



## How to view your VFF Conservation Map on a mobile device (and why you might bother)

When Vermont Family Forests creates or updates a forest plan, we send you a map of your forest, in both printed and digital form. The digital map file is saved in the pdf format. Like any pdf, you can easily view or print additional copies as needed.

This digital map file is georeferenced. This means that, when you view it via a digital mapping application on your smartphone or tablet, you can actually see where you are on that map. We use and recommend the mobile mapping app called Avenza. You can download this free app from your device's app store, then upload your map to the app. For a little more background, you can read the [blog post we wrote about using Avenza in the forest.](#)

Here are the basic steps to use your map on a mobile device:

1. Locate your pdf map, which would have been emailed to you by your VFF conservation forester.
2. Find the Avenza app in the Google Play Store for Android and the Apple App Store for iOS. Install Avenza on your mobile phone or table, and open the app.
3. Import your VFF map. If you need help doing that, you'll find [helpful instructions at the Avenza website.](#)



When you open your map in Avenza when you're within or near the property boundaries, you'll see a blue dot indicating your location. As you move through your forest, you'll see your location dot move on the map. You can drop "pins" on the map at sites you want to notate. You can also take and store photos at these pinned sites. For example, you might drop a pin at the site of a vernal pool. When you do so, you can name the pin (maybe "vernal pool"), color-code it (maybe, for example, you make all wildlife habitat pins green) and you can easily take photos of the vernal pool and store them within the pin's dataset.

Using Avenza as a mobile mapping tool can be very helpful for such things as locating your boundaries and forest roads, marking the location of forest activities, identifying interesting natural features, and much more.

Here's a little more [online help from Avenza](#) to get you started. If you have any trouble loading your map onto Avenza or using the app, find a tech-savvy friend or neighbor to help!

