



### **Geocache Placement Guidelines**

1. The Geocache Application process is basically a permit process to allow an otherwise prohibited activity on parkland – Title 19.205(17) prohibits “Storing material of any description on park property.” All other Parkland Rules and Regulations apply and should be adhered to.
2. Do not use Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe, ammo cans or any other military-looking container that may cause alarm should an unsuspecting person happen upon discovering the cache. Any cache not of the recommended type of container will be removed.
3. The cache owner must label the exterior of any approved cache container used to identify the object as a Geocache or other GPS based recreational activity. The purpose of this is to avoid confusion or alarm if a cache is discovered accidentally.
4. Geocache placement will be approved only in areas designated for recreational public use. Areas unsuitable for geocache placement include:
  - Historic sites
  - Sport fields
  - Skate park
  - Portable restrooms
  - Facility restrooms
  - Buildings and Pavilions
  - Playgrounds
  - Stages
  - Bridges
  - Picnic buildings
  - Forest Conservation Area
  - Landscape beds

In addition, a cache may not be placed inside or within 100 feet of the following areas: wetlands, flood plains, ponds, rivers and lakes. Approved cache locations are at the discretion of the Park/Facility Manager.

5. Do not dig any holes or disturb the surrounding environment.
6. Do not place the cache in plain view. Attempt to conceal the cache to minimize the chances that a non-participant will spot it, which could lead to worry, theft or vandalism.
7. The cache hunt must involve GPS use and accurate coordinates to the true cache location.

8. Geocachers are prohibited from entering designated properties occasionally, from October through February because of scheduled deer management. It is the geocachers responsibility to be aware of these closure dates, which are available online on the Howard County Department of Recreation and Park's main website, the Deer Management webpage and posted at the entry points of the affected properties.
  - <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm>
  - <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap>
9. A cache location showing signs of excessive wear may result in the removal or request for relocation.
10. A cache location drawing unwanted attention or in a suspicious area will be removed. HCRP will contact the cache owner to suggest alternate locations or to arrange for a pick-up of cache content.