Heuristic Evaluation

The interactive prototype looks pretty good, though it seems to be different from the lo-fi prototype. I enjoyed going through the interactive prototype and here are a few observations I found in terms of heuristic evaluation of the interactive prototype.

[H1 Visibility of system status] – Severity 4

Some of the color coding used in the calendar for making observations, in the “Date of the Outing” tab is not clearly visible. The default text “Select date” is not clear due to the background and text color selected.

[H8 Aesthetics and Minimalist Design] – Severity 4

In the observations bubble the title “Photos” is misleading that it implies that we can upload more than one image for that particular observation.

[H4 Consistency and Standards] – Severity 5

The observation bubble has a close button, but it is inside the box for title which is misleading.

[H9-Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors] – Severity 3

In the description after entering some text if you double click, all the text gets selected and when you click again the text disappears. I mean I couldn’t edit the text if I double click it, rather the whole text is lost if I am trying to edit it. This might be a small bug.
[**H1 - Visibility of System Status**] – Severity 3

The observations tab at the right had some instructions which are hardly visible. But the instruction provided there are useful, either the font size can be increased or the text can be made bold.

[**H8 Aesthetic and minimalist design**] – Severity 4

The background color of the search pane is same as the parks and forest in the map, hence at times the search pane is not clearly visible.

[**H4 Consistency and Standards**] – Severity 2

I also think that according to the recent practice search option is always provided on top of the map. I feel that though this is not a defined standard, it is a followed convention in the web.

[**H8 Aesthetic and minimalist design**] – Severity 5

When more than 3 observations are made, the observations tab expands in its height and it collides with the “Complete Outing” button. This disrupts the whole interface.

[**H1 Visibility of System Status**] – Severity 2

The mouse is in hand mode by default which usually means dragging the map. So the option that clicking at one point creates an observation is not explicitly visible to the user. But it is easier to learn.

[**H1 Match between system and the real world**] – Severity 4

The observations made are captured in the small tab at the right side. As more and more observations are created a mapping between the observations listed and their position in map can be mapped by opening the bubble once the user clicks on the
particular observation in the “observation” tab. Though there are labels in the bubble by which the user can map manually it would be better.

[H1 Match between system and the real world] – Severity 4

The website allows the user to make observations based on date. But there is no feedback to indicate which observations are made on which date.

[H8 Recognition than Recall] – Severity 3

In the observation bubble, there is no title for the ‘time of the observation’ and it may not be intuitive to some users. Hence adding a little title to it would help.

[H10 Help and Documentation] – Severity 3

There could be some little description or way to hint the user about the goal of the site. This would give a better idea about the website to the visitors of the website.