

Geocaching / Letterboxing Policy Guidelines

It is the mission of the Blue Springs Parks and Recreation Department to serve the public's well-being by providing quality leisure opportunities through the research, establishment, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive park, recreation, buildings, and grounds system.

Geocaching and/or Letterboxing are activities which are in keeping with this mission.

“Geo” means Earth or geography

“Cache” means hiding place or temporarily storing something

For the purposes of this policy and the Placement Permit Application, we will use the following definitions:

Cache: A hidden container filled with a logbook, pen/pencil, trinkets or toys.

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

Geocaching: A high tech hide-and-seek game using a GPS (Global Positioning Systems) receiver. Cache locations are found on the internet and GPS users then use the coordinates to find the cache and then report back to www.geocaching.com.

Letterboxing: A non-GPS form of caching using geography, history and nature as clues as well as map and compass for directions. Web site for this activity is www.letterboxing.org.

Multi-Cache: Multiple cache containers or location points which have information to the next cache or point.

Micro-Cache: Pill bottle sized cache that usually only contains a roll of paper for log and pencil.

Offset Cache: Coordinates will lead Geocacher to a location to find a number stamped or written on an item at the location. The Geocacher will then use the information with instructions from the web-site to continue.

Virtual Cache: The location on a virtual cache is the cache itself. There is no container or trading.

Placement Guidelines/Procedures

1. Any individual, group, or organization wishing to place a cache, actual or virtual, is required to complete and have approved, a Geocaching Placement Permit Application.
2. Authority to approve the permits has been delegated to the Park Maintenance Supervisor.

3. Permit Applications may be obtained from www.bluespringsgov.com or at the Parks & Recreation desk at City Hall.
4. Completed Applications may be dropped off at the Parks & Recreation desk at City Hall or mailed to: Randy Cooper, Blue Springs Parks & Rec., 903 W. Main St., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Approved Applications may be picked up at the Parks & Recreation desk at City Hall or mailed to applicant.
5. Placing caches may take place only during normal posted hours and only in pre-approved location.
6. All caches must be registered on the internet with www.geocaching.com and comply with the guidelines of that site.
7. All cache containers must be clearly labeled with: "Official Geocache: Placed with permission of Blue Springs Parks & Recreation".
8. All caches must contain the "Geocache Site" notice for accidental discovery explanation. (See attached)
9. Cache containers and contents must be family friendly. Caches must not contain any adult items, alcohol, food, dangerous items, fireworks, drugs, illegal items or living species. All sites must be monitored by owner at least once monthly to insure compliance.
10. No digging or disruption of grounds or eco-systems is permitted when placing cache.
11. Caches and Geocachers must not interfere with any ongoing activity, program or facility rental within the approved area.
12. The following activities are not allowed for the placement of any cache: modification of geographical features, altering park signs or fences, cutting vegetation, digging or located within a body of water, on or in any building.
13. The Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to request the removal and/or to remove caches that are placed in a non-approved location and/or without permit or at any time the terms of the permit are violated.

**This container has been placed with the permission of
the Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Department**

Official Geocache Site: Please Read

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

What is this container and why was it hidden here? What are all these things inside the container?

It is part of a high-tech hide-and-seek game dedicated to GPS (Global Positioning System) users called "Geocaching". The game involves a GPS user hiding "treasure" (this container and its contents) and posting the coordinates on the internet site www.geocaching.com so that other GPS users can go on a treasure hunt and find it. The only rules are: if you find it, put it back, if you take something from the cache, put something else in, and you must write about your visit in the logbook. Hopefully, the person that hid the container, found a good spot that is not easily found by accident.

If you found this container by accident:

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

- Please do not move or vandalize the container. The real treasure is just finding the container and sharing you adventure with others.
- If you wish, go ahead and take something, but please leave something of your own for others to find, and write in the logbook.
- If possible, let us know 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 Geocaches sites in all 50 states and most countries around the world. Please visit our website to learn more.

<http://www.geocaching.com>

www.bluespringsgov.com