

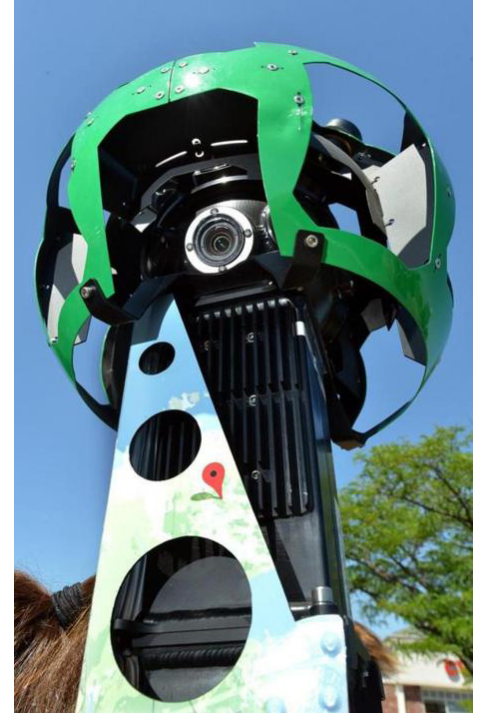
The Boston Globe

August 04, 2016

What is Trekker?



Above: Christina Balzotti, a Connecticut College student interning at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, wears a Google Trekker backpack as she walks along Wollaston Beach taking pictures of the beach for Google Maps.



Right: The Google Trekker used to take pictures of Wollaston Beach.

- Trekker is the non-car part of Google Maps, taking 360-degree views of places that can't be reached from the road. Local organizations can apply to borrow the camera system.

- Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is shooting about 19 miles of state-owned public beaches in Greater Boston, including Wollaston and Nantasket, and beaches in Dorchester, East Boston, Lynn, Nahant, Revere, South Boston, Winthrop, and Spectacle Island.

The Google Trekker used to take pictures of Wollaston Beach.

- Camera system consists of a backpack containing the camera and batteries, topped by a ball with 15 lenses pointed in different directions. Controlled by a smartphone app.

- Camera takes photos every 2.5 seconds; battery lasts six to eight hours.

- Footage is sent to Google engineers, who stitch it together to produce the panoramic view.

- Trekker weighs 50 pounds and is about 4 feet tall.

- First introduced in 2012 at the Grand Canyon. Other places recorded include the Amazon rainforest, Canadian Arctic, and the Charles River.

- Part of Google's mission "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful."

Sources: Google; Save the Harbor/Save the Bay