

North Carolina

Regional Geocaching Policies Wiki

An evolving, community-created wiki on where you can and can't hide geocaches.

North Carolina Reviewers

[NCReviewer](#), [Dogwood_Reviewer](#)

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Statewide Property Law: Purple Paint on trees=No Trespassing signs.

Catawba Land Conservancy (including sections of the Carolina Thread Trail)

The properties they own and manage now require a permit for placement as of 3/1/14

Contact Sean Bloom, GIS Director Catawba Lands Conservancy to request a permit. Here's a direct link to that page: <http://catawbalands.org/where-we- conserve/geocache-on-clc-preserves/>
Tel: 704.342.3330 ext. 204
email: sean@catawbalands.org
<http://catawbalands.org/>

The Carolina Thread Trail OUTSIDE the Catawba Land Conservancy has no policy regarding the placement of geocaches.

<http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org/>

City of Cary

Geocaches are prohibited within Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve, within the Cary Dog Parks, on any sports field in a Town of Cary park, or in any landscaped area or plant bed in a Town of Cary park. Besides that they stress following the geocaching.com guidelines. Here is a link to their posted guidelines. <https://www.townofcary.org/recreation-enjoyment/parks-greenways-environment/geocaches>

About This Guide

The local laws and guidelines for geocaching placement vary from place to place. As community reviewers learn geocache placement policies for a certain location, they can add it here. This site may not be a complete or accurate list of land policies. These policies are made by the land owner or manager, they are neither the reviewer's nor Geocaching HQ's. This guide is just for reference, if no policies for the area you're looking for are listed, that doesn't mean no policies exist. You must still obtain permission to place your geocache from the landowner or land manager, comply with all applicable laws, and follow the [Geocaching Listing Requirements](#).

If you have an update, email the community reviewer(s) listed.



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City of Clinton Parks

Clinton Municipal Park require a permit for placement. Contact Judi Nicholson, the Director of Parks and Recreation for your permit. nicholsonjk@cityofclintonnc.us 910-299-4906.

City of Fayetteville Parks

Clark Park Nature Center and the Cape Fear River Trail require a permit for placement. Contact the park office to request a permit.
631 Sherman Drive 910-433-1579

City of Mills River

The city of Mills River in Henderson County does not allow geocaches on town property including Mills River Park.

City of Raleigh Parks

Generally OK. Exceptions:

Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park: Although this is a city park which would normally allows Geocaching, apparently the way this specific parcel was deeded to the city is that it is to be used for educational purposes. Geocaching has been determined to be more recreational than educational, so Geocaching is off limits.

Additionally Horseshoe Farms Nature Preserve, Durant Park Nature Preserve, and Lake Johnson Nature Preserve are off limits for Geocaching as of June 2018.

Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves

There is a formal permit policy with location and container restrictions. The policy can be found here: <https://www.mecknc.gov/parkandrec/stewardshipservices/outdoors/pages/geocaching.aspx?redirect=charmec>

Thirteen areas are off limits to cache placement.

National Forests within NC

There is a formal permit policy with location and container restrictions. The policy can be found here: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5288138.pdf

Designated Wilderness Areas and Experimental Forest areas are off limits to cache placement. Ammo cans are now prohibited.

National Parks within NC

There is no longer a system wide ban on geocache placement within NPS lands. They have determined that permission for geocaching will be determined on a location by location basis. This change is due to the efforts of some very hard working geocachers who met with their local park managers and rangers and got several caches into the parks in Maine and Washington and elsewhere. However the management of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smokey Mountain NP have yet to allow any caches within their properties. Here's a link to the most current NPS guideline available: <http://www.nps.gov/policy/gpsguidance.pdf>

NC Coastal Reserves

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If you share information from this site, you must mention "These regional land policies came from the [Geocaching.com Public Wiki](#) and are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No-Derivatives 4.0 International License](#)."

And, you agree to keep content current by checking back regularly for updates.

<http://www.nccoastalreserve.net/>

The sites of the NC Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve are Currituck Banks Reserve, Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve, Buckridge Reserve, Buxton Woods Reserve, Rachel Carson Reserve, Permuda Island Reserve, Masonboro Island Reserve, Zeke's Island Reserve, Bald Head Woods Reserve, and Bird Island Reserve. Due to a rule that prohibits personal property from being left on the sites for greater than 48 hours, geocaching generally cannot be allowed at these sites. Contact the respective site manager to discuss options such as virtual caches or Earthcaches, which may be allowed in some areas under specific conditions. To learn more about the Coastal Reserve, please visit www.nccoastalreserve.net

Contact: Hope Sutton, suttonh@uncw.edu

NC State Parks

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/main.php>

The North Carolina State Parks have a very restrictive and hard to find geocaching policy. Each park supervisor makes the decisions for their own property, and many simply deny them outright. You can ask to submit a special use permit which probably has a fee attached to it. Parks that have been receptive to geocaching are Eno River, Goose Creek, Merchant's Millpond, and Medoc Mountain.

NC State University Forests and Duke Forest

NC State Research Forests and Duke Forest are both off limits for geocaches.

<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/dept/facfor.html>

<http://dukeforest.duke.edu/recreation/prohibitedactivities/>

New Hanover County Parks and Gardens

"New Hanover County Parks & Gardens is pleased to support geocaching. We also recognize the need to maintain safe and aesthetically pleasing parks while protecting our county's natural resources. If you plan to hide and/or seek geocaches in our parks, please be sure to read and follow our Geocaching Policies carefully. In order to hide a cache, you must submit a Geocache Registration Form for approval. Policies and forms may be found on our website at www.parks.nhcgov.com/programs/.

All caches placed in our parks must adhere to the geocaching.com requirements and guidelines."

Pitt County

The Town of Winterville contact is Eric Lucas, [252-215-2435](tel:252-215-2435) and he is the Director of Parks and Recreation. Blanket permission is given but Eric Lucas is very interested in it so he likes to get a list once a year of placement, if it changes.

The contact info for Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation is Rita Roy. Her number is [252-902-1975](tel:252-902-1975). Rita Roy has given blanket permission.

Jeff Polaski is the contact for the Town of Farmville at 252-753-6712.

Deb Higgins is with the May Museum in Farmville, 252-327-8859.

Pineville Cemetery in Greenville is off limits for caches.

Rowan County Parks and Recreation Department

Hides in all Rowan County Parks and Recreation Department facilities requires a permit for placement.

<https://www.facebook.com/download/1140512415999018/FINAL-%20RowanCountyGEO%20permit.pdf>

The purpose of this information is to provide guidance for the management of Geocaching on Rowan County Parks and Recreation (hereafter referred to as "RCP") properties. A Permit process is necessary for safeguarding our green and historical space as well as accountability for upkeep of the geocache".

A person must submit an Application to the Rowan County Geocache Reviewer (not associated with geocaching.com) by completing the form at this link, [here](#) , who will contact the appropriate property, as necessary. A paper copy or PDF version is available upon request of the ROCOGEO Reviewer at rocogeo_reviewer@gmail.com.

Triangle Land Conservancy

TLC requires a permit for placement. Contact Walt Tysinger, the TLC Land Manager for your permit. <http://www.triangleland.org/> 919-833-3662 ext. 7003, details at <http://triangleland.unraveltheweb.com/assets/images/uploads/GeocachePolicy.pdf> .

US Corps of Engineers land at Falls and Jordan Lakes.

The US Corps of Engineers owns the land around both Falls and Jordan Lakes; however, in most places the land is leased by the State of North Carolina and the Wildlife Resource Commission, which have their own geocaching policies. However, the areas near the dam at both lakes is land managed by the US Corps of Engineers. For any future caches placed on USCOE land, USCOE have requested they are contacted and given the ability to review the cache location for approval on receipt of a free permit application. They want to ensure that caches are not placed in any restricted areas such as the dam, the emergency spillway, etc. Geocachers who have questions, or as directed by the NC Volunteer Reviewers, or want to place a cache on USCOE managed land can contact:

Stacey Henderson
Ranger, Natural Resources Specialist
Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator
US Army Corps Engineers, Falls & Jordan Lakes
[919-846-9332](tel:919-846-9332) ext 232 (Falls)

Stacey.L.Henderson@usace.army.mil

Here is the link to the permit... <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Portals/59/docs/recreation/jordanlake/Geocache%20Permit%20Fillable.pdf> ... which can be filled out online, or mailed/faxed in.

Wake County Parks

The following Wake County Parks require permits for caches. Please submit your form to the park office prior to placing the cache and list the contact info of the ranger who granted permission in a reviewer note with your listing.

Bass Lake Park / Sugg Farm Park: If you are interested in placing a cache at Sugg Farm please contact either Carolyn or Steve at the Bass Lake Park office, for location approval.

Phone (919) 557-2496
Email basslake@hollyspringsnc.us
Website <http://www.hollyspringsnc.us>

Blue Jay Point County Park: Please send your completed http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/Documents/BJP_Geocache_Form.pdf application to bluejaypoint@wakegov.com . North Wake Landfill Park also requires permits.

Contact info is:

Chris Hill
Park Technician
Blue Jay Point County Park
(919) 870-4331
Chris.Hill@wakegov.com

Harris Lake County Park <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/harrislake/default.htm> and the Wake County portions of the American Tobacco Trail require permits. The ATT ones can also be brought to the office at Harris Lake CP

Permit Form: <http://www.wakegov.com/NR/rdonlyres/42D89371-6E08-4499-ABBC-2EA1D153DD14/0/HLCPCGeocacheForm.pdf>

Contact info is:

Rachel Solomon
Park Technician of Programs
Harris Lake County Park
American Tobacco Trail
Phone: (919) 387-4342
harris.lake@wakegov.com

Jackie Trickel
Assistant Park Manager of Education and Programs
Harris Lake County Park
American Tobacco Trail
Phone: (919) 387-4342
harris.lake@wakegov.com

Lake Crabtree County Park is in the process of finalizing the terms and text of its geocaching policy. Effective 12/1/13 all caches on their property will require a permit. Once the policy is available it will be posted here. For now, please contact the park office to get any new hides properly permitted.

Robertson Millpond Preserve in Wendell is the newest addition to the Wake County Park system as of Spring 2016. Permits are required for cache placements on this property.

Contact info is:

Deborah Robertson Fowler
Nature Preserve Manager & Open Space Manager
337 S. Salisbury Street, PO Box 550, Suite 1000
Raleigh, NC 27602
Tel: 919-856-6083
Fax: 919-743-4853
deborah.fowler@wakegov.com

Yates Mill Park prohibits caches as it is on land owned by NCSU Forestry.

The rangers in the other parks like to know where the caches are in their parks. As courtesy please do stop at the office to let them know when you place one in their county parks.
