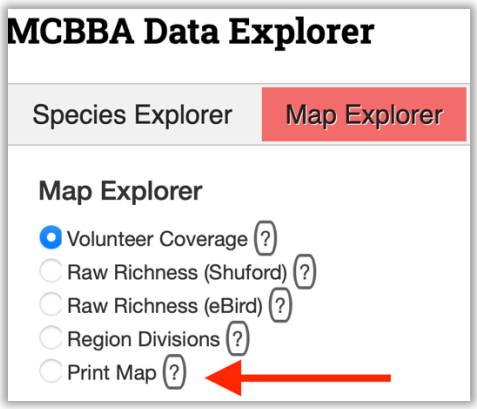
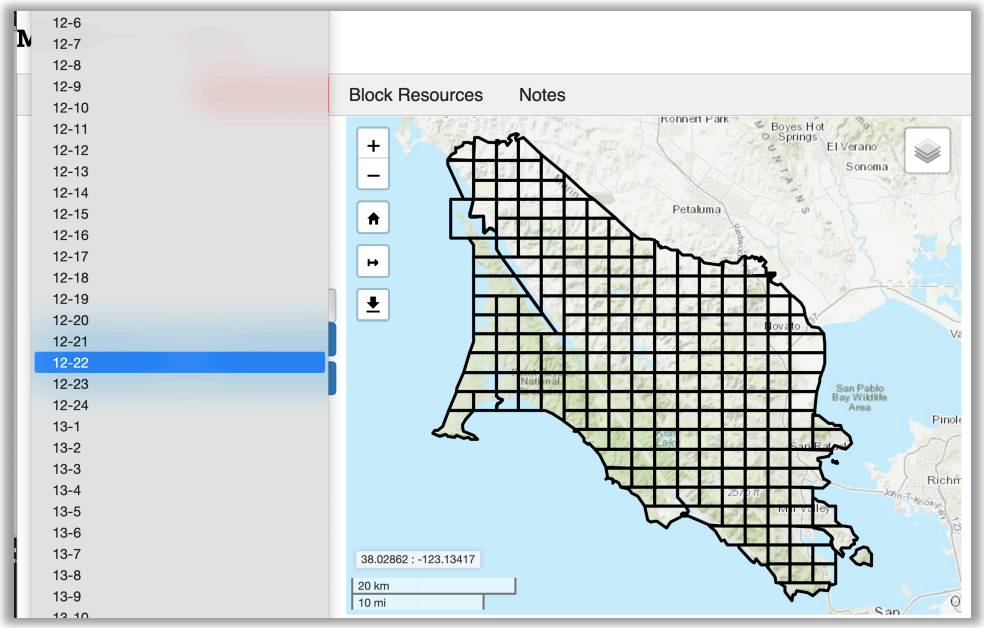
How to determine lat/long coordinates using the MCBBA Data Explorer

This document will teach you how to open the map file for your block from the MCBBA Data Explorer and then use it to determine the latitude and longitude coordinates for a location within the block where you observed breeding bird evidence. It will also demonstrate how to use the Polyline Measure tool determine how far you travelled while birding. There are several other methods to obtain coordinates but this document only covers the use of Data Explorer for this purpose.

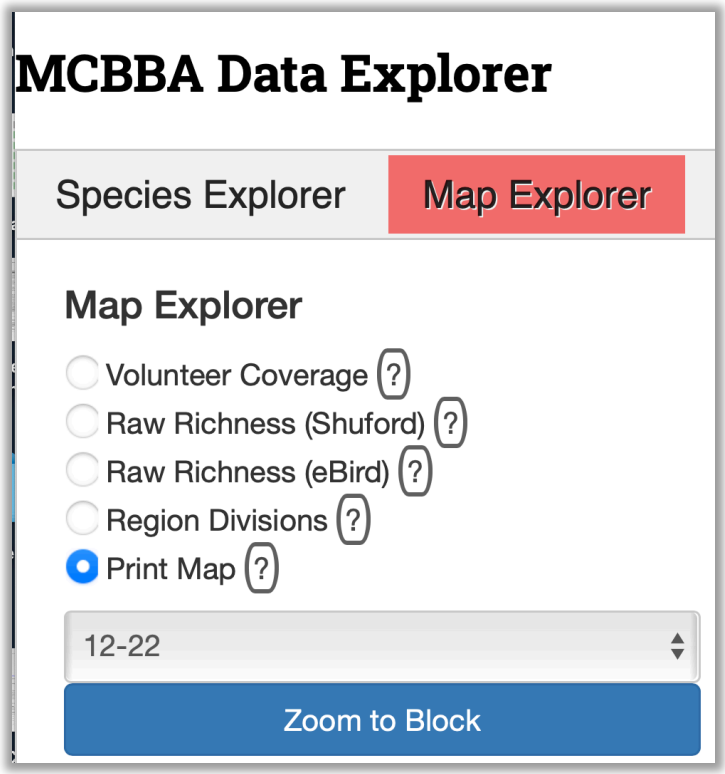
1. Open the MCBBA Data Explorer, at https://mcbba.github.io/webmap/mcbba. select the **Map Explorer** tab and then click **Print Map**.



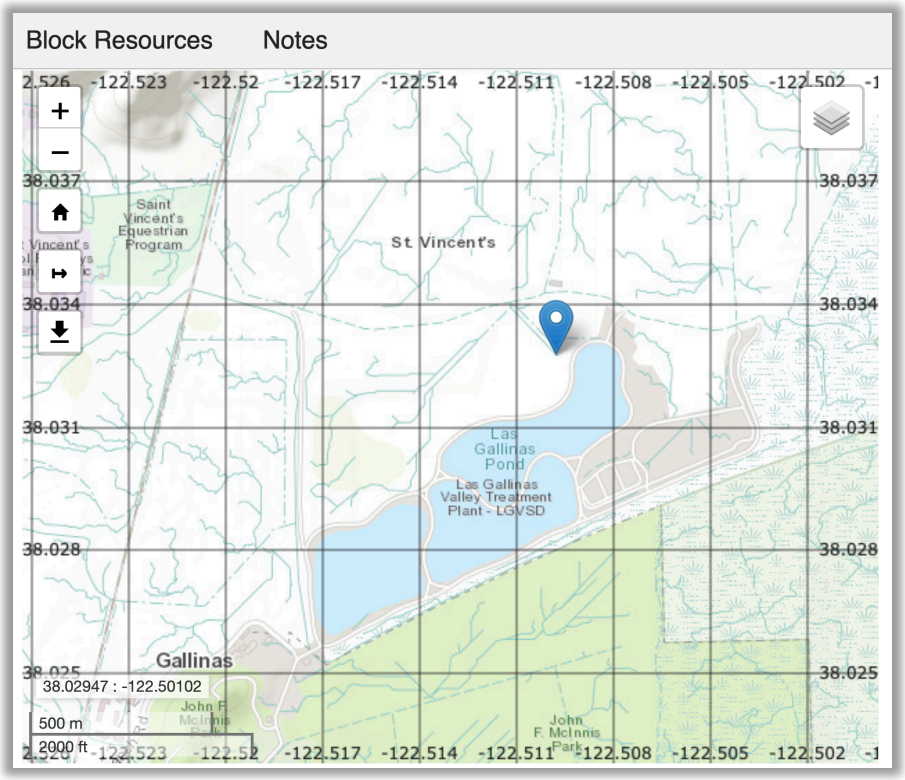
2. Open the gray drop-down list of block numbers, scroll down the list until you've highlighted your block and then select it.



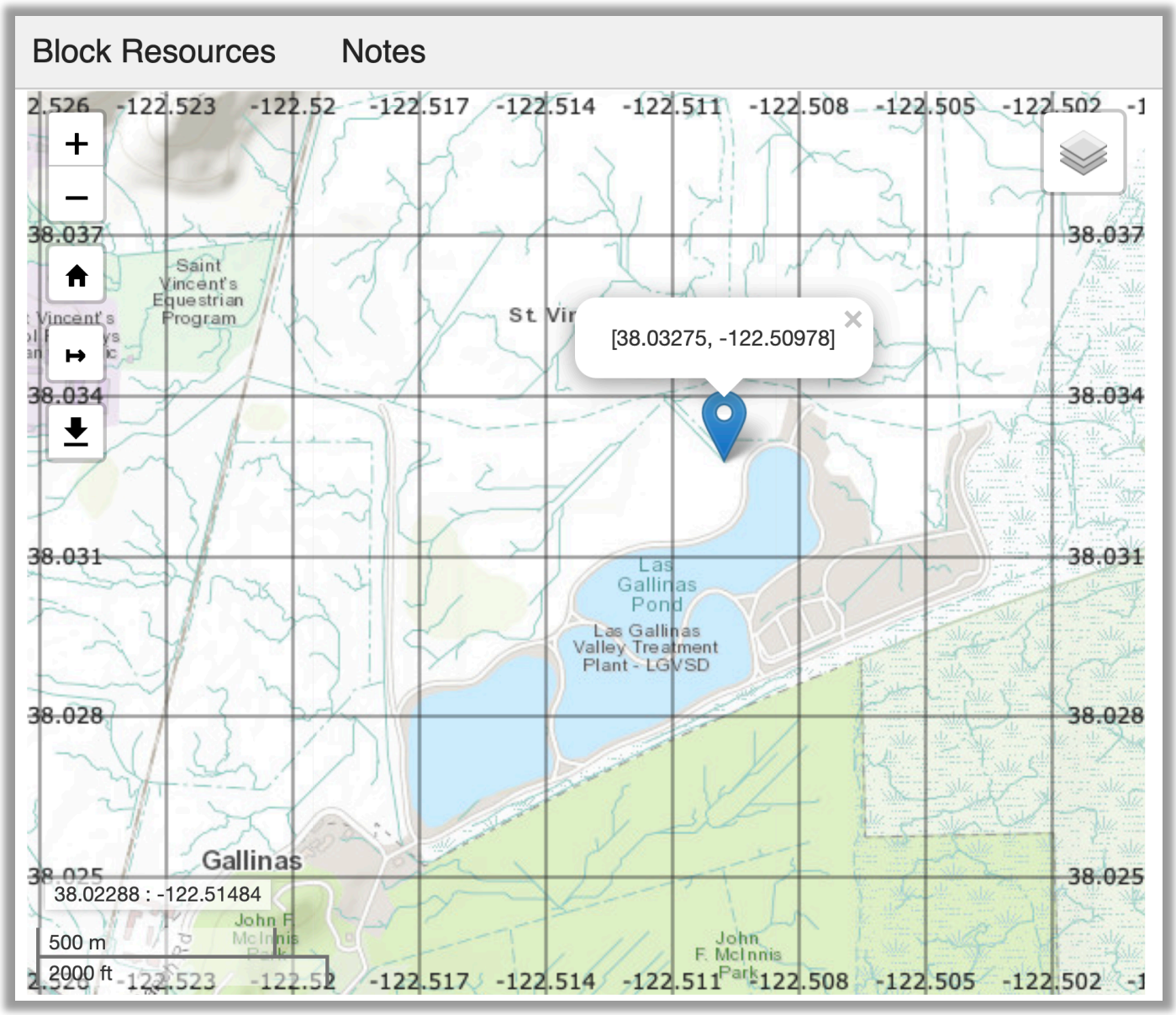
3. Click the blue **Zoom to Block** button.



4. Right-click on the map where you want to mark a specific location where you observed breeding activity. This will place a pin marker on your map, as shown below.

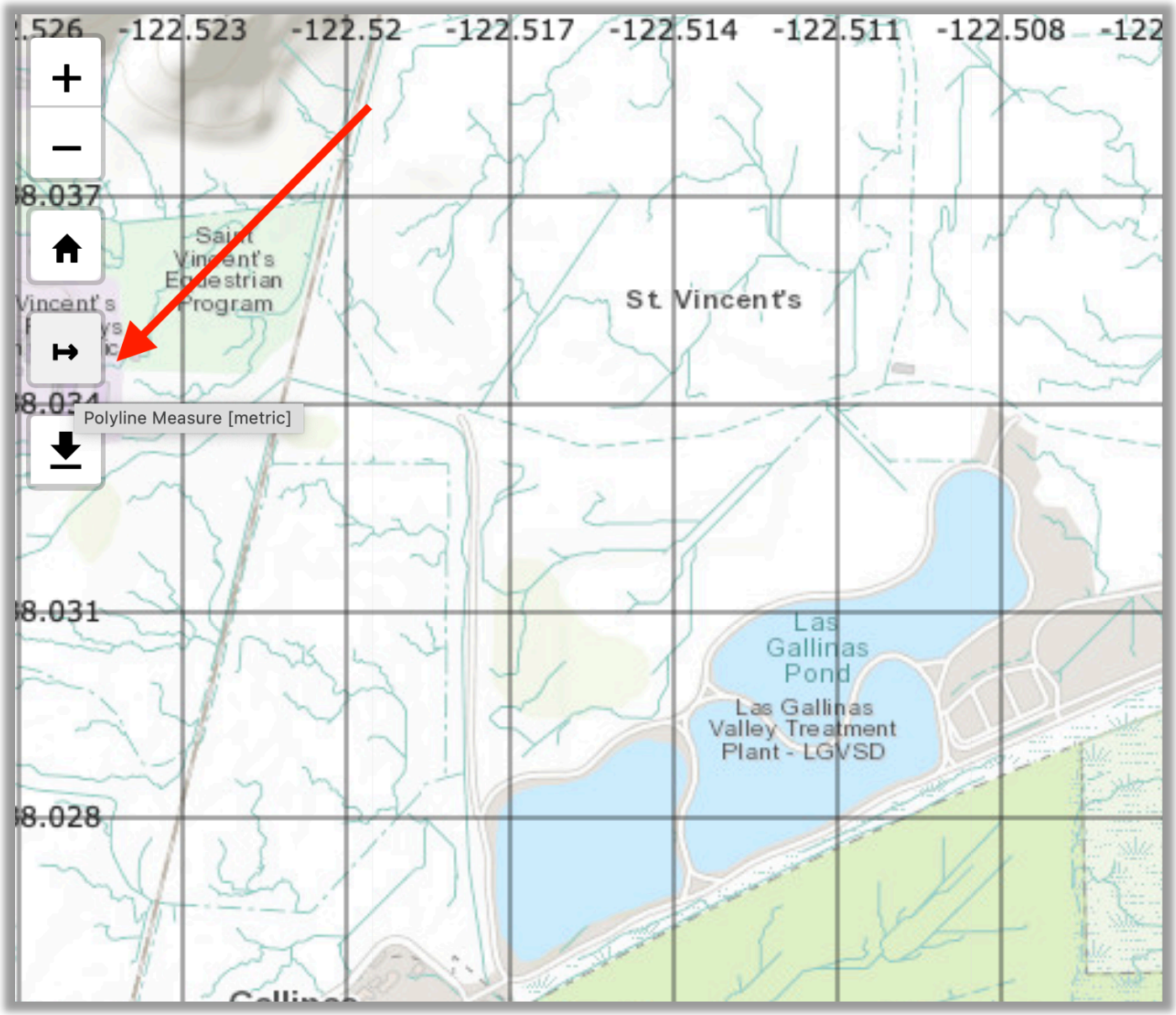


5. Click on the pin to display the exact latitude and longitude coordinates, as shown below. You can then highlight the coordinates with your mouse, right-click and copy them into your clipboard.



Determining distance travelled

1. To use the Polyline Measure tool to determine how far you travelled on a site visit, open your map (steps 1-3 above) and then click the Polyline Measure tool, as shown below (with a red arrow pointing to it).



2. Next, click on the map where you started your walk. This places a small red circle there.

3. Click on the second point you travelled to, and keep repeating as needed.

4. To finish, press the Esc key.

In the example shown below, I wanted to determine the distance that I travelled while birding around the first pond at Las Gallinas. I clicked my starting point and a red circle appeared. Then I clicked on the other three corners in succession. To determine my total distance, in kilometers, I just add up all the numbers shown in the yellow boxes.