

Geocache Placements in Texas State Parks

Rules and regulations for "Seek and Find" activities on TPWD Land

The instructions and information contained herein prescribe guidelines and procedures for the management of "Geocaching" activities in State Parks that ensures resource protection and visitor safety, while encouraging a responsible and healthy recreational activity.

- a. The placement of objects for retrieval, recognition or exchange within park boundaries is allowed only with the prior approval and coordination with park management. **Contact park staff before placement of hidden objects.**
- b. Placement of such items requires a Placement Permit (Appendix A) that includes the location, name and contact information for the person placing the item.
- c. Location of the cache must be approved by the Park Superintendent or designee. Approval shall be dependent on the prevention of undesirable impacts to natural, historical and cultural resources; as well as public safety considerations.
- d. Containers must be non-breakable, with a latch or other closing mechanism to prohibit the content exposure to wildlife.
- e. Containers are subject to random inspection by park staff. Inappropriate items such as hazardous materials, food, medications, alcoholic beverages, weapons or fireworks are subject to immediate removal.
- f. Caches may not be placed in a location that leads to the creation of excessive spur or social trails, and may not be buried. Living vegetation or historic features may not be disturbed to place a cache.
- g. Caches may not be placed in a location that degrades viewsheds.
- h. Caches may be placed no closer than 100 feet from a historic structure or culturally significant site to avoid disturbance. This includes, but is not limited to, CCC construction, homesteads, and ruins. Park staff will maintain the right to determine an appropriate distance from historic sites at their parks.
- i. Caches may not be placed in an area that disturbs nesting or foraging of protected species of wildlife.

A cache can be placed in a Texas State Park, only when the above measures have been met with written authorization from the Park Superintendent or designee. Approval must be given before placing the geocache at the coordinates submitted.

For additional assistance, contact txgeo@tpwd.state.tx.us or park staff.

Appendix A

PLACEMENT PERMIT

Type of cache: Traditional cache Virtual Cache Multi Cache
 Puzzle/Mystery Cache Earth Cache Wherigo Cache Letterbox

Has been placed by:

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

Address Line 2: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Geocaching.com Username: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Cache Information:

Website Where Cache Will Be Listed: _____

Cache GPS Coordinates: N _____

W _____

Location Description (please include nearby trails and/or landmarks): _____

Item Size and Description: _____

The item I have placed (applicant initials each requirement)

- 1. Is in a non-breakable container.
- 2. Does not contain inappropriate or dangerous items
- 3. Is not buried nor placed in an environmentally or historically sensitive area.

I hereby agree to respect and adhere to the regulations set forth. In addition, Texas Parks and Wildlife shall assume no responsibility whatsoever for the loss or damage to the property or injury of the applicant from any cause and applicant agrees at all times to indemnify, protect, and save harmless Texas Parks and Wildlife and its agents, and employees from liability in connection with applicant's property and/or operation under this permit. I also understand that Parks and Wildlife staff may remove any items placed in a park if deemed necessary by park management. Applicant Signature: _____

Park Superintendent (or Designee) Name: _____

Park Superintendent (or Designee) Signature: _____

Date: _____