



GEOCACHING DEPARTMENT POLICY

PURPOSE:

To regulate the outdoor recreational activity of geocaching in St. Louis County Parks to allow enjoyment of the hobby while protecting and preserving our resources. Geocaching, an activity for individuals, groups and families, involves finding hidden containers known as geocaches by navigating to them using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. Once found, the user records their find on www.Geocaching.com.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation to allow the activity of Geocaching in County Parks so long as the activity does not affect natural, cultural and historical resources, visitor safety or other park users, programs, events or scheduled activities. Geocaching activities may not damage plants, animals, archaeological and cultural sites, geological or ecological features. Caches are not to be located inside buildings.

PROCEDURE:

General Rules

1. It is unlawful to deface, injure, destroy, remove or use without authority any public facility or public property including all wildlife, plants, animals and archaeological, historic or geological objects found within a County park. Digging to hide geocaches is prohibited.
2. Physical cache containers must display the words "Official Geocache" clearly on the outside of the container.
3. Physical cache containers may not be constructed of piping, tubing, ammunition boxes or any other suspicious containers.
4. Physical cache containers are not permitted inside or upon any County Park building, structure, monument, historical or archaeological feature.
5. Physical cache containers are not allowed within close proximity to streams, marshes or ecologically sensitive water features.
6. County Parks has the right to restrict or limit geocaching within a park under its authority.
7. All geocaches must be registered with the St. Louis Area Geocaches Association at <http://www.slaga.org>. The site offers geocaching listing requirements and guidelines.
8. All County Park rules, regulations and ordinances apply.

Director Thomas M. Ott Date 8-21-12
Thomas M. Ott

Effective Date: 05/06

Revision Date: 08/12