



## **Geocaching Policies**

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 for residents' enjoyment.

If you desire to place a cache, or have already done so, in a New Hanover County Park please take notice of the following guidelines for placement and maintenance of caches. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect natural areas and the safety of all visitors, as well as to provide for the future use of county-owned lands by geocachers. You must complete a Geocache Registration Form in order to place a cache on county owned public parks.

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### **General Guidelines**

1. Participants must comply with all guidelines for both the geocaching.com and other North Carolina geocaching organizations.
2. Participants must comply with all New Hanover County Parks & Gardens ordinances and rules.
3. New Hanover County Parks & Gardens reserves the right to remove any cache, registered or unregistered, without notification.
4. Please help maintain our parks by practicing Cache In, Trash Out (CITO).

### **Geocache Seeking Guidelines**

1. Please do not disturb the surrounding environment in any way.
2. Respect existing trails and do not create any new ones.

## Geocache Placement Guidelines

1. Placing a cache in a New Hanover County park is free, but you must complete a Geocache Registration Form and follow these Geocache Placement Guidelines.
2. Process for placing a cache:
  - a. Complete a Geocache Registration Form and submit to [jorich@nhcgov.com](mailto:jorich@nhcgov.com) for approval. All geocaches must be registered prior to placement and publication. Due to sensitive areas within our parks, the location of the cache is subject to approval. Upon receipt of the Registration Form the cache location(s) can either be approved, rejected or require modifications to the location of the cache.
  - b. Upon approval, the cache may be placed. Place the cache according to the approved registration form and the geocaching organization's guidelines.
  - c. Register your cache on geocaching.com and submit it for publication. You will need to provide the cache reviewer with a copy of your approved registration form before the cache will be published.
  - d. Caches must be public. No member only or subscription caches.
3. Cache locations must be naturally occurring hiding spots. There can be no trees cut, pruned or have things attached to them with nails, screws or other fasteners; holes dug; vegetation removed or planted; nor new items brought in such as sculptures, boxes, etc. No caches may be placed in birdhouses, nests or animal dens.
4. Containers and hiding locations should be chosen wisely to avoid citizen alarm. Containers must be waterproof or sealable. Clear (see through) containers are preferred. The use of all pipe, PVC, glass and metal is forbidden.
5. New Hanover County Parks & Gardens staff must be notified when a cache is removed and/or archived
6. Offensive, illegal or dangerous items are not allowed in any cache.
7. Caches placed to promote commercial, political, religious or other social agendas are also prohibited.
8. Unregistered caches will be removed.
9. Geocaching may only occur during park hours (dawn to dusk).