

Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Geocaching Guidelines/Procedures
Approved April 4, 2006



Subject: Geocaching on City of Rock Hill Park Property
Managed by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (RHPRT)

The instructions and information contained herein prescribe guidelines and procedures for the management of "Geocaching" activities in City of Rock Hill parks that ensures resource protection and visitor safety, while encouraging responsible recreational activity.

Section I
General Procedures

Geocaching on City of Rock Hill park property may only be done during regular operational hours. Geocachers should only access parks through typical public access points, and must pay all applicable fees. The City of Rock Hill accepts no responsibility for damage to or loss of any cache or its contents.

Section II
Cache Containers and Contents

1. Cache containers must be non-breakable, have some form of latch or other closing mechanism to prohibit content exposure to wildlife, and must be approved by RHPRT staff or designee.
2. Each cache container, excluding micro-caches and virtual caches, must have an identification label affixed to the outside. Each label must be clearly marked "Geocache."
3. Caches may not contain inappropriate or dangerous items. Such items include, but not limited to, hazardous materials, food, medications, alcoholic beverages, personal/hygiene products, pornography, weapons of any type, or fireworks.
4. All caches are subject to random inspection by RHPRT staff or designee. RHPRT staff has the authority to immediately remove any item held in a cache deemed unacceptable or that is in violation of this policy.
5. Cache containers over 500 cubic inches must be transparent. Ammunition containers, or boxes resembling ammunition containers, will not be allowed on park property.

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Section III
Cache Locations

1. The location of a cache must be approved by RHPRT staff or designee. **Cache coordinates, a description of the container and its contents, the name, mailing address, e-mailing address and telephone number of the individual placing the cache must be e-mailed to tbell@ci.rock-hill.sc.us. Upon notification that the cache has been approved by RHPRT staff or designee, then the cache may be registered and officially activated on www.geocaching.com.**
2. Caches shall not be placed in a location that leads to the creation of spur trails or other resource impacts.
3. Caches may not be buried, nor may living vegetation or any historic features be disturbed to place a cache.
4. Caches may not be placed in dangerous, inappropriate or protected areas and habitats, on cliffs, underground, or underwater.
5. Caches may be removed if a placement is deemed unsafe or has an unacceptable impact on the environment. Removal shall be at the discretion of RHPRT staff.
6. Metal detectors may not be used in cache searches.

Section IV
Compliance

1. Failure to comply with this directive will result in the removal of geocaches.
2. If geocaching activities as a whole are found to have a negative impact on park resources or if safety becomes an issue, RHPRT staff may ban geocaching from certain areas or from the entire park system.