GPS Receivers & Geocaching Details

Prepared by:

Jen McKee
John McGee

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COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia View

America View

Virginia Space Grant Consortium

GTEVCC

What does “Geocaching friendly” mean?

For Garmin units:

- Ability to download waypoint coordinates from geocaching.com
- GPS receiver has a geocache menu
- Shows downloaded geocaches
  - Many show if they have been found or not
- Can select “Go To” function which gives navigational directions towards geocaches
- Will also show any other information downloaded with the geocache in comment field

Introduction to Geocaching

- Geocaching is a high-tech entertaining adventure game (scavenger hunt) for GPS users
- The idea is to “hunt” for hidden containers (geocaches) that have been placed in the landscape (virtual orienteering)
- Pick a prize from the geocache and leave a prize…
- Geocaching is enjoyed by people of all ages, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment

www.geocaching.com

Geocaching

- Geocache examples

Micro cache

Example of contents

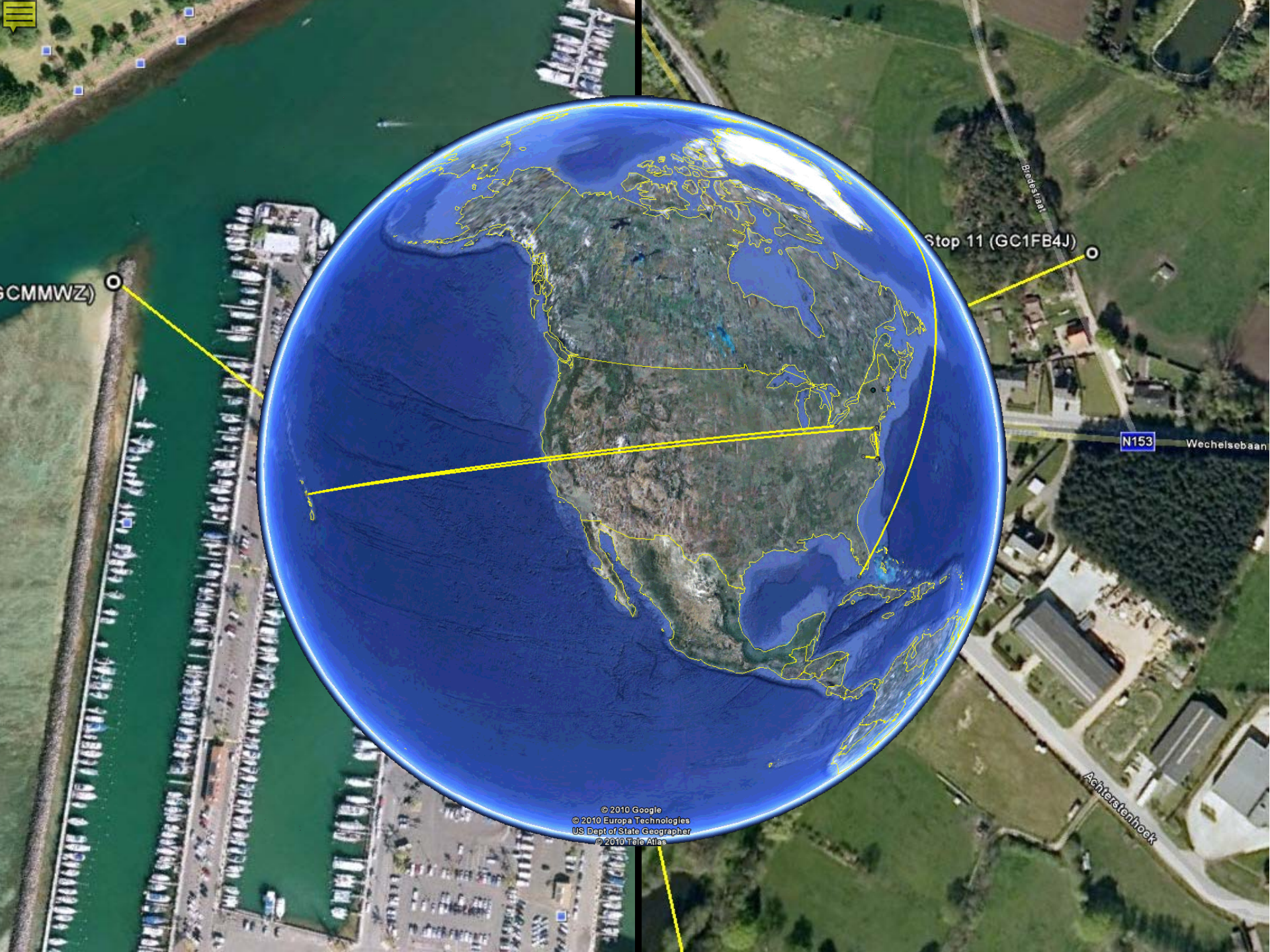
Geocaching

- Create account on www.geocaching.com
- Search for geocaches
- Download geocaches to your GPS unit
- “Hunt” your geocache
- Sign logbook in cache
- Take an item, leave an item
- Return cache to exact position & condition in which it was found
- Write about your experience on www.geocaching.com

What is a Trackable Item?

- Items that have a tracking number & can be followed on www.geocache.com (via GoogleEarth...)

- Just image the places that your geocoin may take you…


GCMMWZ)
Stop 11 (GC1FB4J)
Bredeslaat
N153
Wechelsebaan
Achterstenhoek
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US Dept of State Geographer
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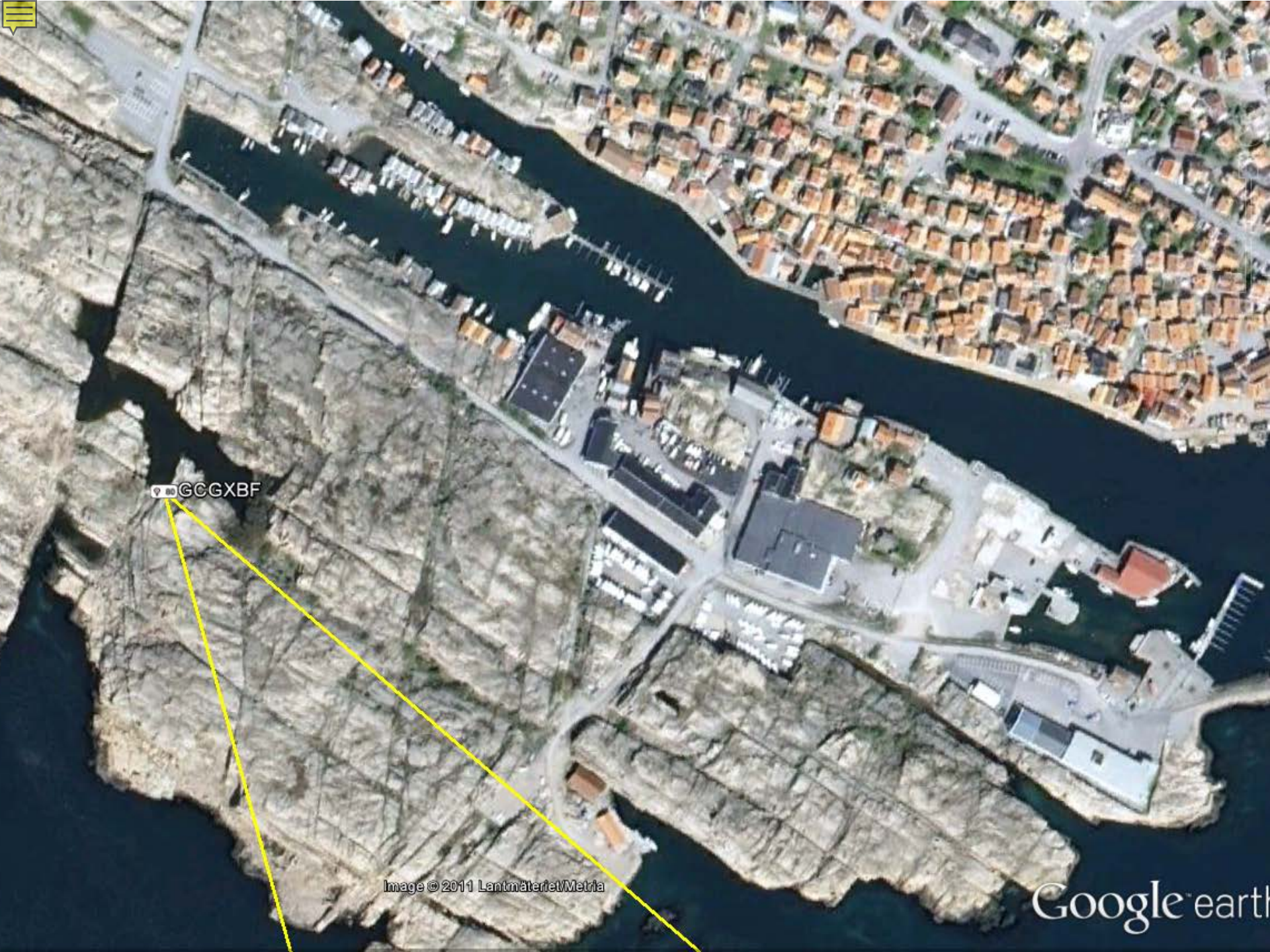
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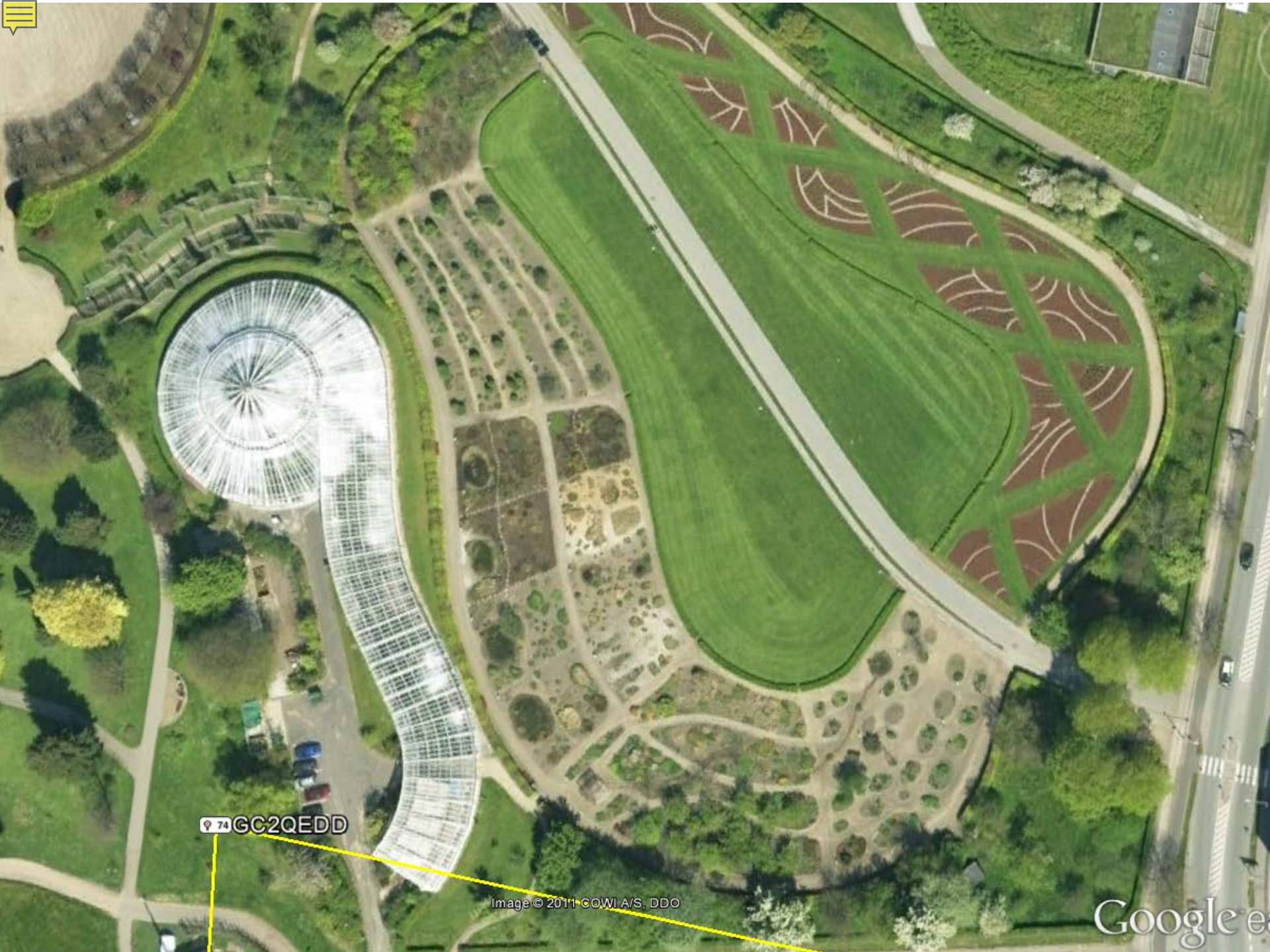
Image © 2011 Lantmäteriet/Metria
Google earth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Aufgang zur Wallfahrtskirche

By Edgar Bär

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GC1AH8K

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Google earth

te: 12/31/2007 2001 50°07'00.08" N 11°03'05.83" E elev 1232 ft Eye alt 1844 ft

Trackable Items

- Geocoins
  - Special coin created by individuals/groups as a signature item/calling card
  - Has unique tracking ID
- Travel Bugs
  - A trackable tag that is attached to an item
  - The travel bug is a standard design (a travel bug looks like a dog tag...)

Geocaching is fun... This activity is also a “teachable moment”

- The Virginia Geospatial Extension Program and VirginiaView have developed a geocaching exercises that incorporate STEM-based learning with geocaching
- This is available for download from the VirginiaView portal (www.virginiaview.net) under the <educational resources> section
- Geocoins are available by request from VirginiaView

Geocoins & Travel Bugs

Establishing a New Geocache

- Do you need to start a new cache in order to be a geocacher?
  - Absolutely not!
  - There are already over 1,700,000 established geocaches to choose from!
  - There is likely an active geocache near your school already!
  - There are over 80 geocaches within a 3 mile radius of Virginia Tech!

Information & Tips for Creating a New Geocache

- If you do want to start a new cache, then there are some guidelines that you need to follow...
- http://www.wikihow.com/Create-and-Hide-a-Geocache
- Are geocaches are allowed in your proposed location?
  - Obtain permission from the property owner if tromping through private property.
  - Some park systems require permits, so check with park management to see if a permit is required.
  - No geocaches on NPS lands!