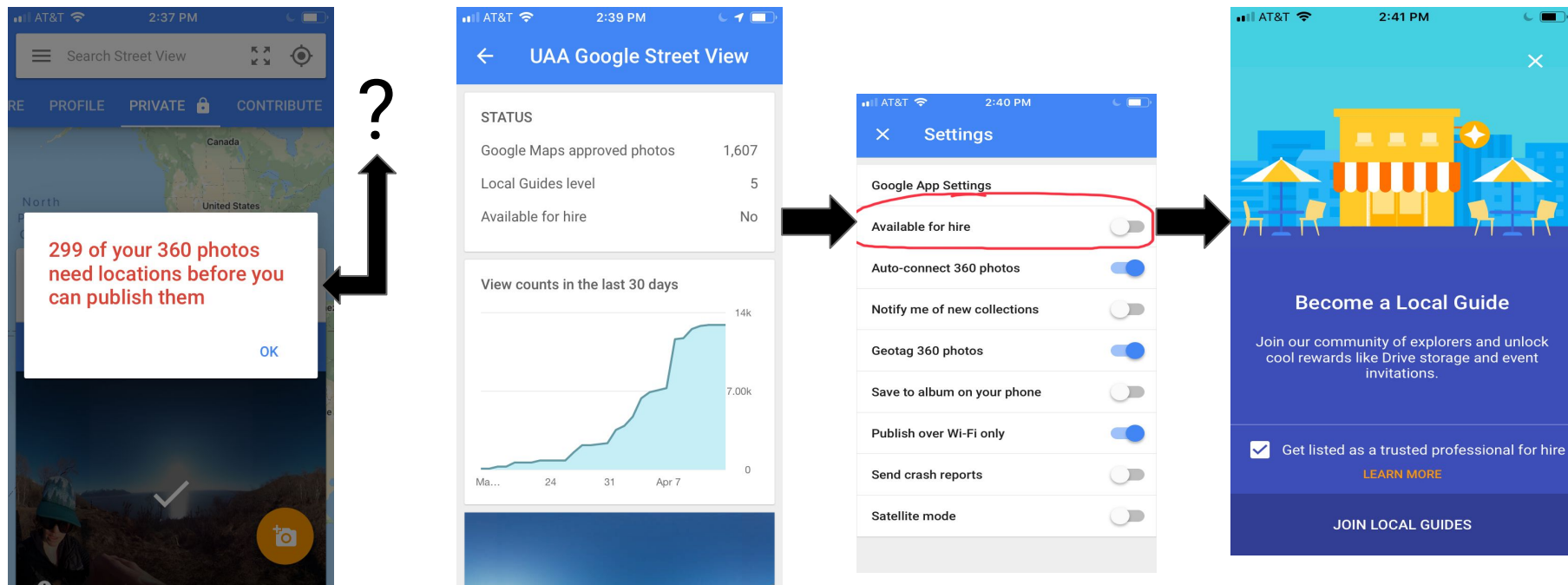
Challenges: Trail Conditions & Weather



Challenges: Connecting Lines



Challenges: Publishing Photos



Discussion: Final Thoughts

Future work -- needed to fully refine the process and document more trails

More time -- ideal to be able to record the entire length of trails

Season -- photographing during the summer months would be more accessible when trails are clear of snow might be more useful and aesthetically pleasing

Collaboration -- working with other government agencies or nonprofit organizations could increase utility

References

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