

CITY OF CAMDENTON City Park Geocaching Policy

The City permits geocaching in keeping with its mission to preserve the City Park and to provide opportunities for safe recreational activities. The purpose of this policy is to establish management guidelines for geocaching, so as to minimize impact on the natural and cultural resources.

For purposes of this policy and the permit, we will be using the following definitions:

Cache – A hidden container filled with a logbook, pen/pencil, and possibly trinkets.

Datum – A point or line used as a basis for calculating and measuring.

Geocaching – Geocaching is a game for GPS (Global Positioning Systems) users. The basic idea is to have individuals/organizations place caches and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, the user records their find on <http://www.geocaching.com>.

Multi-cache – Multiple cache containers are located from information received from the previous container.

Offset cache – Coordinates will take the visitor to a location to find a number stamped/written in or on an item at the location or once at the location, the user will continue the search according to instructions on the initial information received from www.geocaching.com.

Virtual cache – A virtual cache means there is no cache container. It's the location that is the cache itself. Nothing is normally traded, except photos and experiences.

Guidelines:

1. Any visitor wishing to place a cache on City Park property is required to complete and have approved an Official Geocaching Placement Permit.
2. Authority to approve the permits has been delegated to the City Administrator or their designee.

3. Caches are not to be placed in sensitive archaeological, historical, or ecological areas or locations that contain rare plant species.
4. Cache placement in recognized wild and natural areas needs to be kept to a minimum.
5. Prescribed burns in the park are to be monitored for consideration of placement. If the desired location is in an area that is scheduled to be burned within twelve months of the date of request, the unit is to be considered off limits for the placement of the cache.
6. The City Administrator or designee is required to inform the applicant of any areas that have been recognized as off limits for placing caches.
7. No digging or disruption of the ground is permitted when placing the cache.
8. Caches are not to be placed in areas that could potentially cause danger to visitors trying to locate the cache, i.e. potential flood areas, in trees, etc.
9. Multi-caches not acceptable in the City Park.
10. If the Park supervisor determines that the location of a cache poses a risk to park visitors, the owner is to be contacted and asked that the cache be moved to a safer location. All information regarding the risk is to be recorded on the original permit.
11. If at any time the terms of a permit are violated, the City Administrator has the authority to void the permit, remove the cache from its location, attempt to notify the owner or indicate on www.geocaching.com that the cache has been removed.
12. If a non-permitted cache is discovered, the City will remove the cache, retain it at the park office for 30 days and, if possible, attempt to notify the owner of their actions. If contact is not made, the cache is to be considered abandoned property. The property is to be retained in the event the owner comes to claim it at a later date.
13. A cache owner is limited to 1 cache permit at a time.

14. Caches are limited to one per 200 acres. This does not include the areas designated as off limits. The City may place their own caches for interpretative and educational purposes. City caches should also have a permit included in the file.

Procedures

1. Cache owners wishing to place a cache on City Park property must complete an Official Placement Permit. The City Administrator or designee is to review the permit and the cache for policy compliance.
2. The cache containers must display the words "Official Geocache" clearly on the outside of the container.
3. An explanation of the geocaching activity is to be included in the container. (See the attached form for an example)
4. The cache owner is to monitor the site monthly and maintain family friendly contents. This means the cache is not to contain food, alcohol, firearms, drugs, dangerous items or adult items.
5. Once the cache is placed, the applicant is to return to the facility office to record the exact location information for completion of the permit. The City is to keep a park map indicating the exact cache locations in the file with the permits.
6. The City Administrator has the option of taking a photograph of the cache or asking the cache owner to provide a photograph(s) of the cache and attaching it to the permit.
7. After the permit has been completed the City Administrator or designee will approve or deny the permit. For approval, the following items need to be reviewed for policy compliance:
 - Cache is not located in sensitive or ecological areas.
 - No damage or disturbance of the ground will result from placement of this cache.
 - The cache is not located in an area scheduled to be burned during the duration of the permit.
 - The cache is not in an area that might cause potential danger to park visitors, i.e. in potential flood areas, etc.

- Text for the cache has been reviewed, and it is accurate and complies with City of Camden Geocaching Policy.

Non-compliance of policy requirements will result in denial of the permit.

8. The original of the completed permit is to remain on file at the facility. A copy of the permit, approved or denied, is to be given to the cache owner. If the permit is denied, the justification is to be recorded on the permit.

**This container has been placed here with permission of the
City of Camden**

GEOCACHE SITE – PLEASE READ

Congratulations, you've found it! Intentionally or not!

What is this hidden container sitting here for? What is this thing doing here with all these things in it?

It is part of a worldwide game dedicated to GPS (Global Positioning System) users, called Geocaching. The game basically involves a GPS user hiding "treasure" (this container and its contents) and publishing the exact coordinates so other GPS users can come on a "treasure hunt" to find it. The only rules are: if you take something from the cache, you must leave something for the cache, and you must write about your visit in the logbook. Hopefully, the person that hid this container found a good spot that is not easily found by uninterested parties, Sometimes, a good spot turns out to be a bad spot, though.

IF YOU FOUND HIS CONTAINER BY ACCIDENT:

Great! You are welcome to join us! We ask only that you:

- Please do not move or vandalize the container. The real treasure is just finding the container and sharing your thoughts with everyone else who finds it.
- If you wish, go ahead and take something. But please also leave something of your own for other to find, and write it in the logbook.
- If possible, let us know that you found it, by visiting the web site listed below.

Geocaching is open to everyone with a GPS and a sense of adventure. There are similar sites all over the world. The organization has its home on the Internet. Visit our website if you want to learn more, or have any comments

<http://www.geocaching.com>

If this container needs to be removed for any reason, please let us know. We apologize, and will be happy to move it.

Reference: **Official Geocaching Placement Permit**

City of Camden Official Geocaching Placement Permit

This permit is valid for 12 months from the date approved. After that date, the cache must be moved and a new location permit issued or removed from the premises.

Cache Owner Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Cache name as listed on geocaching.com: _____

Physical description of container _____

_____ "Official Geocache" Label _____ Water resistant _____ Photo attached

Location coordinates _____ WGS84 _____ AD27 _____

Physical description of area _____

_____ Virtual cache _____ On-site cache _____ Offset cache
_____ Multi-cache (5 max. – list each location information on additional sheet)

_____ I will comply with the provisions of the City Code regulating the Camden Community Park.

_____ I understand that I am to monitor this cache monthly and maintain it to be family friendly.

_____ I understand that caches not in compliance with the terms of this permit will be removed from the property and this permit voided for failure to comply.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Approved

Denied

Justification

City Administrator or Designee and Date

City E-Mail Address

Permit Expires _____

