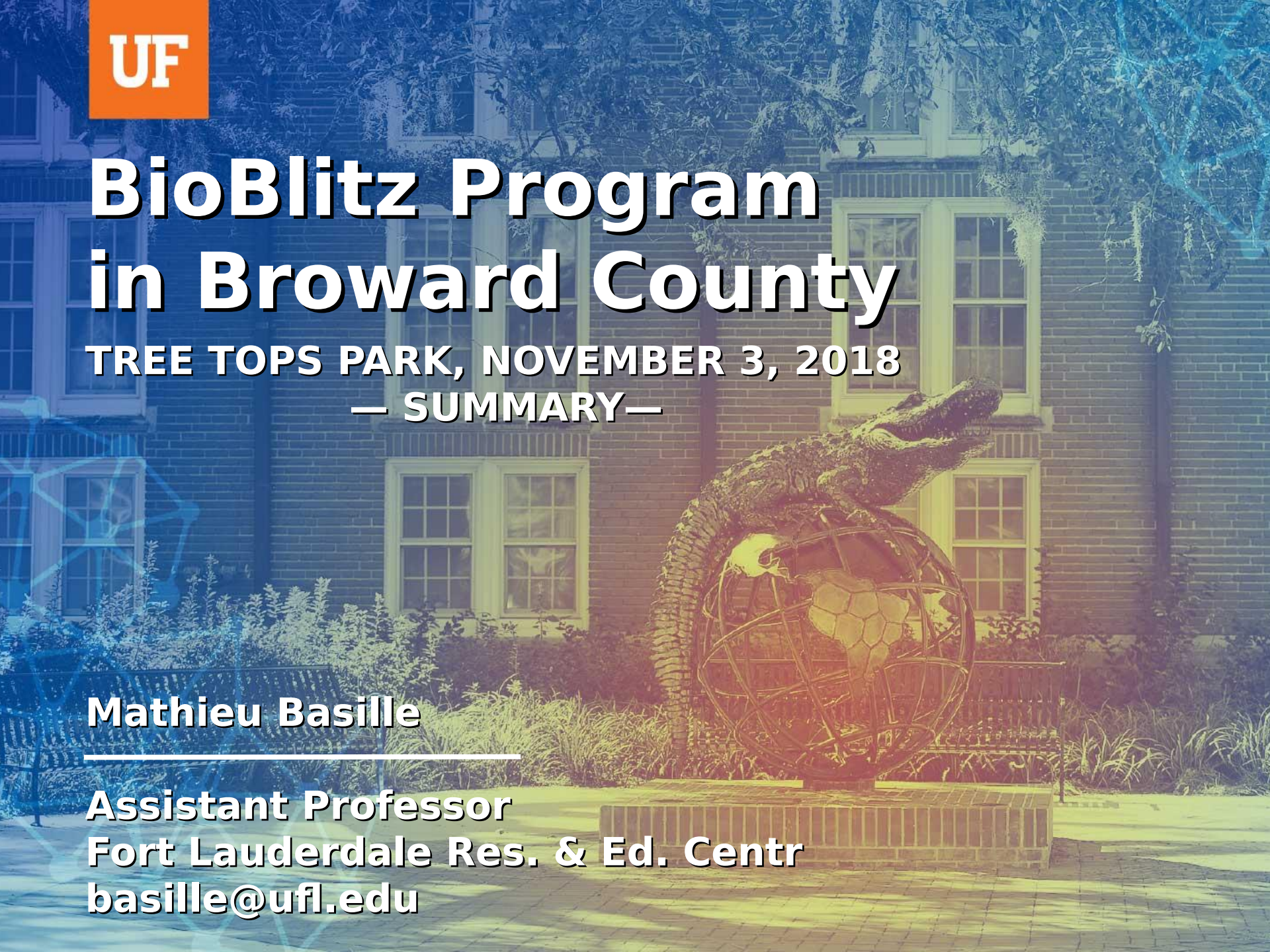


BioBlitz Program in Broward County

TREE TOPS PARK, NOVEMBER 3, 2018

— SUMMARY—

Mathieu Basille

Assistant Professor
Fort Lauderdale Res. & Ed. Centr
basille@ufl.edu

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

A BioBlitz is a citizen-science Biodiversity survey

- Biodiversity survey
- Citizen-science
- Intensive survey

Biodiversity survey

- **Aim:** record as many species as possible
- **Field survey:** observations on the ground
- **Specific areas:** natural parks, urban areas, terrestrial and marine ecosystems…

→ Ability to records thousands of species, and discover new ones!

Citizen science

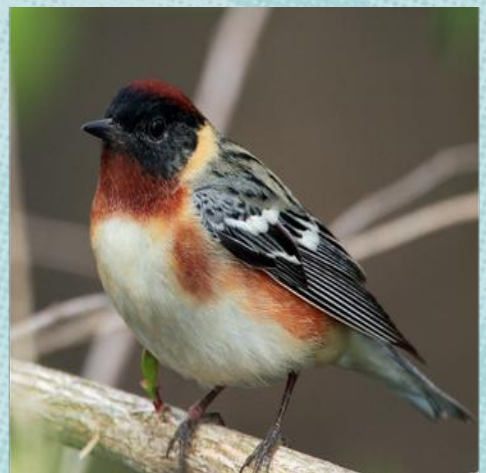
- **Open to public participation**
- Scientists, students, experts, volunteers…
- Record of >9,000 people in 2014 NPS/NGS BioBlitz

→ Many volunteers = many pairs of eyes!

Intensive survey

- **Snapshot of biodiversity**
- Usually over 24 hours
- Schedule accommodated to specific cases

→ Biodiversity around the clock

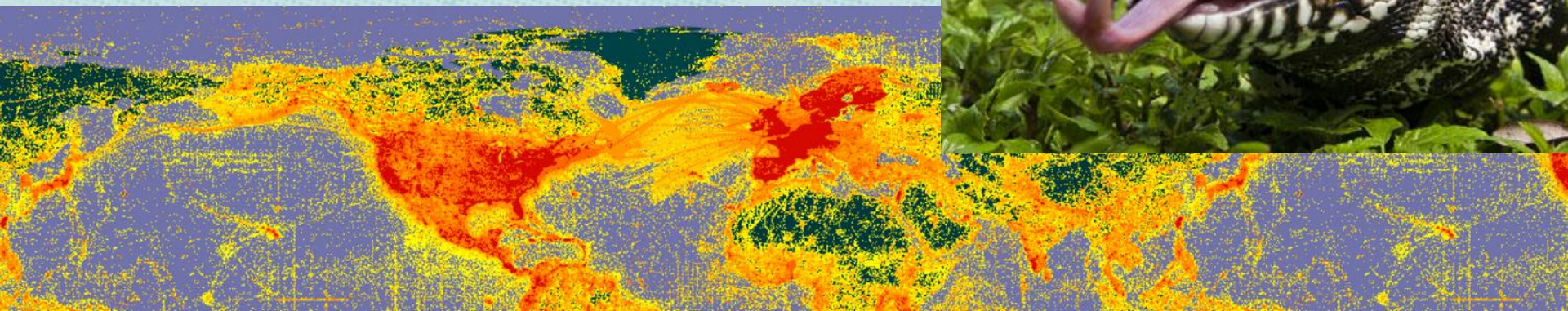


HOW CAN BIOBLITZ MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Contribution to science

- **Ongoing biodiversity monitoring:** extensive inventory, possibly repeated over time
- **Biodiversity atlases:** GBIF, EddMaps
- **Rare and invasive species:** Threatened and Endangered species, monitoring invasions

→ Local and global contribution



Citizen science

- **Local people:** local knowledge, local schools, particular interests
- **Exploring and mapping:** fun and easy outdoor activity
- **Nature awareness:** engage the public in scientific event

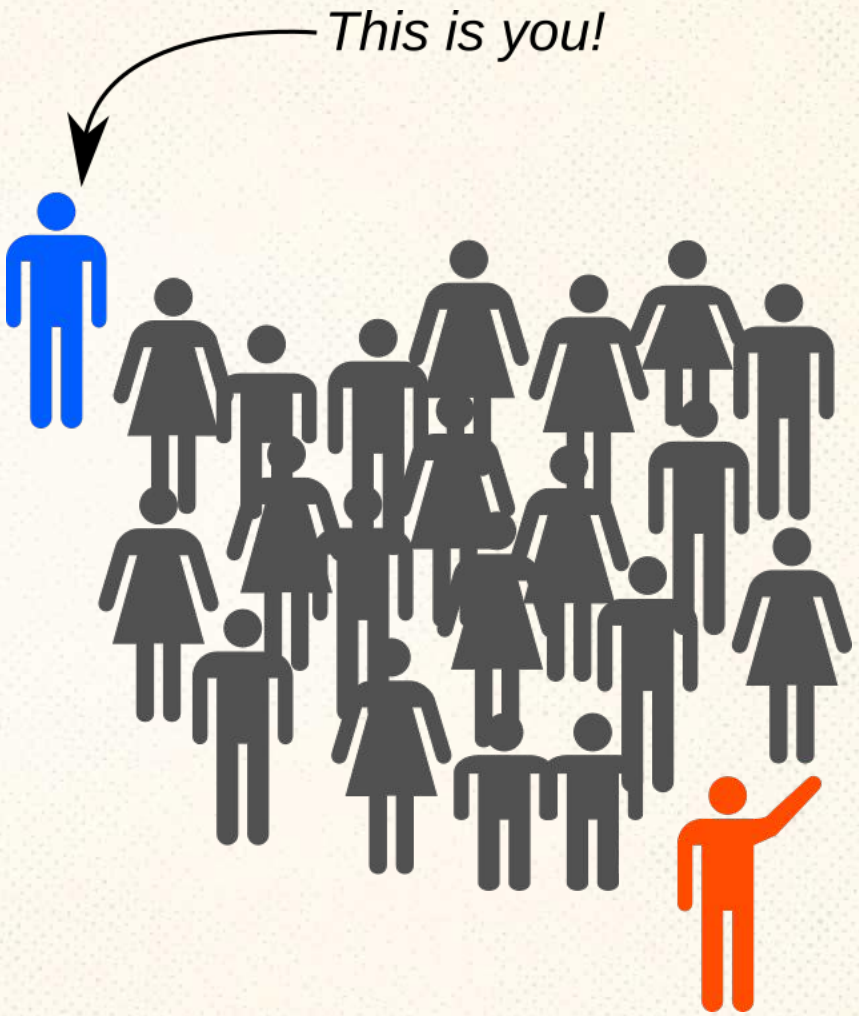
BIOBLITZ IN BROWARD COUNTY

BioBlitz brought to Broward County

Long-term collaboration between:

- **UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center**
- **UF/IFAS Extension Education Broward County**
- Broward County Parks and Recreation
- … other state and city parks.

Team composition

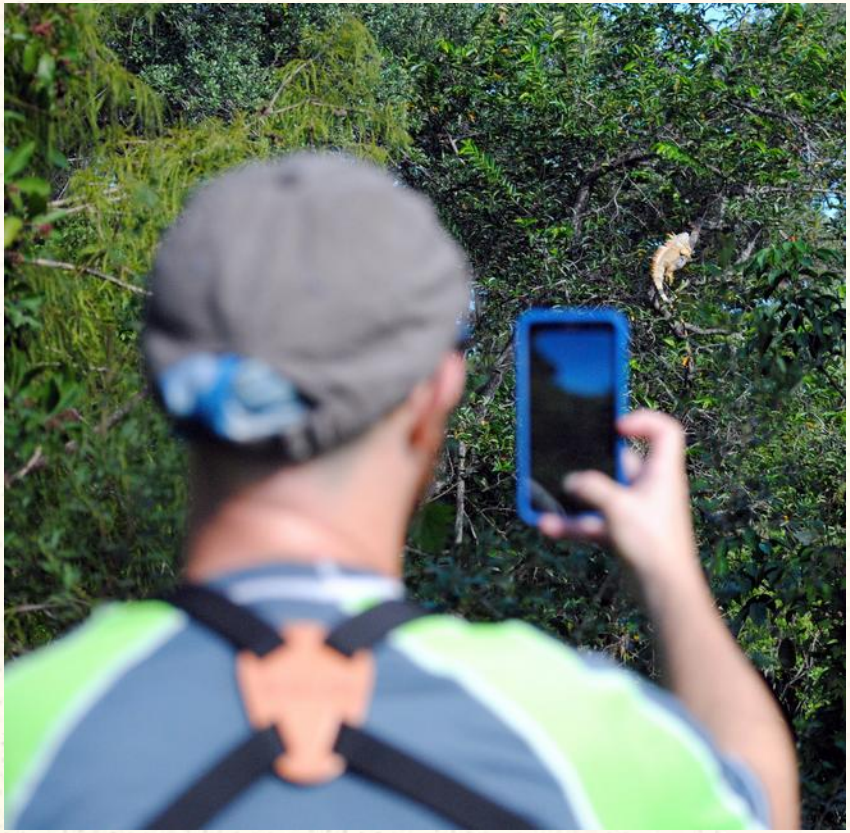


Each team is composed of:

- **1 expert**
- 1 (or more) **helper(s)**
- 20 **volunteers**

  (all ages, including children)

In a nutshell



BioBlitz in Tree Tops Park

- **November 3, 2018**
- From 7:30AM until 7:30PM
- Focus groups of 2 hours each
  - 7:30AM–9:30AM Focus on **birds**
  - 8:30AM–10:30AM Focus on **reptiles**
  - 10:30AM-12:30PM **Mapping**
  - 2PM–4PM Focus on **butterflies**
  - 4PM–6PM Focus on **insects**
  - 5:30PM–7:30PM Focus on **birds**
  - 5:30PM–7:30PM Focus on **reptiles**

BIODIVERSITY ON iNATURALIST

Become a citizen naturalist

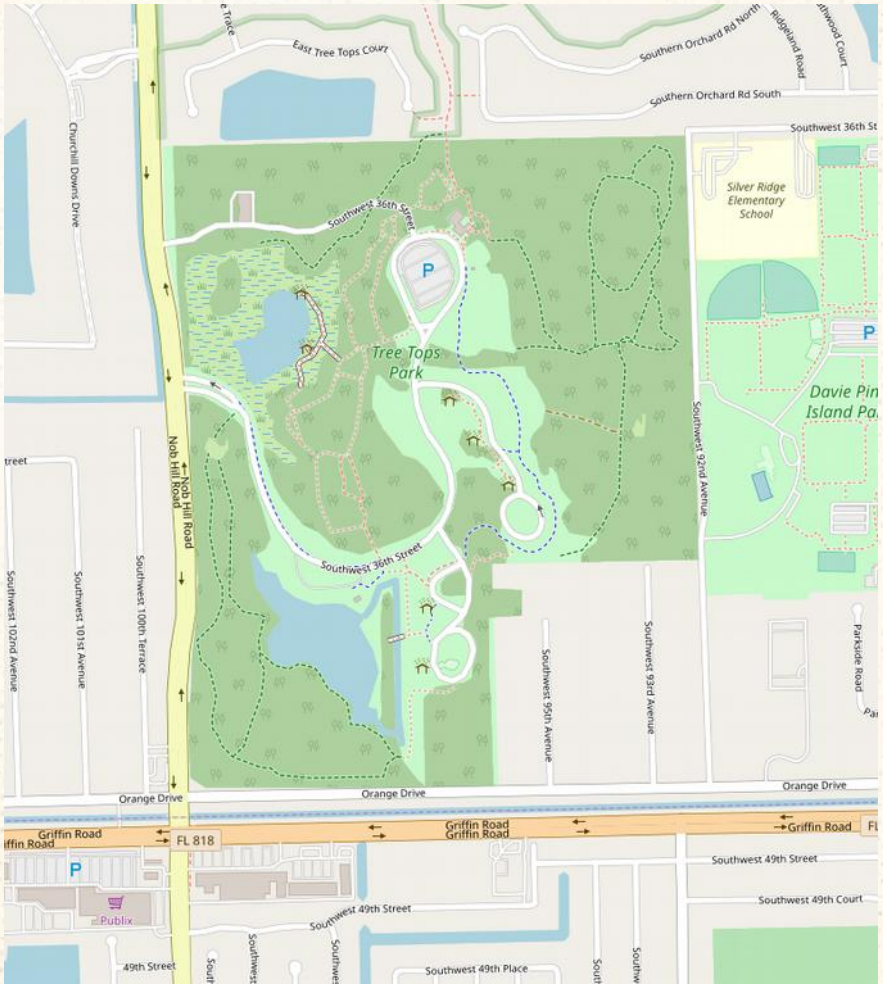
MAPPING THE PARK

Mapping the park

- Total distance hiked: **27.2 miles** (2.4 mi average)
- Geotagged photos taken: **208**

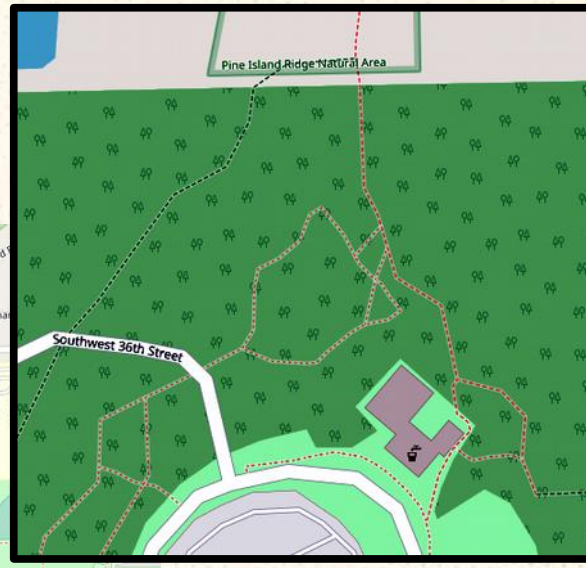
Applications

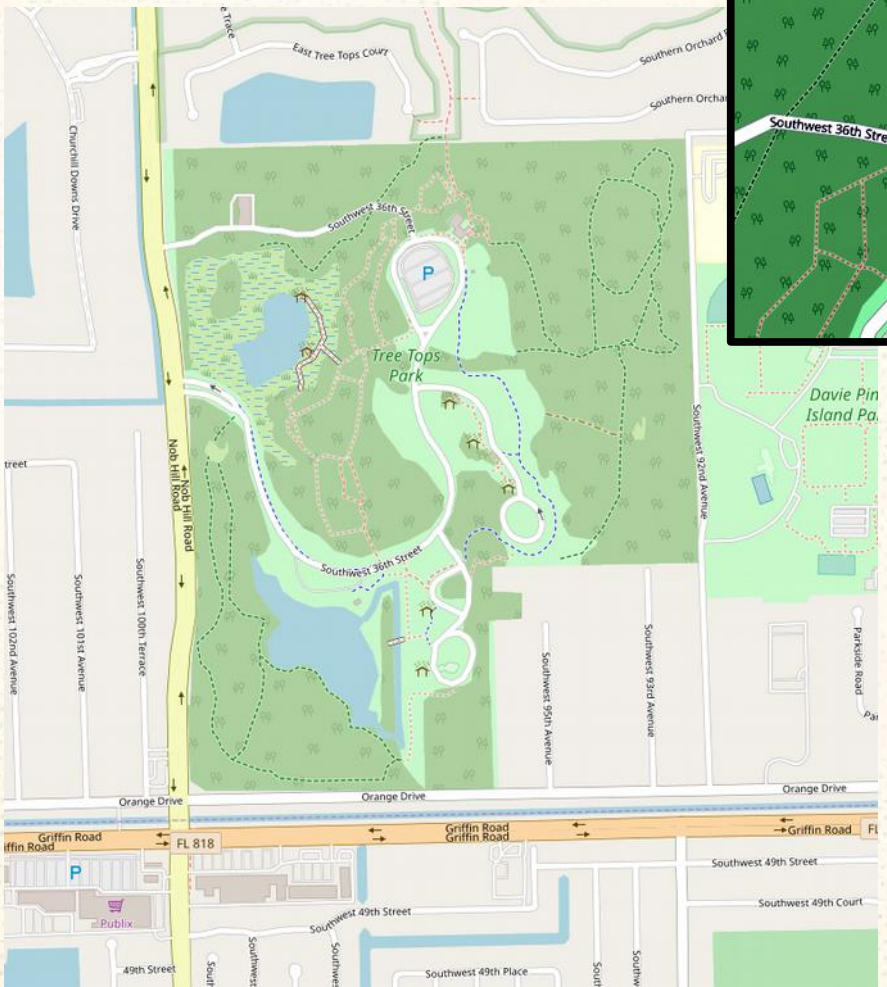
- **Updated map of the park**



Applications

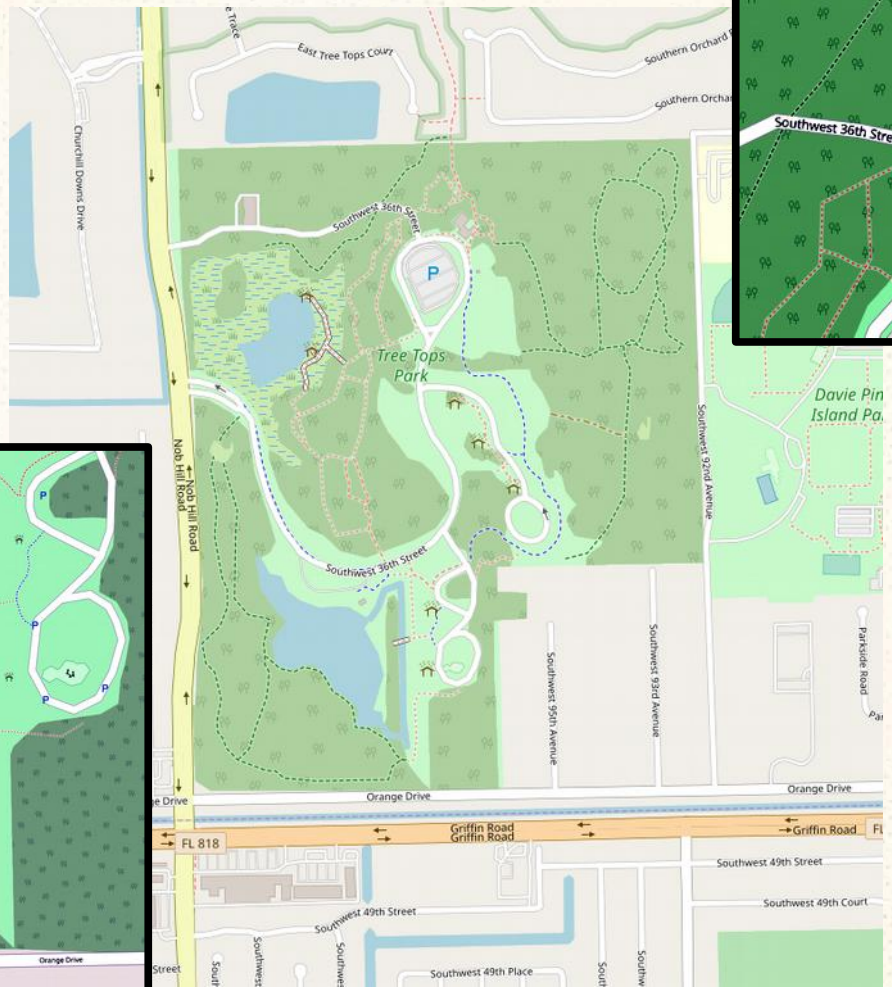
- **Updated map of the park**





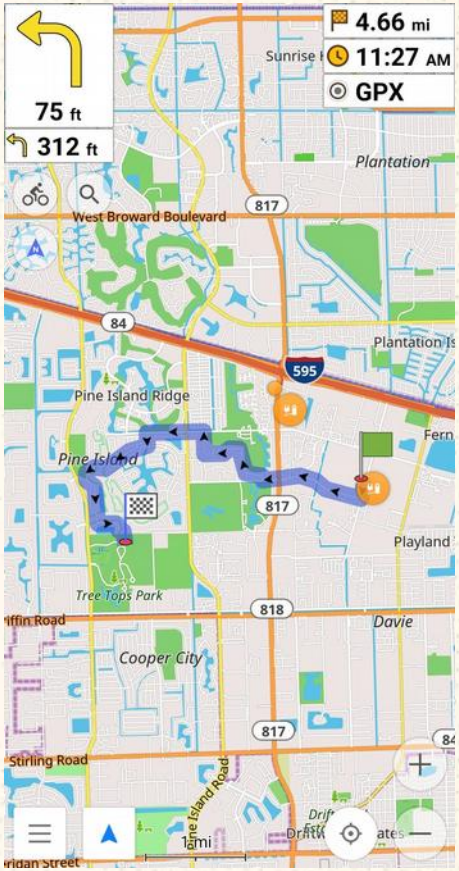
Applications

- **Updated map of the park**



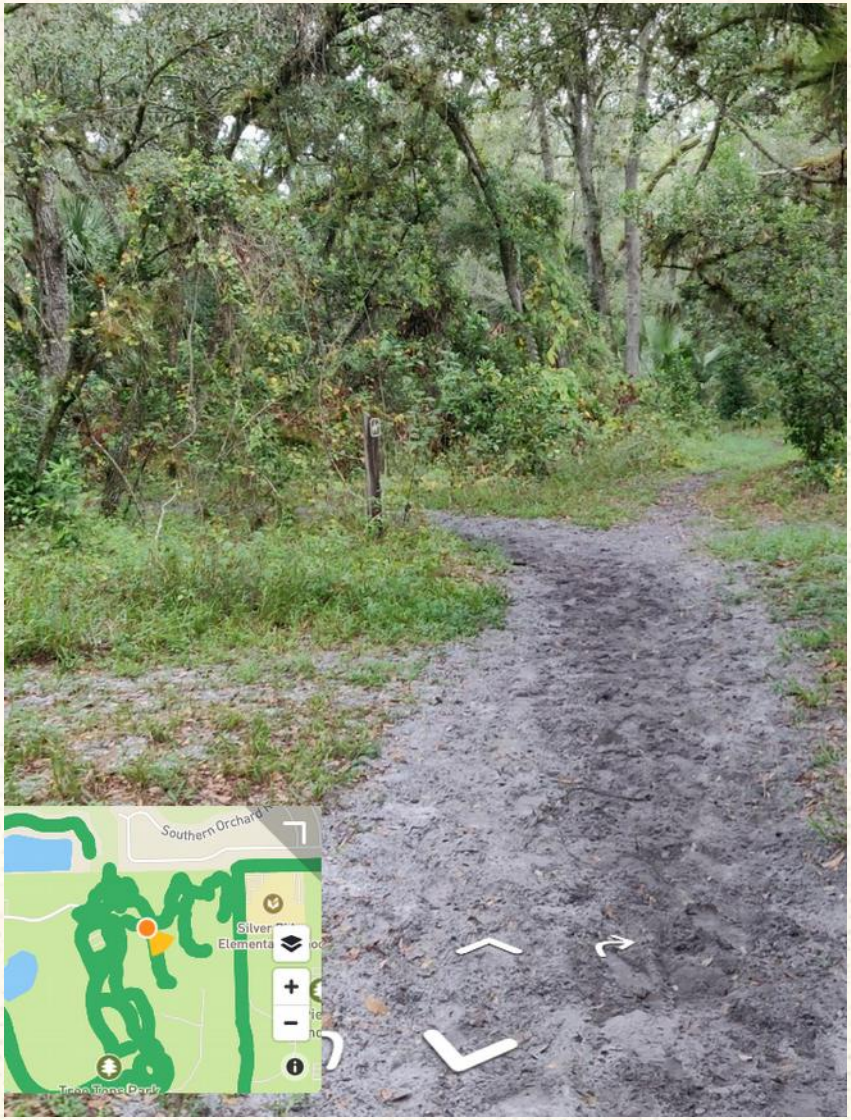
Applications

- **Updated map of the park**
- **Vending machines / water fountains**



Applications

- **Updated map of the park**
- **Vending machines / water fountains**
- **Virtual tours**



WHAT NOW?

What worked?

What did not work?

- **Public participation**
- Organization glitches (reptiles in the morning, iNaturalist training, surveys…)

→ **Survey!**

Thank you for your attention!

Contact me: basille@ufl.edu