

Tracking your progress

A map only helps if it stays current. So the real question of this page isn't *whether* to track — it's where your forest should live so that keeping it honest costs you nothing.

Paper works — and charges rent. The method predates any software: a page per role in a notebook, an index card per skill, a wall chart with sticky notes. It all carries the method, and it proves an important point — the forest is an idea, not a tool lock-in. But paper quietly bills you for every month of use: you copy levels forward, keep dates by hand, redraw trees whenever a forest review moves skills around, and none of it is visible to the people helping you grow. What starts as a pleasant ritual becomes clerical work — and clerical work is what tracking systems die of.

Skillforests keeps the forest alive for you. The app is the method with the rent removed:

- **Your forest is live.** When the forest review moves skills between ranks or retires one, your map updates — nothing to redraw, nothing to copy forward.
- **History happens automatically.** Every level change is dated the moment it happens, so the growth trail you'd bring to a review or career conversation is simply *there* — months of undeniable progress, no bookkeeping.
- **It's shared by design.** The same map is what your team lead reads coverage from and your coach plans with. On paper, your progress lives in your notebook; in Skillforests, it lives where reviews, 1:1s, and plans already happen.
- **The rhythm is built in.** The monthly update — what moved, what stalled, what's next — takes minutes when the map, the levels, and the dates are already in front of you.

The two habits from this chapter don't change: update monthly, and let level changes carry their dates. The app just makes the first one short and the second one automatic.

If all you have today is a notebook, start in the notebook — a tracked forest on paper beats an untracked one anywhere. But the best tracking system is the one still being updated in six months, and the surest way to be that system is to do most of the updating for you.



Revision #3

Created 2026-07-08 16:09:17 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-07-08 16:38:40 UTC by Admin