

# Updating the Labyrinth Locator - Recommended Procedure

Notes from Jeff Saward, WWLL Administrator

Dear Volunteer,

Many thanks for agreeing to participate in our program to update and refine the data currently held in the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator (WWLL) database. Since its launch in 2004, the WWLL has grown steadily to include around 4200 currently active entries, and while the Administrator works continuously to update existing entries and remove labyrinths reported as no longer in existence, an inevitable degree of duplication and redundancy has crept into the data over the last eight years. Likewise contact details and website links go out of date or change, but unless the owners of specific labyrinths keep us informed of those changes, it is difficult to keep the details current. This is where your offer of assistance is invaluable...

Reviewing the data currently held in the WWLL for the labyrinths in your city, state, province or country, and feeding that information back to the WWLL Administrator, will allow the existing data to be updated and improved, and duplicate entries and defunct labyrinths to be removed.

In order that this process can be conducted in an efficient and consistent fashion, I would ask that you review the current data for the labyrinths in your region and submit your findings in the following manner...

## Reviewing the current data

### If you are in the USA or Canada:

Go to the "Locate a Labyrinth" page - <http://labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth> - and in the search box fill out the following details, depending on the region you plan to check:

Select your state or province from the drop-down list in the "State" field (no need to select your country and do not fill out any other fields) and hit the search button at the bottom of the form.

This will return you a list of all of the labyrinths currently listed in your state/province of choice.

You should then print out this (potentially lengthy) list to provide a working checklist on which to compile your notes. If the photos on the listings don't print out, this is probably due to the settings in your web browser. If you go into the "page setup" section on the "print" button in your web browser (at top right of the page in Internet Explorer, for instance), you will need to check the "print background colors and images" button/box, which should solve the problem. This is usually turned off in most web browsers, to stop the background colour of webpages interfering with the printout of text.

Note: you might also wish to print out a simplified text only listing of the labyrinths in your selected state/province for quick reference – this provides just the name, address and telephone number of the listings. This can be achieved by repeating the process above, but this time also check the "Show simplified, text-only results" box at the foot of the form.

If you wish to search a smaller area, a specific city for instance, then enter the name of the city in "City" field, select the appropriate state/province in the "State" field and hit the "Search" button. However, be aware that this will not find labyrinths in the suburbs of major cities, as these locations will surely be entered under their local township names.

In this case, if you are in the USA (as the USPS zipcode system is utilized by the software to find nearby locations), it is best to select the major city name (and state), and then select an appropriate radius in the "Search Radius" field.

Also be aware that using the "Search Radius" utility (or using the "Zip/postal code" field to conduct your search) will miss out any labyrinth listings not currently containing a valid zipcode, and those situated in remote areas, state/national parks, etc., that don't have regular mailing addresses.

### **If you are elsewhere in the World:**

Go to the "Locate a Labyrinth" page - <http://labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth> - and in the search box fill out the following details, depending on the country you plan to check:

Select your country from the drop-down list in the "Country" field (do not fill out any other fields) and hit the search button at the bottom of the form.

This will return you a list of all of the labyrinths currently listed in your country of choice.

You should then print out this (potentially lengthy) list to provide a working checklist on which to compile your notes. If the photos on the listings don't print out, this is probably due to the settings in your web browser. If you go into the "page setup" section on the "print" button in your web browser (at top right of the page in Internet Explorer, for instance), you will need to check the "print background colors and images" button/box, which should solve the problem. This is usually turned off in most web browsers, to stop the background colour of webpages interfering with the printout of text.

Note: you might also wish to print out a simplified text only listing of the labyrinths in your selected country for quick reference – this provides just the name, address and telephone number of the listings. This can be achieved by repeating the process above, but this time also check the "Show simplified, text-only results" box at the foot of the form.

If you wish to search a smaller area, a specific city for instance, then enter the name of the city in "City" field (and the country, to filter out other cities with the same name, but in different countries) and hit the "Search" button. However, be aware that this will not find labyrinths in the suburbs of major cities, as these locations will surely be entered under their local township names. Likewise, please be aware that the "Search Radius" and "Zip/postal code" fields will not work for countries outside of the USA, as the software can only interface with the USPS zipcode system software to find nearby locations.

## **Suggestions for Checking the WWLL Data**

### **Contacting the Labyrinths:**

It is suggested that you start by compiling a list of all those labyrinths in your chosen area that currently have an email contact provided, and send them an email asking them if they can confirm the current existence of their labyrinth and whether any updates are required to their listing.

A note along the lines of...

Hello, I'm carrying out a review of the labyrinths currently listed on the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator website, in which your labyrinth is currently listed, on behalf of the sponsors of the website. Can you please confirm that your labyrinth is still in existence, and if any of your currently listed contact details, email or website links, or other information concerning the labyrinth requires updating?

You may also wish to consider telephoning those that have a telephone contact provided, especially if no email address is given or reply was received from your initial email enquiry. Again, explain your purpose for calling and ask if they have any additional information to provide or updates required.

Be aware that some labyrinths, especially those in city or state parks, or on other public land with no specific owner, may have no contact details provided. A check of any weblinks provided, or searching for the location via Google or a similar search utility, may provide information on the current status of such labyrinths?

You may also wish to visit some of the labyrinths in person, to carry out your own fieldwork, and this is likewise encouraged - who knows, you might discover a hidden gem or make new friends! – this may be especially useful for those labyrinths off the beaten track or with no specific contact details.

### **Checking the details currently listed in the WWLL:**

Firstly, if you spot duplication of entries, please make a note of this, but be aware that some locations are listed several times, because they have several different labyrinths!

Likewise, if you find a labyrinth currently listed, that clearly no longer exists, be sure to make a note of this.

Should you encounter a labyrinth that is still in existence, but is currently overgrown or inaccessible, then please make a note of the current condition or problems, so that a suitable note can be appended to the current listing.

### **Notes on specific fields:**

Address:

Most likely correct, but for some locations, such as public and national parks, etc., with no specific street address, maybe there is a better way to specify the location? For remote locations a suitable note in the "Directions/Notes" box below is often helpful. Check the "View Map" link below the address to see if Google Maps correctly displays the location, or maybe you can find a better address format to enable Google Maps to home in?

Directions/Notes:

Any updates to this information, or more that could be added to provide further detail or assistance in finding and visiting the labyrinth?

Contact details:

Is the contact person still current and the telephone details correct? Do the email and website links still work? Defunct emails and website should be noted, along with any links to better information.

Schedule:

Is this still up to date?

Type and materials:

Any corrections or improvements required in these descriptions? Be sure to check if the design type of the labyrinth is accurately described?

Other fields:

Likewise, any additions, corrections or improvements required in these fields?

GPS:

Few listings currently have these details completed, and then there is considerable variation in the format and accuracy of data. If you fancy searching for specific labyrinths on Google Earth (especially those in remote locations, not easily found by simple street address) and find them, make a note of the longitude and latitude readout and add that to your notes. If you visit the labyrinth in question, and have a smartphone (an iPhone or Android device, for instance), take a photo of the labyrinth, and tucked away in the information file that is saved with the photo you should be able to find the GPS location where the photo was taken, saved from the locating software inside your smartphone.

Photos:

If you have a photo of a specific labyrinth not currently illustrated, or better than that currently displayed, please send that to the WWLL Administrator as a .jpg attachment, with a note of which labyrinth it is.

## Submitting Your Findings

To improve the efficiency of the updating process for the WWLL Administrator, it would be appreciated if you would submit your findings, updates and additions in the following format:

Labyrinth Name & ID# - found on the top line on each listing...

City & State/Province or Country, for further clarification...

followed by the field categories and details that require addition or updating.

Please copy and paste specific email and website links directly into your document or email.

If you just have a few corrections to submit, then a simple email sent to [jeff@labyrinthos.net](mailto:jeff@labyrinthos.net) containing those details will be ideal.

If you have an extensive list of corrections, then it would probably be easier if you compile that information in a Word document, and then send it as an attachment to: [jeff@labyrinthos.net](mailto:jeff@labyrinthos.net)

Please keep any photos separate and send those as separate attachments, with their identity clearly marked.

Likewise, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me...

Many thanks...

Jeff Saward, WWLL Administrator & Support.