



County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation Geocaching Policy

June 2009

The County of San Diego Parks and Recreation (DPR) mission is: “To provide opportunities for high quality parks and recreation experiences and to preserve regionally significant natural and cultural resources.” DPR recognizes geocaching – a treasure hunt that utilizes Global Positioning System (GPS) and the internet to find caches – as a recreational experience. However, not all areas of County parks/preserves are suitable for geocaching due to regionally significant and cultural resources. This geocaching policy was developed to facilitate responsible geocaching such that DPR can meet its mission.

Register cache

- ❖ Caches must be registered by completion and approval of a registration form **prior to** placing a cache
- ❖ Registration forms are available online at [Geocache Registration Form](#) and will include the following information:
 - a) Geocache owner information
 - b) Description and photo of cache and description of cache contents
 - c) Coordinates, description and photo of proposed cache location

Approval of a proposed cache location will be based upon the following criteria:

- ❖ Location
 - Caches must be placed within 10 feet of existing trails but otherwise stay on trail
 - No off trail hiking or disturbance of cultural, historical or biological resources
 - Caches may be hidden without impacting flora/fauna. Caches may not be buried
- ❖ Size and labeling
 - Cache size is limited to 11.5x7x6 inches (e.g. tupperware-style container or ammo can)
 - Geocache name must be clearly visible on exterior of waterproof container
- ❖ Number
 - The number of caches at geocache approved parks/preserves is limited to ten (10).
 - An individual may register up to two (2) caches on a particular site at any one time
- ❖ Cache Items
 - No food items
 - No dangerous, hazardous, offensive or otherwise inappropriate items

Cache Owner Responsibilities

- ❖ A link to this Geocaching Policy must be available on any online postings of coordinates
- ❖ Caches must be checked every three months
- ❖ Once cache registration has expired (after 6 months), the owner is responsible for removing the cache and deactivating the online coordinate posting.
- ❖ Failure to remove a cache and deactivate the coordinate posting within seven days of registration expiration (or if cache was inappropriately placed) may negate further approvals.