GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Dec. 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

Convened in the Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy Stutsman called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stutsman asked the Clerk-Treasurer to conduct the roll call.

Present:	Megan Eichorn (District 4)	Julia King (At-Large)	Doug Nisley (District 2)
	Gilberto Pérez Jr. (District 5)	Donald Riegsecker (District 1)	Matt Schrock (District 3)
	Youth Advisor Adrian Mora (Non-voting)		
Absent:	Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)		

Before moving forward with the agenda, **Mayor Stutsman** apologized for wearing workout clothing this evening. The Mayor said he had been working out and misjudged the time.

Mayor Stutsman asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the City's Council's meeting of Nov. 16, 2021. **Council members King/Pérez moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 16, 2021 meeting as presented. Councilor Riegsecker** pointed out a typo on page 8 of the minutes, the seventh line from the bottom of the page. The word written in the sentence was "own," but it should have been "down." The correct sentence should have been: "In these cases, the Utility must track **down** those residents, monitor the residence to see if someone is living there and persuade them to sign up." With that correction noted, **Motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0. Youth Advisor Adrian Mora also voted "yes."**

Mayor Stutsman presented the agenda of the Dec. 7, 2021 Council meeting. **Council members King/Riegsecker moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0. Youth Advisor Adrian Mora also voted "yes."**

Privilege of the Floor:
At 6:05 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comments on matters not on the agenda.

Glenn Null of Goshen said he appreciates the City still picking up leaves in neighborhoods. He said he appreciates crews doing this rather than having to clear away snow. Null said on Friday he attended the First Friday celebration downtown. He said he parked at Lincoln and Third streets and walked through the Art Alley. He said he twice crossed Main Street and was "invisible" to vehicles. Null said he may need to start carrying his cane to be seen by motorists. Null said he also saw a teen writing a skateboard on the sidewalk, which is not allowed. Null also noted that people were riding bikes and not following rules. Finally, Null said that during a recent Council meeting his comments were limited to three minutes and this was not right because he was discussing financial matters. Null said there should not be such strict time limits when people are discussing financial matters.
Lori Arnold of Goshen commented about City enforcement of illuminated signs. She said she saw a large illuminated sign on Indiana Avenue and wanted to bring that to the City's attention.

Arnold also reported what she believed was inappropriate parking near Mullet Park. Arnold said she remains concerned about the addition of fluoride to City water. She said no City staff members have gotten back in touch with her as she requested. Arnold said that she also remains concerned about the homeless, especially because the weather has started to get cold. Arnold asked if the City planned to open a shelter for the homeless. Arnold said that because it is so cold, she is allowing a homeless man to sleep in her sunroom and use a space heater. She asked is anything can be done for homeless people this winter. Arnold also thanked Wellington & Weddell Eye Care and Council President Weddell's wife for helping a homeless man who needed new eyeglasses. Arnold said that it is good when community members come together to help the homeless. She also said she wished more could be done. Arnold also said that a member of Antifa recently threatened her on Facebook and that she has filed a police report on this matter and that she hopes something is done about this.

In response to Lori Arnold's question about help for homeless people. **Mayor Stutsman** said the Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network sponsored a low-barrier shelter last winter. Of the approximately 52 people who stayed at the shelter, just three people were from Goshen, the Mayor said. The Interfaith Hospitality Network reported there were issues with drugs at the shelter. Mayor Stutsman said the City funded the security at the shelter, but the company is unwilling to provide further security at the site because of the drug issues, which is why Interfaith Hospitality Network is unwilling to open a low-carrier shelter this winter. Mayor Stutsman said the City learned about this decision in the fall, so City staff members have worked closely with The Window, Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Clubhouse, Faith Mission and Oak Lawn to address homeless issues. The Mayor said Faith Mission is the homeless shelter for Elkhart County and has available beds. Mayor Stutsman said the City and other agencies make sure people can get into Faith Mission and will even drive homeless people to that shelter and then back to Goshen. The Mayor urged anyone who knows homeless people to urge them to please accept the help available. He said services are available, but the City struggles to get some people to accept help available. The Mayor said the City will continue to work on these issues. Mayor Stutsman also said there is a new partnership between Goshen Community Schools, Interfaith Hospitality and the City to expand Interfaith and find a facility that better meets its needs.

No further audience members or Zoom meeting participants asked to speak, so Mayor Stutsman closed the Privilege of the Floor at 6:14 p.m.

1. Sensory Trail presentation
Mayor Stutsman invited a presentation and update from **City Director of Environmental Resilience Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley** and **City Grant Writer and Educator Theresa Sailor** about the recently opened **Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail at Abshire Park**, 1302 E. Lincoln Ave., Goshen.

The City of Goshen and ADEC Inc. developed the sensory trail project to connect persons with disabilities to the natural environment's physiological and psychological benefits and provide them with the opportunity to access technology that can enhance the interactive trail experience. The project includes access for both persons who can actively participate and those who may be homebound. The sensory trail includes four miles of two existing public trails with open, calm areas, water, and natural habitats.

Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley and City Grant Writer and Educator Theresa Sailor, along with Goshen College student interns – Chloe Taylor, Gabrielle Vogeler and Kevin Mazariegos-Perez, guided Council members through a 15-slide PowerPoint presentation (*EXHIBIT #1*)

Sawatsky-Kingsley kicked off the presentation with an overview of the project, which he said has been developed since January by the Environmental Resilience Department, with the assistance of Goshen College interns.

Sawatsky-Kingsley said: "This is a really unique project. We're not aware of any other such project anywhere that we have been able to encounter. This project is intended to be a self-guided, inventoried walk along portions of our existing trails in Goshen, designed especially for a diversity of abilities throughout the human experience. It's a project which was largely conceived of by my colleague, Theresa Sailor. And then our interns, Chloe Taylor, Gabrielle Vogeler and Kevin Mazariegos Perez, have been the principal constructors of this project. It includes an app, which will be available very shortly, that you can download on any smart device and walk along a trail."

Sawatsky-Kingsley said there were two primary partners on the project – ADEC Inc., a local nonprofit organization that advocates for and serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and Goshen College – along with eight businesses, five programming and naturalist interns and more than 25 City staff members. Sawatsky-Kingsley thanked all for their support for the project.

Theresa Sailor said a Community Connections for People with Disabilities Grant of $155,322 allowed the City to purchase three 24-hour nature cameras each for Reith Center, Fiddler Pond and Violett Cemetery, an accessible sensory trail app, sensory trail features and 10 iPads for public use through a lending library at Reith Center. Of the cameras, Sailor said: "You can actually get onto that and see and listen to what's going on 24 hours a day … We'll also have one that goes out to Fidler Pond — hopefully we'll make it by Christmas — and then also Violett Cemetery … It is a day/night camera." In response to questions from **Councilor King** and **Mayor Stutsman**, Sailor discussed the camera locations and how to access the video feeds (on the City's website).

Sailor said staff from ADEC, Inc. helped identify trail priorities, which included strengthening the coping skills for persons with disabilities and protecting the current trail user experience. According to Sailor, the partnership also helped the City identify areas or conditions of potential hazards, enable users to engage the senses and have opportunities to hear and interact with water. She said the City is still working on installing an accessible swing/glider, a water feature, and opportunities for meditation.

Chloe Taylor, a naturalist for the project, provided an overview of the app and its features. Taylor said: "This is an app that allows people to experience features of the trails of Goshen by physically walking on the trails, or by sitting at home with their smartphone or tablet. In the app, you can find pictures, videos, audio clips, descriptions of the features and fun facts. The trails that are included in this app are the Millrace Canal and the Maple Heart Trail beginning at Indiana Avenue connecting to the Pumpkinvine Trail up to Abshire Park. All five senses can be used on the trail with this app. The types of features that are included in the sensory trail app include flora, mammals, fish, fungi, insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and landmarks, which include things like bridges, signs, sidewalk art and more. The idea of the sensory trail app is to get people outside and moving, and this is an app that will help people experience the trails in a new way."

Taylor showed screen shots of the app and discussed inclusions and additions. These included plantings, artwork and warnings about such trail hazards as poison ivy. She discussed the process of collecting features for the app, which included walking along the trails, taking photographs, conducting research and working with the app programmers on the data and photo formatting. Taylor also discussed the adaptations and modifications that were made while the students worked on the app.
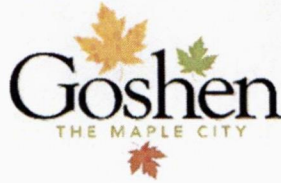
Councilor King said she would like to know the location of the reptile depicted in one of the photos so she can avoid it. **Taylor** said it was on the Mill Race. **Youth Adviser Mora** said he didn't know there were any snakes. Taylor further discussed the process of presenting detailed information, the user experience and the app's goals.

Councilor Riegsecker asked what visitors should do if they come across poison ivy. **Taylor** said people should leave it alone. Asked by Riegsecker if the app will be updated regularly, **Sawatsky-Kingsley** said the goal will be to keep it updated every year. This will allow for a year-to-year catalog of the trails.

Youth Adviser Mora asked if the app will only cover the Mill Race but also Mullet Park. **Sawatsky-Kingsley** said the current inventory of features only covers the Mill Race, from the Goshen Dam to the Power House, and then along the Maple Heart Trail beginning at Indiana Avenue and connecting to Abshire Park. Mora said that while running along the Mill Race he caught poison ivy. While **Councilor King** warned against touching poison ivy, **Council Riegsecker** joked that instead, it was best to avoid running.

Gabrielle Vogeler said she and **Kevin Mazariegos-Perez** had never programmed an app and it was a rewarding experience. She said it was designed to appeal to users of all ages and will be able to be continually updated.

Kevin Mazariegos-Perez and **Vogeler** further discussed the process of programming the app, which included development, design, conducting research, debugging and testing. They discussed the difficulties of app development. They said they had to write many hundreds of lines of code. And they discussed future work and improvements that are being considered for the app.

Mora suggested the addition of a feature that would allow users to report such hazards as poison ivy or a snake. In response to a question from Mora, **Vogeler** said the app is also available in Spanish. Asked about the display of information by **Councilor Riegsecker**, **Taylor** said the app allows close-up viewing of photos and other features. **Riegsecker** said he expects to use the app with his two grandchildren next year.

In response to a question from **Councilor Eichorn**, the students said they will continue to work on the app next semester and will be developing a user guide. **Councilors King, Eichorn and Riegsecker** all thanked the students for their good work on the app.

Sawatsky-Kingsley thanked the students and Sailor for their work on the project and the app.

Sawatsky-Kingsley closed by inviting the community to visit and leave an ornament of the "Mirth Tree," outside the city's utility office, at 203 S. Fifth St. He said the public is invited to hang ornaments made from reused and recycled materials on the tree. Afterward, ornaments can be claimed by someone else. In response to a question from **Councilor King**, **Sawatsky-Kingsley** said the ornaments can be recyclable or reusable, but not glass.

Mayor Stutsman praised **Sawatsky-Kingsley**, Sailor and the students. Stutsman said: "You and your team have done some really great work here. For the Department of Environmental Resilience, I think this is a perfect example of what kinds of projects they can get involved in. They've been able to offer great additional entertainment and resources to our community just by using existing infrastructure and natural resources. So, I really appreciate everybody's input and work on this one."

2. Ordinance 5109 (First Reading): Additional Appropriation

Mayor Stutsman then called for the introduction of Ordinance 5109 on First Reading. **Councilor and Acting Council President Nisley** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5109 by title only, which was done. **Nisley/Schrock moved for passage of Ordinance 5109 on First Reading.**
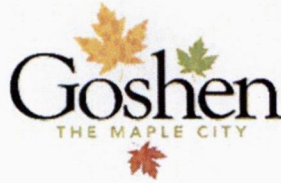
By way of background, Ordinance 5109 would appropriate additional funds for the following two City Departments:

- The Goshen Engineering Department requested that a total of $594,958.96 be appropriated into the EDIT Capital Projects line (218-560-00-442.0006). Of the total, $560,382.82 would be reimbursed by INDOT for the Wilden Avenue Reconstruction project. These funds would be used to pay DLZ for the Wilden Avenue Reconstruction inspection services, which will then also be reimbursed 80%, and any remaining funds will be used toward the City's portion for construction costs. The remaining $34,576.14 to be appropriated into the EDIT Capital Projects line (218-560-00-442.0006) will come from the Community Crossing expenditure line (230-510-00-449.2104). Due to a timing issue with Contractor invoicing, expenditures were paid from Edit Capital Projects. With the volume of work planned and bid for 2022, the re-appropriated funds will shore up funding for awarded construction.

- The City Clerk-Treasurer's office requested that $90,000 be appropriated to the City's Fire Pension line (801-520-00-413.0902) to meet remaining obligations through the end of 2021. In most years, the City Council approves the following year's budget in September or October, while union negotiations are usually completed in November or December. For 2021, this scheduling difference resulted in Fire Pension Fund obligations that exceeded the budgeted amount. The Fire Pension Fund currently holds a cash balance of $269,000 and is able to fully support this additional appropriation. The fund will be reimbursed in 2022 from the Indiana Public Retirement System.

Mayor Stutsman further described the purposes of the proposed additional appropriations. He said both funds have adequate resources to support the appropriations. In response to questions from **Councilor Riegsecker**, **Mayor Stutsman** further explained the purposes of the appropriations and the negative consequences of allowing the funds to fall into a deficit.

Mayor Stutsman invited public comment on Ordinance 5109: Additional Appropriation. No one asked to speak, so Mayor Stutsman closed the public hearing.

There were no further Council questions or comments about Ordinance 5109, so Mayor Stutsman called for a voice vote on the first reading. The motion passed 6-0, with all council members present voting "yes."

Mayor Stutsman asked if there was unanimous consent to proceed with the second and final reading of Ordinance 5109. Before a motion could be completed, **Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre** said that he wondered whether a second reading of Ordinance 5109 could take place tonight. **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver** stated that there could not be a second reading because a public notice would be published Saturday informing people of a public hearing on Ordinance 5109 on Dec. 21. **Mayor Stutsman** deferred further consideration of Ordinance 5109.

Elected Official Reports:

Councilor Nisley said Council President Weddell could not be present for tonight's meeting because his sons had a ball game in Elkhart, so he was spending time with the family and watching his boys play. Nisley also said that the Community Relations Commission and the Tree Board have vacancies and that applications are due by the end of the month. Appointments will be made at the first of the year.

Councilor King asked **Communications Coordinator Sharon Hernandez** if the application system online was still in place because she hasn't seen any applications come through as in the past. Hernandez said the City has been having a problem with the application form, so she created a Google form and imbedded it on the City website.

Hernandez said she has been receiving applications and would share them with Council members. **Councilors King** and **Eichorn** said that would be good.

Mayor Stutsman said the City is working with Digital Hill to improve the City's website. Among the goals: to make the City website even more user friendly and create better forms.

Councilor Schrock said he attended a recent Tree Board meeting and he learned new board members were being sought. As of Nov. 22, there were three openings.

Councilor Pérez said he has attended recent meetings with **Youth Adviser Mora** and has been impressed by his work. Pérez thanked Mora for his commitment to inform other young people and to get them involved. **Mayor Stutsman** said Mora will soon be in intern in the Mayor's Office.

Councilor Riegsecker thanked city staff for supporting First Friday and the great work on those who prepared for the event. **Councilor King** mentioned that sponsorships for the January Fire & Ice Festival would be due on Friday.

Councilor Pérez thanked Fire Department Chief Sink for his recent report on operations. He said he was impressed by the department's response times.

Youth Adviser Mora said Goshen High School would need all the luck it can get in its game against Elkhart tonight.

Mayor Stutsman said Denise Blenner, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, reached out to Council members and scheduled a work session to discuss the Draft Flood Resilience Plan. He said the session is now scheduled for Jan. 14. He noted that the session would be conducted similarly to a council retreat. It will be open to the public and no votes would be taken. The Mayor said city departments are busy completing year-end work. Mayor Stutsman also said that at the last meeting of the year, on Dec. 28, Council members will vote on the 2022 Council meeting schedule, so that all the meeting dates can be publicized. One change, he said, is that the joint council and school board meeting in February will be on a Monday night, which is the normal day that the school board meets, followed that week by a regular Tuesday Council meeting.

Councilor King reminded Council members that Elkhart County, sadly, is back in the "red" in terms of the prevalence of COVID-19 and that people should be doing what they can to stay safe and to keep others safe. KIng said local hospitals are filling with patients.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre said he wanted to acknowledge the passing, earlier today, of **Henry D. "Hank Weaver**, a leading citizen of Goshen and Aguirre's father-in-law. Aguirre said Weaver was a professor emeritus of Chemistry and provost emeritus from Goshen College. Weaver was a Goshen College professor from 1957 to 1980 and in 1996 was the interim President of Goshen College. Aguirre said Weaver's most significant accomplishment at Goshen College was the creation of the Study-Service Term program, which has sent students all over the work for more than 50 years. After leaving Goshen College, Weaver became Deputy Director of the Education Abroad Program for the University of California system, which is the largest education abroad program in the country. He said Weaver was responsible for helping oversee agreements with more than 80 universities in 37 countries. Weaver lived in Peru, Nepal, Poland, Spain and Bulgaria. Weaver grew up in a small-town community in Virginia and visited many other countries. Weaver also lived in Goshen for many years and was a member of the Rotary Club and College Mennonite Church. Aguirre said Weaver died peacefully earlier today and rejoins his wife, who died in August 2020. Aguirre said he wanted to mention this because Weaver was well known in Goshen and was one of the first administrators at Goshen College to reach beyond the college to the community. Aguirre said Weaver was a significant person in Goshen and made many contributions. **Mayor Stutsman** conveyed his condolences for the family's loss.
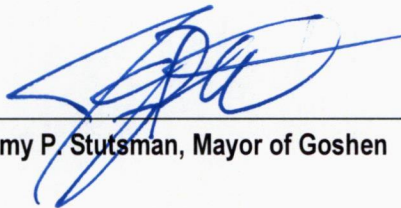
Adjournment:

Nisley/Riegsecker moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed 6-0.

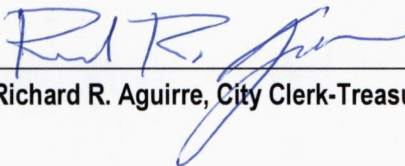Mayor Stutsman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

EXHIBIT 1: *PowerPoint Presentation about the Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail by City Director of Environmental Resilience Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley, City Grant Writer and Educator Theresa Sailor and Goshen College students Chloe Taylor, Gabrielle Vogeler and Kevin Mazariegos-Perez.*
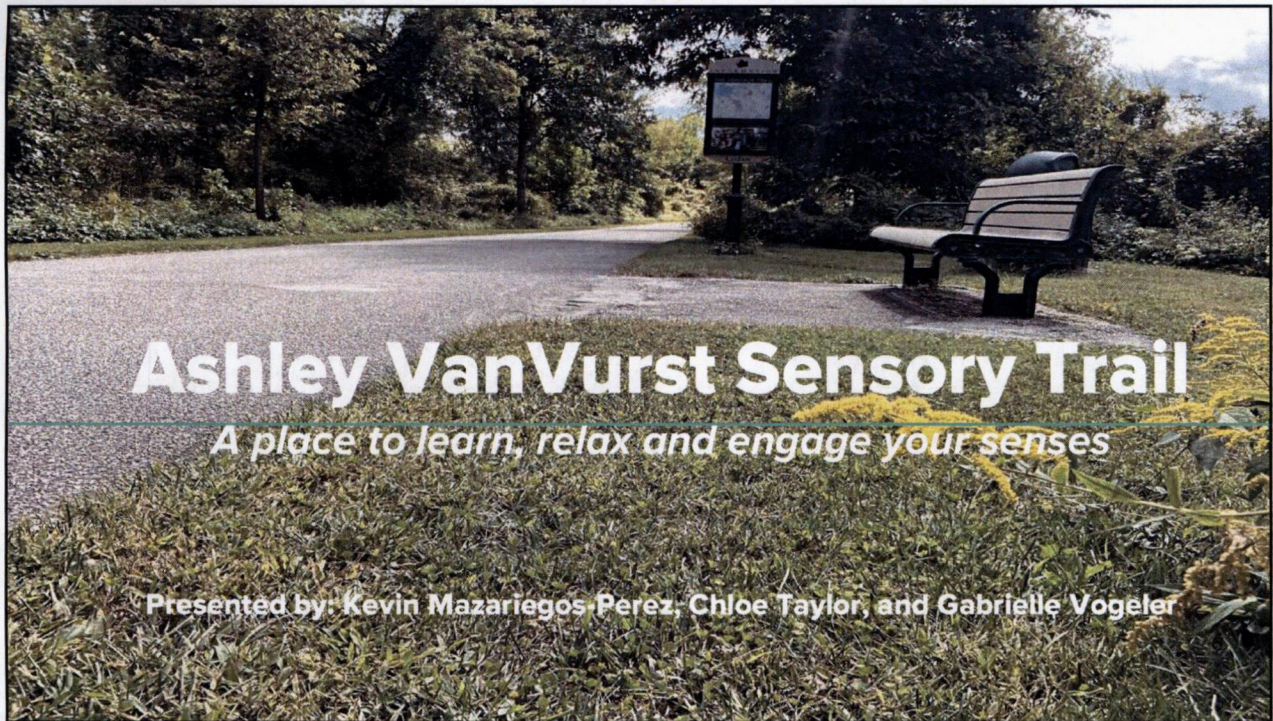
APPROVED:

Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit #1

Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail
A place to learn, relax and engage your senses

Presented by: Kevin Mazariegos-Perez, Chloe Taylor, and Gabrielle Vogeler

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Ashley VanVurst
Sensory Trail

Unique to Goshen

2 Partners
8 Businesses
5 Programming and
naturalist interns
25+City staff members from
multiple departments

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HoaTTdEUSs

Community Connections for People with Disabilities Grant
Awarded $155, 322
Improve the lives of adult persons with disabilities

This project was funded by the Community Connections for People with Disabilities grant offered through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, in partnership with the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services authorized by the CARES Act.

- 3 each 24 - hour nature cameras (Reith Center, Fiddler Pond, Violett Cemetery)
- Accessible sensory trail app
- Sensory trail features
- 10 iPads for Public Use through a lending library

Partnership with ADEC, Inc. - Identified Trail Priorities
Goal : Strengthen coping skills for persons with disabilities
Public Comment : Protect the current trail user experience

- Identified areas or conditions of potential hazards
- Engaging the senses
- Opportunities to hear and interact with water
- Accessible Swing / Glider
- Opportunities for body movement and balance
- Opportunities for meditation
- Music Feature

Introduction - What the App Does

- The Trails - Millrace Canal, MapleHeart, and Pumpkinvine
- Senses - sight, touch, taste, hear, and smell
- Feature Categories - flora, fish, bacteria/fungi, infrastructure, insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and landmarks
- English and Spanish
- A place to learn, relax, and engage your senses
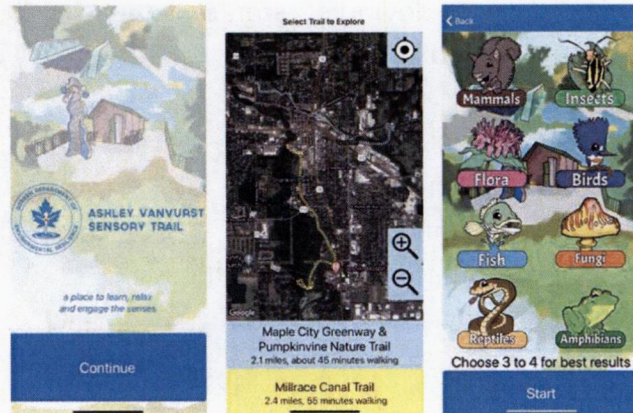

Inclusions and Additions

- Planting
  - Nodding Wild Onion
  - Columbine
  - Butterfly Milkweed
  - Cardinal Flower
  - Porcupine Grass
- Artwork
  - Ida Short's weather-inspired hopscotch design
  - Brooke Rothshank's bunny hop trail design
- Hazards

Process - Naturalist Side

- Walking, driving a gator, or riding a bike on trails
- Collecting features
- Research
- Spreadsheets
- Coordinating with programmers regarding the data and photo formatting
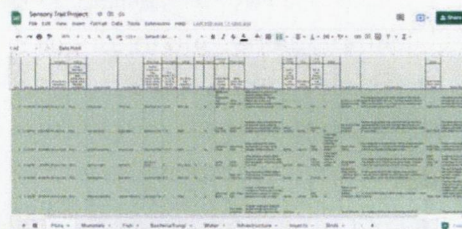
Adaptations
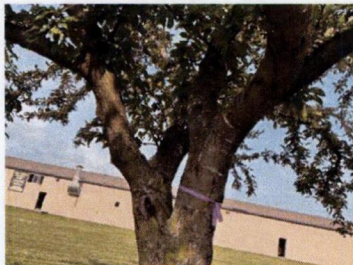
- Zones
- Categories of Features
- Audio Clips
  - Live audio clips often had too much background noise, so outsourcing for audio was almost always necessary.
- Sense Description - how to experience the feature using different senses
- Photo Renaming
- Department Coordination

Outcomes

- This app does not teach everything about each feature.
- This is a good way to get people outside and walking.
- People can use senses that they may not have thought about using when experiencing various features.
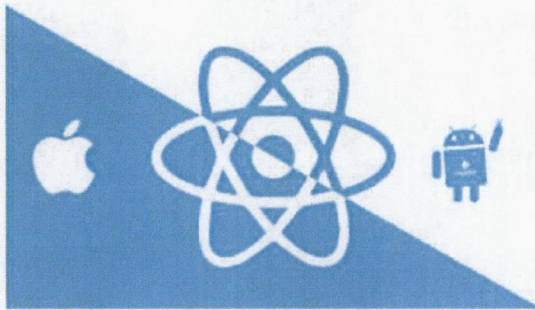- Walking the trails with this app is like a scavenger hunt.
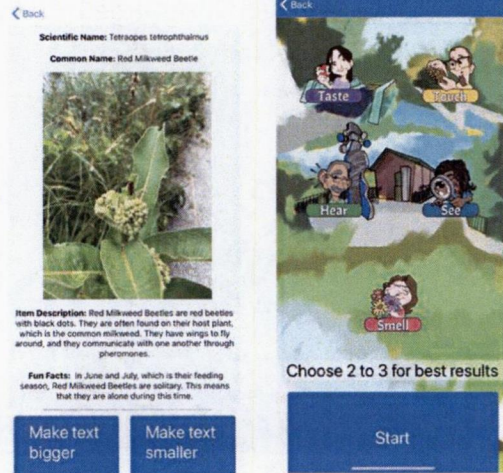
Goals of the App

- Able to be used by most ages and abilities
- Fun and easy to use and look at
  - Colorful pictures and beautiful layout
  - Simple flow of the pages
- Experience nature first hand
  - Ex. a chance that the user can see a bird where one was spotted before in the research stage
- Database easy to update
  - Not required to update the app every time new data is added
  - Initially wanted to be offline database
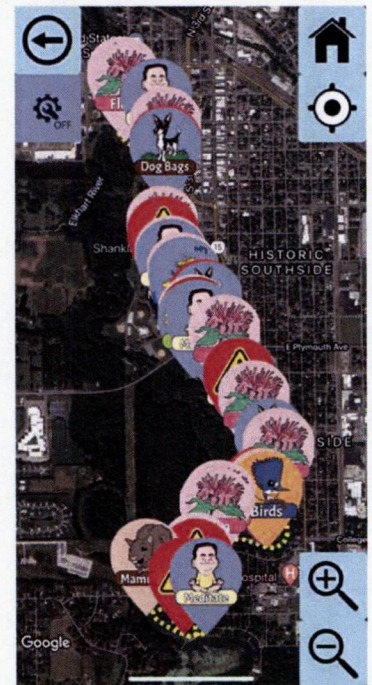
Process of Creating App

- Choose which language and framework to use
  - React Native & Expo
  - Learn and research how the language works and its shortcomings

Storing Data

Process (cont.)

- We used a scrum methodology in our development process
- Development process of each task
  - ○ Research phase
  - ○ Try different Implementations
  - ○ Debugging
- Testing
  - ○ Testing software

7/18 Goals
Add large quantities of data to Firestore
Pass selection context to database
Remove other markers from map screen
Link Blobs in cloud storage to data
Create onpress function for markers to navigate to feature screen
From database create markers

Jobs List
Complete Consult Theresa In progress Next to do Consult Jeanette
Generate Feature screen with data from database
Finish image change geofence
Set up geofences off of list
Set if statement to not make duplicates?
If you travel forward then back to notification selection, clear the array
Make a query that selects random objects to view
    Take size of collection
    Random number from size of collection
    Query doc where (new column) = random number
    Repeat?
Add gray button style to language selection

Difficulties in the app development

- Randomization of features displayed
- Generation of items on the map from a database
- Image manipulation
- Transferring data between pages
- Preparing code for apple app store

```
147    ? (zoneOne
148        .where("Sense", "array-contains-any", theList)
149        .orderBy("random" + String(Math.floor(Math.random() * 4 + 1)))
150        .limit(3)
151        .get()
152        .then((querySnapshot) => {
153          querySnapshot.forEach((doc) => {
154            var leLatifute = doc.data().Latitude;
155            var lelonditufe = doc.data().Longitude;
156            var docID = doc.id;
157            var featureType = doc.data().FeatureType;
158            var leZone = doc.data().Zone;
159            data.push([
160              {
161                latitude: leLatifute,
162                longitude: lelonditufe,
163              },
164              docID,
165              featureType,
166              leZone,
167            ]);
```

Things to accomplish next

- Geofence location notifications
- User Guide for both future programmers and adding new data
- Filtering Data by season