

## **State Park Geocaching Guidelines**

The premise of these guidelines is intended to establish parameters within which geocaching can be permitted within state park properties without creating safety concerns, damaging or jeopardizing the integrity of park resources or giving rise to user conflict issues.

Procedures related to geocaching are as follows:

### **Permits**

- A *Geocache Placement Form* must be obtained from the prospective park's Manager or his/her designee prior to the placement of a physical cache or provision of GPS coordinates of a virtual cache. Applicants must provide all applicable information required of the permit, including the website address on which the cache will be posted.
- The exact location of a cache must be pre-approved and this location, along with the corresponding GPS coordinates, are to be stated in the permit.
- Each permitted cache must be located at least .1-mile from any existing cache. At the Park manager's discretion, the total number of caches allowed per owner on a particular park property may be limited in order to allow equitable opportunities for all interested parties.
- All permits will be effective for a period of one (1) year from the date of issue. If, during the effective period of a permit, a permit holder wishes to change the location of a cache, the existing permit will be cancelled and a new permit applied for.
- The park will routinely evaluate any undesirable impacts caused by the placement of a cache. If relocation of a cache is deemed necessary by the park, the existing permit can be amended to reflect the new location.

- The park reserves the right to cancel any permit if a determination is made that a cache creates safety concerns, damages or jeopardizes the integrity of park resources or gives rise to user conflict issues. In such case, the park will make notification to the permit holder.
- The park may cancel a permit in accordance with the conditions of the Special Use Permit Policy.
- Within thirty (30) days prior to a permit's original expiration date, the permit holder may request a one (1) year extension. At the park's discretion the permit may be extended for no more than one (1) additional one (1) year period. If a permit's expiration date is extended, the existing permit can be amended to reflect the changes.
- Upon expiration or cancellation of a permit, the permit holder is responsible for removing a hidden cache within fourteen (14) days of the expiration or cancellation, and for deleting information related to the cache from all websites and any other sources. If the permit holder fails to remove the cache in a timely manner, the park will remove the cache and hold it for fourteen (14) days, after which the park will dispose of the cache. Confiscation and disposal by Park Staff will be recorded and attached to the expired permit.

### **Cache Containers and Contents**

- Cache containers must be non-breakable, and have some form of latch, sealing or other closing mechanism to prevent content exposure.
- At the sole discretion of the park, caches may not contain inappropriate or dangerous items or materials. Such prohibited items include, but are not limited to:
  - food/beverages
  - medications or personal/hygiene products
  - items with vulgar or pornographic content

- scented or perfumed items or substances
- any type of weapons, ammunition, explosives or fireworks
- All caches are subject to random inspection by park without notice. The park reserves the right to immediately remove any item from a cache deemed unacceptable at its sole discretion. Repeated violations of cache content may be cause for cancellation of the permit and immediate removal of the cache.

### **Cache Locations**

- The exact location of a cache must be pre-approved by the park.
- Caches may not be placed in locations that create safety concerns, damage or jeopardize the integrity of park resources or give rise to user conflict issues.
- Caches may not be buried. No live tree or other plant, rock, mineral, or geological feature is to be cut, broken, destroyed, relocated or otherwise damaged or disturbed for the purposes of placing a cache.
- Caches are prohibited in or on any State Park structure.

### **Cache Searches**

- Geocaching activities are subject to all State Park Service rules and regulations.
- Soil is not to be disturbed and no live tree or other plant, rock, mineral, or geological feature is to be cut, broken, destroyed, relocated or otherwise damaged or disturbed for the purpose of finding a cache.
- Geocaching activities are restricted to established trails and other areas designated for public access.
- Metal detectors may not be used in cache searches.

## **Compliance**

- Violations of park rules or regulations may result in cancellation of permit and/or loss of geocaching privileges.
- Caches not permitted through the respective park's office will be removed and disposed of by the park. Confiscation and disposal activities will be documented via an incident Report.
- Due to safety concerns or resource sensitivity, geocaching activities may be prohibited in certain areas at the discretion of the park.
- At the discretion of the State Park Service, geocaching activities may be prohibited at certain parks.