



BERKS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT GEOCACHING GUIDELINES



The following guidelines apply to all geocaches placed within Berks County Parks and Recreation facilities:

1. Placement of geocaches on land administered by Berks County Parks & Recreation Department requires authorization/approval by the County. This authorization will be considered through a review process.
2. A contact person responsible for necessary upkeep of the geocache must be identified prior to authorization/approval by the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department.
3. All geocaches must be identified as an official Berks County Parks & Recreation Department permitted cache clearly on the outside and on the inside of the cache. The permit will be issued after review and approval of cache placement.
4. There should be no earth disturbance or vegetative impact to any approved site, nor should the cache be readily discernable by the general public.
5. All cache seekers and cache owners must abide by park hours and all other park rules and regulations. Cache owners should also review and follow the listing requirements and guidelines at:
<http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>.
6. The County of Berks, Parks and Recreation Department, its officers, board of directors, managing agents and their personnel or representatives do not assume responsibility or liability for injury to any person or damage to any property sustained as a result of the placement or existence of the geocache, or use of the geocache by any person with any device or for any purpose.
7. Cache(s) shall not be placed in PVC pipe, ammo cans, or have any military markings. Cache owner should use their discretion to determine what would be a permissible container to house the cache contents. A 4x6 photograph of the cache must be attached to the "GEOCACHE IDENTIFICATION FORM."
8. The cache may not be placed within natural areas, wild plant sanctuaries, stream banks, riparian zones, wetlands, historical sites, exemplary nature communities, ecologically sensitive areas, unique geological features, dam structures, or unsafe areas. You must contact the County for possible additional restrictions or questions concerning the proposed location.
9. A cache may remain at the approved site for no more than three (3) years, at which time it must be removed, and the site restored to its original condition. The County must be informed in writing of the removal. This will control cache abandonment and assist in preventing renegade trail development to the site. Certain conditions may constitute the re-approval of an existing cache after its expiration date. If the cache remains a viable attribute to the visitor experience and does not have a current or foreseeable environmental impact on the site, it can be considered for re-approval. The County will determine if the cache(s) meet(s) the aforementioned conditions.
10. Unauthorized Geocaches in a park will be removed and treated as abandoned property, and the responsible person may be cited for littering.
11. The placement of "Premium Member Only" geocaches will not be permitted in any Berks County Park and Recreation facilities. These caches require a monthly fee to access their coordinates and therefore make it impossible for the County to monitor their locations. All caches on public lands shall be available to the public without a fee.

12. **Cache Owner** shall delete site location(s) from all publications and/or website(s) within seven (7) days of removal from their geocache sites.
13. **Cache Owner** shall notify the County upon any change of identification information (address, phone number, e-mail, geocache website, etc.)
14. Geocaching is a privilege that may be revoked if policy and guidelines are not met. The County reserves the right, at its discretion, to remove a geocache when it deems the geocache conflicts with park development, infrastructure repairs, maintenance, natural ecosystems, historical resources, or any other reason. The County will notify the geocache owner when a geocache is removed, but shall not be liable for any failure to do the same.
15. It is mutually agreed that the geocache and its contents have no monetary value, and will not contain hazardous, illegal or pornographic materials of any kind.

For questions contact: Berks County Parks & Recreation Department
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