

REGIONAL PARKS GEOCACHING POLICY

Effective Date: February 13, 2014

Replaces: April 10, 2013

Approved By:



Director, Regional Parks

PURPOSE

To provide direction for the management of geocaching as a recreational activity in Metro Vancouver (MV) Regional Parks.

POLICY

Geocaching and its variations are permitted, where appropriate, in MV Regional Parks, with the purpose to invite and encourage outdoor recreational use of regional parks. Geocaching activities must be conducted in such a manner that the environment in which they occur is not unduly impacted. Participants must adhere to all Regional Parks bylaws, regulations and policies, as well as best practices found at <http://www.geocaching.com/> and <http://bcgeocaching.com/>.

The distance between geocaches must be at least 500m. Geocaches that have been placed prior to April 1, 2013 are grandfathered and exempt from the distance and saturation restriction, for as long as they remain active and as long as they comply with all other aspects of this policy.

There are no proximity restrictions for EarthCaches.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all MV Regional parks and greenways. Geocaching is prohibited in regional reserves, ecological conservancy areas, areas not open to the public or any other area specifically identified by the Director, Regional Parks.

This policy is precautionary in nature and is intended to preserve natural park features and prevent damage in anticipation of increasing geocaching activity over the long term future, and yet encourage outdoor recreation and visits to regional parks.

Permits are not required for geocaches as long as they are otherwise in compliance with the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw and this policy.

Organized geocaching events may be permitted in a MV Regional Park site in accordance with the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw.

GEOCACHE REQUIREMENTS

Cache Size, Identification and Contents:

- a. In order to minimize damage to regional park natural features all caches must be as large as possible so that the cache is easy to find.
- b. The geocacher must provide a reasonable hint so that the cache is easily found.
- c. All caches must be marked "Geocache" on the outside of the container and the owner's name and contact information must be inside the cache.
- d. Caches must not contain food items or any other materials that may attract wildlife.

Cache Placement:

- a. Caches must be at least 500m apart.
- b. Caches must be accessible from trails (i.e. can be reached while still standing on trail surface), approved travel routes or other public areas (e.g. picnic areas).
- c. Caches must be placed in a manner that keeps searching impacts to a minimum.
- d. Caches must not be placed in areas that may put participants or other visitors at increased risk of injury (e.g. cliffs, unstable ground, in close proximity to unstable trees, areas subject to seasonal or flash flooding or traditional bear feeding areas).
- e. Cache placement must not result in the disturbance of soils, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife structures (e.g. dens, wildlife trees, nesting areas) or natural, sensitive or cultural heritage sites and features.
- f. Caches must not be located within or in close proximity to traditional habitat areas that are critical to wildlife species conservation (e.g. heronries, established raptor nests, nesting sites for birds, reptiles etc.).
- g. Cache location must not interfere with other approved recreational activities or where it may be contrary to park management objectives.

Cache Lifespan:

- a. Any cache without proper identification and owner information, any cache deemed to be located in an inappropriate location, or any cache that, by concentrating park use, results in unintended and unacceptable damage to park resources will be removed by MV Regional Parks staff. Where practicable staff will attempt to notify the cache owner.
- b. Caches placed in MV Regional Parks are not considered permanent. The geocache owner must visit the geocache at least annually to ensure the cache still complies with this policy. Caches must be removed once the cache is no longer being actively sought.

REFERENCE

Regional Parks Geocache Archive Procedure 2013-03-15