




PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

POLICY NAME: Geocaching in Portland Parks

Policy Category: Recreation

Date Reviewed: 11/17/14	Date Adopted: 
Contact Person: Bryan Aptekar Position: Program Specialist	Authorized By: Mike Abbaté Position: Director PP&R
Introduction <p>This PP&R Geocaching Policy addresses a long-standing need for the bureau to address this growing recreation activity in a way that both encourages it and ensures it does not inappropriately impact parks, properties, assets, staff or the public.</p>	
Policy Statement <p>Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) supports and encourages the sport of geocaching as an activity that promotes exploration of our varied landscapes. PP&R's public parks, natural areas, recreational facilities, gardens and trails are intended to provide visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities. PP&R actively manages public properties and facilities for a range of purposes – including both recreational and natural habitat values. This policy establishes procedures to facilitate and control geocaching on PP&R property to provide a balance of wise stewardship and recreational opportunity.</p>	
Guiding Principles <p>The development of this policy followed the following Guiding Principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1). Encourage continued geocaching activity on PP&R properties2). Create rules that will limit the impacts of geocaching activities	

Procedures & Guidelines

All geocaches, both new ones and those already on PP&R property, must be in compliance with these PP&R policies for the placement and maintenance of caches.

The purpose of these policies is to protect natural and cultural resources, park assets, and the safety of all visitors and staff while providing reasonable opportunities for geocaching on PP&R lands. These policies are intended to ensure all park users, including geocachers, have ample recreational opportunity, while minimizing adverse impacts on other park uses, operations and maintenance.

PP&R developed these policies, in collaboration with staff at Groundspeak (Geocaching.com) and geocachers, to manage geocaching on PP&R properties. Geocachers who wish to have geocaches hidden in PP&R properties must read the policies and affirm that their caches meet all the requirements before they can be reviewed and published on Geocaching.com by community volunteer reviewers. If a published geocache is found to be out of compliance with the policy, the geocache listing may be archived from Geocaching.com. Any caches found on PP&R property that have not been registered through Geocaching.com will be considered trash and disposed of by PP&R staff.

PP&R policies regarding placement and access to geocaches differentiate between natural area parks (which are managed primarily for their habitat and conservation values) and our developed parks (which are managed primarily for their recreational opportunities). Different policies apply to these different types of public spaces. Some parks contain developed elements and natural areas. In those instances, area-specific rules may apply, as detailed below.

General Rules regarding geocaching at sites where caches **ARE** allowed:

Many natural areas, developed parks or other PP&R properties are open to caches, subject to the following stipulations. A list of sites where caches ARE allowed, is available on the web at www.PortlandParks.org, and as an attachment to this policy document. It will be updated periodically.

- All caches must be registered on www.geocaching.com. No permit is required from PP&R.
- Caches must comply with all guidelines established by geocaching.com.
- Leaving a geocache in a park is allowed under Park Rules, so long as its placement follows this policy regarding its placement.
- Geocaching is only allowed during posted park hours.
- Cache pages should have the following statement *"This cache complies with the geocaching policies for Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) properties. Please respect park hours when caching."*
- Physical caches must follow this policy document. Virtual waypoints can be in any park as long as both the person hiding and the person seeking the cache follow the posted rules in the park.

Rules Regarding Caches on PP&R Sites:

- A separate list of each PP&R park site/property is attached, indicating IF caching is allowed on that site, and if so, how many are allowed on it.

- Geocaches should be placed at least 50 feet from adjacent residences
- Geocaches shall only be placed in safe locations that do not pose undue risk to park visitors and those searching for caches. Geocachers must review and consider the topography of the location where a cache is to be placed, and the potential safety risks to the visitors trying to find the cache.
- Geocachers must “leave no trace” in the selection of cache locations. This means not damaging the ground, site furniture (i.e. benches, picnic tables, garbage cans, etc.), built structures (i.e. retaining walls, irrigation, utility boxes, control boxes, etc.), landscaping, or vegetation while placing or locating a cache, and they must consider potential damage that may result from other geocachers searching for or accessing the cache.
- Geocaches shall not be attached to any human-made park amenity (i.e. signs, fences, posts, trails, markers, etc.) in such a manner as to alter, damage, or impede its proper use. However, attaching to them in a way that does not damage, deteriorate, or impede their primary function is allowed. For example, attaching a small magnetic cache to the back side of signs is acceptable.
- People hiding caches need to consider the potential adverse impact that finding a cache will have on the environment. Cachers should hide caches with the expectation that they can be found without disturbing the location or environment around them.
- The following actions are prohibited, in relation to placement of caches:
 - The use of rocks and pebbles of all sizes.
 - The use of sticks or logs greater than two (2) inches in diameter. (Sticks that are smaller than two (2) inches in diameter may be used IF they are dead, loose on the ground, and not embedded in the landscape. Embedded materials provide habitat.)
 - Removing bark from a tree to use as camouflage
 - Relocating or cutting of any living plants or vegetation
 - Excavation of soils or breaking of ground to place a cache
 - Moving or removing of archaeological or natural objects, including living plants, animals, minerals, fungi, archaeological artifacts or features, etc.

Rules specific to Natural Area sites/parks:

- Geocaches shall be placed so that they are fully accessible from the tread of a maintained trail, from other hardscape features such as patios, paths, or parking lots or from mowed lawn areas. Leaving the trail, hardscape or mowed lawn area to place or retrieve a geocache is not permitted. Casual, demand footpaths or wildlife trails that are not signed or identified on park maps are not considered maintained trails. All maintained trails are shown on www.PortlandParks.org.
- All park visitors must stay on trails in all natural areas.
- Geocaches shall not be attached to or placed in any living or non-living natural resources, such as birdhouses, nests, or animal dens.

Number of Caches / site:

- The allowable number of caches varies per site based on the acreage of the property, access, trails, site amenities, other recreational activities, or natural resource functions. See Appendix for specific details.

- Each individual cacher may only place one cache per park, to allow fair opportunity to all geocachers.

Where Caches are NOT allowed:

For a variety of reasons, some properties or park sites do not allow geocaching. These are *examples* of reasons a park or natural area may not be an approved site for caching:

- The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources
- Difficult or underdeveloped access/entry points
- Lack of safe and legal parking in proximity to the park or natural area
- Fee for entry facilities (i.e. golf courses)
- Potential impact on the major value or purpose of a given site
- Lack of developed areas and/or formal trail system

To protect specific park elements, features, habitats, or characteristics, the following policies detail restrictions on placement of geocaches.

- Geocaches are not allowed in the following PP&R and Water Bureau **types of properties**:
 - Areas within any park (natural area or developed) that are closed to the public for any reason. These areas are designated by sign or fence.
 - PP&R managed golf courses
 - Specialty Gardens (Rose Gardens, Memory Garden, etc.)

Limitations on Placement of Caches:

Physical Geocaches are prohibited from being placed in or on the following **types of park features**. (These features can be used as reference points in finding a cache, but the actual features should not be the location for any caches.)

- Art
- Statues
- Playgrounds
- Memorials
- Drinking fountains
- Bathroom structures
- Water Bureau Reservoirs and water tanks
- Fenced dog off-leash areas
- Retaining walls or built walls
- Any park buildings, sheds or other structures
- Utility boxes – These are either above or below ground vaults, in a range of sizes, which hold controls to various systems (electrical, irrigation, etc.). Placing caches in them can be both dangerous to cachers and/or damaging to the equipment. (See examples below in Definitions section).
- Landscape beds – These are planted areas in developed park sites which contain a range of plants (seasonal flowers, annuals, shrubs, trees, etc.) or other features (such as entry signs, drinking fountains, public art, etc.). Staff and park volunteers work hard to maintain our

landscape beds, keep them weed-free, replace and refresh plantings, maintain irrigation systems, prune for visibility and public safety, and for the enjoyment of all. (See examples below in Definitions section).

In order to minimize conflicts between different user groups, **geocaches may not be placed in certain active recreation areas**, as detailed below. Caches *may be placed along the perimeter* of these areas, or in places that do not interfere with areas that can have active use. (For example, a cache could be placed in/on/around a bench at the edge of a tennis court, but should not be attached to the net across a tennis court, as placement and searching for such a cache would potentially interfere with active use of the tennis courts.) The following are considered active recreation features which would fall under this “only around the perimeter” rule:

- All athletic fields (i.e. soccer, baseball)
- Running Tracks
- Sport Courts (i.e. basketball, tennis)
- Splash Pads
- Skateparks
- Outdoor pools
- Drinking fountains
- Decorative and Interactive Fountains (i.e. Salmon Springs, Jamison Square fountain, etc.)
- Community Gardens

PP&R Responsibility and Discretion

PP&R is not responsible for any damage to or loss of geocaches or equipment. PP&R reserves the right to have any geocache removed. Potential reasons for the removal of a cache could include:

- being sited in an inappropriate location
- causing undue damage to natural, physical or cultural resources and amenities
- causing undue adverse impacts on other users
- caches that have not been maintained; or
- for other reasons deemed inconsistent with PP&R mission/statutes

PP&R will dispose of any removed cache if we are unable to contact the owner of the cache to remove or pick up the items.

Cache Containers and Contents

- Containers must be non-breakable (i.e. not glass), waterproof or sealable and have some form of latch or other closing mechanism to prohibit content exposure to wildlife.
- Caches should be no greater in cubic area than 425 cubic inches or smaller, which is the size of a .50 caliber ammo can (11” x 5.5” x 7”). To calculate this, multiply height x width x length.
- Ammo cans are allowed.
- Caches must be identified as a geocache, either with the word “geocache”, or a Geocaching sticker or logo on them for identification.
- Caches may not contain food, weapons, hazardous materials or other

- potential hazards to the safety of visitors, staff, or the parks themselves.
- PP&R prohibits caches that look like park utilities/features (i.e. fake sprinkler heads) that would give people cause to interfere with actual park utilities/features.
 - Caches are meant to be fun for the whole family. Please use common sense when leaving things in the caches.
 - All caches are subject to inspection by Park Staff, who have the authority to immediately remove the cache or anything in it.

PP&R Contact Information

For questions about geocaching on PP&R property please call: 503.823.2525.

Related Policies, Procedures & Forms

Appendix 1:

A critical Appendix is the attached list of specific PP&R properties/parks in which caching IS allowed and how many caches are allowed in those given sites.

Name	Property ID – Use Name and this ID if contacting PP&R.	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
Albert Kelly Park	48	12.09	4	Developed portion of park only, no access to natural area as it is fenced.
Alberta Park	49	16.87	2	
Ankeny Plaza	50	1.07	1	
April Hill Park	51	9.94	3	Developed portion of park only, no developed trail system in natural area.
Arbor Lodge Park	52	8.69	3	
Argay Park	53	8.93	5	
Ash Creek Natural Area	55	5.64	3	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Beech Property	56	15.65	7	
Berkeley Park	57	6.48	5	
Berrydale Park	59	6.31	3	
Bloomington Park	61	12.87	3	
Brentwood Park	63	14.06	5	
Brooklyn Park	67	2.39	2	
Brooklyn School Park	68	3.59	2	
Brookside	1222	18.88	3	
Burlingame Park	92	4.67	4	2 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 2 in developed park area.
Butterfly Park	93	1.07	1	

Name	Property ID	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
Cathedral Park	97	22.53	8	
Cherry Blossom Park	1	0.96	1	
Cherry Park	2	10.23	4	
Colonel Summers Park	12	5.99	5	
Columbia Children's Arboretum	15	28.87	5	2 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 3 in developed park area.
Columbia Park	17	35.37	5	
Columbia South Shore Trail	20	2.43	10	No more than 5/linear mile
Couch Park	23	2.4	2	
Council Crest Park	24	42.95	8	4 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 4 in developed park area.
Creston Park	25	14.38	5	
Custer Park	31	6.47	3	
Dawson Park	33	2.05	1	
Denorval Unthank Park	37	4.56	2	
Dewitt Park	38	1.09	1	
Dickinson Park	39	15.78	6	
Duniway Park	44	14.03	4	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
East Holladay Park	1109	5.73	3	
Eastmoreland Play Ground Park	109	0.24	2	
Eastridge Park	110	3.5	2	None in natural area
Ed Benedict Park	112	12.7	5	
Errol Heights Property	114	14.29	2	In developed highland area of park only. None in natural area.
Essex Park	116	4.43	3	
Farragut Park	119	13.98	5	
Fernhill Park	120	26.71	2	
Flavel Park	123	4.2	2	
Foley-Balmer Natural Area	1198	9.65	2	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Forest Heights Park	126	2.93	2	
Forest Park – Central (north of Fire Lane 1, south of Gemantown Rd.)	127	2245	20	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Forest Park – South (south of Fire Lane 1)	127	1229	30	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Frank L. Knight Property	129	0.56	1	

Name	Property ID	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
Frazer Park	130	3.81	1	
Fulton Park	133	8.5	1	None in natural area
Gabriel Park	136	89.41	9	3 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 6 in developed park area.
Gammans Park	137	1.66	1	
Gates Park Property	1199	11.28	5	
George Himes Park	147	31.85	3	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
George Park	148	2.03	1	
Glenfair Park	152	4.74	3	
Glenhaven Park	153	14.39	1	
Glenwood Park	154	7.3	3	
Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park	156	30.25	10	
Governors Park	166	5.45	1	
Grant Park	167	19.9	1	
Hamilton Park	170	10.49	3	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Hancock Park	171	3.6	1	
Harney Park	173	6.5	5	
Harrison Park	175	4.63	3	
Hazeltine Park	1237	1.02	2	
Healy Heights Park	178	1.18	1	
Heritage Tree Park	179	0.09	1	
Hillsdale Park	183	5.17	3	
Hillside Park	185	3.41	3	
Holly Farm Park	1239	1.7	2	
Ira Keller Fountain Park	194	0.92	1	
Jamison Square	1140	0.94	1	
John Luby Park	202	10.42	5	
Johnson Creek Park	205	4.52	3	
Johnson Lake Property	207	15.2	2	
Joseph Wood Hill Park	1291	2.42	1	
Kelley Point Park	209	103.36	10	
Kelly Butte Natural Area	210	23.34	2	
Kenilworth Park	213	8.4	5	
Kenton Park	215	12.4	4	
King School Park	217	2.53	1	
Knott Park	220	10.49	4	
Khunamokwst Park	1384	2.4	2	

Name	Property ID	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
Lair Hill Park	222	3.26	2	
Laurelhurst Park	224	32.27	10	
Lents Park	234	38.07	5	
Lillis-Albina Park	238	3.93	2	
Lotus Isle Park	241	1.65	2	
Lovejoy Fountain	242	0.74	2	
Madrone Park	247	9.45	2	
Maricara Natural Area	249	17.25	3	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Marquam Nature Park	251	193.91	5	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
Marshall Park	252	24.32	3	2 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 1 in developed park area.
McCoy Park	1258	3.82	2	
McKenna Park	259	4.52	2	
Midland Park	264	1.9	2	
Mill Ends Park	265	0	1	
Mocks Crest Property	906	5.86	1	Stay off slope.
Montavilla Park	268	9.48	5	
Mt. Scott Park	271	11.22	3	
Mt. Tabor Park	275	185.08	10	Not in the Amphitheater area.
Multnomah Arts Center	292	5.28	3	No closer than 10' from building.
N Willamette & Bryant	1257	0.01	1	
Normandale Park	444	13.69	2	
North Park Blocks	447	3.11	6	
Northgate Park	451	10.87	3	
Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge	490	161.5	5	
Oaks Crossing	491	6	1	
O'Bryant Square	488	0.46	1	
Oregon Park	495	3.29	3	
Overlook Park	497	11.3	3	
Parklane Park	501	25.6	5	
Patton Square Park	502	1.26	1	
Pendleton Park	503	5.21	4	
Peninsula Crossing Trail	506	9.07	6	6 or fewer - only 2 per "reach", i.e. Princeton to Lombard, Lombard to Fessenden, Fessenden to Columbia
Peninsula Park	507	16.34	2	

Name	Property ID	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
Pettygrove Park	511	0.8	2	
Piccolo Park	512	0.57	2	
Pier Park	513	85	5	
Pittock Mansion grounds	1128	7.6	2	Outside the structure OK, not in landscape beds, same as other caching policy
PlayHaven Park	812	3.15	3	
Plaza Blocks	1139	1.84	2	
Portland Center Park	1327	0.35	1	
Portland Heights Park	523	5.08	3	
Portsmouth Park	527	4.03	2	
Powell Butte Nature Park	528	603.03	10	
Powell Park	530	8.09	4	
Rocky Butte Natural Area	568	17.71	3	
Rose City Park	573	8.41	2	
Rosemont Bluff Natural Area	575	2.16	3	
Sacajawea Park	580	4.86	2	
Sellwood Park	666	16.65	5	
Sellwood Riverfront Park	668	8.17	4	
Sewallcrest Park	670	4.16	2	
Simon and Helen Director Park	1335	0.46	1	
Smith and Bybee Lakes Wetlands Natural Area	672	121.3	0	Metro Managed property. Read Metro policy .
South Park Blocks	674	8.73	6	Not in the PSU blocks
South Waterfront Central District Greenway	1411	4.36	2	
South Waterfront Park	916	4.48	2	
Spring Garden Park	678	4.66	3	
Springwater Corridor	679	259.95	50	No more than 5/lineal mile (which includes Springwater on Willamette through to Boring)
St. Johns Park	681	5.87	3	
Stephens Creek Natural Area	711	4.73	2	Must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum
SW Dickinson & 62nd	1197	0.21	1	

Name	Property ID	Acres	Total # of caches allowed	Notes
SW Hall & 14th	748	0.54	2	
SW Terwilliger Blvd Parkway	793	99.78	8	2 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 6 in developed park area.
SW Thomas & 53rd	800	2.81	1	
Sylvania Park	1200	3.12	1	
The Fields	1267	3.35	3	
Trenton Park	820	2.3	1	
Two Plum Park	1010	0.34	1	
University Park	824	11.49	3	
Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade	105	10.05	10	
Wallace Park	839	5.38	3	
Washington Monroe Property	1264	4.5	2	
Washington Park	841	238.53	25	5 in Natural Area (which must be 1056' (0.2 mile) apart minimum), 20 in developed park area.
Wellington Park	846	3.97	2	
Werbin Property	1384	2.43	1	
Westmoreland Park	852	43.09	5	
Whitaker Ponds Natural Area	856	25.11	2	
Wilkes Park	857	1.88	2	
Willamette Park	861	26.12	4	
Wilshire Park	862	14.3	3	
Woodlawn Park	865	7.72	3	
Woods Memorial Natural Area	866	38.66	5	(None along the creek)
Woodstock Park	868	14.11	3	

Appendix 2:

This following list of PP&R properties/parks is of areas where geocaching IS NOT allowed.

Adams Property	Elizabeth Caruthers Park	Kingsley Park
Alder Ridge Natural Area	Elk Rock Island	Ladds Circle & Squares
Arnold Creek Natural Area	Everett Community Garden	Lan Su Chinese Garden
Baltimore Woods Natural Area	Exeter Property	Laurelwood Park
Beach Community Garden	Fanno Creek Natural Area	Leach Botanical Garden
Beggars Tick	Firehouse Theater	Lents Floodplain
Big Four Corners Natural Area	Floyd Light Park	Lesser Park
Blair Community Garden	Flyway Wetlands Natural Area	Lincoln Park
Boise-Eliot Community Garden	Forest Park: North of Germantown Rd.)	Linnton Park
Brannen Property	Forest Park: (Lower Macleay Trail)	Loll Wildwood Natural Area (formerly West Portland Park Natural Area)
Bridgeton Slough Natural Area	Foster Floodplain Natural Area	Lynchview Park
Buckman Community Garden	Front & Curry Community Garden	Lynchwood Park
Buckman Field	Furey Community Garden	Macleay Park
Buckman Pool	Gilbert Heights Park	Madison Community Garden
Buttes Natural Area	Gilbert Primary Park	Maintenance Facilities
Catkin Marsh Natural Area	Grant Community Garden	Mallory Meadows Park
Centennial Park Community Garden	Green Thumb	Matt Dishman Community Center & Pool
Chimney Park	Harbor View Property	Merrifield Park
Clarendon Community Garden	Hazelwood Community Garden	Mill Park
Clark & Wilson	Helensview Community Garden	Mitchell Creek Natural Area
Clatsop Butte Park	Heron Lakes Golf Course	Molofiy Property
Clinton Community Garden	Holladay Park	Moore Island
Clinton Park	Holman Property	Mt Tabor Annex
Columbia Buffer	Hoyt Arboretum	Munger Property
Columbia Slough Natural Area	Indian Creek Natural Area	NE Holman & 13th
Colwood Property	Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center	NE Sumner & 47th
Community Music Center	Irving Park	North Powellhurst Park
Cottonwood Bay	Ivon Community Garden	O Bryant Square
Cottonwood Creek Natural Area	Jackson Middle School	Oaks Pioneer Church & Park
Cross Levee Natural Area	Jefferson Street Property	Oliver-Parklane Community Garden
Crystal Springs	Jensen Natural Area	Overlook House Community Center
Rhododendron Garden	Johns Community Garden	Park Ranger Headquarters
Cully Community Garden	Johnswood Property	Patton Community Garden
Deardorff Creek Natural Area	Kennedy Community Garden	Peace Community Garden
Earl Boyles Park	Kenton Community Garden	Peter Kerr Property
East Delta Park	Kern Park	Pier Community Garden
Eastmoreland Garden	Kerr Site	Pioneer Courthouse Square
Eastmoreland Golf Course	Kimmel Property	Portland International Raceway
	Kingsley D Bundy Property	Portsmouth Community Garden

Powell Butte - Lower
Floodplain
Powers Marine Park
Raymond Park
RedTail Golf Course
Richmond Property
Rigler Community Garden
River View Natural Area
Rose City Golf Course
Roselawn Park
Ross Island Natural Area
Ross, Vernon Veterans
Memorial
Sabin Community Garden
Sabin HydroPark
SE Division St and SE 150th
Ave Property
Sellwood Community Center
Sellwood Community Garden

Senns Dairy Park
St Johns Racquet Center
Stark Street Island
Sumner-Albina Park
Sunnyside School Park
SW Broadway & Grant
Property
SW Talbot Property
Tanner Springs Park
Thomas Cully Property
Thompson Park
Tideman Johnson Natural
Area
Toe Island
Tryon Creek Headwaters
Ventura Park
Vermont Hills Community
Garden
Vestal Community Garden

Veterans Creek Natural Area
Wahoo Creek Natural Area
Water & Gibbs Community
Garden
Waud Bluff Trail
West Lents Floodplain
West Portland Park Natural
Area
West Powellhurst Park
Wilkes Headwaters Property
Willamette Moorage
Wilson Pool
Woodlawn Community
Garden
Woodstock Community
Center
Wright Island

Definitions

Geocaching: Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

Landscape Beds (One example of places caches are not allowed):



Utility Boxes (Another example of places caches are not allowed):

